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 over several years is provided in table and graph format.

The 2014/15 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in Potchefstroom is also included in this report, as is the national grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette No. R.478 of 20 June 2014.

Production

Soybeans are the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa. Since the 2007/2008 season a steady increase in hectares planted has been observed as producers became aware of the benefit of soybeans in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture. Soybeans also have lower input needs compared to other commodities like maize and wheat.

The 2014/2015 production season was extremely trying for farmers with wet and dry periods alternating outside the normal patterns. Despite this fact, the area utilized for soybean production increased from 502 900 hectares in the previous season to 687 300 hectares this season. The significant impact of the drought experienced this season, is shown by comparing the 37% increase in area, with the 13% increase in production, resulting in a yield decrease of 1.89 t/ha in 2013/2014 to 1.56 t/ha.

Table1: Soybean production overview over two seasons

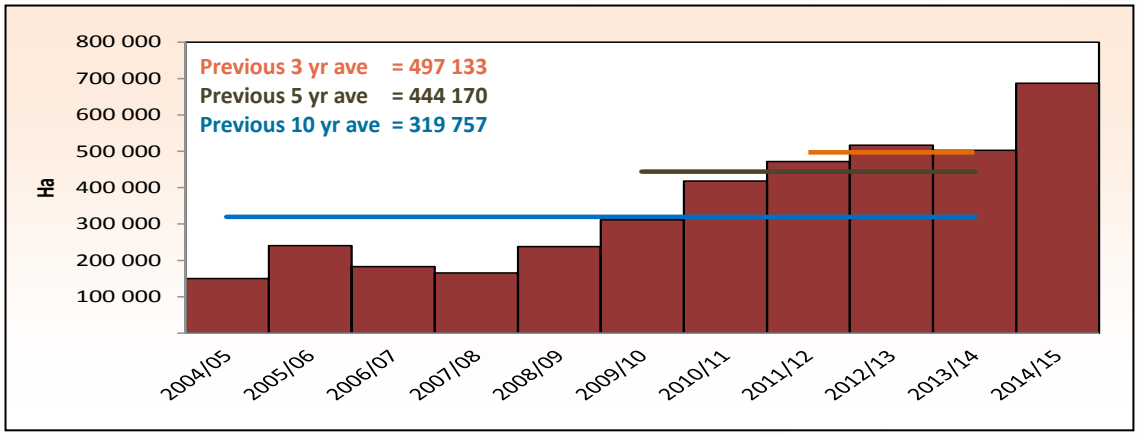
Province	Type of production	2014/2015			2013/2014		
		Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Crop, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	800	1 600	2.00	-	-	-
	Total	800	1 600	2.00	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	
	Irrigation	4 000	14 000	3.50	3 900	14 040	3.60
	Total	4 000	14 000	3.50	3 900	14 040	3.60
Free State	Dryland	290 000	321 000	1.11	192 100	320 000	1.67
	Irrigation	15 000	45 000	3.00	8 900	32 000	3.60
	Total	305 000	366 000	1.20	201 000	352 000	1.75
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 500	2 100	1.40	2 000	3 600	1.80
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 500	2 100	1.40	2 000	3 600	1.80
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	27 000	55 650	2.06	22 400	54 500	2.43
	Irrigation	15 000	47 250	3.15	12 600	43 500	3.45
	Total	42 000	102 900	2.45	35 000	98 000	2.80
Mpumalanga	Dryland	239 500	372 700	1.56	198 400	321 600	1.62
	Irrigation	5 500	17 200	3.13	4 600	13 400	2.91
	Total	245 000	389 900	1.59	203 000	335 000	1.65
Limpopo	Dryland	9 000	15 000	1.67	4 200	6 750	1.61
	Irrigation	15 000	57 000	3.80	17 800	59 250	3.33
	Total	24 000	72 000	3.00	22 000	66 000	3.00
Gauteng	Dryland	23 000	44 500	1.93	15 000	27 860	1.86
	Irrigation	7 000	24 500	3.50	5 000	19 500	3.90
	Total	30 000	69 000	2.30	20 000	47 360	2.37
North West	Dryland	28 000	28 000	1.00	10 200	17 000	1.67
	Irrigation	7 000	24 500	3.50	5 800	15 000	2.59
	Total	35 000	52 500	1.50	16 000	32 000	2.00
RSA	Dryland	618 000	838 950	1.36	444 300	751 310	1.69
	Irrigation	69 200	231 050	3.34	58 600	196 690	3.36
	Total	687 300	1 070 000	1.56	502 900	948 000	1.89

Figures provided by the CEC.

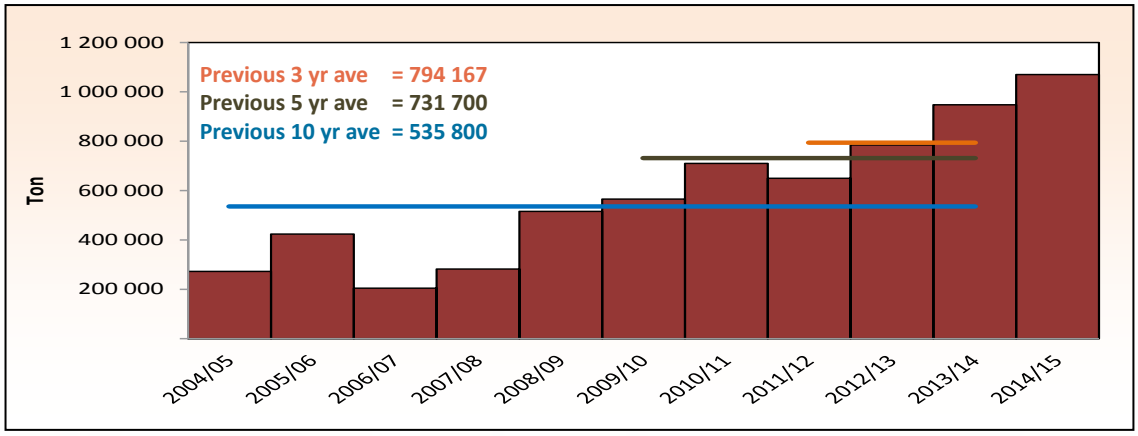
According to the *BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2015 – 2024*, the area utilized for soybean production in South Africa is projected to continue its increasing trend over this baseline period. By 2024 the area under soybean cultivation is expected to surpass 1 million hectares and the production projected to surpass 2.1 million tons.

The 2014/2015 soybean crop in Argentina and Brazil being larger than expected, resulted in global oilseed production exceeding previous records for the second consecutive season. Soybeans represent more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE)* an estimated 318.80 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2014/2015 season. The United States contributed 34%, Brazil 30% and Argentina 19% to this total. The world soybean production during the 2015/2016 season is projected to be 320.51 million metric tons.

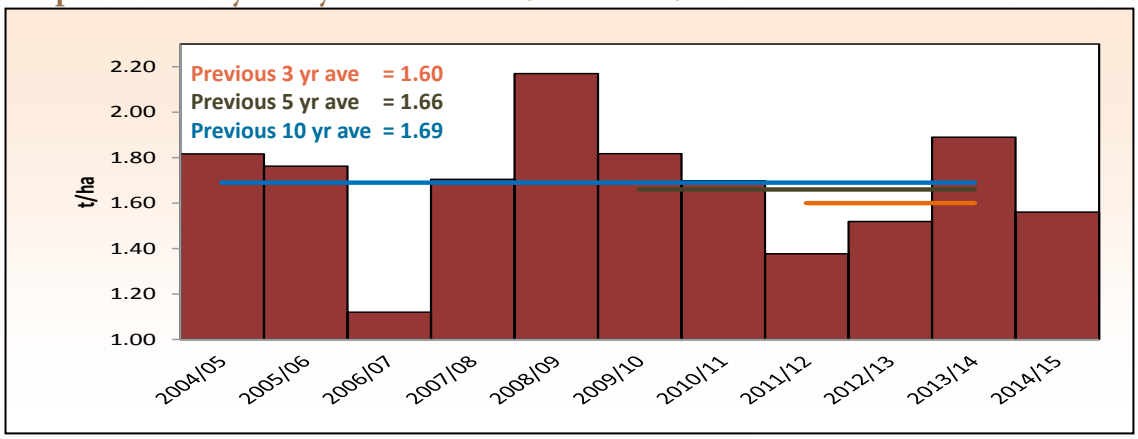
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilized for soybean production from 2004/05 to 2014/15



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2004/05 to 2014/15

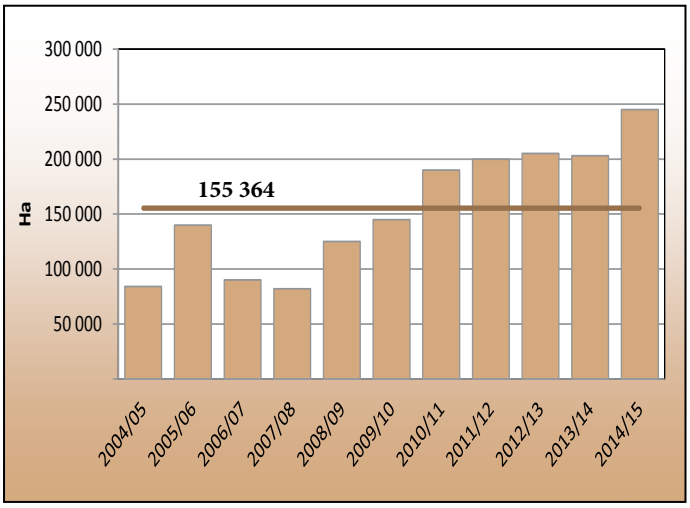


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2004/05 to 2014/15

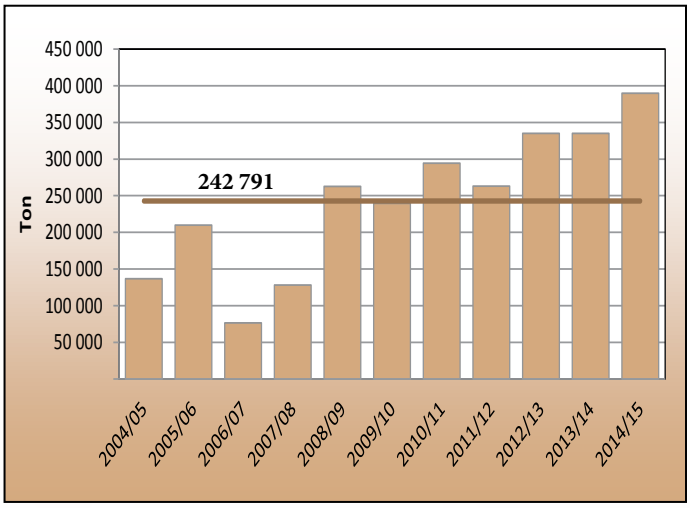


Figures provided by the CEC.

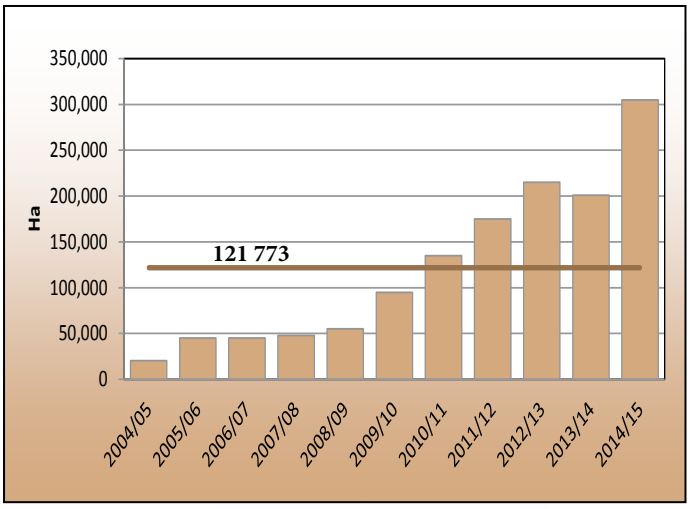
Graph 5: Area utilized for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2004/05



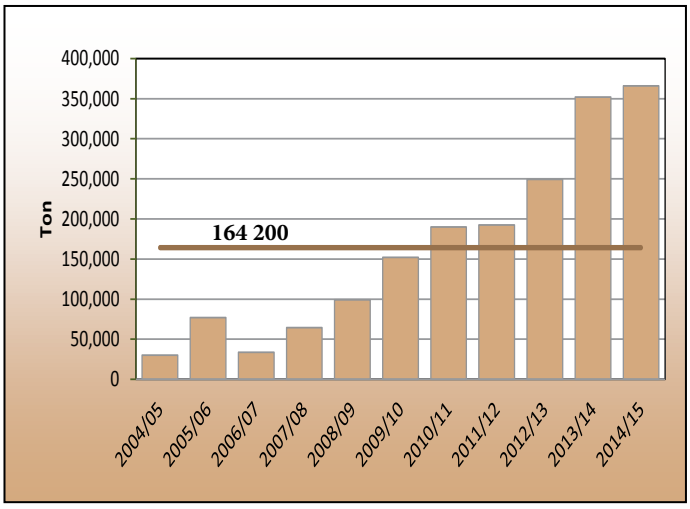
Graph 6: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2004/05



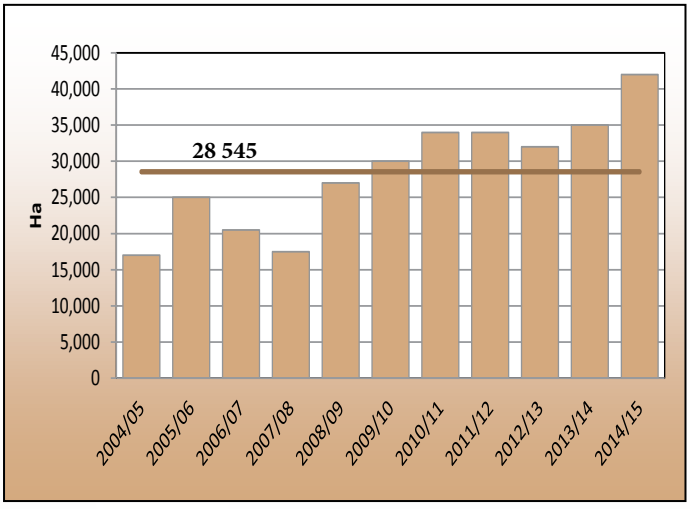
Graph 7: Area utilized for soybean production in the Free State since 2004/05



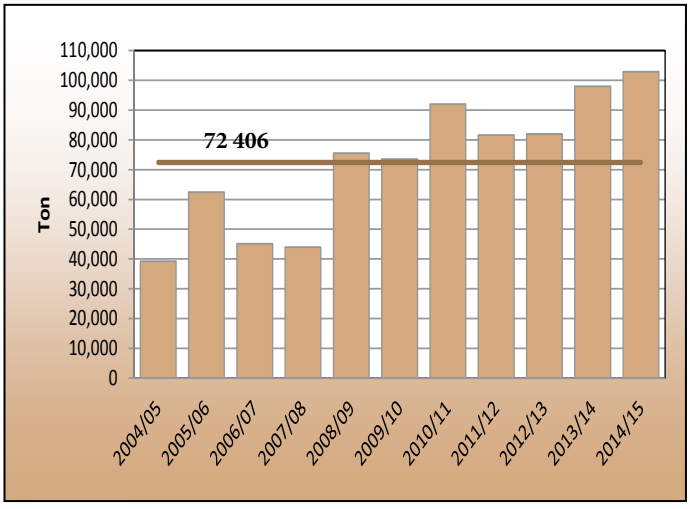
Graph 8: Soybean production in the Free State since 2004/05



Graph 9: Area utilized for soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2004/05



Graph 10: Soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2004/05



Figures provided by the CEC.

Eleven year average