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Mexico Projects Increase in Cotton Crop, Reduced Imports

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The Agriculture Secretariat (Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos, SARH) has forecast cotton production for the 1994 season at about 465,000 bales. The increase in production was the result of an increase in planted area, which approached 147,000 hectares. According to the SARH, the growth in production this year will allow Mexico to reduce its year-end cotton imports in 1994 by about 50%. Cotton production in 1993 amounted to only about 110,000 bales, compared with the roughly 850,000 bales required by the Mexican textile industry last year.

In addition to reducing cotton imports, this year's cotton crop is expected to produce 194,000 metric tons of cottonseed, which is used to extract vegetable oil. Cotton production fell sharply in recent years, partly because of unfavorable world prices, which limited profitability and led to increased import needs. Cotton is considered a major crop in 12 states or regions. According to the SARH, the largest areas planted in cotton this year were in the states of Tamaulipas, Sonora, Chihuahua, San Luis Potosi, Durango, Coahuila, Sinaloa, Chiapas, Michoacan, Baja California, and Baja California Sur.

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