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Department:
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FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF COMMERCIAL MAIZE, SUNFLOWER SEED, SOYA BEANS, GROUNDNUTS AND SORGHUM FOR 2012

At a meeting held on 29 December 2012, the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) oversaw the process for the finalisation of the crop production figures of commercial white and yellow maize, sunflower seed, soya beans, groundnuts and sorghum for 2012.

The estimated total production figures as released by the national Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) were revised, using the published figures of the South Africa Grain Information Services (SAGIS) of actual deliveries as the basis for the calculations. The figures from the maize utilisation survey to determine on-farm usage and retentions, which was conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the telephonic survey conducted by the National Crop Statistics Consortium (NCSC), were added to the SAGIS delivery figures to calculate the final crop production figures.

Comparing the final calculated crop figures with the numbers set by the CEC during September 2012, the size of the commercial maize crop is now 11,830 mill. tons, which is 335 350 tons or 2,92% more than the final crop estimate figure of 11,495 mill. tons. For white maize, the recalculated crop size is 6,740 mill. tons, which is 3,60% higher than the final crop estimate figure, and for yellow maize the recalculated crop size is 5,090 mill. tons, which is 2,03% higher than the final crop estimate figure.

The CELC noted the following main reasons for the under-estimation of the maize crop:

- Mid-season dry spells in February and March 2012;
- Dry land maize did not look good on the fields, but realised better yields than expected;
- More irrigation maize was planted compared to the previous season (240 500 ha vs 187 450 ha);
- Irrigation yields were also higher than in 2011, and contributed 20-25% of the total crop; and
- Yields were estimated too low in certain provinces, in other words the impact of the mid-summer drought was over-estimated.

In the case of commercial sunflower seed, the final calculated crop figure was slightly adjusted downward by 0,97% from 527 110 tons to 522 000 tons. Groundnuts and sorghum were also adjusted downward by 2,14% and 1,20%, respectively. With regard to commercial soya beans, the recalculated crop showed an increase of 0,47%, from 646 950 tons to 650 000 tons.

CELC accepted the final recalculated crop production figures for 2012 (please refer to the figures in the accompanying tables). Given the fact that the maize crop was under-estimated compared to the actual harvest, CELC emphasized that the scientific methods for determining yields should play a more important role and, for example, the impact of changing weather conditions as well as improved cultivars should be addressed by the methodology.

The CEC would like to thank all producers and industry role-players who provided information on a regular basis to improve the accuracy of the crop estimates. Producers, who do not participate in the Department's monthly survey, are requested as a matter of urgency to make an effort to contribute to the crop estimation process.

SUMMARY: FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF COMMERCIAL SUMMER CROPS FOR 2012:

CROP	FINAL AREA PLANTED 2012 HA (A)	FINAL CROP 2012 TONS (B)	CEC AREA PLANTED SEP 2012 HA (C)	CEC FINAL ESTIMATE ¹⁾ SEP 2012 TONS (D)	FINAL CROP vs FINAL ESTIMATE % (B) ÷ (D)
White Maize	1 636 200	6 740 000	1 636 200	6 505 800	+3,60
Yellow Maize	1 063 000	5 090 000	1 063 000	4 988 850	+2,03
Total Maize	2 699 200	11 830 000	2 699 200	11 494 650	+2,92
Sunflower seed	453 350	522 000	453 350	527 110	-0,97
Soya beans	472 000	650 000	472 000	646 950	+0,47
Groundnuts	45 450	59 000	45 450	60 290	-2,14
Sorghum	48 550	135 500	48 550	137 150	-1,20

1) As estimated by the CEC on 26 September 2012

COMMERCIAL MAIZE:

CROP	Total Tons	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ²⁾ (Mar-Oct 2012) Tons	Projected deliveries ³⁾ (Nov 2012 - Feb 2013) Tons	Retentions on farm for own use/ seed Tons
White Maize	6 740 000	6 510 919	114 984	114 097
Yellow Maize	5 090 000	4 691 697	78 872	319 431
Total Maize	11 830 000	11 202 616	193 856	433 528

COMMERCIAL SUNFLOWER SEED AND SOYA BEANS:

CROP	Total Tons	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ²⁾ (Jan-Oct 2012) Tons	Projected deliveries ³⁾ (Nov - Dec 2012) Tons	Retentions on farm for own use/ direct sales, etc. Tons
Sunflower seed	522 000	520 273	1 727	-
Soya beans	650 000	618 032	3 968	28 000

COMMERCIAL GROUNDNUTS AND SORGHUM:

CROP	Total Tons	Producer deliveries reported by SAGIS ²⁾ (Mar-Oct 2012) Tons	Projected deliveries ³⁾ (Nov 2012 - Feb 2013) Tons	Retentions on farm for own use/ direct sales, etc. Tons
Groundnuts	59 000	55 095	1 005	2 900
Sorghum	135 500	127 828	4 172	3 500

2) SAGIS producer deliveries relates to the current crop

3) Projected deliveries are based on the historic trend of producer deliveries, as recorded by SAGIS