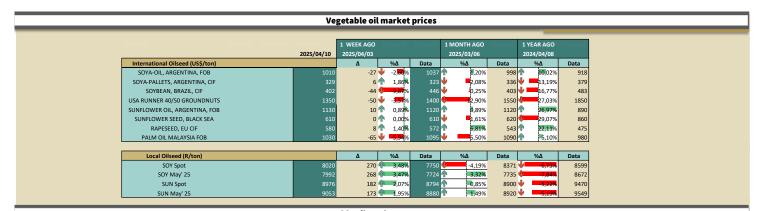
Contact Heleen@grainsa.co.za for more information.



Vegetable oil market commentary

Soybeans: Between 18 and 25 April 2025, the global soybean market was under pressure from record production and growing stockpiles, driving prices lower—U.S. soybeans dropped below \$10 per bushel. Brazil, the U.S., and Argentina all contributed to the surplus, with Brazil gaining from redirected Chinese demand amid ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions. In South Africa, the local market is likely to face pressure from cheaper imports and stiffer global competition, potentially affecting local prices and producer margins.

Sunflower: The USDA expects a 10% drop in global sunflower seed production for 2024/25, mainly due to lower outputs in Ukraine, Russia, the EU, Turkey, and the U.S. This supply squeeze, coupled with increased demand for vegetable oils in the biodiesel industry, has pushed sunflower oil prices up to \$1,341.80 per ton. Locally, South Africa is forecast to produce around 750,000 tonnes—3.8% more than last season. Deliveries are running 57% ahead of last year and 33% above the 3-year average, thanks to faster harvests. However, recent rainfall could slow this momentum, especially since more sunflowers were planted due to early-season dryness that limited maize planting.

Canola: The global canola market faced disruptions as the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff on Canadian canola oil, causing prices to dip and trade flows to stall—especially significant since Canada supplies 96% of U.S. imports. Meanwhile, uncertainty in North America's biofuel sector has hit demand, shelving major Canadian projects and dropping U.S. biodiesel output to a five-year low. These factors have increased cost pressures and volatility. While specific South African data is limited, local players could still be impacted by global price swings and trade imbalances.

