

ITEMS FROM BRAZIL

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Wheat in Brazil – the 2009 crop year.

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Brazilian wheat production was about 5×10^6 tons (Conab 2009) in the 2009 crop year, which is enough to supply 50% of the domestic demand (Table 1). The deficit in production makes Brazil the largest wheat importer. The south region, comprised of the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná, accounts for 90% of the national production. Nonetheless, due to the characteristics of the cultivation system utilized, average grain yield is not the highest in the country.

Table 1. Cultivated area, total production and grain yield of wheat in Brazil in 2009 (Source: CONAB, 2010).

Region	Area (ha x 1,000)	Production (t x 1,000)	Grain yield (kg/ha)
North	—	—	—
Northeast	—	—	—
Central-west	67.5	171.8	2,546.0
Southeast	84.1	225.0	2,675.0
South	2,276.4	4,629.4	2,034.0
Brazil	2,428.0	5,026.0	2,070.0

The wheat area planted in 2009 was similar to that in 2008. However, the total production and average grain yield/hectare achieved in 2009 were about 16.7% and 16.8% smaller than those of 2008, respectively. In the state of Rio Grande do Sul (south region), high rainfall conditions observed in October and November (harvest months) affected the grain quality for milling industries. In the state of Paraná, the high incidence of wheat blast and Fusarium head blight in the north of the state reduced dramatically the average grain yield in some fields.

In 2010, there is no evidence that the Brazilian wheat area will increase or remain the same.

Reference.

CONAB. 2009. Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento. Central de Informações Agropecuárias/Grãos/Trigo. Available at: <http://www.conab.gov.br/conabweb/index.php?PAG=131>.

ITEMS FROM THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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The genomic evolution of the *Thinopyrum* and *Dasypyrum*: Evidence from α -gliadin sequences.

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The genus *Thinopyrum* represents a vast reservoir of useful agronomic traits for wheat and forage improvement. Wide hybridization and chromosomal engineering enabled the incorporation of alien genetic material from *Thinopyrum* into common wheat in the last four decades (Chen et al. 2005; Li and Wang 2009). Chen et al. (1998) analyzed *Thinopyrum*