

Supply and Demand

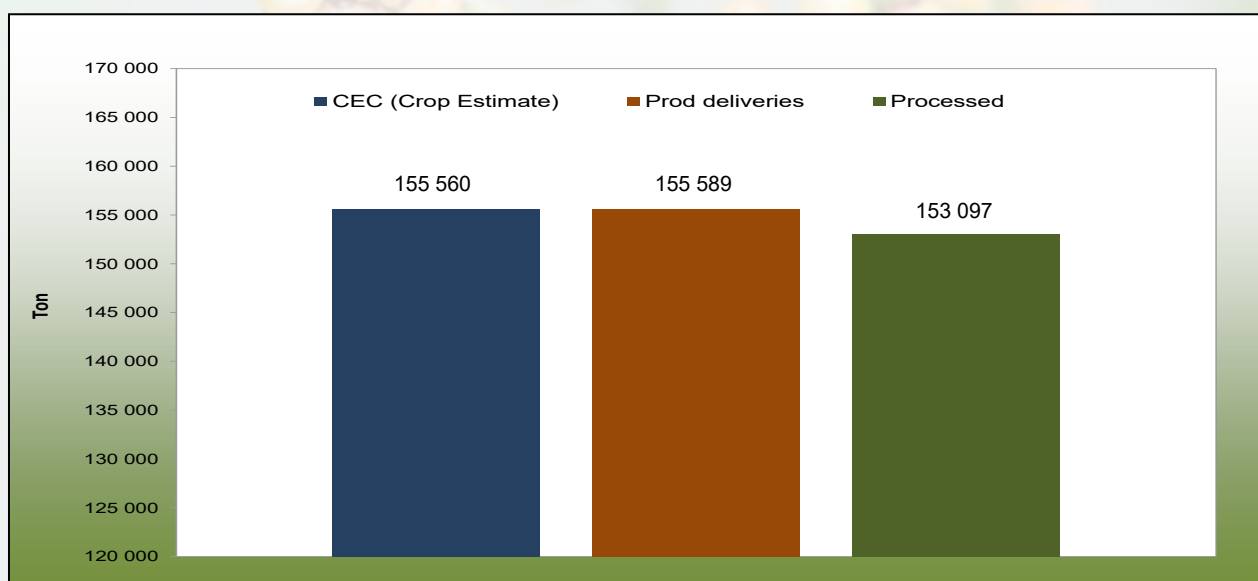
The sorghum marketing season dates from March to February. According to SAGIS supply and demand figures for the 2020/21 marketing season to date (March 2020 to January 2021), opening stock increased by almost 17% compared to the previous marketing season but is however still 14% lower than the ten-year average.

To date, only 4 922 tons of sorghum have been imported, compared to the 59 253 and 45 739 tons of the previous two seasons respectively. The ten-year import average is 44 145 tons. A subsample of all samples drawn by inspectors of the South African Agricultural Food, Quarantine and Inspection Services (SAAFQIS) of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is forwarded to the SAGL for analysis. Please see page 30 for the quality of the last sorghum consignment imported from the USA during February 2020.

Of the 153 097 tons of sorghum processed so far, 36% was used for malting purposes and 57% was processed as meal, rice and grits. This ratio has remained steady for the last seven years. The remainder of the sorghum was processed for pet food, as well as poultry and livestock feed.

Exports to date amount to 5 253 tons, compared to 7 643 tons last season and the ten-year average of 19 023 tons. Globally, the United States is by far the largest exporter of sorghum, followed by Argentina (*United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS), March 2021 report*).

**Graph 11: Sorghum supply and demand overview for the current marketing season
(Mar 2020 - Feb 2021)**



Information provided by SAGIS.