

of the previous season. Late rainfall resulted in not all intended sunflower area being planted. This season's area planted is the lowest since the 2012/13 season. The national yield average decreased by almost 8% to 1.32 t/ha, slightly higher than the previous three- and five-year average of 1.28 t/ha.

According to The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2019 – 2028, fairly consistent yield growth is expected over the coming decade (assuming stable rainfall and continuously improving cultivars), with quicker gains for sunflower seed and white maize, compared to the other major summer crops. The removal of more marginal areas supports this greater average yield gains. The total area planted to sunflower seed and white maize is however expected to decline.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2018/19 season, compared to the 2017/18 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.

Table 2: Sunflower production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2018/19			2017/18		
		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	950	1 140	1.20	1 600	1 920	1.20
	Total	950	1 140	1.20	1 600	1 920	1.20
Free State	Dryland	265 500	382 050	1.44	312 200	486 000	1.56
	Irrigation	4 500	9 450	2.10	1 800	4 000	2.22
	Total	270 000	391 500	1.45	314 000	490 000	1.56
Eastern Cape	Dryland	100	260	2.60	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100	260	2.60	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	4 500	4 500	1.00	2 300	2 180	0.95
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	4 500	4 500	1.00	2 300	2 180	0.95
Limpopo	Dryland	60 000	58 800	0.98	44 500	34 750	0.78
	Irrigation	1 000	2 200	2.20	500	1 250	2.50
	Total	61 000	61 000	1.00	45 000	36 000	0.80
Gauteng	Dryland	3 550	3 300	0.93	5 050	4 500	0.89
	Irrigation	250	500	2.00	450	1 100	2.44
	Total	3 800	3 800	1.00	5 500	5 600	1.02
North West	Dryland	174 100	214 000	1.23	231 900	323 950	1.40
	Irrigation	900	1 800	2.00	1 100	2 250	2.05
	Total	175 000	215 800	1.23	233 000	326 200	1.40
RSA	Dryland	507 750	662 910	1.31	596 050	851 480	1.43
	Irrigation	7 600	15 090	1.99	5 450	10 520	1.93
	Total	515 350	678 000	1.32	601 500	862 000	1.43

Figures provided by the CEC.