



SUMMARY - SURVEY OF MAIZE AREAS AND VOLUMES - OCTOBER 31, 2017

The objective of this AIMI survey of maize growers was to determine, as at October 31, 2017:

- final figures for the 2017 harvest of maize grain and silage
- sales of the 2017 harvest of maize grain since June 1, 2017
- levels of unsold maize grain from the 2017 harvest
- sowings and sowing intentions for maize grown for grain and silage

Data from 62 survey farms who completed all of the last three maize surveys (October 2016 and June and October 2017) were scaled up to the national level using the most recent Agricultural Production Statistics (APS) which provided final 2016 data on harvest hectares of maize grain and maize silage, and harvest tonnes of maize grain. (Maize grown for green feed was not included in this survey. In the final 2016 APS data, maize green feed made up about 14% of total harvest hectares of maize, as compared to 62% for maize silage and 24% for maize grain.)

As with all surveys, there is a margin of error which needs to be considered in relation to this report. These figures reflect the position at the 31st October 2017 and there will have been changes since this time.

Key points as at the 31st October 2017 (figures have been rounded to nearest 100):

- Final average yields of maize grain (10.2 t/ha) and maize silage (18.9 t DM/ha) for the 2017 harvest were down on last season (at 11.7 t/ha and 21.1 t DM/ha respectively).
- For maize grain, the estimated final total tonnage of 161,000 tonnes was down 23% on last season's harvest tonnage (210,300 t), as the result of a lower yield (down 13%) from a 12% lower harvest area. An estimated 99.9% of the total crop had been sold, leaving 200 tonnes unsold as at October 31, 2017 (as compared to 18,800 tonnes on June 1, 2017, and 1,500 tonnes on 31 October last year, 2016). Sales under pre-harvest contract were similar to the previous year, and there was a decrease in sales at a spot/free price. Spring 2017 sowings and sowing intentions as at 31 October, 2017 were an estimated 29% up on last season. However, sowing was only 59% complete as at October 31, 2017, which was a reflection of wet conditions in many areas.
- For maize silage, the estimated final total tonnage of 901,200 tonnes DM was down 9% compared to last season's harvest tonnage (988,600 t), as the result of a lower yield (down 10%) from an increased harvest area (1% up). Spring 2017 sowings and sowing intentions as at 31 October, 2017 were up 5% on last season. Sowing was 61% complete as at October 31, 2017, which was again a reflection of wet conditions in many areas.
- Many survey respondents commented that sowing had been delayed by wet weather. As at 31st October, 2017, only 61% of the total maize crop had been sown, with 27,700 ha of a total area of 70,300 ha left to sow.
- Since the June 2017 survey, overall sowing intentions for maize have changed little (up 1%).

Table 1. Detailed final estimated national figures for the 2017 harvest of maize grain and maize silage crops, plus sold and unsold tonnages of maize grain, as at October 31, 2017.

		Maize grain	Maize silage
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2017	Units	17	48
2016 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	Ha	17,993	46,875
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2016 harvest	Tonnes	210,325	988,576
2017 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2017 final harvest figures	Ha	15,809	47,560
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2017 final harvest figures	Tonnes	161,011	901,176
Sold under pre-harvest contract by October 31, 2017	Tonnes	140,133	-
Sold at spot/free price by October 31, 2017	Tonnes	20,157	-
Used on own farm by October 31, 2017	Tonnes	515	-
Unsold stocks on hand (2017 harvest only) on October 31, 2017	Tonnes	206	-
Total sales (2017 harvest)			
Sold (grand total) by October 31, 2017 (includes used on farm)	Tonnes	160,805	-
Unsold stocks on hand (from 2017 harvest) on October 31, 2017	Tonnes	206	-
Comparison of hectares and tonnages between the last two harvests			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2016 to 2017 harvest	%	-12.1	1.5
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2016 to 2017 harvest	%	-23.4	-8.8
Comparison of final yields (t/ha) between the last two harvests			
NZ-wide estimated yield, 2016 harvest	T/ha	11.7	21.1
NZ-wide estimated yield, 2017 harvest	T/ha	10.2	18.9
Unsold stocks on hand on June 1, 2017, the last survey date (based upon matched data)			
Unsold stocks on hand (from 2017 harvest) on June 1, 2017 (of total crop)	Tonnes	18,819	-
Unsold stocks on hand on October 31, 2016, the same time last year (based upon matched data)			
Unsold stocks on hand (from 2016 harvest) on October 31, 2016	Tonnes	1,513	-

Statistics New Zealand is gratefully acknowledged for supplying Final 2016 APS figures on total hectares and tonnes for maize grain, and total hectares for maize silage.

In Table 1, the unsold tonnage of the 2017 harvest of maize grain has reduced by 99% in the period between the AIMI surveys dated June 1, 2017 and October 31, 2017. The unsold tonnage is also lower than at the same time last year (200 t this year versus 1,500 t last year).

Table 2. Sowings and sowing intentions for maize grain and maize silage as at October 31, 2017.

	Maize grain	Maize silage
	(ha)	(ha)
Number of farmers in survey who have sown or intend to sow this crop as at October 31, 2017	13	50
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2016 harvest	17,993	46,875
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2017 harvest	15,809	47,560
Sowings and intentions, 2017/2018 season (hectares, for harvest in 2018)		
Estimated NZ total hectares already sown by October 31, 2017	12,126	30,450
Estimated NZ total hectares intending to sow after October 31, 2017	8,255	19,444
Estimated NZ total hectares (sowings and intentions), 2018 harvest	20,382	49,895
Comparison of hectares between the 2016, 2017 and 2018 (predicted) harvests		
Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2016 to 2017 harvest	-12.1	1.5
Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2017 to 2018 (predicted) harvest	28.9	4.9
Comparison of sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017 with sowings plus intentions as at Oct 31, 2017 (based upon matched data)		
Estimated NZ total 2017 sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017 (hectares, for harvest in 2018)	19,965	49,558
Change in estimated NZ total 2017 sowings & intentions between June 1, 2017 and Oct 31, 2017 (hectares, for harvest in 2018)	416	337

In Table 2, there is an estimated increase of 29% in sowings and intentions for maize grown for grain between the last two seasons, which more than compensates for an estimated decrease of 12% between the two previous seasons. The estimated change in sowings and intentions for maize grown for silage is also up on last season (by 5%). However, wet weather has delayed sowing in some areas, so as at 31 October 2017, the maize grain and maize silage crops were only 59% and 61% sown, respectively.

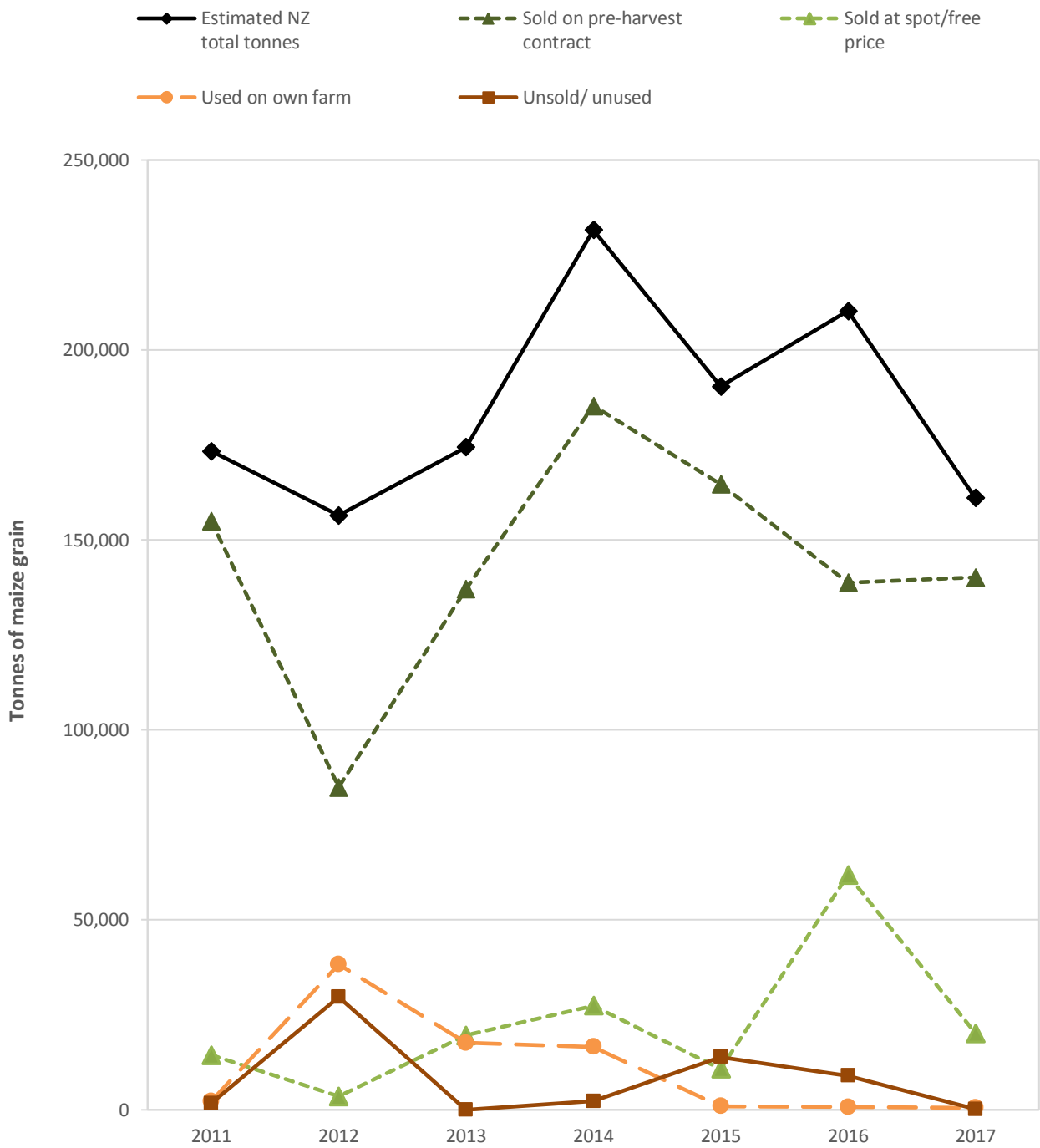


Figure 1. Maize grain final harvest tonnages and sales by October each year.
Note: data are sourced from the annual October AIMI reports.

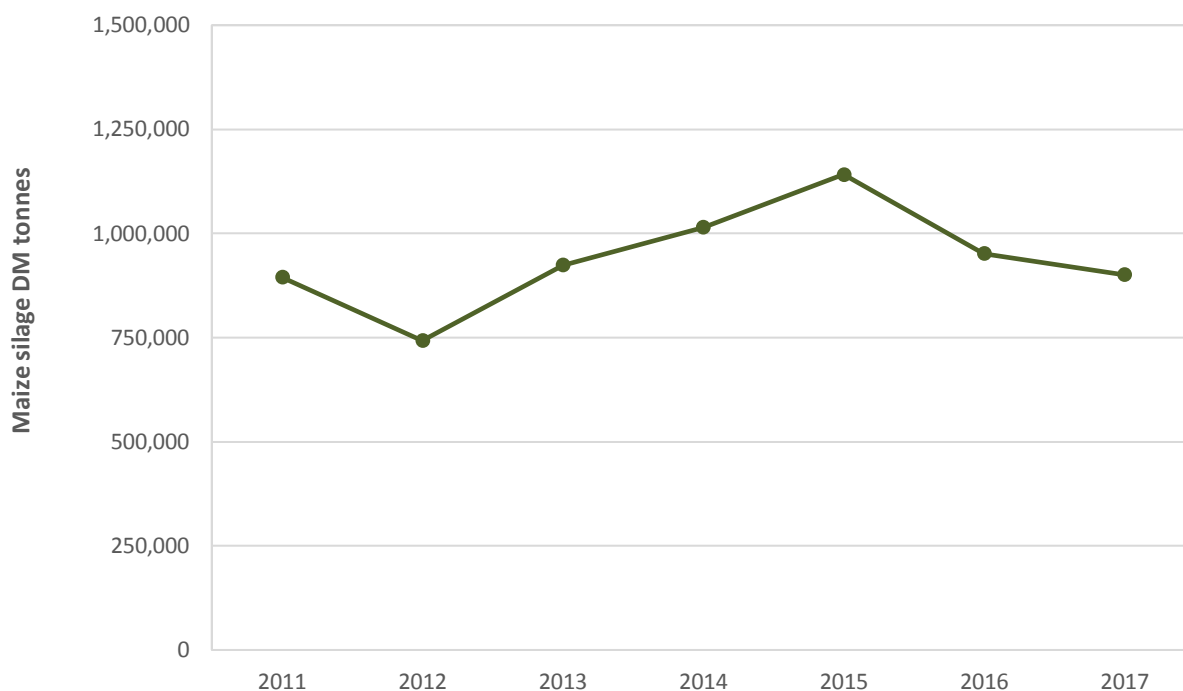


Figure 2. Maize silage harvest tonnages (dry matter) estimated in October each year.
Note: data are from the annual October AIMI reports (except that estimates for 2011 to 2014 have been retrospectively adjusted in the light of recently obtained APS hectare estimates for each preceding year).

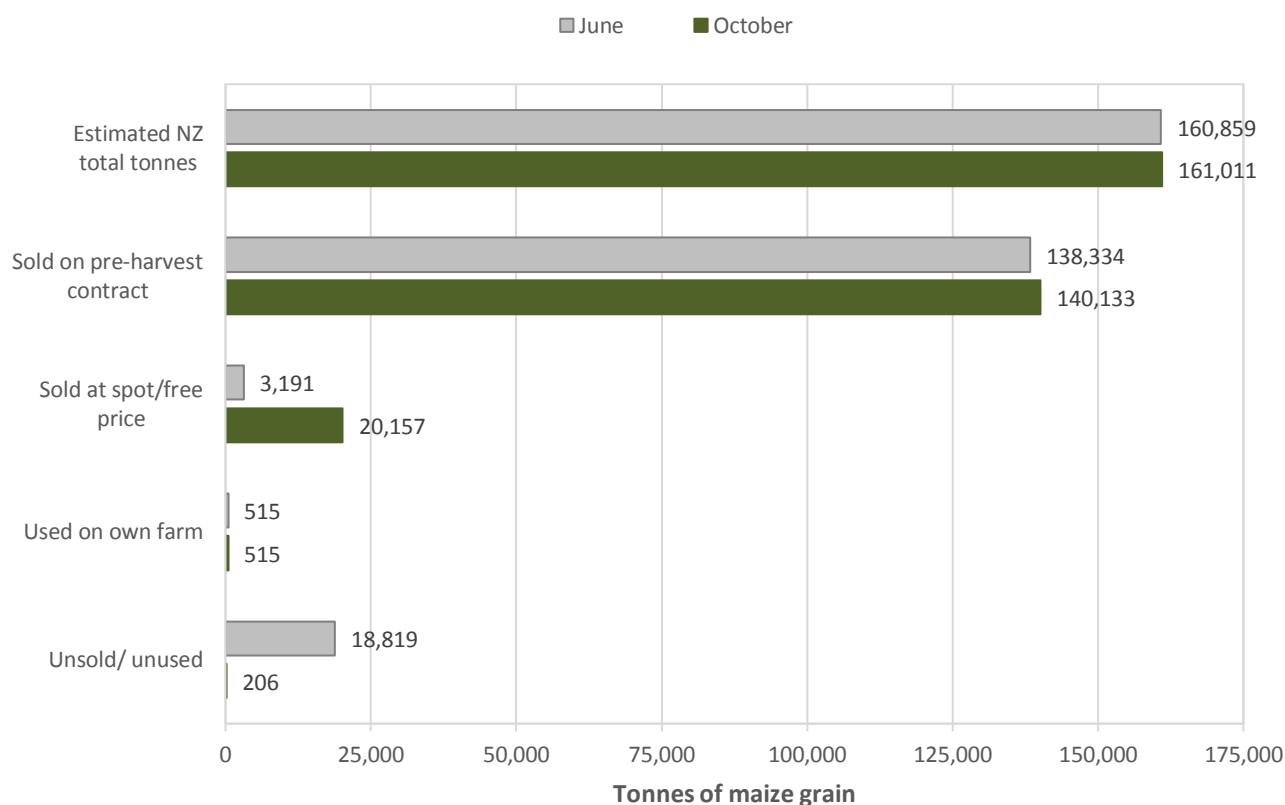


Figure 3. Comparison of maize grain tonnages and sales for the 2017 harvest between June 1 and October 31, 2017. All estimates are based upon scaling up data from growers in the current survey sample, so provide a more precise matched comparison.

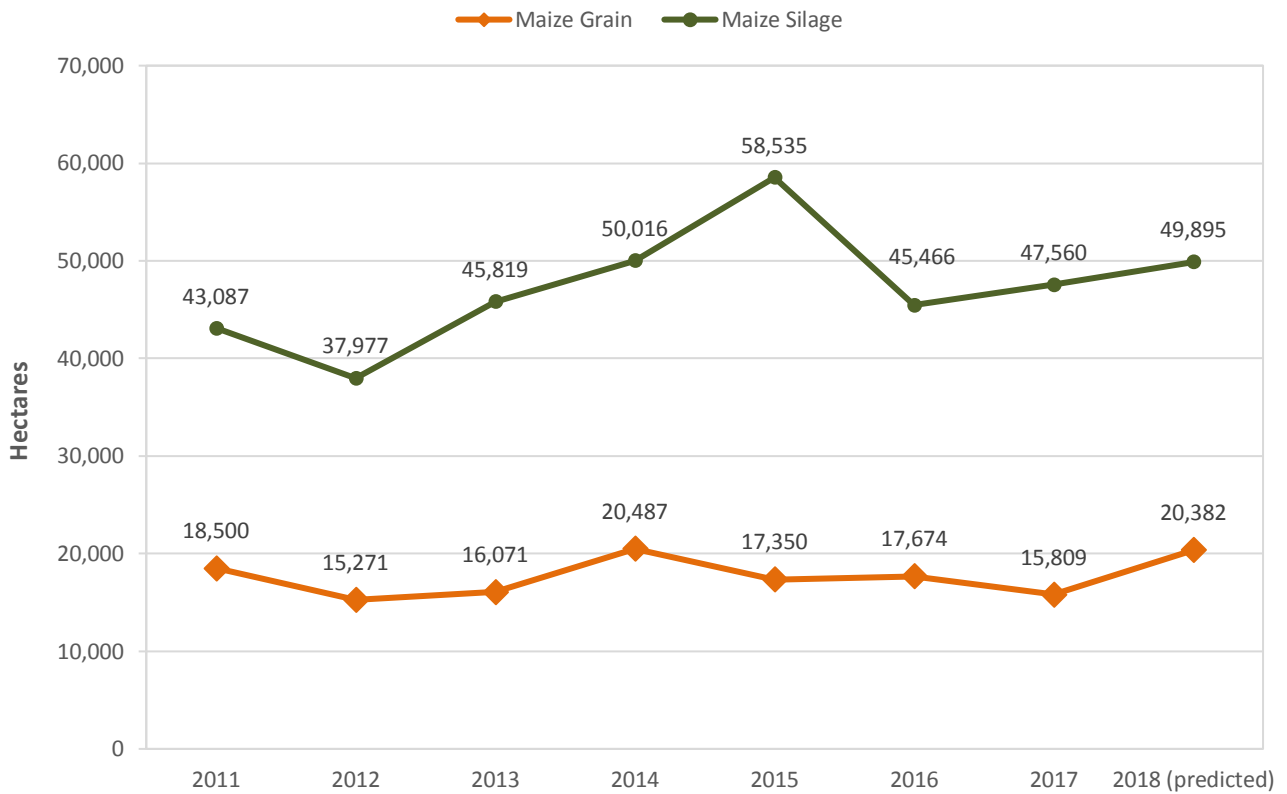


Figure 4. NZ harvest hectares estimated in October each year, from 2011 to 2017, with predicted hectares for harvest in 2018.

Note: Figures for 2017 and 2018 (predicted) are from the current report, while other figures are sourced from previous October AIMI reports (except that for maize silage, estimates for 2011 to 2014 have been retrospectively adjusted in the light of recently obtained APS hectare estimates for each preceding year).

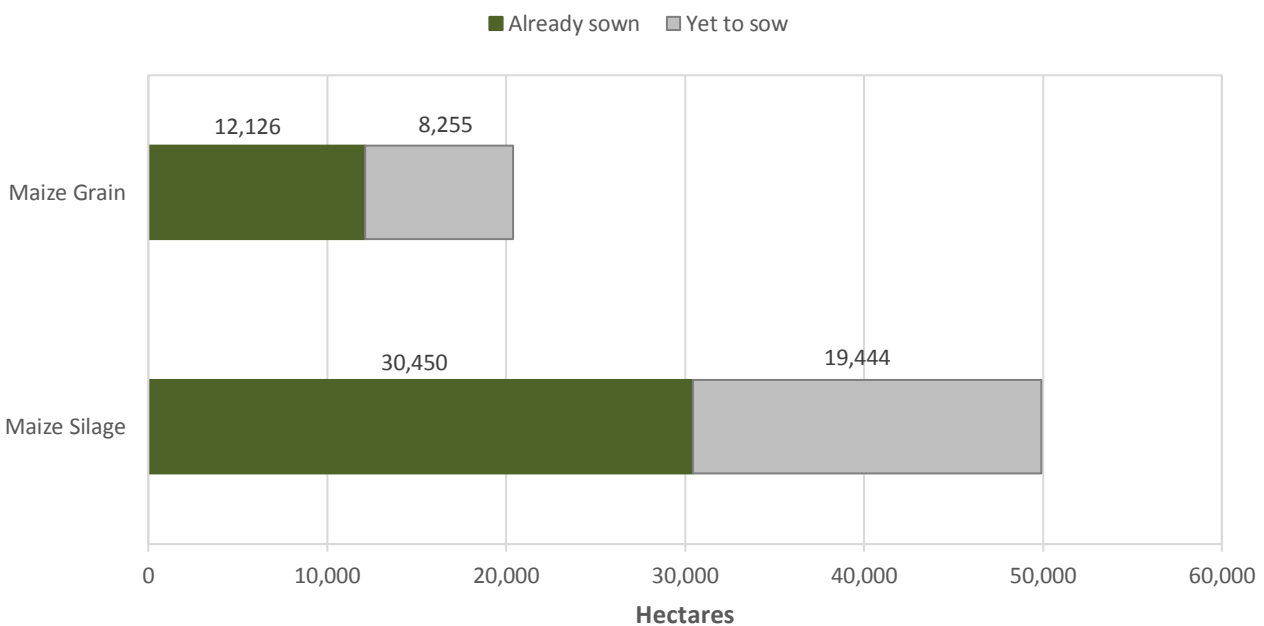


Figure 5. Estimated hectares of maize already sown in spring 2017, together with hectares yet to sow (spring intentions) for harvest in 2018, based on data collected on October 31, 2017.

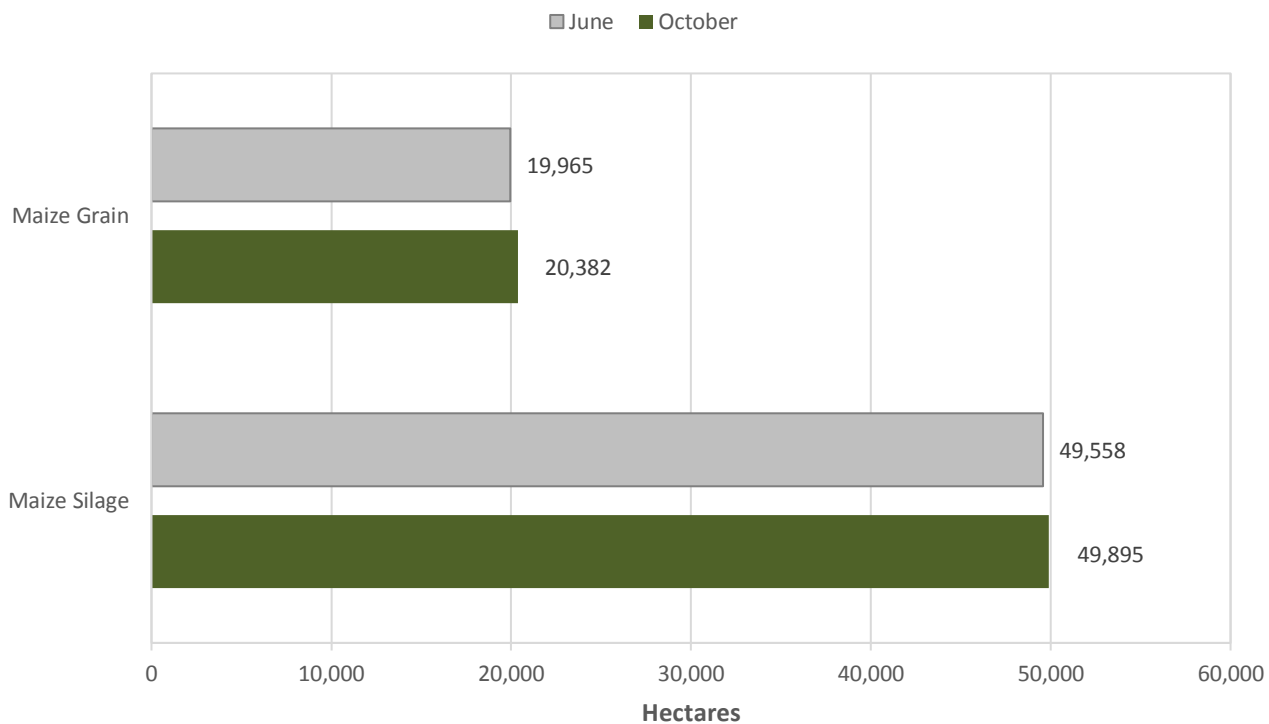


Figure 6. Comparison of spring maize sowing intentions as at June 1, 2017 with actual sowings plus intentions as at October 31, 2017. As in Figure 3, this is a matched comparison.

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