

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.

Table 2: Sorghum production overview over two seasons

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.