

Fast Facts



Africa's Agricultural Opportunities

A growing population puts increased demand on agricultural productivity:

- +2.3 billion in global population growth is expected by 2050.
- Africa's population will soon pass 1 billion and could reach up to 2 billion by 2050, at which time it will represent more than 20% of the world's population.
- A +70% increase in global food production will be needed by 2050.

South Africa and Africa are key agricultural growth areas with tremendous opportunities for productivity gains, with sufficient investment in technology.

- Africa has great potential to double food production. Africa's food productivity is low, despite Africa having approximately 78 million acres (31 million hectares) or about 20% of the world's hectares currently being planted to maize. Average maize yields in Africa are below 2 tons per hectare - significantly below the U.S. (about 10 tons per hectare) and South African averages (4.2 tons per hectare).
- Maize hectares vary from year to year depending on weather and market conditions, but on average approximately 2.5-2.75 million hectares of hybrid maize is planted in South Africa each year. In addition, about 350,000-500,000 hectares are planted by small-scale farmers to a mix of saved seed, open-pollinated varieties and hybrids.
- South Africa leads the continent in technology adoption and has seen productivity gains.
- In 1998, it became the first African country to grow biotech crops commercially. By 2010, it was the

world's ninth largest cultivator of biotech crops, with more than 2.2 million hectares under cultivation. The economic gains from biotech crops for South Africa for the period 1998 to 2009 were US\$676 million and US\$142 million for 2009 alone.

The five lead developing countries in biotech crops are China and India in Asia, Brazil and Argentina in Latin America, and South Africa on the continent of Africa.

Maize yields have doubled in the past 50 years, and the goal is to double that again.

- Those gains have been achieved through the introduction of hybrid seeds, sophisticated seed breeding programmes and modern technology.
- Average grain yields in Africa are about one-third of the average yield in developing countries, and one-fifth of the grain production in developed countries.

Agriculture has a big impact on the social and economic security of African countries.

- Higher-performing maize seed products will lead to greater yields for farmers - including emerging farmers - help enhance South Africa's and other African countries' productivity, and contribute to addressing Africa's food security issues.
- If Africa's maize farming productivity increases, so will food production and farmer profits in Africa. As agriculture is the basis of many African economies, this will raise living standards and contribute to economic development.

Sources: FAO, USDA, ISAAA 2010, Brookes and Barfoot 2011. South Africa yield data is 3 year average (2008-2010) of country level data

Pioneer and Pannar are both committed to helping Africa's farmers improve productivity by giving them more and better seed choices and increasing crop yields.

- Pioneer's investment in Pannar will allow each business to access additional crop areas, reach more customers and deliver improved seed products quicker and more efficiently than either can do on its own. Pannar receives access to Pioneer's genetics library and its maize breeding and biotechnology capabilities. Pioneer will tap into Pannar's expertise and reach across Africa and its maize genetics developed specifically for the region.



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