Maize Imports and Exports during the 2016/2017 marketing season

A total of 646 882 tons of white maize and 1 592 671 tons of yellow maize was imported for local use during the period 30 April 2016 to 28 April 2017. To date, 269 samples of imported maize were received at the SAGL for quality analyses purposes. The analyses on 244 of these have been completed and the results are included in this report. The total number of samples include 86 white maize samples. 11% of the 244 samples were downgraded to Class Other Maize according to South African grading regulations. More than half of these were downgraded due to the presence of an undesirable odour. Half of the remainder was downgraded as a result of total defective kernels exceeding the maximum permissible level of 30%.

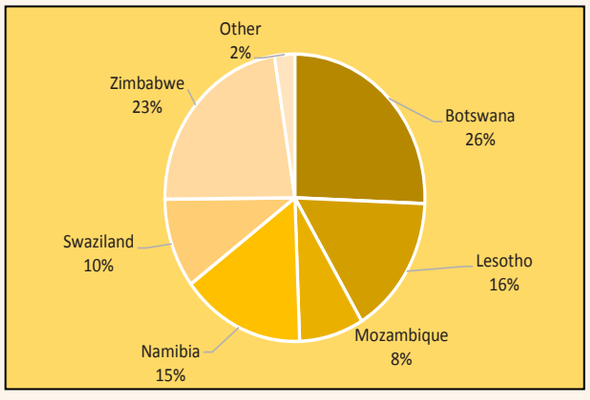
The results of the quality analyses performed on the imported maize are compared to those of the local maize crop of the corresponding class and grade and period (2015/2016). Please see the summary of results on pages 107 to 113. The 100 kernel mass of the imported maize was lower on average (except for the white maize), the stress cracks were higher. The kernel sizes were more comparable than in previous seasons, but still smaller. The smaller kernels sizes of the local maize due to the drought conditions again played a role, as in the previous season. The protein content of the imported maize was on average 1.1% lower than that of the RSA maize, while the average fat and starch contents were higher.

Multi-mycotoxin analyses have been completed on 85 composite samples per shipment to date. Aflatoxin B_1 and B_2 residues were detected on a couple of samples (five white and one yellow), the B_1 levels exceeded national maximum levels. The Fumonisin, Deoxynivalenol (DON) and Zearalenone mycotoxin content was on average higher than locally produced maize. Twenty seven yellow maize samples and two white maize samples exceeded the national maximum Fumonisin (B_1 + B_2) level for raw maize intended for further processing and 11 yellow samples, the national Fumonisin B_1 maximum limits for animal feed.

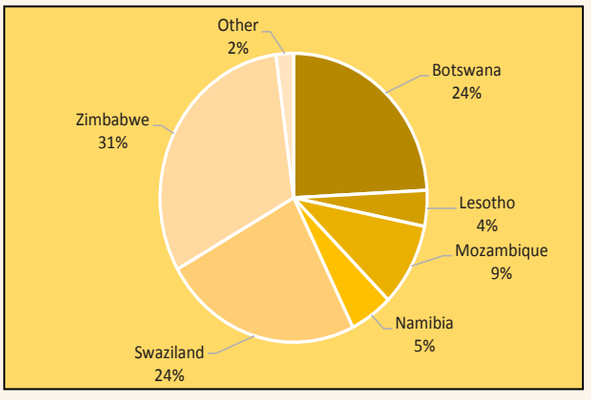
During the season under review, 525 600 tons of local white maize and 289 140 tons of local yellow maize were exported to both Africa and overseas. Please see graphs 63 to 66 below for the major destinations for exports of RSA maize as well as origins of import for local use.

All figures were obtained from SAGIS.

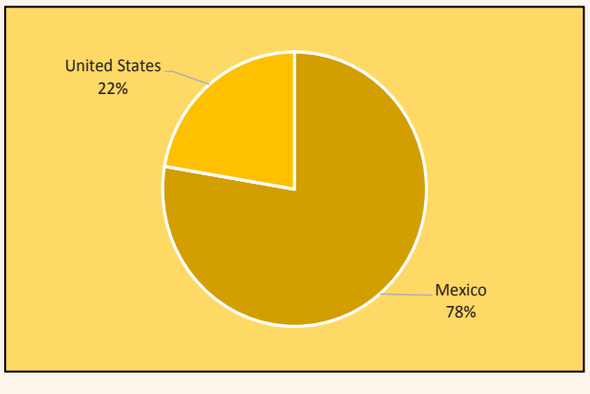
Graph 63: Major destinations for RSA white maize exports during the 2016/2017 marketing season



Graph 64: Major destinations for RSA yellow maize exports during the 2016/2017 marketing season



Graph 65: Country of origin for white maize imports for local use during the 2016/2017 marketing season



Graph 66: Country of origin for yellow maize imports for local use during the 2016/2017 marketing season