

OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

COFFEE - Coffee bushes are grown on mountain slopes in the temperate highlands of Colombia, between 1,000 and 1,800 meters above sea level. A total of 11.8 million bags (60 kgs each) of green coffee were produced in 1988 as compared to 12.5 million bags in 1987, due to dry weather during the first four months affecting blossom formation, excess rains during the remainder of the year, and less fertilizer used because of higher prices for this input. Price increases to producers were below the inflation rate, which created further disincentives for production.

■ In 1989, a total production of 11.4 million bags was expected. Stocks stood at about nine million bags. Exports during 1988 totalled 9.8 million bags, 12.5 percent below the 11.2 million bags exported in 1987. These totalled CDN \$2.12 billion in 1988. During that period Canada imported green, roasted and instant coffee valued at CDN \$78.8 million. The U.S. and West Germany were the largest buyers.

Efforts to control coffee bush rust reached CDN \$47.8 million in 1987, as the fungus appeared in Colombia in 1985. In 1988, 75 percent of the coffee area was affected, increasing the burden on growers. Coffee production goals are to reach a production of 14 to 15 million bags by 1995, mainly through higher yields of existing plantations.

BANANAS - Banana production, mainly originating in the Uraba region of the Northern Coast, grew slightly in 1988 for a total of 969,000 tons over 1987, despite social and guerrilla problems faced in the production area and damage inflicted by a hurricane. Total hectares harvested amount to 26,000 in 1988.

■ Exports during 1988 totalled 886,000 tons for a value of CDN \$264 million, with the U.S. and France as the most important markets. Canadian purchases amounted to 26,603 tons worth CDN \$15.4 million. In 1989, some 898,000 tons were to be exported.

COTTON - Grown on the Northern Coast, in the Cauca Valley, Tolima and Meta Departments, where two crops are harvested per year. In 1988, a total of 126,000 tons were harvested from an area of 212,000 hectares. Yields were affected by rains at planting and harvesting time. In addition, low international prices, low domestic prices paid by textile mills and higher cost of inputs resulted in marketing problems.