

In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand information, including import and export figures over several seasons are provided in table and graph format.

The 2015/16 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in Potchefstroom is also included in this report, as is the national grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette No. R.478 of 20 June 2014.

Production

Soybeans are the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa, driven mainly by the demand for protein feed in the animal feed industry. Soybeans have benefits to producers in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture, but also due to lower input needs compared to other commodities like maize and wheat.

The extreme drought conditions experienced this season, led to an almost 27% (184 500 ha) decline in soybean production area. Yield was also negatively impacted, resulting in a national yield decrease from 1.56 t/ha in 2014/2015 to 1.47 t/ha. Sunflower production also surpassed soybean production for the first time since the 2010/2011 season.

Province	Type of production	2015/2016			2014/2015		
		Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	800	1 200	1.50	800	1 600	2.00
	Total	800	1 200	1.50	800	1 600	2.00
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	4 000	13 600	3.40	4 000	14 000	3.50
	Total	4 000	13 600	3.40	4 000	14 000	3.50
Free State	Dryland	167 900	137 500	0.82	290 000	321 000	1.11
	Irrigation	6 100	10 500	1.72	15 000	45 000	3.00
	Total	174 000	148 000	0.85	305 000	366 000	1.20
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 500	2 100	1.40	1 500	2 100	1.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 500	2 100	1.40	1 500	2 100	1.40
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	19 000	39 000	2.05	27 000	55 650	2.06
	Irrigation	9 000	27 000	3.00	15 000	47 250	3.15
	Total	28 000	66 000	2.36	42 000	102 900	2.45
Mpumalanga	Dryland	232 300	390 000	1.68	239 500	372 700	1.56
	Irrigation	7 700	18 000	2.34	5 500	17 200	3.13
	Total	240 000	408 000	1.70	245 000	389 900	1.59
Limpopo	Dryland	3 500	2 400	0.69	9 000	15 000	1.67
	Irrigation	12 500	36 000	2.88	15 000	57 000	3.80
	Total	16 000	38 400	2.40	24 000	72 000	3.00
Gauteng	Dryland	20 800	41 600	2.00	23 000	44 500	1.93
	Irrigation	2 200	9 000	4.09	7 000	24 500	3.50
	Total	23 000	50 600	2.20	30 000	69 000	2.30
North West	Dryland	12 500	6 600	0.53	28 000	28 000	1.00
	Irrigation	3 000	7 500	2.50	7 000	24 500	3.50
	Total	15 500	14 100	0.91	35 000	52 500	1.50
RSA	Dryland	457 500	619 200	1.35	618 000	838 950	1.36
	Irrigation	45 300	122 800	2.71	69 200	231 050	3.34
	Total	502 800	742 000	1.48	687 300	1 070 000	1.56

Figures provided by the CEC.