



Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

14/06/2013 WEEK 24 - 2013

KLIK HIER VIR DIE AFRIKAANSE WEERGAWE

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South African maize exports could increase

Wessel Lemmer (senior economist Industry Services, Grain SA), Wandile Sihlobo (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA) and Fonzani Sundani (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»Ever since the visit from the Japanese, Taiwanese and Chinese delegation in April 2013, there has been significant yellow maize exports going to Japan and Taiwan. Since the start of the 2013/2014 marketing year, Japan has already imported about 119 495 tons and Taiwan about 76 226 tons of South African yellow maize.

There is still a positive prospect that there will be more exports going to these countries.

The total amount expected to be available for export is approximately 1 712 000, with 112 000 for products and 1 600 000 for whole maize (Table 1).

Table 1: Supply and demand for South African maize ('000 ton).

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014*
Commercial supply			
Opening stocks (1 May)	2 336	994	1 464
Commercial deliveries	10 340	11 899	10 794
Imports	421	11	0
Total commercial supply	13 097	12 904	12 258
Food			
White maize	4 119	4 057	4 146
Yellow maize	393	397	368
Feed			
White maize	1 202	902	647
Yellow maize	3 160	3 458	3 700
Other consumption	654	723	576
Exports			
Products	129	128	112
Whole maize	2 446	1 812	1 600
Total commercial demand	12 103	11 477	11 149
Carry-out (30 April)	994	1 464	1 109
Pipeline requirements	1 109	1 102	1 108
Surplus above pipeline	-115	362	1

* Grain SA projection

Compared to the first six weeks of the two marketing years, the weekly export rate for both white and yellow maize for 2013/2014 already exceeds those of 2012/2013. The following figures (Figure 1 and 2) indicate the destination and amount of exports thus far.

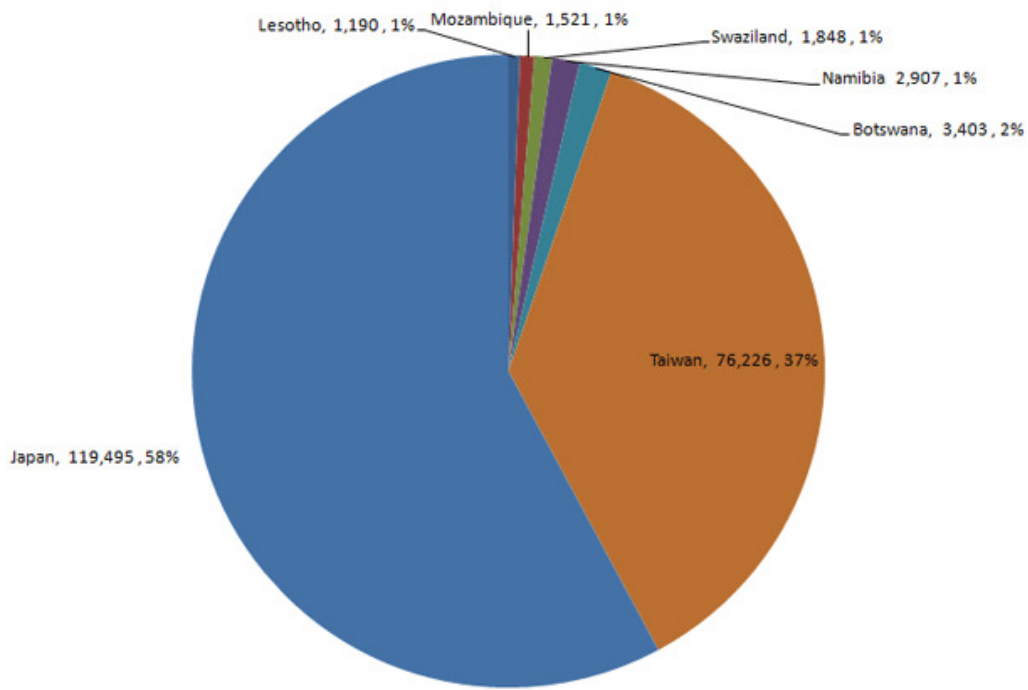
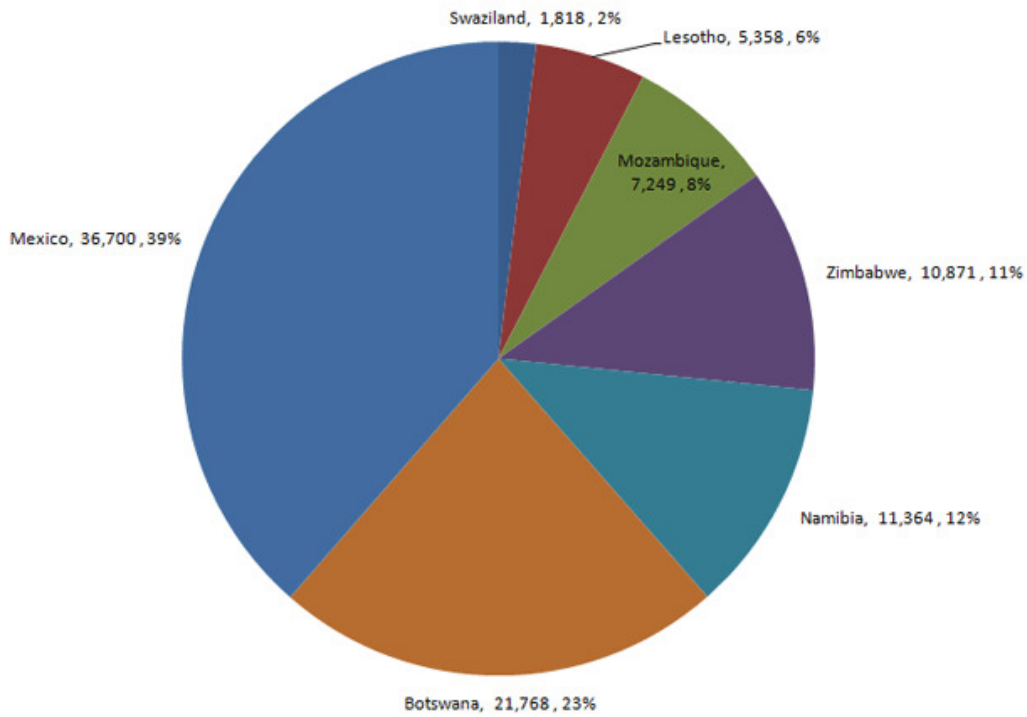


Figure: 1 Yellow maize exports.



2 White maize exports.

Figure:

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The supply and demand of sunflower seeds

Wessel Lemmer (senior economist Industry Services, Grain SA)

»According to the latest production estimates, sunflower production (555 000 tons) in South Africa is 6,2% higher than the previous season.

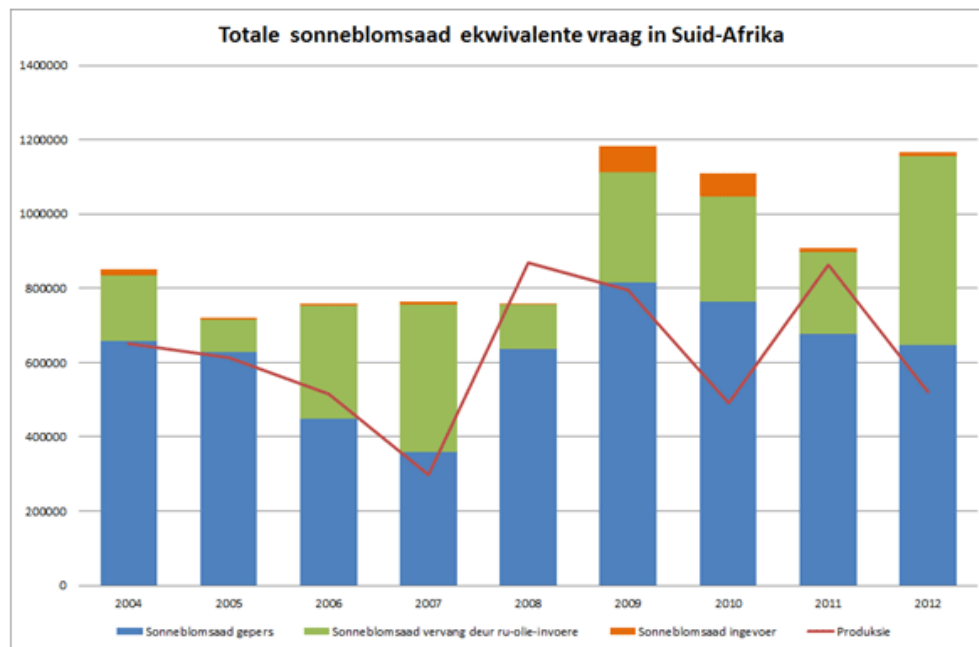
The total commercial supply (680 000 tons) is however 11% smaller because the carry-over stock from the previous marketing year was less than half (114 400 tons compared to 232 700 tons). The quantity of sunflower seeds that was pressed during 2012 for oil and oil cake, amounted to 648 300 in total. The expected press figure for 2013 should amount to 540 000 tons.

Table 1: Processed for commercial use (tons).

	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Apr 2013	Total
Human	85	19	100	112	316
Animal feed	248	228	210	276	962
Oil and cake	28 192	22 904	22 915	52 718	126 729

From **Table 1** it can be noted that 126 729 tons of sunflower seed was pressed for the first four months of the current marketing year. If this press tempo can be kept for April, which amounted to almost 53 000 tons for the next eight months of the marketing year, the projected press figure of 540 000 tons should be reached.

Figure 1 indicates that the total demand for sunflower seed could amount to more than 1 170 million tons for 2012. South Africa has, due to the shortage in sunflower seeds, imported a record of 192 302 tons of crude oil. In 2012 only 540 000 tons was pressed, while the production of sunflower seeds amounted to 521 100 tons in 2012. This shows that the local press figure was to a great extent determined by the local production figure. The equivalent amount of sunflower seed needed to satisfy South Africa's demand for sunflower crude oil, therefore amounts to nearly 1,2 million tons of sunflower seeds.



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Grain SA's Farmer innovation programme for Conservation Agriculture

Dr Hendrik Smith (Conservation Agriculture facilitator: Grain SA)

»Grain SA will take the lead in promoting more sustainable crop production and we believe that conservation agriculture, as a sustainable crop production system, is the answer to preventing the systematical degradation of soil quality.

Conservation agriculture has a variety of advantages, of which the most important is certainly it leading to cheaper and more profitable crop production. However, in order to make use of all the advantages of conservation agriculture, a producer must apply three principals simultaneously: minimum soil disturbance, permanent organic soil cover and crop diversification.

A new programme is currently being developed with which Grain SA would like to enable this vision. What we want to achieve with this programme is to create an environment that makes it easy, comfortable and attractive for a producer to switch over to conservation agriculture. Producers will however only do this "right thing" if they are completely convinced and informed. It is a system where we hand over the reigns of the process to those people (the producers and their networks) who are already innovative. Grain SA would further only like to act as catalyst and facilitator, who drives this process, and to also bring the right people together and share knowledge and experience to make a wider impact in the bigger farming community.

Grain SA's Farmer innovation programme for Conservation Agriculture will therefore strive towards supporting innovative ideas and projects that fits in with our philosophy and principles. We also look for practical financing mechanisms that will help to canalise the available funds quicker and easier.

The first goal will be to develop a good knowledge of and relationship with key role-players, especially producers, in the area of conservation agriculture. In this regard, a conservation agricultural committee was found at Grain SA, who will mainly comprise of innovative conservation agriculture producers who represents all grain producing regions (see photo). The group has identified specific responsibilities for the committee, of which the most important is the prioritising of study areas and themes that should be investigated.

At the same time a couple of strategic aims for the short and medium term have been presented which will have a huge impact on the promotion of conservation agriculture. The first is to create a good description of conservation agriculture practices in the different agro-ecological regions, which will be extremely valuable for existing and prospective conservation agriculture producers and can form the basis of future technical guidelines for conservation agriculture. Further, a general awareness of and offering access to information, innovation and research, where producers actively take part; incentive measures and mechanisms, legislation; producer networks and organisations (such as study groups) as well as relevant training for learners, students, producers and advisers.



Photo caption: The Conservation Agriculture committee: Front from left to right: Tony da Costa, Wynn Dedwith, Dr Sybrand Engelbrecht, Dr Hendrik Smith and Dr Marinda Visser. Back from left to right: Israel Mothabane, Gerrit Roos, Willem Groothof, Frik van Sittert, Hannes Otto, Derek Mathews and Cobus van Coller.

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Producers' cooperation asked for Sclerotinia survey

Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»The Crop Estimates Committee has been asked to determine the impact of the Sclerotinia fungus infection in sunflower seed and soybeans for the current season. This survey can however not be conducted without the cooperation of producers and the committee needs your help to determine the extent of the infection caused by the Sclerotinia fungus.

Grain SA would like to encourage you to complete the questionnaire at the link given below and return it to Marda Scheepers on or before **21 June 2013**. Questionnaires can be faxed to 012 319 8031/5 or emailed to MardaS@daff.gov.za.

The link to the Sclerotinia survey questionnaire is: http://www.grainsa.co.za/upload/report_files/Sclerotinia-questionnaire-June-Grain-SA.PDF.

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Working group to be held for soy producers

Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»Grain SA would like to encourage every soy producer to mark **24 July 2013** on their calendar. The Protein Research Foundation (PRF) will on this day hold a Soybean Workgroup in Rivonia, Johannesburg, where among other issues the focus will be on nitrogen fixation and nitrogen fertilisation.

Other aspects under discussion will be:

- Rhizobium bacteria and nodulation
- Inoculants (types/handling/application/dose etc.)
- Other inoculants' interaction with Rhizobium
- Seed treatment and how it impacts on N-fixation and lots more.

The PRF can be contacted at 011 234 3400, for more information.

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Facebook: A fun way to stay in touch with Grain SA

Susan Engelbrecht (Communication and Media Liaison: Grain SA)

»Many of us are avid Facebook followers and stay in touch with friends and family via this tool. Grain SA is also on Facebook where we use this as a fun way to keep in contact with our members and other stakeholders.

Please visit the page and see what's going on. The link is: www.facebook.com/grainsa.

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Be on the lookout for your SA Graan/Grain

Estie de Villiers (assistant editor: SA Graan/Grain)

»Be sure to check your mail for the June edition (with the yellow maize on the cover) of SA Graan/Grain which will be arriving in your mailbox any day now.

It is stacked full of NAMPO photos - who was there; what new technology, implements and machinery was on show this year and what happened at the Harvest Day. Who knows, maybe you or your neighbour is on one of the photos that was taken.

With harvest time in the summer rainfall region in full swing, it is interesting to look at the quality of the 2011/2012 season's maize harvest. Jolanda Nortjé of the Southern African Grain Laboratory gives feedback on this.

In this edition you can also read more on soybeans, that is often described as the "wonder golden bean" – Dr Rouxlene van der Merwe of the University of the Free State tells more on the huge variety of uses for soybeans.

All the more reason not to miss out on this edition - enjoy the read!

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Fuel prices for July 2013

Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)

»According to the most recent information from the Central Energy Fund, the petrol price can **INCREASE** on 3 July 2013 with 81 cents per litre and the diesel price with 65 cents per litre. The weakening of the rand/dollar exchange rate had the biggest effect on this expected increase.

The rand has thus far weakened on a month to month basis with 8,6% and therefore had a direct impact, which leads to higher fuel prices.

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