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 2024/25 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 are 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.

Table 1: Soybean production overview over two seasons

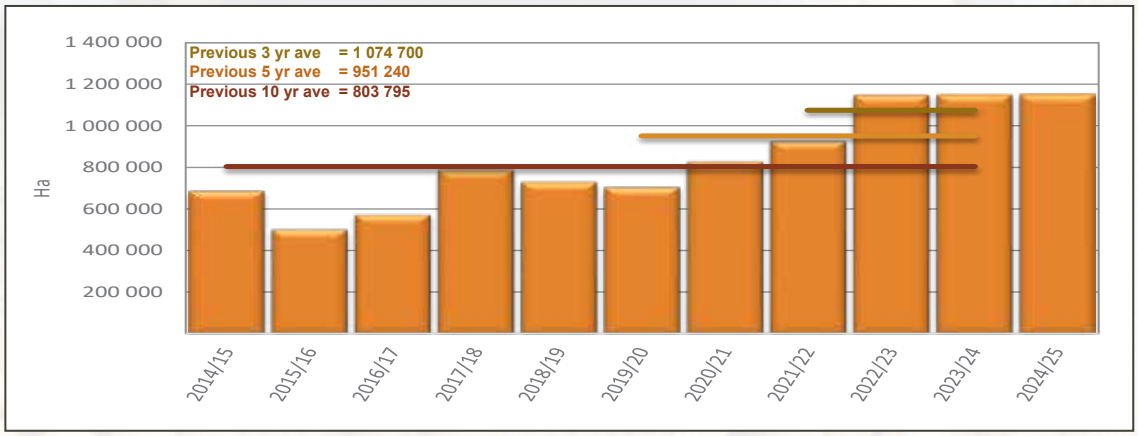
Province	Type of production	2024/25			2023/24		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	2 000	7 500	3.75	1 200	4 380	3.65
	Total	2 000	7 500	3.75	1 200	4 380	3.65
Free State	Dryland	545 000	1 227 000	2.25	530 000	636 460	1.20
	Irrigation	20 000	73 000	3.65	15 000	52 500	3.50
	Total	565 000	1 300 000	2.30	545 000	688 960	1.26
Eastern Cape	Dryland	5 100	14 825	2.91	4 900	12 910	2.63
	Irrigation	400	1 400	3.50	400	1 400	3.50
	Total	5 500	16 225	2.95	5 300	14 310	2.70
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	33 500	135 000	4.03	36 500	128 000	3.51
	Irrigation	13 500	55 350	4.10	10 500	45 900	4.37
	Total	47 000	190 350	4.05	47 000	173 900	3.70
Mpumalanga	Dryland	305 500	735 650	2.41	314 500	604 750	1.92
	Irrigation	9 500	36 100	3.80	5 500	19 250	3.50
	Total	315 000	771 750	2.45	320 000	624 000	1.95
Limpopo	Dryland	4 000	10 075	2.52	4 000	7 850	1.96
	Irrigation	12 500	41 900	3.35	17 000	64 600	3.80
	Total	16 500	51 975	3.15	21 000	72 450	3.45
Gauteng	Dryland	50 000	107 400	2.15	54 500	78 525	1.44
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 500	5 475	3.65
	Total	52 000	114 400	2.20	56 000	84 000	1.50
North West	Dryland	136 000	307 000	2.26	139 000	138 000	0.99
	Irrigation	12 000	40 800	3.40	16 000	48 000	3.00
	Total	148 000	347 800	2.35	155 000	186 000	1.20
RSA	Dryland	1 079 100	2 536 950	2.35	1 083 400	1 606 495	1.48
	Irrigation	71 900	263 050	3.66	67 100	241 505	3.60
	Total	1 151 000	2 800 000	2.43	1 150 500	1 848 000	1.61

Figures provided by the CEC.

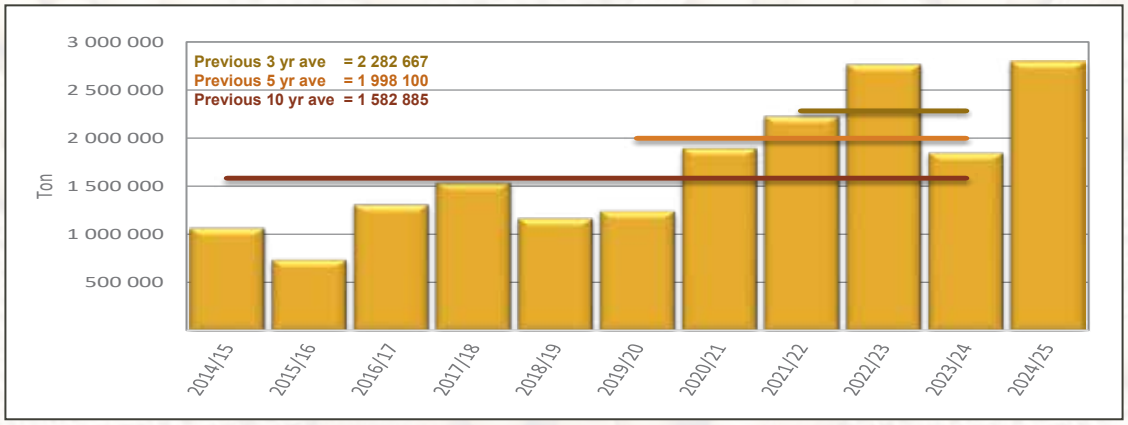
The 2.8 million tons of soybeans produced this season is a 22.7% increase compared to the previous three-year average, a 40.1% increase compared to the previous five-year average and a 76.9% increase compared to the previous ten-year average.

The 1 151 000 hectares area utilised for commercial soybean crop production showed a slight increase of just 500 hectares compared to the 2023/24 production season. This area planted is the highest figure on record for the fifth consecutive year. The average national yield of 2.43 t/ha increased by 50% compared to the 1.61 of the previous season but equals the 2.41 t/ha of the 2022/23 season.

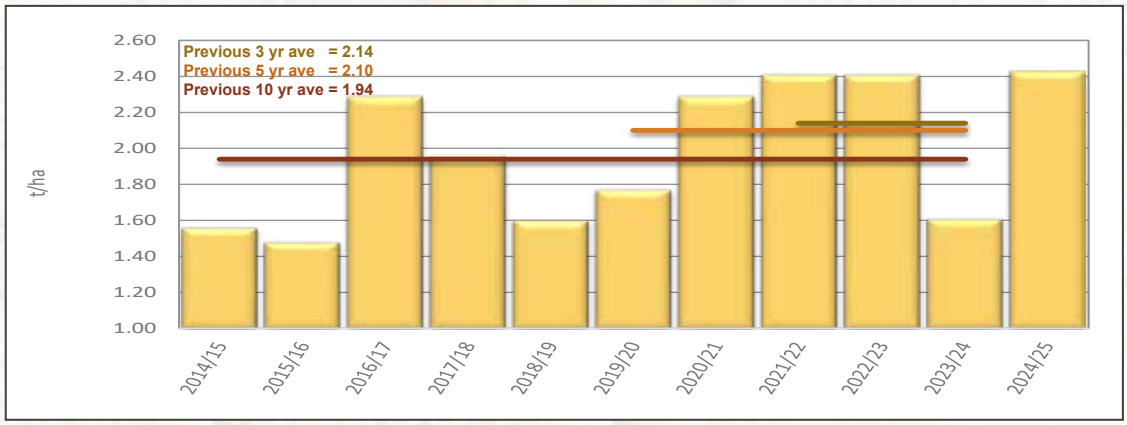
Soybeans account for more than half of the world's oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE – 669)* an estimated 427.19 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2024/25 season. Brazil (40%) and the United States (28%) are by far the largest contributors to this total. The world soybean production for the 2025/26 season is projected to be 427.18 million metric tons.



Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

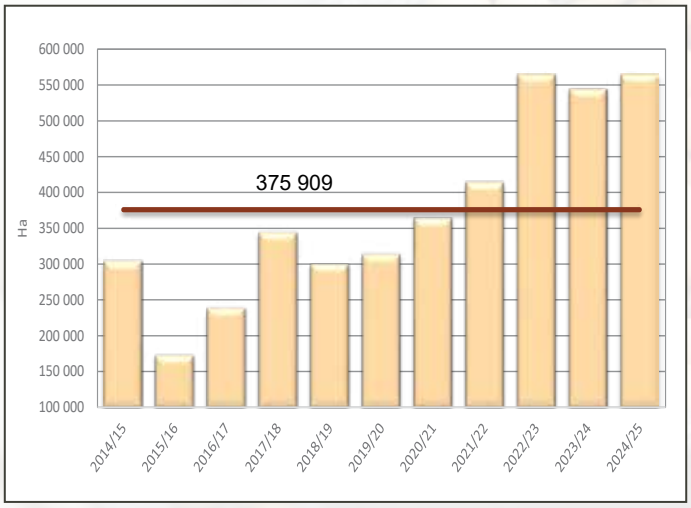


Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2014/15 to 2024/25

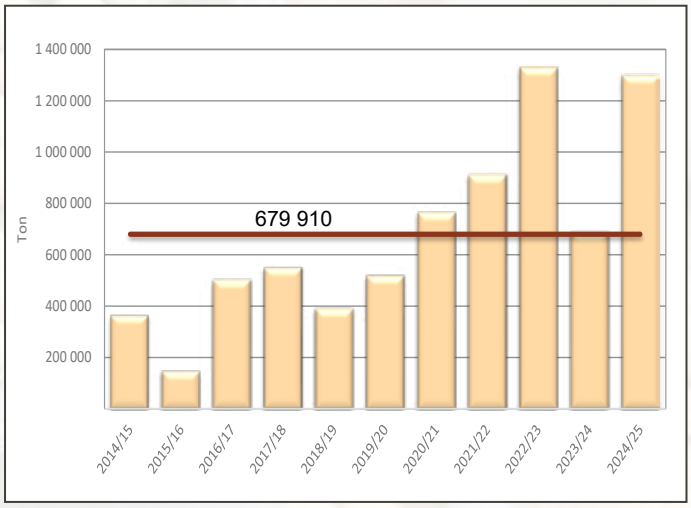


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2014/15 to 2024/25

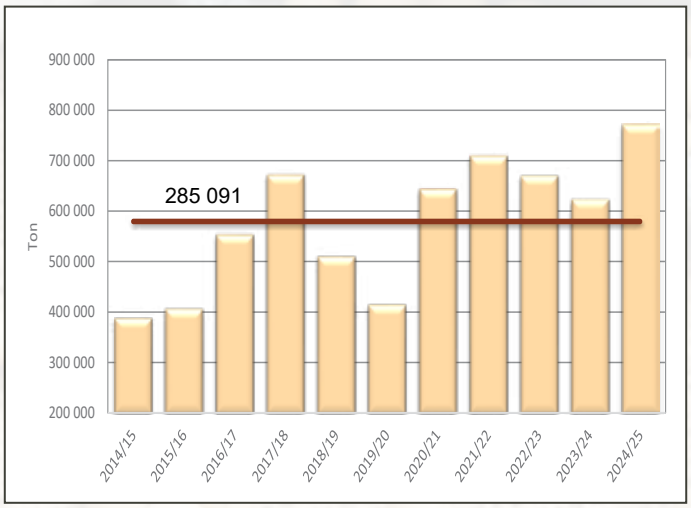
Figures provided by the CEC.



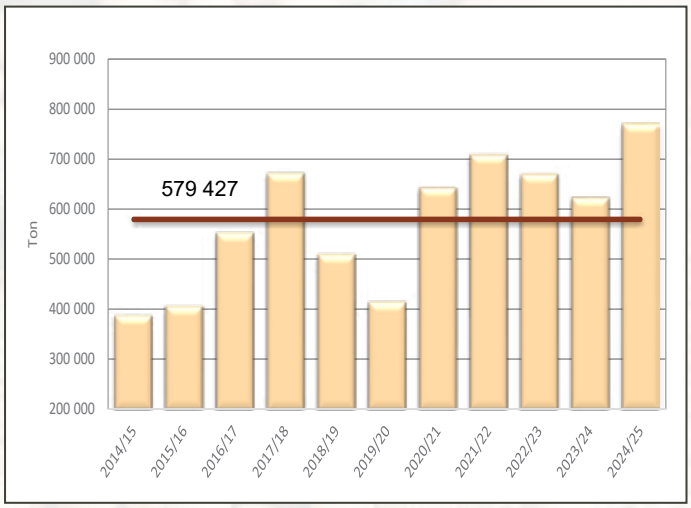
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2014/15



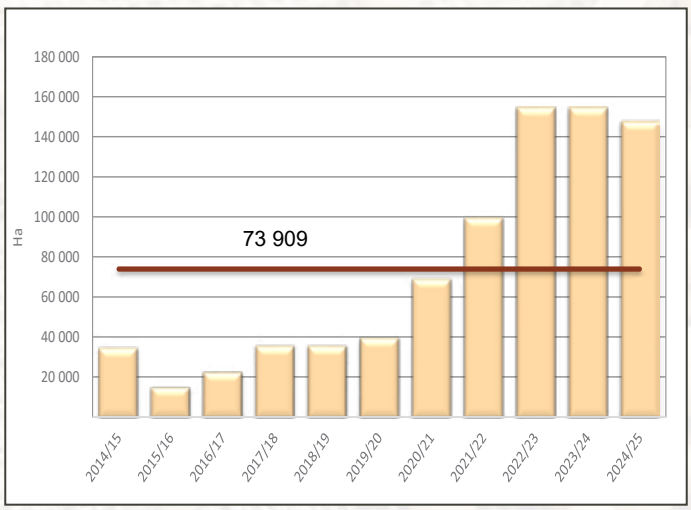
Graph 6: Soybean production in the Free State since 2014/15



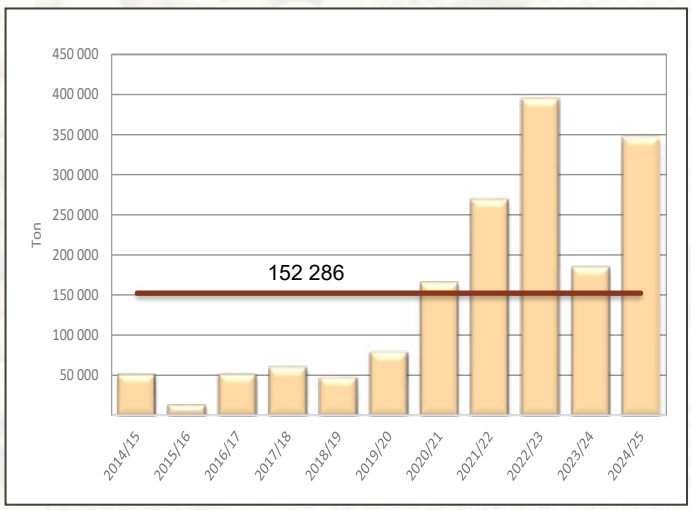
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 8: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in North West since 2014/15



Graph 10: Soybean production in North West since 2014/15

Figures provided by the CEC.

Eleven season average