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PETROBRAS RAISES PRODUCTION LEVELS IN JANUARY

In January, Petrobras exceeded the levels of production when compared to the last quarter of 2020, after the scheduled stops at the platform have weakened production, said Carlos Alberto Pereira de Oliveira, executive director of Exploration and Production at Petrobras. The scheduled stops happened in the fourth quarter of 2020, as most of them could not be carried out in the second and third quarter due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "We have already produced more in January (2021) than in the last quarter of 2020", said Oliveira, at a news conference. The scheduled stops in 2021 are expected to happen throughout the year. According to the executive director of Commercialization and Logistics, Andre Chiarini, the company forecasts to produce 2.72 million barrels of oil per day in 2021, this percentage may vary 4% up or down. Petrobras' exports this year will maintain the same levels of production, and there is no expectations for beating new records.

Source: G1

CARGO FROM CHINA TO BRAZIL CLOSE TO REACH 11 MILLION TONS

Harvesting delays in Brazilian soybean fields should continue, and the first volumes of the oilseed have no quality-control standards in the export market. Therefore, domestic shipments will be more intense and effective in the coming months. "These volumes can be used as a mixture to make bran in the national industry. This will not change much, as the foreign market focus is on the harvest as a whole", says Vlamir Brandalizzi. The problems remain punctual and concentrated in Brazil's south region, namely in the state of Paraná. Excessive rainfall in the state has taken away part of the quality of soybeans and has also affected the pace of work. Thus, exports this year have not achieved an effective pace yet, according to data from Secex (Secretariat of Foreign Trade), due to the lack of product, shipments are slow in January - 49,500 tons only, over 1.4 million in the same month of 2020. In turns, for February, the Brazilian soybean lineup is close to 11 million tons.

Source: Notícias Agrícolas

BRAZIL WILL NOT RENEW BILATERAL MARITIME TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA

The Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires has advised the Undersecretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mercosur that the country will terminate the Maritime Transport Agreement between the two republics as of February 9, 2022. The notification of the decision is within the term provided for in the agreement. The treaty dates from 1985 and continued the agreements of the 1959 Maritime Conference of Argentine and Brazilian Shipowners. On February 5, Leonardo Cabrera, the Undersecretary of Ports, Waterways, and Merchant Marine of Argentina, called together the Argentine Chamber of Navigation and other bodies to inform them of the definitive and unappealable decision adopted in Brasilia to proceed with the adoption of the business measures they deem convenient. Annual bilateral maritime trade is valued at around US\$ 20 billion, with profits that fluctuate around US\$ 700 million in the direction of import or export. The value of services related to sea freight is around US\$ 1 billion, to which is added the values for supply, fuel, ship repair, and agency services.

Sources: Infobae/Datamar News

ETHANOL SUPPLY TO INCREASE WITH EXPANSION OF ETHANOL PLANTS

Despite the drop of 8.75% in ethanol production until January 16, there is a strong tendency for levels of production and demands to return to those seen before the pandemic. Production has started showing signs of recovering with the volume of ethanol stored by plants falling and

reaching the same last season's levels. The expectation is that the revenue obtained from the CBios and the increasing annual targets will boost production, as well as raw materials are being used for ethanol production. There are seventeen (17) new units under construction to increase daily supply to 6.77 million liters of ethanol. In addition, there are plants rising their production capacity. According to information from the National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP), there are currently 23 units in expansion. Together, the units are expected to rise production to 7 million liters a day of hydrous ethanol and 1.60 million liters to anhydrous, reaching 8.60 million liters. This represents a 2.32% increase in capacity. Twenty out of the twenty-three units use sugarcane as raw material for ethanol production, while two use corn. One of the units uses sugarcane straw, resulting in the second generation of ethanol.

Source: Nova Cana

WINTER WHEAT CROPS UNDERWAY IN BRAZIL

Even though soybean crop has not ended, producers have already begun to cast around for seeds for winter crops. Wheat should remain the most attractive option after reaching the highest production level in the last 20 years, says Embrapa. In the last crop, the wheat planted area grew by 14.8% when compared to the previous year, reaching a 5.4% increase in production, with the highest production volume since 2000. The price has also favored wheat production with constant growth throughout 2020, when wheat price was close to R\$ 70.00/bag (60kg). According to Apassul (Association of Seed and Seedling Producers of RS), the state of Rio Grande do Sul has now 89 thousand hectares to produce wheat, an increase of 18% when compared to the previous crop. "These figures show the feeling of the seed producer to increase the wheat in the portfolio. Despite not all seed production is commercialized, the market is definitely heating up, mainly due to the prices that make wheat a profitable option and to the advantages in the production system", said Jean Cirino, the administrative director of Apassul.

Source: Universo Agro / DATAGRO

BRAZILIAN MINERAL EXPORTS GREW BY 2% IN 2020

Data released by IBRAM (the Brazilian mining institute) show that in 2020, Brazil increased the volume of mineral products exported by 2% compared to 2019. The sector's business in the international market generated 11% more for Brazil in foreign exchange in the comparison, reaching US\$ 37 billion. China strengthened its position as the main destination for Brazilian iron ore. The Asian country accounted for 62% of exports in 2019. In 2020, this percentage rose to 72%. After Australia, Brazil is the world's largest producer of iron ore, which appreciated over 60% during the past year. A ton of iron ore ended the year 2020 at US\$ 155.84. Among all mineral products, the largest variations were registered with iron ore and gold. Last year, iron ore production generated revenues of R\$ 138.7 billion, 39% higher than 2019. Gold increased 76%, with revenues of R\$ 23.2 billion. Despite the high sales, the commercialized mineral production was almost stable. In 2019, 985 million tons were traded and in 2020, a total of 1.009 billion tons were traded.

Sources: Agência Brasil/Datamar News

BRAZILIAN FERTILIZER IMPORTS REACH US\$ 7.2 BILLION IN 2020

The raw material to produce fertilizers in Brazil has had great importance for Brazil's fertilizers imports, according to the Brazilian Chemical Industry Association (Abiquim). About US\$ 7.2 billion were sold in 2020, which represents 61.7% of the imported volume, beating a record with more than 51.5 million tons of chemical products. By comparing 2020 to 2013, in 2020 the chemical industry has achieved the greatest historical deficit in the trade balance of chemical products, with an increase of 37.5%, due to the relevant contribution of organic chemicals for agribusiness. The production of chemical products has shown to be viable for Brazilian industry, as to reduce external dependence on strategic chains and provide competitive conditions for attracting investments.

Source: Agrolink



EGYPT SHIPS FIRST LOAD OF NEW ORANGE CROP TO BRAZIL

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Egypt and in cooperation with the Brazilian Embassy in Cairo, the country managed to export the first shipments of the new Egyptian orange crop to the Brazilian market. The shipments took place after the implementation of the free trade agreement signed between Egypt and the Mercosur countries, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The Deputy Minister of the Economy of Egypt, Ibrahim El-Sigini, said that delegates from a Brazilian technical mission visited Cairo last year to finalize negotiations for the import of Egyptian citrus to the Brazilian market. Several Egyptian farms were inspected as part of the preparation for opening the Brazilian market to the country's citrus fruits. El-Sigini pointed out that last year, the Ministry's Foreign Trade and Agreements area held a series of meetings with Egyptian businessmen and exporters in cooperation with the Brazilian Embassy in Cairo and the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in São Paulo, which contributed towards facilitating shipments.

Sources: *Egypt Today/Datamar News*

SUGARCANE BAGASSE CAN BE USED TO CLEAN CONTAMINATED WATER

One of the main residues of the Brazilian agribusiness has shown potential to be used to clean polluted water with concentration of potentially toxic metals. The sugarcane bagasse has provided a material with magnetic nanoparticles for removal of copper and chromium from the water. Brazilian researchers say that the high use of copper turns out to be led to reservoirs of water for human consumption. High concentrations of copper can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The sugarcane bagasse composite removes the contaminant from the aqueous solution by the action of a magnet through an adsorption process. "Its hybrid nature allows the materials proposed in the work to be versatile. That reinforces its potential for the treatment of water and effluents", said the researchers. The study has been developed at the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar) using biomass as biosorbents, a viable and efficient option for decontamination in aquatic environments.

Source: *Revista Dinheiro Rural*

PORT OF ILHÉUS HANDLES FIRST CARGO OF NICKEL IN 2021

Port of Ilhéus handles the first cargo of nickel in 2021, with 10,000 tons moved to China. The ore material is widely used in the metallurgical industry, in batteries and rechargeable accumulators. Global demand has been growing and is expected to continue do so. In 2020, the Port of Ilhéus handled 73,750 tons of Nickel. The product comes from the Mine of Santa Rita and is operated by Atlantic Nickel, in Itagibá – Bahia. It is the second largest nickel mine in the world, only behind Voisey's Bay, in Canada. The company's projection is to double its production capacity with the underground operation planned to be started in 2028, which will increase the lifespan of the mine from 8 to 34 years. Expansion studies also point to the recent discovery of a new deposit in the same geological belt, revealing logistical integration viability as a factor that may lead to the success of the project.

Source: *Portos e Navios*

PORT OF IMBITUBA CARGO HANDLING UP 18.9% IN JANUARY

Cargo handling at the Port of Imbituba registered an increase of approximately 18.9% in January when compared to the same period last year. Altogether, 407,500 tons were transported in Porto Público, the best volume since January 2016, when 414,900 tons were handled. Imbituba received 19 vessels in the first month of the year, transporting 12 products. Solid bulk accounted for approximately 78% of the movement. In this group, the largest volumes were mainly petroleum coke (176,200 tons), which grew 128.3% in relation to January 2020, followed by salt (35,600 tons), bituminous coal (33,500 tons), and iron ore (31,500 tons). The weekly container cabotage line also handled 58,000 tons. Other products that passed through the Port of Imbituba include sodium sulfate (20,200 tons), malt (15,300 tons), MAP fertilizer (6,600 tons), soda ash (8,800 tons), and caustic soda (5,000 tons).

Source: *Datamar News*

PORTS OF PARANÁ TRADE BALANCE REGISTERS US\$ \$ 6.52 BN SURPLUS IN 2020

Exports through the ports of Paraná in 2020 exceeded imports by 60.65%. The positive trade balance was US\$ 6.52 billion. The revenue generated by the products shipped by the Paraná terminals totaled US\$ 17.27 billion. Goods that arrived in the country through Paranaguá and Antonina totaled US\$ 10.75 billion. "This trade surplus generated through the ports of Paranaguá and Antonina is fundamental for the national economy, and it generates profits, not only for the country but also for the state and the coastal cities", highlights Luiz Fernando Garcia, CEO of Portos do Paraná. More than 90% of exports were from agribusiness products. The general movement of Paraná's ports in 2020 was 57.34 million tons – 8% more than in 2019 when 53.2 million tons were handled. Exports totaled a record 36.33 million tons, or 63.36% of the total. Imports, on the other hand, accounted for 36.64% of the total movement of 21 million tons. According to data released by the Ministry of Economy, the product that generated the most revenue in exports from the Port of Paranaguá was soy, registering almost US\$ 5.12 billion in revenue. 14.26 million tons were exported through the port. Among imports, the most valuable groups of goods that arrived in Brazil through the ports of Paranaguá and Antonina were fertilizers, which totaled US\$ 2.46 billion; oil products (US\$ 1.27 billion); and nuclear reactors, boilers, machines, devices, and mechanical instruments (US\$ 1.17 billion).

Source: *Datamar News*

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