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# Mexico: On State Of Agricultural Sector

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## **Mexico: On State Of Agricultural Sector**

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According to public and private sector agencies specialized in agriculture and livestock production, Mexico's agricultural sector today is characterized by decapitalization, credit and input shortages, low productivity, non-existent research, and the constant deterioration of farmers' incomes. The overall decline since 1982 has been attributed to a severe reduction of real purchasing power, and the government's actions to cut its fiscal deficit by removing agricultural price supports. Mexico's beef cattle herd today numbers 25 million head, down 33% relative to 1982. On a national level, swine number 10 million head, or one half the total of seven years ago. On Feb. 7, Gilberto Jimenez Garcia de Alba, official of the National Foreign Trade Council (CONACEX) in Guadalajara, said Mexico will lose over \$3.5 billion this year in the form of payment for basic grain imports. Regarding plans for privatization of ejidos, Garcia del Alba said that from the macroeconomic point of view, the ejido system was obsolete and unnecessary, since land productivity is primary in 1990. (Basic data from Notimex, 02/06/90, 02/07/90)

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