



crop estimates committee oesskattingskomitee



agriculture,
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Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
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FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF COMMERCIAL MAIZE, SUNFLOWER SEED, SOYBEANS, GROUNDNUTS AND SORGHUM FOR 2015

At a meeting held on 11 February 2016, the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) oversaw the process for the finalisation of the crop production figures of commercial white and yellow maize, sunflower seed, soybeans, groundnuts and sorghum for 2015.

The estimated total production figures as released by the national Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) were revised, using the published figures of the South Africa Grain Information Services (SAGIS) of actual deliveries as the basis for the calculations. The figures from the maize utilisation survey to determine on-farm usage and retentions, which was conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the telephonic survey conducted by the National Crop Statistics Consortium (NCSC), were added to the SAGIS delivery figures to calculate the final crop production figures.

Comparing the final calculated crop figures with the numbers set by the CEC during September 2015, the size of the commercial maize crop is now 9,955 mill. tons, which is 13 350 tons or 0,13% more than the final crop estimate figure of 9,942 mill. tons. For white maize, the recalculated crop size is 4,735 mill. tons, which is 0,69% or 32 300 tons higher than the final crop estimate figure, and for yellow maize the recalculated crop size is 5,220 mill. tons, which is 0,36% or 18 950 tons less than the final crop estimate figure.

The 2015 maize crop, which is 9,955 mill. tons, is the lowest maize crop in South Africa since 2007, when it was 7,125 mill. tons. Furthermore, the soybean crop, which is 1,060 mill. tons, was the highest crop ever produced in South Africa.

In the case of commercial sunflower seed, the final calculated crop figure was slightly adjusted upward by 0,32% or 2 100 tons, from 660 900 tons to 663 000 tons. Sorghum and groundnuts were also adjusted upward by 3,43% (or 4 000 tons) and 9,92% (or 5 625 tons), respectively. The soybeans crop was also adjusted upward, from 1,060 mill. tons to 1,070 mill. tons, which is 0,96% or 10 150 tons.

CELC accepted the final recalculated crop production figures for 2015 (please refer to the figures in the accompanying tables).

The CEC would like to thank all producers and industry role-players who provided information on a regular basis to improve the accuracy of the crop estimates. Producers, who do not participate in the Department's monthly survey, are requested as a matter of urgency to make an effort to contribute to the crop estimates process.

"The Crop Estimates Liaison Committee, as oversight body over the Crop Estimates Committee, congratulates and thanks the CEC for the sterling work they did over this past season. The 2015 season was exceptionally difficult since a serious drought and heat wave made crop estimates extremely difficult, but the CEC nevertheless were well within the 5% deviation target with their maize estimates right from the first estimate in February 2015. That is exceptional and needs to be recognized", Dr John Purchase, Chairman of the CELC said today.

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SUMMARY: FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF COMMERCIAL SUMMER CROPS FOR 2015:

CROP	FINAL AREA PLANTED 2015 HA (A)	FINAL CROP 2015 TONS (B)	CEC AREA PLANTED SEP 2015 HA (C)	CEC FINAL ESTIMATE ¹⁾ SEP 2015 TONS (D)	FINAL CROP vs FINAL ESTIMATE % (B) ÷ (D)
White Maize	1 448 050	4 735 000	1 448 050	4 702 700	+0,69
Yellow Maize	1 204 800	5 220 000	1 204 800	5 238 950	-0,36
Total Maize	2 652 850	9 955 000	2 652 850	9 941 650	+0,13
Sunflower seed	576 000	663 000	576 000	660 900	+0,32
Soybeans	687 300	1 070 000	687 300	1 059 850	+0,96
Groundnuts	58 000	62 300	58 000	56 675	+9,92
Sorghum	70 500	120 500	70 500	116 500	+3,43

1) As estimated by the CEC on 29 September 2015

COMMERCIAL MAIZE and SORGHUM:

CROP	Total Tons	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ²⁾ (Mar-Dec 2015) Tons	Projected deliveries ³⁾ (Jan 2016 - Feb 2016) Tons	On-farm for own use Tons
White Maize	4 735 000	4 498 148	142 652	94 200
Yellow Maize	5 220 000	4 767 543	106 937	345 520
Total Maize	9 955 000	9 265 691	249 589	439 720
Sorghum	120 500	116 419	1 581	2 500

COMMERCIAL SUNFLOWER SEED, SOYBEANS and GROUNDNUTS:

CROP	Total Tons	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ²⁾ (Mar-Dec 2015) Tons	Projected deliveries ³⁾ (Jan 2016 - Feb 2016) Tons	On-farm for own use/ direct sales, etc. Tons
Sunflower seed	663 000	660 843	2 157	0
Soybeans	1 070 000	1 029 896	8 104	32 000
Groundnuts	62 300	61 260	40	1 000

2) SAGIS producer deliveries relates to the current crop

3) Projected deliveries for maize are based on the weekly producer deliveries (2 January to 5 February 2016), as recorded by SAGIS and for sorghum, sunflower seed, soybeans and groundnuts on the historic trend of producer deliveries, as recorded by SAGIS