

The results of this survey are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The hard copy reports are distributed to all the Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.

In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand information over several years is provided in table and graph format.

The report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars: 2014/2015 season conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer and Syngenta is also included in this report, as is the national grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette No. 45 of 22 January 2016.

Production

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions as sunflower plants are drought tolerant. The deep root system of a sunflower enables the plant to perform better than other crops during dry seasons. Crop rotation management should however be implemented as a result of the moisture being tapped out of the soil by this deep root system. Another advantage of sunflowers is that the plants grow much quicker than for example maize and can be planted later in the season when rainfall occurs late. Sunflower is currently the fourth largest grain crop produced in South Africa after maize, wheat and soybeans.

The area utilized for sunflower production decreased by almost 4% from 598 950 hectares in the previous season to 576 000 hectares this season. The yield decreased from 1.39 t/ha to 1.15 t/ha.

World oilseed production exceeded previous records for the second consecutive season during the 2014/2015 marketing year, mainly due to larger than expected soybean crops in Brazil and Argentina. Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed production figures.

Season	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Revised)	2015/16 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1,000 Ha)	23,923	25,856	25,470	25,730	24,447	24,755
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.40	1.53	1.40	1.68	1.67	1.67
Production (1,000 MT)						
Argentina	3,665	3,775	2,850	2,250	2,800	3,000
European Union	6,975	8,323	7,018	9,105	8,879	7,758
China	1,710	1,700	1,730	2,423	2,380	2,350
Russia	5,820	9,500	8,000	10,200	9,100	9,600
Ukraine	8,000	9,500	8,387	10,941	10,000	11,200
United States	1,241	925	1,264	917	1,005	1,326
India	650	620	615	580	390	360
Turkey	1,020	940	1,100	1,450	1,200	1,150
Other	4,113	4,226	4,783	5,471	4,972	4,708
TOTAL	33,572	39,509	35,747	43,337	40,726	41,452

2015 U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report compiled by the National Sunflower Association.