

According to the BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2013 – 2022, the favourable return per hectare projected for soybeans due to improved yields and strong prices will result in further increases in plantings and by 2022 soybean plantings are expected to reach 915 000 hectares and production 2.1 million tons. Local soybean crushing capacity is expanding rapidly and by 2015 the entire crop is projected to be processed locally. South Africa currently produces more than half of Africa’s soybeans.

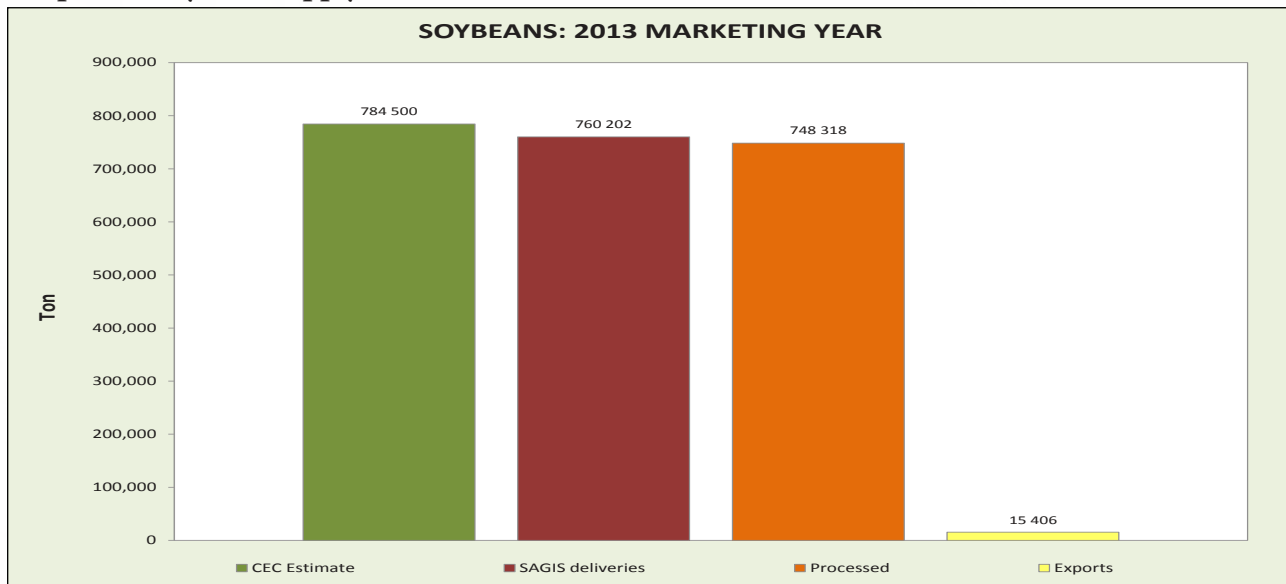
Soybean production is expected to increase in especially Mpumalanga and the North West, as part of the trend towards conservation agriculture. This trend is observed worldwide with the total soybean production in Brazil produced under the no-till system. Crop rotation forms an inherent part of conservation agriculture and soybeans lean itself extremely well to crop rotation systems.

Of the 748 318 tons of soybeans processed during this season, 3.6% was used for human consumption, 21.6% for animal feed as full fat soya and 74.8% crushed to produce oil or oilcake. The demand for full fat soya increased with 11.6% and that for oil/oilcake with 35.8% from the previous season. The amount of soybeans crushed, more than doubled since the 2010/2011 season (247 300 tons to 560 095 tons).

Only 15 406 tons of soybeans were exported compared to the 157 500 tons in the 2011/2012 season. Globally, Brazil, the USA and Argentina are responsible for approximately 87% of soybean exports. Argentina is the largest exporter of soybean meal or oilcake. These countries are also the largest producers of soybeans and together with China and India, produce about 90% of the soybeans cultivated worldwide.

According to the Directorate: Statistics and Economic Analysis from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), soybeans’ contribution to agricultural production increased from R84 000 in 1947 to R3 684 252 in the 2012/2013 season. Soybeans is the third largest contributor to the gross value of agricultural products, maize being the largest followed by wheat.

**Graph 11: Soybean supply and demand overview 2012/2013 season**



Information provided by SAGIS.