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WEEK 42 – 2011

In hierdie uitgawe...

- [Stygende brandstofpryse - bekommernis vir produsente](#)
- [Vordering met die plant van graan in Mpumalanga en KwaZulu Natal](#)
- [Let op na die koop van grondverbeteraars, blaarvoedings, organiese middels, ens](#)
- [Weeklikse witmielie-uitvoere skiet die hoogte in](#)
- [Graan SA vang groot Vis\(ser\)](#)

Stygende brandstofpryse - bekommernis vir produsente

Petru Fourie (landbou-ekonoom: Insette en Produksie, Graan SA)

► Die dieselprys het op 2 November met 36 sent per liter gestyg, terwyl petrol 23 sent per liter duurder is. Die verswakking van die rand/dollar-wisselkoers het die grootste aandeel in dié styging gehad.

Die groothandelsprys van diesel het op 'n jaar-tot-jaar basis (November 2010 – November 2011) met 36,1% vanaf R7,35 tot R10,01 gestyg wat R2,66 per liter meer is. Dié styging het 'n impak op produsente se brandstof- en produksiekoste as geheel en hou ook nadelige gevolge vir die vervoer van produkte in en nie net vir plant of die oes daarvan nie.

Verwagtinge vir die komende maand is dat brandstofpryse nie binnekort kan daal nie omdat die Noordelike Halfbrond sy winter betree en die vraag na brandstof derhalwe toeneem.

Vordering met die plant van graan in Mpumalanga en KwaZulu Natal

Pietman Botha (senior landbounavorsingskundige, Graan SA)

► Die afgelope naweek is daar regoor Mpumalanga en Kwazulu Natal goeie neerslae gemeet. Dié reën het dit vir

produsente moontlik gemaak om met die plantproses voort te gaan. Dit is tans die optimale planttyd vir hierdie gebiede. Die lande is lekker nat en daar kan met die hulp van goeie opvolgreë na 'n goeie opbrengs uitgesien word.

Dit vorige reënval was kol-kol verspreid en as gevolg daarvan kom groot variasies ten opsigte van die persentasie wat klaar geplant is in distrikte, voor. Produsente in KwaZulu Natal het reeds tussen 45% en 60% van hul lande klaar geplant. In Mpumalanga is produsente ook volstoom aan die plant en skat dat daar reeds tussen 45% en 50% van die oppervlakte reeds aangeplant is. Daar is egter produsente wat dié week eers kon begin plant, terwyl ander al byna klaar is.

Die gewasse wat reeds op is, vertoon oor die algemeen mooi en geen ernstige probleme word gemeld nie.

Let op na die koop van grondverbeteraars, blaarvoedings, organiese organiese middels, ens

Corné Louw (senior ekonoom: Insette, Graan SA)

► In die veld word hierdie middels somer “slanggif” genoem. Die werking van baie van hierdie middels word nie bevestig nie, maar produsente moet daarop let dat baie van die middels nie behoorlik getoets of onder Wet 36 van 1947 geregistreer is nie. Wanneer oorweeg word om so 'n middel te gebruik moet op die volgende gelet word:

- Maak seker dit is geregistreer onder Wet 36 van 1947.
- Dring aan op langtermyn en verkieslik onafhanklike proefresultate.
- Moet nooit so 'n middel dadelik op groot skaal gebruik nie; maar maak gebruik van kleinskaalse strookproewe.
- Bepaal of dit koste-effektief is om die middel te gebruik.

Die volgende is algemene wenke t.o.v. insette:

Die gebruik van ongetoetste insette en die koop van insette by onbekende verspreiders stel produsente jaarliks aan risiko bloot. Let op die volgende wenke wanneer insette aangekoop en gebruik word:

- Maak seker dat die insetverskaffer 'n erkende maatskappy is met 'n bewese rekord.
- Sorg dat sover moontlik alle aanbevelings op skrif gestel word en veilig bewaar word.
- Probeer sover moontlik rekord hou.
- Gaan die kwaliteit van die inset na, byvoorbeeld by saad kan die ontkieming van die spesifieke saadlot aangevra word.
- Saadbehandeling moet deur die saadmaatskappy self of met gesertifiseerde saadbehandeling-toerusting gedoen word.
- Wanneer landbou chemiese middels aangekoop word:
 - o maak seker dat die maatskappy wie se middel dit is, lid van AVCASA is; en
 - o maak seker dat die verspreidingsmaatskappy lid van ACDASA is en dat die agent gekwalifiseerd is.
- Raadpleeg die 2011 MIG-publikasie van die LNR-Instituut vir Graangewasse.

Maak oor die algemeen van klein kontrole persele gebruik om nuwe insetmiddele te toets alvorens dit op groot skaal gebruik word.

Weeklikse witmielie-uitvoere skiet die hoogte in

Barrett Schoeman (landbou-ekonoom: Markomgewing, Graan SA)

► Suid-Afrika het 101 446 ton witmielies vir die week geëindig op 28 Oktober 2011, uitgevoer teenoor 13 098 ton die vorige week. Die weeklikse uitvoersyfer het die hoogte in geskiet nadat 93 150 ton witmielies na Mexiko uitgevoer is. Mexiko het sedert 1 Mei 2011 701 279 ton witmielies vanaf Suid-Afrika ingevoer.

Die uitvoere van geelmielies was laer as markverwagtinge en slegs 2 136 ton is uitgevoer. Dit vergelyk met 2 791 ton wat die vorige week uitgevoer was.

Tot dusver is 1.046 miljoen ton witmielies en 650 083 ton geelmielies vir die 2011/2012 bemarkingsjaar uitgevoer (1 Mei – 30 April) (**Tabel 1**). Die meerderheid was diepsee-uitvoere na lande soos Mexiko, Italië, Korea, Taiwan en Japan. Slegs 16% van die uitvoere wat tot dusver gerealiseer het, was bestem vir Afrikalande.

Tabel 1: Wit- en geelmielie uitvoere vir die 2011/12 bemarkingsjaar (ton)

	Afrika uitvoere	Diepsee uitvoere	Totaal
Witmielies	207 689	839 067	1 046 756
Geelmielies	65 613	584 470	650 083
Totaal	273 302	1 423 537	1 696 839

Van die 273 302 ton wit- en geelmielies wat na Afrika uitgevoer is, was 26% bestem vir Afrika-lande anders as die BLNS-lande. Die BLNS-lande het tot dusver slegs 203 524 ton mielies ingevoer. Botswana en Lesotho het onderskeidelik 86 019 ton en 77 120 ton ingevoer.

Gebaseer op amptelike bronne projekteer Graan SA dat nagenoeg 1,24 miljoen ton witmielies en 760 000 ton geelmielies vir die seisoen uitgevoer gaan word. Die huidige hoë uitvoertempo van 65 263 ton per week sal egter nie vir die volgende 26 weke volgehou kan word nie. Die volhou van die uitvoertempo kan daartoe lei dat Suid-Afrika in 'n mielietekort kan inhardloop en meer mielies as wat verwag word ingevoer sal moet word. Suid-Afrika het in die laaste 7 weke reeds 13 258 ton witmielies vanaf Zambië af ingevoer.

Graan SA vang groot Vis(ser)

Jannie de Villiers (Uitvoerende Hoofbetuurder, Graan SA)

► Dit is vir Graan SA aangenaam om aan te kondig dat dr Marinda Visser op 1 Januarie 2012 by die personeel van Graan SA sal aansluit as Bestuurder Bedryfsdienste.

Dr Visser is tans werksaam as Hoofdirekteur by die Nasionale Departement van Landbou, Bosbou en Visserie. Sy volg mnr Nico Hawkins op, wat aan die einde van 2011 die diens van Graan SA verlaat.

Hierdie boorling van Prieska in die Noord-Kaap het in 2003 haar PhD as plantpatoloog by die Universiteit van Pretoria verwerf en was 8 jaar by die Landbou Navorsingsraad (LNR) werksaam.

“Ek het 'n lang verbintenis met Marinda en het haar oor jare met belangstelling dopgehou tydens internasionale onderhandelinge,” het mnr Jannie de Villiers, Uitvoerende Hoofbestuurder, gesê. “Haar aanstelling is 'n integrale deel van die nuwe strategie wat Graan SA volg om nader aan die regering te beweeg rakende oplossings vir belangrike kwessies soos voedselsekerheid, werkverskaffing en volhoubare transformasie.”

Marinda is bekend in die Departement vir haar ywer om marktoegang vir Suid-Afrika te beding en was veral in die laaste tyd baie nou gemoeid daarmee om Suid-Afrikaanse mielies in die Chinese mark te kry – 'n doelwit wat sy gemaklik binne Graan SA sal kan voortsit tot voordeel van al ons produsente.

Dr Visser het ook as senior staatsamptenaar goeie bande en verhoudings met kollegas in ander staatsdepartemente en ook in ander lande opgebou, wat 'n groot aanwins is vir die bestuursplan binne die personeelkorps.

Marinda is getroud en het 'n sesjarige dogter.





04/11/2011
WEEK 44 – 2011

In this issue...

- [Rising fuel prices - concern for producers](#)
- [Progress with grain planting in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal](#)
- [Be aware when buying soil improvers, foliar feeding, organic agents etc.](#)
- [Weekly white maize exports soar](#)
- [Grain SA hooks Big One](#)

Rising fuel prices - concern for producers

Petru Fourie (agricultural economist: Inputs and Production, Grain SA)

On 2 November the diesel price rose by 36 cents per litre, while petrol increased by 23 cents per litre. The rand/dollar exchange rate and the international oil price played a role in this increase, but the winter conditions in the Northern Hemisphere and the resultant higher demand for diesel is regarded as the biggest contributing factor.

The wholesale price of diesel on a year-to-year basis (November 2010 - November 2011) rose by 36,1% from R7,35 to R10,01, which is R2,66 per litre more. This increase has an impact on producers' fuel and production costs as a whole and also does not bode well for the transport of products as well as for planting or harvesting.

Expectations for the coming month is that fuel prices will not decline in the short term, especially because the Northern Hemisphere is entering winter and the demand for fuel will therefore rise.

Progress with grain planting in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal

Pietman Botha (senior agricultural research expert, Grain SA)

Good rainfall was recorded over these areas during the past weekend. The rain enabled producers to continue planting. It is now the optimal planting time in these areas. The fields are wet and when good follow-up rains occur, producers can look forward to good yields.

The previous rainfall occurred in patches and as a result large variations exist with regard to the percentage already planted in districts. Producers in KwaZulu-Natal have already planted between 45% and 60% of their fields. In Mpumalanga, producers are well underway to plant and it is estimated that between 45% and 50% of the areas have been planted already. Some producers could only start planting this week, while others are almost finished planting.

The emerging crops are generally in a good condition and no serious problems have been reported.

Be aware when buying soil improvers, foliar feeding, organic agents etc.

Corné Louw (senior economist: Inputs, Grain SA)

In the field, these remedies are bluntly called “snake venom”. The action of many of these remedies is not queried, but producers should note that many of these remedies have not been tested or registered under Act 36 of 1947. When producers consider using such a remedy, they should note the following:

- Make sure it is registered under Act 36 of 1947.
- Insist on long term and preferably independent trial results.
- Never use such a remedy on a large scale immediately, make use of small scale strip trials first.
- Determine whether it is cost-effective to use the remedy.

The following are general tips with regard to inputs:

The use of untested inputs and buying inputs from unknown distributors, expose producers to risks. Note the following tips when inputs are bought and used:

- Make sure that the input supplier is a legitimate company with a proven record.
- See to it that all recommendations are received in writing and stored safely.
- Try to keep record where possible.
- Check the quality of the input, for example in the case of seed, the germination of the specific seed lot may be requested.
- Seed treatment has to be carried out by the seed company itself or carried out with certified seed treatment equipment.
- When agricultural chemicals are bought:
 - o make sure that the company who manufacture the chemicals is a member of AVCASA; and
 - o make sure that the distribution company is a member of ACDASA and that the agent is qualified.
- Consult the 2011 MIG publication of the ARC Institute for Grain Crops.

In general, use small control areas to test new input resources before using them on a large scale.

Weekly white maize exports soar

Barrett Schoeman (agricultural economist: Market Environment, Grain SA)

For the week ended 28 October 2011, South Africa exported 101 446 tons of white maize compared to 13 098 tons the previous week. The weekly export figure soared after 93 150 tons of white maize were exported to Mexico. From 1 May 2011, Mexico has imported 701 279 tons of white maize from South Africa.

On the other hand, the exports of yellow maize was lower than market expectations and only 2 136 tons were exported. This compared to 2 791 tons that was exported the previous week.

Until now, 1 046 million tons of white maize and 650 083 tons of yellow maize were exported for the 2011/2012 marketing year (1 May - 30 April) (**Table 1**). The majority of the white and yellow maize that was exported was deep sea exports to countries such as Mexico, Italy, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. Only 16% of the exports realised thus far was maize intended for African countries.

Table 1: White and yellow maize exports for the 2011/2012 marketing year (tons).

	Africa exports	Deep sea exports	Total
White maize	207 689	839 067	1 046 756
Yellow maize	65 613	584 470	650 083
Total	273 302	1 423 537	1 696 839

Of the 273 302 tons of white and yellow maize exported to Africa, 26% was intended for other African countries than the BLNS countries. The BLNS countries have thus far only imported 203 524 tons of maize. Botswana and Lesotho respectively imported 86 019 tons and 77 120 tons.

Based on official sources, Grain SA projects that approximately 1,24 million tons of white maize and 760 000 tons of yellow maize will be exported this season. The current high export tempo of 65 263 tons per week, won't however be maintained for the next 26 weeks. If the export tempo is maintained it could result in a maize shortage for South Africa and more maize than expected will have to be imported. During the past 7 weeks, South Africa have already imported 13 258 tons of white maize from Zambia.

Grain SA hooks Big One

Jannie de Villiers (CEO, Grain SA)

Grain SA has great pleasure in announcing that Dr Marinda Visser will join the personnel of Grain SA as Executive: Economic Services as from 1 January 2012.

Dr Visser is currently employed as Chief Director at the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and will succeed Mr Nico Hawkins, who will be leaving the services of Grain SA at the end of 2011.

This native of Prieska in the Northern Cape obtained her PhD as plant pathologist at the University of Pretoria in 2003 and was employed by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) for 8 years.

"I have a long association with Marinda and have followed her international negotiations with great interest over the years," said Mr Jannie de Villiers, CEO of Grain SA. "Her appointment is an integral part of the new strategy which Grain SA has adopted in terms of working closer with government to resolve important issues such as food security, job creation and sustainable transformation."

Marinda is known in the Department for her enthusiasm in negotiating market access for South Africa and has been closely involved in opening up the market for South African maize into China – a goal which she can comfortably pursue within Grain SA to the benefit of all our producers.

As senior government official, Dr Visser has good relationships with colleagues in other government departments and other countries which promise to be a great asset to the management team of Grain SA.

Marinda is married and has a six year old daughter.



