



# CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## **DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

### **I ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL CROPS**

**Annual crops** are those that are planted and harvested during the same production season.

**Perennial crops** need not to be replanted after each harvest.

### **II ANNUAL CROPS: DEFINITION, CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **1. GRAINS**

Grains refer to the harvested produce of cereals, pulses and oil-bearing crops, excluding crops harvested or used green for forage, silage and grazing and in the case of maize, harvested green, also for food.

#### **2. CEREALS (e.g. white maize, yellow maize, sorghum, wheat, barley and oats)**

##### 2.1 General

Cereals are annual plants, generally of the gramineous family, yielding grains used for food, feed, seed and industrial purposes. It is recommended that the definition of "cereals" be limited to crops harvested for **dry grain** only, therefore **excluding crops harvested or used green for forage, silage, grazing, etc; and, in the case of maize, harvested green, also for food.**

##### 2.2 Definition

Cereals are defined as annual plants of the gramineous family yielding dry grains used for food, feed, seed and industrial purposes.

#### **3. PULSES (e.g. dry beans)**

##### 3.1 General

Pulses are annual leguminous plants yielding seeds used for food, feed and seed purposes. In addition to their value as food and feed, pulses are also important in

cropping systems for their ability to produce nitrogen and therefore increase the fertility of the soil.

The definition "pulses" should be limited to crops harvested for **dry seeds** only.

### 3.2 Definition

Pulses are defined as annual plants of the leguminous family yielding dry seeds used for food, feed, seed and industrial purposes.

## 4. **OILSEEDS (e.g. sunflower seed, soya-beans, groundnuts and canola)**

### 4.1 General

Oil-crops are annual plants whose seeds or fruit are used mainly for extraction of culinary and industrial oils.

The definition of "oilseeds" should be limited to crops harvested for the **dry seed** only, **excluding** *crops harvested green and used for food or feed, or used for grazing and green manure*. Production of oilseeds should always relate to the quantities actually harvested, irrespective of their use after harvest.

### 4.2 Definition

Oilseeds are defined as dry seeds harvested from annual oil-bearing crops used for food, feed, seed or industrial purposes.

## **III ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS:**

### 1. **FARMING UNIT (FARM/FARMING OPERATION)**

#### 1.1 General

A farming unit consists of one or more farms, holdings or pieces of land whether adjacent or not, operated as a single unit and situated within the same magisterial district/province. A farming unit is a unit on which cultivation is carried out for both commercial and non-commercial purposes, in the open air or under cover (*Agricultural survey, 1996*).

#### 1.2 Definition

A farming unit consists of one or more farms, holdings or areas of land (whether adjacent or not), farmed on as a single unit and situated within the same province. It includes land rented from others, the farmstead and other buildings, cropland, pasture, veld, wasteland and dams, and excludes land leased to others.

### 2. **COMMERCIAL FARMER**

#### 2.1 General

The commercial farmer earns an ongoing and primary revenue from his farming business, which forms the major source of income for the family. He has access to

the technical, financial and managerial instruments to utilise the global market potential.

## 2.2 Definition

A commercial farmer is a person who produces agricultural products intended for the market.

## 3. **SUBSISTENCE FARMER**

### 3.1 General

The subsistence farmer earns very little from his farming activities. The crops/livestock generated from the farming activities are merely for home consumption. Surpluses brought to the market are a small percentage and usually generate very low incomes. Subsistence farmers are alienated from the market owing to technical, financial and managerial barriers. The family needs to look for other non-farming ways to generate income. One day the subsistence farmer will earn more from the non-farming activities and leave the farming business.

A farming operation where output is produced primarily for consumption of the farmer and family members, and not for cash sale.

A form of agriculture where almost all the produce goes to feed and support the household and is not for sale. Some of the output may be bartered. If there is no market trade in any surplus, the economy is classed as tribal; if some of the surplus is sold for necessities (such as salt) the economy is classed as 'peasant'. Very few of the former subsistence-type economies remain.

### 3.2 Definition

A subsistence farmer is a person who produces crops **primarily** for own consumption.

## 4. **CROP AREA**

### 4.1 **AREA PLANTED TO GRAIN**

#### 4.1.1 General

Area planted for grain is defined as the part of the total seeded area that is planted with the **intention** of harvesting it for grain. Therefore areas planted with the **intention** of using it for silage, grazing, fodder etc. are **excluded**.

#### 4.1.2 Definition

Area planted for grain is defined as the total number of hectares that are **actually planted** to a specific crop in a specific production season with the intention of harvesting it for grain.

### 4.2 **AREA HARVESTED FOR GRAIN**

#### 4.2.1 General

Area harvested is defined as the area that will be harvested for grain. We should therefore concentrate on the actual harvested crop area, rather than the area planted.

Includes all fields harvested for dry grain (whole grain, seed, beans or unshelled nuts) for commercial purposes, or to be retained on farm for seed, animal feed or human consumption. It therefore excludes areas planted but not harvested owing to hail damage or grazed, etc. and areas harvested but not used for grain, but for silage etc.

Includes areas harvested for dry grain (whole grain, seed, beans or unshelled nuts) for commercial purposes, or to be retained on farm for seed, animal feed or human consumption.

#### 4.2.2 Definition

Area harvested for grain is defined as the total number of hectares of a specific crop in a specific production season that are **actually harvested** for grain.

### 5. **GRAIN PRODUCTION**

#### 5.1 General

Refers to grain actually removed from the field.

Some countries obtain estimates of crop production by multiplying the average yield per unit area by the corresponding crop area planted or harvested.

Other countries estimate production on the basis of information collected from various sources, including declarations of producers, deliveries to marketing boards and administrative records. In the first instance, production figures are derived from yield and area, while in the second instance, yields are derived from production and area figures. It excludes harvesting losses and production not harvested for various reasons, e.g. hail damage, crop failure, etc.

#### 5.2 Definition

##### 5.2.1 **Total grain production**

Total grain production refers to grain harvested. This includes marketed production and retention on farms.

##### 5.2.2 **Marketed production/deliveries**

Marketed grain production is harvested grain delivered to the market.

##### 5.2.3 **Retention on farms**

Retention on farms is harvested grain retained by commercial farmers for own purposes, gristing excluded.

*Note: Crops delivered for **gristing**, are not regarded as crops retained on the farm, because the first point of delivery is a co-operative/miller or trader.*

## 6. **YIELD**

### 6.1 Definition

Yield is the harvested grain mass per unit area.

### 6.2 **Yield per planted area vs yield per harvested area**

Yield per **planted area** is obtained from the area planted for grain in order to arrive at production of grain for the specific crop.

Yield per **harvested area** is obtained from the area that is actually harvested for grain.

### 6.3 **Subjective yield survey vs objective yield survey**

**Subjective yield surveys** are based on information obtained from farmers/decision makers about their fields based on expert opinions or experience.

**Objective yield surveys** are based on actual counts and measurements made in a field.

## 7. **IRRIGATION**

### 7.1 Definition

Irrigation is any fully or supplementary artificial watering of land for crop production.

## 8. **CROP FORECAST**

### 8.1 Definition

A crop forecast is a quantitative approximation of the crop size prepared and released before harvest.

## 9. **CROP ESTIMATE**

### 9.1 Definition

A crop estimate is a quantitative determination of crop size after harvest.

## 10. **GMO – (Genetically Modified Organism)**

### 10.1 Definition

Genetically modified organism means an organism of which the genes or genetic material have been modified in a way that does not occur naturally through mating or natural recombination or both, and 'genetic modification' shall have a corresponding meaning (GMO Act No. 15 of 1997).

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