

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 2022/23 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 Government Notice 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.

Table 1: Soybean production overview over two seasons							
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	1 000	3 750	3.75	800	3 000	3.75
	Total	1 000	3 750	3.75	800	3 000	3.75
Free State	Dryland	555 000	1 293 000	2.33	403 000	868 250	2.15
	Irrigation	10 000	37 000	3.70	12 000	44 250	3.69
	Total	565 000	1 330 000	2.35	415 000	912 500	2.20
Eastern Cape	Dryland	4 000	11 800	2.95	2 600	7 670	2.95
	Irrigation	300	1 100	3.67	400	1 330	3.33
	Total	4 300	12 900	3.00	3 000	9 000	3.00
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	32 000	112 000	3.50	26 000	93 000	3.58
	Irrigation	12 000	51 000	4.25	13 000	57 000	4.38
	Total	44 000	163 000	3.70	39 000	150 000	3.85
Mpumalanga	Dryland	294 000	632 000	2.15	292 000	680 400	2.33
	Irrigation	11 000	39 000	3.55	8 000	29 600	3.70
	Total	305 000	671 000	2.20	300 000	710 000	2.37
Limpopo	Dryland	4 000	10 400	2.60	4 500	11 700	2.60
	Irrigation	22 000	78 100	3.55	18 000	64 800	3.60
	Total	26 000	88 500	3.40	22 500	76 500	3.40
Gauteng	Dryland	46 000	98 600	2.14	41 500	86 750	2.09
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	3 500	12 250	3.50
	Total	48 000	105 600	2.20	45 000	99 000	2.20
North West	Dryland	140 200	343 450	2.45	86 300	220 700	2.56
	Irrigation	14 800	51 800	3.50	13 700	49 300	3.60
	Total	155 000	395 250	2.55	100 000	270 000	2.70
RSA	Dryland	1 075 200	2 501 250	2.33	855 900	1 968 470	2.30
	Irrigation	73 100	268 750	3.68	69 400	261 530	3.77
	Total	1 148 300	2 770 000	2.41	925 300	2 230 000	2.41

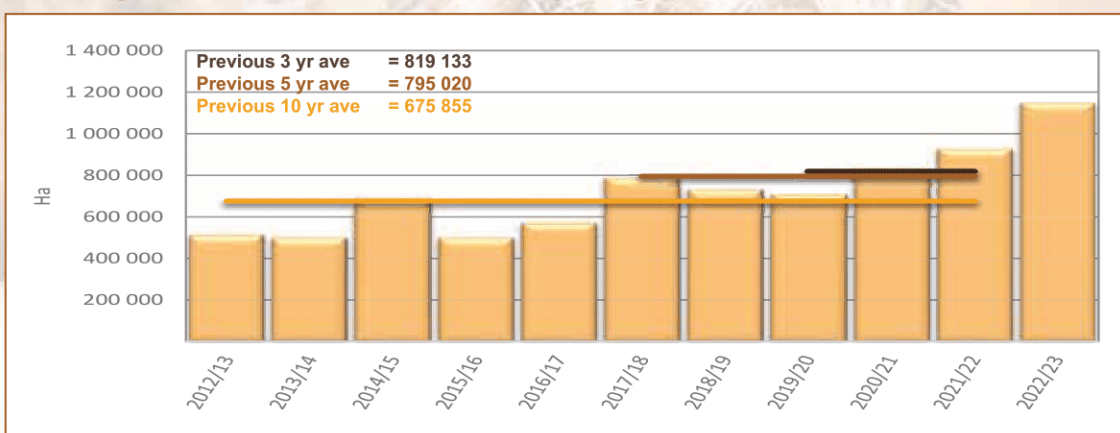
Figures provided by the CEC.

Compared to the 2021/22 production season, the area utilised for commercial soybean crop production increased by 24% (223 000 hectares). The area planted is also the highest figure on record for the third consecutive year. The average national yield equaled the 2.41 t/ha of the previous season which was a national record.

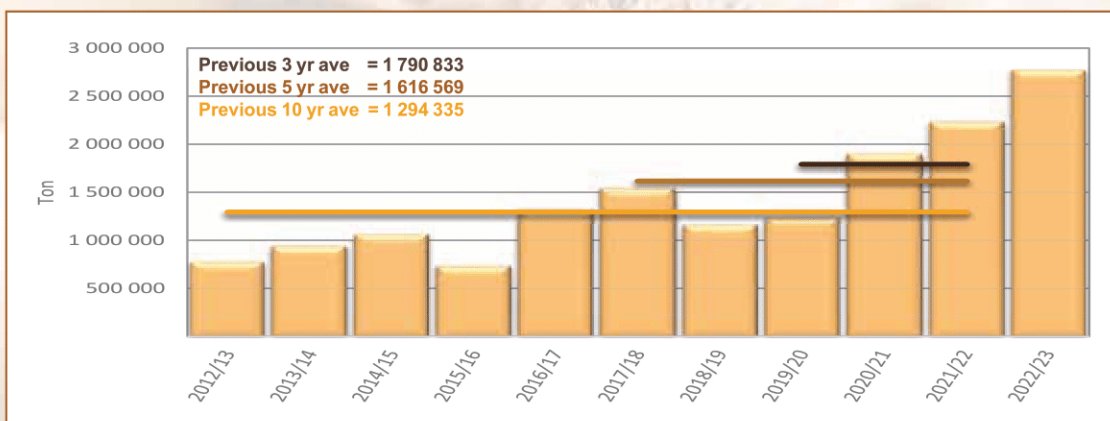
According to *The BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2023 – 2032*, the area planted to soybeans is expected to be 1.1 million hectares by 2032. Soybean yields are expected to continue the rapid gains achieved in recent years, despite area expansion, reflecting the release of the latest seed technologies (improved germplasm and GM traits) following the introduction of the breeding technology levy. Planting of varieties most suited to specific areas has been instrumental to the improved performance of soybeans in the drier western parts of the country and producers have refined production practices, unlocking significant potential.

Soybeans account for half of the world's oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE – 646)* an estimated 378.06 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2022/23 season. Brazil (43%) and the United States (31%) are by far the largest contributors to this total. The world soybean production for the 2023/24 season is projected to be 396.85 million metric tons.

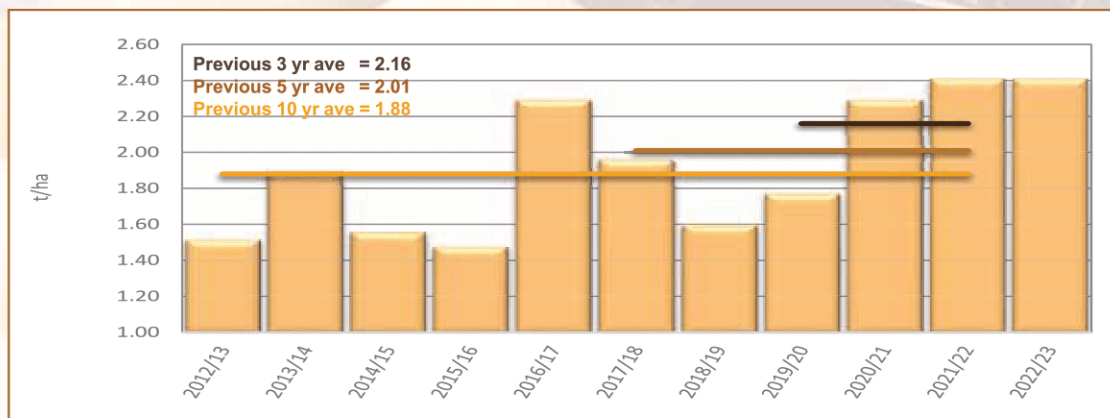
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2012/13 to 2022/23



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2012/13 to 2022/23

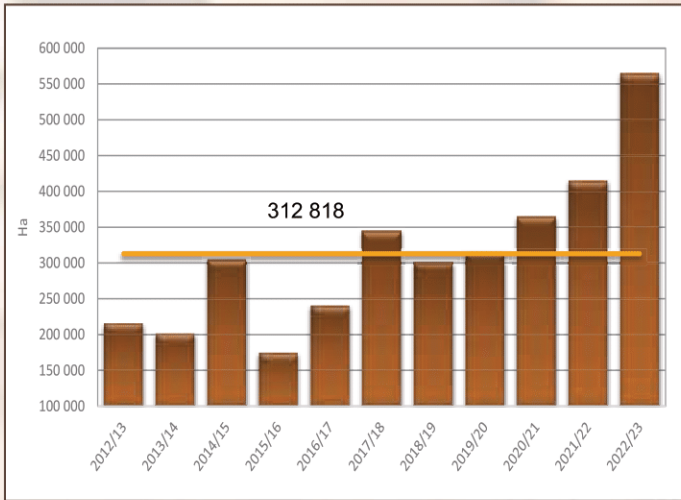


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2012/13 to 2022/23

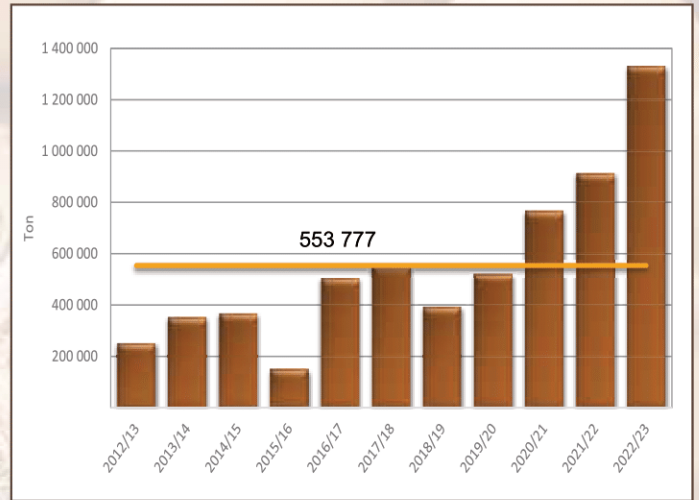


Figures provided by the CEC.

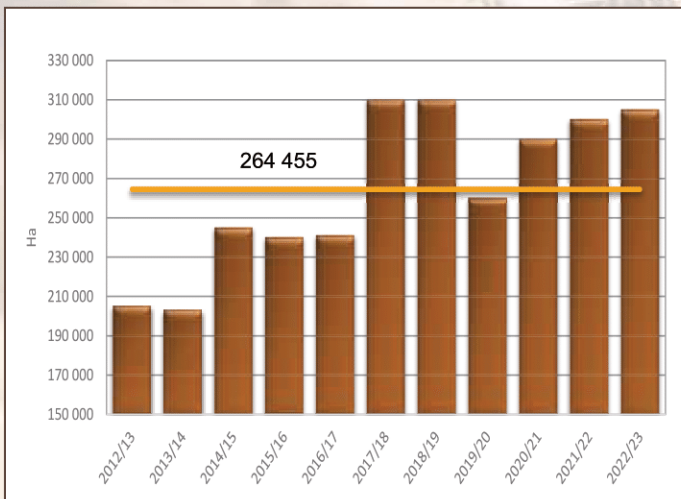
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2012/13



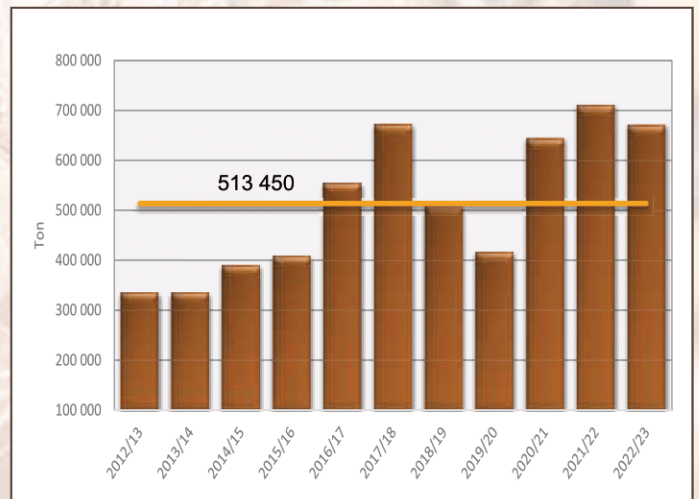
Graph 6: Soybean production in the Free State since 2012/13



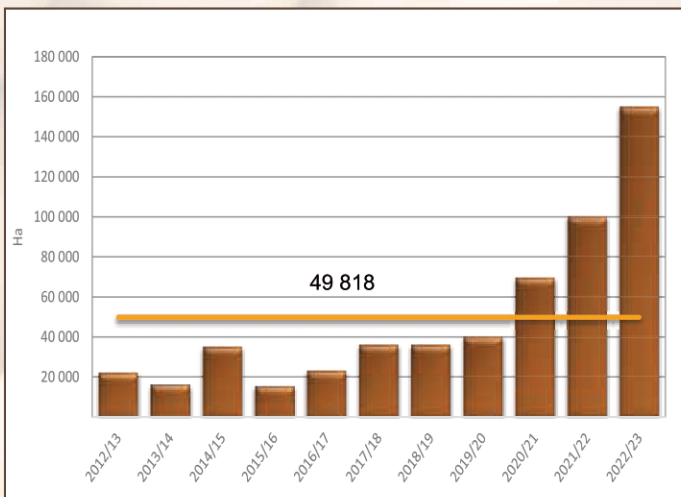
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2012/13



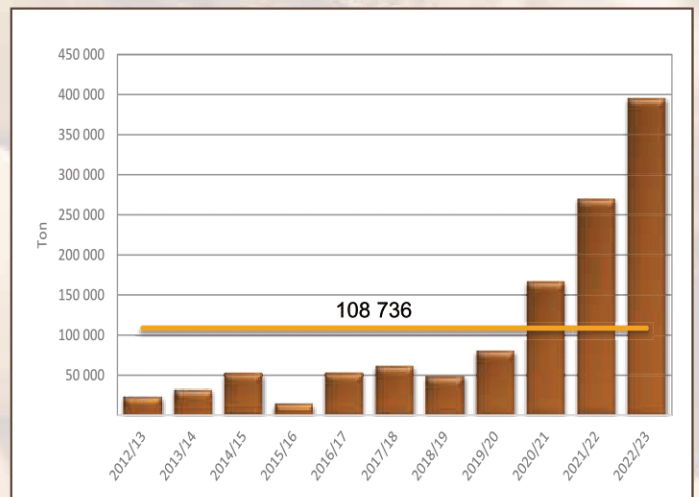
Graph 8: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2012/13



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in North West since 2012/13



Graph 10: Soybean production in North West since 2012/13



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average