

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 2017/18 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 is 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.

The commercial soybean crop production and area planted figures increased by 17% and 37% respectively to reach 1 540 000 tons and 787 200 hectares, the highest on record. The average national yield decreased by 14% to 1.96 t/ha, closer to the 10-year average of 1.75 t/ha. The major soybean-producing provinces, contributing 79.5% of the total crop, were Mpumalanga and the Free State as in previous seasons.

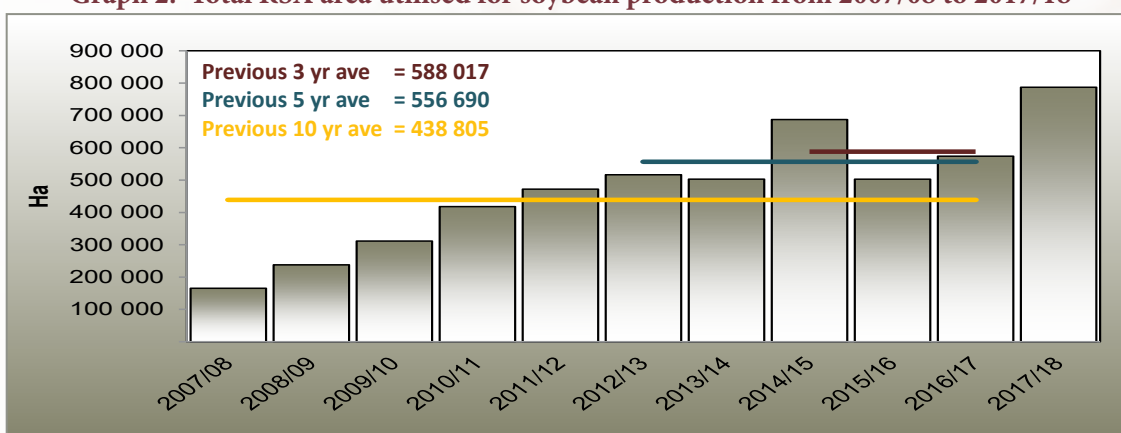
Province	Type of production	2017/2018			2016/2017		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	800	1 200	1.50	700	1 050	1.50
	Total	800	1 200	1.50	700	1 050	1.50
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	3 000	10 500	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
	Total	3 000	10 500	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
Free State	Dryland	330 500	508 500	1.54	232 600	477 700	2.05
	Irrigation	14 500	43 500	3.00	7 400	26 300	3.55
	Total	345 000	552 000	1.60	240 000	504 000	2.10
Eastern Cape	Dryland	2 400	2 900	1.21	1 850	2 775	1.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 400	2 900	1.21	1 850	2 775	1.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	26 300	75 000	2.85	22 000	58 155	2.64
	Irrigation	13 700	49 000	3.58	8 500	31 450	3.70
	Total	40 000	124 000	3.10	30 500	89 605	2.94
Mpumalanga	Dryland	298 000	632 000	2.12	234 700	533 500	2.27
	Irrigation	12 000	40 700	3.39	6 300	20 800	3.30
	Total	310 000	672 700	2.17	241 000	554 300	2.30
Limpopo	Dryland	6 000	10 000	1.67	1 500	3 750	2.50
	Irrigation	14 000	44 000	3.14	7 000	26 000	3.71
	Total	20 000	54 000	2.70	8 500	29 750	3.50
Gauteng	Dryland	27 000	51 000	1.89	22 900	61 620	2.69
	Irrigation	3 000	10 500	3.50	2 500	9 500	3.80
	Total	30 000	61 500	2.05	25 400	71 420	2.80
North West	Dryland	28 000	38 000	1.36	15 600	25 500	1.63
	Irrigation	8 000	23 200	2.90	7 400	27 400	3.70
	Total	36 000	61 200	1.70	23 000	52 900	2.30
RSA	Dryland	718 200	1 317 400	1.83	531 150	1 163 000	2.19
	Irrigation	69 000	222 600	3.23	42 800	153 000	3.57
	Total	787 200	1 540 000	1.96	573 950	1 316 000	2.29

Figures provided by the CEC.

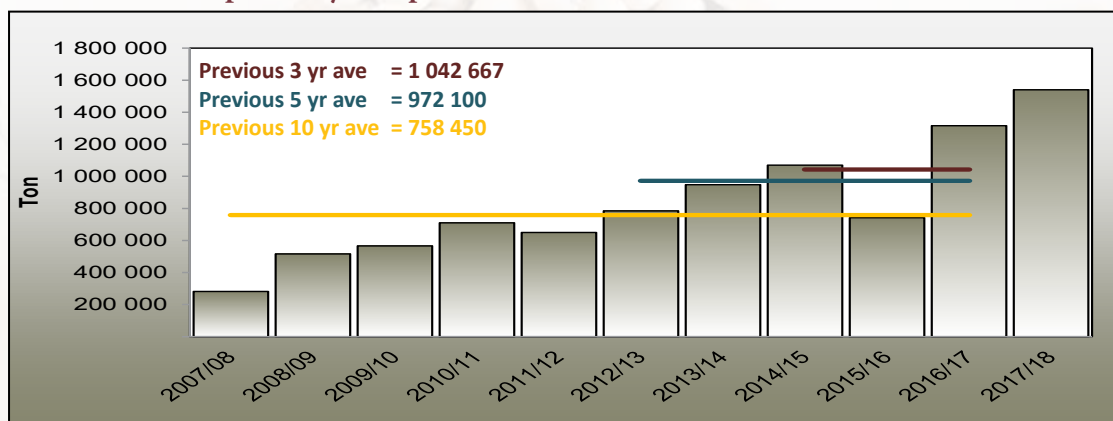
According to the *BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2018 – 2027*, the area cultivated to soybeans is projected to continue expanding by an annual average of 2.9%, reaching 962 000 hectares by 2027. In addition to expanding area, projected production growth is underpinned by an average annual yield gain of 2% over the outlook period. This yield gain is faster than the yield improvements observed over the past decade. A number of trends needs to be considered with regards to projecting future soybean yields. Firstly, there is a rapid increase in the number of soybean varieties available for planting. Secondly, the area under soybean production has increased rapidly and western production regions that have traditionally been regarded as marginal areas for soybean production are gradually coming into production. Thirdly, producers have continued adapting production techniques, resulting in more stable and improved yields. Successful introduction of the End Point Royalty system remains a crucial factor to the introduction of the latest seed technology in South Africa, determining to a large extent the competitiveness of South African soybean farmers.

Soybeans account for more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE - 586)* an estimated 340.47 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2017/2018 season. The United States, Brazil and Argentina are the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production during the 2018/2019 season is projected to be 360.08 million metric tons.

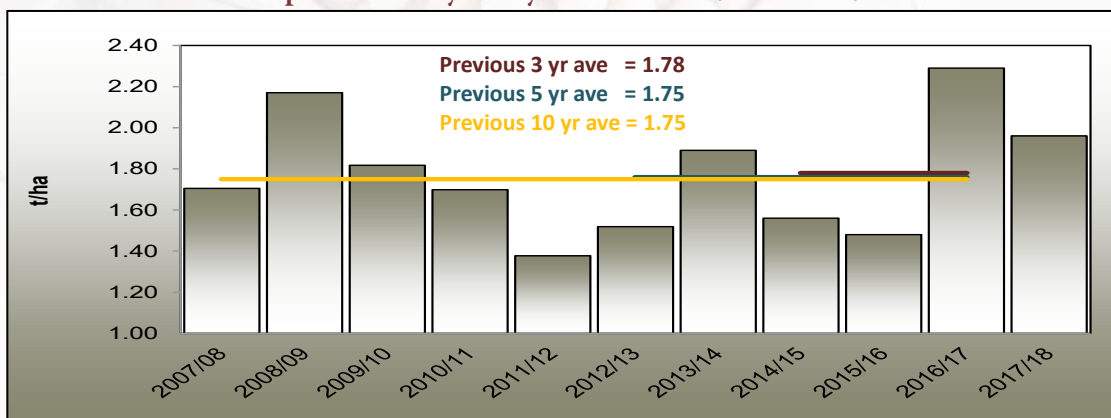
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2007/08 to 2017/18



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2007/08 to 2017/18

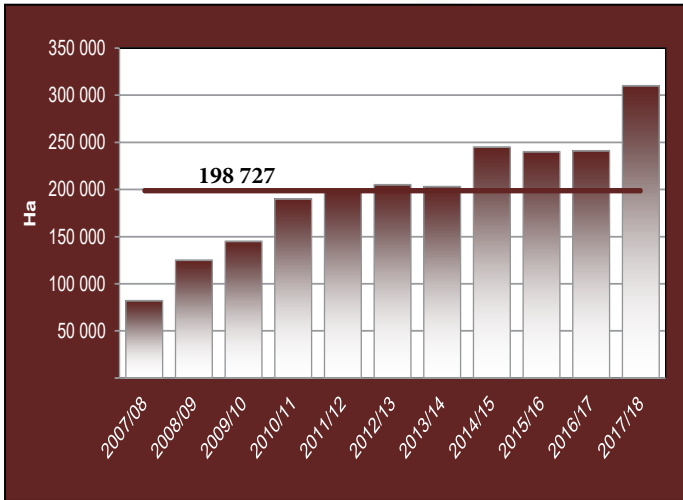


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2007/08 to 2017/18

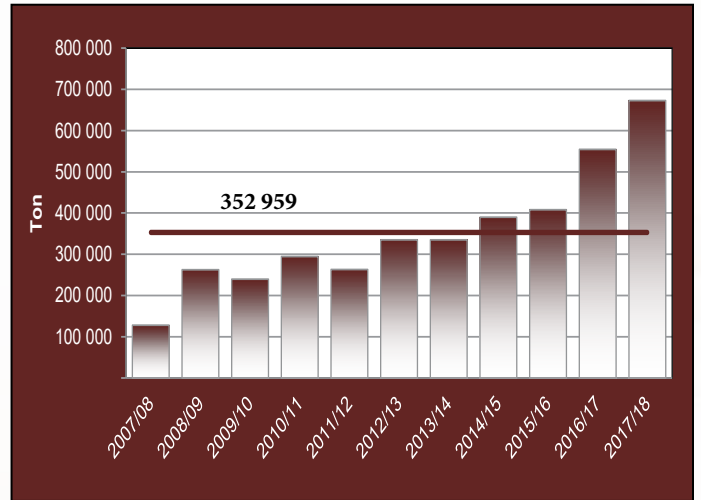


Figures provided by the CEC.

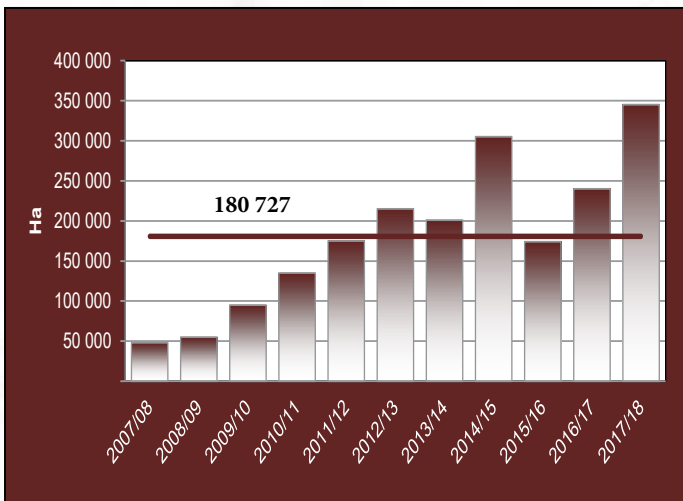
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2007/08



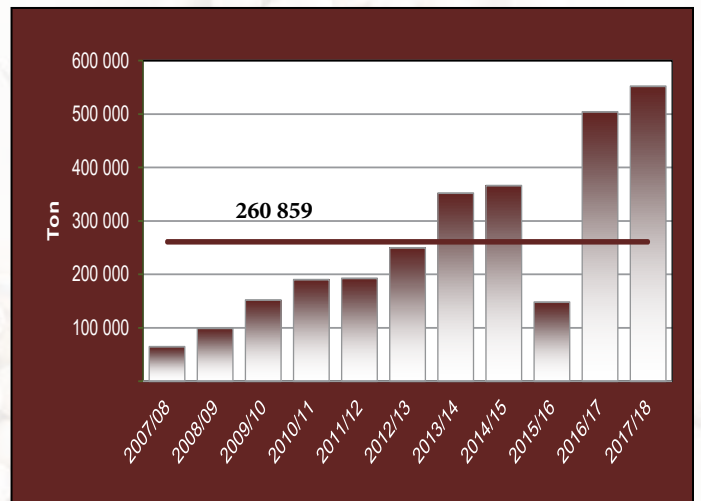
Graph 6: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2007/08



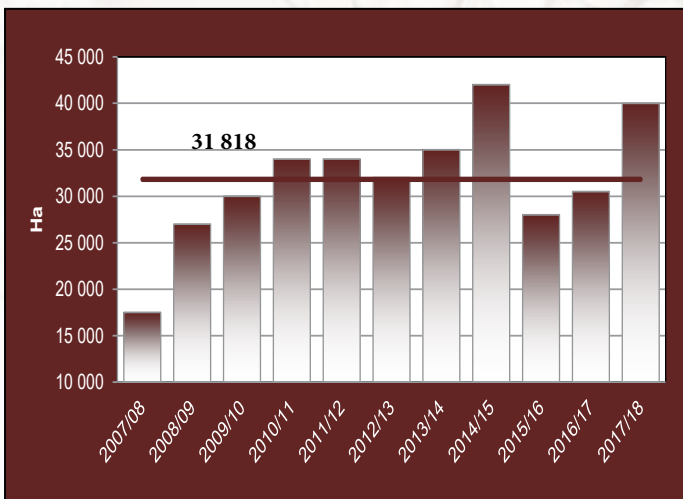
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2007/08



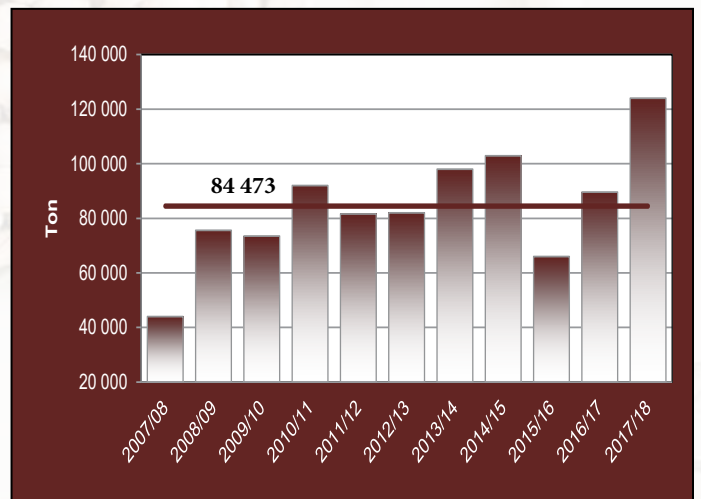
Graph 8: Soybean production in the Free State since 2007/08



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2007/08



Graph 10: Soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2007/08



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average