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BRAZIL'S EXPORTS GREW 2.8% IN JANUARY

Brazilian exports reached US\$ 15 billion in January, an increase of 2.8% when compared to January 2020. This is the first comparison between growth since the beginning of the Pandemic last year. The data were released by the BC (Central Bank of Brazil) on Wednesday (24). Imports reached US\$ 16.9 billion (down 1%) and fell much less than in the previous months. The outcome was a negative trade balance of US\$ 1.9 billion in January, the second deficit registered in 11 months. December deficit hit US\$ 881.6 million. The trade balance generally presents a surplus in times of low economic activity, as Brazil imports more in times of expansion. In practice, global merchandise trade decreased in 2020. Both exports and imports fell, but imports reduction were more prominent, having an impact on net positive results.

Source: *Folha SP*

ETHANOL EXPORTS RISE 43.05%

Ethanol sales by production mills in Brazil's Center-South region reached 1.29 billion liters in the first 15 days of February, an increase of 5.32% over 2020. According to the Union of the Sugarcane Industry (UNICA), almost the entire volume sold (98%) was destined to domestic supply, and the volume exported was 23.14 million liters. The volume of anhydrous ethanol purchased in the domestic market reached 425.13 million liters, an increase of 8.18% over the same half of 2020. Sales of hydrated ethanol moved in the same trend, increasing by 3.85% (839,72 million liters). In the accumulated amount since the beginning of the 2020/2021 cycle until February 16, the volume of ethanol purchased by companies from the Center-South region declined by 8.64% (27.21 billion liters). Of this total, exports increased by 43.05% (2.38 billion liters), while sales to the domestic market registered a reduction of around 11.71% (24.83 billion liters).

Source: *Jornal Cana*

CONAB ESTIMATES BRAZIL SETS RECORD FOR SUGAR PRODUCTION AND SUGAR EXPORTS IN THE 2020/21 CROP YEAR

With a few weeks to go in the 2020/21 (April-March) sugar production year, the National Supply Company (Conab) estimates Brazil to set a record for sugar production (41.84 million tons – up 40% over 2019/20), and sugar exports. According to data from the Secretariat of Foreign Trade (Secex), even before the end of the harvest, Brazil has already set a record by exporting 28.43 million tons between April 2020 and January 2021, over 18.95 million tons exported last season. "This positive scenario had been expected by the market before, as it as the reducing demand for ethanol in the first half of 2020, due to the pandemic, caused the mills to increase sugar production, making sugar reach high international prices", says Fábio Silva Costa from Conab. Average sugar price on NYSE increased by 8.5% in January compared to the previous month. These prices have not been observed since 2017. Prospects for the 2021/22 sugar production year are also looking positive. "We have positive chances and a favorable exchange rate for exports. This should continue to keep exports high" says Costa.

Source: *Notícias Agrícolas*

BRAZILIAN TRADE FLOW WITH ARAB LEAGUE GREW 17% IN JANUARY

Data released by the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce indicate that the Brazilian trade flow with the Arab countries grew 17.3% in January 2021 compared to the same month in 2020. The total amount reached US\$ 1.22 billion, while the balance was positive at US\$ 563.31 million for Brazil. Further comparing the first month of this year with the same period last year, revenue from exports from Brazil to the Arabs grew 7.4%. The number reached US\$ 891.85 million and kept the Arab bloc as the 3rd main destination for sales in Brazil, behind only China and the United States. Highlighted products include record levels of wheat and rye mixtures which totaled US\$ 26.78 million;

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pepper, at US\$ 6.4 million; and vegetable fats/oils, which totaled US\$ 5, 1 million. Among the nations that most increased their purchases of Brazilian products, the first is Egypt, which bought 77.6% more, totaling US\$ 209.35 million. In January, the Egyptians bought 227.6% more corn, 543% more sugar (US\$ 34.87 million), and 652% more cardboard. On the other hand, Morocco was the supplier that most increased sales to Brazil. Revenues of US\$ 100.64 million were generated during January, an increase of 95.5%. The products that grew the most were fertilizers, growing 118.3%; inorganic chemicals, growing 137.9%; and fish & crustaceans, growing 44.2%.

Sources: *Brazil-Arab News Agency/Datamar News*

2020/21 BRAZIL SOYBEAN HARVEST IS 25%

The 2020/2021 soybean harvest year gained pace with the increase of harvested areas and by steadier weather in Brazil's South and Southeast regions, according to AgRural. Delayed planting caused by the lack of rain at the end of September last year has kept the harvest pace slow. The AgRural Survey shows that 25% of the area cultivated with oilseeds in Brazil was harvested until Thursday (2/25). The harvest advanced 10% last week. Last year, 40% of the soybean area was harvested in the same period. The analyst at AgRural says that, even with the recent advance, the 25% harvested still represents the lowest mark since the 2010/2011 harvest year. Were it not for the excess of rain in February, which increased the delay, the harvest could have reached at least 33% of the area.

Source: *Revista Globo Rural*

EXPORTS FROM SÃO PAULO RAISE 3.8% IN JANUARY

In January, São Paulo's agribusiness exports increased by 3.8%, reaching US\$ 1.08 billion, while imports registered an 11.6% decrease, reaching US\$ 380 million. The surplus was US\$ 700 million, an increase of 14.8% when compared to the same period of 2020, said on Friday (26) the Secretariat of Agriculture and Supply. In the same period, total exports of the state of São Paulo reached US\$ 2.89 billion, whereas imports reached US\$ 4.43 billion, which represents a trade deficit of US\$ 1.54 billion. "The outcome is still an effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been affecting exports of some of the main commodities in the extractive industries, such as crude oil, airplanes, automobiles, aviation kerosene, gasoline and fuel oil, etc.", said José Alberto Angelo, Marli Dias Mascarenhas Oliveira and Carlos Nabil Ghobril, researchers at the Agricultural Economics Institute (IEA). The researchers highlight the importance of agribusiness to balance the state budget. "The deficit in São Paulo's foreign trade was not sharper because of agribusiness, which accounted for 37.4% of the foreign sales".

Source: *DATAGRO*

DEMAND TO PUSH UP PRICES OF SOYBEAN

According to Liones Severo, director of SIM Consult, the delay in Brazilian soybean shipments may cease in the coming months, and the pace is likely to be steady as early as March. More than 11 million tons are set to be shipped next month, "I believe this is not the main point for triggering surge in prices. Global demand for soy is higher than the available supply" he says. Considering the global soybean calendar, which started in October (2020), China increased its crushing by 14.5% until February. Severo points out, "China imported 100 million tons last year and is now to import 115 million". Soybeans is expected to reach the highest price in history, given the low stock abundance this season. The market is now looking for even higher levels to call for demand rationing. The movement should not be limited to soybeans, but should be extended to other grains, such as corn and oilseeds.

Source: *Notícias Agrícolas*



BRAZIL SETS SIGHTS INTO THE MARITIME ROUTE THROUGH THE PACIFIC

When taking the Pacific routes, farmers who use the ports of the Northern Arc can have a reduction of 35% in freight rates. According to Conab (National Supply Company), the fall in rates will come about even with the payment of the fixed charge of the Panama Canal. Conab sees the sea route as an important alternative to improve the competitiveness of Brazilian agricultural products, also opening new markets from Asia. The Pacific route may provide less navigation time, reduce freight fee and operating costs, as well as cut fuel and emissions. "Some improvements in infrastructure are needed to achieve the reduction rate, as to adapt Brazilian ports to these opportunities, such as the use of the Panama Canal", says the superintendent of Operational Logistics at Conab, Thomé Guth. "For this reason, some Brazilian companies and port terminals have already signed an international agreement for the exchange of information and technical cooperation with the Panamanian authorities".

Source: *Canal Rural*

2021 PORT OF SANTOS CARGO HANDLING OFF TO A GREAT START

According to the Santos Port Authority (SPA), the Port of Santos started the year 2021 recording record volumes of movement. The total volume of cargo was 9.18 million tons, 10.5% higher than in 2020 (8.31 million) and 1.4% higher than the last record for January set in 2018 (9.05 million). 3.9 million tons were registered, a record for this modality in January, surpassing the previous record obtained in 2018 (3.6 million tons) by 7.8% and surpassing the 2020 level by 10.1% (3,5 million). In total, shipments reached 5.71 million tons, surpassing the figures for January 2020 by 8.9%. Ship unloadings, on the other hand, totaled 3.47 million, 13.1% above the same period last year. The busiest products in the Port of Santos were sugar (1.33 million); fertilizer (698,300); corn (604,100) and soybean meal (414,200). Solid bulk reached 3.3 million tons, an increase of 11.0% over the result of January 2020. In this modality, shipments of bulk sugar, soybean meal, and corn continue to perform well, showing a growth of 47.5%, 56.9%, and 13.6%, respectively, over the figures for January 2020. It is also worth noting the fertilizer shipments increased by 77.7%. Liquid bulk also performed well, totaling 1.5 million tons, 9.0% above the same period last year. 342 ships docked at the Port of Santos in January, 9.5% fewer than in January 2020, characterizing the increase in the volume of cargo per vessel.

Source: *Datamar News*

PARANAGUÁ PORT STARTS TO RECEIVE NEW SOYBEAN CROP FOR EXPORT

Gradually, the 20/21 soybean crop is arriving at the Port of Paranaguá. The movement of trucks that unload the product at the terminals in Paraná has intensified and should reach 2,000 vehicles per day, starting in the first week of March. The expectation is that about 2 million tons will be received in March. "There was a certain delay due to the climatic conditions during planting and crop development. The months of January and February typically show less movement, so it is good time to do maintenance works on the flow structure", says the CEO of Portos do Paraná, Luiz Fernando Garcia. To the east of the pier at the Port of Paranaguá, the soy is drained through the Corex (the export corridor). In recent months, the complex has undergone maintenance. In partnership with the operators, the necessary adjustments and improvements were made to meet the demand that is about to intensify. On the west side of the port, a new integrated terminal will add even more strength to the bulk flow. Private investment came in after the state government expanded berth 201.

Source: *Datamar News*

JANUARY CARGO HANDLING UP 18% AT ITAJAÍ AND NAVEGANTES PORT COMPLEX

The year 2021 started with growth in the Port Complex of Itajaí and Navegantes. In January, 115,749 TEU and 1,303,984 tons were handled. Compared to the same period in 2020, in which 99,226 TEU and 1,103,275 tons were registered, these numbers indicate an increase of 17% in TEU handling and an increase of 18% in tonnage. Heder Cassiano Moritz, General Director of Logistics Operations at the Port of Itajaí Superintendence, explains that even with a 5% drop in the handling of TEU, there was a 6% increase in tonnage. "Despite the reduction in the number of stopovers and containers, we moved more tonnage, that is, we moved more full containers and more loaded ships. It is very important that we highlight this vessel-call load ratio growth, which was 22% compared to last year". He points out that more heavily loaded ships are a trend that is increasingly consolidated among shipowners: "The reduction in the number of vessel calls should be maintained, not only in public berths but in the complex in general". For Fábio da Veiga, Superintendent of the Port of Itajaí, the movement in January was quite high: "Historically, port movement in the first quarter of the year tends to maintain stability, and even with the closing of the sandbar due to the rains, we managed to grow, indicating that in 2021 we will continue at this pace".

Source: *Datamar News*

PORT OF IMBITUBA INAUGURATES 6400M² IRON-ORE WAREHOUSE

Port of Imbituba has expanded its storage capacity with the opening of a new 6,400 m² warehouse in Area 6-1, close to Pier 3. The structure is dedicated to the handling of iron ore and accommodates approximately 80,000 tons. The investment by the port operator SulNorte Logística seeks to meet the export demand for hematite and magnetite, mineral bulk that has already been shipped through the Port of Imbituba since November 2020. "In addition to the improvements and maintenance in the general infrastructure of the port, this new warehouse qualifies the port area to meet the needs of the market and adds greater operational efficiency", says Fábio Riera, CEO of SCPAR Porto de Imbituba. In 2020, iron ore secured second place in the ranking of cargo handled at the port, representing 13.6% of the total volume handled. The SulNorte project foresees the construction of two more warehouses this year. Together, these future 4800m² modules will hold over 110,000 tons of static ore storage. "We expect to move approximately one million tons this year, which means a great impact on local job creation", highlights Juliano Franco, SulNorte's administrative manager.

Source: *Datamar News*

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