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 are also included.

The national sorghum grading regulations as published in the Government Gazette of 8 January 2016 are provided as the last section of the report.

Production

Sorghum is a tropical grass grown primarily in semi-arid regions of the world. Sorghum can grow in areas too dry for maize and is deemed to be the fifth most important grain crop grown in the world (after maize, wheat, rice and barley).

World sorghum production for the 2022/23 season to date, stands at 57.7 million tons with the United States being the largest contributor (4.8 million tons). Please see Table 1a for the world sorghum trade (import and export figures) as well as production and consumption figures in Table 1b.

Table 1a: World Sorghum Trade
October/September Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 Mar	2022/23 Apr
Exports						
Argentina	254	426	1 973	1 900	1 700	1 700
Australia	91	102	1 235	2 267	2 200	2 200
Bolivia	18	8	30	5	25	25
China	49	29	4	5	30	30
India	53	31	56	40	50	50
Kenya	53	31	80	50	60	60
Nigeria	100	50	50	50	50	50
Others	306	305	198	208	122	122
Subtotal	***924***	***982***	***3 626***	***4 525***	***4 237***	***4 237***
United States	**2 410**	**5 404**	**6 926**	**7 351**	**2 250**	**2 250**
World Total	***3 334***	***6 386***	***10 552***	***11 876***	***6 487***	***6 487***
Imports						
China	652	3 709	8 669	10 991	4 800	4 800
Eritrea	60	35	60	95	70	70
Ethiopia	6	61	5	12	50	50
European Union	666	89	13	168	80	80
Japan	449	426	299	258	200	200
Kenya	109	52	181	79	150	150
Mexico	546	567	133	362	200	200
Somalia	85	80	50	50	50	50
South Sudan	26	81	71	55	50	50
Sudan	160	150	125	75	50	50
Others	488	378	351	384	330	335
Subtotal	***3 247***	***5 628***	***9 957***	***12 529***	***6 030***	***6 035***
Unaccounted	**86**	**757**	**594**	**- 654**	**456**	**451**
United States	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
World Total	***3 334***	***6 386***	***10 552***	***11 876***	***6 487***	***6 487***

Table 1b: World Sorghum Production and Consumption Local Marketing Years, Thousand Metric Tons						
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 Feb	2022/23 Mar
Production						
Argentina	2 500	2 500	3 320	3 400	3 400	3 400
Australia	1 160	397	1 639	2 648	2 500	2 500
Bolivia	949	1 019	1 481	1 375	1 400	1 400
Brazil	2 177	2 498	2 084	3 042	2 940	2 940
Burkina Faso	1 930	1 872	1 840	1 644	1 900	1 900
Cameroon	1 200	1 217	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200
Chad	988	973	970	896	950	950
China	2 909	3 137	2 970	3 000	3 000	3 000
Ethiopia	5 024	5 266	5 058	4 450	4 500	4 500
India	3 480	4 772	4 812	4 150	4 400	4 100
Mali	1 470	1 511	1 823	1 239	1 500	1 500
Mexico	4 700	4 328	4 348	4 840	4 850	4 850
Niger	2 100	1 897	2 132	1 207	1 900	1 900
Nigeria	6 721	6 665	6 590	6 725	7 000	7 000
Sudan	5 435	3 714	5 150	3 530	5 000	5 000
Others	7 219	7 276	7 900	7 231	6 817	6 777
Subtotal	***49 962***	***49 042***	***53 317***	***50 577***	***53 257***	***52 917***
United States	**9 271**	**8 673**	**9 474**	**11 375**	**4 770**	**4 770**
World Total	***59 233***	***57 715***	***62 791***	***61 952***	***58 027***	***57 687***
Total Consumption						
Argentina	2 150	2 050	1 150	1 450	1 550	1 550
Bolivia	980	980	1 400	1 350	1 400	1 400
Brazil	2 200	2 400	2 100	3 000	2 900	2 900
Burkina Faso	1 800	1 870	1 900	1 650	1 850	1 850
Cameroon	1 225	1 222	1 225	1 215	1 230	1 230
Chad	1 000	1 000	1 000	950	980	980
China	3 600	6 800	11 400	14 000	7 800	7 800
Ethiopia	5 000	5 300	5 200	4 650	4 600	4 600
India	3 550	4 500	4 550	4 450	4 450	4 150
Mali	1 470	1 500	1 700	1 400	1 500	1 500
Mexico	5 100	5 000	4 500	5 000	5 100	5 100
Niger	2 100	2 000	2 050	1 400	1 850	1 850
Nigeria	6 650	6 650	6 550	6 650	6 800	6 800
South Sudan	685	780	810	810	820	820
Sudan	5 300	4 350	5 100	3 700	4 950	4 950
Others	9 328	7 675	7 905	7 438	7 090	7 049
Subtotal	***52 214***	***54 986***	***60 043***	***58 398***	***55 654***	***55 308***
United States	**6 212**	**4 365**	**2 638**	**3 214**	**3 048**	**3 048**
World Total	***58 426***	***59 351***	***62 681***	***61 612***	***58 702***	***58 356***

Notes:
World totals for consumption reflect total utilisation, including food, seed, industrial, feed and waste, as well as differences in local marketing year imports and local marketing year exports.
Consumption statistics for regions and indivual countries, however, reflect food, seed, industrial, feed and waste only.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), Grain: World Markets and Trade report, April 2023.

The local area utilised for sorghum production decreased by 24%, from 49 200 hectares in the 2020/21 season, to 37 200 hectares this season.

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2022 – 2031*, when looking at the outlook for field crops, specifically summer grains and oilseeds, sorghum area is projected to decline by around 15% by 2031 compared to the 2019-2021 base period. Yields are projected to increase almost 10% over the same period. Sorghum consumption is expected to increase by 7% over the coming decade after declining by 18% over the past decade.

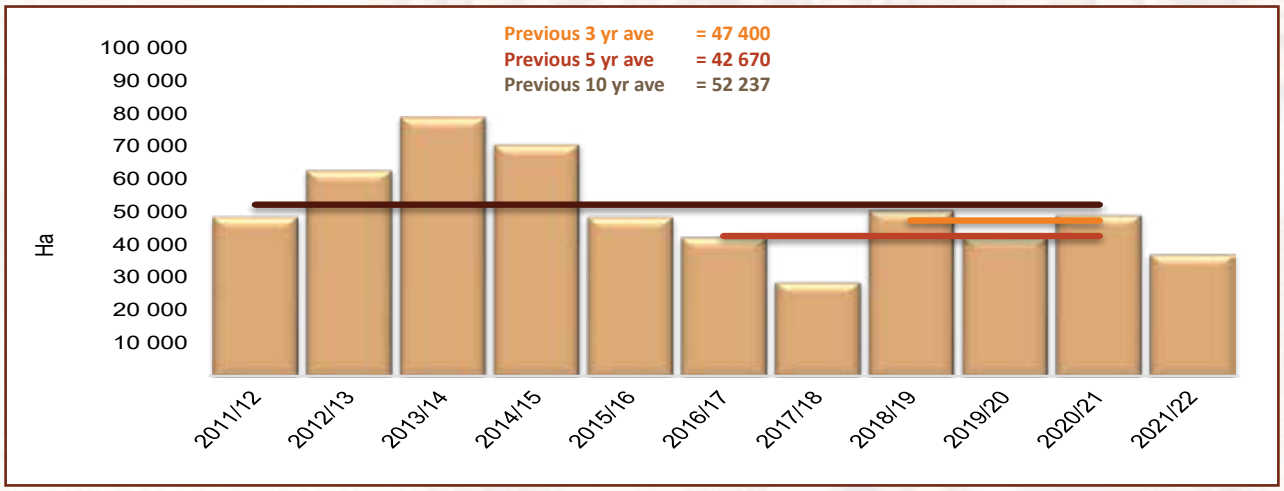
Please see Table 2 for an overview of sorghum production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2021/22 season, compared to the 2020/21 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained over the last 11 seasons. Graphs 5 to 10 on page 6 provide similar figures for the major sorghum producing provinces this season, namely Mpumalanga, Limpopo and the Free State.

Table 2: Sorghum production overview over two seasons

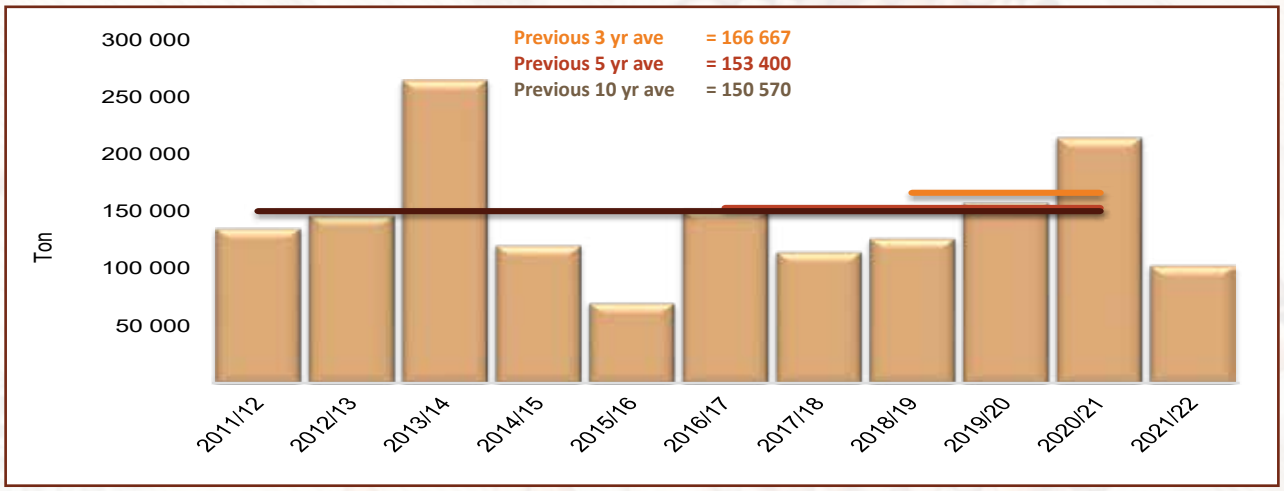
Province	Type of production	2021/22			2020/21		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Free State	Dryland	7 800	20 700	2.65	10 450	45 445	4.35
	Irrigation	-	-	-	50	230	4.60
	Total	7 800	20 700	2.65	10 500	45 675	4.35
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	200	740	3.70	450	1 980	4.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	50	320	6.40
	Total	200	740	3.70	500	2 300	4.60
Mpumalanga	Dryland	9 000	43 650	4.85	9 400	57 325	6.10
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	9 000	43 650	4.85	9 400	57 325	6.10
Limpopo	Dryland	12 600	19 300	1.53	16 300	57 800	3.55
	Irrigation	2 400	6 950	2.90	700	3 400	4.86
	Total	15 000	26 250	1.75	17 000	61 200	3.60
Gauteng	Dryland	200	800	4.00	300	1 350	4.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	200	800	4.00	300	1 350	4.50
North West	Dryland	4 400	9 200	2.09	10 800	43 400	4.02
	Irrigation	600	1 800	3.00	700	3 750	5.36
	Total	5 000	11 000	2.20	11 500	47 150	4.10
RSA	Dryland	34 200	94 390	2.76	47 700	207 300	4.35
	Irrigation	3 000	8 750	2.92	1 500	7 700	5.13
	Total	37 200	103 140	2.77	49 200	215 000	4.37

Figures provided by the CEC.

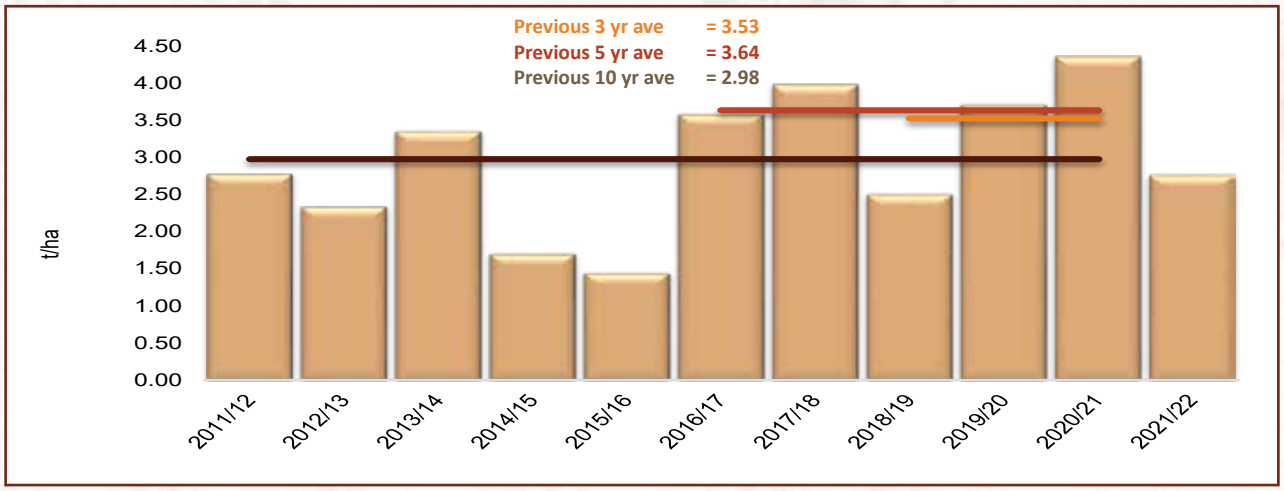
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sorghum production from 2011/12 to 2021/22



Graph 3: Sorghum production in RSA from 2011/12 to 2021/22

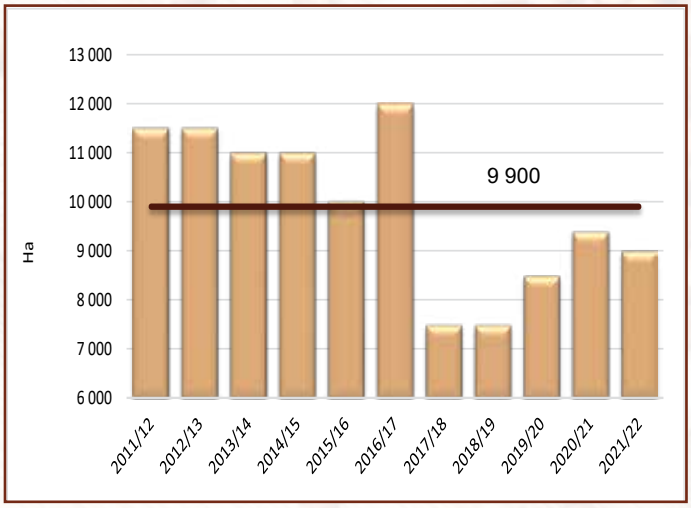


Graph 4: RSA Sorghum yield from 2011/12 to 2021/22

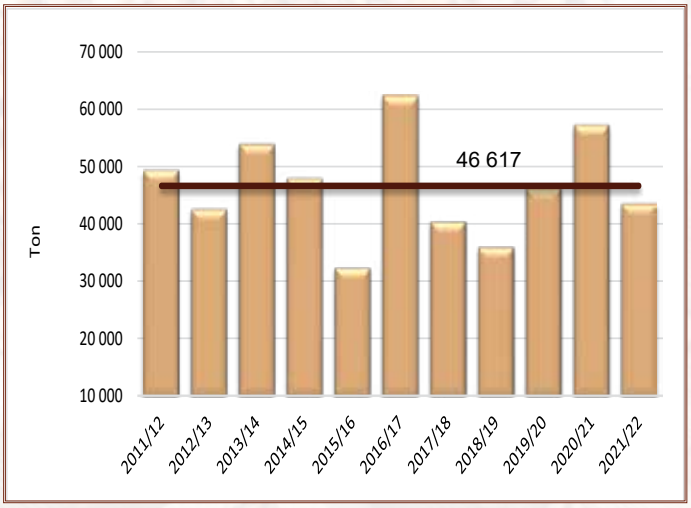


Figures provided by the CEC.

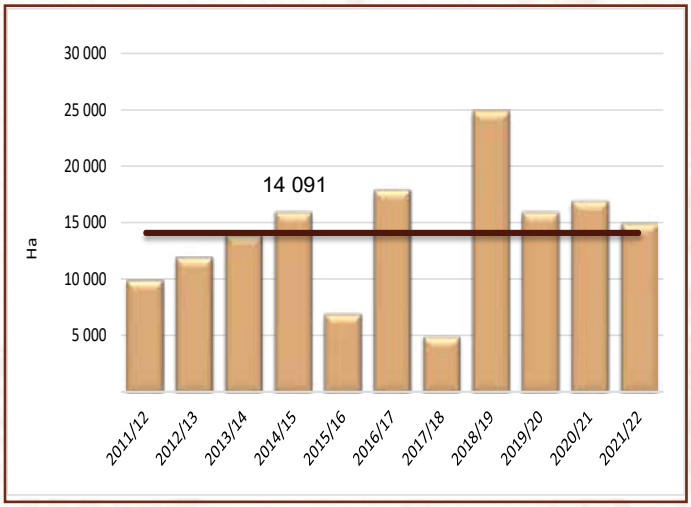
Graph 5: Area utilised for sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2011/12



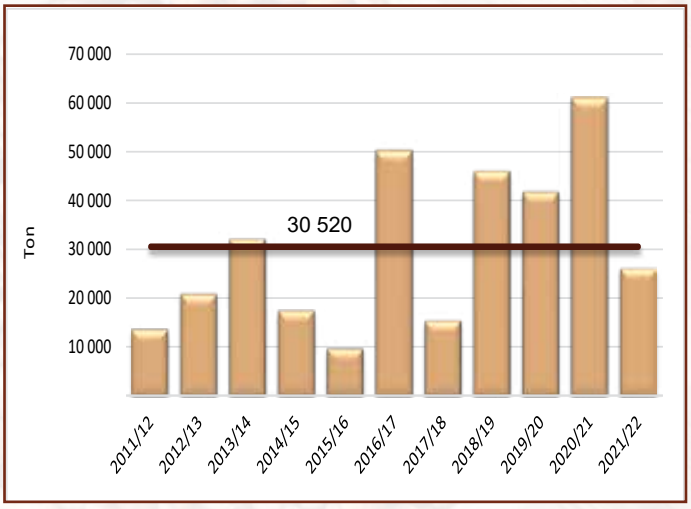
Graph 6: Sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 22011/12



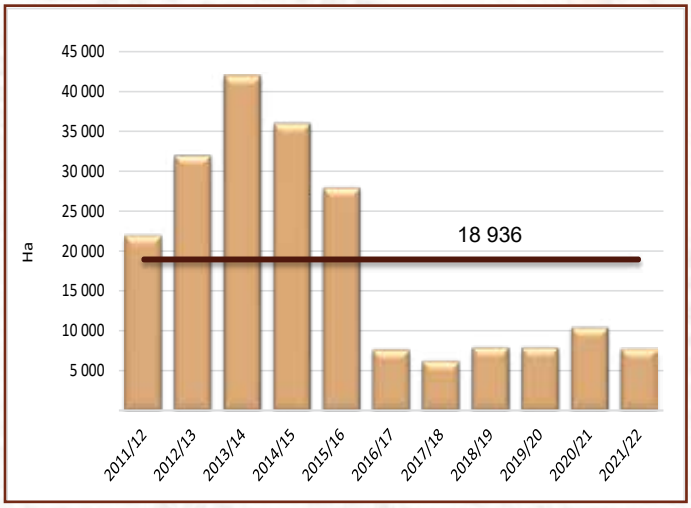
Graph 7: Area utilised for sorghum production in Limpopo since 2011/12



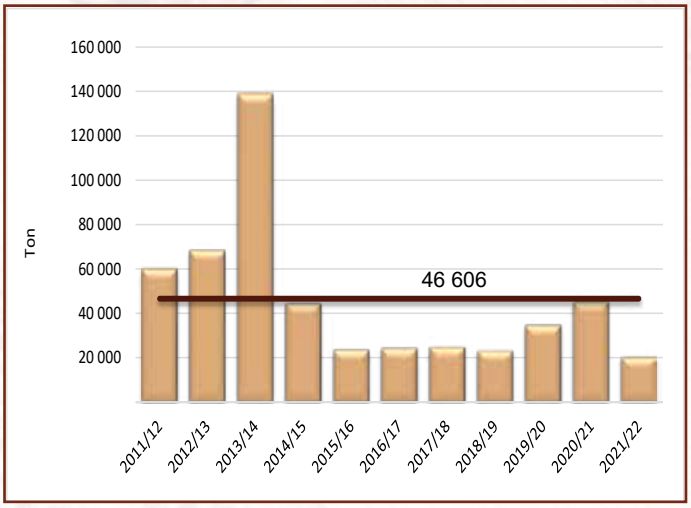
Graph 8: Sorghum production in Limpopo since 2011/12



Graph 9: Area utilised for sorghum production in the Free State since 2011/12



Graph 10: Sorghum production in the Free State since 2011/12



Figures provided by the CEC.

Eleven season average