

Consumption is estimated to have grown three percent in 1988 and exports totalled 55,000 tons, the same level as in 1987. Plantings in 1989 were eight percent lower than the previous year.

TOBACCO - Grown in the Departments of Tolima, Cauca Valley, Santander, Meta, and on the northern coast. Production increased by nine percent in 1988 to 27,000 tons (dry weight) harvested from 22,000 hectares. Consumption of black tobacco leaf (northern coast) continued to decrease in favor of lighter types. Total domestic consumption increased only two percent in 1988.

■ Exports amounted to 10,950 tons, up 18 percent from the 8,944 tons exported a year earlier. Imports in 1988 (Virginia type) came from Brazil and Argentina, totaling 4,225 tons, versus 3,064 tons the previous year. In 1989 29,000 tons were expected to be produced and 11,350 tons exported to countries that are reducing their plantings.

SUGAR - Almost all Colombian sugar cane is grown in the Cauca Valley, where plantings have decreased in recent years due to low international prices. Production totalled 1.4 million tons in 1988 with a consumption of 1.1 million tons at a price of CDN \$0.22 per lb.

■ Exports of raw sugar totalled 230,000 tons, mainly to Morocco, the USSR, China, South Korea, Portugal and Ecuador. Exports of refined products amounted to 10,500 tons and molasses to 58,000 tons. These lower exports compared to 1987 are due to weaker world prices and greater domestic demand for use in liquors and feeds. Molasses production, which totalled 365,000 in 1988, was expected to increase to 370,000 tons.

COCOA - Grown in all tropical areas of Colombia by small landholders. Production of dry beans in 1988 totalled 53,800 tons out of 98,000 hectares harvested (115,000 hectares planted) as new trees entered production and old ones were replaced. New plantings totalled 9,537 hectares.

■ Colombia is now a net exporter and exports totalled 11,719 tons to the U.S. and Europe versus 13,000 tons exported in 1987. 1989 exports were expected to be 14,000 tons depending on a recovery of world prices.