

## SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES – JUNE 1, 2015

### Introduction

The objective of this AIMI survey of maize growers was to determine:

- the size of the 2015 harvest of maize grain and maize silage
- the percentage of the 2015 maize harvest which was sold as at June 1, 2015
- the sowing intentions for the spring of 2015

The data from 82 survey farms as at June 1, 2015 were scaled up to the national level using the most recent Agricultural Production Statistics for maize grain and including an estimate of maize seed sales for maize silage. 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 1st June 2015 and there will have been changes since this time.

### At the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015:

- Average yields of maize grain (10.5 t/ha) and maize silage (20.0 t DM/ha) for the 2015 harvest were very similar to last season (at 11.0 t/ha and 20.8 t DM/ha respectively).
- The maize grain harvest was 74% complete as at June 1, 2015. The estimated total tonnage of 191,000 tonnes (including unharvested grain) was down 19% compared to last season's harvest. About 82% of the total crop had been sold, leaving 35,000 tonnes unsold as at June 1, 2015 (as compared to 24,000 tonnes at the same time last year). Spring 2015 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2015 were an estimated 5% up on last season, not including data from survey growers who were uncertain as to their intentions because of the importation of maize grain.
- The maize silage harvest was 100% complete on all surveyed farms. The estimated total tonnage of 1,362,000 tonnes DM was up 1% compared to last season's harvest. About 66% of the total crop had been sold or used, leaving 458,000 tonnes DM unused /unsold as at June 1, 2015 (as compared to 387,000 tonnes DM at the same time last year). Spring 2015 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2015 were markedly down (24% down) on last season.

**Table 1. Detailed estimated national figures for the 2015 harvest, plus sold tonnages, for maize grain and maize silage as at June 1, 2015.**

	Units	Maize grain	Maize silage
<b>Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2015</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>2014 harvest</b>			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest	Ha	21,600	65,116
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2014 harvest	Tonnes	237,200	1,353,139
<b>2015 harvest</b>			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 harvest	Ha	18,142	68,130
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2015 harvest	Tonnes	191,309	1,362,484
Estimated NZ total hectares already harvested by June 1, 2015	Ha	13,803	68,130
Estimated NZ total tonnes already harvested by June 1, 2015	Tonnes	141,090	1,362,484
Estimated NZ total hectares yet to harvest as at June 1, 2015	Ha	4,339	0
Estimated NZ total tonnes yet to harvest as at June 1, 2015	Tonnes	50,219	0
<b>2015 crop already harvested (by June 1, 2015)</b>			
Sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2015	Tonnes	106,241	676,006
Sold at spot/free price by June 1, 2015	Tonnes	13,266	
Used on own farm (2015 harvest only) by June 1, 2015	Tonnes	915	228,837
Unsold/ unused stocks on hand (2015 harvested maize only) on June 1, 2015	Tonnes	20,667	457,641
<b>2015 crop yet to be harvested (as at June 1, 2015)</b>			
Unharvested crop sold under pre-harvest contract by June 1, 2015	Tonnes	36,241	0
Unharvested crop unsold/ unused as at June 1, 2015	Tonnes	13,978	0
<b>Total sales (2015 harvest): includes unharvested grain</b>			
Sold (of total crop) by June 1, 2015 (includes used on farm)	Tonnes	156,664	904,843
Unsold/ unused (of total crop) on June 1, 2015	Tonnes	34,645	457,641
<b>Comparison of hectares and tonnages between last two harvests</b>			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2014 to 2015 harvest	%	-16.0	4.6
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2014 to 2015 harvest	%	-19.3	0.7
<b>Comparison of yields (tonnes/ ha) between the last two harvests</b>			
NZ-wide, 2014 harvest	T/ha	11.0	20.8
NZ-wide, 2015 harvest	T/ha	10.5	20.0
Unsold/ unused tonnage at same time last year (AIMI report of June 1, 2014)	Tonnes	23,869	386,917

In Table 1 above, the estimated 2015 harvest tonnes of maize grain were 19% lower than for the 2014 harvest. For maize silage, harvest tonnes were similar between the last two seasons.

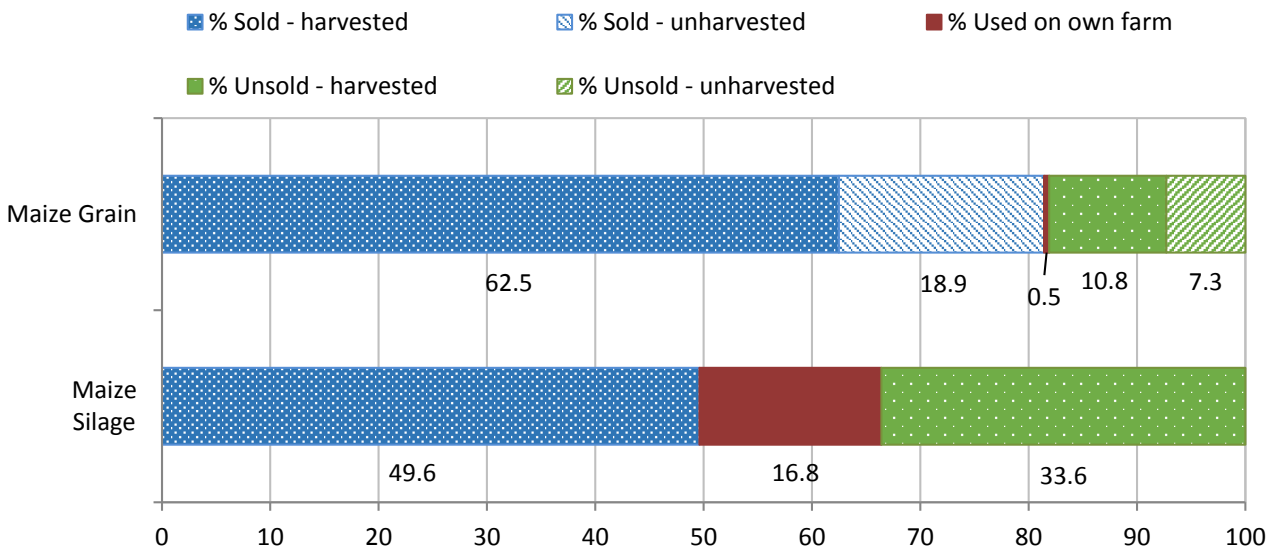
**Table 2. Maize sowing intentions as at June 1, 2015, in comparison with previous years' estimates.**

	Maize grain (ha)	Maize silage (ha)
<b>Number of survey farmers who intend to sow in the 2015/2016 season</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>53</b>
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2014 harvest	21,600	65,116
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2015 harvest	18,142	68,130
Estimated NZ total planting intentions for 2015/2016 season (for harvest in 2016) (hectares)	19,067	51,510
Estimated % change in plantings, 2014/15 to 2015/16 seasons	5.1	-24.4

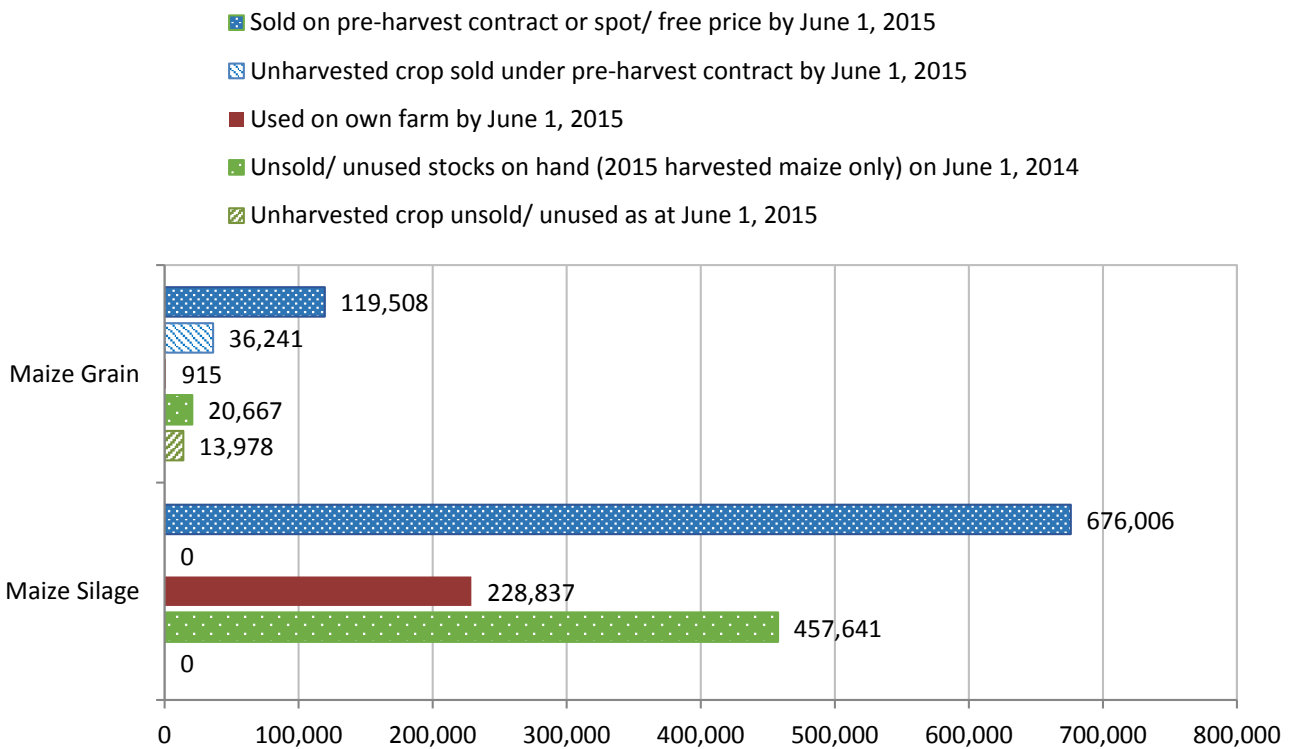
As at 1 June 2015, maize grain sowing intentions for 2015/16 were similar to last season (5% up). This is based upon a sample of 25 maize grain growers. There were an additional five growers who expressed displeasure at the importation of maize grain, and were unsure whether they would sow or not (the intentions of these growers were taken to be zero).

For maize silage, sowing intentions were markedly down on last season (24% down).

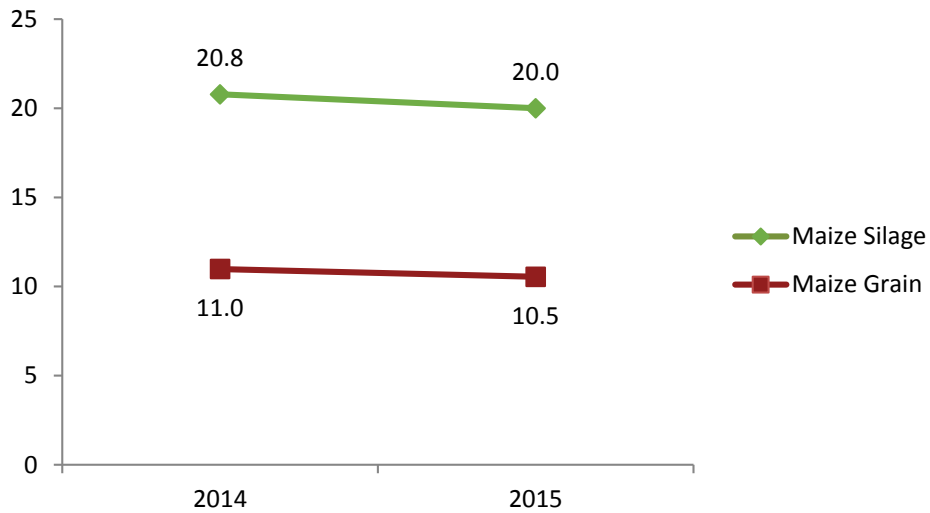
**Summary results in June each year – graphs**



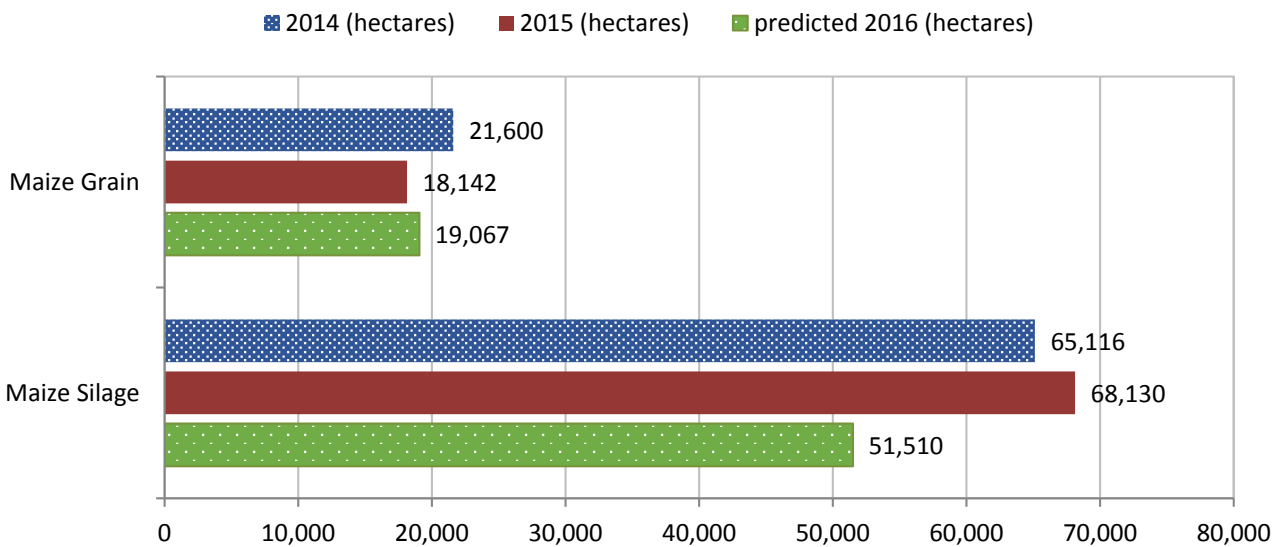
**Figure 1.** Percentage of maize crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold/unused from the 2015 harvest, including unharvested grain, as at June 1, 2015.



**Figure 2.** Estimated national figures (tonnes) of maize crop sold, used on own farm, and unsold/unused from the 2015 harvest, including unharvested grain, as at June 1, 2015.



**Figure 3.** Comparison of estimated NZ-wide yields (tonnes per ha) from 2014 and 2015 harvests.



**Figure 4.** Estimated national hectares of maize grain and maize silage for the 2014, 2015 and predicted 2016 harvests, as at June 1, 2015.

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