**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 500 / NW567E**

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES:**

**MS A STEYN (DA) ASKED TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

**QUESTION:**

 (1)  (a) What steps has (i) his department and (ii) the Chief Directorate: Animal and Health taken to improve the Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP) following the findings in the report by the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety that was published on 30 May 2017 that there are serious deficiencies in the RMP of the country and (b) what has the budget allocation been for the testing of live animals and animal products over the past five years;

(2)        whether his department or the entities reporting to him test for mycotoxins; if so, (a) which products are tested, (b) how often are mycotoxins tested, (c) what national and international standards are used in this regard, (d) which laboratories or institutions in the country are currently tasked with the (i) testing of mycotoxins and (ii) implementation of the RMP and (e) what has the budget allocation been to each laboratory over the past five years?  **NW567E**

**REPLY:**

**1.1. Ostrich**

* + 1. (a)(i) The contribution of the ostrich industry to the economy in terms of value of production is estimated at R 381 million for 2017. As a result of the lack of information on expenditure on production costs, it is not possible to determine the contribution to the gross domestic product. (Gross domestic product = value of production less cost of production plus indirect taxes less production subsidies).
		2. (a)(ii) The value of exports (ostrich) meat, skins and feathers made up 66% of the total value of production in 2017.
		3. (a)(iii)The number of jobs is estimated at around 35 000. The ostrich industry, as a result of restrictions on exports due to bird flu, had to scale down on employment.
	1. **Crocodile**

1.2.1 (b)(i)The crocodile industry mainly exports skins. Value of exports during 2017 is estimated at R20,5 million.

1.2.2 (b)(ii) Exports represent more than 95% of the total value of production.

* + 1. (b)(iii) Information on the number of workers employed is not readily available but is estimated at between 1 000 to 2 000.
	1. **Game**
		1. (c)(i)The value of production by the game meat industry is estimated at R6200 million (Six hundred and twenty million rands), based on information provided by Wildlife Ranching SA.
		2. (c)(ii) Value of game meat exports during 2017 is estimated at R36 million. Exports represent around 0.6% of the value of total game meat production.
		3. (c)(iii)The number of jobs created by the game ranching industry is estimated at between 120 000 and 140 000.
1. What is the total monetary value of (a) milk and (b) honey exports to the European Union (i) in each of the past five financial years and (ii) since 1 April 2017?
	1. The total value of South African exports to the European Union of milk and honey respectively for each of the past five years (2013 to 2017) were as per Table 1 and 2 below.
	2. **Table 1: SA total milk exports to the EU from 2013 to 2017 (concentrated and not; sweetened and not) in Rands**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity HS Code | Description | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| Total (HS 0401 & HS 0402) | Milk and cream | 14 000 | 23 000 | 9 000 | 8 000 | 26 000 |

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA), 2018

 **Table 2: SA honey exports to the EU from 2013 to 2017 in Rands**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity HS Code | Description | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| 0409 | Natural Honey | 0 | 908 000 | 139 000 | 15 000 | 5 000 |

Source: Global Trade Atlas (GTA), 2018