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EGYPT DEMANDS US\$ 1 BI REIMBURSEMENT FOR EVER GIVEN BLOCKADE

The successful maneuver that unlocked the Ever Given freighter from the Suez Canal in late March was celebrated worldwide. But the story is not over concerning the blockade of one of the most important trade routes in the world. That's because Egypt has decided that it will not release the ship until a US\$ 1 billion (R\$ 5.7 billion) fine is paid as compensation for the damage generated during the week the ship was stuck. The nearly 400-meter freighter is currently anchored in Grande Lago Amargo, a salty lake located between the southern and northern ends of the Suez Canal. According to Osama Rabie, president of the Suez Canal Authority (ACS), the ship will remain there until an investigation is completed and compensation is paid. Regarding the amount of compensation, Rabie said in early April that "we will calculate the damages and losses and how much the dredging machines cost. The estimate will reach US\$ 1 billion or maybe a little more. Shoei Kisen, a Japanese company that owns the Ever Given, said he had not yet received any official complaints or legal action for the blockade caused by the vessel but acknowledged that he was in "negotiations" with the channel's authority.

Source: *BBC/Datamar News*

CHINA WANTS HIGHER-VALUE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FROM BRAZIL, SAYS AMBASSADOR

The Chinese government is aware of Brazilian concerns to increase the added value of its exports to China, while the Asian country "is willing" to work toward this goal, said, on Thursday (8), Yang Wanming, China's ambassador to Brazil, during an online event promoted by Exame magazine. Brazil, which has the largest market in China for exports of agricultural products, mainly soybeans, sugar and meat, could increase shipments of processed and higher-value added items, including more animal proteins, fruits and coffee, he said. He also said that China is expanding its imports of raw materials for animal feed, such as corn, and that Brazil barely sells the cereal to the Chinese, signaling growth prospects. In 2020, despite the pandemic, Brazilian agricultural exports rose nearly 10%, to 34 billion dollars, said Wanming. As China's per capita GDP grows, Brazil should "take advantage of these opportunities to attract more investment by Chinese in the agricultural processing sector, to increase added value of products exported to China".

Sources: *Reuters / Notícias Agrícolas* (*Translated by *la Niani*)

CNA STUDY SHOWS BRAZIL COULD INCREASE EXPORTS TO SOUTH KOREA

A study by CNA (the Brazilian confederation of agriculture and livestock) has pointed out that the signing of a free trade agreement with South Korea – the negotiations of which have been underway since 2018 within Mercosur – may increase Brazilian export revenue for at least 41 agricultural products. Looking at just a few of the leading products, the potential exceeds US\$ 8 billion, four times more than the current export amount. South Korea, which is the seventh leading destination for Brazilian agribusiness exports, generating US 2.2 billion in revenue in 2020, buys 70% of the food it consumes from abroad. The Koreans have agreements with 18 markets, including Brazil's competitors: China, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, the European Union, and also from Brazilian neighbors, such as Peru, Chile, and Colombia. According to the CNA analysis, the products with the most potential for exports to South Korea are meats (up to US\$ 3.5 billion) and cereals (up to US\$ 2 billion), with an emphasis on corn (US\$ 1.7 billion). The organization also believes that items not very present in the South Korean market today can also gain space, such as soy (up to US\$ 838.2 million), sugar and alcohol (up to US\$ 706 million), beverages (up to US\$ 359 million), coffee (up to \$ 380.2 million), and fruit (up to \$ 319.9 million).

Sources: *Valor Ecomico/Datamar News*

BRAZILIAN GRAIN HARVEST TO SURPASS 270 MILLION TONS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

On Thursday (08), the National Supply Company (Conab) estimated Brazilian grain harvest to reach 273.8 million tons, hitting record in 2020/2021. The growth of 6.5% represents a volume of 16.8 million tons over the previous harvest. The main highlights are the consolidation of the second crop, the beginning of the sowing of winter crops, the general increase of 68.5 million hectares, as well as the good performance of soybeans and corn. In comparison with February, grain harvest increased by 1.5 million tons, mainly for the 1.1% growth in the second corn crop, and for the soybean productivity. As the world's largest soybean producer, Brazil is expected to reach a new record, which is estimated at 135.5 million tons, 8.6% or 10.7 million tons higher than the 2019/20 harvest. Corn production is also expected to hit record, reaching 109 million tons (up 6.2%) over the last production. About 24.5 million tons should be produced in the first harvest, 82.6 million in the second and 1.8 million in the third harvest.

Source: *Universo Agro / DATAGRO* (*Translated by *la Niani*)

SOYBEAN: NEW EXPORT FIGURES FOR APRIL AFTER HITTING RECORD IN MARCH

With the beginning of the harvest of the largest soybean crop in the entire history of Brazil, grain exports hit a record in March and may surpass the historical mark in April, data from the National Association of Cereal Exporters (Anec) showed last week. Brazil's soybean exports totaled 14.9 million tons in March, against 13.3 million in the same period last year. In fact, exports in March were higher than all number recorded in 2020. For Anec, Brazil is expected to ship a total of 16.3 million tons, easily surpassing the 14.2 million sold in the same month last year. From January to March, Brazil shipped a total of 20.4 million tons of soybeans abroad. The first four months of this year could reach 36.8 million tons, against 35.8 million tons from JAN to APR 2020.

Source: *Canal Rural* (*Translated by *la Niani*)

BRAZILIAN SUGAR EXPORTS REACH 1.97 MILLION TONS IN MARCH

Brazilian mills exported 1.97 million tons of sugar in March, keeping the upward trend. The volume represents an increase of 8% when compared to February, and 39.6% in relation to March 2020. This is the greatest result of March since the 2.1 million tons exported in 2016. From January to March - the off-season of sugarcane -, the shipments of the sweetener reached 5.8 million tons, a number 34.8% higher than the 4.3 million recorded in the same period of the previous year. The detailed figures for sugar exports were released by the Foreign Trade Secretariat (Secex), of the Ministry of Economy. In March, the average price of the commodity was US\$ 323.91 per ton, up 9% compared to the same month in 2020. Thus, with a higher volume traded at a higher value, revenue from sugar exports rose 52.1%, reaching US\$ 638.97 million.

Source: *Nova Cana* (*Translated by *la Niani*)

TERMINAL FOR RICE HANDLES 27 THOUSAND TONS IN ITS FIRST OPERATION

The Logistics Terminal for Rice (TLA) in Rio Grande do Sul (RS) handled 27 thousand tons of grain last Saturday (3). The cargo is destined for Costa Rica. The operation is expected to be concluded by Tuesday. According to the superintendence of the ports of Rio Grande do Sul, the cargo departs from the storage silos and head towards the vessel's hold through the conveyor belt, a process that does not use cranes, thereby causing less damage to the grains. This is the first operation of the terminal for rice exports. "This operation allows greater competitiveness for rice," said the superintendent of the ports of Rio Grande do Sul, Fernando Estima. The State of Rio Grande do Sul is responsible for 70% of the national rice production. According to the superintendence, rice and soybeans were competing for storage space before the implementation of the TLA, so that rice was only being exported during the off-season of the oilseed.

Source: *Revista Dinheiro Rural* (*Translated by *la Niani*)



WHEAT CROP SOWING STARTS IN PARANA

The largest wheat producer state in Brazil has begun wheat sowing in the 2020/21 crop. According to the Department of Rural Agriculture (Deral), the area is around 1%, still on average compared to the previous harvests. According to the analyst Carlos Hugo Godinho, despite the expectation of below-average rainfall, wheat cultivation in Parana will not be hindered if there is enough volume of water for germination. "Wheat is not a very water-demanding crop, so that will not be a problem at first" he said. He recalled that the early outlook for the Paraná wheat crop is optimistic. According to the agency, the State is expected to harvest 3.77 million tons of the cereal, up 21% in relation to the previous cycle. According to data from the National Supply Company (Conab), the area of Paraná destined for the winter cereal should be equal to that of the past harvest (1,117 million hectares). Across the country, 6.43 million tons are expected to be produced (up 3.3%).

Source: *AGROLINK* (*Translated by Ia Niani)

BRAZIL'S SECRETARY OF PORTS CALLS FOR PRIORITY VACCINATION FOR PORT WORKERS

The National Secretary of Ports and Waterways, Diogo Piloni e Silva, will ask the Ministry of Health to prioritize port workers for the COVID-19 vaccine. The risk of contamination through the logistic and supply procedures is one of the reasons for setting port workers in a priority group. The average age of port workers is 55. On April 7, Diogo Piloni, the deputy Rosana Valle (PSB), and the port unions joined a meeting for defining plans. The secretary heard from the union members that there are no sanitary measures to prevent Covid-19 on board. Piloni promised to call for measures from the port authorities. Rosana Valle reminded the secretary that port workers have never stopped working since the beginning of the pandemic. "Though they are essential for the country's economy, they have no idea when they will be vaccinated, despite the risks for keeping regular contact with seafarers from all over the world", she said.

Source: *Portos e Navios* (*Translated by Ia Niani)

SANTOS REPORTS RECORD-BREAKING PROFITS IN 2020

Santos Port Authority (SPA) ended the 2020 fiscal year with the best profit in its history by recording net income of R\$ 202.5 million, up 132% over 2019, when it closed with a gain of R\$ 87.3 million before adjustments from previous years. According to the company, the performance reflects its cost-saving measures and rationalization actions. It is expected that the port will be privatized in 2022. It is also the first time SPA has been in the black for two consecutive years since 2014. Net revenue grew 15%, to R\$ 1.1 billion, driven by Brazilian agribusiness, which set a new record for cargo handling, advancing 9.4% over the previous year and reaching 146.6 million tons. The various efforts to optimize expenses, review processes, and reduce costs significantly favored the result. Recurring administrative expenses declined sharply and showed a 16% drop on an annual basis. Routine operating expenses grew by 4.2%, below the increase seen in revenues, which resulted in a gain of 1.6 percentage points in the cost/net revenue ratio, indicating greater operational efficiency.

Source: *Datamar News*

TWO NEW RECORDS SET IN MARCH AT THE PORTS OF PARANÁ

The ports of Paraná ended the first quarter of 2021 by setting two new records. In March, the Paranaguá and Antonina terminals recorded the best March in history in terms of volume. There were 5,622,705 tons imported and exported. This volume is 7% higher than that registered in the same month of 2020 (5,235,158 tons). "With the prospects created in this first quarter, we can say that 2021 will once again be a great year for agribusiness, which makes up almost 80% of our operations in the ports of Paraná," says the CEO of the public company Portos do Paraná, Luiz Fernando Garcia. According to him, the delay in the arrival of soy from the field to the port during the first months of 2021, due to climatic issues, should not affect the movement throughout the year. The delay could cause the flow of soybeans to

overlap with the arrival of the off-season corn. Three highlights among the products that grew the most in the comparison between 2020 and 2021 – both for the month and the quarter – are sugar exports (which grew 63% in the month and 98% in the quarter) and the general cargo (which grew 12% in the month and 1% in the quarter). In imports, the main increases were in fertilizers (with an increase of 10% in the month and 8% in the quarter) and general cargo (with an increase of 59% in the month and 32% in the quarter).

Source: *Datamar News*

SÃO SEBASTIÃO BEGINS DREDGING WORKS

On March 30, Companhia Docas de São Sebastião (CDSS) began dredging works at the Port of São Sebastião. The goal is to reestablish the depth of the main berth, the inner berth, and surroundings to ensure navigation security. The execution of this dredging consists of removing sediments from the seabed and disposing them on the dike of the Port of São Sebastião. The investment will be R\$ 3.1 million, and the initial forecast is to finish the work in approximately 60 days. At the same time, environmental actions will verify the dredging impacts and mitigate them. "The mooring berths are more shallow. The dredging aims to restore the original depth of 10 meters in the main berth and 7 meters in the secondary berths, ensuring safe maneuvers and stays", says Paulo Oda, president of CDSS, a company of the Secretariat of Logistics and Transport.

Sources: *Agora Vale/Datamar News*

AÇU TO BUILD OIL STORAGE PARK IN NORTHERN FLUMINENSE

Açu Petróleo, a joint venture between Prumo Logística and the German company Oiltanking, plans to start constructing an oil storage park in the northern Fluminense region this year. The project has a budget of R\$ 2.5 billion. It will have a capacity of 5.7 million barrels with the possibility to expand to up to 11 million barrels according to demand. Operations will begin at the end of 2023. Two thousand direct and indirect jobs will be created. "Brazil will considerably expand oil exports by 20% to 30% per year due to the increase in production with the pre-salt. And it will demand more available terminals. Handling at Port of Açu has been growing 40% annually. We already account for 25% of oil exports. So we will invest in a storage park", explains Victor Bomfim, ahead of Açu Petróleo. This new park will also have pipeline connections with the Southeast's pipeline system, says the executive. The project is in the licensing and financing structuring phase.

Source: *Datamar News*

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