

Agriculture In South Africa - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2025 - 2030)

Market Report | 2025-07-01 | 80 pages | Mordor Intelligence

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Report description:

Agriculture In South Africa Market Analysis

The South African agriculture market size stands at USD 17.3 billion in 2025 and is forecast to reach USD 25.0 billion by 2030, reflecting a 7.6% CAGR. Record exports of USD 13.7 billion in 2024, a 3% rise despite severe drought, underscore the sector's resilience. Rapid recovery in maize output to 17.0 million metric tons, rising adoption of precision farming, and expanding horticultural shipments into Asia collectively underpin volume and value growth. Ongoing investments in on-farm solar and biogas systems lessen load-shedding risks, while the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan supplies policy continuity that helps unlock private capital. At the same time, the Western Cape maintains export dominance through citrus and wine, and the Eastern Cape's large livestock base presents expansion headroom once infrastructure improves.

Agriculture In South Africa Market Trends and Insights

High demand for food crops with rising population

Domestic consumption keeps climbing as urban residents allocate 76% of their household spending to essentials, mainly food. South Africa's annual USD 6.6 billion import bill offers scope for import substitution and boosts the South African agriculture market through maize, wheat, and pulse expansion. The African Continental Free Trade Area extends its reach into neighboring states, already purchasing 44% of local farm exports. Maize shortages in Zambia and Malawi have positioned South Africa as a critical grain supplier, reinforcing regional food security roles. Leading processors such as Tiger Brands partner with smallholders

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to secure raw-material pipelines and strengthen national supply chains.

Adoption of advanced ag technologies

Commercial growers widen margins by integrating AI-guided weeding, drone scouting, and variable-rate input systems. Trial plots using data-driven nutrient plans recorded 40% yield jumps, illustrating the technology dividend for the South African agriculture market. Government-backed pilot projects like ITIKI enhance drought prediction accuracy, cutting irrigation water use by 15% in the Free State. Financing platforms such as Hello Tractor's pay-per-use model spare small operators large capex, broadening the user base for precision machinery.

Low land-productivity and soil degradation

Erosion, invasive species, and nutrient exhaustion curb yields on communal plots, particularly in the Eastern Cape. Improved salinity management trials raise net returns by ZAR 161 per hectare, revealing profitable fixes that need minimal technology upgrades. Climate change worsens topsoil loss, forcing subsistence farmers to buy more food and adding pressure to the South African agriculture market.

Other drivers and restraints analyzed in the detailed report include:

Government support via Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan / Surge in horticulture exports / Limited access to affordable finance for smallholders /

For complete list of drivers and restraints, kindly check the Table Of Contents.

Segment Analysis

Cereals and Grains held 32.40% of the South African agriculture market share in 2024, buoyed by a maize rebound to 17.0 million metric tons after the El Nino shock. The South African agriculture market depends on white maize for staple food and yellow maize for feed, with 2025 forecasts indicating 14.56 million metric tons on favorable La Nina moisture. The South African agriculture market size attributable to cereals is set to widen as Free State and Mpumalanga ramp up GMO-free varieties demanded by drought-hit neighbors.

Fruits and Vegetables register the fastest 9.20% CAGR to 2030, driven by citrus, table grapes, and avocados targeting Asia and the Middle East. Drone-enabled biological pest control cuts chemical residues and satisfies stringent EU import standards, preserving premium pricing and supporting the South African agriculture market size for horticulture.

The Agriculture in South Africa Market Report is Segmented by Commodity Type (Cereals and Grains, Pulses and Oilseeds, and More). The Report Includes Production Analysis (Volume), Consumption Analysis (Value and Volume), Import Analysis (Value and Volume), Export Analysis (Value and Volume), and Price Trend Analysis. The Market Forecasts are Provided in Terms of Value (USD) and Volume (Metric Tons).

List of Companies Covered in this Report:

Market Overview / Market Drivers / Market Restraints / Value/Supply-Chain Analysis / Regulatory Landscape / Technological Outlook / PESTLE Analysis / List of Stakeholders /

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The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format /
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Table of Contents:

1 Introduction

1.1 Study Assumptions and Market Definition

1.2 Scope of the Study

2 Research Methodology

3 Executive Summary

4 Market Landscape

4.1 Market Overview

4.2 Market Drivers

4.2.1 High demand for food crops with rising population

4.2.2 Adoption of advanced ag-technologies

4.2.3 Government support via Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan

4.2.4 Surge in horticulture exports

4.2.5 Climate-smart seed varieties after 2024 drought

4.2.6 On-farm renewable energy investments to offset load-shedding

4.3 Market Restraints

4.3.1 Low land-productivity and soil degradation

4.3.2 Limited access to affordable finance for smallholders

4.3.3 Risk of losing AGOA duty-free access

4.3.4 Rising labor costs

4.4 Value/Supply-Chain Analysis

4.5 Regulatory Landscape

4.6 Technological Outlook

4.7 PESTLE Analysis

5 Market Size and Growth Forecasts (Production Analysis by Volume, Consumption Analysis by Volume and Value, Import Analysis by Volume and Value, Export Analysis by Volume and Value, and Price Trend Analysis)

5.1 By Commodity Type

5.1.1 Cereals and Grains

5.1.1.1 Production Analysis

5.1.1.2 Consumption Analysis

5.1.1.3 Export Analysis

5.1.1.4 Import Analysis

5.1.1.5 Price Trend Analysis

5.1.2 Pulses and Oilseeds

5.1.2.1 Production Analysis

5.1.2.2 Consumption Analysis

5.1.2.3 Export Analysis

5.1.2.4 Import Analysis

5.1.2.5 Price Trend Analysis

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- 5.1.3 Fruits and Vegetables
 - 5.1.3.1 Production Analysis
 - 5.1.3.2 Consumption Analysis
 - 5.1.3.3 Export Analysis
 - 5.1.3.4 Import Analysis
 - 5.1.3.5 Price Trend Analysis
- 5.1.4 Cash Crops
 - 5.1.4.1 Production Analysis
 - 5.1.4.2 Consumption Analysis
 - 5.1.4.3 Export Analysis
 - 5.1.4.4 Import Analysis
 - 5.1.4.5 Price Trend Analysis

6 Competitive Landscape

- 6.1 List of Stakeholders

7 Market Opportunities and Future Outlook

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