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 2019/20 season conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta, Sensako and Link Seed 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 2019/20 season stands at 55.9 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 57% to this total. An area of 27.4 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 2.04 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2020/21 season is 50.5 million metric tons harvested on 28.2 million hectares and with a yield of 1.79 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 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 (Revised) | 2020/21 (Forecast) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)*** | ***25 242*** | ***26 964*** | ***26 885*** | ***27 265*** | ***27 440*** | ***28 226*** |
| ***Yield (MT/Ha)*** | ***1.70*** | ***1.86*** | ***1.83*** | ***1.91*** | ***2.04*** | ***1.79*** |
| ***Production (1 000 MT)*** | | | | | | |
| Argentina | 2 830 | 3 300 | 3 400 | 3 530 | 3 150 | 2 830 |
| European Union | 7 769 | 8 641 | 10 058 | 9 482 | 9 485 | 8 696 |
| China | 2 698 | 2 750 | 2 580 | 2 550 | 2 680 | 2 730 |
| Russia | 9 700 | 11 600 | 11 000 | 12 756 | 15 379 | 13 200 |
| Ukraine | 12 100 | 15 100 | 13 400 | 15 250 | 16 500 | 14 300 |
| United States | 1 326 | 1 203 | 970 | 956 | 887 | 1 353 |
| South Africa | 755 | 874 | 862 | 678 | 786 | 780 |
| Turkey | 1 350 | 1 470 | 1 700 | 1 530 | 1 700 | 1 550 |
| Other | 4 386 | 5 130 | 5 086 | 5 292 | 5 346 | 5 020 |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***42 914*** | ***50 068*** | ***49 056*** | ***52 024*** | ***55 913*** | ***50 459*** |
| ***Import (1 000 MT)*** | | | | | | |
| Turkey | 436 | 611 | 721 | 1 051 | 1 058 | 950 |
| European Union | 577 | 632 | 520 | 550 | 1 036 | 880 |
| Other | 1 100 | 1 396 | 1 322 | 1 445 | 1 401 | 730 |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***2 113*** | ***2 639*** | ***2 563*** | ***3 046*** | ***3 495*** | ***2 560*** |
| ***Export (1 000 MT)*** | | | | | | |
| Argentina | 302 | 74 | 58 | 149 | 214 | 170 |
| United States | 107 | 99 | 89 | 87 | 64 | 80 |
| Russia | 105 | 362 | 103 | 338 | 1 261 | 500 |
| Ukraine | 171 | 261 | 50 | 119 | 76 | 180 |
| Other | 1 467 | 1 804 | 2 234 | 2 392 | 1 911 | 1 617 |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***2 152*** | ***2 600*** | ***2 534*** | ***3 085*** | ***3 526*** | ***2 547*** |
| ***Oilseed crushed*** | ***38 177*** | ***44 845*** | ***44 663*** | ***47 231*** | ***50 474*** | ***45 499*** |

*National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowernsa.com, Table updated January 12, 2021; 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.