

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.