Due to this situation with Coronavirus, most businesses are operating from home-office. In case of need, please contact us through our Key Personnel mobile phones on our website (williams.com.br)

AGRICULTURE AND IRON ORE PUSH BRAZIL'S ARAB LEAGUE EXPORTS TO 8-YEARS HIGH

According to data from the Arab-Brazil Chamber of Commerce on Thursday (20), Brazil's exports to the Arab League totaled US$14.4 billion last year, up 26% from 2020, the highest since 2013 driven by strong iron ore and food sales. Overall Brazilian exports of agricultural products rose by 9.5% to $8.9 billion as demand for soybeans and chicken helped offset a drop in sugar and beef sales to the group of 22 countries. Soybean exports increased by 97.5% to US$638 million and chicken exports rose by nearly 22% to US$2.4 billion. Iron ore sales jumped some 173% to $3.8 billion in 2021, the single most important export to the League. The Arab League also bought US$1.04 billion of corn from Brazil, the chamber said. The strength of Brazilian sales reflects an economic rebound in the Arab League countries, especially those in the Gulf, during the global pandemic, said Tamer Mansour, the chamber's secretary general.
Sources: Reuters/6minutosUol (*Translated by Ia Niani)

BRAZIL AND CHILE NEW FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE

The new free trade agreement between Brazil and Chile will enter into force on the 25th, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreement is considered the most modern Brazil's trade agreement and should open the doors of the Chilean market to companies interested in public tenders in the country and reduce customs processing costs, allowing for greater flexibility in exports and imports. In 2021, Chile became the fifth most important destination for Brazilian products, now Chile is only behind China, the European Union, the United States, and Argentina. The Brazilian Confederation of Industry (CNI) highlights that unlike other markets, the share of “made in Brazil” goods has gone from 8.4% to 8.6% in the last ten years in Chile. “The expanded Brazil-Chile free trade agreement is the most modern in the region, also it is a model we would like to repeat with other partners,” says Ambassador Pedro Miguel da Costa e Silva, Secretary of the Americas at Itamaraty and an important trade negotiator in Brazil.
Sources: Valor/Portos e Navios (*Translated by Ia Niani)

ETHANOL LIKELY TO OFFER BETTER RETURN THAN SUGAR IN THE 2022/23 SEASON

Ethanol price is expected to rise in the 2022/23 season, which starts in April in Brazil's center-south region. The biofuel is likely to offer a greater return than sugar, according to the Continuing Education Program in Business Economics and Management (Pecege), from the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (Esalq-USP). The liter of anhydrous ethanol is expected to reach R$ 3.99 in São Paulo compared to R$ 3.67 in the current season, whereas hydrous ethanol is expected to reach R$3.43 compared to R$3.24 in this season. Price should encourage greater production of anhydrous. Sugar prices on the domestic market are expected to remain high, especially in the second half of this year, even with a possible drop on the New York Stock Exchange (ICE Futures US). VHP sugar indicator for the foreign market is likely to have an average price of R$ 101.86 per 50-kilo bag in 2022/23, almost stable in relation to the current season. Crystal sugar for the domestic market may rise from R$121.69 per bag in 2021/22 to R$139.29 in 2022/23. The raw material is also expected to rise by nearly 5% in the next season, even after the increase of 57% this season.
Sources: Agência Estado/Jornal Cana (*Translated by Ia Niani)

SUGARCANE OUTPUT TO INCREASE 7.3% IN THE 2022/23 SEASON, STONEX SAYS

StoneX has released forecast for the 2022/23 season, which starts in April. The figures are more positive than the current crop, according to the entity. Forecasts point to the continuity of favorable humidity, mainly in the state of São Paulo, which concentrates most of the sugarcane production in Brazil. Regular rains helped estimates increase by 2.2% for crop yield for the next season. Sugarcane planting area in the 2022/23 cycle is likely to remain similar in relation to the current season, at around 7.7 million hectares. StoneX projects that the 2022/23 crushing will remain constant in relation to the publication of November last year, at 565.3 million tons 7.3% than the current cycle.
Sources: StoneX/Jornal Cana (*Translated by Ia Niani)

CORN PLANTING REACHES 96% OF THE INTENDED AREA IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL, EMATER SAYS

Corn planting reaches 96% of the area in Rio Grande do Sul, according to a survey by Emater. Last year in the same period, the corn planting area reached 97%. The five-year average was 99%. Some 27% of the planted area has already been harvested, while 18% was harvested at the same point last year. The average for the period is 18%. The dry weather accelerated the grain maturation and the drying process in the current season. The results obtained are variable, depending on the cultivation system, and on the greater or lesser incidence of drought during the crop cycle. The lowest yields are from non-irrigated crops grown in the north, center, and west of Rio Grande do Sul. Part of the producers chose not to harvest grains, due to the cost of the operation and the low quality of the product: malformed corn ears and reduced size grains. These crops are intended either for making whole-plant silage or for grazing.
Sources: Agência Safras/Canal Rural (*Translated by Ia Niani)

PETROBRAS TO INVEST BRL 2.5 BILLION IN REFINERIES IN 2022

Petrobras plans to boost spending R$ 2.5 billion on maintenance refineries to record levels in 2022, including around 4.5 thousand pieces of equipment, the state oil company said on Wednesday. The amount will surpass the investments made in 2021 of R$ 2.3 billion, the company said. "We invest heavily in the culture of prevention and always seek excellence in safety. In addition to scheduled maintenance shutdowns, we have an intensive employee training in our units", said Rodrigo Costa, the director of Refining and Natural Gas at Petrobras. Even with several scheduled maintenance shutdowns last year, Petrobras reached an average of 83% of total utilization factor of its refineries in 2021, the highest rate in the last five years, which shows the efficiency gained in the management of the units, said the entity.
Sources: Reuters/Noticias Agrícolas (*Translated by Ia Niani)

THE RICE TRADE BALANCE ENDS 2021 WITH SURPLUS

Brazilian rice brought 2021 to a close with a positive balance in terms of foreign exchange, according to the Brazilian Rice Industry Association (Abiarroz) on Thursday, 20th. In 2021, rice exports (husk base) yielded earnings worth US$ 363.2 million, while imports were worth US$ 316.8 million, which resulted in a surplus of US$ 46.4 million. The volume shipped last year totaled 1.153 million tons, compared to 1 million tons of landed imports, making the balance 149 thousand tons. “Rice exports returned, in 2021, to the 2019 foreign sale levels, owing to the appreciation of the dollar,” says Carolina Telles Matos, manager of Abiarroz Exports. Brazil began using the pioneer method of packing rice in plastic bags capable of supporting a load of up to 2,000 kg. By applying this innovation, Abiarroz believes that exporters will decrease their container dependency. According to Abiarroz, Peru overtook Venezuela as the primary destination for rice shipments in 2021. Other popular destinations included the Netherlands, Senegal, Gambia, Cuba, Costa Rica, the United States, Sierra Leone, Nicaragua, and Mexico.
Sources: Canal Rural/Datamar News

PRUMO NOW OWNS 100% OF AÇU PETRÓLEO

Prumo Logística, a company controlled by EIG Global Energy Partners that owns the Port of Açu in São João da Barra (RJ), purchased Oiltanking's 20% share of Açu Petróleo. As a result, Prumo now owns 100 % of the company specialized in oil transshipment operations. Simultaneously, Açu Petróleo completed a US$ 600 million fundraising from foreign investors to finance a fraction of its growth plan. Açu Petróleo's investment thesis is based on oil exports growth prospects.

The "Empresa de Pesquisa Energética (EPE) estimates that about two-thirds of the national oil output will be exported in 2031. The state-owned company also predicts that the volume of exports will practically double in ten years to 3.41 million barrels a day. That could rank Brazil among the five top global oil exporters. Açu Petróleo provides oil transshipment services to companies such as Petrobras, Equinor, Shell, TotalEnergies, and Galp and handles around 350,000 barrels/day of oil – around 30% of Brazilian exports.
Sources: Valor Econômico/Datamar News

THE DATE FOR THE PRIVATIZATION OF CODESA HAS ALREADY BEEN SET
The date for the bidding of the Companhia Docas do Espírito Santo (Codesa), the first port privatization in the history of Brazil, has already been set. With the approval of bidding notice by the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), the process, which provides for the transfer of the company's control and the concession of the ports of Vitória and Barra do Riacho, will be held on March 25, at B3, the São Paulo Stock Exchange. The contract, which is valid for 35 years and can be extended for another five years, is expected to generate R$ 334.8 million in private investments, in addition to approximately R$ 1 billion in operating expenses. Over the course of the lease, more than 15,000 direct, indirect, and income-effect jobs are expected to be created. Codesa is a federal public company associated with the National Secretariat of Ports and Waterway Transportation of the Ministry of Infrastructure. The company is responsible for managing and commercially exploring the organized ports of Vitória and Barra do Riacho. The privatization of Codesa will be the first done under the frameworks of the 2013 Ports Law.
Source: Datamar News

MINFRA APPROVES NEW POLYGONAL AREA TO DOUBLE THE PORT OF SANTOS' AREA
Ordinance nº 66, issued on Wednesday, January 19th by the Ministry of Infrastructure, redefines the jurisdictional area of the Organized Port of Santos, also known as the port's polygon area. The new polygon, which includes the port's administrative perimeter, facilities, and leased terminals, increases the dry area managed by the Santos Port Authority (SPA) from 8 km² to 15,5 km². The expansion includes greenfield areas for the development of new projects and adds value to the SPA privatization, which is scheduled for the second half of the year. The expansion enlarges the port's continental reach towards the navigation channel, with the Ilha de Brages and Largo do Caneu regions accounting for nearly 6km² of the new 8km². In addition to the dry area, the Port of Santos polygon also includes maritime anchorage areas, the navigation channel and its maneuvering basins in the estuary, as well as the Itatinga Hydroelectric Power Plant.
Source: Datamar News

SANTOS WELCOMES THE LARGEST FERTILIZER OPERATIONS IN ITS HISTORY
The Port of Santos received the largest ship of bulk fertilizers in history on January 18th. The Singapore-flagged *MV Benfica* ship arrived at the Guarujá Maritime Terminal (TERMAG) carrying approximately 76,000 tons of ammonium sulfate and ammonium phosphate, both of which are used to enrich soils and are essential nutrients for plants. This is the largest volume of fertilizer imports ever recorded by the port authorities at the Port of Santos. According to data from the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade, and Services, Brazil's imports of ammonium sulfate increased by 9% compared to the same period in 2020, and imports of ammonium phosphate increased by 53%. The cargo will be sent via road and rail modes to several Brazilian states.
Source: Datamar News

AFTER AN 35% INCREASE, TERMINALS IN PARANAGUÁ UPDATE THEIR 1ST QUARTER PROJECTIONS
The terminals operating at the Port of Paranaguá expect to export 6,762,816 tons of solid bulk in the first three months of the year. On average, the forecast is to ship 2,254,272 tons of soybeans (grain and bran), sugar, corn, and wheat per month, from January to March. The projected volume is about 35% higher than the 4,991,434 tonnes handled in relation to the first quarter of last year. The expected increase should be mainly driven by the increased volume of soybeans to be exported in the first quarter of the year. As for soybeans, the companies intend to ship 4,560,915 tons through the Port of Paranaguá in the first quarter. On the other hand,1,404,901 tons of soy bran are expected. According to experts, the soybeans that are being shipped now come from the past crop, which producers were holding back, waiting for the best time (and price) for sale. Also in the first quarter, bulk sugar exports should reach a volume of 405 thousand tons. Corn should be shipped a 395 thousand tons volume by the Paraná port operators. Finally, the wheat export forecast is 33 thousand tons.
Source: Datamar News

SUAPE WILL CONTRACT LOAN TO FINISH DREDGING FOR RECEIVING SUPERSHIPS
The Suape Port Complex has requested permission from the government of Pernambuco to contract a loan to complete the dredging of its main channel, as to raise the draft to 20 meters, 4.4 meters more than the current draft. Following last year's performance, when it rose net revenue by 11.56% and profit by 19.82%, after spending more than R$ 70 million in investments, the port now intends to complete its most important infrastructure project. The investment value must be known within two months when the budgeting company provides the financial plan. The most recent figure was R$ 400 million, when the Federal Government was leading the contract negotiations. However, the federal government is changing the legislation and leaving port terminals investment projects to the concession program, which will indirectly help Suape Port reassess its investments. According to an estimate made by the Regional Superintendence of the Federal Revenue in the 4th Fiscal Region, Suape grew 47% in the segment compared to 2020, moving US$ 8.19 billion, 15% higher than that of 2019.
Source: Jornal do Comercio (PE) (*Translated by Ia Niani)

VLI AND CODEBA FORMALIZE INTENTION TO INCREASE JOINT OPERATIONS IN BAHIA
VLI, the manager of the Center-Atlantic Railway, and the Companhia Docas do Estado da Bahia (Codeba) signed an Agreement Memorandum in the first quarter of January, ratifying both companies' intention to expand their joint operations in the state of Bahia. VLI and Codeba will then collaborate to conduct feasibility studies in order to prospect potential new deals that can supplement the volumes already handled by the logistics operator destined for Bahia's ports. The Minas-Bahia corridor, a logistics branch operated by VLI facilitates the flow of inputs to the coast of Bahia due to a unique characteristic: its vocation to transport general cargo. The branch regularly handles petroleum products, lime, chemicals, iron ore, chromium ore, magnesite ore, cement, and containers. From January to June 2021, the company handled approximately 4 million tons through the corridor, a volume that was 32% higher than in the same period the previous year

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In order to facilitate the documents issuance all messages related to Documentation (Documentary Instructions/BsL /Mate's Receipt /Others) for the vessels in Santos Port, should be sent to the new e-mail doc.santos@williams.com.br

Please, do not hesitate to contact us for further information through our commercial@williams.com.br and lineup@williams.com.br .

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