

2. Foreign Exchange Situation

The situation of foreign exchange is critical at the moment. Colombia's reserves have decreased to about \$2 billion U.S. dollars. The government has met this challenge with a series of drastic import restrictions.

3. Fertilizer Situation

Colombia is largely self-sufficient in fertilizers. In 1981, national consumption was 427,043 tonnes of which 10,000 tonnes were imported. In 1982 the figures were 337,270 tonnes versus 10,000 tonnes. No figures are available for 1983.

4. Import Mechanism

Wheat, coarse grains and oilseeds are all imported by private companies, who are often millers. Imports are based on quotas assigned by the state agency IDEMA.

5. Grain Industry Infrastructure

IDEMA owns and operates grain handling and storage facilities at the Colombian ports of Santa Marta (Atlantic Coast) and Buenaventura (Pacific Coast). Processing facilities are owned by private millers. No change is expected in these facilities.

6. Government Policies Affecting Grain and Agriculture

(a) Support for grain production: Twice a year, IDEMA reviews the production of the following crops: sorghum, maize, wheat, sesame seed, beans and barley and then sets a support price. IDEMA buys a certain quantity from farmers and places the products in storage. These stocks are sold gradually to private companies and millers.

(b) Grain imports are done through the system of quotas set by IDEMA.

(c) Human consumption of wheat-based products like breads and pasta is growing steadily. Animal consumption of grain products is very low.

(d) Reserves: Colombia's annual wheat reserves amount to about 5,000 tonnes.

(e) Meat production and consumption is shown in the following table:

	No. of Livestock		No. of Slaughter		Meat Consumption	
	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
	--- million		---		--- tonnes ---	
Cattle	24.4	24.4	3.3	2.9	660,000	650,000
Hogs	2.1	2.2	1.2	1.3	103,417	111,323
Sheep	Not available					
Poultry	82.0	83.0	81.0	82.0	123,000	124,500