

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 is provided in table and graph format. Import and export figures over several seasons as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seeds products, are also included.

The 2016/17 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in Potchefstroom, is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette No. R.370 of 21 April 2017 are also provided.

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 requirements compared to other commodities for example wheat and maize.

Sufficient and well-timed rainfall through most of the summer grain producing area resulted in a record soybean crop this season. The national yield increased from an average of 1.48 t/ha last season to 2.29 t/ha this season.

Province	Type of production	2016/2017			2015/2016		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	700	1 050	1.50	800	1 200	1.50
	Total	700	1 050	1.50	800	1 200	1.50
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	3 000	10 500	3.50	4 000	13 600	3.40
	Total	3 000	10 500	3.50	4 000	13 600	3.40
Free State	Dryland	232 600	477 700	2.05	167 900	137 500	0.82
	Irrigation	7 400	26 300	3.55	6 100	10 500	1.72
	Total	240 000	504 000	2.10	174 000	148 000	0.85
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 850	2 775	1.50	1 500	2 100	1.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 850	2 775	1.50	1 500	2 100	1.40
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	22 000	58 155	2.64	19 000	39 000	2.05
	Irrigation	8 500	31 450	3.70	9 000	27 000	3.00
	Total	30 500	89 605	2.94	28 000	66 000	2.36
Mpumalanga	Dryland	234 700	533 500	2.27	232 300	390 000	1.68
	Irrigation	6 300	20 800	3.30	7 700	18 000	2.34
	Total	241 000	554 300	2.30	240 000	408 000	1.70
Limpopo	Dryland	1 500	3 750	2.50	3 500	2 400	0.69
	Irrigation	7 000	26 000	3.71	12 500	36 000	2.88
	Total	8 500	29 750	3.50	16 000	38 400	2.40
Gauteng	Dryland	22 900	61 620	2.69	20 800	41 600	2.00
	Irrigation	2 500	9 500	3.80	2 200	9 000	4.09
	Total	25 400	71 420	2.80	23 000	50 600	2.20
North West	Dryland	15 600	25 500	1.63	12 500	6 600	0.53
	Irrigation	7 400	27 400	3.70	3 000	7 500	2.50
	Total	23 000	52 900	2.30	15 500	14 100	0.91
RSA	Dryland	531 150	1 163 000	2.19	457 500	619 200	1.35
	Irrigation	42 800	153 000	3.57	45 300	122 800	2.71
	Total	573 950	1 316 000	2.29	502 800	742 000	1.48

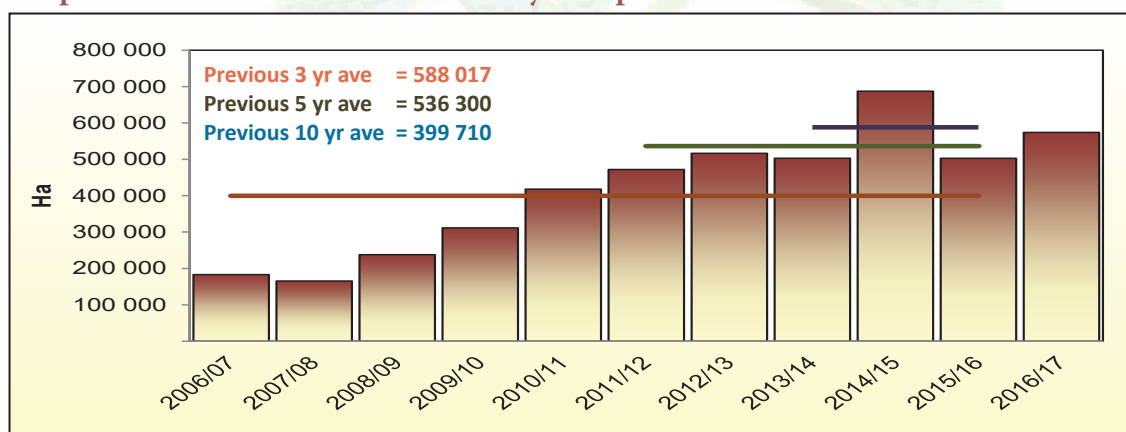
Figures provided by the CEC.

According to the *BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2017 – 2026*, the average yield is projected to increase at an annual rate of 4.4% over the outlook period, amounting to a total soybean crop of 2.1 million tons by 2026. The projected yield and resulting crop increases, will follow the introduction of endpoint royalties that will support the availability of new technology to South African producers in coming years.

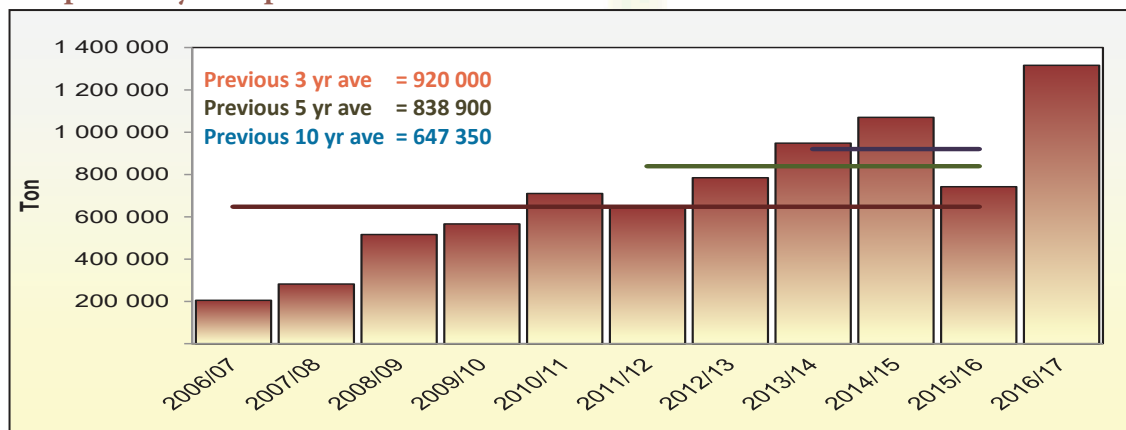
The area planted for soybean production increased by 14% to 573 950 hectares this season, as farmers most probably opted for lower risk alternatives following the impact of the previous season's drought. The expectation is that the soybean area will increase at an average of 4% per year to just under 900 000 hectares by 2026.

Soybeans account for more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE - 575)* an estimated 351.32 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2016/2017 season. The United States, Brazil and Argentina are the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production during the 2017/2018 season is projected to be 340.86 million metric tons.

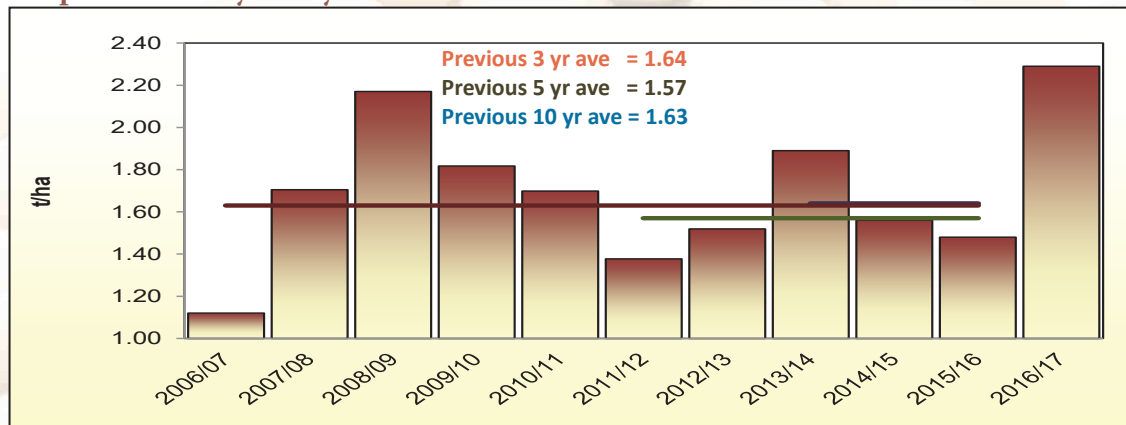
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2006/07 to 2016/17



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2006/07 to 2016/17

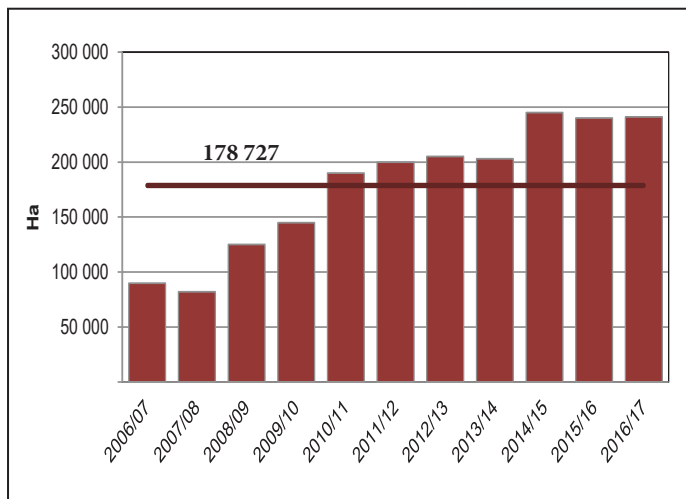


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2006/07 to 2016/17

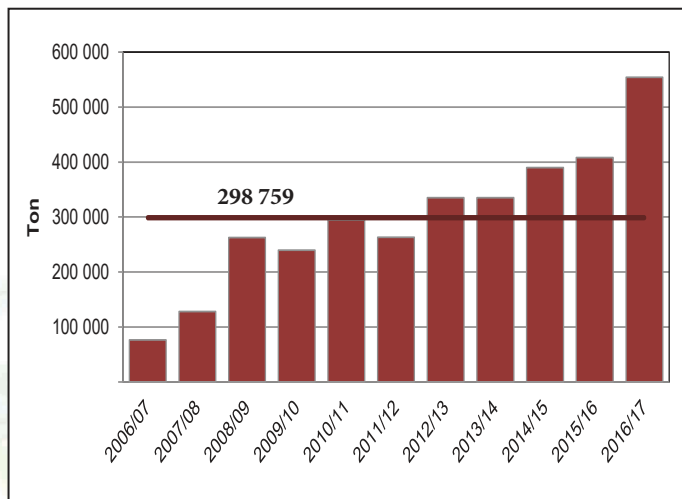


Figures provided by the CEC.

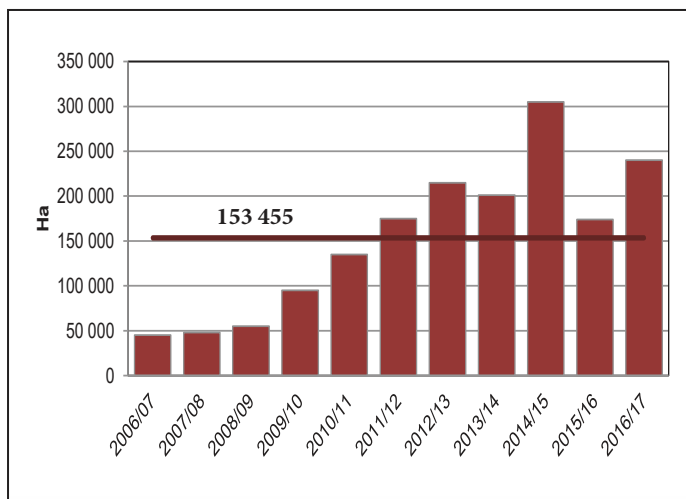
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2006/07



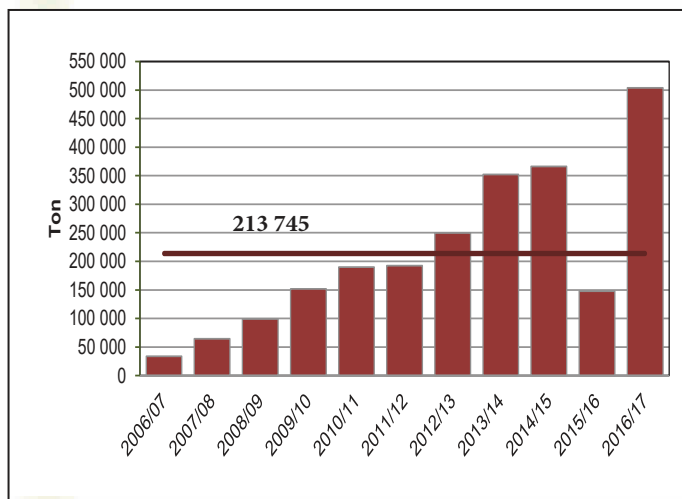
Graph 6: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2006/07



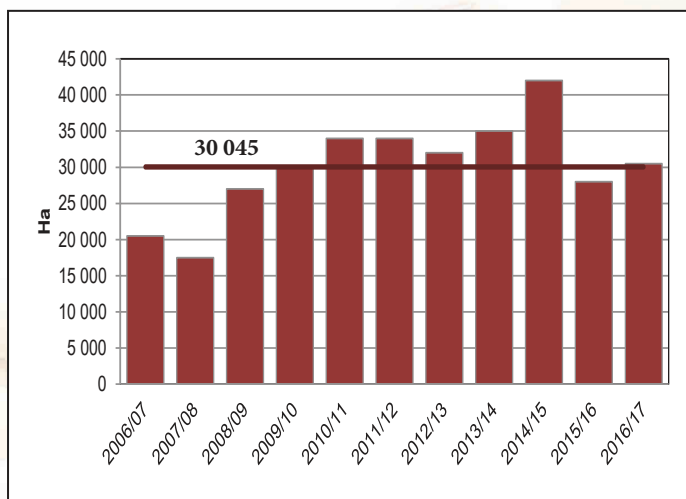
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2006/07



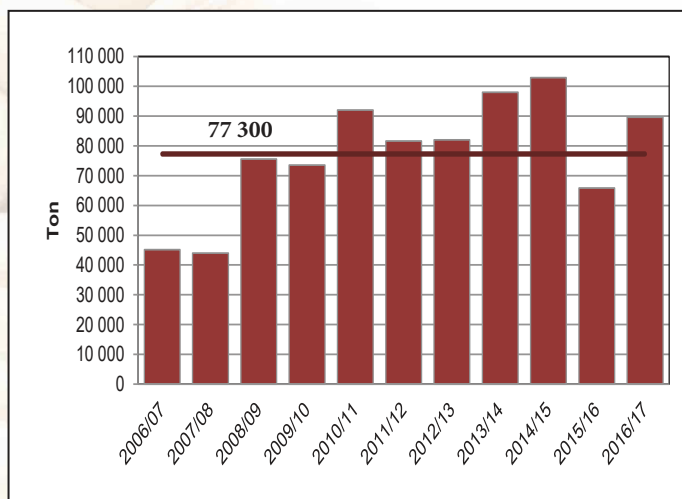
Graph 8: Soybean production in the Free State since 2006/07



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2006/07



Graph 10: Soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2006/07



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average