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Zema Global and SatYield bring satellite-based crop intelligence to agricultural commodity markets

15 October 2026 | News

The partnership will integrate in-season yield forecasts, production estimates and crop-condition analytics for the US and Brazil into Zema Globalâ??s data infrastructure, helping commodity traders assess supply shifts before official estimates catch up

Zema Global and SatYield have partnered to bring satellite-based crop intelligence into agricultural commodity market analysis, giving traders, hedge funds and other market participants access to in-season yield and production forecasts through Zema Global's Decisioning Infrastructure.

The partnership combines Zema Global's data and analytics platform for energy, commodities and financial markets with SatYield's satellite-driven crop forecasting capabilities. The initial coverage spans the United States and Brazil, two major agricultural producers whose harvest prospects can influence global grain and oilseed prices.

The integration will provide Zema Global customers with access to yield and production forecasts, planted and harvested area estimates, crop-condition indicators, growth stages, harvest progress and weather-impact assessments. Historical time series, backtesting data and supporting technical documentation will also be available.

The partnership addresses a persistent challenge for agricultural commodity markets: crop prospects can change materially between official reporting cycles as rainfall, temperature and growing conditions alter expectations for yields and production. Market participants seeking to anticipate supply changes must often reconcile multiple data sources to assess how those developments could affect prices.

By integrating SatYield's crop intelligence with existing market, weather and supply-and-demand datasets, Zema Global aims to give customers a more consolidated view of evolving agricultural fundamentals. The data can be analysed alongside established information sources, including US Department of Agriculture reports, World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), exchange data and broader market indicators.

SatYield combines satellite observations with biophysical crop modelling to estimate crop development and production during the growing season. Its approach is designed to provide an independent, forward-looking assessment of crop conditions before final official estimates become available.

"Commodity markets do not need more data. They need earlier, independent signals that help them understand how physical supply is changing before it becomes market consensus," said Gabby Nizri, co-founder and CEO of SatYield. He said the partnership would combine SatYield's crop intelligence with Zema Global's ability to organise and integrate information for

market decision-making.

The companies expect the offering to be particularly relevant to hedge funds and agricultural commodity traders active in corn and soybeans. Energy market participants could also use the intelligence to assess crop production trends relevant to biofuel feedstocks, including the implications of changing soybean and corn supply expectations.

Potential applications include regional crop monitoring, production forecasting, weather-risk assessment, trading strategy development and supply-and-demand analysis. By incorporating in-season crop signals into their models, market participants can evaluate potential changes in availability and market exposure as growing conditions evolve.

“SatYield brings an innovative source of crop intelligence to the market,” said Eric Steimel, chief data officer at Zema Global. He said the integration would enable customers to incorporate the data into a decision-ready analytical environment and respond more effectively to increasingly complex markets.

SatYield has demonstrated its ability to identify changes in acreage, yield and production during the growing season, according to the companies. The commercial value of the partnership will ultimately depend on the accuracy, consistency and timeliness of these forecasts, as well as their ability to provide actionable insights beyond information already reflected in market prices and official estimates.

The agreement reflects a broader shift towards data-intensive commodity analysis, in which satellite observations, crop modelling, weather intelligence and conventional market indicators are combined to assess physical supply. As weather volatility increases uncertainty around agricultural production, timely crop intelligence could become an increasingly important input for traders and risk managers.