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28 September 2006

**CALCULATED FINAL AREA AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF SUNFLOWER SEED, SOYA BEANS AND GROUNDNUTS: 2005/06 PRODUCTION SEASON**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CROP | **FINAL**  **AREA PLANTED**  **2005/06**  **HA**  **(A)** | **FINAL**  **CROP**  **2005/06**  **TONS**  **(B)** | CEC  AREA PLANTED  2005/06  HA  (C) | CEC  FINAL ESTIMATE  2005/06  TONS  (D) | FINAL CROP  vs  FINAL ESTIMATE  %  (D) ÷ (B) |
| Sunflower seed | **472 480** | **520 000** | 472 480 | 527 720 | +1,48 |
| Soya beans | **240 570** | **424 000** | 240 570 | 413 995 | -2,36 |
| Groundnuts | **48 550** | **74 000** | 48 550 | 69 700 | -5,81 |

At its meeting held on 28 September 2006, the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) finalised the area planted and crop production figures of sunflower seed, soya beans and groundnuts for the 2005/06 production season.

The Crop Estimates Committee’s (CEC) estimated production figures were revised, using the published figures of the South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) of actual deliveries up to August 2006 as the basis for the calculations. Provision was also made for sunflower seed, soya-beans and groundnuts still expected to be delivered during the rest of the season (September to December 2006 for sunflower seed and soya beans and September to February 2007 in the case of groundnuts). Provision was also made for the informal sector and retentions on farms.

In the case of sunflower seed, the SAGIS delivery figures from January to August 2006 came to 510  294 tons. Provision was made for an estimated 9  706 tons of sunflower seed still to be delivered until the end of the season. The total sunflower seed crop is therefore 520  000 tons. Comparing the re-calculated sunflower seed figure with the figure set by the CEC during September 2006, the CEC has over-estimated the commercial sunflower seed crop by 7 720 tons or 1,48%. The area planted to sunflower seed was kept unchanged at 472  480 ha, with an average yield of 1,10 t/ha.

The re-calculated soya bean crop is 424  000 tons – consisting of actual deliveries of 398  676 tons, projected deliveries of 11 824 tons and retentions on farms, etc. of 13  500 tons. Comparing the re-calculated soya bean crop figure with the final CEC estimate, the Committee has under-estimated the commercial soya bean crop by 10  005 tons or 2,36%. The area planted was left unchanged at 240 570 ha, with an average yield of 1,76 t/ha.

The re-calculated groundnut crop is 74 000 tons – consisting of actual deliveries of 64  254 tons, projected deliveries of 3  246 tons, as well as 6  500 tons for retentions on farms and the informal sector. Due to uncertainty regarding the size of the informal sector, provision was made for 6 500 tons. Comparing the re-calculated groudnut crop figure with the figure estimated by the CEC during September 2006, the Committee has also under-estimated the size of the commercial groundnut crop by 4  300 tons or 5,81%. The area planted was left unchanged at 48  550 ha, with an average yield of 1,52 t/ha.

The aim of the CEC is to set the final estimate within 5% of the final calculated crop.

Please note that the final calculated production figures of the other summer crops will be released on 30 November 2006.

Industry role-players are once again requested to actively participate in the crop estimates process in order to continuously improve the accuracy of the estimates.

This information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nda.agric.za/food> security statistics or http://www.sagis.org.za.