

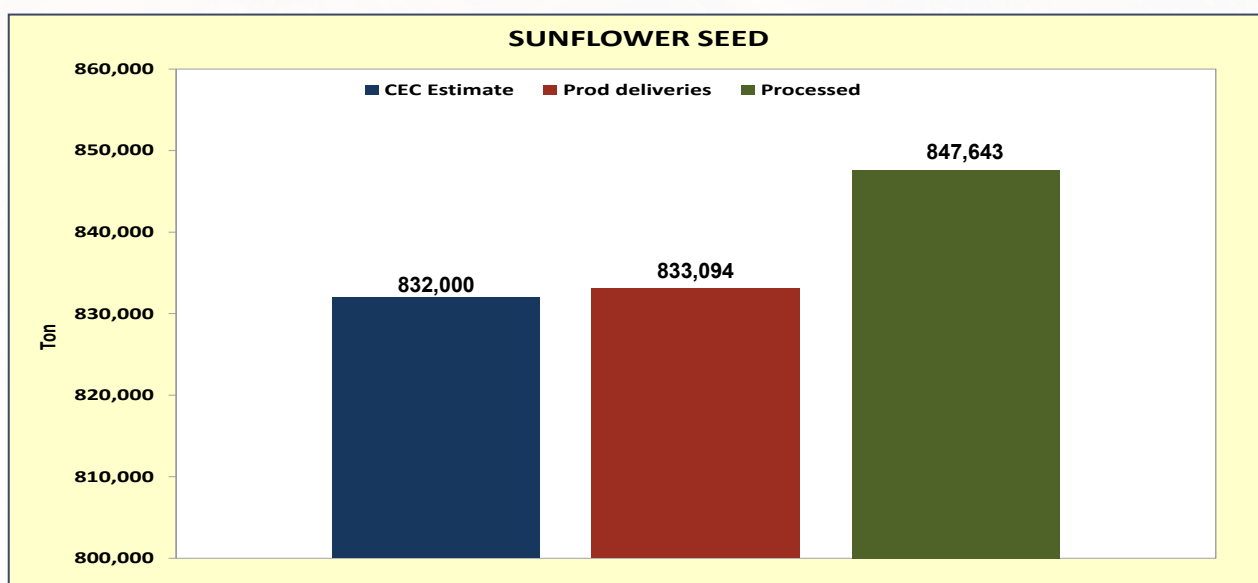
## Supply and Demand

Opening stock decreased by almost 35 000 tons compared to the previous marketing year and was lower than the ten year average. During the 2014/2015 marketing season 63 180 tons of sunflower and sunflower seed products were imported compared to the 94 475 tons of the previous year. South Africa is a net importer of vegetable oils. Domestic consumption of sunflower oil is projected to increase by less than 2% per year over the baseline period. Local sunflower oil production is expected to remain relatively constant at  $\pm$  300 000 tons (BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2014 – 2023).

Of the 847 643 tons of sunflower seeds processed during this season, only 467 tons was used for human consumption and 2 854 tons for animal feed (mainly pet bird feeds). The vast majority of sunflower seed is crushed to produce oil and oilcake. The amount of sunflower seeds crushed this year increased by 27.4% (181 710 tons) compared to the previous season. According to BFAP, the domestic consumption of sunflower oilcake is projected to increase from  $\pm$  400 000 tons in 2014 to 550 000 tons by 2023. Most of the increase in consumption will have to be provided by imports, since the local production is expected to remain relatively constant over the baseline period.

No significant exports occurred (48 tons). Globally, the USA and Russia are the largest exporters of sunflower seeds and the Ukraine and Russia the largest exporters of sunflower oil (combined 73% of total oil exports).

**Graph 11: Sunflower supply and demand overview for the current marketing season (Mar 2014 - Feb 2015)**



Information provided by SAGIS.