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# World Agricultural Production

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## **Brazil: Summer-Corn Area Forecast to Decrease**

Brazil corn production for 2008/09 is forecast at 55.0 million tons, down 2.0 million or 4 percent from last month and down 3.6 million from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 14.3 million hectares, down 0.5 million or 3 percent from last month and down 0.4 million or 3 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 3.85 tons per hectare, 12 percent above the 5-year average of 3.45 tons per hectare and slightly below the 10-year trend yield of 3.90 tons per hectare.

Forecast area decreased this month based on industry reports indicating that the recent international credit crisis will reduce the amount of credit available to Brazilian farmers, who have just begun planting the 2008/09 main (summer) corn crop. In its initial forecast of 2008/09 corn area, the state statistical agency of Brazil (CONAB) indicates a 2-percent decrease in the area of summer corn.

The main (summer) corn crop accounts for nearly 70 percent of Brazil's total corn output. The largest summer-corn producing states are Parana, Minas Gerais, and Rio Grande do Sul, which account for approximately 23, 16, and 15 percent, respectively. Planting in Parana is approximately 50 percent complete, and industry representatives in Parana forecast that area will decrease by approximately 5 percent from last year. Planting of Brazil's summer-corn crop will continue until December, and harvest typically occurs between March and June. The states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso Do Sul are the main production regions for the second (winter, or *safrinha*) corn crop. Winter-corn planting will begin in February.

**Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board**















































