

ABARES AUSTRALIAN CROP REPORT, FEBRUARY 2017

Summary

The estimate for South Australia's 2016-17 winter crop production is 11.2 million tonnes, 57% above the five-year average and up 56% (or 4.0 million tonnes) from the 2015-16 season. The 2016-17 winter crop production estimate is the highest on record.

National winter crop production in 2016-17 is estimated to be 58.9 million tonnes, 44% above the five-year average and up 49% (or 19.3 million tonnes) on 2015-16, and is also a record high. This represents a 12% upward revision to the December 2016 forecast, primarily resulting from higher than expected yields in most regions.

The harvesting of winter crops is near complete, with only small areas yet to be harvested in Victoria. Favourable seasonal conditions has seen all mainland states achieve record highs.

Further Analysis

Australia

The estimated result for winter crop production represents an improvement since the December 2016 forecast. Overall there was a 12% upward revision to the 2016-17 winter crop production estimate.

The forecast 49% increase in 2016-17 winter crop production reflects growth across all states: Victoria (up 145%), South Australia (up 56%), Queensland (up 45%), New South Wales (up 43%) and Western Australia (up 23%).

Wheat production is estimated to have risen by 45% to 35.1 million tonnes. Barley production is estimated to have increased by 56% to 13.4 million tonnes and canola production by 41% to equal the record high of 4.1 million tonnes achieved in 2012-13.

South Australia

Exceptionally favourable seasonal conditions during crop development supported high-volume winter crop production in South

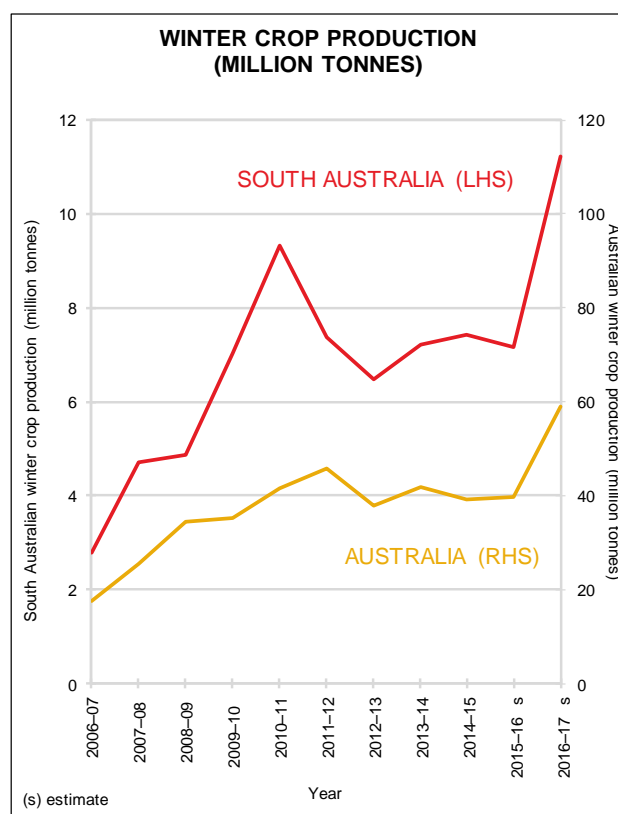
Australia, with yields in most regions better than anticipated.

The total area planted to winter crops is estimated to have been unchanged from 2015-16 at 3.5 million hectares.

Wheat production in 2016-17 is estimated to have increased by 51% to 6.6 million tonnes, reflecting no change in the area planted and a 51% rise in the yield.

Barley production is estimated to have risen by 59% to 3.0 million tonnes, reflecting a 61% rise in the yield, which was only partially offset by a 1.2% decline in the area planted.

Canola production is estimated to have increased by 35% to 400,000 tonnes, reflecting a 38% increase in the yield, which was only partially offset by a fall of 2.2% in the area planted.



14 January 2017

Next release of ABARES Crop Report is 14 June 2017