

Daily Note

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South African winter crop production estimates

South Africa's Crop Estimates Committee has issued its sixth production forecast for winter crops in the country for the 2023 production season.

South African Winter Crop Production Forecast 2023

Crop	Area (Ha thousand)			Production (Tons thousand)		
	2023F	2022	Change (%)	2023F	2022	Change (%)
Wheat	538.0	566.8	-5.1	2,151.6	2,110.0	+2.0
Malting Barley	107.6	101.0	+6.5	360.2	302.0	+19.3
Canola	131.2	123.5	+6.2	237.5	210.0	+13.1
Cereal Oats	27.5	27.0	+1.9	36.2	27.6	+31.4
Sweet Lupines	16.0	21.0	-23.8	16.8	15.8	+6.7
Total	820.3	839.3	-2.3	2,802.3	2,665.3	+5.1

As of Jan. 30, 2024

Source: South Africa's Crop Estimates Committee

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The planted area of winter crops in the country is estimated to have decreased by 2.3% in comparison with the previous year to approximately 820.3 thousand hectares driven by declines for wheat (-5.1%) and sweet lupines (-23.8%). Prospects are more favourable for malting barley, canola, and cereal oats with planted areas increasing by 6.5%, 6.2%, and 1.9% respectively. Despite the reduction in area, strong yield prospects are resulting in forecasts for production increasing by 5.1% to reach approximately 2.8 million tons with year over year increases in output anticipated for all key crops. This forecast is in line with the previous estimate.

Andermatt introduces RhizoVital C5

Andermatt has announced that it has introduced RhizoVital C5-treated seeds in Poland under the brand Rhizo Seeds. This development is a result of Andermatt's collaboration with HR Smolice, a Polish seed breeding company. It is reported that this treatment aim to enhance plant resilience to adverse conditions like cold and wet springs. RhizoVital C5 is a microbial biostimulant containing spores of the naturally occurring soil bacteria *Bacillus atrophaeus*. Trials showed significant improvements in root and plant development, leading to increased yields. The company says that the treated plots displayed better plant vigor, larger cob sizes and prolonged greenness compared to untreated ones.

Further trials are planned for 2024 to gather more data on various crops including corn, as well as winter wheat, soybean and spring barley.

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