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El Salvador: Coffee Crisis

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The drastic reduction in world market coffee prices since July last year, and a Salvadoran coffee boycott in the US, have resulted in a precipitous decline in Salvadoran export and fiscal revenues. In the past five years, coffee has accounted for an average 62% of Salvadoran exports, and 24% of current fiscal revenues, according to official statistics. After coffee prices plummeted on May 14, the Association of Coffee Exporters and Processors (ABECAFE) announced plans to hold their produce off the market until prices "significantly" improved. The US Neighbor to Neighbor organization's boycott of Salvadoran coffee has been effective. Half of Salvadoran coffee exports are destined to the US market. The boycott was organized to protest the government's continuing human rights abuses. In addition, output of other traditional export products, such as cotton, has dropped to record low levels. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/22/90)

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