

The area utilised for sunflower production decreased by 17% to 555 700 ha, compared to the 670 700 ha of the previous season. The national yield average increased by just more than 3% from to 1.26 t/ha in the previous season to 1.30 t/ha this season.

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2023 – 2032*, an area of 500 000 hectares is expected to be planted to sunflower by 2032. The rising prevalence of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* is expected to remain a challenge, adding costs for producers and resulting in some area shifting to soybeans in affected regions. Despite the normalisation in area, production growth is supported by a projected 21% gain in yields over the coming decade, reflecting technological gains and continuous improvement in production practices. This will be sufficient to meet the growth in domestic demand.

The latest seed technology is providing promising results in high-oil content cultivars, without significant compromise in yields per hectare. High oil content cultivars will support the relative competitiveness of local sunflower crushing plants.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2022/23 season, compared to the 2021/22 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tonnage 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	2022/23			2021/22		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	2 500	6 250	2.50	2 500	6 250	2.50
	Total	2 500	6 250	2.50	2 500	6 250	2.50
Free State	Dryland	283 000	385 000	1.36	350 000	483 000	1.38
	Irrigation	7 000	17 000	2.43	7 000	16 800	2.40
	Total	290 000	402 000	1.39	357 000	499 800	1.40
Eastern Cape	Dryland	700	1 400	2.00	30	48	1.60
	Irrigation	-	-	-	270	702	2.60
	Total	700	1 400	2.00	300	750	2.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	300	600	2.00	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	300	600	2.00	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	5 000	7 140	1.43	3 500	5 250	1.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5 000	7 140	1.43	3 500	5 250	1.50
Limpopo	Dryland	99 000	72 600	0.73	107 000	72 200	0.67
	Irrigation	1 000	2 400	2.40	3 000	4 800	1.60
	Total	100 000	75 000	0.75	110 000	77 000	0.70
Gauteng	Dryland	2 200	2 860	1.30	2 400	3 000	1.25
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 200	2 860	1.30	2 400	3 000	1.25
North West	Dryland	152 900	221 250	1.45	193 200	250 500	1.30
	Irrigation	2 100	3 500	1.67	1 800	3 000	1.67
	Total	155 000	224 750	1.45	195 000	253 500	1.30
RSA	Dryland	543 100	690 850	1.27	656 130	813 998	1.24
	Irrigation	12 600	29 150	2.31	14 570	31 552	2.17
	Total	555 700	720 000	1.30	670 700	845 550	1.26

Figures provided by the CEC.