

**CORN: HARVEST OF THE FIRST CROP REACHES 17% OF THE AREA IN PARANÁ**

The harvest of the first corn crop in Paraná reached 17% of the estimated area for cultivation (332.8K hectares), according to the Department of Rural Economy (Deral), an agency linked to the State Secretariat of Agriculture and Supply (Seab). According to the department, 85% of the areas are in good condition. Already the planting of the second harvest reached 70% of the expected area of 1.5 million hectares.

Src.: *Universo Agro*

**DREDGING SERVICES AT THE PORT OF MACEIÓ WILL COST R \$ 35 MILLION, SAYS MINISTER**

Expected 20 years ago, the dredging work at the Port of Maceió was authorized this week. After meeting the conditions of the Brazilian Navy, the dredging service must be started until March 19<sup>th</sup>. Still according to Quintella, the gains for the region will be significant. This is because, after dredging, a 20% to 30% increase in cargo handling is expected, which will lead to reduced costs and faster ship operations, which transports grain from a current average of 40K tons by deadweight (TPB) for up to 60K. In addition to dredging, Porto also already has a budget of more than R \$ 42 million. The resource will be used in the construction of the passenger terminal and in a series of works for operational improvements that will modernize the port infrastructure. Each part of Porto will have a draft goal to be achieved. Within the basin of evolution, the draft is expected to shift from the current 9.5 meters to 11 meters. For the berth, the expectation is that the gain is four meters (from 5 to 9). The Sugar Terminal, in turn, will increase from the current 5 meters to 10.5 meters.

Src.: *Portos e Navios*

**GOVERNMENT EXPECTS PRODUCTION OF 4 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN IN THE NORTHEAST**

The drought that took much of the Northeast in January 2017, decreased significantly in January this year, the result of the first pre-season and rainy season rains in the States of the region. The scenario change occurs after at least six consecutive years of drought in the Northeast. Paraíba and Pernambuco are still with about half of their territories in exceptional drought situation. The eastern parts of Bahia, Alagoas and Sergipe already have areas without relative drought. Piauí was one of the states in which the drought was most reduced, although it remained with areas of severe and extreme drought. According to the State Department of Rural Development, this situation reached 80% of its territory, but today it is at 15%. These precipitations, even occurring below or in the historical average, have already resulted in the recharge in important dams, such as Bocaina and **Piaús**, located in the driest region of the State, which are with little more than 17% of their capacity. In total, the reservoirs of Piauí already accumulate 54% of the total volume. The impact of these rains is the prospect of a new crop record, whose region known as Matopiba (reference to the currencies between Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia, considered the new agricultural frontier of Brazil) has an important impact. The forecast for 2018 is to reach 4 million tons of grain. In 2016, one of the drought years, the harvest was only 1.5 million tons.

Src.: *Portos e Navios*

**BRAZIL EXPORTS LESS SOYA AND SUGAR IN FEBRUARY; SALES OF SOYABEAN MEAL AND CORN GROW**

Brazil exported less soya and sugar in February compared to the same month last year, but boosted shipments of corn, meal and soyabean oil. Figures from the Secretariat of Foreign Trade (Secex) show that the country exported 2.86 million tons of soyabeans in February, 650K tons less compared to the same period in 2017, possibly reflecting delays in planting and harvesting of oilseed this year. However there was a large increase in sales of soya products. Brazil exported 1.35 million tons of meal last month, almost twice the volume a year ago, and shipped 125,641 tons of soyabean oil, down from 75,565 tons last year.

Src.: *Portos e Navios*

**SOIL HARVEST OF THE 2017/18 CROP IN THE PARANA REACHES 46%; SUMMER CORN, 17%**

The harvest of the soyabean crop 2017/18 reached 46% of the area planted in Paraná, according to the Department of Rural Economy (Deral), the State Agriculture Secretariat. Compared with last week, the work has increased by 19 %, but remains behind in comparison with the same period last year, when it was 56%. The summer corn harvest was completed in 17% of the planted area, according to Deral. According to the department, 65% of summer corn crops are in the maturation phase. Deral also reported that planting second crop corn reached 70% of the area predicted, advance of 28% in the week. According to Deral, 100% of the crops are in good condition.

Src.: *Udop*

**DESPITE HIGHER RISK, CORN OF SECOND CROP PLANTED IN MARCH SHOULD GROW IN GOIÁS**

The passage of the 2018 Safra Rally through Goiás this week may verify the planting of winter corn still in full steam in the state. This is because the proportion of planted areas of second harvest corn in March in Goiás should increase in relation to the previous crop. The survey shows that from 30% to 35% of the corn crop area in Goiás will be sown in March in the 2017/18 harvest, compared to 26% in the previous season. The situation is similar to that projected for Mato Grosso, where 25% of winter corn crops are to be planted in March, up from 15% in 2016/17. The delay in the planting of corn in Goiás led the Association of Soyabean and Corn Producers of the State (Aprosoja-GO) to request the Ministry of Agriculture to extend the planting windows indicated in the ZARC. Yesterday, Aprosoja-GO warned farmers in a note about the climatic risk of planting the corn crop in March, noting that in the first half of the month the possibility of loss is greater than if the producer could have planted corn in the second fortnight February, as rains in the state usually end in April.

Src.: *Udop*

**CORN: MARKET SHOWS STRONG RISE IN FEBRUARY**

Corn prices have been showing strong increases in foreign and domestic markets, according to researchers at Cepea. In the international scenario, the quotations are driven especially by concerns about the climate in Argentina. In Brazil, many plaintiffs have low inventories and have to give in to the negotiations to buy new lots of corn - this scenario is especially



verified in the São Paulo market. In this environment of high, producers / sellers consulted by Cepea offer only small lots, giving priority to the business involving the soyabean, which presents greater liquidity. In February, the ESALQ / BM & FBovespa Indicator (Campinas - SP) increased 19.6%, and between February 23 and March 2, 9%, closing at R \$ 40.06 / 60 kg bag on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Src.: Udop

#### **ORANGE JUICE EXPORT REVENUE INCREASES 57.8% IN FEBRUARY**

Total export revenue of Brazilian orange juice rose 57.8% in February this year compared to the same month of 2017, from US \$ 117 million to US \$ 184.7 million, it said the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC). Compared to January 2018, there was a 34.13% increase compared to the US \$ 137.7 million registered in that month. The total volume of orange juice exported last month was 200K tons, another significant increase of 37.5% in relation to the 145.4K tons in February 2017 and 23.68% in the total of 161.7K tons in January 2018.

Src.: Globo Rural

#### **ETHANOL INCREASES 1.66% IN VOLUME AND 2.3% IN REVENUE IN FEBRUARY**

Brazil exported 61.3 million liters of ethanol in February, up 1.66% from the volume of 60.3 million liters shipped in February 2017, but down 49.4% from 121.2 million liters. liters of January. The data were released by the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC). In the first two months, the sector sold 182.5 million liters of biofuel abroad, an increase of 11.55% compared to 163.6 million liters in the same period of 2017. Foreign exchange revenues from the sale of biofuel reached US \$ 44.5 million in the second month of 2018, an increase of 2.3% when compared to US \$ 43.5 million obtained in the same period of 2017. 36.5%. The sector's bimonthly revenue totaled US \$ 114.6 million, down 0.34% from the US \$ 115 million accumulated between January and February 2017.

Src.: Revista Globo Rural

#### **CORN HARVEST 2017/18 IN BRAZIL REACHES 26% OF THE AREA**

The harvest of the 2017/18 summer corn crop in Brazil reached 26.3% of the estimated area for the crop, considering the date of March 2, according to data from DATAGRO Consultoria. In the same period last year, the percentage was 37%, while the average of the last five years is around 32.8%.

Src.: Universo Agro

#### **AGRIBUSINESS WAS PERFECT IN 2017 AND WILL HELP THIS YEAR**

Last year's record grain crop generated a record GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Agriculture added R \$ 299 billion in the economy in 2017 and the GDP of the sector grew by 13%. It is the highest annual rate since 1996, when the IBGE began the series of Quarterly National Accounts in the way it is currently done. It can be said that the agricultural scenario was much more favorable than the other sectors last year because the evolution of the crops was quite satisfactory. Adequate climate, increased area planted and new technologies being implemented in the field have raised production to a

record 241 million tons of grain. Soyabeans, corn and cotton stood out. The area with soyabeans rose to 35 million hectares, and oilseed production reached a record 115 million. Corn production, which is growing year on year, was also record, reaching 100 million tons in the period. If 2017 has already been good, 2018 can be repeated, with the agriculture returning to give a good contribution to GDP. Grain production may be above what initial estimates indicated, with the exception of corn, which declines. Some of the consultants specialized in the agricultural market point to a new increase in the production of soya and cotton. Wheat, which has fallen steeply in last year's crop, can turn around this year and return to normal production. In spite of the accelerated evolution in the last year, the agricultural GDP performance was stable in the last quarter of the year, in relation to the immediately previous one. The numbers indicate that this stability occurred because of the poor performance of crops of wheat, sugar cane and cassava. The orange and tobacco sectors were among the fastest growing.

Src.: Portos e Navios

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