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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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Economic trends in the South African agriculture

The movement of prices in the agricultural sector is indicated in the accompanying graphs. This can be summarised briefly as follows:

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The producer prices of agricultural products for the year ended June 1969, seen as a whole, were about 3,9 per cent higher than the previous year followed by a drop of 0,9 per cent in 1969/70. However, prices again increased by 4,5 per cent in 1970/71. In respect of agronomical products, prices as a whole increased, except in the case of summer grains, which showed a drop of 1,4 per cent during 1970/71, compared with the price level of the previous season. The greatest increases occurred with dried beans (26,5 per cent), hay (24,7 per cent), and sugar-cane (7,2 per cent).

The index of producer prices for horticultural products, showed an increase of 14,5 per cent in 1970/71. In respect of deciduous fruit prices on the export market, a drop was observed with apples, pears, peaches and plums. Prices of apricots and grapes, however, increased. The average value of fruit sold on the nine major fresh produce markets, increased from R82 per metric ton in 1969/70 to R86 per metric ton during 1970/71.

Prices of animal products were about 2,5 per cent higher in 1970/71 than the previous year, when prices dropped by 3 per cent. This advance can be ascribed to the increase in producer prices of slaughter stock (8,3 per cent). Prices of pastoral products however, dropped by 20,5 per cent.

BUTTER-FAT, CHEESE MILK, CONDENSED MILK AND EGGS

Producer prices of dairy products increased by 6,1 per cent in 1970/71, compared with a drop of 0,5 per cent the previous year. Prices of butter-fat were 4,9 per cent higher, while fresh milk showed a price advance of 7,1 per cent. Prices of cheese milk and condensed milk, both increased by 3,7 per cent. Egg prices were 0,1 per cent higher than the previous year.

MAIZE AND WHEAT

The producer price of maize in the 1971/72 marketing season, was R3,65 per bag compared

with R3,45 the previous season. This difference represents a price advance of 5,8 per cent.

Prices of wheat also showed an increase. The producer price increased from R6,36 per bag in 1970/71 to R6,86 per bag in 1971/72, which represents an increase of 5,1 per cent.

CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS

For the 1970/71 season, producer prices of slaughter stock showed an increase of 8,3 per cent. The prices of slaughter cattle increased by 9,4 per cent and prices of slaughter sheep by 2,6 per cent. The greatest increase occurred with slaughter pigs, viz 16,2 per cent.

FARMING REQUISITES

As a whole, prices of farming requisites show an increase of 2,6 per cent during 1970/71. The greatest increase 4,4 per cent occurred in respect of machinery, tools and implements. Prices of materials for fixed improvements increased by 4 per cent. There was an increase in the prices of all short-term requisites, with the result that prices were 2,4 per cent higher. Fuel prices showed an advance of 3,0 per cent and service tariffs were 10,7 per cent higher than the previous year.

CONSUMER AND WHOLESALE PRICES

There was an increase of 6,1 per cent in consumer prices of all items in 1971. Prices of food increased by 4,1 per cent compared with an increase of 4,4 per cent the previous year. Prices of grain products increased by 7,4 per cent in the corresponding period, meat prices by 6,7 per cent while vegetable prices showed a drop of 3,8 per cent. Sugar and related products were 1,8 per cent more expensive.

Wholesale prices of all items showed an increase of 4,6 per cent in 1971. South African goods were 4,7 per cent more expensive and imported goods cost 4,6 per cent more. Food prices were increased by 4,7 per cent and prices of textile goods were 2,4 per cent higher.

EKONOMIESE TENDENSE IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE LANDBOU/
ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

1958/59 - 1960/61 = 100

