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Brazil: 1991 Grain Imports Estimated At \$1.6 Billion

by Barbara Khol

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On June 6, Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera told reporters that grain imports this year are estimated at \$1.6 billion. Total grain harvest expected was 65 million, compared to actual 56 million MT. Rice, beans, corn, soybeans and wheat are main imports this year. On the other hand, Economy Ministry announced decision by federal government to tax the purchase of 131,000 MT of wheat from the US government by six Brazilian mills. Ministry spokesperson Fernando Martins said the government will exact compensatory taxes since the product is subsidized. The government plans to import 4 million tons of wheat this year to meet domestic consumption needs. According to the minister, the poor harvest was the result of drought and inadequate production loans for farmers. (Basic data from AFP, Xinhua, 06/06/91)

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