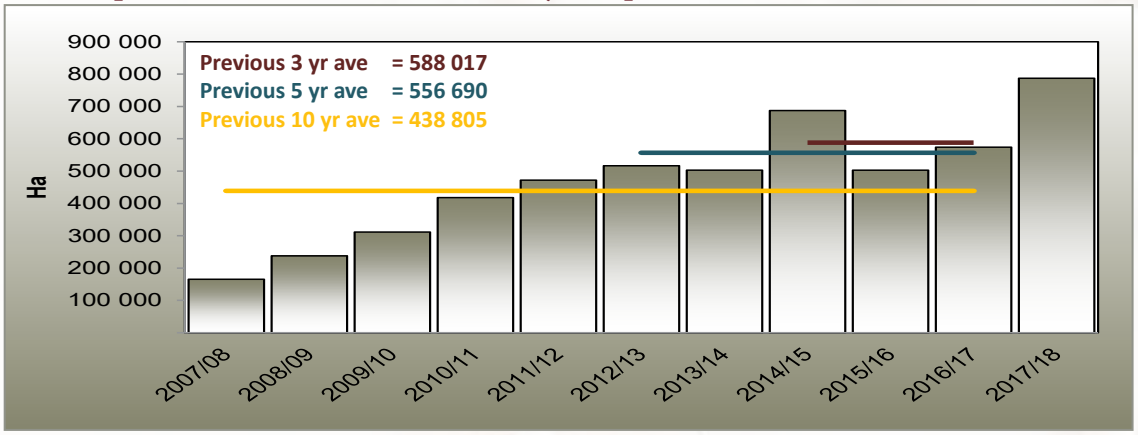
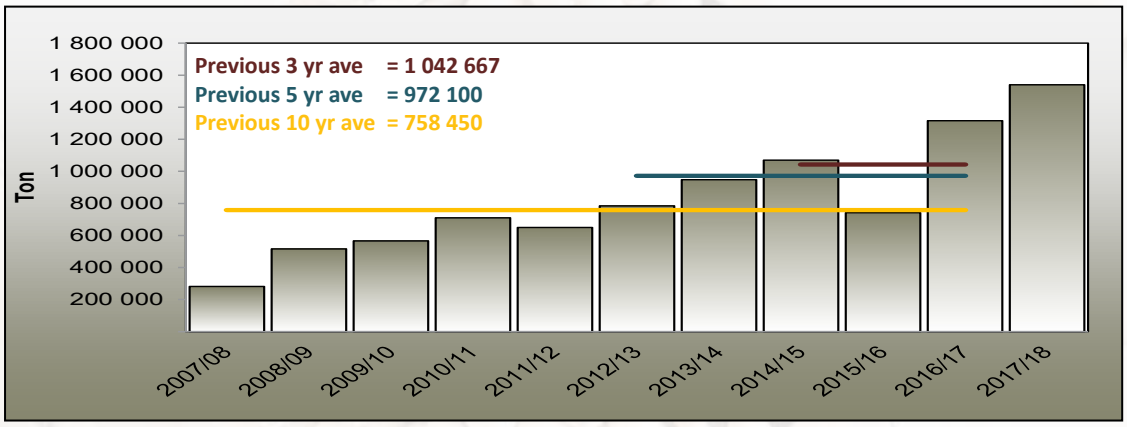
According to the *BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2018 – 2027,* the area cultivated to soybeans is projected to continue expanding by an annual average of 2.9%, reaching 962 000 hectares by 2027. In addition to expanding area, projected production growth is underpinned by an average annual yield gain of 2% over the outlook period. This yield gain is faster than the yield improvements observed over the past decade. A number of trends needs to be considered with regards to projecting future soybean yields. Firstly, there is a rapid increase in the number of soybean varieties available for planting. Secondly, the area under soybean production has increased rapidly and western production regions that have traditionally been regarded as marginal areas for soybean production are gradually coming into production. Thirdly, producers have continued adapting production techniques, resulting in more stable and improved yields. Successful introduction of the End Point Royalty system remains a crucial factor to the introduction of the latest seed technology in South Africa, determining to a large extent the competitiveness of South African soybean farmers.

Soybeans account for more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE - 586)* an estimated 340.47 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2017/2018 season. The United States, Brazil and Argentina are the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production during the 2018/2019 season is projected to be 360.08 million metric tons.

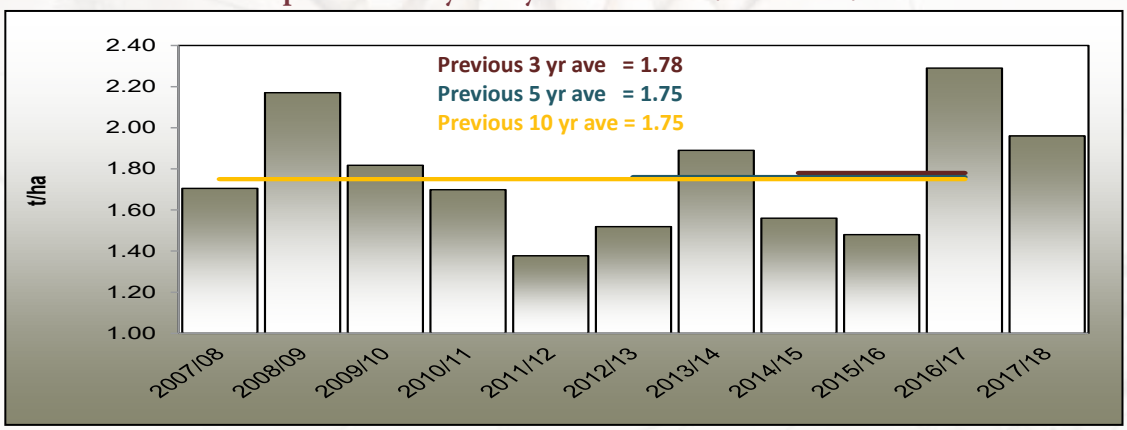
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2007/08 to 2017/18



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2007/08 to 2017/18



Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2007/08 to 2017/18



Figures provided by the CEC.