



CONTACT: +91-11-47008453, 42267455

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# NEWSLETTER

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Global Executive Search  
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GLOBAL AGRI NEWS

### Corn/ Soybean/Cotton/Maize/Wheat

Estimates for grain supplies show minor upward revisions for Southern hemisphere crops. With planting pace in corn reaching bursting point in the US, farmers are less inclined to dedicate 97 million plus acres to the crop. For soya bean, the 2013 acreage is 77.1 million.

The repeated hard freezes in Kansas have resulted in the most severe freeze injury to wheat crop in southwest Kansas. Dry land wheat and the early maturing varieties are the worst hit.

Argentina's 2012-13 maize output is seen at a record of 24.8 MTs and its soybean production is forecasted at 48.5 MTs.

Wheat production in western Canada has started to slow down as some farmers are eager to get started on seeding and have shifted their focus to other projects.

### Dairy

A U.S. dairy industry leader claims the New Zealand-based dairy giant Fonterra is undermining U.S. Dairy Exports.

The 2001 EU ban on Turkish milk products due to EU concern that they did not meet EU food standards requirements, has been lifted and six companies will shortly resume export to the EU.

### Coffee

Expectations that Brazil will produce large amounts of coffee this year weighed on values according to analysts, moving coffee contracts to a fresh 5 week low.

ASIAN cocoa grindings tumbled 11% in the first quarter of 2013 to their lowest level in more than two years.

Grindings sank to 140,062 tonnes in the first quarter from 157,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

In Indonesia, the tax on cocoa bean exports was left at 5%, said Faiz Achmad, director of food industry and fisheries at the industry ministry.

In Papua New Guinea, coffee farmers face challenges as crop performance remains below potential.

### Palm Oil

Indonesia,, the world's top palm oil producer, cut its export tax for crude palm oil for May to 9% from 10.5% in April, an industry ministry official said on Friday.

### Sugar

Outlook for 2013: Surplus to keep sugar market under pressure.

### Vegetables

EUROPEAN potato processors have been left in the lurch as potato stocks reach their lowest levels in five years. Spot market prices are so high that Belgian farmers are harvesting potatoes which have been left in the earth over the winter and selling them for flaking.

Processors and farmers' representatives set the raw material base price for the coming crop at EUR86 per tonne of tomatoes in northern Italy, which is a slight increase from EUR84/tonne of the 2012 crop but far below the price of EUR120/ton, claimed by the farmers to make ends meet.

### Beverages

WHITE Rock Beverages of the US has acquired the New Jersey-based Fizzy Lizzy carbonated juice brand for an undisclosed sum. Fizzy Lizzy's beverages are made from fruit juices and sparkling water.

Ribena, the iconic UK blackcurrant juice drink brand, and Lucozade, the equally famous energy drink, have been put up for sale by

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The two beverages could be worth as much as GBP1.0 billion (USD1.5 billion).

UNILEVER Brazil is recalling a batch of its *Ades apple juice* because it contains a toxic cleaning product. A malfunction during bottling has been blamed for the contamination.

### Dry fruits

Mozambique has a new cashew processing plant in the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

California has witnessed yet another increase in its almond acreage. The 2012 growing area has been pegged at 870 000 acres, up 4% from 835 000 in 2011.

Argentina, is expecting a good walnut crop this year, estimated at 3.5 – 4.0 million kg.

The US Court of Appeals has ruled that almond growers are required to pasteurize or chemically treat nuts to kill pathogens before they are sold. The decision has come 5 years after California almond farmers filed a suit against USDA. The conflict began after a Salmonella outbreak linked to raw almonds, broke out in 2003.

### Frozen Foods

Frozen foods from brands like Farm Rich, Market Day and Schwan's are being recalled in the US after an outbreak of virus *E.Coli*.

### Rice

Strong demand from Iran has pushed up the price of India's premier basmati rice to all-time highs and reinforced the sub-continent's recent emergence as the world's top rice exporter.

Thailand is likely to reclaim top spot amongst the world's rice exporters this year as the government will finally have to release some of the estimated 17m tonnes of milled rice it has stockpiled under its paddy pledging scheme.



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