2006 South African Macadamia production

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We would like to acknowledge all the processors for supplying SAMAC with the information needed to make the following macadamia production statistics available. The production figures below show the production of macadamias for 2006 in the various South African provinces as well as Malawi and Zimbabwe

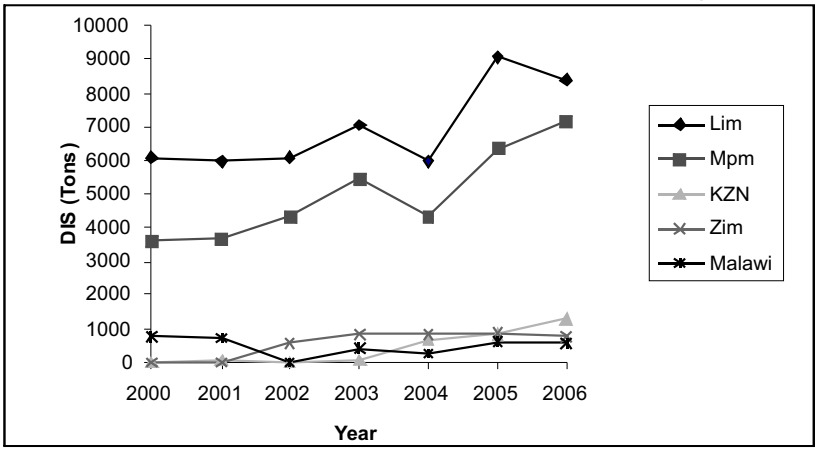
	South Africa				International		
	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	KZN	Total RSA	Malawi	Zimbabwe	Total
WIS (kg)	9,209,462	7,943,933	1,471,241	18,624,635	590,655	790,914	20,006,204
DIS (kg)	8,405,926	7,139,882	1,294,214	16,840,022	544,462	771,443	18,155,928
SK (kg)	2,059,723	2,037,789	384,418	4,481,931	156,506	194,741	4,833,178
USK (kg)	407,080	233,716	88,393	729,189	15,504	43,264	787,957
TK (kg)	2,466,803	2,271,505	472,812	5,211,120	172,011	238,005	5,621,135
SKR %	24.50	28.54	29.70	26.61	28.75	25.24	26.62
USKR %	4.84	3.27	6.83	4.33	2.85	5.61	4.34
TKR %	29.35	31.81	36.53	30.94	31.59	30.85	30.96

Table 1: Macadamia Production for Southern Africa in 2006

WIS = Wet - In -Shell
DIS = Dry - In - Shell
SK = Sound Kernel
USK = Unsound Kernel
TK = Total Kernel
SKR % = Sound Kernel Recovery percentage = SK / DIS x 100
USKR % = Unsound Kernel Recovery percentage = USK / DIS x 100
TKR % = Total Kernel Recovery percentage = TK / DIS x 100 = SKR% + USKR%

A small increase of 2.4% (418 DIS tons) was recorded in the DIS production from 2005 to 2006 in the Southern African region. The volumes for Malawi, Zimbabwe and Limpopo have decreased. The 7% (670 DIS tons) decrease in Limpopo's crop is most likely due to bad weather during flowering and fruit set in 2005. Malawi's drop may represent a decrease in product being exported to South Africa for processing as not all Malawi's crop is processed through South Africa. Both Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal experienced increases in their crop. Mpumalanga showed an increase of 13% and KwaZulu-Natal exhibited a huge increase of 58%, and has now overtaken the Zimbabwean production volumes. These increases are most likely the result of many younger trees coming into bearing. This trend should continue for the next few years especially in KwaZulu-Natal, where many new plantings have taken place in the last few years. One can view these trends in Graph 1. Limpopo remains the biggest macadamia producing province in South Africa; producing 47% of the countries crop (Graph 2), Mpumalanga is in second place and closing in on Limpopo's production. Growers in these fast growing regions must be very alert when it comes to pest monitoring especially with regards to stinkbugs. Pest pressure will likely increase with greater yields. An increased food source and more hiding/breeding places in denser orchards will be the reason for this.

Graph 1: Production volumes of DIS macadamias from the various regions

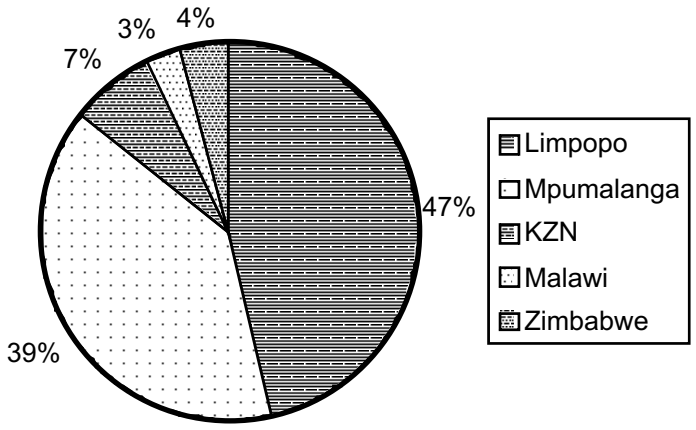


Another interesting point is that the USKR% has come down by 0.5% in South Africa. Mpumalanga has improved theirs by almost 2%. This may not sound like much but 0.5% of 16840 ton of DIS is equal to 84 tons of kernel. At an average price of R60/Kg Kernel this is around 5 million Rand gained from the increased kernel recovery.

From looking at table 2, one can see that the overall stinkbug damage has come down slightly, however the levels

still seem to be too high. All provinces showed over 40% of the unsound kernel being damaged by stinkbugs. Continued research by SAMAC is vitally important to get this problem under control. Every grower needs to monitor and spray accordingly for stinkbugs. Scout training and improving spraying efficiency is vitally important for growers to improve stinkbug control. Monitoring and spraying for stinkbug must continue right up to the end of harvesting to reduce late stinkbug damage. .

Some other points that have come out of this year's unsound kernel breakdown are the decrease the percentage of immature nuts, and the increased discolouration found in the nuts. Harvesting the nuts as often as possible, at least once a week, can reduce this. The nuts should then be dehusked on the same day. Freshly harvested nuts should be handled with care and impact damage should be reduced as much as possible NIH should not be enclosed in bags but must be allowed to breathe. It is also interesting to note that the incidence of 791 spot in Limpopo has almost doubled while 791 spot in KZN has more than halved. One should compare these average figures in table 2 with your own to see how you are performing against the average.



Graph 2: Percentages of DIS produced in the various regions

Table 2: Breakdown of Unsound kernel.

USK Breakdown	Limpopo	Mpumalanga	KZN	Total RSA	Malawi	Zimbabwe	Ave	2005 Comparison
Early Stinkbug	18.58	13.56	28.76	19.62	18.00	17.00	18.92	**-3.01**
Late Stinkbug	24.97	28.35	26.85	26.60	13.26	27.48	24.94	0.28
Total Stinkbug	**43.55**	**41.91**	**55.61**	**46.22**	**31.26**	**44.47**	**43.86**	**-2.73**
Borer	0.95	6.01	1.06	2.67	0.70	0.78	2.05	-0.32
Immature	13.07	8.76	6.43	9.86	9.26	13.64	10.47	**-3.24**
Pregerminated	3.02	2.01	0.64	2.05	4.93	2.08	2.45	1.46
Mould	6.65	6.33	7.23	6.70	35.59	10.84	11.39	0.87
791 spot	**11.53**	6.45	**3.36**	7.65	3.35	1.75	5.99	-0.22
Discoulouration	**20.75**	**26.36**	**24.31**	**23.57**	**14.55**	**24.70**	**22.54**	**3.65**
Other	0.50	2.14	1.34	1.27	0.37	1.72	1.23	0.37
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	