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Brazil: Agro-export Performance, First Half 1991

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On Aug. 1, government officials reported that agro-export income in the first half of the year totaled \$3.98 billion. Agricultural products accounted for nearly 25% of all export income, about the same proportion as in January-June 1990. Increased sales of coffee, beef and tobacco offset reduced exports of soybeans, sugar and other products. Output for the 1990/91 crop cycle totaled 56 million metric tons compared to the previous year's 66 million MT. Pedro Camargo Neto, president of the Brazilian Rural Society, predicted a \$2 billion decline in agro-export income over the second half of the year, compared to the same period in 1990. He also forecast about wheat, corn and other food imports will cost Brazil about \$1.5 billion in June-December 1991. According to government statistics, coffee export revenue was up 51% in the first half of 1991. Coffee and tea export sales totaled \$713.6 million, compared to \$472.3 million in January-June 1990. Tobacco export income totaled \$380.9 million, double the amount of last year, and meat exports were up 30% at \$329.8 million. Sugar export revenue dropped 28%, and income from oil seed exports (mainly soybeans) declined by 11.6%. Brazilian meat exports are expected to total 350,000 metric tons this year, up from 250,000 MT in 1990. (Basic data from AFP, 08/01/91)

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