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SOUTH REDSUN RAISIN REPORT #3 -2025 March AFRICAN RAISIN CROP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS REPORT

Rain in the South African Raisin producing region

Raisin production affected by rain

Pricing of the Raisins

Product Mix for 2025 crop as at 21 March 2025

Rain in the South African Raisin producing region

Rain is falling in the largest raisin producing region of South Africa. The rainfall has been sporadic and very regional. One could say there has been a total of 140mm of rain that has fallen. Not all at once in once region. It has fallen a few millimetres per day. Sunshine and wind has appeared daily. However, two important conditions persist

1. Persistent humidity that hinders the drying process with brief interval of rain daily, and
2. A drop in the temperature from about 43°C to around 32°C that also slows down the drying process.

The rain has affected the lower Orange River Basin only. This is the region around Upington which is responsible for the production of 83% of South African raisins. Vredendal (15%) and Namibia (2%) have not been affected by rain.

The rain around Upington at this time of the year is a “normal” in terms of climatic activity. This region does receive summer rainfall. Not much rain annually. Around 200mm per year occurs, but it happens when we are making raisins. This is not the case with the other two raisin producing regions, Vredendal and Namibia. They have winter rainfall and “no rain” respectively.

Raisin production affected by rain.

Farmers are experiencing difficulty in drying the grapes down to the moisture level that is required to deliver the raisins to processors. Now they keep then raisins which are 14-15% moisture in their farm warehouses in the bins supplied by processors, in hope that the rain will stop. When it does stop, then the farmers will put the raisins out in the sun to complete the drying.

Therefore, the effect on the 2025 is as follows

1. Product dried and delivered to processors before the rain started which is excellent quality. this is about 65,000mt or 65% of the crop.
2. Product that was harvested before the rain, and that has been out in the sun, drying but could not dry further than the 14% moisture content. These are good

quality raisins, but higher moisture content. Actual volume is not known, however, Redsun estimates it to be about 20% of the crop.

3. Finally, the last 15% looks like we will lose this last part of the crop to the weather elements. These are grapes that are still in the vineyards. There is little or no space on the drying facilities to take these grapes. The reason is the grapes cannot dry because of the rain. These grapes are now becoming too ripe for use to make raisins.

In summary, it is possible that, in the opinion of Redsun, we have lost 15% of the 2025 raisin crop to the poor weather. That will make our raisin crop about 88,000mt for 2025.

Pricing of the Raisins

Generally, we have seen the prices paid to farmers in the field remaining constant through the season. There has not been competition between processors to buy additional volumes from farmers, based on the evidence that there was enough raisins for everybody to be satisfied.

We have seen movement in some varieties such as currants where there is evidence from the market that an unusual strong demand exists, which creates opportunity more than shortage.

The market is active, and it is possible that some packers have sold “long” as most of us do at the beginning of the season. This is in the firm belief that the crop is coming in. Therefore, we will possibly see some price movements in order to chase the last few metric tons.

Product Mix for 2025 crop as at 21 March 2025

Variety	M/t delivered	% of crop delivered
Thompson medium	37,552 mt	56%
Thompson Jumbo	449 mt	0,7%
Golden medium	6,569 mt	9,8%
Golden jumbo	1,186 mt	1,8%
SA Sultanas	7,903 mt	11,8%
OR Sultanas	3,019 mt	4,5%
Flame medium	4,796 mt	7,2%
Black Jumbos	2,043 mt	3%
Currants	3,249 mt	4,9%
Total at 21 March 2025	66,766 mt	100%
Total same time 2024	79,274 mt	119%

Figures supplied by Raisins SA

The crop as a whole is slower than 2024. At the same date last year, 12,508mt more raisins had already been delivered to factories. This is without the effect of the rain. At 21 March 2025, the raisins have arrived in the factories before the rain started. The deliveries will become slower moving forward as farmers struggle to dry their raisins.

It is important to note that in South Africa, there is no practice for farmers or speculators to hold back raisins from the market.

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