

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL YIELD COMPETITION
(MAIZE, SOYBEANS, SUNFLOWERSEED, GROUNDNUTS, SMALLHOLDER – MINIMUM OF 1HA,
2HA MAX OF MAIZE, WHEAT 2025)

1. OBJECTIVE OF YIELD COMPETITION

The objective of the national yield competition is to create a platform where grain producers can compete for the best yield per category, to get closer to the genetic potential of the different grain crops, and to learn from each other.

2. ENTRY PROCESS

- a) Production practices must be disclosed in full upon request of the competition organisers. By entering, entrants give their consent that yield results and production practices may be published in the media.
- b) Any legal use of any input and/or production practice that might increase yield, is allowed. Including but not limited to, should be the following:
 - 1) Cultivars registered under the Plant Improvement Act;
 - 2) GMO's registered for general release in South Africa;
 - 3) Agro-chemicals & fertiliser registered under Act 36 of 1947;
 - 4) SANSOR certified seed.
- c) Entry fee to show commitment – R1000 per entry for non-Grain SA members.
- d) You enter a continuous block of a minimum of 2 hectares of a single variety. Minimum of 1 hectare for smallholders, 2 hectares maximum.
- e) Appointment of independent harvest officials (**creation of database**)
- f) The two harvest officials, of which one should be independent, will be present for the harvest, where the weight, moisture and area harvested will be confirmed.
- g) **Weight needs to be done on a calibrated scale with calibration certificate, if it is a private scale. Moisture and grading needs to be done at a silo and the nett mass calculated.**
- h) When it is absolutely necessary, a calibrated hand held moisture meter can also be used. Evidence of calibration with a silo's moisture meter must be handed in with entry. Picture and signature of silo operator would be imperative.

3. FIELD REQUIREMENTS

- a) From a field of maize/soybeans/sunflower/wheat of at least hectares in size of one variety, the entrant shall select an area of 2 hectares to be harvested. The contest area may be any shape, but must be in one continuous block. Minimum of one hectare for smallholders (maize only), 2 hectares maximum.
- b) Entrants, and harvest officials, are responsible for giving accurate row lengths for odd shape plots.
- c) All end rows/turning rows and the equal number of outermost rows on each side may not be a part of the selected 2 hectares contest plot.
- d) The entrant agrees to harvest the contest field with a multiple row combine harvester.

4. HARVEST OFFICIALS

- a) The two harvest officials, of which one independent, approved on your entry confirmation must be present for the harvest of the contest plot, as well as the weigh in at the grain silo.
- b) Develop database of possible harvest officials.
- c) Seed companies' responsibility to appoint harvest officials out of the database;
- d) Independent harvest officials cannot be the following:
The contest entrant
 - i. An employee or relative of the contest entrant
 - ii. Seed company involved
 - iii. Any company providing business activities or inputs
- e) Harvest officials are responsible for:
 - i. Must be present during harvesting, weighing (gross and tare) and moisture testing
 - ii. Field measurements - GPS
 - iii. Completing all computations
- f) Harvest officials must have the entrant run his combine and the transfer auger empty to make certain no grain has been left in it by mistake. All wagons or trucks must be checked to make certain they are empty.
- g) The seed company is responsible for sending the information to the competition office
(Please use latest Grain SA Harvest Form).

5. MEASURING

Use of GPS technology with 5 meter accuracy

6. WEIGHING

- a) The entrant will harvest 2 hectares in the presence of the harvest officials and fill his grain transport containers with the grain from these 2 hectares, after which the grain will be taken to the local co-op scale for weighing and moisture testing.

7. MOISTURE TESTING

- a) The silo operator must make a moisture determination of a representative sample of the grain. It is best to have the same sample run through the meter three times and take the average of the three. Moisture percentage must be noted, or a moisture ticket must be attached.

8. YIELD CALCULATION

- a) All calculations must be carried to four decimal places, including raw data. First, find the number of kilograms of grain harvested, corrected to 12,5% moisture in the case of maize, then divide by the hectares harvested to get yield per hectare.
- b) Groundnuts – 7% moisture

9. CONTEST AWARDS & OBLIGATION OF WINNERS

- a) A maximum of three of each category per company can be entered;
- b) Awards will be given to first, second and third place winners of all the categories.
- c) Finalists will be invited to attend the awards function.
- d) Winners will be required to share their practices on various platforms.

10. ENTRY INTO GRAIN SA NATIONAL YIELD COMPETITION

- a) Payment must be made per entry (Grain SA members do not pay entry fees);
- b) For summer grains, entries must be before or on 15 August and with winter cereals by end of January;
- c) Entries should include the identified block (minimum of 2 hectares) and the farmer.
Smallholder farmers – minimum of 1 hectare, maximum of 2 hectares;

11. CATEGORIES

Maize: Irrigation; Water table region; North West region; Eastern Highveld region; Eastern Free State region; Central region and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Soybean: Irrigation; Water table region; North West region; Eastern Highveld region; Eastern Free State region; Central region and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Sunflower: Grain yield p/ha (from 2024/25: 3 categories North West Province; Western Free State and Eastern Production Areas); Oil yield p/ha

Smallholder: Maize (1 hectare minimum – 2 hectares maximum)

Wheat (2021): Free State East Rainfed region; Free State West Rainfed region; Irrigation Northern region; Irrigation Southern region; Western Cape High Rainfall region; Western Cape Low Rainfall region; Western Cape Medium Rainfall region (*please refer to map of regions*)

Groundnuts: Dryland – three finalists (including five different areas) and Irrigation - three finalists (including five different areas)