

1. National hybrid corn project.

Since 1953 a project was started to enlarge hybrid seed production and to offer larger collaboration among experiment stations. Brazil was divided into seven ecological zones. A breeding center for each of the zones was established. A National Corn Committee is in charge of the general plan, which includes members of federal, state and private organizations. Brazil has probably more than 10,000,000 acres planted in corn, and actually hybrid seed is only available commercially in the 5th zone (States of Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and north of Parana). In this region 10% of the area is already planted with hybrid seed. The demand by the farmers for hybrid seed is increasing steadily and several private hybrid seed organizations are already established.