



SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES - OCTOBER 31, 2015

The objective of this AIMI survey of maize growers was to determine, as at October 31, 2015:

- final figures for the 2015 harvest of maize grain and silage
- sales of the 2015 harvest of maize grain since June 1, 2015
- levels of unsold maize grain from the 2015 harvest
- sowings and sowing intentions for maize for grain and silage

Data from 73 survey farms who completed all of the last three maize surveys (October 2014 and June and October 2015) were scaled up to the national level using the most recent Agricultural Production Statistics (APS) which provided data on maize grain, maize silage and maize green feed.

In all previous AIMI surveys, APS estimates for maize grain hectares have been used in conjunction with data on maize seed sales to estimate hectares sown for maize silage, on the assumption that maize green feed accounted for only 1% of maize grown. Recently obtained APS estimates, however, show that maize green feed accounts for about 13% of maize hectares; this is taken into account in the current survey (and maize silage estimates from previous surveys have also been adjusted).

As with all surveys, there is a margin of error which needs to be considered in relation to this report. These figures reflect the position at the 31st October 2015 and there will have been changes since this time.

Key Points as at 31 October 2015 (figures have been rounded to nearest 100):

The estimated tonnage of maize silage harvested in 2015 was 1,141,700 t DM, which was almost identical to that harvested in 2014 (1,144,900 t DM).

The estimated tonnage of maize grain harvested in 2015 was 190,400 t, which was 20% down on that harvested in 2014 (237,200 t). An estimated 13,900 t of maize grain remained unsold at 31st October 2015 (as compared to an estimated 1,600 t at the same time last year).

The area sown for maize silage, to be harvested in 2016, is forecast to be 44,500 ha, down considerably (by 14,100 ha, or 24%) on last year.

The area sown for maize grain, to be harvested in 2016, is forecast to be 17,400 ha, which is very similar to last season but down by 4000 ha on the 2014 harvest year.

At the 31st October over three quarters of the maize for both grain and silage had been sown, with 14,000 ha of a total 61,900 ha left to sow.

Since the June 2015 survey, the estimated area to be sown for maize grain has decreased by 3,800 ha while conversely, the estimated area to be sown for maize silage has increased by 3,400 ha.

Table 1. Detailed estimated national figures for the 2015 harvest of maize grain and maize silage crops, plus sold and unsold tonnages of maize grain, as at October 31, 2015.

| | Units | Maize grain | Maize silage |
|---|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2015 | | 23 | 58 |
| 2014 harvest | | | |
| Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest | Ha | 21,562 | 55,884 |
| Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2014 harvest | Tonnes | 237,165 | 1,144,948 |
| 2015 harvest | | | |
| Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 final harvest figures | Ha | 17,350 | 58,535 |
| Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2015 final harvest figures | Tonnes | 190,366 | 1,141,685 |
| Sold under pre-harvest contract by October 31, 2015 | Tonnes | 164,714 | - |
| Sold at spot/free price by October 31, 2015 | Tonnes | 10,812 | - |
| Used on own farm by October 31, 2015 | Tonnes | 972 | - |
| Unsold stocks on hand (2015 harvest only) on October 31, 2015 | Tonnes | 13,868 | - |
| Total sales (2015 harvest) | | | |
| Sold (grand total) by October 31, 2015 (includes used on farm) | Tonnes | 176,498 | - |
| Unsold stocks on hand (from 2015 harvest) on October 31, 2015 | Tonnes | 13,868 | - |
| Comparison of hectares and tonnages between the last two harvests | | | |
| Estimated % change in hectares, 2014 to 2015 harvest | % | -19.5 | 4.7 |
| Estimated % change in tonnes, 2014 to 2015 harvest | % | -19.7 | -0.3 |
| Unsold stocks on hand on June 1, 2015, the last survey date (based upon matched data) | | | |
| Unsold stocks on hand (from 2015 harvest) on June 1, 2015 (of total crop) | Tonnes | 22,768 | - |
| Unsold stocks on hand on October 31, 2014, the same time last year (based upon matched data) | | | |
| Unsold stocks on hand (from 2014 harvest) on October 31, 2014 | Tonnes | 1,620 | - |

Statistics New Zealand is gratefully acknowledged for supplying 2014 APS figures on total hectares and tonnes for maize grain, and total hectares for maize silage.

In Table 1, the unsold tonnage of the 2015 harvest of maize grain has reduced by 39% in the period between the AIMI surveys dated June 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015. However, it is still much higher than at the same time last year (13,900 t this year versus 1,600 t last year).

Table 2. Sowings and sowing intentions for maize grain and maize silage as at October 31, 2015.

| | Maize grain (ha) | Maize silage (ha) |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Number of farmers in survey who have sown or intend to sow this crop as at October 31, 2015 | 25 | 49 |
| Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest | 21,562 | 55,884 |
| Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 harvest | 17,350 | 58,535 |
| Sowings and intentions, 2015/2016 season (hectares, for harvest in 2016) | | |
| Estimated NZ total hectares already sown by October 31, 2015 | 12,617 | 35,299 |
| Estimated NZ total hectares intending to sow after October 31, 2015 | 4,810 | 9,168 |
| Estimated NZ total hectares (sowings and intentions), 2016 harvest | 17,427 | 44,468 |
| Comparison of hectares between the 2014, 2015 and 2016 (predicted) harvests | | |
| Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2014 to 2015 harvest | -19.5 | 4.7 |
| Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2015 to 2016 (predicted) harvest | 0.4 | -24.0 |
| Comparison of sowing intentions as at June 1, 2015 with sowings plus intentions as at Oct 31, 2015 (based upon matched data) | | |
| Estimated NZ total 2015 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2015 (hectares, for harvest in 2016) | 21,265 | 41,080 |
| Change in estimated NZ total 2015 sowings & intentions between June 1, 2015 and Oct 31, 2015 (hectares, for harvest in 2016) | -3,837 | 3,388 |

In Table 2, the most striking feature is the 24% drop in sowings and intentions for maize for silage between the last two seasons.

As at October 31, about a quarter (23%) of the maize was still to be sown, so the situation could have changed further since this date.

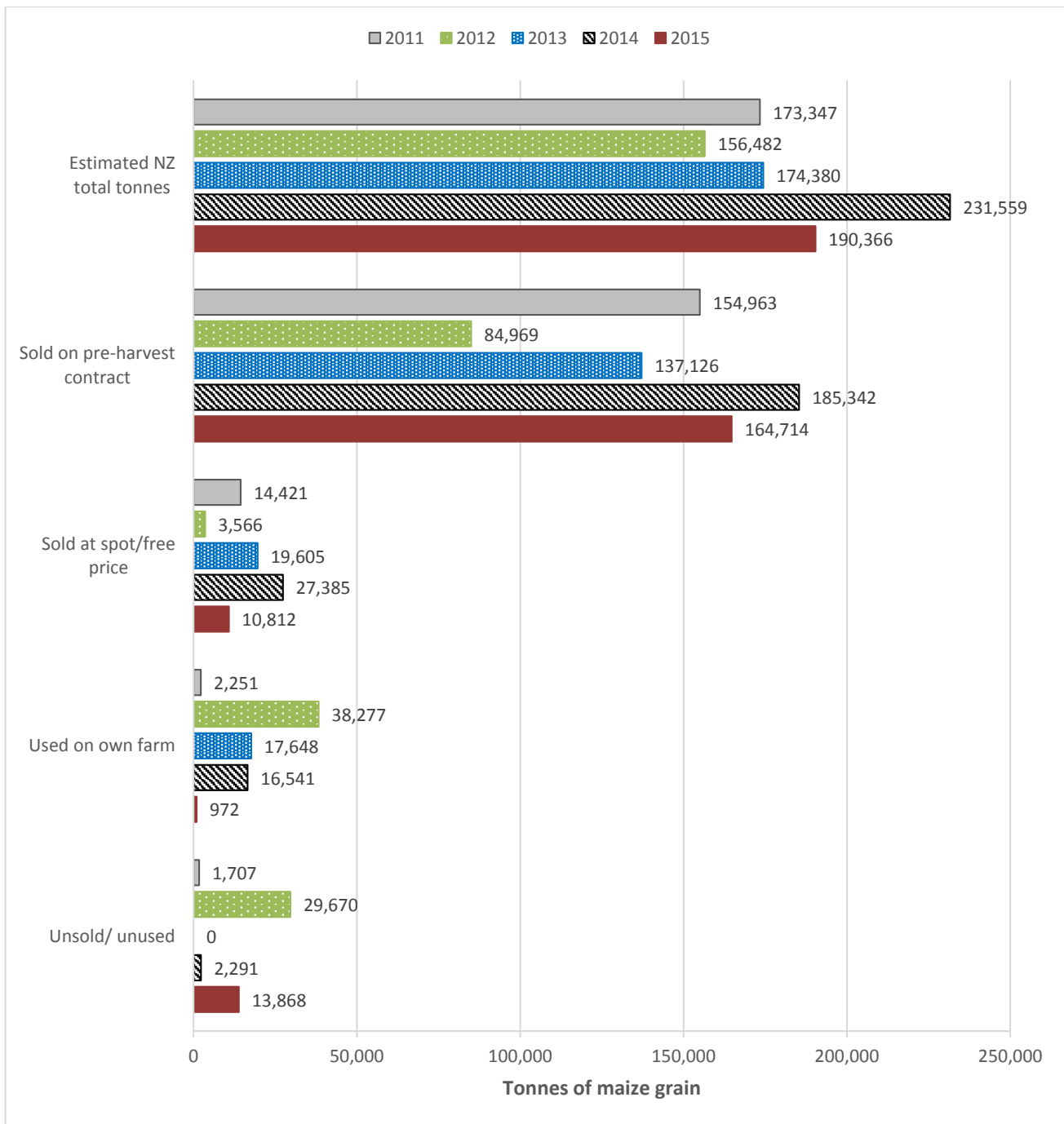


Figure 1. Maize grain harvest tonnages and sales by October each year.

Note: data is sourced from the annual October AIMI reports.

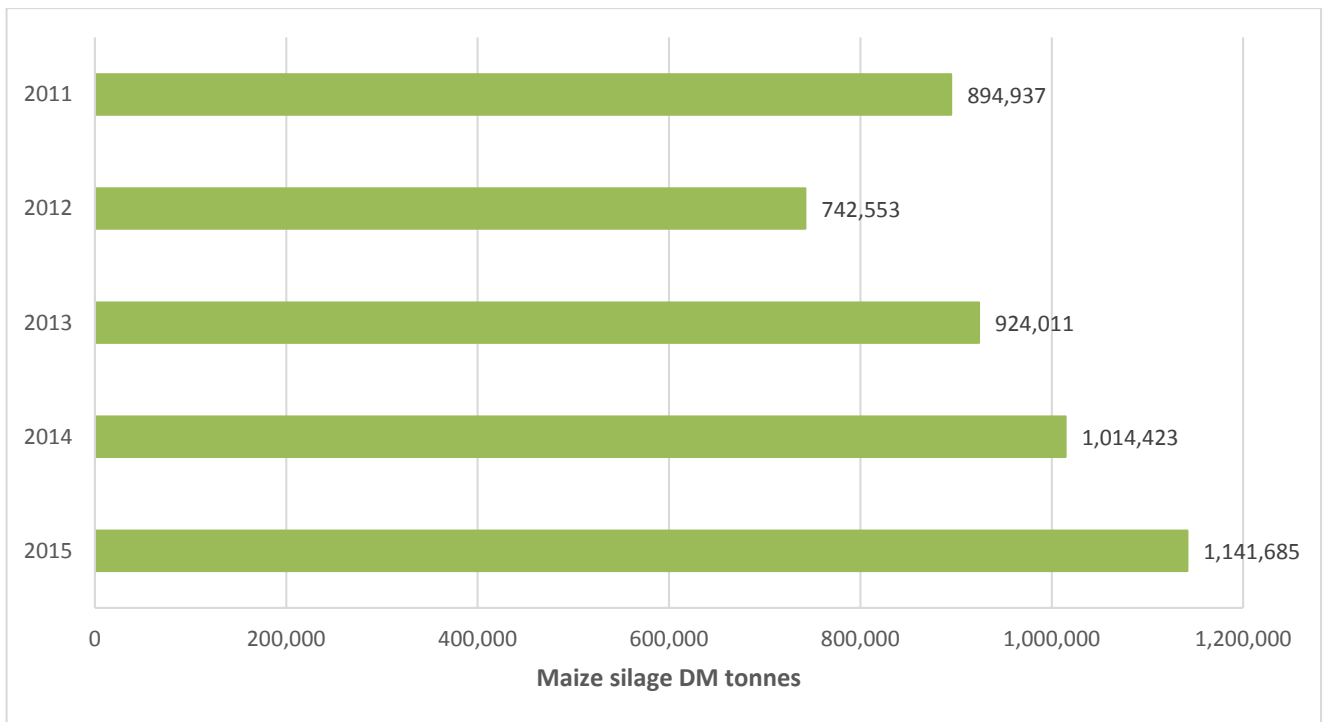


Figure 2. Maize silage harvest tonnages (dry matter) estimated in October each year.
Note: data from the annual October AIMI reports (except maize green feed t DM are subtracted).

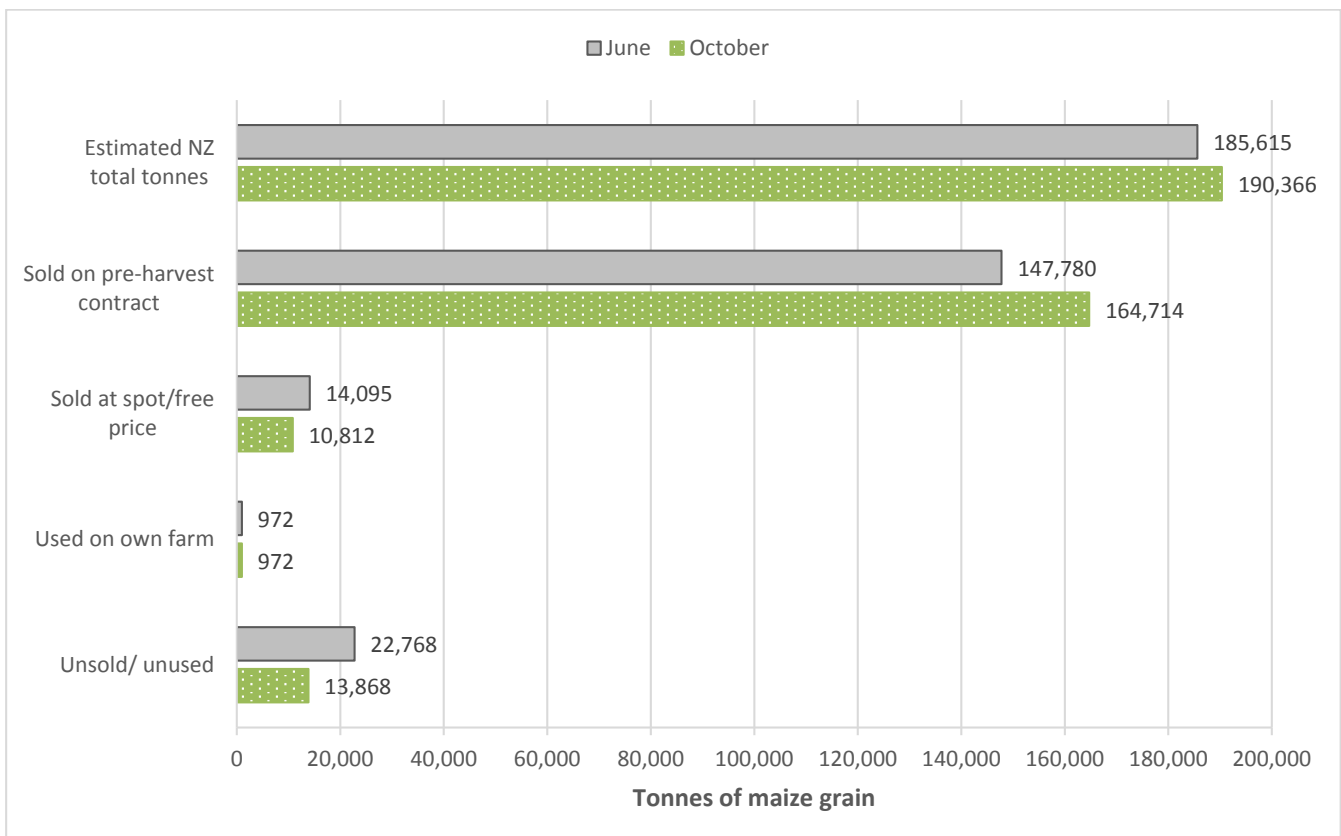


Figure 3. Comparison of maize grain tonnages and sales for the 2015 harvest between June 1 and October 31, 2015. All estimates are based upon scaling up data from growers in the current survey sample, so provide a more precise matched comparison.

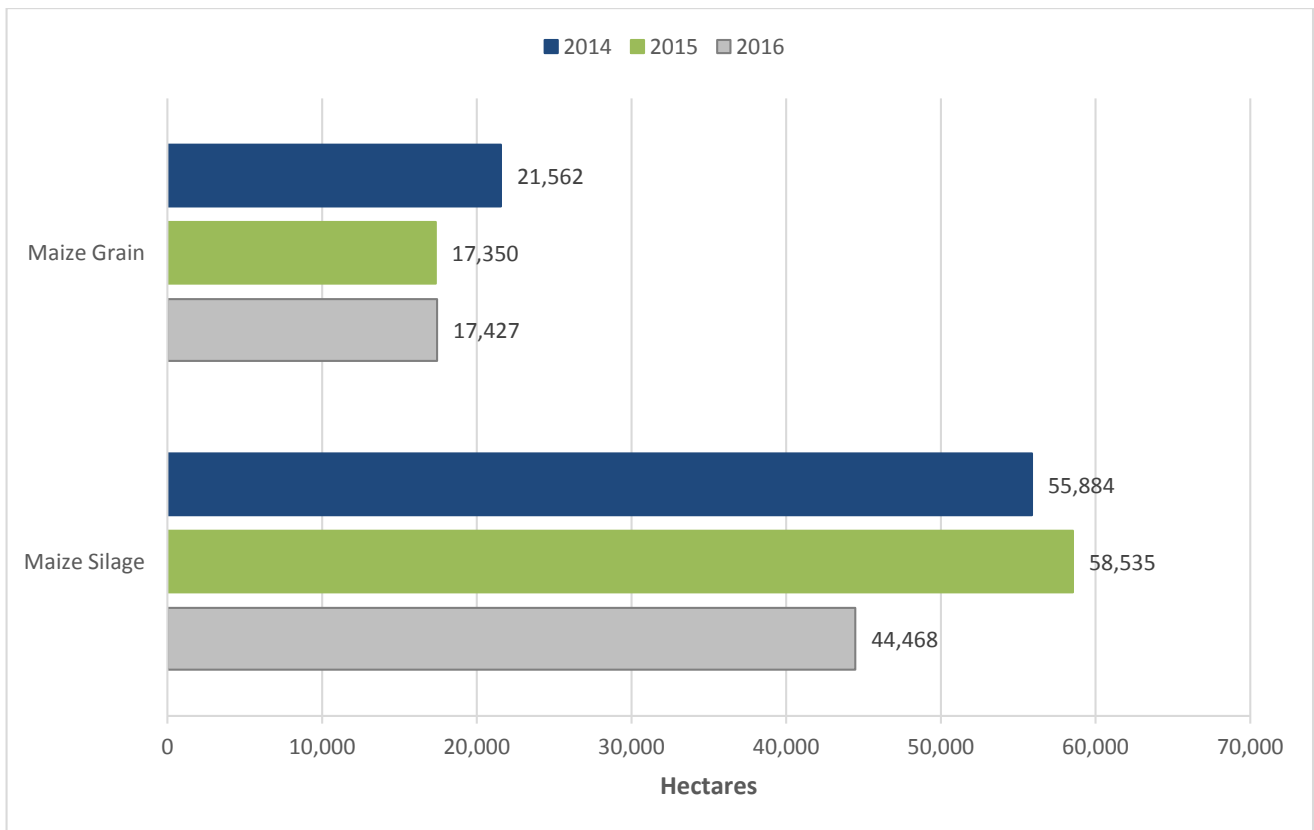


Figure 4. Estimated total hectares sown or intended to be sown in 2015 (for harvest in 2016) as compared to total hectares harvested in 2014 and 2015. All estimates are based upon scaling up from the current survey sample, which consists of only those growers who responded to all of the last three AIMI maize surveys; these estimates therefore provide more precise matched comparisons.

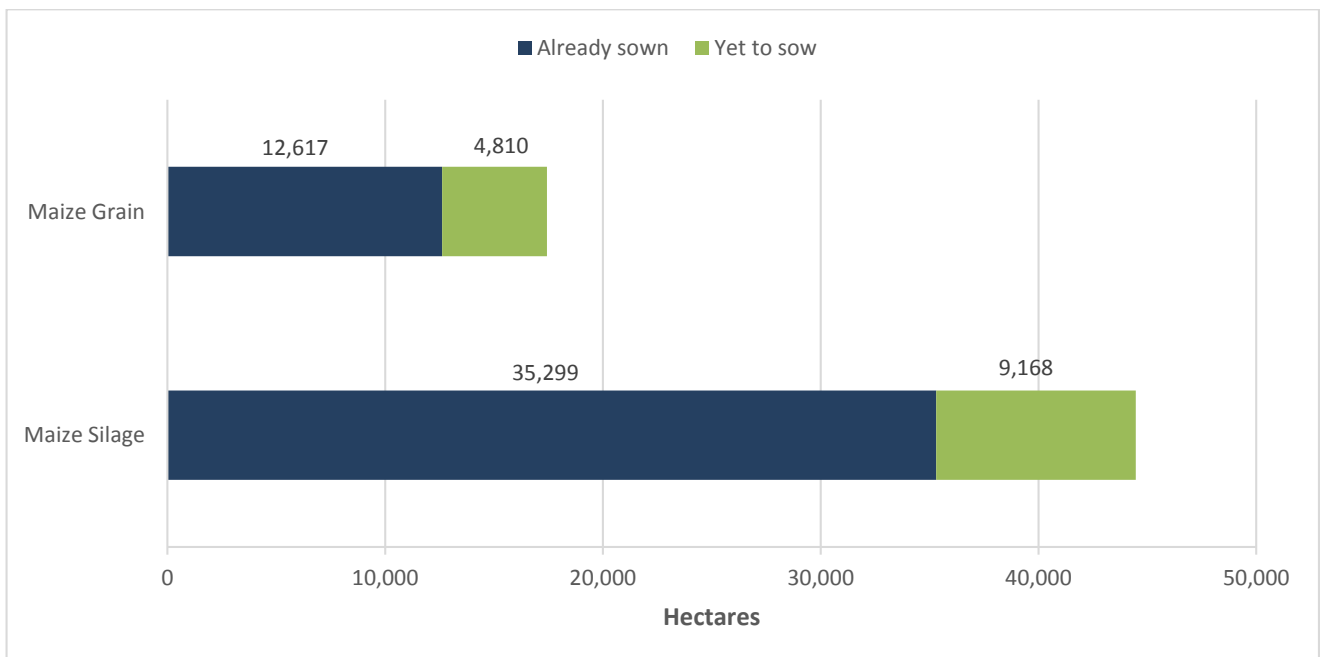


Figure 5. Estimated hectares of maize already sown in spring 2015, together with hectares yet to sow (spring intentions) for harvest in 2016, based on data collected on October 31, 2015.

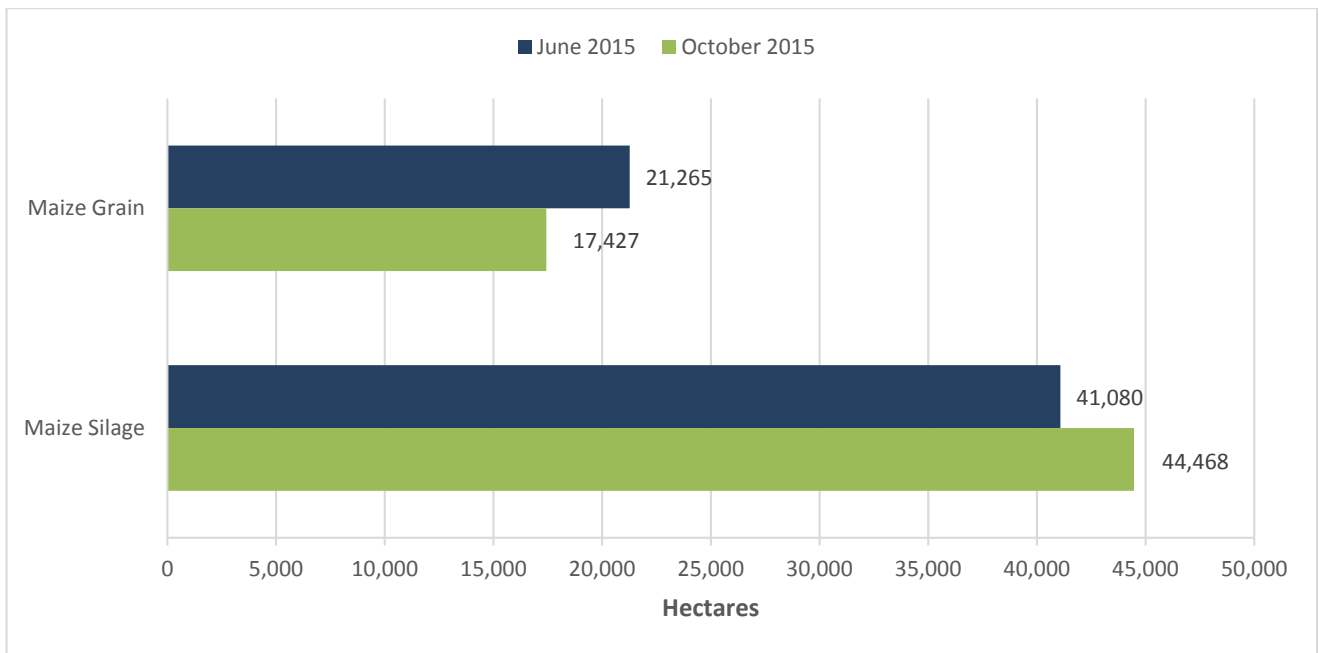


Figure 6. Comparison of spring maize sowing intentions as at June 1 2015 with actual sowings plus intentions as at October 31 2015. As in Figure 3, this is a matched comparison.

© Foundation for Arable Research (FAR)

DISCLAIMER:

This report is intended to provide accurate and adequate information relating to the subject matter contained in it. It has been prepared and made available to all persons and entities strictly on the basis that FAR, its researchers and authors are fully excluded from any liability for damages arising out of any reliance in part or in full upon any of the information for any purpose.