

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 2020/21 season conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta, Sensako and Limagrain is included in totality and as received, in this report. 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 2020/21 season stands at 50.4 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 54% to this total. An area of 28.0 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.80 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2021/22 season is 57.7 million metric tons harvested on 29.9 million hectares and with a yield of 1.93 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	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (Revised)	2021/22 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)	26 964	26 885	27 265	27 413	28 037	29 915
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.86	1.83	1.91	2.03	1.80	1.93
Production (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	3 300	3 400	3 530	3 020	2 800	3 100
European Union	8 641	10 058	9 482	9 469	8 904	10 574
China	2 750	2 580	2 550	2 680	2 750	2 850
Russia	11 600	11 000	12 756	15 379	13 420	15 400
Ukraine	15 100	13 400	15 250	16 500	13 900	16 800
United States	1 203	970	956	887	1 353	863
South Africa	874	862	678	810	677	820
Turkey	1 470	1 700	1 530	1 700	1 580	1 750
Other	5 130	5 086	5 292	5 202	5 032	5 527
TOTAL	50 068	49 056	52 024	55 647	50 416	57 684
Import (1 000 MT)						
Turkey	611	721	1 051	1 058	844	840
European Union	632	520	550	1 057	817	630
Other	1 396	1 322	1 445	1 451	1 297	1 410
TOTAL	2 639	2 563	3 046	3 566	2 958	2 880
Export (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	74	58	149	214	178	161
United States	99	89	87	64	73	63
Russia	362	103	338	1 278	528	270
Ukraine	261	50	119	76	186	220
Other	1 804	2 234	2 392	1 980	1 921	2 222
TOTAL	2 600	2 534	3 085	3 612	2 886	2 936
Oilseed crushed	44 845	44 663	47 231	50 300	45 410	51 275
National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowernsa.com , Table updated 12 January 2022; Source: Oil World & USDA.						

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. Planting sunflowers is also advantageous when rainfall occurs late in the season, due to the late planting window relative to that of maize.