

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, including import and export figures over several seasons are provided in table and graph format.

The report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars 2015/2016 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. 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. Some of the crop this season was only planted in late January 2016. As a result of the drought, sunflower production this season exceeded soybean production for the first time since the 2010/2011 season.

The area utilized for sunflower production increased by almost 25%, from 576 000 hectares in the previous season, to 718 500 hectares this season. Due to the drought, production only increased by 14% as the yield decreased from 1.15 t/ha to 1.05 t/ha.

World sunflower seed production for the 2015/2016 season stands at 42 465 million tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 51% to this total. Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed supply and demand figures.

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Demand						
Season	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (Revised)	2016/17 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1,000 Ha)	25,856	25,470	25,730	24,708	25,143	26,635
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.53	1.4	1.68	1.67	1.69	1.78
Production (1,000 MT)						
Argentina	3,775	2,850	2,250	3,000	2,850	3,550
European Union	8,323	7,018	9,105	9,006	7,586	8,251
China	1,700	1,730	2,423	2,380	2,350	2,330
Russia	9,500	8,000	10,200	9,000	9,700	11,000
Ukraine	9,500	8,387	10,941	10,250	12,100	14,000
United States	925	1,264	917	1,005	1,326	1,204
India	620	615	580	390	330	400
Turkey	940	1,100	1,450	1,350	1,350	1,480
Other	4,226	4,783	5,471	4,953	4,873	5,182
TOTAL	39,509	35,747	43,337	41,334	42,465	47,397
Import (1,000 MT)						
Turkey	844	627	581	523	436	600
European Union	291	220	329	275	576	670
Other	830	638	1,050	1,078	1,058	1,361
TOTAL	1,965	1,485	1,960	1,876	2,070	2,634
Export (1,000 MT)						
Argentina	83	85	80	63	302	400
United States	114	144	132	126	108	100
Russia	402	59	131	61	105	150
Ukraine	284	124	71	123	171	400
Other	1,097	1,128	1,536	1,462	1,439	1,546
TOTAL	1,980	1,540	1,950	1,835	2,125	2,596
Oilseed crushed	36,145	32,355	38,360	36,581	37,933	42,226

2016 U.S. Sunflower Crop Quality Report compiled by the National Sunflower Association, sources Oil World & USDA.