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Latin American Nations' 1990 Banana Exports

by Barbara Khol

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According to a report by the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) released Feb. 28 in Panama City, in 1990 banana exports world-wide surpassed 410 million 18-kg. boxes. Latin America accounted for 70% of the total. UPEB member-nations include Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. Last year, members' banana export revenues surpassed \$1.5 billion. At 120 million boxes, Ecuador maintained its position as the world's largest banana exporter. Next in the ranking were Costa Rica (74.3 million boxes), Colombia (55.7 million), Honduras (43 million), and Panama (40.7 million). Panama recorded the largest increase in banana exports last year, at 8.6%. The US ranks as the largest single importer, at 167 million boxes in 1990. Unified Germany imported 62.7 million boxes, up from 48 million in 1989. Over 180,000 ha. of land, and 225,000 persons are directly employed in banana production for export in Latin America. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 02/28/91)

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