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 is provided in table and graph format. Import and export figures over several seasons as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seeds products, are also included.

The report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars for the 2022/23 season, conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta and Limagrain Zaad South Africa, is included in totality and as received. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. 45 of 22 January 2016 are also provided.

Production

World sunflower seed production for the 2022/23 season stands at 55.2 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 53% to this total. An area of 29.8 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.85 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2023/24 season is 56.5 million metric tons harvested on 29.6 million hectares and with a yield of 1.91 metric tons/hectare.

Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed supply and disappearance figures.

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)

Season	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (Revised)	2023/24 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)	***27 185***	***27 413***	***28 045***	***29 877***	***29 801***	***29 552***
Yield (MT/Ha)	***1.91***	***2.03***	***1.81***	***1.95***	***1.85***	***1.91***
Production (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	3 530	3 020	3 200	3 360	4 130	3 600
European Union	9 482	9 469	8 969	10 389	9 520	9 863
China	2 550	2 680	2 750	2 880	2 930	3 000
Russia	12 756	15 379	13 420	15 660	16 600	16 800
Ukraine	15 250	16 500	13 900	16 900	12 400	14 400
United States	956	887	1 353	864	1 276	1 027
South Africa	678	810	678	846	724	830
Turkey	1 530	1 700	1 580	1 750	1 820	1 320
Other	5 292	5 202	4 995	5 652	5 834	5 674
TOTAL	***52 024***	***55 647***	***50 845***	***58 301***	***55 234***	***56 514***
Import (1 000 MT)						
Turkey	1 051	1 058	844	673	981	580
European Union	550	1 057	817	1 807	1 466	896
Other	1 445	1 451	1 308	1 639	1 513	1 571
TOTAL	***3 046***	***3 566***	***2 969***	***4 119***	***3 960***	***3 047***
Export (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	149	214	178	158	91	140
United States	87	64	72	69	64	72
Russia	338	1 278	528	280	285	352
Ukraine	119	76	186	1 793	1 685	640
Other	2 392	1 980	1 907	1 875	1 750	1 806
TOTAL	***3 085***	***3 612***	***2 871***	***4 175***	***3 875***	***3 010***
Oilseed crushed	***47 231***	***50 300***	***45 568***	***48 315***	***52 192***	***52 586***

National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowernsa.com,
Table updated January 16, 2024; Source: Oil World & USDA.

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions. Sunflower plants are drought tolerant and thus a crucial risk diversification crop going forward. The deep root system of a sunflower plant enables the plant to perform better than other crops during dry seasons. Planting sunflowers is also advantageous when rainfall occurs late in the season, due to the late planting window relative to that of maize.