

This week, a private source released that almost 90% of Brazilian soybean has already been harvested. In the Middle-West region, harvest is finished. In some states harvest is still not concluded, specially southern states as Paraná (PR), Santa Catarina (SC) and Rio Grande do Sul (RS).

Soybean Harvest Evolution - BRAZIL			
% of Planted Area			
State	2010	2010	5Y AVG
	14/apr	9/apr	
RS	70	43	15
PR	95	90	75
MT	100	99	82
MS	100	100	85
GO	94	91	61
SP	100	100	85
MG	70	50	26
BA	52	39	12
SC	55	33	8
Others	60	39	12
BRAZIL	87	77	56

In Santa Catarina crop is expected to total 6.3 mtm, the highest one ever if it is confirmed. Producers concern since there is not enough warehouses in the state. Nowadays, the availability is for 4 mtm, according to the Secretary of Agriculture of Santa Catarina. There is a 2.3 mtm shortfall.

The highest crop is due to a higher producers' investment and also due to good weather in the southern region.

In Rio Grande do Sul, according to Emater, soybean productivity is going to be revised up. The bureau says there are more regions with a profitability over 2.4 thousand kilos per hectare. Plus, rain that fell in the first fortnight of March contributed to a better development, since 70% of the farming was blooming.

The weather is also contributing to the harvest in RS. This week it has reached 70% of the 3.97 million hectare of planted area.

High soybean harvest is reflected in the highways that goes to harbours where it is exported. In Rio Grande do Sul, where it is expected 9.5 mtm of soybeans, more than 700 trucks drives through the highways. But in upcoming weeks the traffic is expected to increase and over one thousand trucks per day are expected in Rio Grande Harbour.

In the southern region, the warehouses are loaded with corn and wheat, which make difficult soybean storage. Plus, producers are holding crops considering that prices may retreat. The same is observed in Dourados (MT). Warehouses are fully loaded of soybeans waiting for higher prices.

The Bank of Brazil, has lent over 5 billion Reais (US\$ 2.8 billion) to soybean producers between July 2009 and March 2010. It is 27% higher than what has been lent last year. With more money, producers could increase planted area in 58% to 5.1 million hectare.