

The area utilised for sunflower production decreased by 4.5% to 477 800 ha, compared to the 500 300 ha of the previous season. This season's area planted is the lowest since the 2011/12 season. The national yield average decreased by 10% to 1.42 t/ha from the 1.58 t/ha of the previous season.

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2021 – 2030*, only 450 000 hectares are expected to remain under sunflower by 2030 under the current baseline conditions. Over the same period, yields are expected to improve by 29%, due largely to improvements in technology, continuous improvement of farming practices as well as removal of more marginal land from production. This improvement is sufficient to supply the growth in domestic demand.

New technology on high-oil sunflower could improve the outlook for sunflower production as certain cultivars have the ability to produce oil contents as high as 50%, without any meaningful yield drag. One of the oilseed crushers has also introduced premiums for sunflower seed with oil contents exceeding 40%.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2020/21 season, compared to the 2019/20 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 and North West as well as Limpopo.

Table 2: Sunflower production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2020/21			2019/20		
		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	1 100	1 320	1.20	1 200	1 430	1.19
	Total	1 100	1 320	1.20	1 200	1 430	1.19
Free State	Dryland	229 200	338 000	1.47	255 500	434 350	1.70
	Irrigation	5 800	14 500	2.50	4 500	10 250	2.28
	Total	235 000	352 500	1.50	260 000	444 600	1.71
Eastern Cape	Dryland	120	120	1.00	120	280	2.33
	Irrigation	180	330	1.83	180	470	2.61
	Total	300	450	1.50	300	750	2.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	3 500	5 250	1.50	2 555	3 475	1.36
	Irrigation	-	-	-	245	445	-
	Total	3 500	5 250	1.50	2 800	3 920	1.40
Limpopo	Dryland	73 500	70 800	0.96	64 000	62 800	0.98
	Irrigation	3 000	5 700	1.90	1 000	2 200	2.20
	Total	76 500	76 500	1.00	65 000	65 000	1.00
Gauteng	Dryland	4 400	5 720	1.30	3 750	5 100	1.36
	Irrigation	-	-	-	250	500	2.00
	Total	4 400	5 720	1.30	4 000	5 600	1.40
North West	Dryland	155 500	233 100	1.50	165 000	263 000	1.59
	Irrigation	1 500	3 160	2.11	2 000	4 200	2.10
	Total	157 000	236 260	1.50	167 000	267 200	1.60
RSA	Dryland	466 220	652 990	1.40	490 925	769 005	1.57
	Irrigation	11 580	25 010	2.16	9 375	19 495	2.08
	Total	477 800	678 000	1.42	500 300	788 500	1.58

Figures provided by the CEC.