22.Feb.2025 N º 18

Cultivar Semanal ®

Sorghum metabolites defend against caterpillars

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Agricultural sector reacts to suspension of credit in the Safra Plan

Abag calls for dialogue with the Government to reverse the measure and guarantee predictability to the sector

21.02.2025 | 16:03 (UTC -3)

Elizabeth Melo, edition of Cultivar Magazine

Luiz Carlos Corrêa Carvalho, president of the association

The Brazilian Agribusiness Association (Abag) expressed concern about the suspension of new rural financing contracts with federal subsidies within the lines of the 2024/2025 Harvest Plan. The measure, which came into effect this Friday (21/2), generates uncertainty for the agricultural sector, which represents around 22% of the national economy and had a GDP of over R$2,58 trillion in 2024.

According to ABAG, the credit freeze impacts the entire production chain, including industry, technology and logistics, affecting the dynamism of agribusiness. In addition, the reduction in the supply of financing can compromise productivity in the field and put pressure on food prices, harming both producers and consumers.

The entity highlights that the lack of subsidized resources can affect small, medium and large farmers, hindering essential investments in technological innovation, equipment modernization and logistics infrastructure. Among the consequences is the possibility of a reduction in job creation and an increase in production costs, with direct repercussions on the economy.

Given this scenario, ABAG advocates the need for an open dialogue with the Federal Government to seek solutions that guarantee predictability for the sector. The entity hopes that the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance will find alternatives to reverse the decision and ensure the continuity of the Safra Plan, which is essential to maintain the

competitiveness and sustainability of Brazilian agribusiness.

The association reinforces its commitment to monitoring developments on the issue and working with the competent bodies to ensure solutions that enable the sustainable development of the sector and food security for the population.

RETURN TO INDEX

Sorghum presents defense against fall armyworm

Compounds present in the plant have demonstrated repellent and growth-inhibiting effects on larvae

21.02.2025 | 15:31 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine

Photo: Embrapa

Study found that sorghum has a chemical defense mechanism against fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). The research showed that the insect larvae cause less damage to sorghum and show less weight gain when fed on the plant. The discovery may contribute to the development of biological control strategies based on plant compounds.

The fall armyworm is a highly destructive pest and feeds on a variety of crops, including corn and sorghum. However, *Spodoptera frugiperda* prefers corn. When forced to feed on sorghum, the insect larvae showed reduced development, which suggests chemical defense in the plant.

The scientists used metabolomics analysis to identify the compounds responsible for this resistance. The results showed that larval feeding induces changes in the plants' secondary metabolites, resulting in species-specific compounds. In total, 19 metabolites unique to corn and 51 to sorghum were identified. Only six compounds were found in both crops.

Among the compounds present only in sorghum, two demonstrated repellent and growth-inhibiting effects on larvae: gambogenic acid and chymonanthin. Feeding trials with and without choice confirmed that these substances reduced leaf consumption and negatively impacted caterpillar development.

The researchers highlight that sorghum secondary metabolites play a key role in pest defense. The study paves the way for new biological control strategies that use natural plant compounds to reduce damage caused by polyphagous insects.

More information can be found at

doi.org/10.3390/insects16020218

RETURN TO INDEX

New Holland extends warranty for grape and olive harvesters in Europe

Producers will have two years of operational support, Uptime Support

19.02.2025 | 14:06 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Giulia Giovanardi

New Holland has announced that its entire range of Braud grape and olive harvesters and narrow tractors sold in Europe will come with a two-year factory warranty from 2025. The company also said it will offer full-time support during the harvest season and lifetime connectivity for machines compatible with the FieldOps platform.

According to the company, the new warranty covers all the main components of the machines, with no limit on working hours, ensuring greater predictability in operating costs in the first two years of use.

In addition, producers will have access to two years of operational support, Uptime Support, which offers 24-hour technical

assistance, ensuring quick responses and alternatives to minimize machine downtime.

Another differentiator for Braud machines in 2025 will be permanent connectivity via FieldOps, CNH's telematics platform. This system allows continuous monitoring of equipment, assisting in the management of performance, location and precision agricultural operations. New Holland technicians will be able to remotely monitor connected machines, identifying potential failures before they cause interruptions.

The announcement of the new warranty policy coincides with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first self-propelled Braud grape harvester.

RETURN TO INDEX

PlanejArroz application will receive improvements from Irga-RS

Proposal was signed during the 35th Official Opening of Rice and Grain in Lowlands

21.02.2025 | 15:30 (UTC -3)

Mayara Farias

Photo: Mayara Farias

The Rio Grande do Sul Rice Institute (Irga) took an important step towards innovation in the rice sector by signing a protocol of intentions to improve the application called "PlanejArroz". The event took place during the 35th Official Opening of Rice and Grain in Terras Baixas, in Capão do Leão.

The protocol of intentions establishes a partnership between Irga, the National Institute of Meteorology (Inmet), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) and the support of the Federation of Rice Growers Associations of Rio Grande do Sul (Federarroz).

The goal of the partnership is to improve the application so that it provides important

and up-to-date information to rice producers, facilitating planning and decision-making. The improvement of the "PlanejArroz" application will be based on meteorology, climatology and agrometeorology technologies, and will allow producers to access information on the climate, soil and other variables that affect rice production.

"We are working to meet the needs of rice producers in Rio Grande do Sul, and improving the 'PlanejArroz' app is an important step in that direction," said Rodrigo Warlet Machado, president of Irga.

With the improvement of the "PlanejArroz" application, rice producers in Rio Grande do Sul will have access to accurate and updated information, which will allow them

to make more informed decisions and improve production productivity and profitability.

RETURN TO INDEX

Conab verifies drop in prices of vegetables and fruits

The falls were more pronounced in the prices of lettuce, potatoes, papaya and oranges

21.02.2025 | 14:21 (UTC -3)

Conab, Cultivar Magazine edition

Prices charged in the main wholesale markets last month for lettuce and potatoes registered a weighted average

drop. In the case of leafy greens, the drop was 13,23%, driven by the decrease in prices at the São Paulo General Warehouses and Warehouses Company (Ceagesp). However, prices rose in some Supply Centers analyzed. The data are in the 2nd Bulletin of the Brazilian Program for Modernization of the Fruit and Vegetable Market (Prohort), released today (21) by the National Supply Company (Conab).

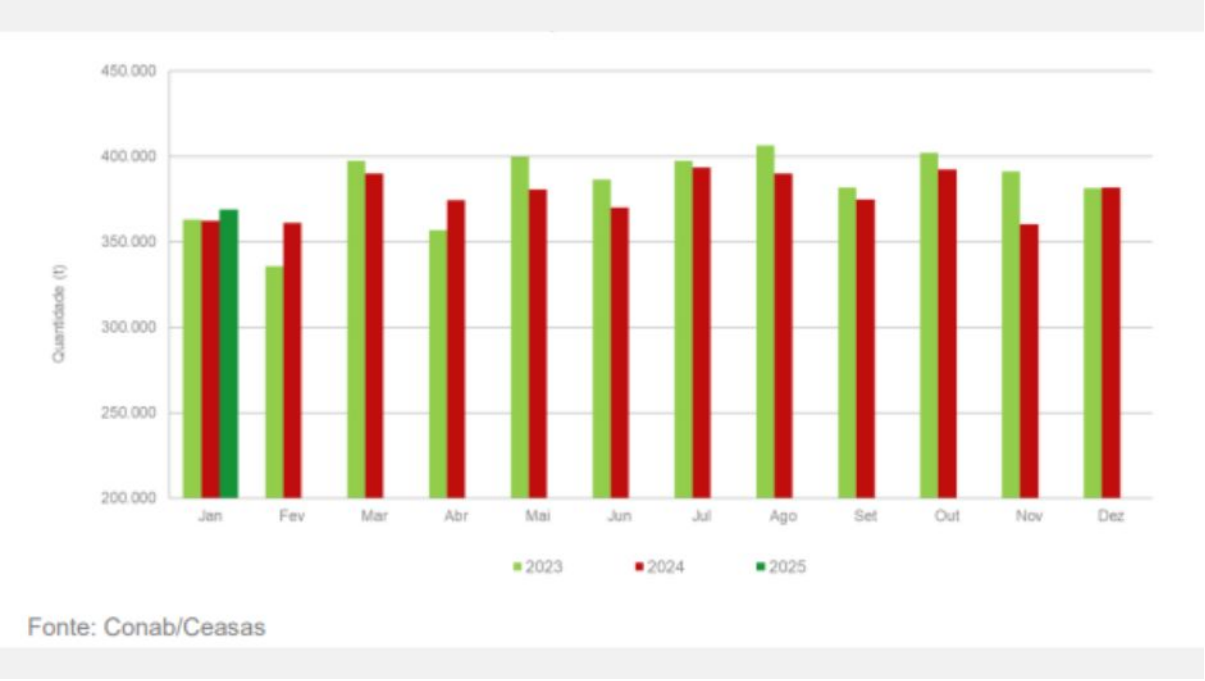
During this period, it is common for leafy vegetables to vary significantly, both due to rain in the producing areas, which makes harvesting difficult and reduces supply, and also due to excessive heat, which increases demand and pushes prices up. As for potatoes, an important tuber in the Brazilian diet, the weighted

average price fell 11,58% in January. Wholesale prices have been influenced by the abundant supply of the product.

Due to climate issues, the prices of carrots and tomatoes rose, on a weighted average, by 47,89% and 9,55% respectively. Even with the increase, some prices for both products were lower than the values ??practiced in 2024. At Ceagesp, for example, the price of the root in January 2025 was 48% lower than the same month last year. In the case of tomatoes, the Supply Center in Belo Horizonte (CeasaMinas) recorded a reduction of 28% compared to the same period.

The lower supply of both carrots and tomatoes in the main wholesale markets influenced this upward movement in prices

in January. The increase in the prices of both products occurred shortly after a period in which prices registered constant drops. According to the analysis by Conab, in both cases, this decline, observed mainly in the second half of 2, occurred shortly after a period of very high prices, in the 2024/2023 harvest, precisely because of the weather conditions, such as intense and constant rains; thus, the high prices stimulated the production of these foods, resulting in greater supply and subsequent drops. In this scenario of low prices, the producer did not obtain profits and became discouraged by the crops.

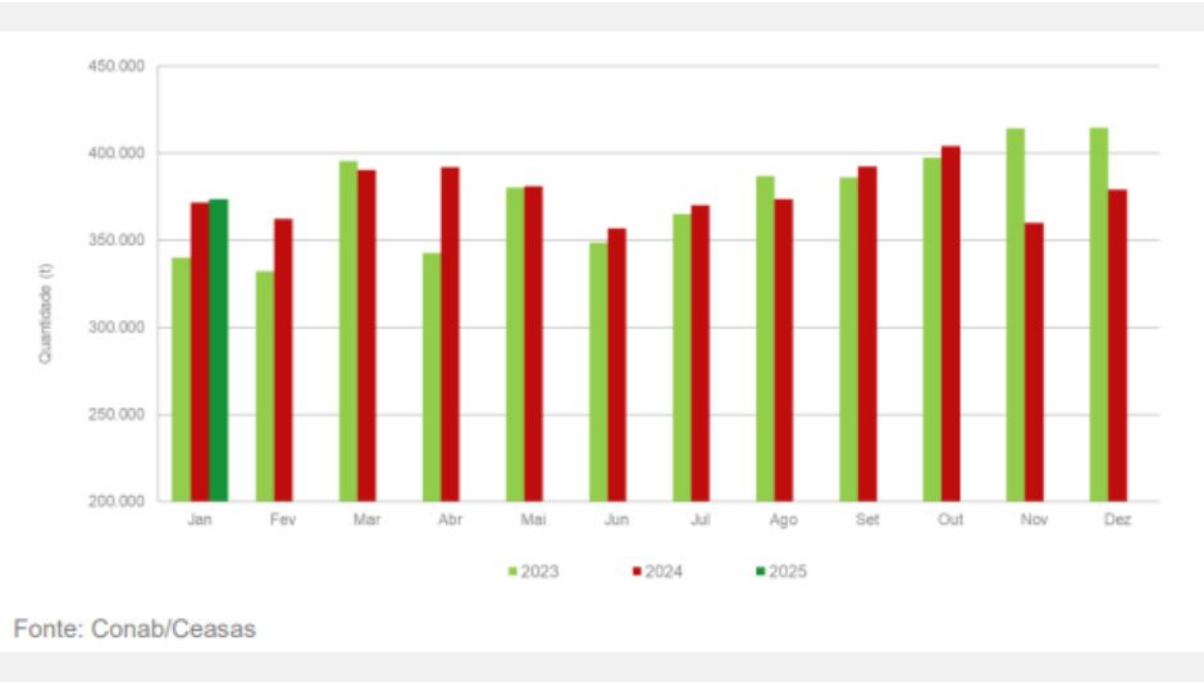


Quantity of vegetables sold in Ceasas analyzed in this Bulletin in 2023, 2024 and 2025

Influenced by the lower quantity of the product in the markets, onions also recorded an increase in the weighted average price. This movement is expected for the period, when the distribution of bulb production will have the South Region as the main supplier, especially Santa Catarina, which increases logistics costs for more distant consumer centers.

Fruits

In the case of the most traded fruits in wholesale, oranges and papayas became cheaper last month, with a weighted average drop of 6,31% and 3,59% respectively. Conab verified an increase in the supply of these products, influencing the reduction recorded in prices.



Quantity of fruits sold in Ceasas analyzed in this Bulletin in 2023, 2024 and 2025

As for bananas and apples, prices remained practically stable. In the case of bananas, there was a slight drop of 0,63% in the weighted average prices due to the increase in supply, mainly of the dwarf banana from São Paulo and Santa Catarina, combined with a lower demand explained by the school holidays. As for apples, Conab verified a small increase of 0,49% for apples. Stocks for the 2023/24 harvest were practically exhausted, with supply still low in January. The expectation is that the 2024/25 harvest of Gala apples will enter the market starting this month.

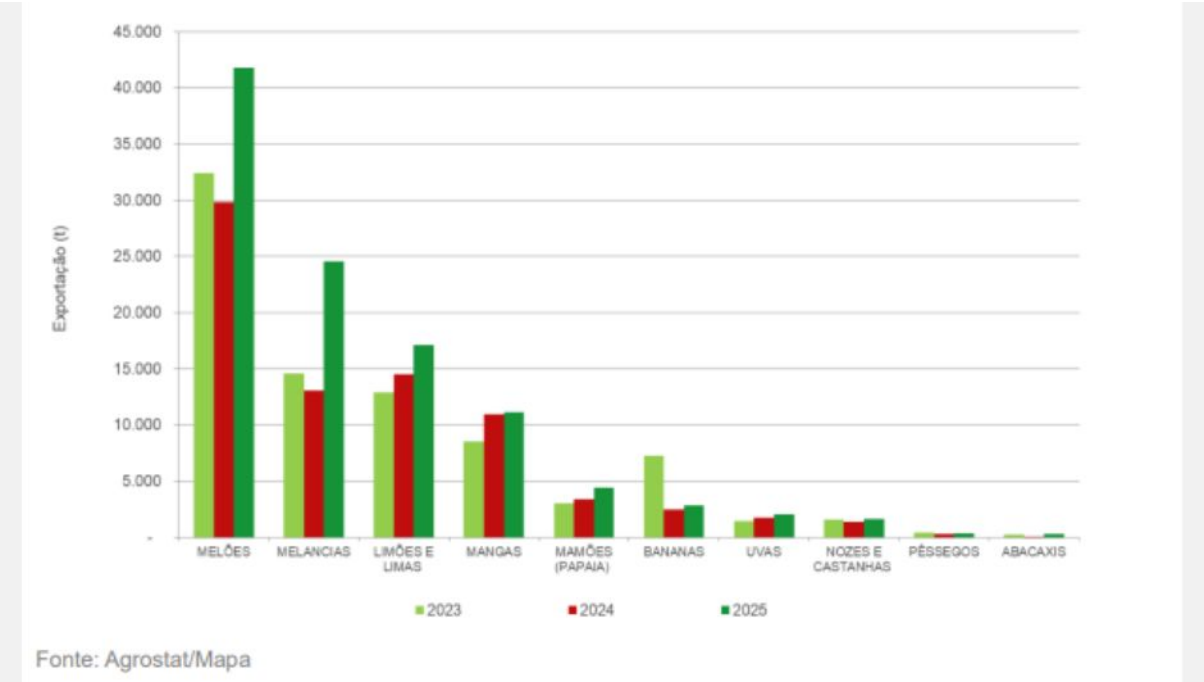
According to the Conab Bulletin, watermelon prices rose. The increase was recorded despite weaker demand at the beginning of the month, after the end-of-

year festivities. Production increased in Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul in the first twenty days of the month, then fell, and sales prices passed on to wholesalers and retailers also increased due to supply restrictions.

Exports

The year started off in a very promising way, with higher revenue and volume compared to previous years and with outstanding sales of melons and mini watermelons from Rio Grande do Norte. In January 2025, the total volume shipped abroad was 111,9 thousand tons, an increase of 33,4% compared to the same month in 2024. Sales to the foreign market resulted in revenue of US$ 107,1 million

(FOB), 12,54% higher than the same period in 2024 and 7,72% higher than the same month in 2023.



Main fruits exported by Brazil between January and January 2024, 2025 and 2026

RETURN TO INDEX

National Treasury suspends financing of the Safra Plan

Government stops new contracts for subsidized rural credit

21.02.2025 | 03:40 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine

MINISTÉRIO DA FAZENDA
Secretaria do Tesouro Nacional
Subsecretaria de Gestão Fiscal
Coordenação-Geral de Operações Fiscais
Gerência de Análise e Monitoramento de Operações Fiscais

OFÍCIO CIRCULAR SEI nº 282/2025/MF

Brasília, na data da assinatura eletrônica.

Às instituições financeiras de que trata o Art. 2° da Portaria do Ministério da Fazenda (MF) nº 1.138, de 10 de julho de 2024.

Assunto: Suspensão de contratações de financiamentos rurais subvencionados no âmbito do Plano Safra 2024/2025 – Portaria do MF nº 1.138, de 10 de julho de 2024.

Referência: Ao responder este Ofício, favor indicar expressamente o Processo nº 17944.000799/2025-43.

The Secretary of the National Treasury determined the suspension of new contracts for rural financing subsidized by the 2024/25 Harvest Plan as of February 21, 2025. The measure was communicated through Circular Letter SEI No. 282/2025/MF, sent to financial institutions.

The decision comes as the 2025 Budget Bill is being processed by the National Congress. According to the official document, the suspension was necessary due to the significant growth in spending projected for next year. The increase in the Selic rate, currently at 13,25%, could reach 14,25% in March, according to market estimates. This scenario compromises the government's ability to cover subsidies for rural credit operations.

The interruption of financing lines occurs at a critical time for Brazilian agribusiness. While producers harvest soybeans and rice and begin the second corn harvest, many depend on rural credit for financing and investments. In addition, perennial crops such as coffee require maintenance and cultural treatments, which may be affected by the lack of resources.

For small producers, the government's decision is worrying. Although Pronaf Custeio has been preserved, other investments in the program have been cut, which could hinder the modernization and expansion of family production. Experts warn that the suspension could result in difficulties in accessing credit, increasing production costs and compromising the sector's competitiveness.

RETURN TO INDEX

Laborsan Agro holds "TSI Experience" convention

Company highlighted innovations and commitment to sustainability in the seed market

20.02.2025 | 20:59 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine

Laborsan Agro Team

Laborsan Agro held its first edition of the TSI Experience convention in Goiânia. It brought together partners, experts and leaders from the seed industry to discuss innovations, quality, logistics efficiency and sustainability. The event marks the company's initiative to consolidate its presence in the market and reinforce its commitment to research and development in the agricultural sector.

With almost 30 years of experience in the agribusiness inputs sector, Laborsan Agro organized the meeting with a comprehensive program, covering essential topics such as product quality, marketing, production processes and environmental responsibility.

One of the highlights was the presentation on product development, quality control

and deadline management, reinforcing the company's strategy of maintaining high standards of efficiency and competitiveness.

The company has emphasized its investment in research and development, ensuring innovative solutions for the market. Its commitment to quality is evidenced by the ISO 9.001, ISO 14.001 and Green Seal certifications, which attest to compliance with environmental and production standards.

Francisco Albuquerque and Milton Ribeiro, owners of the company

Furthermore, Laborsan Agro highlighted the relevance of the Seed Technology and Innovation Center (CTIS), a space dedicated to research into seed treatment technologies, development of new products and process improvement.

Sustainability was also among the main topics discussed. The company has stood

out for its social and environmental responsibility practices, including the proper treatment of waste and the adoption of initiatives focused on corporate governance. Laborsan Agro's environmental commitment is reflected throughout the production process, from the acquisition of raw materials to the distribution of products.

"This event is an opportunity for us to share our trajectory, innovations and commitment to agribusiness. We want to strengthen partnerships and promote the exchange of knowledge, which will drive more efficient TSI practices", said Marcella Moreira Matsuki, head of the communications & marketing department at Laborsan Agro.

Marcella Moreira Matsuki

Clique aqui e veja no Instagram
Click here and watch on Instagram

Clique aqui e veja no Instagram
Click here and watch on Instagram

RETURN TO INDEX

Conab builds up wheat stocks again after 11 years

The company acquired approximately 7,2 thousand tons of wheat through the Federal Government Acquisition Mechanism (AGF)

20.02.2025 | 16:38 (UTC -3)

Conab

Approximately 7,2 thousand tons of wheat were purchased by the National Supply

Company (Conab) from producers in Rio Grande do Sul. The purchase was made through the Federal Government Acquisition Mechanism (AGF), provided for in the Minimum Price Guarantee Policy (PGPM), launched last year as a way to guarantee a minimum price to farmers in Rio Grande do Sul, when the price of the grain was below the minimum price established by the Federal Government. A total of R$11,78 million is being invested, of which R$9,97 million will be in acquisitions, including ICMS, and R$1,8 million in removal.

The grain is acquired at the purchasing center opened by the Company at Cotripal Agropecuária Cooperativa, located in the Rio Grande do Sul municipality of Pejuçara. Immediately after acquisition,

the cereal is transported by the state-owned company to the Company's storage unit in Ponta Grossa, Paraná. An average of 15 trucks leave the Rio Grande do Sul municipality per day. Technicians from the superintendencies of the Operational Logistics Company, the Inspection Company, in Rio Grande do Sul and Paraná directly monitor the work. The operation is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The supply of cereals on the international market has been reflected in downward pressure on product prices in recent harvests. For the product harvested in the 2023/2024 season, the federal government launched instruments to support marketing through public auctions of Pepro and PEP,

as a way to assist producers. With these operations, the government supported the flow of approximately 479,28 thousand tons of cereals. For the 2024/25 cycle, the measure adopted was the AGF serving producers in Rio Grande do Sul, where prices remained below the current minimum price.

New acquisitions

Aware of market scenarios, the Federal Government does not rule out making new acquisitions of food products in order to reinforce the country's public stocks. Conab continues to monitor the prices of the main products covered by the PGPM, as well as the domestic and international

market outlook in order to ensure a minimum remuneration for producers, acting as a benchmark for food supply, encouraging or discouraging production and ensuring the regularity of national supply.

Federal Government Acquisition (AGF)

An instrument of the PGPM, the AGF aims to support rural producers, family farmers and their cooperatives through the acquisition of products when the market price is lower than the minimum price established for the current harvest. The acquisition depends on the transfer, by the National Treasury, of the resources necessary to operationalize the

acquisitions.

RETURN TO INDEX

PR 2024/25 Harvest: weather may impact final soybean production

The harvest has already reached 40% of the total area, with a projected harvest of 21,3 million tons.

20.02.2025 | 16:24 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from the Department of Rural Economy of Paraná

Photo: Jaelson Lucas

The soybean harvest in Paraná has already reached 40% of the total planted area, estimated at 5,77 million hectares. However, weather conditions may still influence final production, which is currently projected at 21,3 million tons, slightly below the initial estimate. The data was presented by the state's Department of Rural Economy (Deral) in the Weekly Economic Bulletin of February 19, 2025.

The sector remains attentive to fluctuations in the field, since the oilseed generates around R$40 billion in the state. On the national scene, Brazilian production exceeds 160 million tons, maintaining the country as a global leader in the production and export of the grain.

Bean

Apesar de ser o maior produtor de feijão do Brasil desde os anos 1990, o Paraná também se destaca como principal importador do grão. Em 2024, as importações estaduais somaram 19 mil toneladas, representando 86% das aquisições brasileiras. O cenário das exportações, no entanto, tem mudado.

Last year, Paraná's foreign sales reached 71 thousand tons, a significant increase compared to the 10 thousand tons exported in 2023. The increase was driven mainly by the growth in exports to Venezuela (25 thousand tons) and Mexico (21 thousand tons). Mato Grosso consolidated itself as the largest national

exporter, sending 128 thousand tons abroad, with India standing out as the main destination.

Apple

A cultura da maçã segue com retração no estado. Entre 2014 e 2023, a área plantada caiu 43,7%, resultando em uma redução de 47,2% na produção e 56,3% no Valor Bruto da Produção (VBP). No ano passado, o estado colheu 27,5 mil toneladas, concentradas principalmente na Região Metropolitana de Curitiba (45,7%), no Sudoeste (29,0%) e nos Campos Gerais (19,0%).

Despite the reduction in production, consumer prices continued to rise. In

January of this year, a kilo of fruit was sold at R$13,62, an increase of 22,4% compared to the beginning of 2024.

Cucumber

A produção de pepino no Paraná está presente em 356 municípios e movimentou R$ 149,1 milhões em 2023, com um volume colhido de 71,8 mil toneladas. Os principais polos produtores são os núcleos regionais de Curitiba (29,6%), Jacarezinho (22,7%) e Cornélio Procópio (11,5%).

In January of this year, prices for the crop rose sharply, driven by intense heat waves that affected supply. At wholesale, a 20 kg box of the product has doubled in value

since the beginning of 2025, rising from R$30,00 to R$60,00. At retail, a kilo of cucumber was sold at R$5,00 in January, an increase of 64,2% compared to December 2024.

The data show an agricultural panorama of fluctuations in Paraná, with direct impacts of climate conditions on production and the market, requiring attention from the agricultural sector in the coming months.

RETURN TO INDEX

Growmark Announces Enduring Farm Winners

The company also published the Endure Sustainability Report

20.02.2025 | 16:15 (UTC -3)

Sabrina Burkiewicz, edition of Cultivar Magazine

Enduring Farm Plus Winners, Grigsby Family, Illinois, USA

Growmark and its FS affiliated companies have named Enduring Farm winners for the 2024 calendar year, in addition to

publishing its annual Enduring Report detailing the Growmark System’s environmental, social and governance engagement for the previous calendar year, as part of the System’s sustainability efforts.

Enduring Farms recognizes farms that go above and beyond in their commitment to preserving and enhancing their lands and natural resources for future generations by adopting best management practices that optimize nutrient utilization, leading to long-term soil and water quality.

To be considered for the award, FS companies nominate farms that use certain sustainable management practices on their farms. Farms that implement additional agronomic and environmental

management practices can also earn the Enduring Farms Plus designation. The Grigsby family was the Enduring Farms winner. Along with their management team, the family farms in Cass and Menard counties in Illinois, and they pride themselves on adopting conservation techniques that help make them Enduring Farms winners.

“Our legacy is one of conservation,” said Robby Grigsby. “We use conservation practices such as water-sediment control structures, field buffer strips, selective placement of CRP acres, topsoil regeneration through the use of cover crops, and many other practices to help preserve our soil, manage and protect our water, and ensure that these farmlands remain viable and healthy for future

generations," he added.

For calendar year 2024, 76 farms earned the Enduring Farms designation, while 96 farms earned the Enduring Farms Plus designation, representing an overall increase of nearly 17% for the total number of farms that received one of the Enduring Farms designations. A full list of winners can be found here.

"We are proud of the conservation practices that the rural families at Enduring Farms are implementing to ensure their farmland remains healthy for future generations," said Growmark Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Brad Drake. "We hope their commitment to conservation inspires others."

Sustainability report

The Endure Report, published alongside the Enduring Farm designations, details the Growmark System’s sustainability efforts while serving our farmer customers. These efforts include supporting and implementing smart stewardship and safety practices across the System, supporting decarbonization technologies and initiatives, and engaging with our communities in ways that support the education of young and junior farmers, offer scholarships, and provide support to other industry advocates.

“In the Endure Report, you’ll read about our efforts to introduce new and innovative products and technologies to help us reduce carbon output, empower our farmer

customers to participate in carbon markets, build security into everything we do, and prepare the next generation of leaders in agriculture," said Drake. "Our mission to help feed and fuel the world drives our initiatives in these areas and motivates us to build on our successes each year."

RETURN TO INDEX

Hedgepoint indicates good prospects for the soybean market

Expectations of record production in Brazil and climate challenges in Argentina will shape the global grains outlook

20.02.2025 | 15:45 (UTC -3)

Luciana Minami



The global soybean market faces a year of great expectations and challenges, with climate and economic factors playing crucial roles in supply and demand dynamics. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a drop in global inflation from 4,2% to 3,5% in 2025. Despite this, the dynamics of monetary and trade policy in the United States,

Europe and major emerging markets continue to be a factor of volatility for financial and commodity markets.

According to the latest market analysis from Hedgepoint Global Markets, Brazilian soybean production is expected to reach a record 171,5 million tons, driven by high yields in states such as Mato Grosso, Goiás, Minas Gerais and Bahia.

American scenario and monetary policy

In the United States, concerns about persistent inflation and the potential impact of Donald Trump's new administration have pushed the dollar index to new highs. The USDA (United States Department of

Agriculture) maintained its crop estimate at 118,8 million tons, which should allow for growth in exports and crushing. Despite this, American stocks are also expected to increase compared to the previous season, estimated at 10,3 million tons.

The Federal Reserve has opted to keep interest rates unchanged after three consecutive cuts, and signals that a rate hike is unlikely in 2025. The Brazilian real, in turn, ended 2024 at a devalued level, impacted by the strengthening of the dollar and Brazil's fiscal situation. The Monetary Policy Committee (COPOM) raised the Selic rate and indicated that further increases may occur, which could attract more capital to the country. However, fiscal uncertainties continue to limit a more

significant appreciation of the Brazilian currency.

Global markets watch for new trade war

The resurgence of trade disputes also adds uncertainty to the global scenario. The imposition of tariffs by the US on products from several countries, including China, Mexico and Canada, has generated reactions and retaliation. Among the products targeted by Donald Trump's tariffs are agricultural commodities such as coffee and ethanol.

The risk of an escalation in the trade war could affect Chinese demand for soybeans, as happened in 2018, when

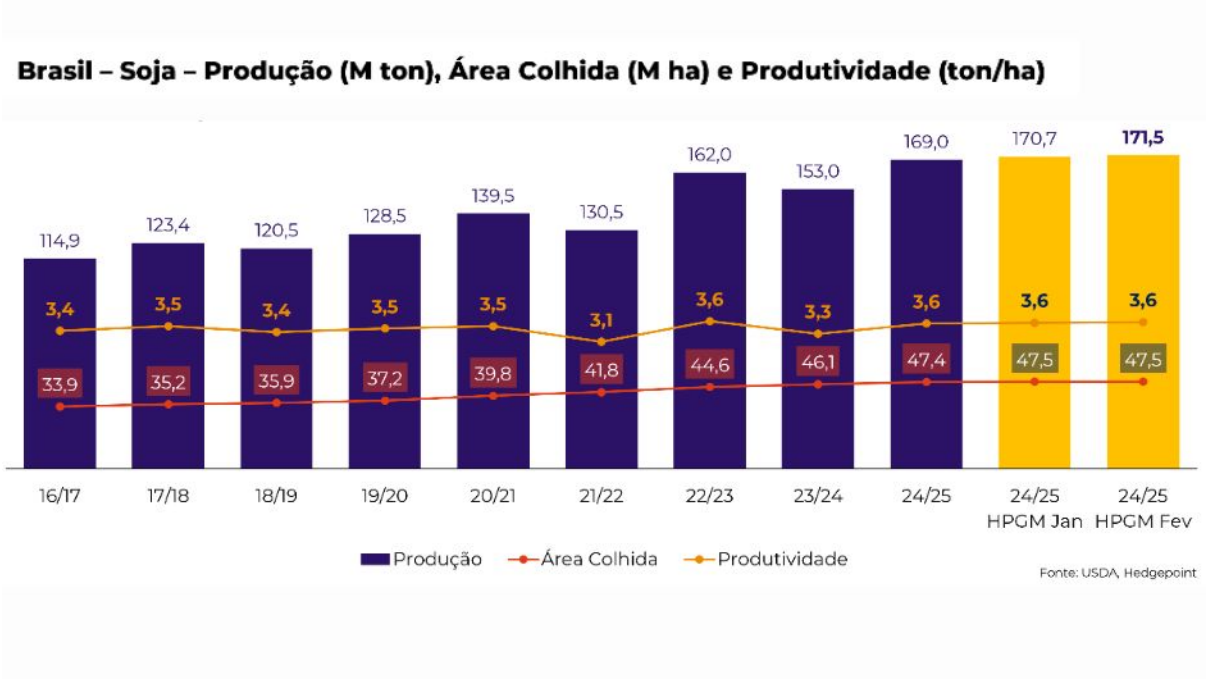
China reduced purchases from the US due to the imposition of tariffs by both countries.

Soybeans: record production in Brazil and global uncertainties

Hedgepoint has raised its estimate for Brazilian soybean production in 2025 to 171,5 million tonnes, driven by high yields in states such as Mato Grosso, Goiás, Minas Gerais and Bahia. This should lead to record export volumes, despite uncertainties over domestic soybean oil consumption after the B14 biodiesel blend is maintained.

In the United States, the harvest was maintained at 118,8 million tonnes by the USDA, while crushing and exports are expected to grow in 2024/25. However, stocks are also likely to increase, adding pressure on prices.

In Argentina, the USDA reduced its production estimate, and further cuts may occur if weather conditions do not improve. With lower production, the country may reduce exports and crushing, benefiting byproducts from Brazil and the US.



The expectation for the soybean complex

After recent neutrality, speculators have resumed short positions in soybean, soybean meal and soybean oil futures on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), reflecting expectations of higher supply. Despite this, some factors may support prices in the medium term, such as

weather risks in Argentina and the possibility that the USDA is overestimating the country's production.

In the short term, good global supply prospects and reduced Chinese buying appetite are bearish factors, while political and weather issues add volatility to the market. Furthermore, given the current Chicago Board of Trade soybean and corn price scenario, the USDA is likely to indicate a smaller U.S. soybean acreage in 2025/26, which could bring additional volatility to the market.

Weather conditions and their impacts on the market

The influence of climate is also on the radar for the global soybean market. The La Niña phenomenon is active and is expected to persist between February and April 2025, with a transition to neutral conditions between March and May. This movement may affect production and logistics in important producing regions.

RETURN TO INDEX

Symptoms of stem rot and breakage in soybeans expand in the 2024 harvest

By Flávia Elis de Mello, Sandra Marisa Mathioni, Stephane Pereira de Jesus, Eric Hirata and Douglas Braga Marques

20.02.2025 | 14:58 (UTC -3)

Soybean plants with symptoms of rot and stem breakage have been observed in the

state of Mato Grosso, and recently this problem has been expanding to other states in Brazil. Recent research has observed that the fungus *Diaporthe* (without. *Phomopsis*) is the main pathogen recovered from symptomatic plants. In areas with high incidence, the reproductive structures of the fungus can be seen in the external tissues of the stems (Figures 1A, 1B and 1C). Depending on the susceptibility of the soybean cultivars and the climatic conditions favorable for the development of the pathogen, in more severe cases, the characteristic symptom is the breakage of the stems, which occurs approximately 5 cm to 10 cm above the soil (Figures 1D and 1E).

Works published in other soybean producing countries have reported, for

example, the occurrence of several species of *Diaporthe* isolated from symptoms of pod and grain rot. The mycelial growth of these species is morphologically very similar among them and makes it impossible to correctly identify the species. However, it is important to correctly identify the Diaporthe species that may be causing the symptoms of pod rot and stem breakage in soybeans.

The objective of this research was to identify, through the use of molecular biology tools, such as DNA sequencing, the predominant species of Diaporthe spp. in soybean plants that present symptoms of stem rot and breakage.

Figure 1 - soybean plants used in this research that showed symptoms of stem breakage. A) and B) The plant was sampled in the city of Ubiratã (PR), in November 2023. C) Soybean stems with fungal pycnidia structures that were identified as D. longicolla, in a sample collected in the city of Vargeão (SC), in January 2024. D) and E) Stems of symptomatic soybean plants collected in the cities of Passo Fundo and Erebango, respectively, in Rio Grande do Sul; both samples were collected in January 2024

Methodology used

Symptomatic plants were collected in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná, during the 2024 harvest. More than 50 samples of soybean plants were collected in commercial areas and analyzed in the laboratory. From these samples, 90 isolates of *Diaporthe* spp.

The fungus was isolated directly by identifying the structures present in its

stems. These structures were transferred to the PDA (potato dextrose agar) culture medium and maintained at a temperature of 24°C ± 2°C, in a 12-hour photoperiod.

After isolation and purification of the isolates, the mycelial growth of each isolate was individually transferred to a microtube for DNA extraction and DNA sequence analysis and species identification, using some regions of the genome (ITS, TUB2 and EF1-?).

The electropherograms (example in Figure 2) were analyzed and consensus sequences were generated and used in similarity analyses with sequences from known and publicly available species.

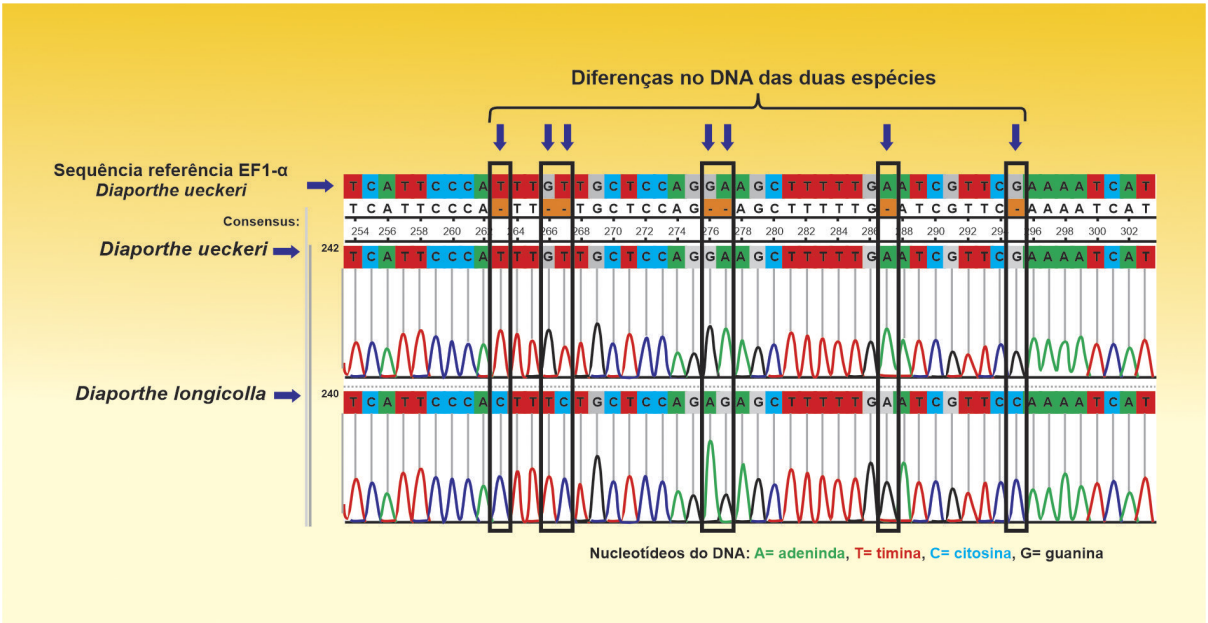


Figure 2 - electropherogram of the partial sequence of the elongation factor gene (EF1-?), used in the identification analysis of Diaporthe species. The image aligns the sequences of a sample of D. ueckeri and another of D. longicolla. Different nucleotides between the two species are highlighted in rectangles and indicated by arrows. The reference sequence used for the alignment is from D. ueckeri

Results obtained

the species *D. ueckeri* e *D. longicolla* are the two that are associated with stem breakage symptoms in symptomatic soybean plants. Of the 90 isolates analyzed and originating from the three states, 38 (42,2%) were identified as *D. ueckeri* and 52 (57,8%) as *D. longicolla*,

showing a predominance of this species in the South region.

Comparatively, in another study with samples collected in the Cerrado, more specifically in Mato Grosso, of 68 recovered isolates, 50 were identified as *D. ueckeri*, thus showing a predominance of this species in the Cerrado. The differences in the DNA sequences of two samples, one from *D. ueckeri* and another one of *D. longicolla*, are highlighted in Figure 2.

Both recovered species are widely distributed in all sampled states, Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul (Figure 3). However, of the 30 isolates analyzed from samples from Rio Grande do Sul, 27 were identified as *D. longicolla*.

Of the 90 isolates analyzed, none of them were identified as being *D. caulivora* ou *D. aspalathi*, which shows that the cultivars currently planted still present resistance to these two species, mainly *D. aspalathi*.

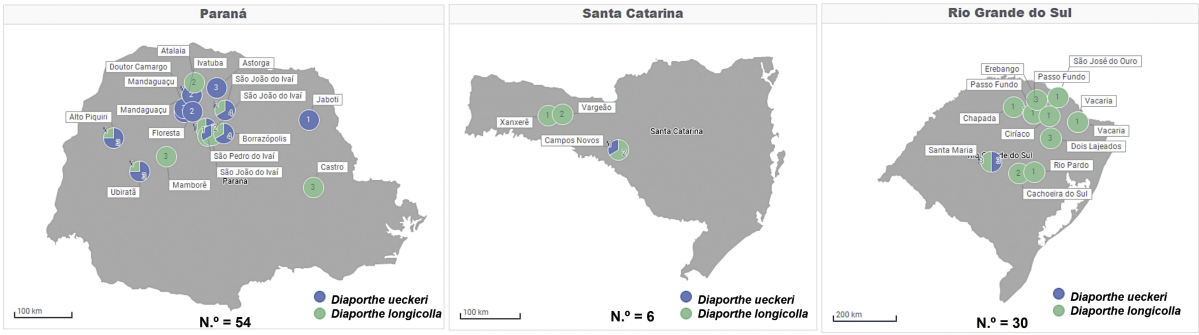


Figure 3 - Geographic distribution and location of the 90 isolates of D. ueckeri and D. longicolla recovered from soybean plants showing symptoms of stem breakage. Of the 90 isolates, 54 were from the state of Paraná, six from Santa Catarina and 30 from Rio Grande do Sul. The colors on the map represent the isolates molecularly identified as D. ueckeri (blue) and D. longicolla (green)

Correct diagnosis

The correct identification of pathogens associated with symptoms of stem rot and breakage has become a new challenge since the 2019/2020 harvests in Brazil. Correct diagnosis, through the combination

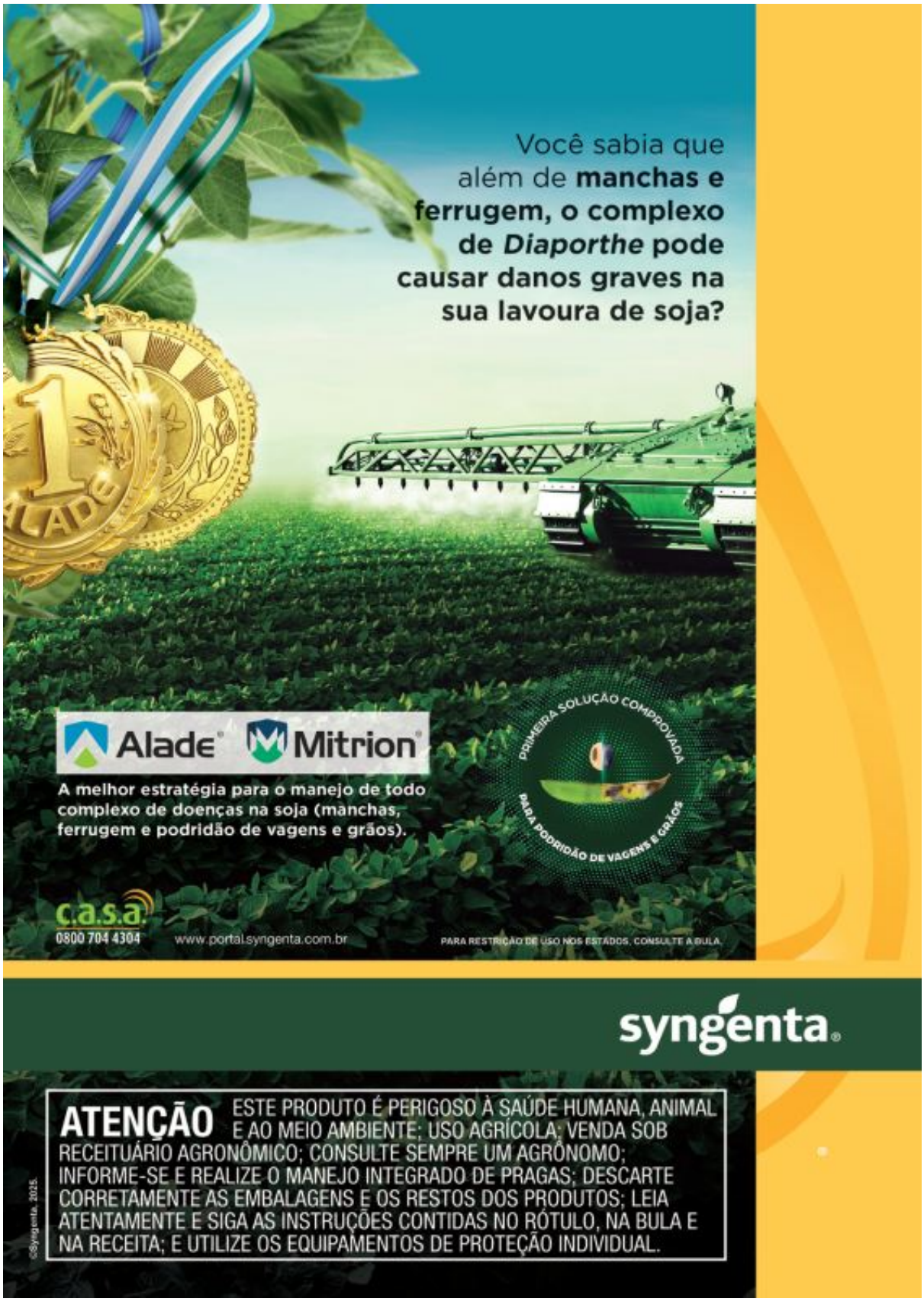
of morphological analyses of the pathogen structures and the use of molecular biology tools, is essential to assist in the proper management of pathogens and mitigate the damage that has been observed in recent harvests. Mainly because, at this time, the genetic behavior of commercial cultivars regarding resistance to *D. ueckeri* e *D. longicolla*.

Until sources of resistance genes are identified and cultivars with a certain level of resistance are developed, other management tools, such as non-host crop rotation and fungicide application, are essential to mitigate future damage.

Considerations finals

In this research, we observed that, during the 2024 harvest, the species *D. ueckeri* e *D. longicolla* were predominant in the areas sampled in the Southern region. With this result, together with those obtained in previous studies that observed the two species in the Cerrado, it is observed that they are distributed in all soybean producing regions of Brazil. Furthermore, in the sampled regions no isolates of *D. aspalathi* e *D. caulivora* of symptomatic plants, showing the emergence of *D. ueckeri* e *D. longicolla* in soybean pods and stalks.

By **Flavia Elis de Mello**, **Sandra Marisa Mathioni**, **Stephane Pereira de Jesus**, **Eric Hirata** *e* **Douglas Braga Marques** *(Syngenta Crop Protection Ltd.)*


Você sabia que além de manchas e ferrugem, o complexo de *Diaporthe* pode causar danos graves na sua lavoura de soja?
Alade
Mitrion
A melhor estratégia para o manejo de todo complexo de doenças na soja (manchas, ferrugem e podridão de vagens e grãos).
PRIMEIRA SOLUÇÃO COMPROVADA PARA PODRIDÃO DE VAGENS E GRÃOS
c.a.s.a.
0800 704 4304
www.portal.syngenta.com.br
PARA RESTRIÇÃO DE USO NOS ESTADOS, CONSULTE A BULA.
syngenta
ATENÇÃO ESTE PRODUTO É PERIGOSO À SAÚDE HUMANA, ANIMAL E AO MEIO AMBIENTE; USO AGRÍCOLA; VENDA SOB RECEITUÁRIO AGRONÔMICO; CONSULTE SEMPRE UM AGRÔNOMO; INFORME-SE E REALIZE O MANEJO INTEGRADO DE PRAGAS; DESCARTE CORRETAMENTE AS EMBALAGENS E OS RESTOS DOS PRODUTOS; LEIA ATENTAMENTE E SIGA AS INSTRUÇÕES CONTIDAS NO RÓTULO, NA BULA E NA RECEITA; E UTILIZE OS EQUIPAMENTOS DE PROTEÇÃO INDIVIDUAL.
©Syngenta, 2025.

RETURN TO INDEX

Global agreement expands access to innovative biostimulant

Syngenta Crop Protection and Ceres Biotics sign agreement to distribute Vixeran globally

20.02.2025 | 14:27 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Syngenta

Syngenta Crop Protection and Ceres Biotics have entered into a global

agreement to expand distribution of Vixeran, a bacteria-based biostimulant *Azotobacter salinestris*. The product improves nitrogen absorption by plants, reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers and contributing to agricultural sustainability.

Vixeran had already been launched in the European Union and will now be made available in new markets. According to **Jonathan Brown** (pictured above, right), Global Head of Seedcare and Biologicals at Syngenta, investing in biological solutions strengthens crop productivity and soil health.

“Biostimulants that increase crop nutrient use efficiency play a significant role in strengthening agricultural sustainability

and are essential to Syngenta’s efforts to improve both crop productivity and soil health. We are excited to work with Ceres Biotics in this rapidly evolving area of ??plant nutrition,” he said.

Emilio Marin **(in the photo above, on the left)**, CEO of Ceres Biotics, highlighted that the expansion of Vixeran represents a step forward towards more sustainable agricultural systems. “Vixeran will be accessible to farmers around the world, and this is a major step towards building more sustainable crop management systems,” he concluded.

The biostimulant complements traditional fertilizers and can help farmers maintain yields even under conditions of reduced nitrogen availability.

RETURN TO INDEX

Tecnoshow Comigo 2025 will be carbon zero

The 22nd edition of the event takes place between April 6th and 11th, in Rio Verde (GO)

19.02.2025 | 16:46 (UTC -3)

Juliana Bonassa

With the theme “Generations of Agro”, seeking to spread family succession in

agribusiness and reach an audience of new rural producers, Tecnoshow Comigo reaches its 22nd edition. The event, which will be held from April 7 to 11 at the Comigo Technology Center, in Rio Verde (GO), was launched today (19) during a press conference and will have the goal of zeroing its carbon emissions.

According to Claudio Teoro, Comigo's director of inputs and general coordinator of Tecnoshow, sustainability will be one of the main highlights of the event. "In partnership with Eccaplan, the cooperative will neutralize the carbon emissions from the event's structuring, ensuring the Neutral Event Seal, offsetting them with carbon credits," he said. In addition, visitors will also be allowed to calculate their carbon footprint through interactive

totems and QR Codes at the fair.

In addition to this action, the fair also expects that the selective collection of waste generated will reach 100 tons. Of this total, 70% will be recycled by Coop-Recicla, while the remaining 30% will be sent to the landfill. “The fair will also have stands in collaboration with the Paranaíba and Rio dos Bois River Basin Committee, which will guide rural producers on the sustainable use of water resources; in addition to the Goiás State Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development (Semad-GO), which will provide information on environmental licensing, water use permits and environmental regulations,” explained the coordinator, also highlighting the distribution of more than 20 thousand

native tree seedlings.

This commitment to sustainability, as highlighted by Comigo's CEO, Dourivan Cruvinel, reflects the cooperative's routine. "Tecnoshow is a showcase to showcase the work carried out throughout the year. We have dedicated ourselves a lot, especially this year, when we celebrate 50 years, which inspired the theme 'Generations of agriculture', highlighting the importance of the different generations that make up this essential sector for the country", he celebrated.

RETURN TO INDEX

SynTech appoints new global leader for seeds and traits

Mariano Battista is an agronomist graduated from the University of Buenos Aires

19.02.2025 | 15:56 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Amalia Martín Efimets

SynTech Research Group has announced the appointment of Mariano Battista as its new global leader for seeds and traits. The decision follows the incorporation of AgIdea into the group.

Mariano Battista is an agronomist with a degree from the University of Buenos Aires and a master’s degree from the University of California, Davis. He began his career at Monsanto, where he held several leadership roles in research and development (R&D), technology and seed production.

In 2006, he founded AgIdea alongside Gonzalo Grigera, with the aim of offering R&D services to transform pre-commercial technologies into safer and more environmentally sustainable solutions for

agriculture.

SynTech Research Group CEO Yvonnick Jambon highlighted the importance of the appointment. “We are thrilled to welcome Mariano Battista to our leadership team. His deep industry knowledge, entrepreneurial spirit and proven track record make him a valuable addition as we continue our growth and innovation trajectory.”

In his new role, Battista will be responsible for expanding SynTech Research Group’s seed and traits business. He will be expected to propose improvements in the team’s training and specialization, in addition to working directly with clients to develop solutions and strengthen the company’s innovation pipeline. His main focus will be the Americas market, but with

a global presence.

RETURN TO INDEX

BASF wins award at Rice Harvest Opening

The company was honored as an Outstanding Company at the Pá de Arroz awards

19.02.2025 | 14:14 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Gabriela Reimberg

BASF was honored as an Outstanding Company at the Pá do Arroz awards ceremony, held by the Federation of Rice Growers Associations of Rio Grande do

Sul (Federarroz). The ceremony took place during the 35th Official Opening of the Rice Harvest, which runs until February 20 in Capão do Leão, Rio Grande do Sul (RS). The recognition highlights the company's commitment to innovation and the development of integrated management solutions for rice cultivation.

The event takes place against a backdrop of expected growth of over 13% in the 2024/25 harvest, driven by favorable weather conditions and the increasing use of agricultural technologies. Graciela Mognol, Marketing Director at BASF Agricultural Solutions, celebrated the recognition and reinforced the company's commitment to continue investing in innovations for the sector.

“Rice is one of our priority crops, and this recognition by Federarroz, which represents more than 6 producers in Rio Grande do Sul, only confirms that we are on the right track. We know that each harvest brings its own challenges, so we will continue to walk alongside producers, focusing on innovative solutions that meet their real needs,” he concluded.

BASF solutions for rice

During the Official Opening of the Rice Harvest, BASF will be showcasing its innovations in hybrid seeds and crop protection solutions. Highlights include the fungicide Seltima, for controlling rice blast, and the herbicide Aura 200, effective against weeds. Lidero hybrid seeds, with

the Provisia and Clearfield Systems, are also on display, offering high performance and profitability to producers.

The company also promotes the #ArrozPraTodoDia campaign, highlighting the importance of the grain in the diet and food security. As part of the program, nutritionist Marcio Atalla participates in a roundtable discussion on the nutritional benefits of rice.

RETURN TO INDEX

Coffee exports from São Paulo increase by 82,7%

Product represented almost 8% of the state's exports in January

19.02.2025 | 13:56 (UTC -3)

Secretariat of Agriculture

Exports of coffee produced in São Paulo increased by 82,7% in January compared

to the same period last year. The increase boosted the trade balance of São Paulo's agribusiness, which remained positive with a surplus of US$1,64 billion. In total, the sector exported US$2,16 billion in the first month of 2025.

Coffee sales abroad accounted for 7,7% of this value and totaled US$166,4 million. The data comes from a survey by the São Paulo Agency for Agribusiness Technology (Apta) and the Institute of Agricultural Economics (IEA-Apta). The agencies are linked to the São Paulo Department of Agriculture and Supply.

São Paulo's agribusiness once again stood out in the state of São Paulo's trade balance. In total, 45,3% of exports from São Paulo came from agribusiness.

Check out the main products exported by São Paulo in January 2025:

- Sugar and alcohol complex: 27,8% share in São Paulo's agriculture, with US$599,47 million (sugar representing 89,3% and ethanol 10,7%);
- Juices: 15,5% share, totaling US$334,41 million (99% orange juice);
- Forest products: 13,1% share, with US$282,39 million (58,6% pulp and 33,7% paper);
- Meat: 12,7% share, worth US$274,09 million (82,4% beef);

- Coffee: 7,7% share, registering US$166,43 million (71,1% green coffee and 25,3% soluble coffee).

Compared to January 2024, the increases in exports of coffee (+82,7%), juices (+33,6%), forestry products (+27,2%) and meat (+9,8%) stand out. IEA-Apta researcher Alberto Ângelo indicated that exports of the sugar-alcohol complex are expected to increase from February onwards: "There was a delay in planting last year, caused by the drought, therefore, the harvest should be concentrated in the months of February and March".

Participation of the state of São Paulo in

Brazilian agribusiness

Exports from São Paulo accounted for 19,6% of the Brazilian agribusiness total. Imports from the sector fell from 29,2% to 28,3%. Highlights include juices (88,2%), various food products (71,5%), plant-based products (65,9%) and the sugar-alcohol complex (54,4%), which maintained a significant share of Brazilian exports.

São Paulo led Brazilian agribusiness exports in January 2025, with a 19,6% share, followed by Mato Grosso (13,2%), Minas Gerais (12,3%), Rio Grande do Sul (11%), Paraná (10,3%) and Mato Grosso do Sul (6,5%). These six states accounted for 72,9% of the sector's total exports.

RETURN TO INDEX

BASF announces alcoholate plant in Germany

The new installation will replace the existing unit

19.02.2025 | 13:53 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine

Katja Scharpwinkel and Ramkumar Dhruva

BASF has announced an investment in a new alcoholate production facility in

Ludwigshafen, Germany. The plant will manufacture sodium methylate and potassium methylate, substances used in biodiesel production and in pharmaceutical and agricultural applications. The new facility will replace the existing plant and is expected to start operations in the second half of 2027.

The company reported that the plant will use cutting-edge technology to increase efficiency and ensure the continuous supply of these inputs to different sectors of the industry.

According to Katja Scharpwinkel, Director of the Ludwigshafen complex, the investment reinforces the company’s commitment to the site and its strategy for global competitiveness. “With new state-of-

the-art facilities, we are driving forward the transformation of the site and strengthening our position on the international market," she said.

Ramkumar Dhruva, President of BASF's Monomers division, highlighted that the alcoholates produced in Ludwigshafen are essential for several industries in Europe and around the world.

"We are investing in an efficient production process integrated into our Verbund model to ensure that we continue to be a reliable supplier to our customers in the future," he said.

BASF is a leading global supplier of alcoholates, which are used as catalysts and reagents in biodiesel production, as well as in pharmaceutical and agricultural

applications. The new facility in Germany complements the company’s recent expansion of sodium methylate production in Guaratinguetá, Brazil.

RETURN TO INDEX

Yara and Embrapa sign partnership for agricultural production recovery

The work will be concentrated in four priority areas

19.02.2025 | 08:27 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Silvio Moura

Waldyr Stumpf Junior, Marcio Wally and Clenio Pillon - Photo: Paulo Lanzetta

Yara announced a partnership with Embrapa to support the Recupera Rural RS Program. The initiative aims to promote sustainable agricultural production in Rio Grande do Sul and received a contribution of R$450 from Yara. The agreement was made official last Tuesday (18/2) during the 35th Official Opening of the Rice and Grain Harvest in Lowlands.

Yara's director of corporate affairs and sustainability, Deise DallaNora, highlighted that the partnership reinforces the company's commitment to rebuilding the state, one of the country's main agricultural hubs. Since the 2024 floods, Yara has already mobilized more than R$2,5 million to support the recovery of Rio Grande do

Sul.

Recupera Rural RS is led by Embrapa in partnership with Emater/RS and other institutions, promoting emergency actions, damage mapping and planning for the recovery of agri-food and forestry systems.

The program is now in the structuring actions phase, with research, development and innovation (RD&I) projects aimed at mitigating climate impacts.

The work will be concentrated in four priority areas of the Taquari-Antas and Baixo Jacuí river basins. Initiatives include the implementation of Technological Reference Units (UTRs) to demonstrate soil recovery, erosion control and vegetation restoration techniques, in addition to training technicians and

farmers. The goal is to create a replicable model for other affected regions.

RETURN TO INDEX

Sipcam Agro opens fungicide and insecticide factory in the USA

The facility allows the company to integrate the production of prothioconazole, clomazone and chlorothalonil.

19.02.2025 | 08:18 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Sipcam Agro USA

Sipcam Agro USA announced the opening of a new fungicide and insecticide

formulation and packaging facility in the United States. The facility, located in Waynesboro, Mississippi, allows the company to fully integrate the production of active ingredients such as prothioconazole, clomazone and chlorothalonil.

The opening of the plant represents a difference in the US agrochemical sector, where few family corporations have their own structure for synthesis and formulation.

According to Brent Marek, CEO of Sipcam Agro USA and Sipcam Agro Solutions, the new plant ensures production flexibility and cost reduction. In addition, the strategic location in the southern US facilitates transportation via the Gulf of Mexico ports

and brings the company closer to end consumer markets.

Companies in the agricultural sector often rely on third parties to formulate pesticides, which can lead to delays and compromise supply to producers. With the new unit, Sipcam Agro seeks to eliminate this vulnerability, ensuring a continuous flow of essential inputs to farmers and distributors.

The first production focus will be the formulation of the fungicides chlorothalonil and prothioconazole, widely used in the protection of agricultural crops.

The unit has vertical and horizontal mills, and is capable of producing formulations such as soluble concentrates (SC) and emulsifiable concentrates (EC) in different packaging sizes.

According to Marek, the company plans to expand the structure with a bulk fungicide storage tank by the second quarter of 2025. Later in the same year, it also intends to improve its formulation development services.

RETURN TO INDEX

Rice planting area increases in Rio Grande do Sul

Data was released at the 35th Official Opening of the Rice and Grain Harvest in Lowlands

18.02.2025 | 17:22 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Mayara Farias

Photo: Mayara Farias

The Rio Grande do Sul Rice Institute (Irga) presented data on the sowing of the 2024/2025 harvest. The survey indicates that the area planted with rice in Rio Grande do Sul reached 970.194 hectares, representing a growth of 7,8% compared to the last harvest. On the other hand, soybean had a reduction of 13,72% in the cultivated area.

The data was released at a press conference during the 35th Official Opening of the Rice and Grain Harvest in Lowlands, in Capão do Leão.

Irga president Rodrigo Warlet Machado and technical director Flávia Miyuki Tomita highlighted that all regions of the state recorded an increase in the area planted with rice. Growth varied between 4,82% in

the Central Region and 8,91% in the South Zone. The IRGA 424 RI cultivar continues to lead, with 54,47% of the total area, while IRGA 431 CL represents 7,57%. In total, cultivars developed by the institute correspond to 63,09% of the area planted in the state.

In contrast, the area allocated to soybeans decreased to 364.296 hectares, a drop of 57.914 hectares compared to the previous harvest. The regions that registered the greatest declines were the Western Frontier (-47,41%), Southern Zone (-27,18%) and External Coastal Plain (-21,21%). The Central Region was the only one that showed a significant increase, of 100,63%, while the Campaign registered a slight increase of 0,21%.

Irga's technical director explained that the sowing survey was extended due to the floods that affected some cultivation areas. Traditionally completed in December, the mapping of the 2024/2025 harvest was extended until January, following the late planting of some producers, especially in the Central Region.

RETURN TO INDEX

Researchers develop plant-based bioherbicides

Sustainable alternative could replace synthetic products in weed control

18.02.2025 | 15:52 (UTC -3)

Widson Ovando

Weed control is a major challenge for global agriculture due to the significant

losses these species cause to agricultural productivity. Synthetic herbicides have been widely used for weed control, but their continued use has led to the emergence of resistant plants, ecological imbalances, and soil and water contamination.

As a sustainable alternative, researchers from the Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT) have developed bioherbicides derived from natural sources, such as some species of plants and microorganisms. Preliminary results demonstrate the activity of these extracts in inhibiting photosynthesis, offering a sustainable solution for weed management. The research project is being developed within the scope of the Call for Proposals 004/2024 - Women and

Girls in Computing, Engineering, Exact and Earth Sciences, supported by the State Government, through the Mato Grosso State Research Support Foundation (Fapemat).

Some species of the genera *Hyptis*, *Vochysia*, *Delonix*, *Peltophorum*, *Lycania* e *Mimosa*, found in the metropolitan region of Cuiabá, present in their composition a great diversity of chemical compounds called secondary metabolites, such as phenolic compounds, terpenoids and flavonoids, demonstrating potential bioherbicidal activity.

Some plant extracts and fractions obtained from the species *Delonix direction*, *Mimosa caesalpinifolia* e *Hyptis lutescens* were evaluated for their ability to inhibit

photosynthesis in spinach leaf discs, demonstrating high phytotoxic potential when applied in low concentrations.

These preliminary results demonstrate the bioherbicidal activity of these species, suggesting an inhibitory mechanism of action of photosystem II. This effect is in accordance with the C1, C2 and C3 classification adopted by the Brazilian Association for Action on Weed Resistance to Herbicides (HRAC-BR).

The research project is being developed within the scope of the Notice 004/2024 - Women and Girls in Computing, Engineering, Exact and Earth Sciences, promoted by the State Government, through the Mato Grosso State Research Support Foundation (Fapemat).

According to the research coordinator, Dr. Olívia Moreira Sampaio, “continuing the project, other plant species will be evaluated, and the formulation of mixtures will be tested with the aim of enhancing the phytotoxic effects of these bioherbicides.”

RETURN TO INDEX

PR 2024/25 Harvest: climate favors fruit and grain growing

Soybean harvest has increased to 40%; beans are facing difficulties with insect pests

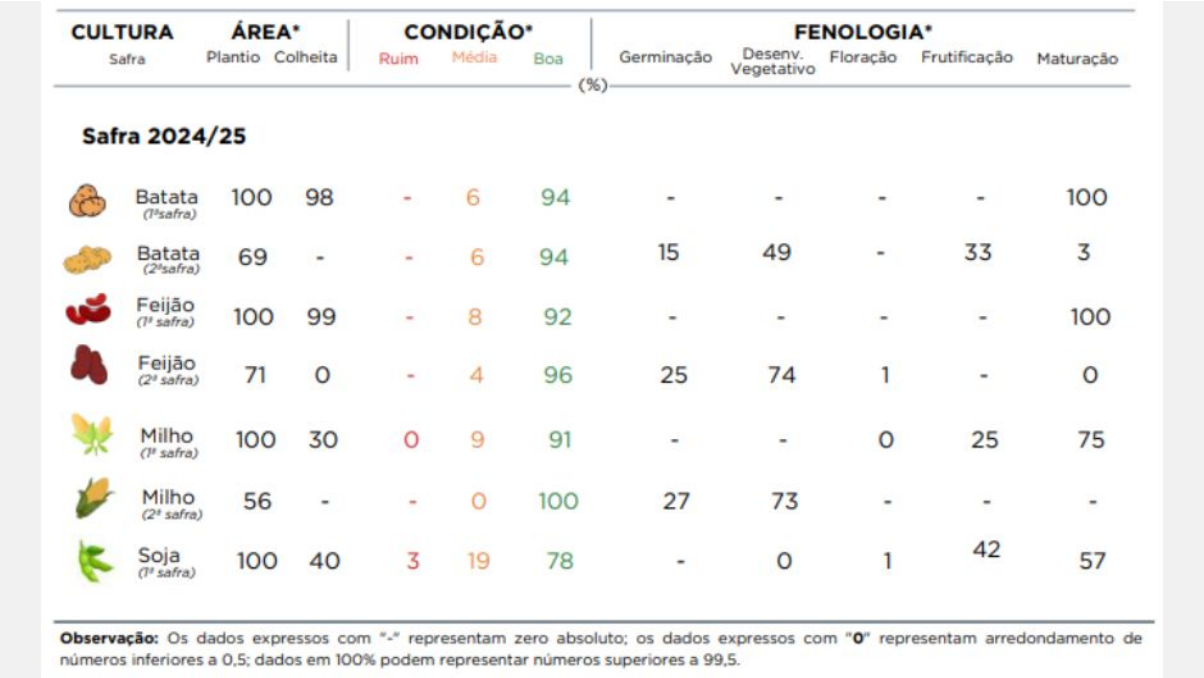
18.02.2025 | 15:37 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Deral

Photo: Edson Kupka

The week of February 11-17 brought favorable conditions for fruit and vegetable

growing in Paraná, facilitating the harvest and transportation of production. This is what the Bulletin of the Department of Rural Economy released today (18/2) indicates.



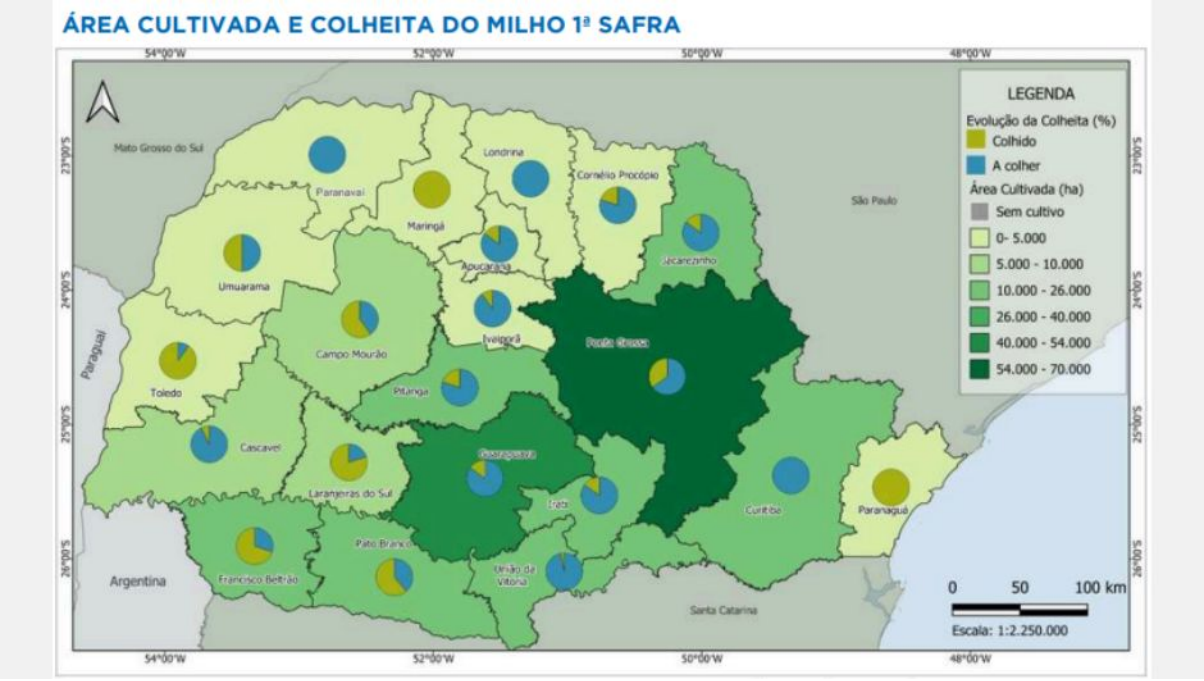
CULTURA Safra	ÁREA* Plantio	ÁREA* Colheita	CONDIÇÃO* Ruim	CONDIÇÃO* Média	CONDIÇÃO* Boa	FENOLOGIA* Germinação	FENOLOGIA* Desenv. Vegetativo	FENOLOGIA* Floração	FENOLOGIA* Frutificação	FENOLOGIA* Maturação
			(%)							
Safra 2024/25										
Batata (1ªsafra)	100	98	-	6	94	-	-	-	-	100
Batata (2ªsafra)	69	-	-	6	94	15	49	-	33	3
Feijão (1ª safra)	100	99	-	8	92	-	-	-	-	100
Feijão (2ª safra)	71	0	-	4	96	25	74	1	-	0
Milho (1ª safra)	100	30	0	9	91	-	-	0	25	75
Milho (2ª safra)	56	-	-	0	100	27	73	-	-	-
Soja (1ª safra)	100	40	3	19	78	-	0	1	42	57

Observação: Os dados expressos com "-" representam zero absoluto; os dados expressos com "**0**" representam arredondamento de números inferiores a 0,5; dados em 100% podem representar números superiores a 99,5.

The apple harvest is practically over in the Curitiba region, with only a few orchards of late varieties remaining. However, productivity was below expectations due to adverse weather conditions and a lack of

labor. Passion fruit, in the Cianorte region, should see a significant increase in supply, driven by the expansion of the cultivated area and the favorable climate.

Among grains, the harvest of the first corn crop has already reached 1% of the planted area, with productivity within expectations, although showing variations. The planting of the second corn crop follows immediately after the soybean harvest and presents good germination due to soil moisture and recent rains. However, in some regions that registered losses in the last harvests, the cultivated area may be reduced, with producers opting for alternatives for soil cover.



The first soybean harvest has already reached 1%, with variable productivity. In the south of the state, averages are above expectations, favored by the climate and air humidity. In other regions, however, there are records of plants with less than ideal size and smaller grains, impacting production.

The second crop of beans is being planted at a slower pace, and the crops in

development face challenges due to attacks by insect pests, such as the cowpea (Diabrotica speciosa), in addition to the impacts of excessive rainfall at the beginning of planting.

The first potato crop has already reached 1% of the harvest, while the second crop is still being prepared for planting. The rice is showing good vegetative conditions and the harvest is underway. Sugarcane remains in good condition, with harvests carried out in the Cornélio Procópio region. The cassava harvest in the two-cycle areas is also advanced this season.

In the coffee segment, producers are monitoring the maturation of the beans with anticipation, driven by good market prices. However, the lack of rain and high temperatures recorded between December

and January are expected to compromise productivity and affect the quality of the beans.

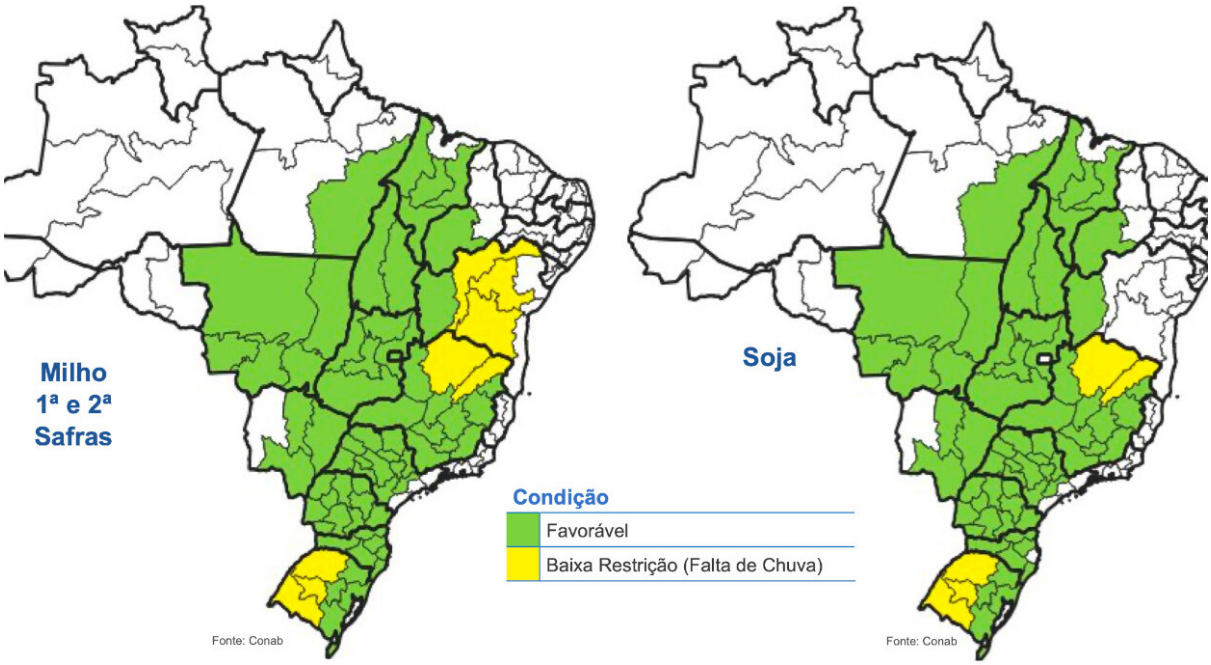
RETURN TO INDEX

Conab: crop monitoring February 18, 2025

Soybean harvest advances in Brazil, but climate challenges persist

18.02.2025 | 15:00 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine



The soybean harvest in Brazil reached 25,5% of the total area, according to a survey by the National Supply Company (Conab). The progress was significant in

states such as Mato Grosso and Paraná, where climate conditions were more favorable.

In Mato Grosso, the harvest is approaching half of the total area, with the weather favoring field work. In Paraná, the lower rainfall allowed for greater progress and better conditions for natural drying. In Goiás, there were localized interruptions due to the rains, but without significant impacts on the quality of the grains. In Mato Grosso do Sul, the harvest is ongoing, but later crops face pressure from pests, such as whiteflies and bedbugs.

In Rio Grande do Sul, the drought continues to affect crop development, aggravated by high temperatures. In Minas Gerais, the dry weather helped the harvest to progress, while in Bahia, Asian rust was

identified, although without losses in productivity. In Maranhão, the harvest is mainly taking place in the south of the state, while in Tocantins, more than a third of the area has already been harvested.

Soja - Safra 2024/25

(Esses 12 estados correspondem a 96% da área cultivada)

Semeadura

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Tocantins	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Maranhão	99,0%	90,0%	96,0%
Piauí	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Bahia	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Mato Grosso	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Mato Grosso do Sul	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Goiás	99,8%	100,0%	100,0%
Minas Gerais	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
São Paulo	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Paraná	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Santa Catarina	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Rio Grande do Sul	100,0%	99,0%	99,0%
12 estados	**100,0%**	**99,5%**	**99,7%**

Colheita

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Tocantins	20,0%	10,0%	35,0%
Maranhão	7,0%	1,0%	10,0%
Piauí	0,0%	0,0%	1,0%
Bahia	4,0%	3,5%	10,0%
Mato Grosso	61,3%	27,5%	47,3%
Mato Grosso do Sul	25,0%	17,0%	22,0%
Goiás	26,0%	10,0%	24,0%
Minas Gerais	24,0%	13,0%	20,0%
São Paulo	22,0%	4,0%	6,0%
Paraná	30,0%	23,0%	33,0%
Santa Catarina	5,0%	1,8%	3,9%
Rio Grande do Sul	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
12 estados	**29,4%**	**14,8%**	**25,5%**

First crop corn has 1% of the area harvested

The first corn harvest in Brazil reached 1% of the planted area. In Minas Gerais, crops are developing well. In Rio Grande do Sul, the reduction in water stress contributed to

the recovery of earlier crops. In Bahia, the harvest began in the West, while in Paraná, where about two-thirds of the area has already been harvested, scattered rains favored the work.

Milho 1ª - Safra 2024/25

(Esses 9 estados correspondem a 92% da área cultivada)

Semeadura

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Maranhão	95,0%	75,0%	81,0%
Piauí	88,0%	95,0%	100,0%
Bahia	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Goiás	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Minas Gerais	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
São Paulo	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Paraná	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Santa Catarina	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Rio Grande do Sul	100,0%	98,0%	99,0%
9 estados	**98,3%**	**96,8%**	**98,1%**

Colheita

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Maranhão	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Piauí	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Bahia	0,0%	0,0%	0,4%
Goiás	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Minas Gerais	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%
São Paulo	15,0%	3,0%	4,0%
Paraná	40,0%	11,0%	67,0%
Santa Catarina	32,0%	3,8%	24,2%
Rio Grande do Sul	59,0%	54,0%	60,0%
9 estados	**21,4%**	**13,3%**	**21,1%**

Planting of the 2nd corn crop reaches 35,7%

The planting of the second corn crop has advanced to 2% of the total area. In Mato Grosso, the weather conditions are favorable and the planting rate has

increased. In Paraná, the sowing is close to half of the planned area. In Mato Grosso do Sul, good soil moisture has benefited the germination of the crop. In Goiás, the alternation between rain and dry weather favors planting and the initial development of the crops.

Beans 1st crop with 52,1% harvested

The harvest of the first bean crop reached 1% of the planted area. In Paraná, only 52,1% of the crops remain to be harvested. In Minas Gerais, the harvest is in its final phase, with good quality in the crops in the south of the state, but losses in the Triângulo Mineiro and Northwest regions due to excessive rainfall. In Goiás,

the harvest has been completed, although some areas have presented grain defects due to humidity.

In Bahia, crops in the West are of good quality, but in the Center-South and Center-North, the lack of rain is causing water stress. In Santa Catarina, the return of rain has benefited late crops that are still developing. In Rio Grande do Sul, the harvest is progressing, with concerns for later crops in the Upper Plateau, affected by the lack of rain and high temperatures.

Feijão 1ª - Safra 2024/25

(Esses 8 estados correspondem a 91% da área cultivada)

Semeadura

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Piauí	92,0%	96,0%	100,0%
Bahia	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Goiás	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Minas Gerais	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
São Paulo	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Paraná	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Santa Catarina	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Rio Grande do Sul	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
8 estados	**98,1%**	**99,1%**	**100,0%**

Colheita

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Piauí	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Bahia	0,0%	15,1%	19,8%
Goiás	100,0%	97,0%	100,0%
Minas Gerais	51,0%	68,0%	88,0%
São Paulo	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Paraná	95,0%	97,0%	99,0%
Santa Catarina	64,0%	53,1%	66,8%
Rio Grande do Sul	54,0%	49,0%	54,0%
8 estados	**38,4%**	**47,2%**	**52,1%**

Rice harvest reaches 7,1% of the area

The rice harvest in Brazil reached 7,1% of the planted area. In Rio Grande do Sul, the state responsible for most of the production, crops in the Central Depression and Western Frontier receive intermittent irrigation due to the low availability of rainfall. Despite this, the health of the plants remains adequate.

In Santa Catarina, the dry weather has favored the harvest. In Tocantins, crops are in different stages, with some areas beginning to harvest. In Maranhão, dryland sowing is progressing, while in Goiás and Mato Grosso, the first harvested areas showed good yields. In Paraná, half of the

area was harvested, but some of the crops had reduced production potential due to flooding in the Northwest region.

Arroz - Safra 2024/25

(Esses 6 estados correspondem a 88% da área cultivada)

Semeadura

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Tocantins	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Maranhão	97,0%	80,0%	90,0%
Mato Grosso	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Goiás	85,0%	93,0%	95,0%
Santa Catarina	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Rio Grande do Sul	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
6 estados	**99,6%**	**98,7%**	**99,3%**

Colheita

Estado	Semana até:		
	2024	2025	
	17/fev	9/fev	16/fev
Tocantins	10,0%	3,0%	3,0%
Maranhão	4,0%	5,0%	5,0%
Mato Grosso	5,9%	5,1%	8,4%
Goiás	18,0%	35,0%	35,0%
Santa Catarina	38,0%	10,0%	30,8%
Rio Grande do Sul	0,0%	0,0%	3,0%
6 estados	**5,6%**	**2,7%**	**7,1%**

RETURN TO INDEX

Fungus triggers neurodegeneration in insects

Infection also stimulates the production of Sarms

18.02.2025 | 14:39 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine

Study revealed that fungal infection *beauveria bassiana* induces an immune mechanism that leads to the destruction of brain cells in fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*).

The phenomenon, which results in neurodegeneration and accelerated death of insects, raises questions about the impact of fungal infections on the nervous systems of other organisms.

The research, led by scientists at the University of Birmingham, showed that B. bassiana is able to penetrate the blood-brain barrier of flies after three days of exposure.

Once inside the brain, the fungus activates Toll-1 receptors of the host's innate

immune system. This process triggers the release of antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), which normally fight pathogens. However, the infection also stimulates the production of Sarms (selective androgen receptor modulators), a molecule that inhibits the immune response and induces the death of neurons and glial cells.

Effects of infection

The experiments showed that more than half of the infected flies died after seven days, while the control group survived for almost 50 days.

In addition to reduced life expectancy, infected flies exhibited impaired locomotion and loss of brain cells, including

dopaminergic neurons essential for motor control.

This neurodegeneration suggests a possible parallel with human neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, where fungal infections have been linked to brain inflammation.

According to Professor Alicia Hidalgo, corresponding author of the study, the discovery demonstrates how fungi can manipulate the host's immune response to their advantage.

"*B. bassiana* manages to activate an immune receptor that should protect the brain, but instead induces an immune evasion pathway that results in the

destruction of brain cells," he explained.

Implications for agriculture

Beauveria bassiana is an entomopathogenic fungus widely used in biological pest control. It is known to infect a variety of insects, including those that are harmful to crops, such as grasshoppers and beetles. However, the new study raises questions about possible side effects, especially on beneficial insects such as pollinators.

More information can be found at

doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003020

RETURN TO INDEX

Sakata Seed opens branch in Colombia

Company sees growth opportunities both in the local market and in other countries of the Andean Community

17.02.2025 | 15:20 (UTC -3)

Sakata seed

Inauguration event for Sakata's new headquarters in Colombia

Sakata Seed Sudamerica, a Japanese multinational company that produces vegetable and flower seeds, recently

opened a new branch in Colombia (Sakata Colombia SAS). The unit, which is already fully operational in the country, has a team dedicated to serving producers in the region, aiming to provide all technical support and commercial guidance, in accordance with the characteristics and demands of the local market.

This new Sakata unit is very strategic to strengthen the company's international seed trade. This is because Colombia is a market with many opportunities for the sector, being considered the third largest in potential for vegetable seed sales in South America and the first largest in flower sales.

According to Marcos Missfeld, General Manager of Sakata Colombia, what makes

the country so strategic and unique is its location and trade relations with the Andean community (Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia), in addition to the large number of free trade zones, making it a true export HUB. “The aim of opening the branch in Colombia is to increase capillarity, that is, to strengthen the relationship with current partners and to seek new ones. We will start by bringing in new distributors in areas where our current structure has a low share, in addition to focusing on strategic markets, where we have several competitive products. In view of this, the company’s new unit will be an important distribution hub for the Andean countries as a whole,” he explains.

Main market segments

Marcello Takagui and Yuji Kurihara, President and Vice President of Sakata Seed Sudamerica

In the Colombian market, the most important vegetable crops are those that also stand out throughout South America in general. The main ones are Tomatoes, Onions, Carrots and Peppers. However, there are other important and economically significant crops that are the focus of the company's operations locally and in which

it has a large market share, including: Pumpkins, Zucchini, Broccoli and Lettuce.

According to him, the company sees a great opportunity for growth in the country, as it has a very competitive product portfolio. In addition, “the company has been strengthening its local Research area, so that in the near future specific hybrids can be developed for the conditions and needs of the Colombian market”, reveals the manager.

With the start of activities at the new branch and the constant adaptation to the needs of the Andean market, Sakata aims to achieve leadership, reaching new levels of success in the coming years and expanding its presence in the South American market in a comprehensive manner.

RETURN TO INDEX

UPL announces new Director of Market Access in Brazil

The executive has a degree in agronomy from the Federal University of Uberlândia

17.02.2025 | 14:49 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Viviane Passerini

UPL Ltd. has appointed Daniel Amaral Alves Ferreira as its new Director of Market Access in Brazil. An agricultural engineer with almost 20 years of experience in agribusiness, he has worked at the company since May 2022 as a manager in the same area.

Daniel Ferreira highlighted that UPL has invested in strengthening the distribution network to ensure that its solutions directly meet the needs of the field.

"Our commitment is to strengthen and improve the relationship with our network, expanding our presence in the market. In this way, we ensure that our solutions reach farmers in the best way, reinforcing our commitment to the development of agribusiness," he said.

The executive holds a degree in agronomy from the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU) and an MBA in marketing with an emphasis on sales from the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV). He also studied at Washington State University in the United States.

Rogério Castro, CEO of UPL Brasil, highlighted Ferreira's experience and contribution to the company's growth.

"Daniel has recognized and solid experience in the sector, standing out in team leadership and for the quality of his work. Over the last three years, he has helped UPL to access the market in a broader and more effective way, favoring the company's growth," he said.

RETURN TO INDEX

Adama announces new leader in fungicides in Brazil

Marcelo Gimenes has been working at the company for six years

17.02.2025 | 10:53 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from Cláudia Santos

Marcelo Gimenes takes over as leader of Adama’s fungicide strategy in Brazil. With experience in the agricultural sector, he will be responsible for expanding the company’s product portfolio in the country.

With a degree in agricultural engineering, Gimenes holds a master's degree from the University of São Paulo and a doctorate from The Ohio State University and Unesp. His career includes strategic roles in large companies in the agro-industrial sector.

He has been at Adama for six years, where he held the position of market development manager for the South and Western Cerrado regions. During this time, he led teams of agronomists and participated in the development and launch of products geared towards the needs of

rural producers. His new role will involve leading strategies to strengthen Adama’s presence in the fungicide market.

"Taking the lead in the fungicide segment is a challenging and rewarding task. Adama has a track record of excellence in developing solutions to control the main diseases that challenge farmers from the North to the South of the country. I will, therefore, assume the responsibility of continuing to contribute to this success story, developing innovative fungicides that meet the specific needs of each region and ensuring the sustainability of production systems," said Gimenes.

RETURN TO INDEX

Boa Safra announces Patrícia Baceti as new director

She takes on the role with a focus on restructuring areas

17.02.2025 | 09:44 (UTC -3)

Cultivar Magazine, based on information from André Vanes

Boa Safra Sementes announced Patrícia Baceti as its new administrative and control director. The executive has experience in finance and administrative areas, having worked for companies such as DASA, Orizon and Itaú Unibanco. She takes on the role with a focus on restructuring areas and implementing management and governance systems.

Patrícia Baceti has approximately 30 years of experience in the financial and healthcare sectors. Throughout her career, she has participated in projects involving the acquisition of companies and products, as well as the development of short, medium and long-term strategic plans. Her track record includes audits carried out by companies in the “Big4” group and strategic alignment for CEOs and Boards

of Directors.

The new director highlighted her motivation upon joining Boa Safra. “I have a deep admiration for the company’s mission and purpose and I am very happy to be part of this team. My focus will be to contribute to the organization’s continued growth, supporting best practices and decision-making,” she said.

RETURN TO INDEX

*The **Cultivar Semanal** magazine is a technical and scientific publication focused on agriculture in Brazil.*
It was designed to be read on mobile phones.
It is published on Saturdays.

Grupo Cultivar de Publicações Ltda.

revistacultivar.com

CONTACT
editor@grupocultivar.com
comercial@grupocultivar.com