

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 2021/22 season to date, stands at 65.6 million tons with the United States being the largest contributor (11.4 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						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Feb	2021/22 Mar
Exports						
Argentina	473	254	426	1 973	2 600	2 600
Australia	449	91	102	1 209	1 400	1 600
Bolivia	21	18	8	29	50	50
Ethiopia	75	75	75	50	50	50
India	123	53	31	56	50	50
Kenya	136	53	31	80	100	100
Ukraine	123	93	145	59	75	65
Others	310	286	163	149	213	213
Subtotal	1 710	923	981	3 605	4 538	4 728
United States	4 839	2 410	5 404	7 052	8 000	8 000
World Total	6 549	3 333	6 385	10 657	12 538	12 728
Imports						
Chile	49	73	36	26	70	70
China	4 436	652	3 709	8 669	10 300	10 500
Eritrea	30	60	35	60	70	70
Ethiopia	6	6	61	5	50	50
Japan	577	449	426	299	320	320
Kenya	141	109	52	181	200	200
Mexico	98	546	567	133	200	200
Somalia	80	85	80	50	50	50
South Sudan	148	26	81	71	100	100
Sudan	150	160	150	88	80	80
Others	992	1 079	429	355	430	430
Subtotal	6 707	3 245	5 626	9 937	11 870	12 070
Unaccounted	- 209	87	758	719	667	657
United States	51	1	1	1	1	1
World Total	6 549	3 333	6 385	10 657	12 538	12 728

Table 1b: World Sorghum Production and Consumption						
Local Marketing Years, Thousand Metric Tons						
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Feb	2021/22 Mar
Production						
Argentina	3 000	2 500	2 500	3 320	3 750	3 750
Australia	1 257	1 160	397	1 500	2 000	2 300
Bolivia	1 023	949	1 019	1 100	1 100	1 100
Brazil	2 136	2 177	2 498	2 732	2 700	2 700
Burkina Faso	1 366	1 930	1 872	1 840	2 150	2 150
Cameroon	1 190	1 200	1 217	1 200	1 200	1 200
China	2 465	2 909	3 137	2 970	3 000	3 000
Ethiopia	5 164	5 024	5 266	4 517	5 200	5 200
European Union	660	781	1 012	1 102	1 035	1 015
India	4 803	3 480	4 772	4 800	4 400	4 400
Mali	1 423	1 470	1 511	1 801	1 500	1 500
Mexico	4 545	4 700	4 328	4 348	4 700	4 700
Niger	1 945	2 100	1 897	1 922	1 900	1 900
Nigeria	6 939	6 721	6 665	6 570	6 800	6 800
Sudan	3 743	5 435	3 714	5 150	5 000	5 000
Others	7 129	7 634	7 457	7 614	7 498	7 508
Subtotal	48 788	50 170	49 262	52 486	53 933	54 223
United States	9 192	9 271	8 673	9 474	11 375	11 375
World Total	57 980	59 441	57 935	61 960	65 308	65 598
Total Consumption						
Argentina	3 100	2 150	2 050	1 150	1 400	1 400
Bolivia	920	980	980	1 050	1 050	1 050
Brazil	2 100	2 200	2 400	2 700	2 700	2 700
Burkina Faso	1 400	1 800	1 870	1 900	2 100	2 100
Cameroon	1 205	1 225	1 222	1 225	1 230	1 230
Chad	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000
China	6 900	3 600	6 800	11 400	13 300	13 500
Ethiopia	5 000	5 000	5 300	4 900	5 200	5 200
European Union	950	1 554	1 128	1 123	1 043	1 023
India	4 600	3 550	4 500	4 550	4 500	4 500
Mali	1 450	1 470	1 500	1 700	1 600	1 600
Mexico	4 700	5 100	5 000	4 500	4 750	4 750
Niger	1 850	2 100	2 000	2 000	1 950	1 950
Nigeria	6 950	6 650	6 650	6 550	6 650	6 650
Sudan	4 400	5 300	4 350	5 100	5 050	5 050
Others	8 260	8 672	7 515	7 498	7 803	7 923
Subtotal	54 658	52 428	55 180	59 890	61 567	61 857
United States	4 119	6 212	4 365	2 514	3 175	3 175
World Total	58 777	58 640	59 545	62 404	64 742	65 032

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 individual 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, March 2022.

The local area utilised for sorghum production increased by almost 16%, from 42 500 hectares in the 2019/20 season, to 49 200 hectares this season.

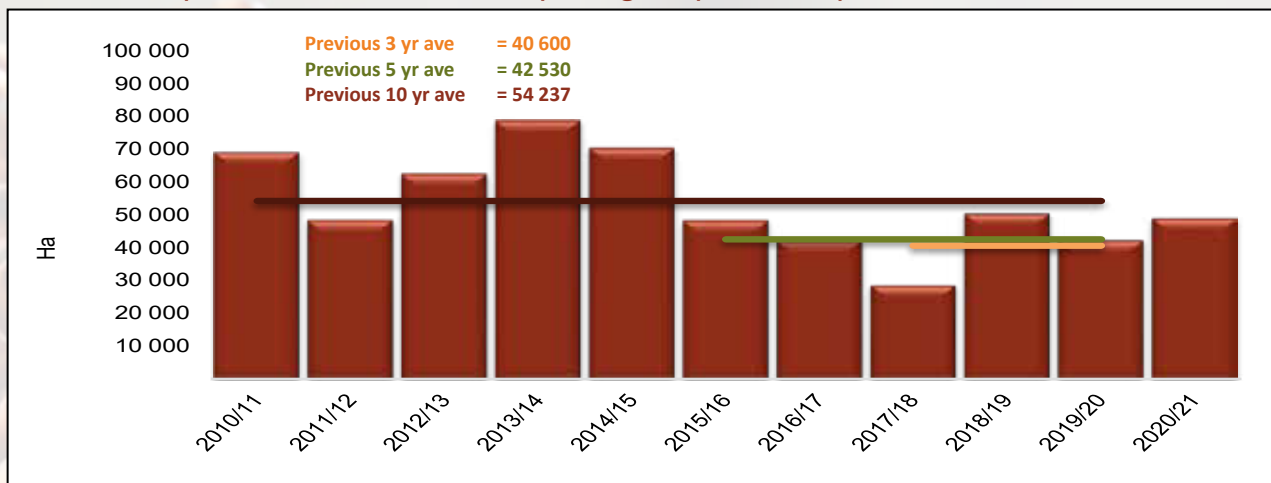
According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2021 – 2030*, when looking at the outlook for field crops, specifically summer grains and oilseeds, sorghum area is projected to decline by 8%, reaching an equilibrium of around 40 000 hectares. In light of the decline in area, which removes lower potential areas from production, average yields improve by 16% over the 10-year period to 2030. Sorghum consumption is expected to increase by 8% over the coming decade after declining by almost 20% over the past decade.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sorghum 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. Graphs 5 to 10 on page 6 provide similar figures for the major sorghum producing provinces this season, namely Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West.

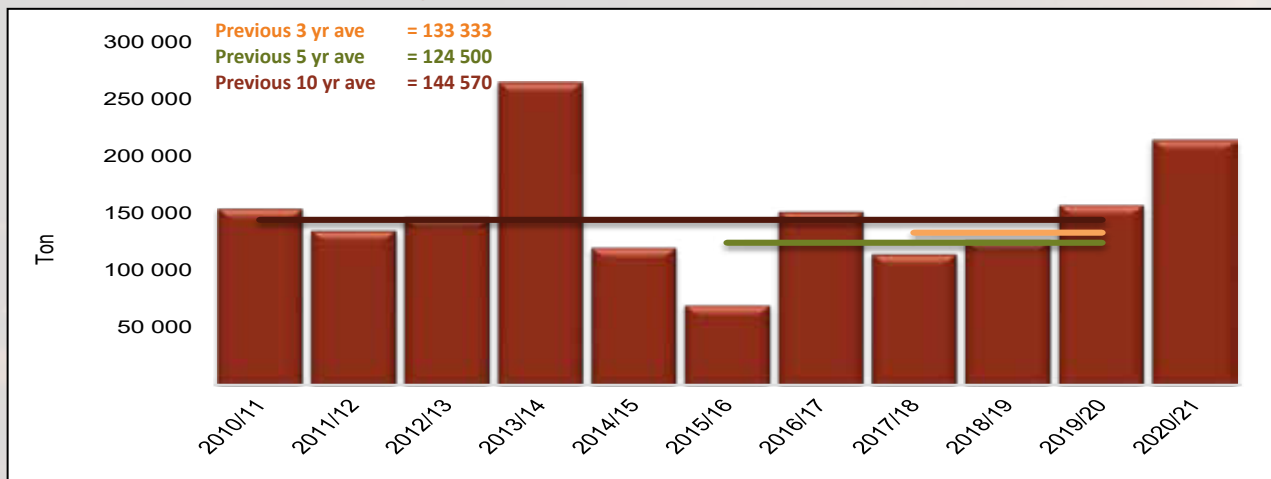
Table 2: Sorghum production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2020/21			2019/20		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Free State	Dryland	10 450	45 445	4.35	8 000	35 200	4.40
	Irrigation	50	230	4.60	-	-	-
	Total	10 500	45 675	4.35	8 000	35 200	4.40
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	450	1 980	4.40	1 200	4 200	3.50
	Irrigation	50	320	6.40	-	-	-
	Total	500	2 300	4.60	1 200	4 200	3.50
Mpumalanga	Dryland	9 400	57 325	6.10	8 500	46 340	5.45
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	9 400	57 325	6.10	8 500	46 340	5.45
Limpopo	Dryland	16 300	57 800	3.55	15 350	39 350	2.56
	Irrigation	700	3 400	4.86	650	2 600	4.00
	Total	17 000	61 200	3.60	16 000	41 950	2.62
Gauteng	Dryland	300	1 350	4.50	265	795	3.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	35	165	4.71
	Total	300	1 350	4.50	300	960	3.20
North West	Dryland	10 800	43 400	4.02	7 800	25 500	3.27
	Irrigation	700	3 750	5.36	700	3 850	5.50
	Total	11 500	47 150	4.10	8 500	29 350	3.45
RSA	Dryland	47 700	207 300	4.35	41 115	151 385	3.68
	Irrigation	1 500	7 700	5.13	1 385	6 615	4.78
	Total	49 200	215 000	4.37	42 500	158 000	3.72

Figures provided by the CEC.

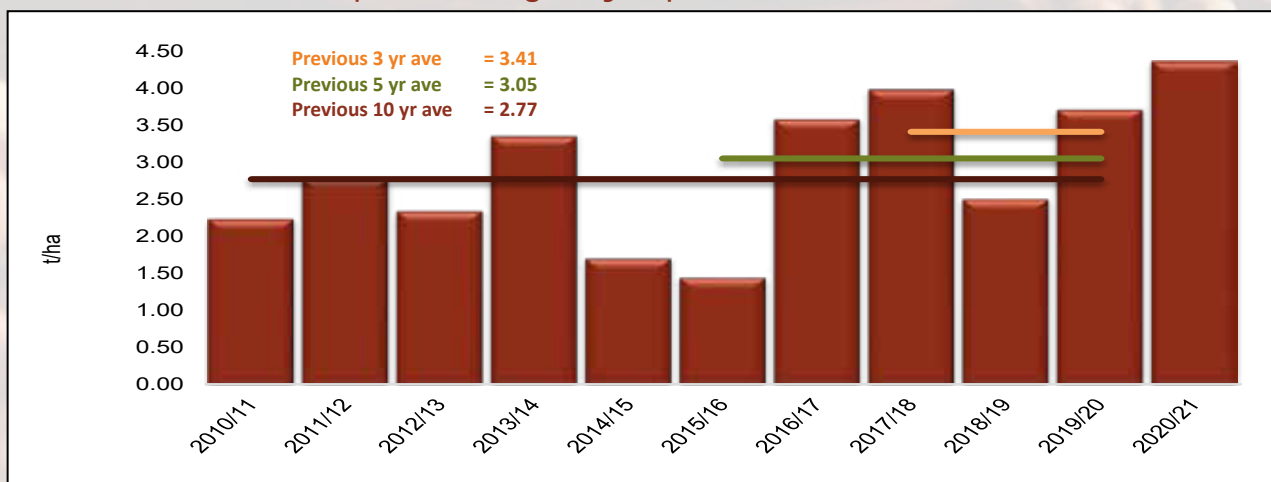
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sorghum production from 2010/11 to 2020/21



Graph 3: Sorghum production in RSA from 2010/11 to 2020/21

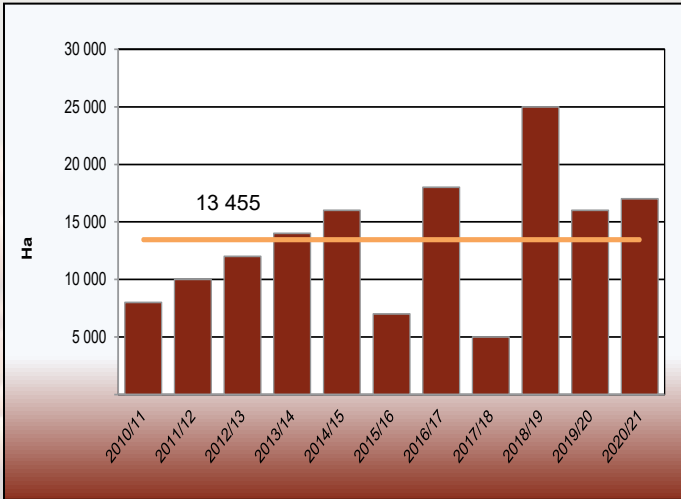


Graph 4: RSA Sorghum yield from 2010/11 to 2020/21

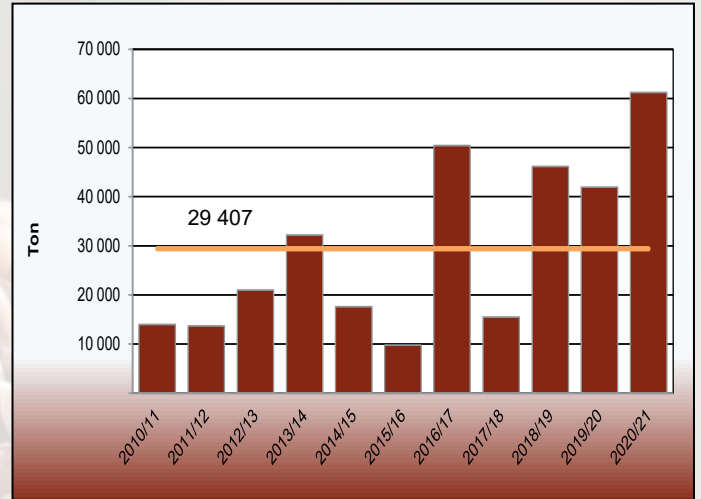


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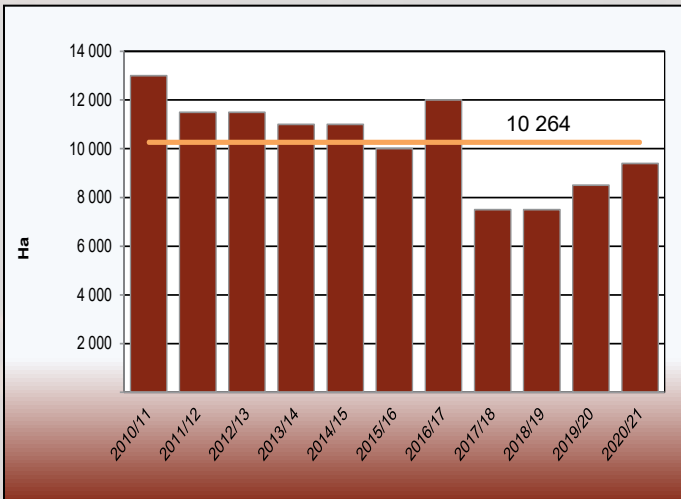
Graph 5: Area utilised for sorghum production in Limpopo since 2010/11



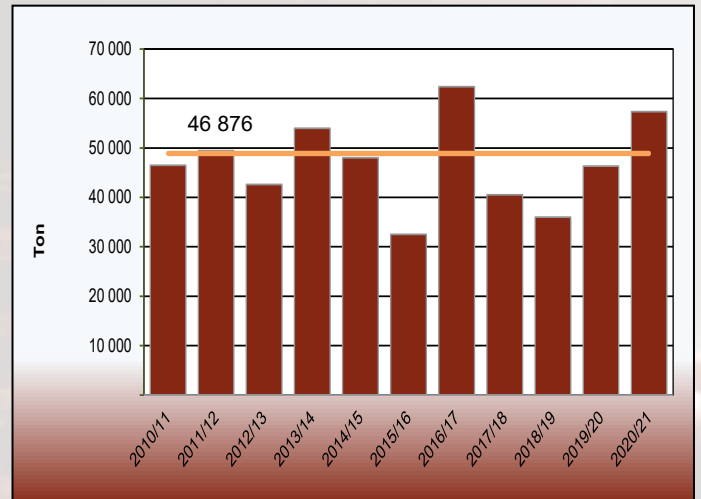
Graph 6: Sorghum production in Limpopo since 2010/11



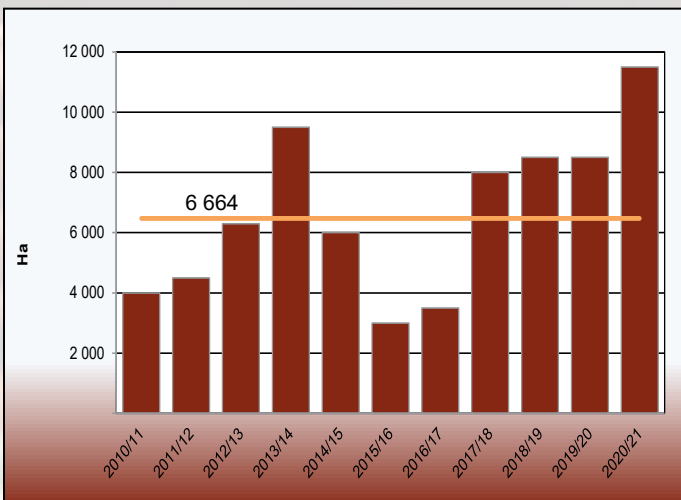
Graph 7: Area utilised for sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2010/11



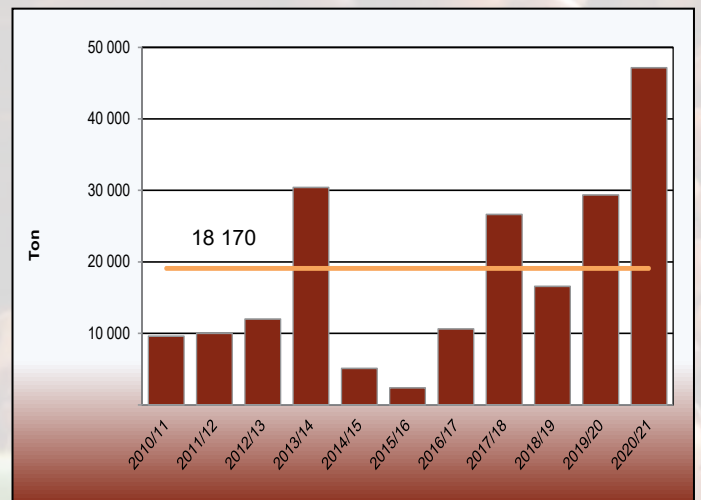
Graph 8: Sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2010/11



Graph 9: Area utilised for sorghum production in North West since 2010/11



Graph 10: Sorghum production in North West since 2010/11



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average