



PRESS RELEASE

South African Table Grape Industry – Third Crop Estimate for 2019/2020 season

31 January 2020 – The South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) released the 3rd Crop Estimate* for the 2019/2020 season with an estimate of between 59,6 million and 64,7 million cartons (4,5 kg equivalents), mainly caused by lower volumes from the Hex River region following rain two weeks ago (week 3). After further assessment the effect of the rain on the mid-season cultivars of the Hex River region became evident. A crop volume reduction of about 2 million cartons is estimated for this region. The backbone of the Hex River crop consists predominantly of Crimson Seedless, which escaped the adverse effect of the rain, promises good volumes, colour and quality and basically still needs to be packed.

The advantage of the geographical diversity of the 5 table grape grower regions in South Africa is yet again demonstrated by the performance of the Orange River and Olifants River who have already reached the lower limits of the 2nd crop estimate and the Berg River, where the 3rd crop estimate has been adjusted upwards. This supports to a great extent the overall industry volumes.

3rd Crop Estimate* for 2019/2020 season (million 4,5 kg equivalent cartons)

REGION	3 rd ESTIMATE (31 January 2020)		2 nd ESTIMATE (18 December 2019)		1 st ESTIMATE (18 October 2019)		ACTUAL PACKED VOLUMES		
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
Northern Provinces	5,8	6,0	5,65	6,30	7,15	7,80	7,121	6,829	5,538
Orange River	19,5	19,9	18,50	19,90	18,50	19,90	19,207	19,016	20,533
Olifants River	2,5	2,7	2,10	2,50	2,10	2,50	2,367	2,802	3,968
Berg River	14,0	15,8	13,50	15,30	13,50	15,30	13,789	13,053	15,426
Hex River	17,8	20,3	19,80	22,30	19,80	22,30	18,649	20,365	22,111
TOTAL	59,6	64,7	59,55	66,30	61,05	67,80	61,133	62,065	67,575

The Northern Provinces and Orange River regions are nearly done packing while the Olifants, Berg and Hex River regions still have some way to go. The Berg River region, which was not affected by the rain, is harvesting under ideal conditions with good quality grapes and berry sizes achieved.

According to Willem Bestbier, Chief Executive Officer of SATI, the South African table grape growers continue to focus on quality and service to international markets, regardless of the unpredictability of Mother Nature. “We together with producers in the Olifants River region are grateful that table grape production in this region has recovered so well after the recent drought as they look set to exceed the first crop estimate.”

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**SATI Crop estimates are done in co-operation with growers and industry experts representing all production regions.*