

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2017 – 2026*, sunflower area is expected to decline at an average annual rate of 1.5%, to just under 530 000 by 2026. Yields are however projected to increase on average by 2.5% per annum, resulting in a crop just exceeding 810 000 tons in 2026. The production and crushing demand for sunflower seed is projected to remain in a fine balance over the 2017 to 2026 outlook period, imports of approximately 20 000 tons is projected by 2026. A temporary surplus of sunflower seeds is expected to result in net exports during 2017. Positive net imports, remaining below 10% of crushing demand is however projected going forward.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2016/2017 season, compared to the 2015/2016 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	2016/2017			2015/2016		
		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	250	400	1.60	500	600	1.20
	Total	250	400	1.60	500	600	1.20
Free State	Dryland	328 000	475 000	1.45	398 000	438 000	1.10
	Irrigation	2 000	3 000	1.50	2 000	2 000	1.00
	Total	330 000	478 000	1.45	400 000	440 000	1.10
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	300	300	1.00	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	300	300	1.00	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	2 200	2 300	1.05	4 000	4 400	1.10
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 200	2 300	1.05	4 000	4 400	1.10
Limpopo	Dryland	87 500	82 500	0.94	63 700	46 150	0.72
	Irrigation	2 500	3 000	1.20	1 300	2 600	2.00
	Total	90 000	85 500	0.95	65 000	48 750	0.75
Gauteng	Dryland	2 600	2 500	0.96	3 550	3 100	0.87
	Irrigation	400	500	1.25	450	900	2.00
	Total	3 000	3 000	1.00	4 000	4 000	1.00
North West	Dryland	207 500	300 000	1.45	244 000	255 000	1.05
	Irrigation	2 500	4 500	1.80	1 000	2 250	2.25
	Total	210 000	304 500	1.45	245 000	257 250	1.50
RSA	Dryland	628 100	862 600	1.37	713 250	746 650	1.05
	Irrigation	7 650	11 400	1.49	5 250	8 350	1.59
	Total	635 750	874 000	1.37	718 500	755 000	1.05

Figures provided by the CEC.