

The results are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The hard copy reports are posted 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 national grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette of 8 May 2009, are also included.

Production

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions. Sunflower is the fourth largest grain crop produced in South Africa after maize, wheat and soybeans.

The area utilized for sunflower production increased from 453 350 hectares in the previous season to 504 700 hectares this season. The yield decreased slightly from 1.15 t/ha to 1.10 t/ha.

Weak emergence, Sclerotinia and bird (pigeon) damage (especially in the eastern part of Mpumalanga) were the main problems the sunflower industry had to face. A solution to the problem of Sclerotinia is not yet available, as it would take some time to include resistance genes that had been identified in wild species in breeding programs.

The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2013 – 2022, reported that due to the drought experienced by summer grain producers in the western parts of the summer rainfall areas in 2013, producers are expected to increase sunflower plantings in 2014 because of its drought resistant characteristics, despite the lower average real gross income per hectare achieved in 2013.

Over the long run sunflower production is anticipated to stabilize around 800 000 tons produced of approximately 500 000 hectares with national yields averaging approximately 1.6 t/ha. Even with a slight decline in the area under production, the local demand for sunflower will be met, which dampen the potential increase in prices.

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Production

Season	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13 (Revised)	2013/14 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1,000 Ha)	24,725	24,250	23,923	25,856	25,225	25,892
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6
Production (1,000 MT)						
Argentina	3,200	2,650	3,665	3,775	3,000	2,900
European Union	6,909	7,001	6,975	8,323	7,060	8,624
China	1,750	1,650	1,710	1,700	1,730	1,750
Russia	7,270	6,600	5,820	9,500	7,993	9,300
Ukraine	7,100	7,300	8,000	9,500	8,387	9,800
United States	1,553	1,377	1,241	925	1,264	922
India	1,150	1,000	650	620	620	660
Turkey	850	790	1,020	940	1,100	1,450
Other	4,517	3,425	4,113	4,226	4,414	4,784
TOTAL	34,753	32,171	33,572	39,509	35,568	40,190

2013 U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report compiled by the National Sunflower Association.