

Wheat, Maize, Sorghum, Rice

The pattern of wheat and maize imports is erratic and depends largely on the success of local crops.

In most years, South Africa is self-sufficient in wheat. During periods of drought, wheat is imported to make up the shortfall between production and demand. Over the past eight years, South Africa has had to import wheat. Latest official crop estimates forecast that wheat production in the current season will be sufficient to cover local milling needs. However, South Africa will need to import an estimated 30 000 tons of durum wheat used for making pasta and an estimated 40 000 to 50 000 tons of soft wheat used for making biscuits. Key countries of supply are Canada, the USA and Mexico

This season South Africa will be importing yellow maize due to shortages brought about by excessive exports. Key countries of supply are Argentina, Zimbabwe, the USA and Kenya.

South Africa does not produce any rice. Rice consumption is approximately 485 000 tons per annum, all of which is imported. Rice is mainly imported in bulk and then processed and packaged locally. Key countries of supply are the USA, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

South Africa is one of the few countries in the world that produce sorghum fit for human consumption and local production is adequate to cover demand in this market. However, there is a small market for grain sorghum used in animal feeds. Key countries of supply are the USA and Italy.