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The Argentina soybean complex: Country report

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Argentina remains the third largest producer of soybeans worldwide, being the main exporter of flour and oils, and with a prominent position in biodiesel. The bulk of primary soybean production (75%) is destined for industrialization, while the rest is exported (CIARA). In the last 4 years, compared to the previous series, the soybean has increased by 4% in surface, and 20% in production. This trend is explained in higher yields per hectare in years with favorable agro-ecological conditions, and in permanent technological innovations. The oil complex of the Gran Rosario has the high theoretical capacity of daily crushing plants (Eg 20,000 ton / day) and the large joint theoretical capacity of all factories located there (158,750 ton / day)(BCR).The sustainability of the complex was at risk due to the imbalance of soybean compared to other crops and monoculture. This had been generated by high export taxes and restrictions on the free market, a situation that eventually locate soybeans in a better relative situation.

Recently with the new government, with the exception of soybeans, these trade barriers have been eliminated and soybeans entered a more favorable rotation and after winter crops stage. More than 78% of the soybeans are sown under direct sowing (INTA). The genetic gain continues in the different maturation groups (Santos,D.) and more stable varieties have been lunched in the market. The most notable development is the introduction of transgenic soybeans with tolerance to lepidopteran insects (Intacta), mainly in the northern region of the country. A high degree of illegal seed persists in the seed market, but there are attempts at changes to increase state controls and to modify the current seed law. For this reason there is uncertainty in the introduction of new herbicide resistant events.