

# iziGi

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SAFDA  
NOV 2023-JAN 2024

## ZABALIMI



RV Price November 2023: R 7 492,61 (an increase of R35,55 per ton of RV when compared with the previous month) "d" factor 0,508278



PG  
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SAFDA Launches the  
SAFDA Airtime/Funeral  
Cover



Ncora 2022/2023  
Harvesting Season

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5-6



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Revisiting the SAFDA  
Land Reform Indaba  
Conference Commissions



Impact of fuel price hike on  
farmers

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Thriving rural communities - Thriving rural economies

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# SAFDA LAUNCHES THE SAFDA AIRTIME/FUNERAL COVER



SAFDA remains committed to supporting and empowering South African farmers, and this product is a testament to that dedication.



Recognizing this, SAFDA embarked on a groundbreaking journey, collaborating with renowned industry leaders to comprehensively address these distinct needs through a creative solution.

The SAFDA Airtime Product leverages farmers' average monthly spending on airtime to provide them with a comprehensive suite of essential services.

At its core, this initiative guarantees reliable access to airtime for farmers, acknowledging the paramount importance of communication. Samsung and Huawei have generously provided cell phones, along with cell phone insurance from PSG Wealth, ensuring that farmers are always connected to their communities and sources of vital information.

In today's increasingly digital world, access to data is equally

crucial. This initiative ensures that farmers have the means to access online resources, enhancing their agricultural practices and information access.



On September 30th, 2023, SAFDA, in partnership with industry giants including Sanlam, MTN, Discovery, Samsung, and Huawei, unveiled a transformative initiative designed to empower South African farmers - the SAFDA Airtime Product/Funeral Cover.

In South Africa, farmers have long grappled with unique challenges of being unable to access essential services.

Additionally, the SAFDA Airtime Product offers access to Discovery Primary Care, serving as valuable medical aid for farmers. This not only addresses healthcare needs but also





contributes to improving overall well-being.

The official launch event was a resounding success, held at KwaShukela, Mount Edgecombe. Attendees witnessed firsthand how the SAFDA Airtime Product promises to make a meaningful difference in the lives of South African farmers.

SAFDA remains committed to supporting and empowering South African farmers, and this product is a testament to that dedication.





# NCORA 2022/2023 HARVESTING SEASON



Dr Phiwe Jiba  
Project Advisor

*The Amadlelo Dairy Farm used the prevailing SAFEX price for yellow maize of about R3 815 as their off-take price.*

Maize is planted in South Africa from October through early January with the actual planting date dependent on when rains arrive. Optimal maize planting in the east ranges from October 1 through November 30, while optimal planting in the west is from November 20 through December 31. Planting in the west may also be extended to mid-January at the latest if seasonal rains arrive late. Generally, most maize varieties have a life cycle of 100 to 120 days from planting to harvest. However, the exact time of harvest is greatly affected by environmental and other factors, like the product end-use.

The 2022/2023 season was going quite well for the farming community in Ncora Irrigation Scheme. The season has started on a brighter note with yellow maize, generally looking good. According to the chairperson of the CPA, Mr. Ace Thosholo, out of the 25 hectares planted with yellow maize, 72 tons of

maize have been delivered to Amadlelo Dairy Farm which generated revenue valued at R274 680.00. The Amadlelo Dairy Farm used the prevailing SAFEX price for yellow maize of about R3 815 as their off-take price. They have employed 20 community residents of Ncora and each of them was getting a stipend of R500 on a weekly basis. Each day they were paid R100, working from 08h00 to 17h00 in the afternoon. The harvested yellow maize was stored in the backyard garden of the chairperson and if it's not







stored or processed well, yellow maize can suffer damage or worse, it can be unfit for either human or animal consumption.

Mzola Agro-mix project has applied harvesting by hand method. Additionally, harvesting by hand is only performed in very small fields or gardens where maize is mainly cultivated for self-use (human consumption) or feed for Amadlelo Dairy animals. This method is not cost- or time-effective since one person will need from 30 to 100 hours to harvest one hectare of maize plants.

SAFDA and the CPA wish to own these harvesting machines, or they can be rented together

with an experienced operator during the harvesting period this coming season because the area planted will be increased to 100 hectares. Maize is mainly harvested mechanically, using threshing, shelling, or combined machines. Improper handling of maize during the post-harvest period can drastically affect its quality.

#### **Recommendations for next season harvest**

- Ensuring that they have a good storage facility erected before harvesting starts. Even if it is a make-shift structure.
- Make sure that cobs are sufficiently dried before starting

the threshing process.

- Store shelled maize in a secure, dry room. If planning on storing the maize for some time it is good practice to fumigate the maize with fumigation tablets and cover the bags with a tarpaulin.

Every little effort that they undertake can make a huge difference to the quantity and quality of maize that they produce and harvest. When prices are low as they currently are according to SAFEX price rate, all these factors can make a huge difference when it comes to profitability.



*This method is not cost- or time-effective since one person will need from 30 to 100 hours to harvest one hectare of maize plants.*



# REVISITING THE SAFDA LAND REFORM INDABA CONFERENCE COMMISSIONS



*The conference's focus was on the partnership between the claimants and their respective partners in particular the joint venture partnerships that are normally formed between the claimants and the former white landowners.*



**Nkosinathi Phakathi**  
**Senior Agricultural Economist**  
**responsible for Land Reform and**  
**also works as an FPSU Manager**

A call for the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA)'s quest to intervene in the land reform space took a positive turn in the year 2019 when the association took upon itself to host a land reform conference in White River, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province from 24-25 September 2019. Several key stakeholders availed themselves and participated in the discussions. There were a number of issues prior to the conference that were identified as problematic when it came to the issue of

land reform's restitution projects across the sugar industry, but the focus was on the Mpumalanga Restitution Land Reform projects (Community Property Associations-CPA's and Community Trusts). The conference was attended by all the eight Mpumalanga Land Reform Restitution Claimants. The Matsamo CPA, Mawewe CPA, Mhlaba Trust, Libuyile Community Trust, Ingwenyama Simhulu Trust, Bambanani Mlambo Trust (BMT), Mjejane Trust, and the RCL sugar mill-initiated Land Reform Project, the Siyathuthuka Estate Farm.

The conference's focus was on the partnership between the claimants and their respective partners in particular the joint venture partnerships that are normally formed between the claimants and the former white landowners. Day one of the conference focused on reviewing the various land reform partnerships, especially the joint ventures to understand

who has benefitted from this model. The leadership from claimant communities, JV partners had to share their experiences by reflecting on their production models, benefits derived, value chain practices, skills development and empowerment, governance of the JV's and the land holding entities. Day two dealt with various initiatives driven and supported by government and the private sector to grow the local economy of the region. The introduction of high-value crops to land reform and SSG's space, agro-processing opportunities, and agro-based industrial production opportunities. The focus of this article is taken from interactions in break-away commissions during the two-day conference and looks at the progress, and hinderance to developments four years post the historic SAFDA Land Reform Indaba's conference.

SAFDA was first introduced in Mpumalanga in the year 2017

and officially started operating in the year 2018. In the first year of SAFDA's operations in Nkomazi, a number of challenges relating to how the land reform projects, the restitution projects in particular are being managed and operated. A number of issues were raised by the projects during their respective presentations which included the lack of value chain participation by the beneficiary community, the high level of indebtedness of the JV business arrangement, the lack of senior staff (from the community) participation in the farm management and executive positions and decision making, the lack post settlement support soon after land transfer, lack of skills transfer plans, and a slow progress relating to land transfer process to mention a few.

### **The current land reform status**

The land reform sector in the Nkomazi sugar belt has been witnessing a downward spiral due to a number of challenges over the past 3 years. Three restitution projects have had a change of governance structure due to unforeseen circumstances emanating from the passing of project leaders and some commotions created by concerned groups, creating a void in leadership structures within the respective projects. The uninventable circumstances created an instability in leadership structures of these projects even though some are recovering, the recovery path is taking longer in some projects. Of the eight land reform projects that participated in the SAFDA Land Reform Indaba conference, only four are still active while the rest are still recovering, and some have been placed under administration.

### **Recap of the Land Reform Conference Commissions**

The SAFDA Land Reform conference produced some fruits and a number of commissions and actions thereof. The conference produced five sets of commissions. Commission 1 focused on the management of the Joint Venture Agreements.

- Under commission 1 actions like the reviewing of the current JV agreements, review of ownership structures of the JV, review of equity and balance in terms of control and participation, review of staff appointment procedures and policies within the JVs, the reduction of JV operational costs and the centralisation of support services.

- Commission 2 focused on restructuring of legitimate debts after a process of forensic audits of loans and some approaches that were geared towards the reviewing of partnerships. A number of actions to try and minimize the debt level ratio of most JV set up were to be taken where SAFDA would try and approach government departments the South African Reserve Services (SARS) and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) with a hope of trying to get a debt relief intervention for the JVs with huge debts. SAFDA was to also approach the DRDLR to assist with production finance under this commission.

- Commission 3 focused on actions geared towards the improvement of the skills development within the JV set-up to enable the community members to occupy the decision-making positions in the operations. During the conference it was discovered that the skills development plans are only on paper in some of the JV organizations and some did not even have them at all. A need for a skills audit was then raised and committed

to by SAFDA together with a possibility of establishing a panel of monitoring and evaluation panel that is solely responsible for community projects on skills development.

- Commission 4 focused on enterprise development and the value chain participation by the community members in the operations of the partnership. The discussions from the presentations by the community projects revealed that there are no sugarcane production value chain participations and no future plans for the community entrepreneurs to tap into the value chain opportunities presented by the partnerships. As actions towards addressing this challenge the partnerships had to come up with enterprise development plans. Enterprise development business plans were to be developed and shared with the MEC for Economic Development in the province. Diversification opportunities were to be explored.

- Commission 5 focused on governance of the land holding and business entities and community development aspect of the partnerships. The presentations by the community projects revealed that most dividends paid to the beneficiaries were diminishing and most of them come from land rentals but not profits from the respective partnerships. Actions towards addressing the Commission 5 issue were the formation of mediation and conflict resolution panel to assist with both internal and external matters.

### **Positive outcomes four years post the conference.**

All the SAFDA Land Reform conference commission actions were unfortunately affected by the global Covid 19 pandemic.



The country was put under lock down with restricted movement and gatherings. The restrictions in movements negatively affected global economies and administration processes, consequently some actions from some of the commissions could not be achieved. Nevertheless, there are some positives in spite of the progress challenges imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Coincidentally, 2018/19

an approval just after the Covid 19. The LDS programme is only granted to projects that are 100 percentage managed by the community and that promotes the self-management of the farms (the communities are now doing away from forming partnerships that do not benefit the community).

The land redistribution process was also halted by the global

community projects. The top management structures in some of the projects have also been revisited and revised especially in projects with less issues.

SAFDA has been afforded an opportunity to assist more land reform projects in the 2023/24 financial year under the LDS programme. The SAFDA operation is expanding beyond the sugar industry with new multi-commodity projects being assisted by SAFDA from as far Barberton under eMjindini Municipality. Two more restitution projects from Nkomazi Municipality are inline to benefit from the LDS programme again this financial year, farm assessment, business plans and community development plans have been prepared.

In conclusion, there is a backlog of work relating to actions agreed in the commissions during the conference. SAFDA is however on the drive to revive the land reform work again in Nkomazi sugar belt. As a way forward there is a planned land reform revival programme where all the commissions and related actions will be revisited and attended to now that some projects have been restructured and are operating in harmony again. All the conference resolutions will be attended to for the improved land reform projects' sustainability. SAFDA Mpumalanga still has a massive task in the improvement of the land reform landscape of the Nkomazi sugar belt.



was the year the department of agriculture (DALRRD) introduced a Land Development Support (LDS) programme after the Recapitalization and Development Programme (RECAP) was discontinued in the year 2017/18. The introduction of the LDS coincided with some themes discussed in commissions during the conference including improvements on the financial assistance aspect by the department. Even during the global Covid 19 pandemic SAFDA was able to submit LDS business plans to assist two Community projects Bambanani Mlambo Trust and Matsamo CPA which yielded positive results. The BMT business plan was approved before the start of the Covid 19 and was successfully implemented during the Covid 19 period while the Matsamo CPA was also revised and submitted during the Covid 19 and only got

Covid 19 pandemic, but we have witnessed some successful transfers happening in three restitution projects in Nkomazi. A majority SAFDA's commission actions of the Land Reform Indaba conference were also halted but there are some positives including the LDS Business plans implementation processes, the Land Reform Projects' Leadership capacity building workshops and training on Financial Management and Governance that followed soon after the conference in 2019.

The Bambanani Mlambo Trust and Matsamo CPA remain the only projects that have made some significant strides in trying to implement the conference resolutions. The projects now are self-managing the newly transferred farms. We are also witnessing some value chain participation by the community contractors in some of the

*The land redistribution process was also halted by the global Covid 19 pandemic, but we have witnessed some successful transfers happening in three restitution projects in Nkomazi.*

# IMPACT OF FUEL PRICE HIKE ON FARMERS



*When the cane is offloaded at the loading zone it is then loaded to a 28 to 34 ton truck that haul sugarcane to the sugar mill.*

With planting season at the beginning, farmers will have to absorb the current fuel and diesel price increases. During the month of August to March, sugarcane farmers use this time to do land preparation and planting of sugarcane. This is a mechanised service using local contractors. There is a concern over the impact this major fuel increase will have down the value chain.

Sugarcane farmers rely mostly on contractors to do harvesting, infield haulage which is hauling sugarcane from the field to the loading zone using tractors with up to 8 ton basket trailers loaded by a cane loader or a 5 ton self-loading trailer. When the cane is offloaded at the loading zone it is then loaded to a 28 to 34 ton truck that haul sugarcane to the sugar mill. Diesel price is the biggest driver of haulage rate and loading rates that contractors charge farmers. Every time when the fuel price increases, contractors

automatically review their rate and increase it so that they remain in business, without considering the impact that the rate change will have on the farming business.

It is important to have a look at the increase in diesel and fuel price in conjunction and the increase of fertiliser and chemical prices. The increase in fuel prices thin the margins to the extent that farmers reduce or stop ratooning their crop, which is application of fertiliser and chemicals. This leads to decline in the tonnage delivered the following season. The lower tonnage leads to lower income, lower profit margin. To survive the farmer will have to reduce number of farm workers or reduce number of hours per day. A added risk is that farmers need to do their budgets beforehand, if we see these fuel price increases and input costs, farmers within the season need to obtain additional funds to sustain the business, and that

might be a problem for some of our farmers to obtain some of this addition funds or capital to accommodate the increase in input costs because of not meeting qualifying criteria for access to finance.

The fuel price increase negatively affects farmers, contractors, millers, and the industry since the Recoverable Value price does not increase at the same rate as the diesel price increase.







*In KZN construction has already begun on some FPSU sites.*

In KZN construction has already begun on some FPSU sites. The FPSU is more than just bricks and mortar; it's a symbol of progress, sustainability, and the collective commitment to elevating our local farming practices. With each passing day, it inches closer to becoming a reality, one that will serve as a haven for farmers seeking to embrace innovation and propel their agricultural endeavours forward.

At the FPSU, innovation takes center stage. State-of-the-art facilities and resources are being meticulously crafted to provide farmers with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive. Whether it's cutting-edge farming techniques, sustainable practices, or access to new market opportunities, the FPSU is set to become a beacon of hope for our agricultural community.







*The success of this project has sparked optimism within the farming community.*

In recent years, SAFDA has been at the forefront of initiatives aimed at enhancing the agricultural landscape in South Africa. Our partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development on the implementation of the FPSU Project, has culminated in the rejuvenation of farmer's offices in various communities across Komati Malelani. The impact of these renovations extends beyond mere cosmetic upgrades; they symbolize progress, promise, and potential for the local farming community.

economy.

The success of this project has sparked optimism within the farming community. Local farmers see the renovated offices as more than just buildings; they see them as symbols of hope, opportunity, and progress. With access to these modern facilities, they are better equipped to address the unique challenges they face daily, whether it's crop management, market access, or technological integration.



The revitalized offices, located in Walda, Mfumfane, Figtree C&D, and Figtree A, have become vital hubs for farmers, offering them a conducive environment to plan, collaborate, and access resources critical to their success. The renovation project is not just about giving these spaces a facelift; it represents a commitment to empowering local farmers and fostering growth in a vital sector of the





## SAFDA Joins the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Honourable Mcebisi Skwatsha, on a stakeholder engagement session with Ncora land claimants



Led by the visionary Executive Chairperson, Dr. Madlala, SAFDA played a central role in driving initiatives aimed at fostering positive change and sustainable growth within the Ncora community.

In a remarkable display of unity and dedication to rural development, the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) joined forces with Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development, Honourable Mcebisi Skwatsha, to conduct a pivotal stakeholder engagement session with Ncora Land Claimants and other key stakeholders in Cofimvaba, Intsika Yethu Local Municipality.

Led by the visionary Executive Chairperson, Dr. Madlala, SAFDA played a central role in driving initiatives aimed at fostering positive change and sustainable growth within the Ncora community. The event, held on the 5th of October 2023, marked a significant milestone in SAFDA's commitment to rural development.

The purpose of the session was twofold: for government to provide vital feedback to the community regarding the

settlement of their land claim and to chart a way forward in pursuing common actions toward rural development. SAFDA's presence at the event highlighted the unwavering commitment to these goals.

As the event unfolded, it became apparent that SAFDA's partnership with department was an exemplary model of collaboration and shared objectives. Together, we endeavour to address the challenges associated with land claims and to lay the







*His leadership, vision, and dedication were on full display as SAFDA actively participated in shaping the future of the Ncora community.*

groundwork for meaningful development in the Ncora community.

Dr. Madlala, a tireless advocate for rural development, took center stage during the event, emphasizing SAFDA's pivotal role in the projects happening on the land claimed by the Ncora community. His leadership, vision, and dedication were on full display as SAFDA actively participated in shaping the future of the Ncora community.

The event served as a testament to SAFDA's mission of promoting sustainable agriculture, empowering local farmers, and enhancing the livelihoods of South African communities. As Dr. Madlala aptly put it, "True development is not achieved in isolation but through collaborative efforts that bring together all stakeholders. SAFDA is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with Deputy Minister Skwatsha and the Ncora Land Claimants to create a better

future for this community."

SAFDA's active role in this landmark event showcases the unwavering dedication to empowering South African communities through agricultural and rural development. It is a reminder that positive change is possible when like-minded people come together with a common purpose and vision.





## LETHESETHU FARMING (PTY) LTD RECEIVES R70 000 DONATION FROM DR SIYABONGA MADLALA AT MACAMBINI GROWERS MEETING.



One of the distinctive aspects of Lethesethu Farming is its commitment to education and skill development.

Established in July 2016, Lethesethu Farming (Pty) Ltd is a shining example of black youth ownership and active involvement in the agricultural sector.

Lethesethu Farming produces a diverse range of agricultural products that includes sugarcane, vegetables, and animal products. The company's sugarcane cultivation takes place in an area where temperatures typically range from 20 to 35 degrees Celsius, with a growth cycle of approximately 10-18 months. The vegetable cultivation occupies 4 hectares of their land, with a specialization in crops such as spinach, pepper, onion, and sugarcane. Furthermore, Lethesethu raises broiler chickens, nurturing them from one-day-old chicks until they are market-ready within six weeks.

One of the distinctive aspects of Lethesethu Farming is its

commitment to education and skill development. The company provides in-service training to students from various institutions. Lethesethu holds a steadfast belief in equal opportunity and a non-discrimination employment policy, ensuring that every student gains valuable experience and skills within their facility. This proactive approach contributes to the growth of knowledge and expertise in the field of agriculture.







‘However, this situation took a transformative turn when Dr. S. Madlala visited the farm to witness their remarkable work.’

### A Water Crisis and Dr. Siyabonga Madlala’s Intervention

In the past, Lethesethu Farming faced significant water challenges. Students had to fetch water from a small dam to irrigate the crops, adding to their daily operational challenges.

However, this situation took a transformative turn when Dr. S. Madlala visited the farm to witness their remarkable work. Impressed by their dedication and commitment, he offered not just his compliments but also a practical solution to their water crisis.

a generous donation of R70,000 to Lethesethu Farming to establish a borehole, effectively addressing their water scarcity. The impact of this contribution cannot be overstated, as it promises to provide a sustainable and reliable source of water for the farm.

Dr. Siyabonga Madlala pledged





# EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: SAFDA'S COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



*Inspiring Grade 11 Agricultural Students of Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence*



## School of Excellence

SAFDA proudly joined forces with the Shukela Training Center and the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI) to inspire Grade 11 agricultural students from the Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence. The objective was to sow the seeds of knowledge about the dynamic sugar industry and expose them to a diverse array of career opportunities awaiting them at the Shukela Training Center.



In an unwavering commitment to empower the next generation of agricultural enthusiasts, the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) recently participated in two remarkable events that left an indelible mark on young minds and cultivated a sense of hope and possibility within the field of agriculture.

**Inspiring Grade 11 Agricultural Students of Mandla Mthethwa**







**SAFDA received an honourable invitation from the Majuba Mavuso Foundation to participate in a Matric Career Expo at eDumbe.**

SAFDA members engaged the young students in informative discussions about the intricacies of sugarcane farming, from crop cultivation to processing. Our knowledgeable experts not only elucidated the fascinating science behind sugar production but also emphasized the importance of sustainable and environmentally responsible farming practices in the industry.

The day was punctuated with hands-on demonstrations that allowed students to see firsthand the operations and techniques utilized in sugarcane farming. These interactive activities left a lasting impression and ignited a spark of curiosity among the students, who left with a newfound appreciation for the potential within the agricultural sector.

One of the highlights of the event was a guided tour of the KwaShukela Training Center. Here, students were exposed to cutting-edge technology and training facilities, inspiring them to envision a bright future in agriculture. SAFDA was delighted to facilitate this unique opportunity for the

students to explore the wealth of career options available within the sector, setting them on the path to success.

### **Participation in the Matric Career Expo at eDumbe with the Majuba Mavuso Foundation**

SAFDA received an honourable invitation from the Majuba Mavuso Foundation to participate in a Matric Career Expo at eDumbe. This event provided an ideal platform for SAFDA to enlighten learners about the numerous and diverse career opportunities that await them in the field of agriculture.

During the expo, SAFDA members were on hand to engage with the students, answering questions, offering guidance, and providing insights into the exciting and ever-evolving world of agriculture. We stressed the critical role of agriculture in South Africa's economy and its potential for making a positive impact on local communities and the environment.

By participating in this event, SAFDA aimed to spark curiosity

and encourage students to consider a future in agriculture. We believe that these young minds, when properly nurtured and guided, will play an essential role in the sustainable growth of the agricultural sector in our nation.

As we reflect on these two impactful events, we are reminded of the importance of investing in the education and inspiration of the next generation of agricultural leaders. SAFDA remains committed to fostering a love for agriculture, instilling knowledge, and igniting a passion for this dynamic and vital industry. We look forward to continuing our efforts to empower the next generation and pave the way for a brighter, more prosperous agricultural future in South Africa.





# PROVISIONAL RV PRICE



*This represented an increase of 37% when compared with the previous season's (2022/2023) final RV price.*

The 2023/2024 season has been a good year for the Sugar Industry. Farmers have expressed positive sentiment about recent increases in the RV Price during the current season. The provisional RV price payable at the end of October 2023 for cane deliveries up to the end of September 2023, was declared at R7 457,06 per ton of RV. This represented an increase of 37% when compared with the previous season's (2022/2023) final RV price. The main contributors to the provisional RV Price increase are as follows when compared with 2022/2023 season final RV Price figures:

- a)** The higher volume of cane production estimate by 553 686 tons,
- b)** The higher sugar production estimate by 121 349 tons,
- c)** The cumulative local market sales which are currently standing at 762 251 tons as of September 2023,

**d)** The Notional Price increase of refined sugar by 14,15% and brown sugar by 13,4% effective 07 June 2023,

**e)** The Molasses increase by 7% effective May 2023,

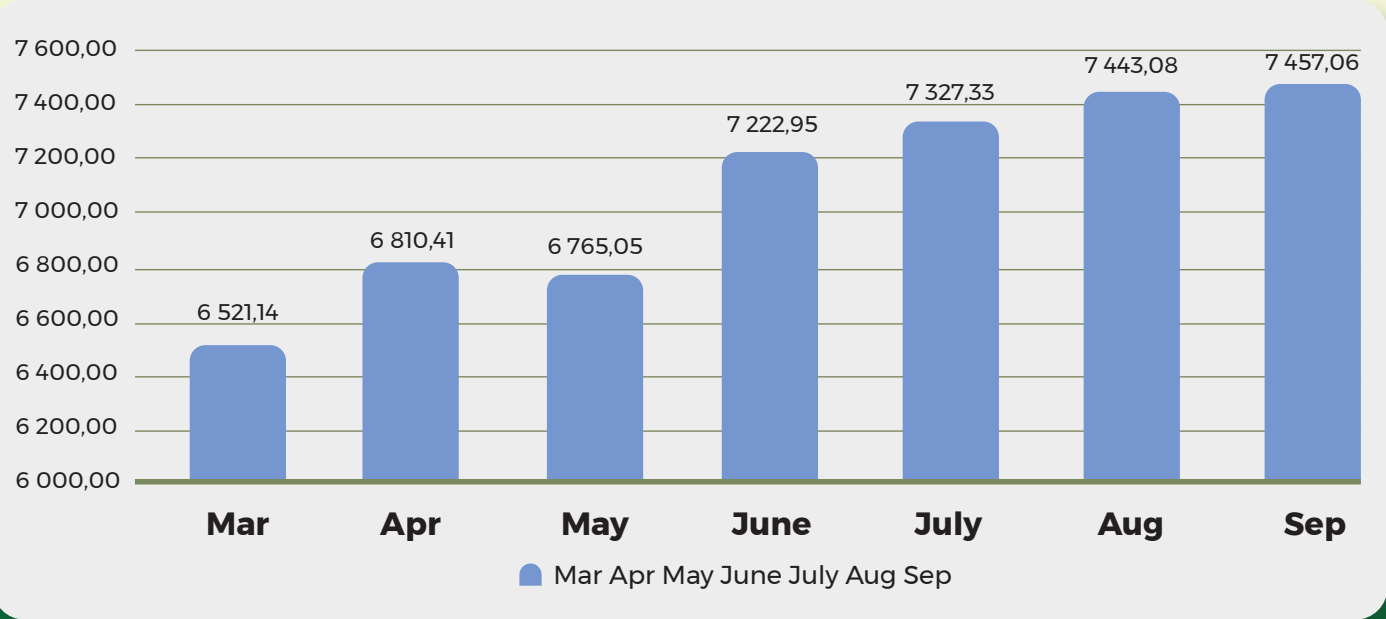
**f)** The weaker weighted average R/\$ exchange rate (R19,10 vs R17,41),

**g)** The higher weighted average No.11 world market price (US28,73c/lb. vs. US23,88c/lb),





# 2023/2024 Season Monthly Provision RV Price



The above graph illustrates monthly Provisional RV price trend from the beginning of 2023/2024 season up to September 2023.

## Sugar Imports

Legal sugar imports are a function of the world price, the Rand/Dollar exchange, and the level of the import duty, both gazetted and anticipated. The last three seasons have seen low levels of sugar imports. This has been through a

combination of restraint pricing due to the Master Plan commitments, high world sugar prices and escalated freight costs that reduced the incentives to import sugar. As of September 2023, the total number of sugar imports received this season (2023/2024) is standing at 6 655 tons.





# SAFDA AT THE 20TH AGOA FORUM



The AGOA Forum, established in 2000 under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, serves as a vital platform for fostering economic partnerships between the United States and eligible African states.

The 20th AGOA Forum, held at the Johannesburg Expo Centre in Nasrec from 2 to 4 November 2023, brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on the future of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGO). Under the theme “Partnering to Build a Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive AGOA to support Economic Development, Industrialisation and Quality Job Creation,” the forum aimed to strengthen economic ties and explore avenues for sustainable growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The AGOA Forum, established in 2000 under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, serves as a vital platform for fostering economic partnerships between the United States and eligible African states. The forum facilitates discussions among government representatives, regional economic organizations, the private sector, civil society, and organized labor. Dr. Siyabonga Madlala, the

Executive Chairperson of SAFDA, actively participated in the forum, engaging with exhibitors and industry leaders. Notable among these interactions was his discussion with Joanmariae Fubbs, Vice Chairperson of the South African Sugar Association (SASA), and exhibitors from the eSwatini Sugar Association, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in the sugar industry.

Dr. Madlala also engaged







with Siphamandla Goge of ENCA TV channel, shedding light on AGOA's significance in the sugar industry. Dr. Madlala emphasized that the sugar industry, under the AGOA arrangement, supplies 24,000 tons of sugar to the United States. This supply comes with a quota that attracts a premium price, surpassing the local market rate.

On the final day of the forum, Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and People with Disabilities of South Africa, Honourable Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, visited the SAFDA exhibition stand. This provided a platform for a brief but insightful discussion between the Minister and SAFDA exhibitors, highlighting the association's commitment to inclusivity and empowerment.

As AGOA approaches its scheduled expiration in 2025, the forum took the opportunity to showcase success stories, address challenges hindering export sector diversification, and discuss ways to improve AGOA utilization. The potential extension of AGOA beyond 2025 is seen as a catalyst for increased investment in Africa, mutually benefiting both the United States and African countries. Such an extension would also support the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), covering 54 countries and 1.4 billion people.

In conclusion, SAFDA's active participation







in the 20th AGOA Forum reflects its commitment to advancing the interests of South African farmers and contributing to the overall economic development of the region. As discussions continue, the focus remains on building a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive AGOA that fosters growth, industrialization, and quality job creation.

