

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.

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 2021/22 season to date, stands at 65.6 million tons with the United States being the largest contributor (11.4 million tons). Please see Table 1a for the world sorghum trade (import and export figures) as well as production and consumption figures in Table 1b.

Table 1a: World Sorghum Trade						
October/September Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Feb	2021/22 Mar
Exports						
Argentina	473	254	426	1 973	2 600	2 600
Australia	449	91	102	1 209	1 400	1 600
Bolivia	21	18	8	29	50	50
Ethiopia	75	75	75	50	50	50
India	123	53	31	56	50	50
Kenya	136	53	31	80	100	100
Ukraine	123	93	145	59	75	65
Others	310	286	163	149	213	213
Subtotal	1 710	923	981	3 605	4 538	4 728
United States	4 839	2 410	5 404	7 052	8 000	8 000
World Total	6 549	3 333	6 385	10 657	12 538	12 728
Imports						
Chile	49	73	36	26	70	70
China	4 436	652	3 709	8 669	10 300	10 500
Eritrea	30	60	35	60	70	70
Ethiopia	6	6	61	5	50	50
Japan	577	449	426	299	320	320
Kenya	141	109	52	181	200	200
Mexico	98	546	567	133	200	200
Somalia	80	85	80	50	50	50
South Sudan	148	26	81	71	100	100
Sudan	150	160	150	88	80	80
Others	992	1 079	429	355	430	430
Subtotal	6 707	3 245	5 626	9 937	11 870	12 070
Unaccounted	- 209	87	758	719	667	657
United States	51	1	1	1	1	1
World Total	6 549	3 333	6 385	10 657	12 538	12 728