

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 2023/24 season was 58.0 million tons, with the United States of America, the largest contributor (8.1 million tons). See Table 1a for the world sorghum trade (export and import figures) as well as production, consumption and stocks figures in Table 1b.

Table 1a: World Sorghum Trade					
October/September Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Exports					
Australia	102	1 235	2 267	2 753	1 400
Argentina	426	1 973	1 800	800	1 100
Brazil	1	11	10	1	125
India	31	56	41	37	30
Nigeria	50	50	50	50	50
Ukraine	145	59	72	66	40
Paraguay	8	1	21	38	40
Others	222	247	165	70	84
Subtotal	985	3 632	4 426	3 815	2 869
United States	5 404	6 926	7 387	2 965	6 200
World Total	6 389	10 558	11 813	6 780	9 069
Imports					
China	3 709	8 669	10 991	4 863	7 500
Japan	426	299	258	241	190
Mexico	567	133	362	176	175
Kenya	52	181	79	152	100
South Africa	21	8	1	29	100
Eritrea	35	65	95	63	70
South Sudan	81	71	55	35	50
Somalia	80	50	50	50	50
Sudan	150	125	75	110	50
Taiwan	40	56	55	50	50
Others	467	310	508	294	333
Subtotal	5 628	9 967	12 529	6 063	8 668
Unaccounted	760	590	- 716	717	400
United States	1	1	0	0	1
World Total	6 389	10 558	11 813	6 780	9 069

Note:

Unaccounted: This term includes grain in transit, reporting discrepancies in some countries and trade to countries outside the USDA database.

All trade tables contain Trade Year (TY) data which puts all countries on a uniform, 12-month period for analytical comparisons (Sorghum Oct/Sep), irrespective of the different local marketing years. TY 2022/23 corresponds to Oct 2022 to Sep 2023.