



ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY



THE MAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT MAIZE

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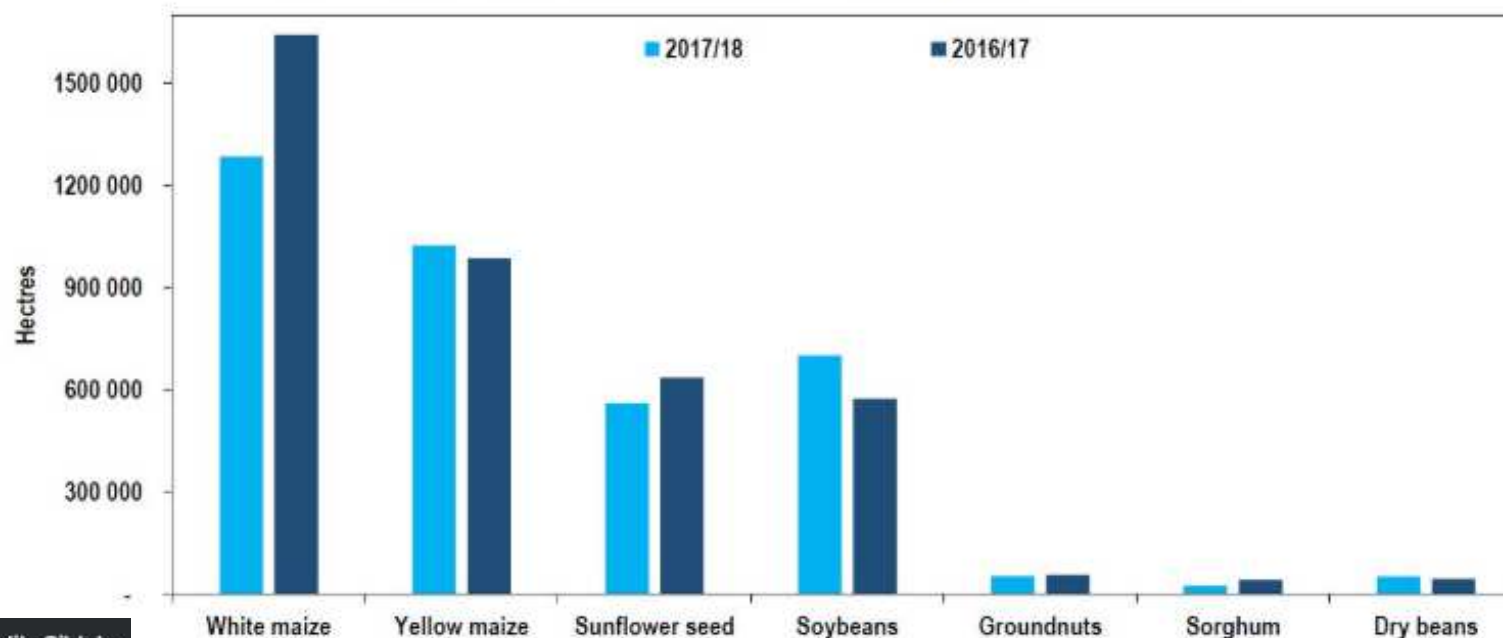
Maize farming



- Maize is farmed extensively and commercially on many farms.
- Main areas are North West, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.



South Africa's summer crop preliminary planting estimates for 2017/18



 Wandile Sihlobo

- Maize is the most important crop grown in South Africa.
- Production is higher than other crops
- **{An interesting fact:** The difference between yellow and white maize grains is due to the color of the nutritive tissue which covers up the embryo in the seed, called the endosperm.}

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- Maize relies on warm weather.
- Rainfall above 350 mm per year and consistent rainfall during the growing season.
- Grown in relatively large quantities by subsistence farmers for their use.

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Some of the factors favouring maize farming in South africa

- Market both home and export market.
- Well developed commercial famers.
- Labour supply.
- Ongoing research.
- Good infrastructure e.g. transport systems, silos.
- Parts of South Africa receive consistently more than 350 mm of rainfall per year e.g. Free State
- Warm temperatures over large part of South Africa.
- Required by secondary sector.



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Some of the factors hindering maize farming in South africa

- Droughts resulting in huge losses and could result in more imports.
- Large amount of subsistence farmers whose production is low.
- Pests e.g. armyworms.
- Increasing cost of farming.
- Fluctuating prices.



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Importance of Maize

- Staple diet of South Africans.
- Creates employment
- Serves as a raw material for manufactured products such as paper, paint, textiles, medicine and food products.
- Exports earns foreign exchange.
- It encourages the development of other industries by using their products e.g. fertilizer and farm equipment



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