



CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

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PRETORIA

0001

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CALCULATED FINAL CROP OF SUMMER CROPS: 2002/03 SEASON

CROP	CALCULATED FINAL AREA PLANTED 2002/03 HA	CALCULATED FINAL CROP 2002/03 TONS	CEC AREA PLANTED 2002/03 HA	CEC FINAL ESTIMATE 2002/03 TONS
<u>Commercial</u> ¹⁾ : White Maize	2 195 850	6 261 000		
Yellow Maize	867 850	2 759 000		
Total Maize	3 063 700	9 020 000		
<u>Retentions</u> ²⁾ : White Maize	38 500	110 000		
Yellow Maize	82 500	260 000		
Total Maize	121 000	370 000		
<u>Commercial maize:</u>				
White Maize	2 234 350	6 371 000	2 083 350	5 862 400
Yellow Maize	950 350	3 019 000	1 017 000	3 256 375
Total Maize	3 184 700	9 390 000	3 100 350	9 118 775
<u>Developing agriculture:</u>				
White Maize	367 861	221 097	367 861	221 097
Yellow Maize	98 083	64 958	98 083	64 958
Sorghum	95 100	219 700	84 610	196 703
Groundnuts	49 850	60 000	50 300	66 205
Sunflower seed	605 750	642 075	628 100	706 760
Soya-beans	100 150	136 500	108 130	139 420
Dry beans	51 500	60 100	50 800	58 290

1) Based on SAGIS deliveries and estimates by the Directorate Agricultural Statistics.

2) According to a survey conducted by Directorate Agricultural Statistics.

MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISATION OF SUMMER CROP PRODUCTION FOR 2002/03

The revision of the maize crop for 2001/02 and the subsequent publication of the revised production figures on 19 March 2003, caused a degree of confusion in the maize market. This resulted in the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) convening a special meeting on 2 April 2003 to discuss the issue. One of the outcomes of this meeting was that in future the official maize and other summer crop production figures would be published by the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) after consultation with members of the CELC. These consultations took place in Pretoria this morning and the finalised production figures for 2002/03 are set out in the attached table.

Please note that the crop production figures were revised using the actual SAGIS delivery figures as the basis for the calculations. Early deliveries were included and provision was made for grain still to be delivered from the 2002/03 season. Retentions of grain on farms as determined by the Department of Agriculture's survey were also added to the SAGIS delivery figures. For example, in the case of commercial maize the SAGIS delivery figures from May 2003 to October 2003 amounts to 8,092 million tons. According to SAGIS early deliveries of maize for February, March and April 2003 amount to 841 493 tons. Provision is also made for approximately 86 450 tons of maize still to be delivered until the end of January 2004. Therefore, the estimated deliveries for 2002/03 are set at 9,020 million tons. However, according to the survey conducted by the Directorate Agricultural Statistics during October 2003, the retentions of maize on farms amount to 370 000 tons. The total commercial crop has been determined by adding the estimated delivery figure of 9,020 million tons to the retentions figure of 370 000 tons – a total of 9,390 million tons. Estimated production for developing agriculture amounts to 286 055 tons.

It should be pointed out that the area planted was also re-calculated. For example, in the case of commercial maize the area planted was re-calculated and amounts to 3,185 million ha, with an average yield of 2,95 t/ha. The re-calculated area planted to white maize is 2,234 million ha with an average yield of 2,85 t/ha, and in the case of yellow maize 0,950 million ha with an average yield of 3,18 t/ha.

It should also be noted that there is a 10,1% difference between the re-calculated sunflower seed crop and the final estimate of the CEC. One of the main reasons for the over-estimate was the late plantings resulting in poor crop development and therefore lower yields. Industry role-players were requested to participate in the estimates in future to continuously improve the figures.

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