

Certain strength is expected in the future in relation to oil quotations, taking into consideration the effects that an imminent fall of soy oil production in the United States could produce in the market, as a result of the floods registered in the main producing states.

In the measure this increasing trend in international markets is confirmed in the short-term it is probable that it will have some effect on the behavior of local prices, partially improving the perspectives for these crops.

In regards to the evolution of actual prices in the national market, similarly to raps, the strong decrease experienced during the last year is detected. In accordance with ODEPA, the values per quintal of the past season had a fall amounting to 16% with respect to the previous season, i.e. 10,330 pesos per quintal. During the first semester of this year prices have been maintained at around 10,100 pesos per quintal which would indicate a new decrease amounting to 1.5% in respect to the average of 1992.

### Beans

Bean sowed surface for the last season amounted to only 46.710, corresponding approximately to 68% of it to the sowing of internal consumption varieties and the remaining 32% to those crops destined to foreign markets.

The above-mentioned figure represented a decrease amounting to 33.3% in comparison to the 1991/1992 season, with which the lowest level during the last eight years was registered. This was mainly due to low expectancies, since those ones destined for such purpose were the ones that showed the greatest volume and percentage of decline.

During the 1991/1992 season the area covered with internal food beans amounted to 41,689 hectares and 31,690 hectares during the 1992/1993 season, therefore, the decrease amounted to almost 10,000 hectares or 24%.

The cultivation of beans for internal consumption is mainly carried out in the Seventh Region that represents approximately 40% of the overall amount, being followed by the Eighth Region with a little bit more than 20%, the Sixth Region with 15% and the Tenth Region with 10%.