



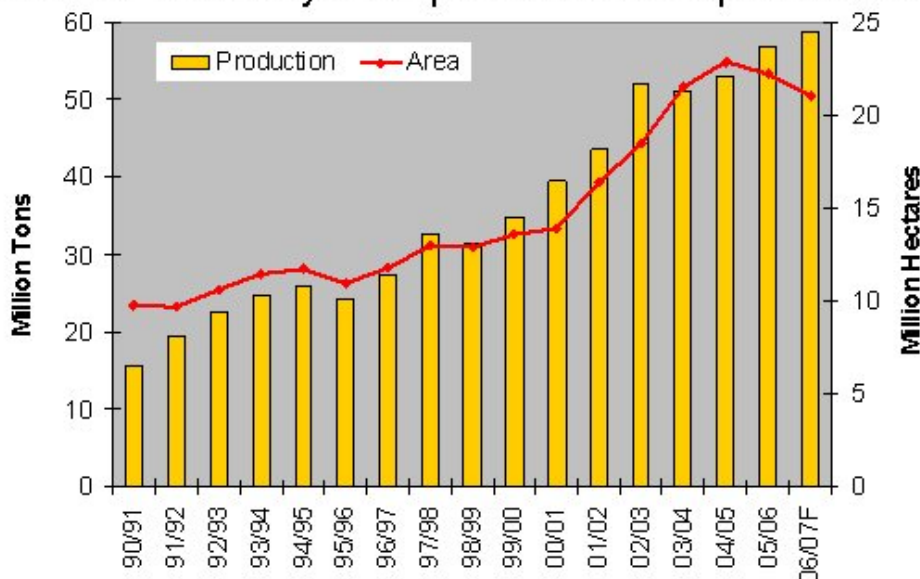
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World Agricultural Production

Record Brazil soybean production despite area loss



Higher Reported Yields in Brazil's Major Soybeans States Lead to Record Production

Brazil's soybean production for 2006/07 is forecast at a record 58.8 million tons, up 3 percent from last month, and up 3 percent from last year's revised estimate. Harvested soybean area for 2006/07 is forecast at 21.0 million hectares, unchanged from last month but down 6 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2.80 tons per hectare, up 3 percent from last month and up 9 percent from last year. Optimal weather throughout the growing season has been observed by most soybean regions which has more than offset yield losses due to mid-February wetness in north-central Mato Grosso. As harvest progresses, this month's increase in production is mainly due to higher than expected reported yields especially in Mato Grosso, Parana, and Rio Grande do Sul. Mato Grosso, Parana, and Rio Grande do Sul account for approximately 29, 18, and 13 percent of the total production, respectively. Harvest progress has been swift due to earlier than normal plantings, greater use of short season varieties, and good weather. As of March 30th, 59 percent of Brazil's soybean crop had been harvested, compared to 49 percent this time last year, and 46 percent on average. Mato Grosso is 90 percent harvested, compared to 66 percent on average. Parana is 73 percent harvested compared to 65 percent on average. Rio Grande do Sul is the last state to be harvested; approximately 17 percent of its crop has been collected compared to 7 percent on average. *(For more information, contact Nicole Wagner at 202-720-0882).*

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board

