

The area utilised for sunflower production decreased by 2.9% to 500 300 ha, compared to the 515 350 ha of the previous season. This season's area planted is the lowest since the 2011/12 season. The national yield average increased by almost 20% to 1.58 t/ha, this is the highest national average yield reported since the early 1980's.

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2020 – 2029*, sunflower area trends largely sideways over the next decade, reaching 590 000 hectares by 2029. Over the same period, yields are expected to increase by 21%, due largely to improvements in technology and continuous improvement of farming practices. This yield increase is sufficient to supply the growth in domestic demand.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sunflower production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2019/20 season, compared to the 2018/19 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	2019/20			2018/19		
		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	1 200	1 430	1.19	950	1 140	1.20
	Total	1 200	1 430	1.19	950	1 140	1.20
Free State	Dryland	255 500	434 350	1.70	265 500	382 050	1.44
	Irrigation	4 500	10 250	2.28	4 500	9 450	2.10
	Total	260 000	444 600	1.71	270 000	391 500	1.45
Eastern Cape	Dryland	120	280	2.33	100	260	2.60
	Irrigation	180	470	2.61	-	-	-
	Total	300	750	2.50	100	260	2.60
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mpumalanga	Dryland	2 555	3 475	1.36	4 500	4 500	1.00
	Irrigation	245	445	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 800	3 920	1.40	4 500	4 500	1.00
Limpopo	Dryland	64 000	62 800	0.98	60 000	58 800	0.98
	Irrigation	1 000	2 200	2.20	1 000	2 200	2.20
	Total	65 000	65 000	1.00	61 000	61 000	1.00
Gauteng	Dryland	3 750	5 100	1.36	3 550	3 300	0.93
	Irrigation	250	500	2.00	250	500	2.00
	Total	4 000	5 600	1.40	3 800	3 800	1.00
North West	Dryland	165 000	263 000	1.59	174 100	214 000	1.23
	Irrigation	2 000	4 200	2.10	900	1 800	2.00
	Total	167 000	267 200	1.60	175 000	215 800	1.23
RSA	Dryland	490 925	769 005	1.57	507 750	662 910	1.31
	Irrigation	9 375	19 495	2.08	7 600	15 090	1.99
	Total	500 300	788 500	1.58	515 350	678 000	1.32

Figures provided by the CEC.