

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2015 – 2024*, sunflower plantings are projected to decline gradually over the next three to four years and then stabilize around 460 000 hectares as the expected growth in sunflower yields will be sufficient to keep the local market in fine balance. The increase in yields expected are due to the adoption of new technology like Clearfield hybrids as well as intensification of production practices. As a result, sunflower production will continue to gradually expand towards 2024.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2014/2015 season, compared to the 2013/2014 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained over the last 11 seasons and Graphs 5 to 10 similar figures for the major sunflower producing provinces, namely the Free State, North West and Limpopo.

Table 2: Sunflower production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2014/2015			2013/2014		
		Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	500	500	1.00	900	450	0.50
	Total	500	500	1.00	900	450	0.50
Free State	Dryland	283 500	367 000	1.29	277 100	443 000	1.60
	Irrigation	1 500	3 500	2.33	2 900	5 000	1.72
	Total	285 000	370 500	1.30	280 000	448 000	1.60
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	550	825	1.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	550	825	1.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	2 500	3 300	1.32	3 500	4 550	1.30
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 500	3 300	1.32	3 500	4 550	1.30
Limpopo	Dryland	81 300	59 900	0.74	89 100	74 250	0.83
	Irrigation	700	1 600	2.29	900	2 025	2.25
	Total	82 000	61 500	0.75	90 000	76 275	0.85
Gauteng	Dryland	5 500	5 775	1.05	2 550	3 000	1.18
	Irrigation	500	1 425	2.85	450	900	2.00
	Total	6 000	7 200	1.20	3 000	3 900	1.30
North West	Dryland	199 200	218 200	1.10	220 100	296 000	1.34
	Irrigation	800	1 800	2.25	900	2 000	2.22
	Total	200 000	220 000	1.10	221 000	298 000	1.35
RSA	Dryland	572 000	654 175	1.14	592 900	821 625	1.39
	Irrigation	4 000	8 825	2.21	6 050	10 375	1.71
	Total	576 000	663 000	1.15	598 950	832 000	1.39

Figures provided by the CEC.