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On Aug. 14, the government's National Banana Corporation (Corporacion Bananera Nacional-CORBANA) reported US\$235 million in banana export earnings over the first half of the year, up 9.4% compared to the same period in 1991. Export volume during the first half of 1992 totaled 45.2 million 18.14-kg. boxes, an increase of nearly 4 million relative to January-June 1991. About 57% of all banana exports during this period went to the US, with the remainder destined for European markets. Costa Rica is the world's second largest banana exporter. Annual yield on Costa Rican plantations averages 2,461 boxes per hectare. At present, about 36,705 ha. are dedicated to banana cultivation, an increase of 3,000 ha. over mid-1991. (Sources: Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 08/14/92; Agence France- Presse, 08/15/92)

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