

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 are also included.

Data on sorghum imported for domestic use during the period March 2018 to February 2019 is included in the report and compared to the quality of the local crop over the corresponding period.

The national sorghum grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette of 8 January 2016 are provided as the last section of the report.

Production

Sorghum is a tropical grass grown primarily in semi-arid regions of the world. Sorghum can grow in areas too dry for maize and is deemed to be the fifth most important grain crop grown in the world (after maize, wheat, rice and barley).

World sorghum production for the 2018/2019 season to date, stands at 58,4 million tons with the United States being the largest contributor (9,3 million tons). Please see Table 1a and 1b for the world sorghum trade (import and export) as well as production and consumption figures.

The local area utilized for sorghum production decreased by 32%, compared to the 42 350 hectares of the 2016/2017 season. The 28 800 hectares planted this season, is the lowest area seen in a steady decline in area over the last number of seasons.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 Dec	2018/19 Feb
Exports (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	954	772	457	296	500	200
Australia	1,701	717	542	449	1,500	1,300
Ethiopia	75	75	75	75	75	75
India	122	74	24	140	50	50
Kenya	73	41	73	136	50	50
Nigeria	100	50	100	100	100	100
Ukraine	156	119	164	123	80	120
Others	138	115	229	212	102	102
Subtotal	3,319	1,963	1,664	1,531	2,457	1,997
United States	9,269	7,928	6,022	4,961	3,000	3,000
World Total	12,588	9,891	7,686	6,492	5,457	4,997
Imports (1 000 MT)						
Chile	98	134	54	49	100	100
China	10,162	8,284	5,209	4,436	2,000	1,700
European Union	131	119	194	486	800	800
Japan	903	649	561	594	600	600
Kenya	117	54	146	141	150	150
Korea, South	6	4	5	62	70	70
Mexico	29	661	548	98	500	500
Somalia	20	70	60	80	100	100
South Sudan	87	19	36	148	150	150
Sudan	120	200	120	150	200	200
Others	390	669	381	542	504	504
Subtotal	12,063	10,863	7,314	6,786	5,174	4,874
Unaccounted	498	-1,070	328	-345	283	123
United States	27	98	44	51	0	0
World Total	12,588	9,891	7,686	6,492	5,457	4,997