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## **SOUTH REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #2 -2025 February AFRICAN RAISIN CROP**

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT**

**The 2025 South African raisin crop is progressing well**

**The Water Situation**

**Harvesting**

The raisin harvest to date

**SA Sultana and OR Sultana**

Organic raisins

**Currants**

**Freight from Cape Town**

**The 2025 South African raisin crop is progressing well.**

There has been rain in some raisin producing areas over the past two weeks. Only in two areas, namely Ses Brugge and Augrabies has damage been reported. This was caused mainly by strong winds. Generally, SA has open, dry and sunny weather in the raisin producing region this year. This was along the Orange River. At Vredendal (14% of the South African crop) and Namibia (2% of the crop), there has been no rain, only ideal raisin drying weather. Most farmers are optimistic that they will achieve their crop estimates. There are several who are saying they will go over their crop estimate. At this stage, there is a new crop estimate of 110,000 mt for South Africa being discussed. The official Raisins SA crop estimate remains at 104,000mt.

The weather reports going forward are also favourable for drying.

**The Water Situation**

The region where we make raisins is suffering drought conditions. ideal for making raisins. Northern Cape Province has about 200mm in a normal year. Western Cape is a winter rainfall region. Therefore during raisin making time, no rain. Namibia does not receive rain.

The Orange River is running low, however, the reservoirs upriver are about 75% full. There is plenty of water available. This is important for Namibia as well, as the raisins are produced on the northern banks of the same Orange River. Redsun buys 11% of our raisins from Namibia.

Vredendal draws its water from the Clanwilliam reservoir. There is a good supply in that reservoir. Redsun buys 22% of our raisins from the Vredendal region.

### Harvesting

There is a lot of activity going on. Some of the smaller farmers will complete their harvesting during the week ending 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. The majority of farmers will be harvesting until the end of March. The quality of the grapes is excellent. According to the Redsun intake grading office, we are seeing better quality from the 2025 crop that we had in 2024. There are very few problems with crop not being dried to the required for delivery (13% moisture content) by the farmer. Typical of the favourable weather conditions.

### The raisin harvest to date

According to the figures collected by Raisins SA, at 14 February, 17,728 mt of raisins had been delivered to processors. Roughly 17% of the projected 2025 crop.

Those raisins are made up as follows

Variety	Volumes in mt	% of the volume delivered	Raisin variety as a % of Projected volume for 2025 crop. Raisin SA
Thompson medium	8099 mt	46%	61%
Thompson jumbo/bold	111 mt	1%	Not recorded
Golden medium	1078 mt	6%	20%
Golden jumbo/bold	456 mt	3%	Not recorded
SA Sultana ("WP")	3121 mt	18%	5%
OR Sultanas	1756 mt	10%	2%
Flame medium	1474 mt	8%	7%
Currants	773 mt	4%	4%
Other jumbo/ bold	860 mt	5%	4%
Total	17,728 mt	17%	104,000mt

The crop has only just started. 17% delivered. In South Africa, there are no farmer's stock raisin "traders" or "speculators". The only buyers from the farmers are the processors. With the crop being a record big size, the quality being excellent, we would think there is enough for everyone. However, we do see some processors "making deals" with growers to achieve bigger share of specific varieties. Free market principles are at work.

### SA Sultana and OR Sultana

Farmers are taking the production of OR and SA sultanas seriously this year. The prices are attractive, and they can harvest the grapes with lower ripeness (sugar content). Therefore, the volumes delivered are good at the beginning of the crop. I do not think they

will remain. Thompsons will start moving in with greater volumes and represent a greater share of the crop.

Redsun is concerned with the soft, excellent quality of the SA sultana if the grape is harvested with 22-25 brix sugar to make SA sultanas. A beautiful raisin, but the thin skin caused by the lye process may create a challenge to process with the high level of natural sugar. We are monitoring this element very closely in our factory.

This is the first time the South African industry is making bigger volumes of SA Sultanas with the same grapes as we usually use to make Thompson raisins. (thicker skins).

### **Organic raisins**

One of the varieties that is attracting high buyer attention is the organic sector. This is not one of the specific categories covered by the Raisins SA statistics. We can therefore not report on the volumes received. The Redsun estimate of the volume of organic raisins produced in SA is about 8000 mt per year.

Every year, there is greater interest from farmers to join the organic producer discipline. Redsun is involved in assisting in the conversion process, provided the farmer has the suitable conditions on the farm to produce raisins organically.

Through our hard working technical services unit, Redsun is working to increase the volume of organic raisins we can offer.

### **Currants**

The production of the raisins and currants in the Vredendal region is proceeding very well. It will be a record crop of currants. The quality of these very small Zante Currants (900-1300 berries per 100gr) is exceptional. Small dark berries full of flavour and body. The cooler night temperatures in that region gives ideal growing conditions.

The daily temperatures range from 36°C maximum and minimum of 15°C at this time of the year. Humidity of 39%. The cooler air at night is from the Atlantic Ocean that is only 40km from the growing region. In the late hours of each day, after the sun sets, the area is blanketed in a thick mist each morning until about 09h00. Then the mist dries out and the sun heats up.

The temperature is more temperate than the Orange River. Therefore, the drying time for raisins in Vredendal takes longer than in Keimoes along the Orange River. Furthermore, goldens cannot be made in the Vredendal region.

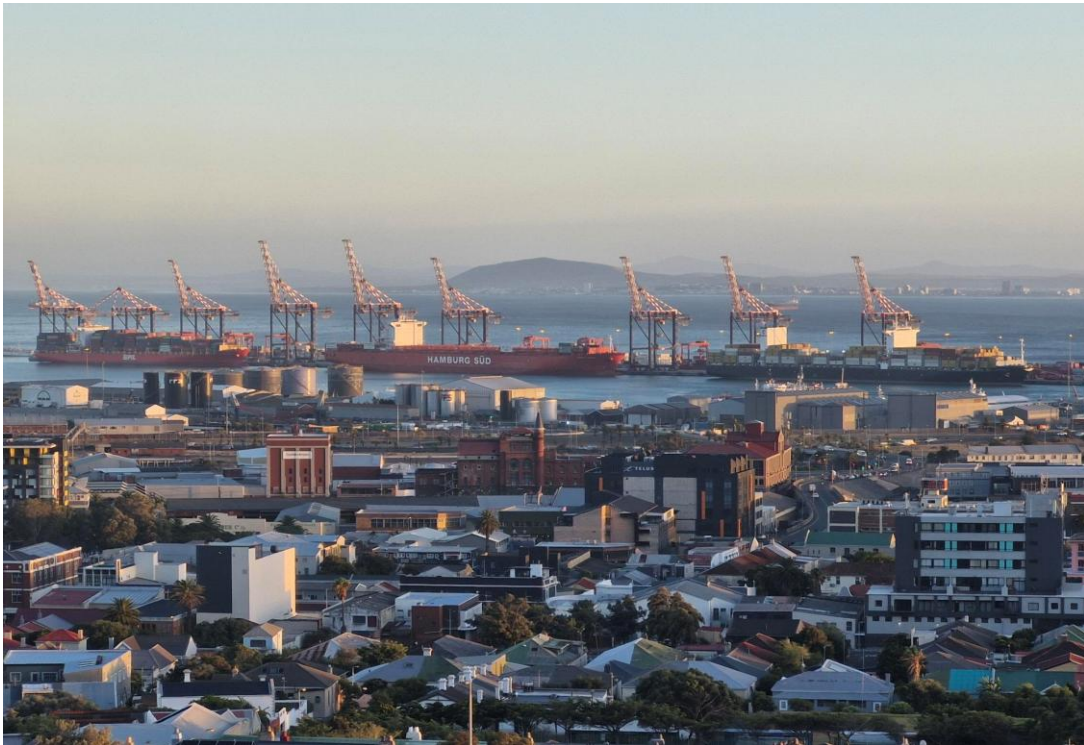
The mist in Vredendal at early morning. By 09h00 the sun is shining brightly.



### **Freight from Cape Town**

The freight seems to be shipped on time from Cape Town during the past few weeks. The new loading equipment is in place and operating. These are trailers to bring the containers from the stacks to the ships, and the stacking machines.

Unfortunately, the wind blowing at 70km knots makes loading the ships difficult. Attached is a photo of the three container terminals at Cape Town Harbour. The wind was blowing over 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Not much being loaded.



Cape Town Harbour taken from Table Mountain side. There are only 3 container terminals.



The goldens are made on wooden trays sheltered from direct sunlight after SO<sub>2</sub> smoke exposure for 8 hours. Roughly 36kg of grapes per tray.



The following is a drying facility for SA sultanas along the Orange River. It is compacted aggregate of a minimum 15mm size. The grapes are laid on shade cloth on top of the aggregate.

