

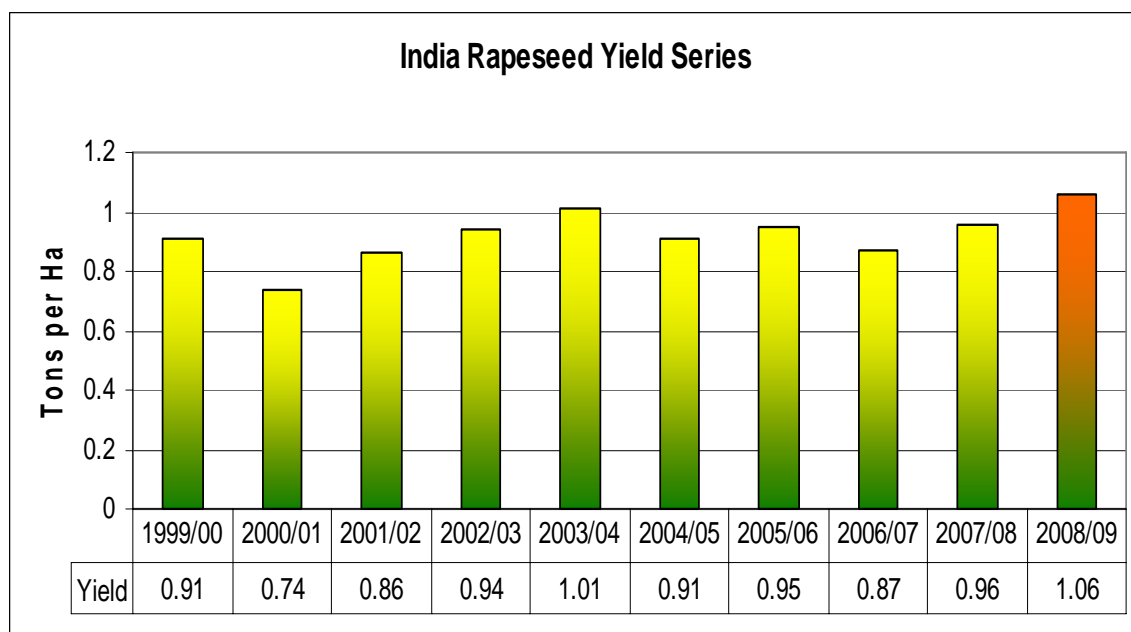


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World Agricultural Production



India's Rapeseed Production Boosted

The USDA forecasts India's 2008/09 rapeseed production at 7.0 million tons, up 0.42 million or 6 percent from last month, and up 1.55 million or 28 percent from last year. The area harvested is forecast at 6.6 million hectares, down 0.4 million from last month or 6 percent, but up 0.9 million or 16 percent from last year. A record yield is forecast at 1.06 tones per hectare, up 0.1 from last year or 11 percent. The latest government of India data indicates that *rabi* or winter season rapeseed planting is up from last year. The government's sowing progress report of March 13, 2009 shows the area planted estimated at 6.6 million hectares, compared to 5.98 million for the same time last season. USDA-FAS analyst's in-country field observations and discussions conducted in March, 2009 indicated that approximately 80 percent of the crop has been harvested. The estimated record yield and increase in rapeseed area from last season is due to favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season. In addition, farmers continue to respond to the strong Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy. Large harvests are expected in key

