

BARLEY - Mainly grown on the high plateaus. Production increased from 92,000 tons in 1987 to 97,000 tons in 1988, up five percent. The area planted increased by 14 percent in 1988, for a total of 51,000 hectares. Higher production costs and the lack of rust-resistant varieties have hampered a wider planted area. Barley support prices increased from CDN \$295 per ton in 1987, to CDN \$373 in 1988 and to CDN \$350 for the second crop in 1989.

Total 1989 production is estimated at 107,000 tons. Since consumption, mainly by the beer industry, is increasing at six percent per year for a total of 240,000 tons, the balance must be imported as barley and malting barley.

Imports in 1987 amounted to 110,727 tons of barley and 30,000 tons of malting barley from Canada, 20,000 tons from France, and 10,000 tons from Australia. During 1988, a total of 38,705 tons of barley were imported from Canada and 62,467 tons of malt from several European countries.

For 1989, authorized imports were set at 65,000 tons of malting barley and the same amount for malt. Since the only malting plant in Colombia has been dismantled and the new plant (180,000 tons) in Cartagena will not operate before 1990, barley imports may reach 85,000 tons in 1989.

The general policy for barley is to establish support prices to growers, absorption quotas on the domestic crop by brewers and import quotas with high import duties. As with wheat, IDEMA charges US \$4 per US \$1,000 of the CIF value for handling import licences. Import duties amount to 33 percent of CIF value for barley, 25 percent ad valorem when imported as malting barley and 35 percent as ground malt.

CORN - Planted in the tropical flatlands (mechanized), although the majority of production for grain and corn on the cob, (traditional and unmechanized) takes place in cooler areas. Production in 1988 reached 900,000 tons, up six percent from 1987, harvested from an area of 660,000 hectares.

The Government seeks self-sufficiency in this crop and to substitute corn for one-third of wheat imports. It is a staple in the Colombian diet and minimal amounts are used for feed. Credit for corn during 1989 was set at CDN \$345 per hectare versus CDN \$248 in 1988. Support prices increased from CDN \$231 per ton in 1988 to CDN \$295 per ton in 1989. A price stabilization fund of CDN \$1.2 million was set up by the government through IDEMA for corn purchases in the market when deemed necessary to minimize speculation.