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Grain and Feed Annual

This report focuses on the supply and demand for grains and feed in South Africa

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Report Highlights:

South Africa should return to being a net exporter of corn in the 2017/18 MY and 2016/17 MY on higher production. South Africa is expected to import 2.4 million tons of corn in the 2015/16 MY, due to an extreme drought that had a negative impact on production. South Africa's total corn crop for the 2016/17 MY is estimated at 14.6 million tons, which is 78 percent higher than the 2015/16 MY's drought-reduced corn crop of 8.2 million tons. On the other hand, post forecasts that South Africa's wheat imports for the 2017/18 MY will be almost 40 percent higher than in the 2016/17 MY, at 1.8 million tons, due to an expected decrease in local production. Rice imports are expected to be around 1.0 million tons in the 2017/18 MY.

Executive Summary

The area under wheat production in South Africa increased by five percent in the 2016/17 MY¹, mainly due to the drought conditions in the summer grain producing area last year that forced farmers to increase winter wheat production as an alternative. Post does not foresee the same trend in the 2017/18 MY as the corn area planted drastically increased due to more favorable climatic conditions. Hence, post forecasts that South Africa will plant about 480,000 hectares of wheat in the 2017/18 MY, as the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat will continue. An area of 480,000 hectares could, on average yields, realize a wheat crop of about 1.75 million tons. As a result, South Africa's wheat imports for the 2017/18 MY will be almost 40 percent higher than in the 2016/17 MY, at 1.8 million tons.

An expected bumper corn crop in the 2016/17 MY and resulting lower local corn price levels will put downward pressure on the area to be planted with corn later in 2017, for the 2017/18 MY. As a result, Post forecasts that around 2.4 million commercial hectares of corn will be planted later in 2017, which is nine percent less than the area planted in the 2016/17 MY. Under normal climatic conditions and taking into account the subsistence farming sector, South Africa's corn crop for the 2017/18 MY could reach 12.0 million tons. As a result, South Africa could export about 1.0 million tons of corn in the 2017/18 MY, mainly to neighboring countries.

South Africa's total corn crop for the 2016/17 MY is estimated at 14.6 million tons on 3.0 million hectares, which is 78 percent higher than the 2015/16 MY drought-reduced corn crop of 8.2 million tons. South Africa should return to being a net exporter of corn, especially white corn, in the 2016/17 MY on higher production. Post estimates South Africa could export about 2.0 million tons of corn in the 2016/17 MY.

In the 2017/18 MY, South Africa's rice imports are expected to decrease by four percent to 1.0 million tons on decreased demand. In the 2016/17 MY post estimates South Africa will import about 1.04 million tons of rice as consumption increased by seven percent, mainly due to last year's extreme drought that increased the prices of corn products. For the 2017/18 MY, post forecasts a seven percent decrease in South Africa's rice consumption to 820,000 million tons, due to an increase in corn production on favorable weather conditions and thus relatively lower prices for corn products.

US\$1 = Rand 13.18 (3/14/17)

^[1] The marketing years (MY) used in the text refers to the USDA marketing years in the PS&D table, and do not necessarily correspond with the marketing years used by the South African grain industry.

WHEAT

Production

Although the area under wheat production in South Africa increased by five percent in the 2016/17 MY, it was mainly due to the drought conditions of last year in the summer grain producing area that forced farmers to increase winter wheat production as an alternative. As a result, the wheat area in, especially, the Free State province increased by 38 percent or by 30,000 hectares. Post does not foresee the same trend continuing in the 2017/18 MY, as corn area planted drastically increased this year due to more favorable climatic conditions. Hence, Post forecasts that the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat of the past twenty years will continue in the 2017/18 MY. Figure 1 illustrates the declining trend in hectares planted with wheat and the gap it created between the production and demand for wheat in South Africa. Post forecasts that South Africa will plant about 480,000 hectares of wheat in the 2017/18 MY which could, on average yields and normal climatic conditions, realize a wheat crop of about 1.75 million tons.

The wheat industry in South Africa is currently busy with a process to identify factors that could assist in reviving the industry. These include *inter alia* higher yielding cultivars, changes in the wheat grading regulations, and an end-point royalty system to counter farm saved seed. However, unless drastic technology changes occur that could improve wheat yields, producers will continue to switch to more profitable crops like canola, oats, corn and soybeans and the decreasing trend in hectares planted with wheat in South Africa will continue in the future.

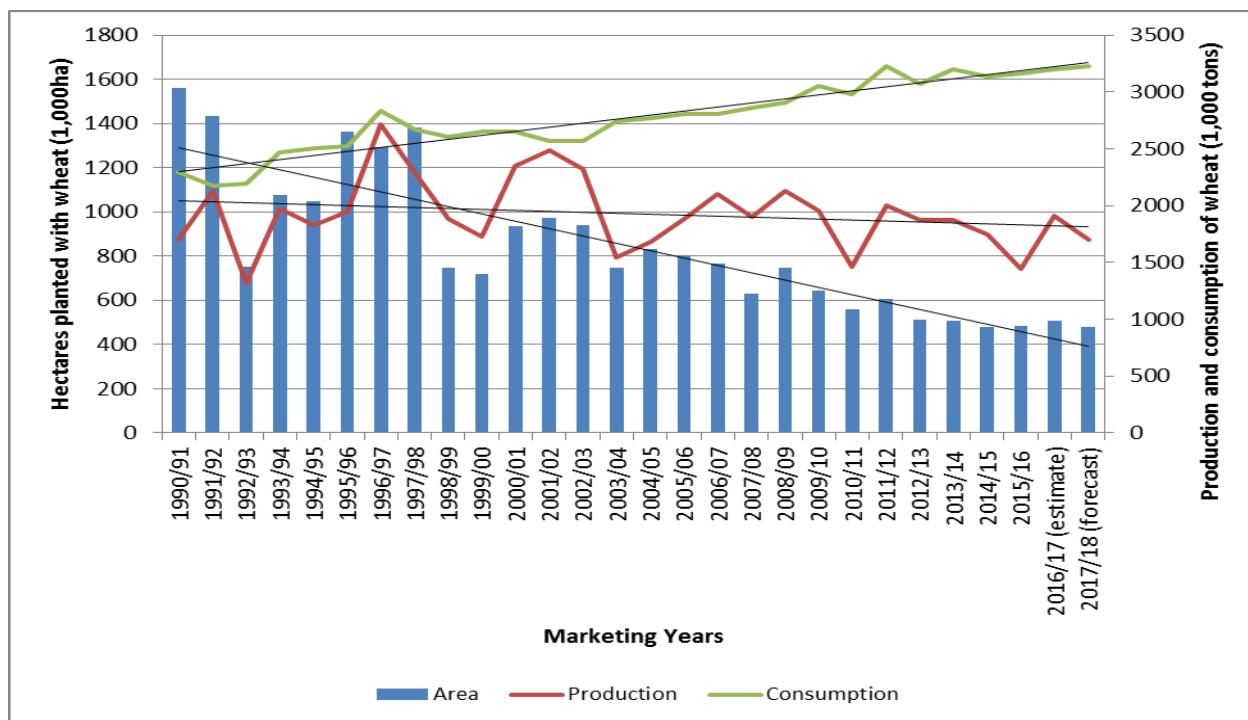


Figure 1: The trends in wheat production, consumption and area planted in South Africa (1990/91 MY – 2017/18 MY)

The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) released its final estimate for wheat production in South Africa for the 2016/17 MY on February 28, 2017. The CEC estimates that South Africa produced 1.9 million tons of wheat on 508,365 hectares, which represents an increase of 33 percent from the previous year on

increased area planted and better climatic conditions, especially in the Western Cape province. In the Western Cape province wheat production increased by 57 percent to 1.1 million tons from the previous season and represents more than 50 percent of total wheat production in South Africa. Another major wheat producing area in South Africa is the Northern Cape province, where irrigated wheat production represents about 14 percent or 266,000 tons of the total wheat crop. The Free State province increased wheat production by 75 percent to 308,000 tons, mainly due to increased area planted as last year's drought conditions decreased corn area planted and forced farmers to increase winter wheat production as an alternative. These three provinces together produced about 85 percent of the wheat crop in South Africa.

The following table indicates the area planted and production figures of wheat in South Africa for the 2015/16 MY (actual), 2016/17 MY (estimate) and 2017/18 MY (forecast).

Table 1: Area planted and production of wheat in South Africa

MY	Area (hectares)	Yield (tons/ha)	Production (1,000 tons)
2015/16 (actual)	482,150	3.0	1,440
2016/17 (estimate)	508,365	3.8	1,910
2017/18 (forecast)	480,000	3.6	1,750

Source: The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)

Consumption

Annual wheat consumption in South Africa has increased on average by only about one percent per annum the past five years, mainly due to slow economic growth and the availability of cheaper alternatives like corn and rice. Corn, the staple food for many South Africans, also showed price inelasticity after retail prices almost doubled over the past two years, due to the drought, but the per capita demand stayed constant (see also Table 2). With the prices of corn products expected to decrease after last year's drought, post does not foresee major shifts in wheat consumption in the 2017/18 MY. Wheat demand in the 2017/18 MY is expected to be around 3.23 million tons (also refer to Table 3). Post estimates that wheat consumption for the 2016/17 MY will be around 3.20 million tons, in line with a one percent growth rate and marginally higher than the 3.17 million consumed in the 2015/16 MY.

Table 2: The retail prices of selected food items

	Jan 2015 (Rand)	Jan 2016 (Rand)	Jan 2017 (Rand)	Change (2015 - 17) (%)	Change (2016 - 17) (%)

Loaf of brown bread (700g)	10.29	10.88	12.31	20%	13%
Loaf of white bread (700g)	11.42	12.03	13.41	17%	11%
Special maize meal (2.5kg)	13.43	16.39	26.47	97%	62%
Super maize meal (2.5kg)	17.64	21.54	28.92	64%	34%
Rice (2kg)	23.45	24.16	26.87	15%	11%

Source: The National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)

In Table 3, the consumption of wheat in South Africa is illustrated for the 2015/16 MY (actual), 2016/17 MY (estimate) and 2017/18 MY (forecast).

Table 3: Consumption of wheat in South Africa

Wheat (1000 tons)					
Marketing year	Human	Animal	Seed	Other	TOTAL
2015/16 (actual)	3,142	2	19	4	3,167
2016/17 (estimate)	3,170	5	20	5	3,200
2017/18 (forecast)	3,200	5	20	5	3,230

Source: The South African Grain Information Services (Sagis) and Grain SA

Trade

Post forecasts that South Africa's wheat and wheat products imports for the 2017/18 MY will be almost 40 percent higher than in the 2016/17 MY, at 1.8 million tons, mainly due to an expected eight percent decrease in local production.

Post estimates that wheat and wheat products imports in the 2016/17 MY could drop to 1.3 million tons as a result of a 33 percent increase in production. For the first five months of the 2016/17 MY, South Africa only imported 366,477 tons of wheat, mainly from Germany, Poland and Russia (see also Table 4). For the 2015/16 MY, South Africa's wheat imports and wheat products reached 2.2 million tons to supplement local production that was effected by drought conditions.

South Africa also exports wheat to the Southern Africa region and neighboring countries and acts as a conduit for imported grain. In the 2015/16 MY, South Africa exports dropped by 80 percent from 274,255 tons to 54,008 tons to neighboring countries due to the decrease in production. South Africa's wheat and wheat products exports are expected return to normal levels of 300,000 tons in both the 2016/17 MY and 2017/18 MY.

Table 4: Export and import countries for wheat

	2015/16 MY (Oct 1, 2015 – Sept 30, 2016) Tons	2016/17 MY¹ (Oct 1, 2016 – Sept 30, 2017) Tons
Import Suppliers		
United States	186,387	11,983
Argentina	49,516	38,162
Australia	38,457	0
Canada	102,816	27,798

Czech Republic	0	49,009	Source: Sagis
Germany	283,451	104,917	Notes:
Ukraine	109,350	0	
Poland	185,036	60,570	
Romania	0	21,151	1. Preliminary export and import data from October 1, 2016 to March 3, 2017
Lithuania	151,047	0	
Russia	956,705	52,887	
TOTAL IMPORTS	2,062,765²	366,477	
Export destinations			
Botswana	5,854	4,009	
Lesotho	5,004	7,258	
Mozambique	2,490	2,992	
Namibia	13,515	4,114	
Swaziland	1,011	1,409	
Zambia	269	0	
Zimbabwe	25,865	21,297	
TOTAL EXPORTS	54,008	41,079	

figures in the PS&D table include the trade in wheat flour and other wheat products like uncooked pasta and couscous.

A new Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between South Africa and the European Union (EU) that came into effect late last year, allows for duty-free imports of 300,000 tons of wheat from countries in the EU. This duty-free allowance is effective from February 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017. The current import tariff for wheat imports into South Africa is R1,591.40 per ton (US\$120.74/ton). An annual quota of 108,279 tons of wheat was also announced that can enter South Africa at a rebate of 14.4 percent on the full duty (see also Table 5).

Table 5: South Africa's import tariffs for wheat

General	European Union (EU)	European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)	Minimum Market Access	
				Annual quota	Extent of rebate
R1,591.40/ton	New EPA trade agreement -	R1,591.40/ton	R1,591.40/ton	108,279	Full duty

	300,000 tons import tariff free from February 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017. Outside quota R1,591.40/ton				less 14.4%
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Source: South African Revenue Services (SARS), Sagis

Prices

Local wheat prices have moved downwards, away from import parity levels, since August 2016 to reflect the higher wheat crop of the 2016/17 MY (see also Figure 2). Table 6 indicates the local wheat prices of March 3, 2017 as traded on the South African Future Exchange (Safex). Currently, wheat prices are trading around R3,954 per ton (US\$300/ton) and are 16 percent lower than for the same period a year ago. However, local wheat prices are expected to trade upwards again to reflect an expected lower wheat crop in the 2017/18 MY.

Table 6: Local prices for wheat

	Futures prices (as of 02/28/2017)			
Commodity	2017/03	2017/05	2017/07	2017/09
Wheat	R3,954/t (\$300/t)	R4,036/t (\$306/t)	R4,085/t (\$310/t)	R4,072/t (\$309/t)

Source: Safex

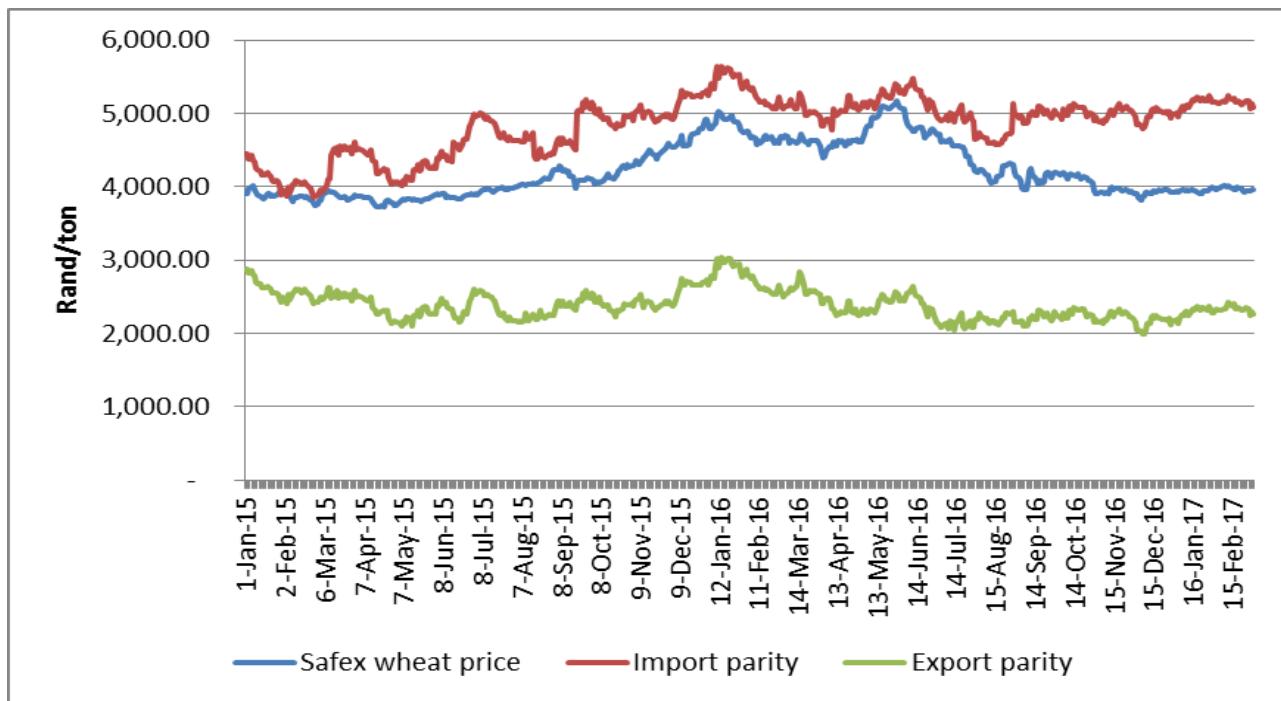


Figure 2: The trend in the SAFEX price for wheat since January 2015

Table 7: PS&D Table for Wheat

Wheat Market Begin Year South Africa	2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	May 2015		Oct 2016		Oct 2017	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	482	482	508	508	0	480
Beginning Stocks	997	997	907	1238	0	948
Production	1440	1440	1910	1910	0	1750
MY Imports	2200	2170	1700	1300	0	1800
TY Imports	2100	2100	1500	1100	0	1600
TY Imp. from U.S.	230	230	0	0	0	200
Total Supply	4637	4607	4517	4448	0	4498
MY Exports	300	202	300	300	0	300
TY Exports	250	250	250	250	0	250
Feed and Residual	30	25	30	30	0	30
FSI Consumption	3400	3142	3420	3170	0	3200
Total Consumption	3430	3167	3450	3200	0	3230
Ending Stocks	907	1238	767	948	0	968
Total Distribution	4637	4607	4517	4448	0	4498
(1000 HA),(1000 MT)						

CORN

Production

Expected lower local corn price levels will put downward pressure on the area to be planted with corn later in 2017, for the 2017/18 MY, especially for the white corn area, as a record white corn crop is expected in the 2016/17 MY. Hence, post forecasts a 15 percent drop in the 2017/18 MY for the commercial area planted with white corn to 1.4 million hectares. The expected commercial yellow corn area planted in the 2017/18 MY should be at average levels of about 1.0 million hectares as only a normal yellow corn crop is expected in the 2016/17 MY. As a result, Post forecasts that around 2.4 million commercial hectares of corn will be planted later in 2017, which is nine percent less than the area planted in the 2016/17 MY. Under normal climatic conditions and taking into account the subsistence farming sector, South Africa's corn crop for the 2017/18 MY could reach 12.0 million tons, which is 18 percent less than the expected corn crop of 14.6 million tons in the 2016/17 MY (also refer to Table 8).

The Crop Estimate Committee (CEC) released its first production estimate for the 2016/17 MY summer crops on February 28, 2017. According to the CEC the expected commercial corn crop is 13.9 million tons on 2.6 million hectares. This represents an increase of almost 80 percent from the 2015/16 MY

commercial corn crop of 7.8 million tons. A historical high commercial white corn crop of 8.3 million tons is expected, 144 percent more than in the previous season. The commercial yellow corn crop is estimated at 5.6 million tons, 28 percent higher than the previous season. The good rainfall between October and December of last year in many of the areas of South Africa that were affected by the severe drought the previous season was followed by even better rainfall in February. Many corn producing areas in South Africa recorded far above average rainfall in February. As a result, the corn crop across South Africa is in a very good condition. Although the fall army worm was detected in South Africa, the impact on production is expected to be limited. More than 85 percent of the South African corn crop has been planted with genetically engineered seed, which protects the crop against fall army worm. In addition, many commercial pesticides, to control fall army worn, have been legally registered since the first detection and are now available for producers to control the pest.

Post estimates the subsistence sector's corn crop for the 2016/17 MY at about 700,000 tons on 400,000 hectares. This means South Africa's total corn crop for the 2016/17 MY is estimated at 14.6 million tons on 3.0 million hectares, which is 78 percent higher than the 2015/16 MY's drought-reduced corn crop of 8.2 million tons.

The CEC finalized the size of the 2015/16 MY commercial corn crop on February 10, 2017 at 7.8 million tons, after taking into account producer deliveries and on-farm usage. Hence, South Africa's drought-reduced total corn crop (including commercial and subsistence farming) for the 2015/16 MY was finalized at 8.2 million tons on 2.2 million hectares, which is 23 percent lower than the 2014/15 MY's crop of 10.6 million tons. Commercial white corn production was finalized at 3.4 million tons, 28 percent lower than the previous season, while commercial yellow corn production finalized at 4.4 million tons, and 16 percent lower than the previous season.

The following table details area planted and production figures for commercial white corn and yellow corn as well as corn produced by subsistence farmers for the 2015/16 MY (actual), 2016/17 MY (estimate), and 2017/18 MY (forecast).

Table 8: Area planted and production of commercial and subsistence corn in South Africa

	Area 1,000ha	Yield t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t	Area 1,000ha	Yield t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t	Area 1,000ha	Yield t/ha	Prod. 1,000 t
MY	2015/16			2016/17			2017/18		
<u>Commercial corn</u>									
White	1,015	3.4	3,409	1,643	5.1	8,313	1,400	4.2	5,950
Yellow	932	4.7	4,370	986	5.7	5,606	1,000	5.3	5,350
Sub Total	1,947	4.0	7,779	2,629	5.3	13,918	2,400	4.6	11,300
<u>Subsistence corn</u>									
White	191	1.5	286	300	1.6	500	300	1.6	500
Yellow	75	2.0	150	100	2.0	200	100	2.0	200
Sub Total	266	1.6	436	400	1.7	700	400	1.7	700

TOTAL	2,213	3.7	8,215	3,029	4.8	14,618	2,800	4.2	12,000
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Source: CEC

Consumption

The commercial demand for corn for food increased on average two percent per year the past 20 years, while the commercial demand for feed corn increased on average three percent per year (see also Figure 3). Post projects that this marginal increase in demand for corn will continue in the 2017/18 MY. South Africa's economic growth is expected to continue to be sluggish in the next few years, due to structural and policy constraints, which will limit the increase in the demand for animal protein and hence animal feed. As a result, the demand for corn feed is expected to increase marginally to 5.4 million tons. The human demand for corn, the staple food for many South Africans, especially for the lower to middle income group, is expected to grow in correlation with population growth to 5.1 million tons. The per capita consumption of corn has stagnated at around 90kg per annum for the past 10 years. Thus, total commercial demand for corn is estimated to reach about 10.8 million tons in the 2017/18 MY (also refer to Table 9).

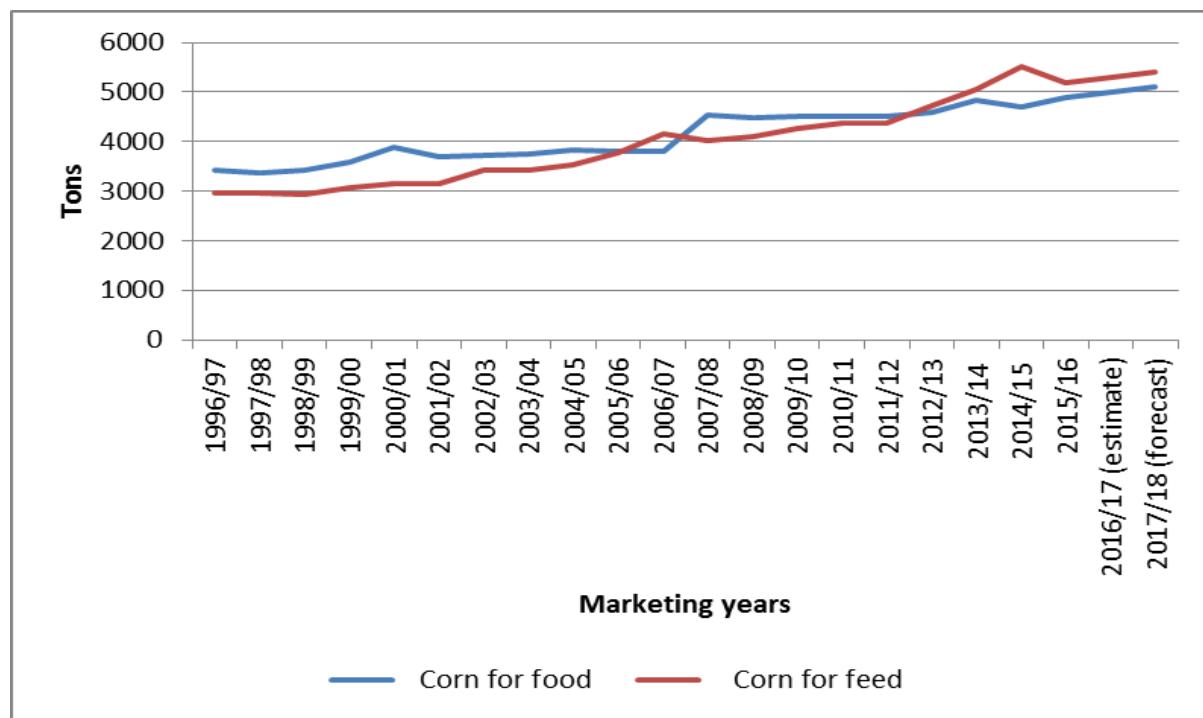


Figure 3: The commercial consumption of corn in the food and feed markets of South Africa since the 1996/97 MY.

With higher rainfall leading to increased production and thus relatively lower corn prices, post forecasts a two percent increase in the commercial demand for corn in the 2016/17 MY to 10.6 million tons. Post expects that South Africa will use 5.0 million tons of corn for human consumption and 5.3 million tons of corn for animal feed, excluding corn utilized by the subsistence farming sectors and commercial on-farm usages.

Post kept the commercial demand for corn in the 2015/16 MY unchanged at 10.4 million tons. This means that the total commercial demand for corn is expected to drop only marginally in the 2015/16 MY, from the 10.5 million tons of corn consumed in the 2014/15 MY, despite the higher drought-induced corn prices.

Table 9 outlines the commercial consumption for white corn and yellow corn in South Africa for the 2015/16 MY (actual), 2016/17 MY (estimate) and 2017/18 MY (forecast).

Table 9: The commercial consumption of white and yellow corn in South Africa

CORN 1,000 Mt	White	Yellow	Total	White	Yellow	Total	White	Yellow	Total
MY	2015/16			2016/17			2017/18		
Human	4,300	600	4,900	4,500	500	5,000	4,600	500	5,100
Animal	50	5,150	5,200	500	4,800	5,300	500	4,900	5,400
Other	50	250	300	100	200	300	100	200	300
TOTAL	4,400	6,000	10,400	5,100	5,500	10,600	5,200	5,600	10,800

Source: SAGIS; Grain SA

Note: Please note that consumption figures in the PS&D table also include corn utilized by the subsistence farming sectors and commercial on-farm usages.

Trade

Post estimated that South Africa could export about 1.0 million tons of corn in the 2017/18 MY, mainly to neighboring countries. South Africa should also return to being a net exporter of corn, especially white corn, in the 2016/17 MY on higher production. Post estimates South Africa could export about 2.0 million tons of corn in the 2016/17 MY.

For the 2015/16 MY, post dropped its previous estimate of 3.0 million tons of corn imports, to 2.4 million tons, after taking into account the total current import data. Up to March 3, 2017, South Africa imported 2.0 million tons of corn for the 2015/16 MY, mainly from Argentina (994,000 tons of yellow corn), Mexico (559,000 tons of white corn), Ukraine (231,000 tons of yellow corn) and the United States (102,000 tons of white corn and 16,000 tons of yellow corn) (see also Table 10). It seems that corn imports have slowed down the past few weeks in anticipation of possible early corn deliveries from irrigated fields. However, post estimates that at least another 400,000 tons of corn have to be imported in the remaining two months of the 2015/16 MY to satisfy demand.

South Africa continued to export corn to its neighboring countries in the 2015/16 MY, despite the lower production due to the drought. So far, South Africa has exported 674,000 tons of corn. Post estimates that South Africa's total corn exports for the 2015/16 MY could reach 800,000 tons.

Table 10: Export and import countries for white and yellow corn (1,000 tons)

	2015/16 MY ¹ May 1, 2016 – Apr 30, 2017		
	White corn	Yellow corn	Total
Export Destinations			
Botswana	117	59	176
North Korea	0	5	5
Lesotho	71	13	84
Malawi	3	0	3
Mozambique	37	24	61
Namibia	58	13	71
Swaziland	46	59	105
Zimbabwe	85	84	169
TOTAL EXPORTS	418	257	674
Imports			
Argentina	0	994	994
Brazil	0	94	94
Mexico	559	0	559
Romania	0	37	37
Ukraine	0	231	231
United States	102	16	118
TOTAL IMPORTS	661	1,372	2,033

Source: SAGIS

Note: 1. Preliminary export and import data from May 1, 2016 to March 3, 2017

Prices

Local corn prices started to move downwards, away from import parity levels, in mid-December 2016 and accelerated to export parity levels since mid-February after the good rains and the realization that a bumper crop could be possible (see also Figures 4 and Figure 5). Year-on-year local yellow corn and white corn prices are, respectively, 27 percent and 52 percent lower, indicating the better climatic conditions compared to the last season. Currently, yellow corn is trading at R2,169 per ton (US\$165/ton) and white corn at R2,223 per ton (US\$169/ton) (see also Table 11). With the expected over supply of corn in the local market, especially white corn, corn is likely to trade at import parity levels for the rest of the 2016/17 MY.

Table 11: Local prices for corn

Commodity	Futures prices (as of 03/07/2017)				
	2017/03	2017/05	2017/07	2017/09	2017/12
White corn	R2,228/t (\$169/t)	R1,961/t (\$149/t)	R1,903/t (\$144/t)	R1,958/t (\$149/t)	R2,027/t (\$157/t)
Yellow corn	R2,169/t (\$165/t)	R2,052/t (\$156/t)	R2,020/t (\$153/t)	R2,059/t (\$156/t)	R2,124/t (\$161/t)

Source: Safex



Figure 4: The trend in the SAFEX price for white corn since January 2014

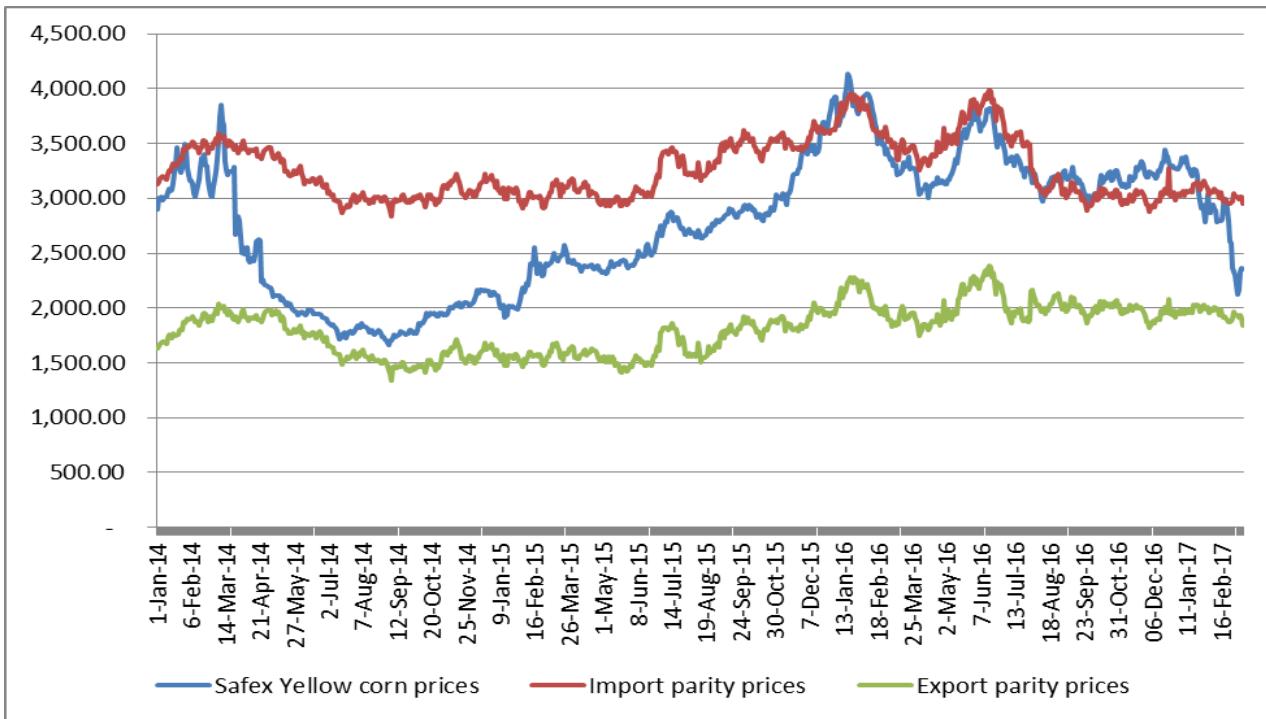


Figure 5: The trend in the SAFEX price for yellow corn since January 2014

Table 12: PS&D Table for Corn

Corn	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
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Market Begin Year South Africa	May 2016		May 2016		May 2017	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	2213	2213	3100	3029	0	2800
Beginning Stocks	2448	2448	1262	1063	0	1981
Production	8214	8215	14600	14618	0	12000
MY Imports	2600	2400	100	100	0	100
TY Imports	2579	2579	1800	2000	0	0
TY Imp. from U.S.	110	110	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	13262	13063	15962	15781	0	14081
MY Exports	800	800	2000	2000	0	1000
TY Exports	759	759	1800	800	0	0
Feed and Residual	5700	5700	5800	5900	0	6000
FSI Consumption	5500	5500	5900	5900	0	6000
Total Consumption	11200	11200	11700	11800	0	12000
Ending Stocks	1262	1063	2262	1981	0	1081
Total Distribution	13262	13063	15962	15781	0	14081
(1000 HA),(1000 MT)						

RICE

Production

South Africa is totally dependent on rice imports to meet the local demand as no rice production takes place in the country, due to the high water requirements of the crop. As a result, rice imports are duty free and local consumption is derived from import data as supplied by the Global Trade Atlas.

Consumption

Post forecasts a seven percent decrease in South Africa's rice consumption in the 2017/18 MY to 820,000 million tons, due to an increase in corn production on favorable weather conditions and thus relatively lower corn prices. Consumers can substitute rice, wheat and corn products based on price and taste preferences.

Post lowered its previous local rice consumption estimate for the 2016/17 MY by nine percent to 880,000 tons based on updated trade data. Post also lowered the estimated consumption of rice in the 2015/16 MY to 820,000 tons, after taking into account the actual trade data (see also Table 13). This means rice consumption increased by seven percent in the 2016/17 MY, mainly due to last year's extreme drought that increased the retail prices of corn products (also refer to Table 3).

Table 13: Consumption of rice in South Africa

Marketing years	2015/16 (actual)	2016/17 (estimate)	2017/18 (forecast)
Consumption			

(1,000 tons)	820	880	820
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Imports

In the 2017/18 MY, South Africa's rice imports are expected to decrease by four percent to 1.0 million tons on decreased demand. In the 2016/17 MY post estimates South Africa will import about 1.04 million tons of rice. So far in the 2016/17 MY (May, 2016 to January, 2017), South Africa already imported 775,477 tons of rice (see also Table 14). South Africa's rice imports for the 2015/16 MY was finalized at 944,192 tons. India and Thailand, together, supply about 90 percent of South Africa's rice demand.

Table 14: South Africa imports of rice (metric tons)

Countries	2015/16 MY (May 1, 2015 – Apr 30, 2016)	2016/17MY ¹ (May 1, 2016 – Apr 30, 2017)
Imports form:		
United States	509	719
Others:		
Thailand	597,623	474,477
India	269,825	209,230
Vietnam	36,844	21,217
Total for Others	904,292	704,924
Others not Listed	39,391	69,834
Grand Total	944,192	775,477

Source: Global Trade Atlas

Note: 1. Preliminary import data from May 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017

Exports

South Africa imports a small amount of rice to export to neighboring countries. These exports, show an increasing trend in recent years. In the 2015/16 MY South Africa exported 131,370 tons of rice to neighboring countries, seven percent higher than the previous year. Hence, post estimates rice exports would increase to 150,000 tons in the 2016/17 MY and to 170,000 tons in the 2017/18 MY.

Table 15: PS&D Table for Rice

Rice, Milled	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Market Begin Year	May 2015	May 2016	May 2017

South Africa	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks	13	13	10	6	0	16
Milled Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rough Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milling Rate (.9999)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports	943	944	1000	1040	0	1000
TY Imports	954	954	925	925	0	900
TY Imp. from U.S.	1	1	0	1	0	1
Total Supply	956	957	1010	1046	0	1016
MY Exports	126	131	100	150	0	170
TY Exports	145	145	90	120	0	150
Consumption and Residual	820	820	880	880	0	820
Ending Stocks	10	6	30	16	0	26
Total Distribution	956	957	1010	1046	0	1016
(1000 HA),(1000 MT)						