

BRAZILIAN EXPORTS OF SUGAR AND ETHANOL RECOVER

The April / April Ceper / Fundace Sugar and Alcohol Bulletin shows that the values registered in March this year show a recovery in Brazilian sugar and ethanol exports. In comparison with February, there was an increase of 25.2% in the amount of sugar exported and 10% in relation to the same month of the previous year. Exports of ethanol increased by 7.53% in relation to the previous month. When compared to March 2017, growth is 22.31%. The data reiterate the resumption of Brazil's participation in the world sugar market from the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 harvests, with national production accounting for 14.75% and 14.79% of world production, respectively. The figures are still lower than those recorded in the 2010/2011 crop, when Brazilian participation reached 15.67%, but above the 13.3% recorded in the 2015/2016 harvest. Seasonality in sugarcane crops explains, in large part, the fluctuating behavior in the exported quantity of these products. The maximum exported of the two products derived from sugar cane was reached in October 2012, when sugar exports reached 3.9 million tons and ethanol exports reached 509.43 million liters. "The increase in import tariffs by China, the main destination of Brazilian exports until 2016, contributed to the slowdown in Brazilian sugar exports in 2017," explains Ceper researcher Luciano Nakabashi. The still weak pace was present in the first months of 2018. In the first quarter of this year, the volume exported fell 16.74% in relation to the first quarter of 2017.

Src.: Udop

MAIZE / MATO GROSSO: SOIL MOISTURE IS FAVORABLE TO MOST CROPS DESPITE DRY CLIMATE, SAYS IMEA

Soil moisture levels in many of the maize producing regions in the state of Mato Grosso are still favorable to the development of crops, despite the low rainfall in recent weeks, the Mato Grosso Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Economics (Imea) said in a bulletin. "In the previous months there was a satisfactory accumulation of rainfall throughout the state," the institute explained. There is still concern, however, with areas that have been sown outside the ideal window for cereal cultivation in the state, due to the low rainfall forecast in May. According to the Imea, it was estimated that 27% of the planted areas had reached the stage of grain filling and 7.1% were in maturation period.

Src.: Udop

MATOPIBA REPRESENTS 11% OF THE NATIONAL SOYABEAN PRODUCTION

The agricultural frontier of Matopiba (which covers the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia) is responsible for 11% of the national soyabean production, which in the 2017/2018 harvest is expected to total 115 million tons. According to a survey conducted by Embrapa's Strategic Intelligence Group (GITE), Matopiba brings together 337 municipalities and represents a total of around 73 million hectares. There are 324,000 agricultural establishments in the area, 46 conservation units, 35 indigenous lands and 781 agrarian reform settlements. Researcher Leonardo José Motta Campos of Embrapa Soja points out that this new agricultural frontier has attracted soya farmers interested in land with more accessible values when compared to

those in the Midwest, South and Southeast of Brazil. "In addition, the region presents flat topography, deep soils, high luminosity and a well defined rainy season, characteristics that favor the introduction of soya," he explains. Soya yields in these states are still unstable, with yields ranging from 2,000 to 4,500 kg / ha. However, on average, productivity has been below national productivity, which this year was approximately 3,300 kg / ha. Even with good productivity recorded in the region, environmental factors such as water availability, high temperatures and solar radiation can interfere with stability and increase yield levels. According to the researcher, water restriction affects soyabean development from germination to grain filling. "The restriction of water during the crop can be considered the main limitation of productivity, especially during the reproductive phase (flowering and filling of grains)," says Motta Campos.

Src.: Universo Agro

HARVEST OF THE SOYABEAN CROP REACHES 95% OF THE AREA

The harvest of the soyabean crop 2017/18 in Brazil reached 95% of the area sown, considering the date of April 27th, moderate advance against the percentage of 91% of the previous week, according data from DATAGRO. According to DATAGRO's grain analyst, Flavio Roberto de França Júnior, the pace of harvesting of the oilseed crop reached the same percentage of 95% registered in the same period of 2017, being above the normal average of 94% of the last five seasons. Soyabean production is expected to total 116.768 million tons, up 2% on the 2016/17 season result. In the case of the first maize crop, the harvest reached 91% of the area sown, an increase also considered moderate in relation to the percentage of 85% of the previous week. However, France Júnior points out that the pace of crop withdrawal is lagging behind in comparison with the 95% percentage registered in the same period of 2017, and compared to the average of 93% of the last five crops. Production of summer maize is expected to total 26.010 million tons, down 16% from the 2016/17 season result.

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SOYABEAN PRICES HAVE POSITIVE SCENARIO IN 2018

Soyabean prices have a positive scenario in 2018, the main fundamentals (Chicago prices, export premium and foreign exchange) that make up the oilseed sales price in Brazil have a bullish trend for the year. According to France Júnior, grain prices in Chicago have as a support the fall of the harvest in Argentina. In turn, the values of the export prizes are sustained by the commercial war between China and the US, and also by the retreat in the production in Argentina. In addition, the exchange rate is valued due to external factors and also due to the uncertainties of the Brazilian electoral scenario. "This picture should last this season."

Src.: Universo Agro

SOYABEAN HARVEST REACHES 91% OF EXPECTED IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Towards the end, the soyabean harvest in Rio Grande do Sul reached 91% of the projected area. According to information from Emater-RS, the few crops that remain to be harvested, are already in the last stages of the crop and the productivities are at satisfactory levels. In relation to the maize crop, the

pace of field work is moderate due to the strong work to finalize the harvest in the soybean areas, still a priority at this moment. With this traditional situation in the south of the country, the trend is that the rest of the maize crop that is ready for harvest (around 8%) will be in the next month. Emater also released data on the harvesting of rice, which is at the end of the harvest, in all the producing regions of the State, especially in the West Frontier, Campanha, South Zone, Lagunar Litoral and Central State regions, with 87% of these areas already harvested. The rapid development was due to the good weather conditions in the state.

Src.: *Universo Agro*

IGC MAINTAINS ESTIMATE FOR WORLD GRAIN HARVEST

In its most recent crop monitoring report for April, the International Grains Council (IGC) has increased the estimate for world grain production in the 2018/19 crop to 2.088 billion tons (soybean, maize, wheat and rice), but only one million tons ahead of the projection for March (2,087 bi tons). However, if the forecast is confirmed, it will be below the estimated result for the 2017/18 season (2,093 bi tons). The council maintained the forecast for the global grain trade in the 2018/19 crop to 368 million tons, against the projection of 362 million tons of the previous crop. On the other hand, the IGC revised upwards the estimate of the world consumption in season 2018/19 to 2,139 bi tons, against 2,134 bi tons of the forecast of March, and 2108 bi tons of the projected for the previous harvest. Global inventories at the end of the 2018/19 period were maintained at 560 million tons, against 611 million tons in the previous crop.

Src.: *Universo Agro*

BRAZILIAN SUGARCANE HARVEST IN 2018/19 EXPECTED TO REACH 625.96 MILLION TONS, SAYS CONAB

The total production of sugarcane in the 2018/19 harvest, officially started on April 1, is estimated at 625.96 million tons, which corresponds to a reduction of 1.2% in relation to the 2017/18 harvest (633.26 million tons). The data are part of the 1st Survey of the 2018/2019 Harvest of Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab), released this week. According to Conab, the harvested area is estimated at 8.61 million hectares, with a decrease of 1.3%. In Goiás, the second national producer, the areas of expansion for the crop are becoming more scarce, especially those close to the crushing plants. However, in areas where renewal is observed, this practice is being carried out with the use of new, more productive varieties, reports Conab. The area harvested should be similar to the past harvest, estimated at 909.8K hectares. The North, South and Southeast Regions should have a reduction in the area, while the Midwest and Southeast should maintain the total area to be harvested. The estimated average productivity for the 2018/19 season is 72,671 kg / ha, close to that achieved in the last two harvests, which was 72,623 kg / ha in the 2016/17 harvest and 72,543 kg / ha in the 2017/18 harvest. "The aging of the crops, the low renewal rate, the lack of investment in some regions and the reduction of the technological package have kept Brazilian averages below 80,000 kg / ha," explained Conab technicians. The research also shows that the improvement in the quality of sugarcane caused a 1.4% increase in total ethanol

production, which is expected to reach 28.16 billion liters. Among other reasons, the choice for the fuel would be because of the fall in sugar prices in the international market. In the case of anhydrous ethanol, used in the mixture with gasoline, the increase is 7% in production, to 11.86 billion liters, "with an increase justified by the higher consumption of gasoline that has been persisting in recent years." The production of hydrated ethanol, which is the biofuel alcohol itself in the pumps of the stations, is expected to be 16.3 billion liters, with a drop of 2.3% (380.38 million liters). As a consequence of the increase in ethanol, sugar production is expected to reach 35.48 million tons, a decrease of 6.3% compared to the 2017/18 harvest (37.87 million tons), as reflecting the world's largest food production, according to Conab.

Src.: *Dinheiro Rural*

ORANGE JUICE EXPORTS UP 52.25% IN APRIL VERSUS APRIL 2017

The total volume of orange juice exported last month reached 195.5K tons, up 52.25% over the sum of 128.4K tons shipped in April 2017, but down 22.17% compared to March, when the country sold 251.2K tons abroad. The data were released this week by the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC) and consider 21 working days. Revenue from April's exports reached US \$ 167.2 million, up 44.76% from US \$ 115.5 million in the same period of 2017. However, the result represents a 22.91% reduction compared to the amount of US \$ 216.9 million billed in March. With the result of April, cumulative sales of juice in the first four months of 2018 reached 808.4K tons, 34.8% more than the total of 599.7K tons shipped in the same period of 2017. Revenues accumulated between January and April totaled US \$ 706.3 million, 41.79% above the US \$ 498.1 million for the same period last year. In April, sales of concentrated and frozen orange juice (FCOJ) traded US \$ 52.6 million, a decrease of 45.03% compared to US \$ 95.7 million in March, but an increase of 11.2% the US \$ 47.3 million billed in April 2017. FCOJ's export volume stood at 29.7K tons last month, down 43.42% from the total of 52.5K tons in March, an increase of 18.8% in the annual variation, compared to 25K tons shipped in April 2017. Sales of non-concentrated and non-frozen juice (NFC) in the fourth month of 2018 were US \$ 114.6 million, down 5.44% from US \$ 121.2 million in March, but a high of 68, 3% compared to the US \$ 68.2 million revenue obtained in April 2017. Meanwhile, the volume of exports of NFC was 165.8K tons last month, down 16.55% over 198.7K tons of March. In relation to April 2017, there was an increase of 60.34%.

Src.: *Dinheiro Rural*

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