

Maize Imports and Exports during the 2014/2015 marketing season

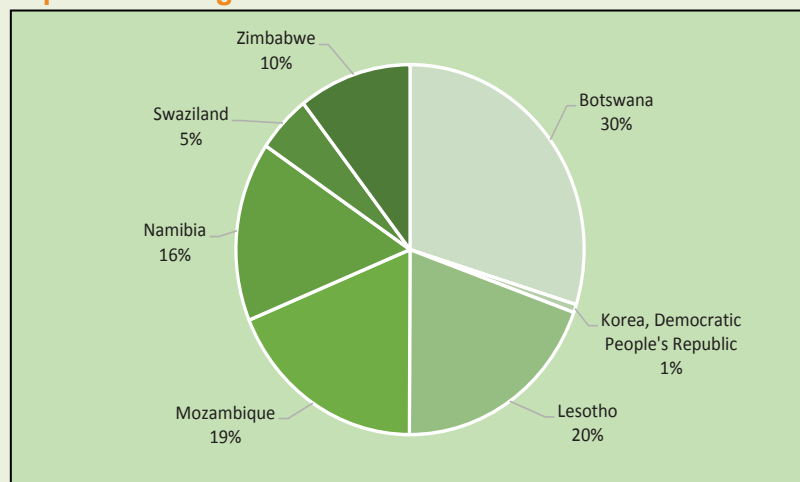
A total of 65 250 tons of yellow maize was imported from Argentina during the 2014/2015 season (26 April 2014 to 24 April 2015). Twelve samples of imported maize were received at the SAGL for quality analyses purposes. Two of the samples were graded YM1, one sample YM2 and nine samples were downgraded to Class Other Maize according to South African grading regulations. Eight of the nine samples were downgraded due to the presence of an undesirable odour and the last sample as a result of poisonous seeds in excess of the maximum permissible number, namely 1 per 1 000 g.

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. Please see the summary of results on page 95. The grading results, excluding the presence of the undesirable odour and poisonous seeds, looked good and compared well with that of local maize. The 100 kernel mass of the imported maize were lower on average and the kernels size significantly smaller. The kernels were also less susceptible to breakage. The average protein content of the imported maize compared well with the RSA maize, while the average fat content was higher and the starch lower. The Fumonisin, Deoxynivalenol and Zearalenone mycotoxin content was on average higher than locally produced maize. Levels were however still well below internationally acceptable limits as well as national maximum limits for animal feed.

During the season under review, 547 500 tons of white maize and 1 409 905 tons of yellow maize were exported to both Africa and overseas. Please see graphs 55 and 56 below for the major destinations for RSA exports of maize.

All figures were obtained from SAGIS.

Graph 55: Major destinations for RSA white maize exported during the 2014/2015 season



Graph 56: Major destinations for RSA yellow maize exported during the 2014/2015 season

