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9 January 2008

## To all the members of the Crop Estimates Committee

**MEETING: PRELIMINARY AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE OF SUMMER CROPS (2007/08) & SIXTH PRODUCTION FORECAST OF WINTER CROPS (2007)**

Attached please find the Agenda and Minutes for the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) meeting to be held on Thursday, 24 January 2008 at **10:00**. Please remember to submit your inputs before 15:00 on 23 January 2008.

Wishing you health and prosperity in the New Year.

Kind regards,

**Faith Hawkins**

**STATISTICIAN**

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|  | **CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE** |

**DATE**: 24 January 2008

**TIME**: 10:00

**VENUE**: Board Room, 7th Floor, Sefala Building, 503 Belvedere Street, Arcadia, Pretoria.

**AGENDA**

**PRELIMINARY AREA PLANTED ESTIMATE OF SUMMER CROPS (2007/08)**

**&**

**SIXTH PRODUCTION FORECAST OF WINTER CROPS (2007)**

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

2. ATTENDANCE

3. PERSONALIA

4. FINALISATION OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Meeting held on 20 December 2007

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Workshop on difference in the dryland and irrigation split of area planted to wheat in the Free State Province

6.2 Report back: CELC Meeting – 29 November 2007

6.3

7. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

7.1

7.2

7.3

8. WEATHER CONDITIONS: INFORMATION SESSION

1. INPUTS FROM OTHER DATA SUPPLIERS
2. WINTER CROPS (2007 SEASON)

10.1 Sixth production forecast

11. SUMMER CROPS (2007/08 SEASON)

11.1 Preliminary area planted

12. NEXT MEETING – 27 February 2008

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**MINUTES OF THE CROP ESTIMATES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2007 AT 10:00, BOARD ROOM, 7TH FLOOR, SEFALA BUILDING, ARCADIA, PRETORIA.**

**1.** **OPENING AND WELCOME**

The acting Chairperson, Ms E. Matsei, welcomed the attendees, especially Ms Naomie Smit of PDA-Free State, who attended the meeting for the first time. The new member was requested to sign the confidentiality clause.

1. **ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Ms E. Matsei Director, Agricultural Statistics, DoA (acting Chairperson)

Mr B. Netshifhefhe Agricultural Statistics, DoA

Mr W. Kilian ARC-Small Grains Institute

Mr A. Fourie PDA-Free State

Ms N.I Smit PDA-Free State

Mr G. Müller PDA-KwaZulu-Natal

Ms E. Victor PDA-North West

MrsR. Beukes Agricultural Statistics, DoA

Mrs F. Hawkins Agricultural Statistics, DoA

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY:**

Mr R. Dredge Chief Director, Economic and Statistical Services, DoA

Mr S.M. Mugeri Agricultural Risk and Disaster Management, DoA

Mrs A. Collet Land Use and Soil Management, DoA

Mr J. Malherbe ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water

Dr T.T. Silwana PDA-Eastern Cape

Ms P. Mkula PDA-Eastern Cape

Mrs A. Swanepoel PDA-Northern Cape

Mr M.L. Scheltens PDA-Mpumalanga

Mr H. Cerfonteyn PDA-Western Cape

Mr S. Netshifhefhe PDA-Gauteng

Mr J. Slabbert PDA-Limpopo

Mr E. Kibuuka Stats SA

Mr E. du Preez NCSC

Mr F. Ferreira NCSC

Mrs L. Mellet NAMC

Mrs L. Moolman NAMC

Mrs W. Durand ARC-Grain Crops Institute

Ms M. Scheepers Agricultural Statistics, DoA

Mrs E. Smith Agricultural Statistics, DoA (Secretariat)

Mr T. Newby ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water

Ms T. Germishuyse ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water

1. **PERSONALIA**

The Chairperson wished the members a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2007 were accepted without any amendments.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 Report back: PRF concern on sweet lupines area planted

Mrs Hawkins reported that she had attended the Canola and Lupine Workgroup meeting on 29  November  2007. The members of the Workgroup were satisfied with the area planted to sweet lupines, but expressed concern with the estimated low yield and production of sweet lupines.

5.2 Proposed workshop on the difference in the dryland and irrigation split of the area planted to wheat in the Free State

This item stands over until the next meeting.

5.2 The necessity of estimates for sweet lupines, canola and malting barley

Mrs Hawkins reported that the necessity of estimates for sweet lupines and canola was discussed at the Canola and Lupine Workgroup meeting that was held on 29  November 2007. The industry role-players indicated that they would draft letters to the Chairperson of the CEC, to indicate if they still want the CEC to continue with the estimates for canola and sweet lupines.

The necessity of estimating malting barley was discussed at the last Wheat Forum meeting held on 6  November 2007. Grain SA and other industry players indicated that it is important to continue with the malting barley estimates. The Chairperson of the CEC also received a letter from the head of the ARC-SGI, indicating the importance of the continuation of the malting barley estimates.

**6. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

6.1 Report back: CELC Meeting – 29 November 2007

This item stands over until the next meeting.

**7. INPUTS FROM OTHER DATA SUPPLIERS**

Inputs were received from some of the PDAs, grain silo owners and the December objective yield results of wheat for the Free State, Northern and Western Cape Provinces were also received from the ARC-SGI.

**8. WEATHER CONDITIONS: INFORMATION SESSION**

An overview of the weather conditions was not presented by the ARC-ISCW.

**9. WINTER CROPS (2007 PRODUCTION SEASON)**

9.1 Fifth production forecast

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| CROP | **AREA PLANTED**  **2007**  **HA** | **5th FORECAST**  **2007**  **TONS** | 4th FORECAST  2007  TONS | AREA PLANTED  2006  HA | FINAL CROP  2006  TONS | PRODUCTIONCHANGE  2007 vs 2007  % |
|  | **A** | **B** | C | D | E | B ÷ C |
| Wheat | **632 000** | **1 772 550** | 1 756 900 | 764 800 | 2 105 000 | +0,89 |
| Malting barley | **73 360** | **202 974** | 199 874 | 89 780 | 236 000 | +1,55 |
| Canola | **33 200** | **39 840** | 39 840 | 32 000 | 36 500 | – |
| Sweet lupines | **14 000** | **13 300** | 13 300 | 16 000 | 14 400 | – |

9.2 Discussion

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| --- | --- |
| The areas planted to winter cereals remained unchanged. | |
| WHEAT: | The fifth production forecast for wheat is 1,773 million tons, which is 0,89% or 15  650 tons higher than the previous forecast of 1,757 million tons. The expected yield is 2,80 t/ha as against 2,78 t/ha of the previous month.  The yield in the Western Cape increased slightly from 2,45 t/ha the previous month to 2,50 t/ha as a result of favourable weather conditions. The yield in KwaZulu-Natal was adjusted slightly downwards from 5,00 t/ha the previous month to 4,90 t/ha, due to problems with harvesting and too much rain. |
| OTHER CROPS: | The production forecast of malting barley is 202  974 tons, which is 1,55% or 3  100 tons more than the 199  874 tons of the previous forecast. The expected yield is 2,77  t/ha.  The expected canola crop is remained unchanged at 39  840 tons, with the expected yield at 1,20  t/ha.  In the case of sweet lupines the production forecast also remained unchanged at 13  300 tons and the expected yield is 0,95 t/ha. |

**10.** The meeting adjourned at 10h45.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Crop Estimates Committee will be held DV on **Thursday, 24 January  2008 at *10:00*. The meeting will be held in the Board Room, 7th floor, Sefala Building, 503  Belvedere Street, Arcadia, Pretoria.**

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

ARC:ISCW – Agricultural Research Council: Institute for Soil, Climate and Water

ARC: GCI – Agricultural Research Council: Grain Crops Institute

ARC: SGI – Agricultural Research Council: Small Grains Institute

DoA – Department of Agriculture

DPO – Dry Bean Producers’ Organisation

NAMC – National Agricultural Marketing Council

NCM – National Chamber of Milling

NCSC – National Crop Statistics Consortium

PDA – Provincial Department of Agriculture

PRF – Protein Research Foundation

SACOTA – South African Cereal and Oilseeds Trade Association

SAM – South African Maltsters