

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2018 – 2027*, one of the reasons for this decline is the fact that yield levels have failed to increase at the same rate as particularly yellow maize. Sorghum yields have remained fairly stagnant over the last ten years, while yellow maize yields have increased annually on average by more than 3%. This increase can be attributed to an increasing share of irrigated production, improved cropping practices and genetically modified (GM) technology traits.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sorghum 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. Graphs 5 to 10 on page 6 provide similar figures for the major sorghum producing provinces, namely Mpumalanga, North West and the Free State.

| 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            | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
| Northern Cape | Dryland            | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
| Free State    | Dryland            | 6 000                | 23 600           | 3.93        | 7 400                | 23 000           | 3.11        |
|               | Irrigation         | 300                  | 1 600            | 5.33        | 300                  | 1 640            | 5.47        |
|               | Total              | 6 300                | 25 200           | 4.00        | 7 700                | 24 640           | 3.20        |
| Eastern Cape  | Dryland            | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
| KwaZulu-Natal | Dryland            | 500                  | 2 200            | 4.40        | 400                  | 1 520            | 3.80        |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | 500                  | 2 200            | 4.40        | 400                  | 1 520            | 3.80        |
| Mpumalanga    | Dryland            | 7 500                | 40 500           | 5.40        | 12 000               | 62 400           | 5.20        |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | 7 500                | 40 500           | 5.40        | 12 000               | 62 400           | 5.20        |
| Limpopo       | Dryland            | 5 000                | 15 500           | 3.10        | 17 650               | 48 500           | 2.75        |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | 350                  | 1 900            | 5.43        |
|               | Total              | 5 000                | 15 500           | 3.10        | 18 000               | 50 400           | 2.80        |
| Gauteng       | Dryland            | 1 500                | 4 950            | 3.30        | 750                  | 2 400            | 3.20        |
|               | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|               | Total              | 1 500                | 4 950            | 3.30        | 750                  | 2 400            | 3.20        |
| North West    | Dryland            | 7 700                | 25 050           | 3.25        | 3 300                | 9 600            | 2.91        |
|               | Irrigation         | 300                  | 1 600            | 5.33        | 200                  | 1 040            | 5.20        |
|               | Total              | 8 000                | 26 650           | 3.33        | 3 500                | 10 640           | 3.04        |
| RSA           | Dryland            | 28 200               | 111 800          | 3.96        | 41 500               | 147 420          | 3.55        |
|               | Irrigation         | 600                  | 3 200            | 5.33        | 850                  | 4 580            | 5.39        |
|               | Total              | 28 800               | 115 000          | 3.99        | 42 350               | 152 000          | 3.59        |

Figures provided by the CEC.