



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## **Bolivia**

### **Oilseeds and Grain Products**

### **Update**

**1999**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Unusual dryness delayed planting season for soybeans last year and as a result production in 1999 was down 23 percent. Bolivian farmers are losing interest in growing wheat. Area harvested dropped 70 percent.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Lima [PE1], PE

## **Soybean**

Due to lower yields and less area planted, Bolivian soybean production is expected to fall 23 percent to 620,000 metric tons during calendar year 1999. Soybean planted area is expected to fall from 511,000 hectares to 400,000, due to the lack of rain during the planting season.

Soybean and soybean products are Bolivia's largest agricultural exports. Soybean products account for 50 percent (about \$200) million of the agricultural exports from Santa Cruz, the Bolivian agricultural powerhouse. There are about 8,000 soybean producers in Santa Cruz, about 70 percent of whom are small producer controlling less than 40 hectares; 25 percent are medium size, farming up to 500 hectares; and 5 percent are large producers, with 500 to 20,000 hectares of soybean production. The average profit for soybean is \$70 per hectare

Bolivia enjoys tariff advantages with its Andean neighbors. Most agricultural products are exported into Peru duty free, only refined soybean oil is assessed 8.5 percent tariff compared with the 12 percent that oil from other origins is assessed. Soy oil exported to Colombia enter duty free, a significant advantage when compared with the 10 percent tariff that oil imported from Brazil, the major competitor, is assessed.

## **Grain Crops**

Wheat production has dropped dramatically to 35,000 metric tons in 1999. The area planted fell from 120,000 hectares to 37,000 hectares. This producers' sudden lost of interest on wheat was caused by the unexpected low yields obtained, while farmers were aiming at 1.5 tons per hectare, but were not able to produce more than 0.95 tons per hectare. Many wheat producers are looking at sorghum or sunflower as alternative crops.

Sunflower continues to be seen only as a winter alternative for rotating summer crops (soybean, sorn, cotton, sorghum). With 120,000 hectares planted, sorghum production for calendar year 1999 is expected to reach 96,000 metric tons

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