

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2018 – 2027*, sunflower area is expected to decline marginally over the outlook period, additional demand will however be met comfortably by increasing yields. Yields are projected to increase by an average of 2.2% per year, reaching 1.65 t/ha by 2027. This projected growth in yield is based on the assumption of stable rainfall and cultivars improving continuously. Average yields over the past five years have not reflected the potential of current varieties due to adverse weather conditions (extreme droughts and temperatures) in four of the five seasons. The adoption of the latest release of high-yielding cultivars with Clearfield® technology that significantly reduces weed pressure and increases yield, is rapidly gaining ground. Average yields are therefore expected to improve going forward.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2017/2018 season, compared to the 2016/2017 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 and North West as well as Limpopo.

Province	Type of production	2017/2018			2016/2017		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	100	100	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100	100	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	1 600	1 920	1.20	250	400	1.60
	Total	1 600	1 920	1.20	250	400	1.60
Free State	Dryland	312 200	486 000	1.56	328 000	475 000	1.45
	Irrigation	1 800	4 000	2.22	2 000	3 000	1.50
	Total	314 000	490 000	1.56	330 000	478 000	1.45
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	300	300	1.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	300	300	1.00
Mpumalanga	Dryland	2 300	2 180	0.95	2 200	2 300	1.05
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 300	2 180	0.95	2 200	2 300	1.05
Limpopo	Dryland	44 500	34 750	0.78	87 500	82 500	0.94
	Irrigation	500	1 250	2.50	2 500	3 000	1.20
	Total	45 000	36 000	0.80	90 000	85 500	0.95
Gauteng	Dryland	5 050	4 500	0.89	2 600	2 500	0.96
	Irrigation	450	1 100	2.44	400	500	1.25
	Total	5 500	5 600	1.02	3 000	3 000	1.00
North West	Dryland	231 900	323 950	1.40	207 500	300 000	1.45
	Irrigation	1 100	2 250	2.05	2 500	4 500	1.80
	Total	233 000	326 200	1.40	210 000	304 500	1.45
RSA	Dryland	596 050	851 480	1.43	628 100	862 600	1.37
	Irrigation	5 450	10 520	1.93	7 650	11 400	1.49
	Total	601 500	862 000	1.43	635 750	874 000	1.37

Figures provided by the CEC.