

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 2021/22 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	2021/22			2020/21		
		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	800	3 000	3.75	1 000	3 500	3.50
	Total	800	3 000	3.75	1 000	3 500	3.50
Free State	Dryland	403 000	868 250	2.15	353 000	734 700	2.08
	Irrigation	12 000	44 250	3.69	12 000	31 800	2.65
	Total	415 000	912 500	2.20	365 000	766 500	2.10
Eastern Cape	Dryland	2 600	7 670	2.95	2 700	7 850	2.91
	Irrigation	400	1 330	3.33	400	1 450	3.63
	Total	3 000	9 000	3.00	3 100	9 300	3.00
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	26 000	93 000	3.58	20 500	71 500	3.49
	Irrigation	13 000	57 000	4.38	15 500	58 100	3.75
	Total	39 000	150 000	3.85	36 000	129 600	3.60
Mpumalanga	Dryland	292 000	680 400	2.33	282 000	614 550	2.18
	Irrigation	8 000	29 600	3.70	8 000	30 000	3.75
	Total	300 000	710 000	2.37	290 000	644 550	2.22
Limpopo	Dryland	4 500	11 700	2.60	4 000	10 700	2.68
	Irrigation	18 000	64 800	3.60	16 500	61 050	3.70
	Total	22 500	76 500	3.40	20 500	71 750	3.50
Gauteng	Dryland	41 500	86 750	2.09	38 500	92 400	2.40
	Irrigation	3 500	12 250	3.50	3 500	12 600	3.60
	Total	45 000	99 000	2.20	42 000	105 000	2.50
North West	Dryland	86 300	220 700	2.56	57 400	130 500	2.27
	Irrigation	13 700	49 300	3.60	12 100	36 300	3.00
	Total	100 000	270 000	2.70	69 500	166 800	2.40
RSA	Dryland	855 900	1 968 470	2.30	758 100	1 662 200	2.19
	Irrigation	69 400	261 530	3.77	69 000	234 800	3.40
	Total	925 300	2 230 000	2.41	827 100	1 897 000	2.29

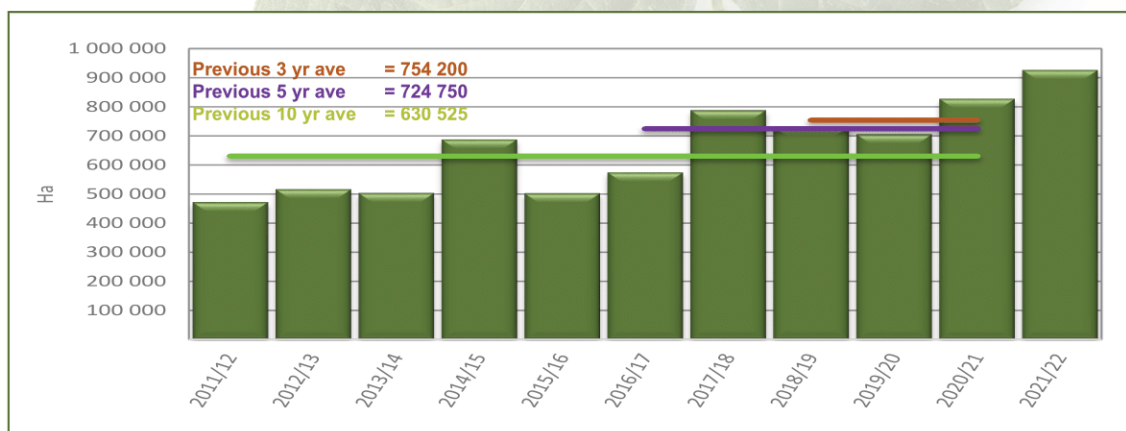
Figures provided by the CEC.

Compared to the 2020/21 production season, the area utilised for commercial soybean crop production increased by 12% (98 200 hectares). Both the area planted as well as the production figures, are the highest figures on record for the second consecutive year. The average national yield increased by 5% from 2.29 t/ha to 2.41 t/ha, again a national record.

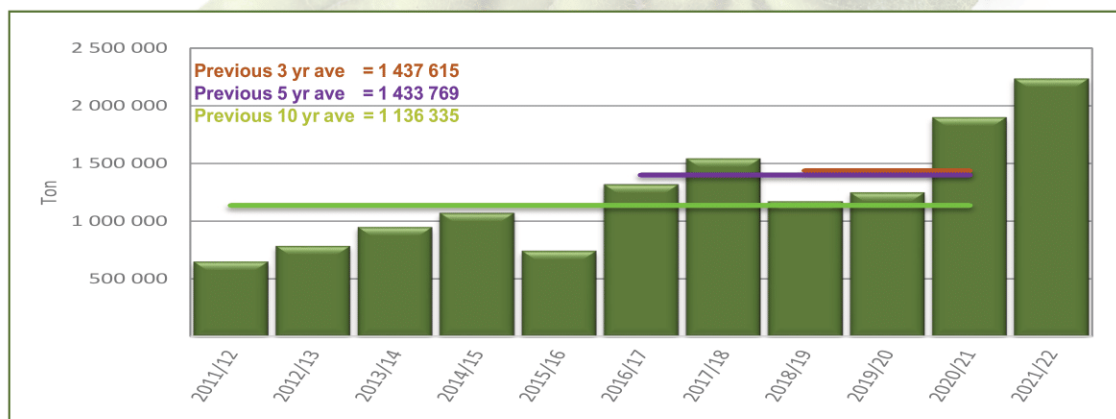
According to *The BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2022 – 2031*, the area planted to soybeans is expected to increase by a further 41% compared to the average between 2019 to 2021. Soybean area could exceed a million hectares in 2023 and is expected to remain above a million hectares for most of the projection period to 2031. Over the same period, moderate yield gains of 14% are expected, supported by the release of the latest seed technologies (improved germplasm and GM traits), following the introduction of the breeding technology levy.

Soybeans account for half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE – 634)* an estimated 358.14 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2021/22 season. Brazil (36%) and the United States (34%) are by far the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production for the 2022/23 season is projected to be 375.15 million metric tons.

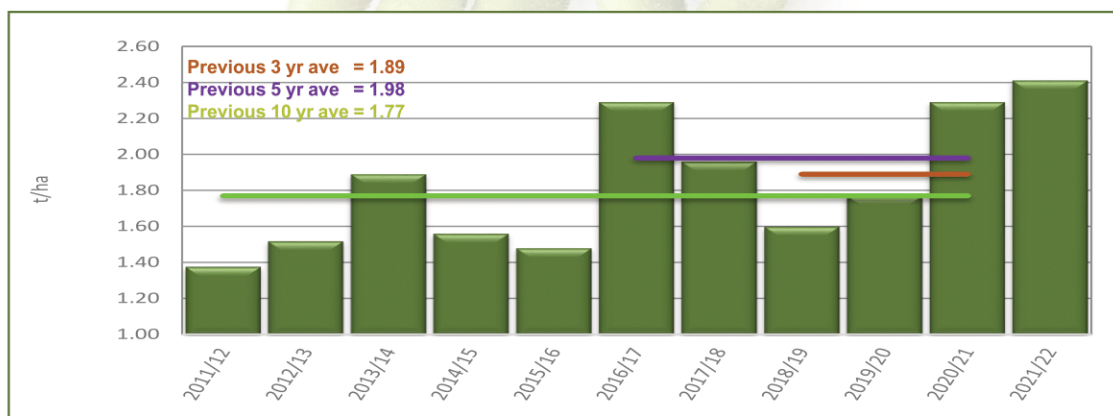
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2011/21 to 2021/22



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2011/12 to 2021/22

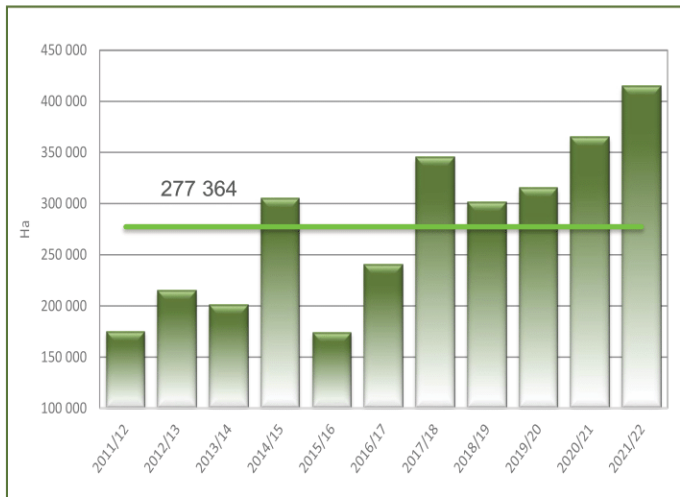


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2011/12 to 2021/22

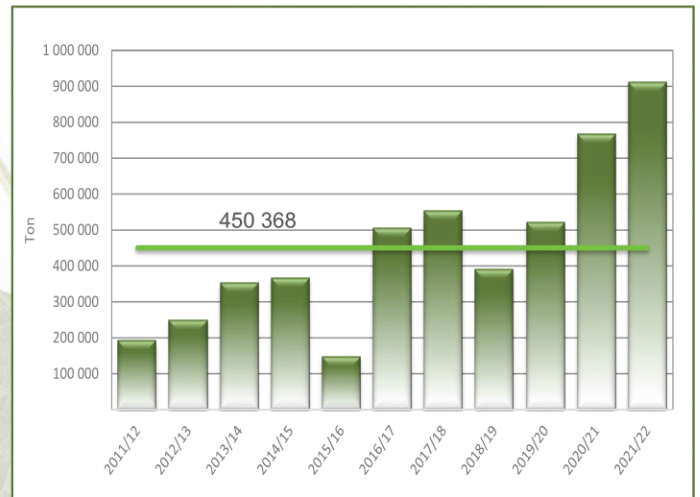


Figures provided by the CEC.

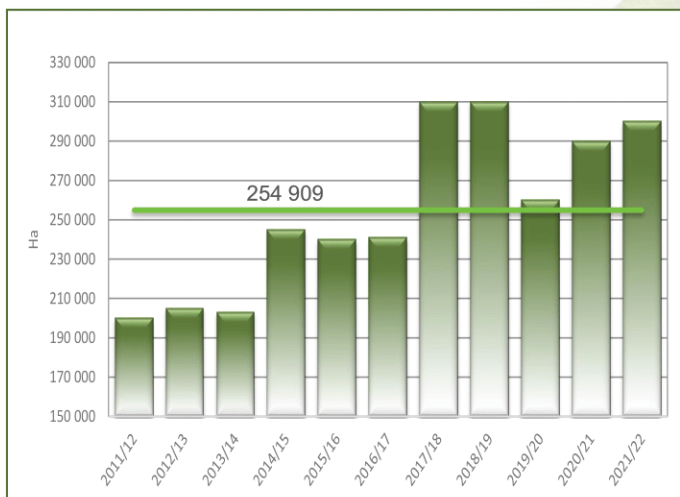
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2011/12



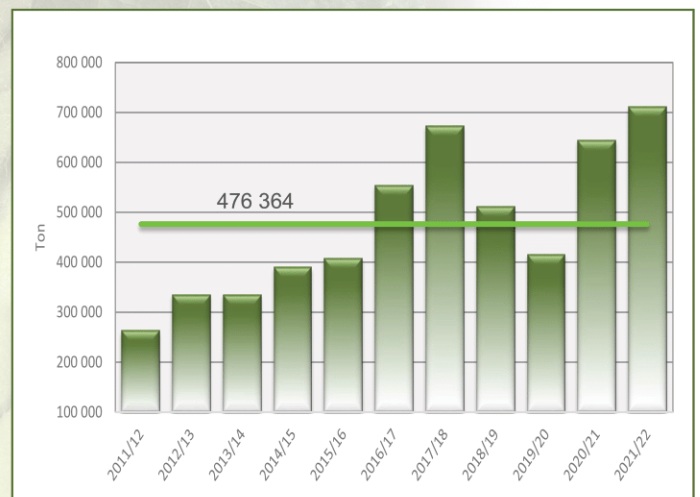
Graph 6: Soybean production in the Free State since 2011/12



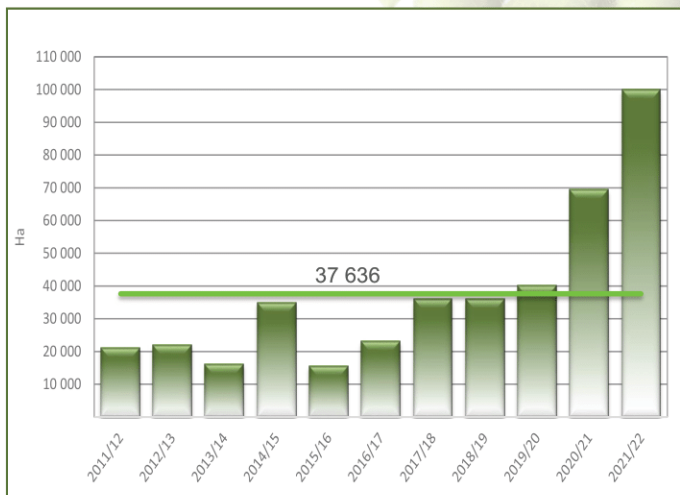
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2011/12



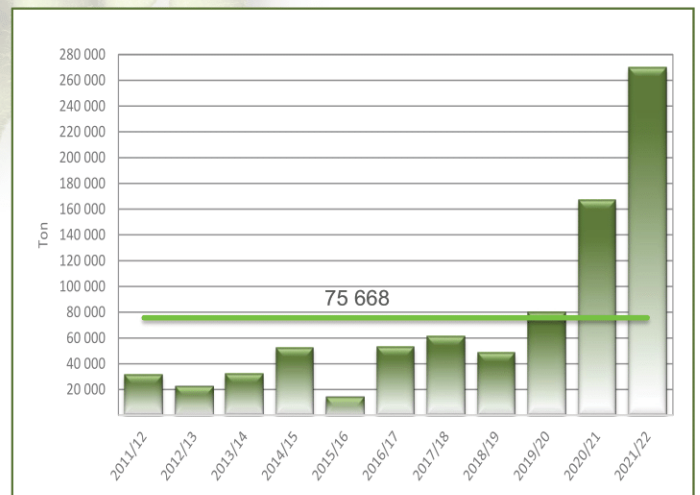
Graph 8: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2011/12



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in North West since 2011/12



Graph 10: Soybean production in North West since 2011/12



Figures provided by the CEC.

Eleven season average