Soybeans: The processing and export of soybeans from the USA, the 4 largest South American countries and Ukraine increased significantly in the last few months of 2019 compared to the same time of year during 2018. The largest increase in processing and exports of soybeans during this period was in Argentina, with the Argentine processing reaching the second highest monthly processing in history during December. In Argentina, there are areas that are still very dry and this impedes the planting of the follow-up soybean crop in these areas. The Argentine area planted this season is expected to be approximately 300 000 hectares less than initially anticipated. It also creates the expectation that Argentine production for the season may be smaller than the previous forecast of 53 million tonnes. In Brazil, the soybean harvesting process has begun, but it is significantly slower than normal. It is estimated that about 0.4% of the soybean area was already harvested by the end of last week. This is significantly less than the average rate of 2.1% harvested at the same time of the season. The plantings in Brazil were also mainly normal than normal this season due to dry conditions that prevailed over large parts of the country.

Local: The local soybean market came under pressure last week and traded lower for the week. The local market has found good support lately and the market has turned close to import parity prices. The local stock levels are significantly lower than a year ago with the season’s processing being very positive.

Sunflowerseed: The world sunflower seed exports have increased sharply this season and this is mainly due to the large quantities of sunflower oil available. The countries in the Black Sea region had record sunflower seed crops this season and the processing of sunflowers in these countries has increased sharply. There is also a very strong import demand for sunflower oil this season which has supported world exports. Despite the good exports that have already taken place from Argentina this season, it is expected that total sunflower oil exports should be lower this season. It is expected that the 2020 sunflower seed production in Argentina should be lower, which should limit the available stock a bit more. Local: The local sunflower seed market traded mixed last week, but closed mostly higher for the week in most of the contract months currently listed.

Canola: France’s canola imports of 148 000 tonnes during November 2019 were high, bringing the cumulative imports for the season to 40% more than last season’s imports. UAE canola imports for the season are expected to increase sharply between July 2019 and June 2020. World canola oil stocks are still low and Canada still has large quantities of available stocks for export. Local: The local canola production for the season is estimated at 96 200 tons.

Groundnuts: China’s import demand for groundnuts and groundnut products has increased sharply and the large imports currently taking place put pressure on supplies in the world context of groundnuts. According to the news, China has already purchased large quantities of new season groundnuts from Senegal for imports. The Chinese buyers offer better prices than the local processors. Processors in Senegal are worried that most of their peanut crops will be exported to China, which will put their local processors under pressure in terms of supplies. Local: In the local market, there is still a lot of uncertainty regarding the new season’s production. The preliminary area planted for the season will be announced on January 29.