



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/18/2003

GAIN Report Number: MX3126

Mexico

Agricultural Situation

Weekly Highlights & Hot Bites, Issue #43

2003

Approved by:

William L. Brant
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Benjamin Juarez

Report Highlights:

Secretary Cardenas Says No Ecological Consequences of Transgenic Corn in Oaxaca*
Mexico Will Not Change Posture of Eliminating Support to Agriculture*
Fox Insists On Eliminating Subsidies in Agriculture*
Mexican Model is Questioned*
United Nation's Agreement On Transgenic Products Goes Into Effect*
North American Looks For a Trade Agreement With Middle East

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

Welcome to Hot Bites from Mexico, a weekly review of issues of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The topics covered in this report reflect developments in Mexico that have been garnered during travel around the country, reported in the media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Readers should understand that press articles are included in this report to provide insights into the Mexican "mood" facing U.S. agricultural exporters. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

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SECRETARY CARDENAS SAYS NO ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSGENIC CORN IN OAXACA

Invited to close the 18 Global Forum on Biodiversity, attended by 30 civil organizations, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) Alberto Cardenas Jimenez stated that there are no ecological consequences for the contamination of genetically modified corn in "some parcels" of Oaxaca's north mountains. Also attending the Forum were NGOs from Canada, the United States, Latin America, Europe and Africa. (Source: *Milenio*, 9/8/03)

MEXICO WILL NOT CHANGE POSTURE OF ELIMINATING SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURE

Secretary of Economy Fernando Canales speculates that definitive agreements will not be reached during the WTO Ministerial in Cancun. However, Mexico will maintain its posture of accepting larger openings and liberalization in exchange for the elimination of agricultural supports by the rich countries. (Source: *Milenio*, 9/8/03)

FOX INSISTS ON ELIMINATING SUBSIDIES IN AGRICULTURE

President Vicente Fox demanded the elimination of agricultural subsidies when inaugurating the 5th WTO Ministerial Summit in Cancun. He also asked that import tariff barriers be demolished and the consolidation of multilateral systems of transparent and efficient trade. (Source: *El Universal*, 9/11/03)

MEXICAN MODEL IS QUESTIONED

Rubens Ricupero, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), stated during the WTO 5th Ministerial in Cancun that Mexico is the best example of export growth in a country not aiding the development of a nation. He added that competitiveness and added value products are also necessary. (Source: *Reforma*, 9/11/03)

UNITED NATION'S AGREEMENT ON TRANSGENIC PRODUCTS GOES INTO EFFECT

A United Nation agreement that grants more power to importer countries to reject transgenic products went into effect on September 12, 2003. Several countries ratified the international agreement, within the framework of the Cartagena Protocol on Biotechnology Security, which was agreed to in 2000. This protocol regulates the trade of genetically modified organisms. (Source: *Milenio*, 9/11/03)

NORTH AMERICA LOOKS FOR A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MIDDLE EAST

Into the framework of the 5th WTO Ministerial Summit in Cancun, the three NAFTA countries (Mexico, the United States and Canada) proposed a trade agreement (designated MEFTA) to commence in 2008 to five Middle East countries (Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia). (Source: *Milenio*, 9/11/03)

REPORTS SUBMITTED RECENTLY BY FAS/MEXICO CITY

Number	Title	Date
MX3121	Weekly Highlights & Hot Bites Issue #42	9/3/03
MX3122	SSA Proposed Rule on Cheese	9/8/03
MX3123	Mexico's New Over Quota Import Tariff for Yellow Corn	9/4/03
MX3124	Mexico Cancelled Ban for Imports of U.S. Poultry Products	9/10/03
MX3125	Mexican Government Decision on U.S. Red & Golden Delicious Apple Imports	9/12/03

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FAS/MEXICO EMAIL

To reach us at FAS/Mexico City:

AqMexico@usda.gov and/or ATOMexico@usda.gov