

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.