



PRESS RELEASE

Early Crop lighter than expected SATI Updates 2nd Crop Estimate for 2015/2016 season

The South African Table Grape Industry (SATI) updated Second Crop estimate on 18 December 2015 confirms that the early regions 2015/2016 table grape crop is significantly lighter than expected. This is the result of the Orange River Valley indicating a total crop of between 18.0 and 18.5 million cartons, which is significantly lower than the original estimate for the region and is predominantly ascribed to an early season, smaller berry size and particularly warm and dry weather conditions.

Due to the geography and specific climate of the Orange River Valley, the second largest table grape production region in South Africa, the season is relatively short and full season expectations are significantly influenced by week-to-week intakes and assessments. Prime and Flame Seedless are harvested and were much lighter than anticipated. Sugraone, which is currently being packed, follows the same pattern and even the early pickings of Thompson Seedless realise lighter weights.

The table below highlights the update for the Orange River Valley and confirms an unchanged outlook for all other South African table grape production regions, as announced on 10 December 2015.

Table: Crop Estimate in 4.5 kg carton equivalents

Region	2015/2016 Second Estimate	2015/2016 First Estimate	2014/2015 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2012/2013 Actual
Northern Provinces	4.3 - 4.5 m	4.3 - 4.5 m	4 510 726	4 083 599	4 155 648
Orange River <i>(updated 17/12/2015)</i>	18.0 - 18.5 m	19.5 - 20.0 m	17 686 725	15 118 961	16 039 382
Olifants River	3.8 - 4.0 m	3.8 - 4.0 m	3 788 287	3 121 056	2 725 942
Berg River	13.8 - 14.3 m	13.8 - 14.3 m	13 062 449	11 379 002	12 672 168
Hex River	19.9 - 20.4 m	19.9 - 20.4 m	20 331 091	16 846 196	18 286 725
Grand Total	59.8 - 61.7 m	61.3 - 63.2 m	59 379 279	50 548 814	53 879 865

This updated estimate for the Orange River Valley reduces the total crop estimate to between 59.8 and 61.7 million cartons, which is 2.4% lower than the first estimate and between 1% and 4% up on the previous season.

The weather conditions in all regions are ideal for harvesting and packing and excellent quality is expected from all mid to late season areas.

For enquiries, please contact Joseph Lombardt (joseph@satgi.co.za) or Willem Bestbier (willem@satgi.co.za).

18 DECEMBER 2015