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Salvadoran Government Provides Assistance To Coffee Growers

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Feb. 20, Eduardo Montes, member of the Salvadoran Coffee Council's export committee, told reporters that the government has pledged to provide concessionary loans to coffee growers. World market coffee prices, he said, are at a 17-year low. The Salvadoran coffee harvest last year totaled 2.8 million quintals, and output of 2.7 million is projected for 1992 (1 quintal = 48 kg.). In 1991, coffee accounted for 40% of export revenue, and 8% of GDP. For the Central American region, coffee accounts for nearly 25% of agricultural GDP, about 50% of raw materials export revenue, and 7% of cultivated area. Central America's global market share is 11%. The US purchases nearly 50% of regional coffee exports, and the European Economic Community, slightly over 40%. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 02/20/92)

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