

# Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



## Groundnuts remain a ‘good choice’ for farmers

**According to the Crop Estimates Committee’s 9th production forecast for summer crops in the 2025/26 season, groundnut production is expected to see a 12,2% decline in plantings to reach 42 240ha (down from 48 125ha in the previous season).**

Despite this, Alfonso Visser, owner of SA Peanuts, and Wessel Higgs, CEO of Triotrade, anticipate a slight increase in plantings. “If the current weather conditions prevail, we might see the plantings reach approximately 45 000ha,” Visser said. Strelza van Aardt, intern economist at Grain SA, said farmers had indicated that due to sufficient soil moisture, many had already planted most of their intended lands.

Data from the South African Grain Information Service showed that South Africa achieved a crop of 52 000t for the 2024/25 season. This was slightly down on the 10-year average of 53 881t. The crop for the 2025/26 season was currently estimated at 61 389t due to improved yields. Van Aardt said that feedback from farmers indicated that the 2024/25 production season offered good market opportunities. However, farmers also said that the 2024/25 season saw many challenges, especially in terms of weather and rainfall patterns. “Although the season started well, farmers said that during December to middle January, the little rain received put the crop under pressure,” Van Aardt said. With regard to the 2025/26 production season, farmers will face lower international prices and a stronger rand.

“A stronger rand can play a decisive role as far as import prices are concerned in 2026,” Higgs said. Farmers will also continue to face decaying infrastructure. “Road conditions remain a challenge. Sometimes trucks have to drive 30km to 40km detours [on the way to market], looking for better roads, and this has a major impact on the cost of delivery,” Van Aardt said. Despite this, Visser said groundnuts still remained a profitable proposition for farmers who farmed on soils with a clay content lower than 15%. “In irrigation areas, groundnuts are seen as one of the most profitable options available to farmers. Because the crop does not need the same level of inputs as other crops, it has not been as severely impacted by fertiliser price increases. In addition, as a legume, groundnuts fix nitrogen in the soil, improving soil fertility for the next season’s crop.”

Visser added that groundnuts remain an excellent choice for dryland farmers as the crop is able to thrive even when moisture is limited. “As with other crops, the amount and distribution of the rain will have an impact on the final planting areas as well as the market.” The industry also has something to look forward to in the coming years. According to Adri Botha, chairperson of the SA Groundnut Forum, the industry is actively involved in the evaluation of new cultivars from alternative origins. “We hope to possibly, in the near future, offer new options to our farmers. However, it must be said that cultivars developed in South Africa for our specific conditions continue to perform well in trials.” – Magda du Toit

**Source:** <https://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/farmers-weekly-south-africa/20251205/281663966319531>