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REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles in the field of agricultural economics, suitable for publication in the Journal, will be welcomed.

Articles should have a maximum length of 10 folio pages (including tables, graphs, etc.), typed in double spacing. Contributions, in the language preferred by the writer, should be submitted in triplicate to the Editor, c.o. Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria, and should reach him at least one month prior to date of publication.

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General Comments and Announcements

The effects of droughts on certain food supplies

MAIZE

Since 1948/49 maize has been imported once, during 1952/53, and the quantity was 2,546,000 bags. Between 1949/50 and 1953/54 average production amounted to 29,684,000 bags and consumption to 28,668,000 bags. Since then production increased steadily up to 1963/64. After that three successive crops were reduced considerably by droughts while consumption continued to increase. Details are given in Table 1 for the four most recent marketing years.

The quantity exported during 1965/66 includes 1,450,000 bags of maize sold to Adjoining Territories; 1,000,000 bags of offal products not required locally, and 2,102,000 bags of yellow maize which had been sold before October, 1965 and exported subsequently. No white maize was sold for export overseas during 1965/66.

The sharp increase in consumption is partly due to greater quantities being used as feed for livestock on account of droughts.

TABLE 1. - Production of maize during the years 1962/63 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Produc- tion	Con- sump- tion	Exports	Imports
1,000 bags of 200 lb				
1962/63	66,160	38,064	28,510	-
1963/64	67,243	40,308	30,477	-
1964/65	47,170	42,591	12,131	-
1965/66	47,500	44,933*	4,742*	1,769*

* Preliminary

WHEAT

All wheat intended for sale must be sold to the agents of the Wheat Board.

TABLE 2. - Production of wheat during the years 1959/60 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Quantity sold to Board	Imports	Con- sump- tion
1,000 bags of 200 lb			
1959/60	7,565	2,443	9,763
1960/61	7,886	1,142	9,533
1961/62	9,024	754	9,745
1962/63	7,139	2,358	10,225
1963/64	9,139	2,432	10,686
1964/65	11,445	-	11,213
1965/66	7,400 *	5,500 **	n. a.

* Estimate

** Preliminary

Wheat sold to the Board plus imports do not correspond to consumption, because three million bags or slightly more are carried over from one year to the next. The quantity of wheat to be imported during 1965/66 will be about double the greatest quantity imported during the past in any one year.

BUTTER

For four successive years production has declined while consumption has increased. During 1960/61 steps were taken to discourage production and to encourage consumption. This cannot be dealt with in detail, but for the past three seasons, the decreases have been due to droughts while consumption remains high as compared to 1959/60. Exports are maintained at slightly more than two and a half million pounds to traditional markets in Africa.

TABLE 3. - Production of butter during the years 1959/60 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Produc- tion cream- ery but- ter	Con- sump- tion cream- ery butter	Ex- ports	Im- ports*
Million pounds				
1959/60	92.8	89.2	2.8	-
1960/61	106.2	89.0	25.4	-
1961/62	103.7	94.4	15.9	-
1962/63	95.9	101.0	2.7	1.6
1963/64	89.1	106.2	2.7	17.4
1964/65	84.3	106.5	2.7	26.5
1965/66**	78.0	106.5	1.9	30.0

* Excluding supplies normally received from the adjoining territories

** Preliminary

CHEESE

As in the case of butter consumption has been encouraged while production has declined for five years. Exports of about half a million pounds are maintained to traditional markets in Africa.

TABLE 4. - Production of cheese during the years 1959/60 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Produc- tion fac- tory cheese	Con- sump- tion factory cheese	Ex- ports	Im- ports*
Million pounds				
1959/60	32.6	27.5	6.6	0.5
1960/61	37.8	28.3	7.2	-
1961/62	34.8	30.8	7.8	-
1962/63	32.6	32.7	0.6	2.4
1963/64	31.3	33.7	0.5	3.0
1964/65	31.2	35.0	0.6	5.6
1965/66**	28.5	36.5	0.5	8.0

* Excluding supplies normally received from adjoining territories

** Preliminary

SUNFLOWER SEED

Groundnuts can be used in various ways, while sunflower seed is used almost exclusively for oil expressing. The

cost of sunflower seed in terms of oil is therefore slightly less than that of groundnuts. Consequently nearly all the sunflower seed is purchased for producing oil for the domestic market; and these supplies are supplemented with groundnut oil. The decline in supplies of sunflower seed during the two most recent seasons has resulted in a substantial increase in the quantities of groundnuts used for domestic consumption, and during 1965/66 exports of groundnuts (as nuts and oil) will be about 25 per cent of the quantity exported during 1963/64.

TABLE 5. - Production of sunflower seed during the years 1959/60 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Production	Total consump- tion	Total exports
Seed basis			
	Tons	Tons	Tons
1959/60	109,283	102,897	5,981
1960/61	98,850	91,627	6,917
1961/62	122,616	107,975	13,877
1962/63	107,281	101,074	5,937
1963/64	107,651	103,617	3,552
1964/65	84,550	86,710	2,983
1965/66*	82,000	80,500	1,500

* Preliminary

GROUNDNUTS

TABLE 6. - Production of groundnuts during the years 1959/60 - 1965/66

Market- ing year	Production shelled basis	Total consump- tion	Total exports
Groundnut basis			
	Tons	Tons	Tons
1959/60	133,436	41,381	90,013
1960/61	146,859	50,852	96,393
1961/62	188,093	52,754	128,004
1962/63	131,307	69,361	68,396
1963/64	191,428	67,447	122,600
1964/65	150,707	84,111	67,858
1965/66*	141,000	110,000	31,000

* Preliminary

Citrus Fruit - reintroduction of one channel marketing

Excessive quantities of citrus fruit have been available for the domestic market during recent in-season periods and market prices have declined to uneconomic levels. The Citrus Board has therefore decided, with the approval of the Minister of Agricultural Economics and Marketing to reintroduce full control over the sale of citrus fruit in the domestic market, as from the commencement of the 1966 season. In terms of these control measures the Citrus Board will administer a one-channel pool scheme for the domestic market. Thus all producers, with the exception of small producers who might be exempted, will have to market their fruit through the Board and share in the proceeds on the basis of pools. This control will not apply to the Western Cape.

With the reintroduction of full control the Board has in view orderly marketing and the rational distribution of supplies to the various markets. To attain this the Board has been granted certain powers - amongst these are compulsory registration of producers, the furnishing of returns of anticipated deliveries during the season and the imposition of levies. The Board may also, with the approval of the Minister, prohibit the marketing of unpopular counts and sizes when excessive supplies become available. No selling prices will be fixed.

Coffee: A new branch of farming in South Africa?

About 12,000 tons of raw coffee beans are imported annually to meet the Republic's requirements. Of this, 1,200 to 1,500 tons (Arabica type) is of high quality, and the local production aims at replacing this portion of the imports.

The Natal coastal strip appears to be ideal for coffee production. It is a frost-

free region with an average rainfall of 40 inches during the growing season. A start has nevertheless also been made with plantings in various places in the Transvaal Lowveld. The greatest handicap to most prospective producers, however, is still the lack of knowledge of cultivation methods.

A small number of growers harvested and marketed their first crop (and a few of them their second) in 1965. During 1965 about 15 tons of local coffee was offered for marketing; for 1966, the crop is estimated provisionally at 300 tons. Prices of between R800 and R900 per ton have been realised - which, of course, compares favourably with those of the best imported quality. A few producers have already proved that 1,000 lb. per acre can be harvested locally; in other words, quite enough to be highly profitable.

A Coffee Growers' Association has been established in Natal. Members are provided with technical advice, good seed, etc. The association also undertakes the marketing of members' crops; that is, after all consignments have been dried, polished and graded in a central factory.

It will, of course, be some considerable time before the Republic's present demand of 1,200 to 1,500 tons of high-grade coffee can be met from local sources. But sooner or later this goal may be reached; and then measures such as the following will have to be introduced:

1. The possibility of exporting the surplus will have to be investigated.
2. Efforts can be made to replace at least part of the lower-grade imported coffee by a better quality.
3. Coffee mixers may be persuaded to use a higher percentage of coffee in their mixtures; unfortunately, this would have an adverse effect on the chicory industry.

- Submitted by J.J. van Wyk, Division of Agricultural Economic Research.