

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.

Data on the final consignment of sorghum imported for domestic use during the period March 2019 to February 2020 is included in the report for the sake of completeness and compared to the quality of the local crop during the 2018/19 production season. To assist with quality comparisons between local and imported sorghum, the same scope of analysis is used for both sets of samples.

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 2020/21 season to date, stands at 62.1 million tons with the United States being the largest contributor (9.5 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						
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 Feb	2020/21 Mar
Exports						
Argentina	457	473	254	426	1 000	1 000
Australia	542	449	91	107	500	500
China	34	43	49	29	50	50
Ethiopia	75	75	75	75	75	75
India	24	123	53	31	50	50
Kenya	73	136	53	31	80	80
Nigeria	100	100	100	50	50	50
Others	402	298	235	224	170	186
Subtotal	1 707	1 697	910	973	1 975	1 991
United States	6 031	4 839	2 437	5 480	7 600	7 600
World Total	7 738	6 536	3 347	6 453	9 575	9 591
Imports						
China	5 209	4 436	652	3 709	7 600	7 600
Ethiopia	16	6	6	61	80	80
European Union	194	486	796	90	50	50
Japan	561	577	449	426	400	400
Kenya	146	141	109	52	150	150
Somalia	60	80	85	80	50	50
South Sudan	36	148	26	81	150	150
Sudan	120	150	160	150	100	100
Taiwan	48	64	70	40	50	50
Uganda	40	35	35	25	50	50
Others	881	558	963	859	371	334
Subtotal	7 311	6 681	3 351	5 573	9 051	9 014
Unaccounted	383	- 196	- 5	879	523	576
United States	44	51	1	1	1	1
World Total	7 738	6 536	3 347	6 453	9 575	9 591