



# Perspektief | Perspective

Nuusbrief | Newsletter

28/03/2013 WEEK 13 - 2013

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## **Give your opinion about the magazine**

***Estie Steyn (assistant editor: SA Graan/Grain)***

»"To measure is to know" and for that reason SA Graan/Grain, Grain SA's official magazine, is currently busy with a reader survey.

The editorial committee would like to hear the voice of our readers and wants to know how our reader profile looks; what you would like to see in the magazine; about what you would like to read more and what suggestions you might have for the magazine.

The Survey Workshop will contact members to do a telephonic interview. It will only take roughly 3 minutes to complete the survey and we ask your kind cooperation on the matter.

Only when we know what you want to read, we can adhere to it.

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## **Second summer grain production estimate released**

***Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)***

»The impact of high temperatures and the lack of follow-up rains can be seen in the decline of the National Crop Estimates Committee's expected summer crop production figures.

It is particularly the Free State and North West Province, who collectively produces more than half of the country's maize, that are being hit the hardest by the prevailing drought conditions. These drought conditions are worst than last year with no sufficient rainfall having occurred in these provinces and grain crops that were planted in poor subsoil moisture contents.

The size of the expected maize crop is calculated at 11 752 million tons, which is 602 750 tons lower than the previous calculation of 12 354 million tons. Despite this decline, the calculation is still higher than expected by the market, but a decline of 602 750 tons in a matter of one month, emphasises the significant impact of the drought. The biggest decline occurred in white maize; which saw a decline of 442 900 tons from the first to the second production calculation. Due to the dry weather conditions in the Free State and North West Province and its detrimental effect on yields, it is indeed possible that yields can be even less. The maize crops in most parts of the Free State and North West Province has occurred permanent damage and the positive impact of rain is omissible.

Not only maize has been affected by the drought, but declines in all other summer crops are also noticeable. The production calculation for sunflower seed is 554 500 tons, which is 69 710 tons less than the previous calculation, while the production calculation for soybeans are 851 000 tons - 63 350 tons lower than the previous calculation. The production calculation for groundnuts and sorghum has also been lowered due to the drought and currently stands at respectively 57 900 tons and 168 114 tons.

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## **ARC-SGI 2013 Production Guide now available**

***Elri Burger (public relations officer: ARC-Small Grains Institute, Bethlehem)***

» The ARC-Small Grains Institute (ARC-SGI) annually publishes a compact guide containing the latest information and results regarding cultivar achievements; weed, disease, and insect control as well as general management practices with regards to successful small grain cultivation.

A committee comprising experts from the ARC-SGI, the Universities of the Free State and Stellenbosch, SANSOR, SAB Maltings (Pty) Ltd, the various departments of Agriculture, seed companies and other important role-players, met in February to evaluate the research results and to make recommendations based on scientific results.

The guides are currently in the process of being distributed to approximately 8 000 producers countrywide. It will also be available in CD format - if you would prefer to view the guide electronically, please contact us. If the ARC-SGI does not have your name and postal address, you can contact Elri Burger at (058) 307 3507, or Eveline Mofokeng at (058) 307 3400.

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## Fuel prices for April 2013

*Petru Fourie (economist: Industry Services, Grain SA)*

» According to the Central Energy Fund's press release, petrol prices will **INCREASE** by 12 cents per litre and diesel prices by 9 cents per litre on 3 April 2013.

Calculations by the Central Energy Fund indicates an over recovery in fuel prices. That means that if no levy occurred during the month of April, decreases could have been expected. The levies effective from April 2013 is the fuel tax and the Road Accident Fund levy. The tax on diesel will increase with 15 cents per litre and the Road Accident Fund levy with 8 cents per litre. Apart from the aforementioned levies, the "Slate levy" is also set to increase by 10.96 cents per litre.

### Net effect

Because the increases of the fuel tax and the Road Accident Fund levy also influences producer's rebate, the diesel rebate that producers qualify for increases with 14 cents per litre, while the current increase in diesel prices is 9 cents per litre.

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