

According to The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2016 – 2025, sunflower area is expected to decline in 2017 to around 2015 levels, assuming normal rainfall patterns, before stabilizing at around 560 000 hectares by 2025. An average production increase of 1.4% per year is expected to result in a production of 820 000 tons by 2025, driven by average annual improvements in yield of close to 3% also by 2025. The production and crushing demand for sunflower seed is projected to remain in a fine balance over the 2016 to 2025 time period, with less than 5% of the volume for domestic use being imported. From a crop and risk diversification perspective, sunflower production will remain an important alternative in years associated with pre- and post-season drought conditions.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2015/2016 season, compared to the 2014/2015 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained over the last 11 seasons and Graphs 5 to 10 similar figures for the major sunflower producing provinces, namely the Free State, North West and Limpopo.

Table 2: Sunflower production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2015/2016			2014/2015		
		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	500	600	1.20	500	500	1.00
	Total	500	600	1.20	500	500	1.00
Free State	Dryland	398 000	438 000	1.10	283 500	367 000	1.29
	Irrigation	2 000	2 000	1.00	1 500	3 500	2.33
	Total	400 000	440 000	1.10	285 000	370 500	1.30
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	4 000	4 400	1.10	2 500	3 300	1.32
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	4 000	4 400	1.10	2 500	3 300	1.32
Limpopo	Dryland	63 700	46 150	0.72	81 300	59 900	0.74
	Irrigation	1 300	2 600	2.00	700	1 600	2.29
	Total	65 000	48 750	0.75	82 000	61 500	0.75
Gauteng	Dryland	3 550	3 100	0.87	5 500	5 775	1.05
	Irrigation	450	900	2.00	500	1 425	2.85
	Total	4 000	4 000	1.00	6 000	7 200	1.20
North West	Dryland	244 000	255 000	1.05	199 200	218 200	1.10
	Irrigation	1 000	2 250	2.25	800	1 800	2.25
	Total	245 000	257 250	1.50	200 000	220 000	1.10
RSA	Dryland	713 250	746 650	1.05	572 000	654 175	1.14
	Irrigation	5 250	8 350	1.59	4 000	8 825	2.21
	Total	718 500	755 000	1.05	576 000	663 000	1.15

Figures provided by the CEC.