

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 2023/24 season was 58.0 million tons, with the United States of America, the largest contributor (8.1 million tons). See Table 1a for the world sorghum trade (export and import figures) as well as production, consumption and stocks figures in Table 1b.

Table 1a: World Sorghum Trade					
October/September Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Exports					
Australia	102	1 235	2 267	2 753	1 400
Argentina	426	1 973	1 800	800	1 100
Brazil	1	11	10	1	125
India	31	56	41	37	30
Nigeria	50	50	50	50	50
Ukraine	145	59	72	66	40
Paraguay	8	1	21	38	40
Others	222	247	165	70	84
Subtotal	985	3 632	4 426	3 815	2 869
United States	5 404	6 926	7 387	2 965	6 200
World Total	6 389	10 558	11 813	6 780	9 069
Imports					
China	3 709	8 669	10 991	4 863	7 500
Japan	426	299	258	241	190
Mexico	567	133	362	176	175
Kenya	52	181	79	152	100
South Africa	21	8	1	29	100
Eritrea	35	65	95	63	70
South Sudan	81	71	55	35	50
Somalia	80	50	50	50	50
Sudan	150	125	75	110	50
Taiwan	40	56	55	50	50
Others	467	310	508	294	333
Subtotal	5 628	9 967	12 529	6 063	8 668
Unaccounted	760	590	- 716	717	400
United States	1	1	0	0	1
World Total	6 389	10 558	11 813	6 780	9 069

Note:

Unaccounted: This term includes grain in transit, reporting discrepancies in some countries and trade to countries outside the USDA database.

All trade tables contain Trade Year (TY) data which puts all countries on a uniform, 12-month period for analytical comparisons (Sorghum Oct/Sep), irrespective of the different local marketing years. TY 2022/23 corresponds to Oct 2022 to Sep 2023.

Table 1b: World Sorghum Production and Consumption
Local Marketing Years, Thousand Metric Tons

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Production					
Nigeria	6 665	6 590	6 725	6 806	6 400
Brazil	2 498	2 084	3 120	4 789	4 761
Sudan	3 714	5 150	3 528	5 248	3 055
Mexico	4 328	4 348	4 840	4 892	4 280
India	4 772	4 812	4 150	3 814	4 400
Ethiopia	5 266	5 058	4 450	4 140	4 010
Argentina	1 830	3 319	2 883	1 610	2 500
China	3 137	2 970	3 377	3 094	3 000
Australia	397	1 639	2 648	2 638	2 000
Niger	1 897	2 132	1 207	2 100	1 700
Burkina Faso	1 872	1 840	1 644	2 014	1 772
Mali	1 511	1 823	1 248	1 582	1 528
Cameroon	1 217	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200
Bolivia	1 019	1 481	595	1 000	1 000
Tanzania	732	1 043	1 077	1 000	1 000
Others	7 296	7 825	7 287	6 912	7 346
Subtotal	48 151	53 314	49 979	52 839	49 952
United States	8 673	9 474	11 375	4 770	8 071
World Total	56 824	62 788	61 354	57 609	58 023
Total Consumption					
China	6 800	11 400	14 300	7 900	10 500
Nigeria	6 650	6 550	6 650	6 750	6 400
Sudan	4 350	5 100	3 700	5 200	3 250
Brazil	2 400	2 100	3 100	4 700	4 700
Mexico	5 000	4 500	5 000	5 100	4 600
India	4 500	4 550	4 450	3 900	4 300
Ethiopia	5 300	5 200	4 650	4 250	4 050
Burkina Faso	1 870	1 900	1 650	1 950	1 800
Niger	2 000	2 050	1 400	2 000	1 800
Argentina	1 200	1 050	1 150	1 000	1 150
Mali	1 500	1 700	1 400	1 550	1 500
Cameroon	1 222	1 230	1 215	1 210	1 225
Bolivia	980	1 400	650	950	1 000
Tanzania	730	1 025	1 050	1 025	1 000
Chad	1 000	1 000	950	975	915
Others	7 519	7 645	7 463	6 834	7 647
Subtotal	53 934	59 900	57 986	55 396	56 550
United States	4 365	2 638	3 175	2 584	1 905
World Total	58 299	62 538	61 161	57 980	58 455

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, May 2024.

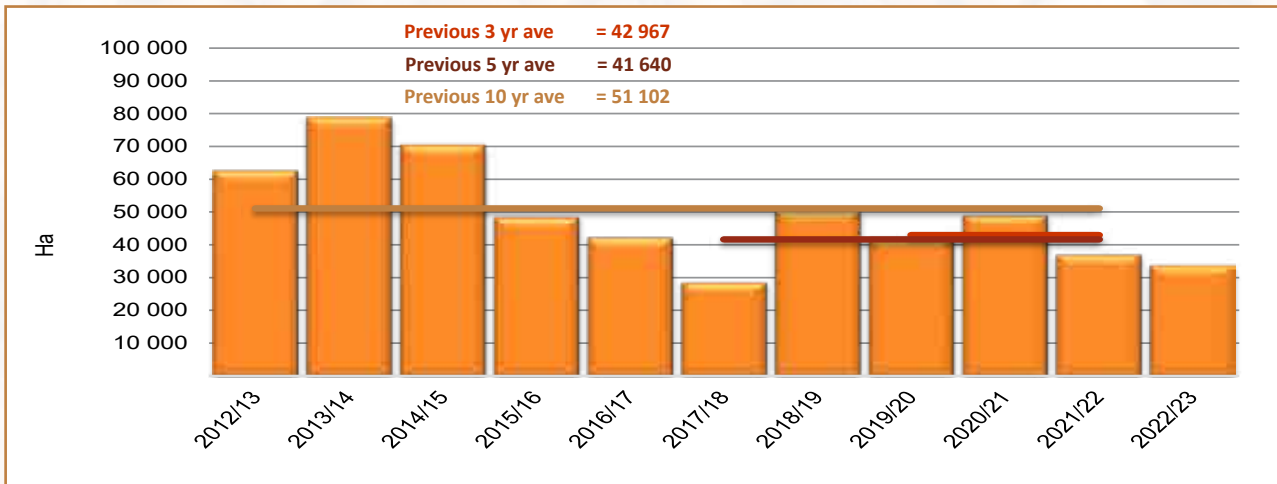
This season's as well as the previous season's local production figures of 94 360 tons and 103 140 tons respectively, represents the lowest production figures since the 70 500 tons of the 2015/2016 season. The local area utilised for sorghum production decreased by almost 9%, from 37 200 hectares in the 2021/22 season to 34 000 hectares this season.

See Table 2 for an overview of sorghum production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2022/23 season, compared to the 2021/22 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.

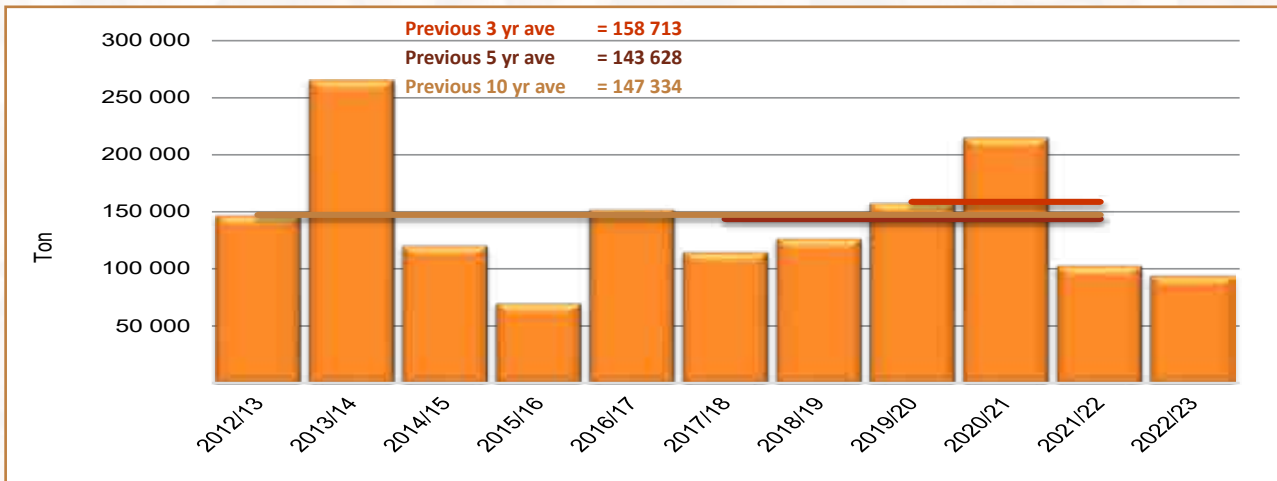
Table 2: Sorghum production over the last two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2022/23			2021/22		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Free State	Dryland	5 200	14 820	2.85	7 800	20 700	2.65
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	5 200	14 820	2.85	7 800	20 700	2.65
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	100	400	4.00	200	740	3.70
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100	400	4.00	200	740	3.70
Mpumalanga	Dryland	8 500	35 275	4.15	9 000	43 650	4.85
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8 500	35 275	4.15	9 000	43 650	4.85
Limpopo	Dryland	13 350	25 800	1.93	12 600	19 300	1.53
	Irrigation	2 150	7 525	3.50	2 400	6 950	2.90
	Total	15 500	33 325	2.15	15 000	26 250	1.75
Gauteng	Dryland	100	420	4.20	200	800	4.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100	420	4.20	200	800	4.00
North West	Dryland	4 400	9 440	2.15	4 400	9 200	2.09
	Irrigation	200	680	3.40	600	1 800	3.00
	Total	4 600	10 120	2.20	5 000	11 000	2.20
RSA	Dryland	31 650	86 155	2.72	34 200	94 390	2.76
	Irrigation	2 350	8 205	3.49	3 000	8 750	2.92
	Total	34 000	94 360	2.78	37 200	103 140	2.77

Figures provided by the CEC.

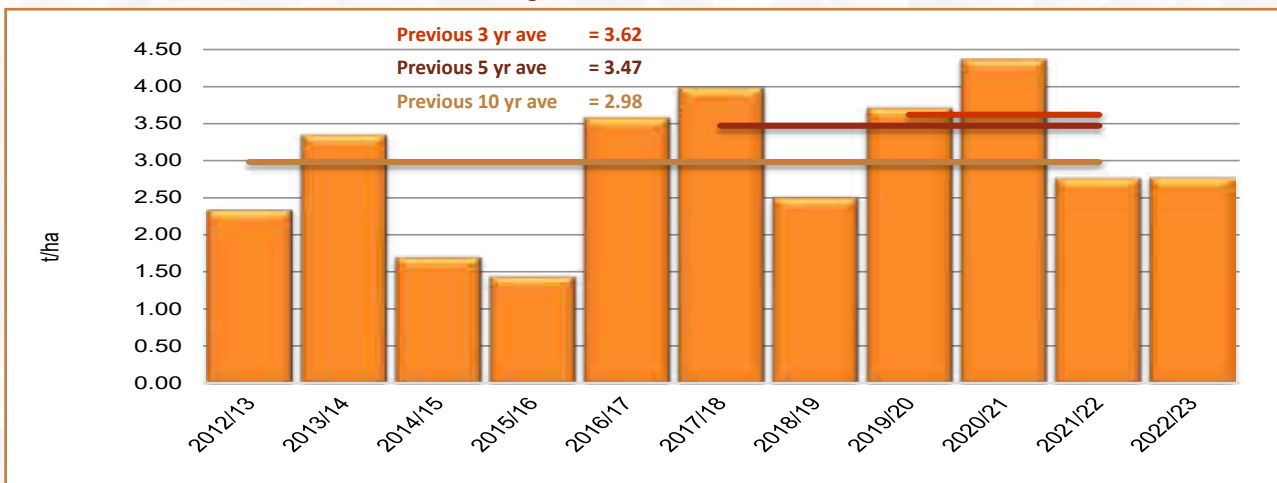
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sorghum production from 2012/13 to 2022/23



Graph 3: Sorghum production in RSA from 2012/13 to 2022/23

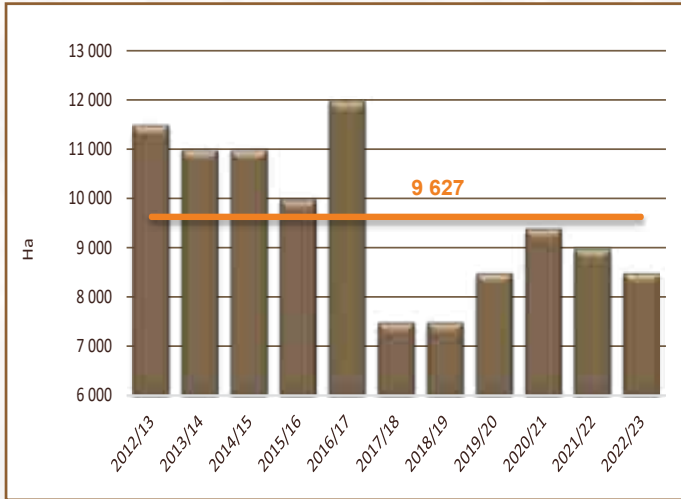


Graph 4: RSA Sorghum yield from 2012/13 to 2022/23

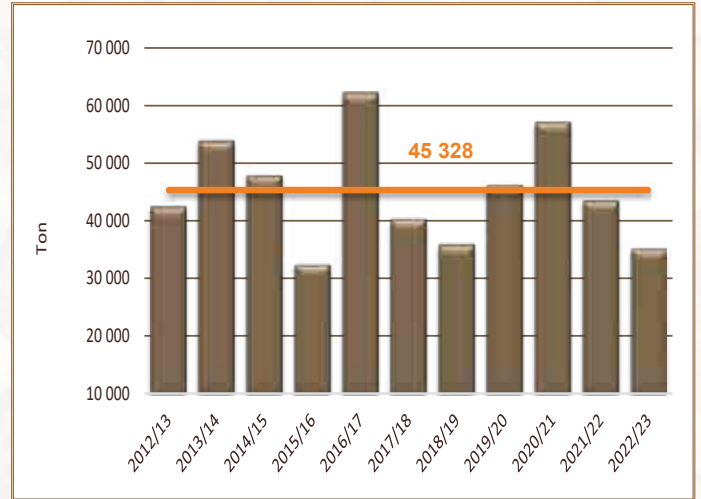


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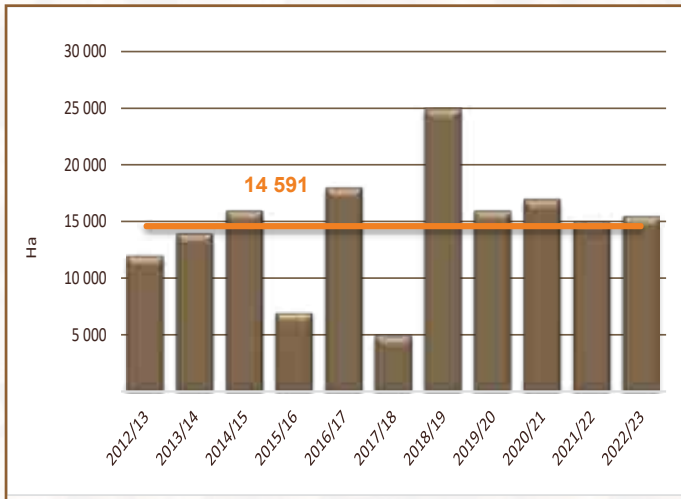
Graph 5: Area utilised for sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2012/13



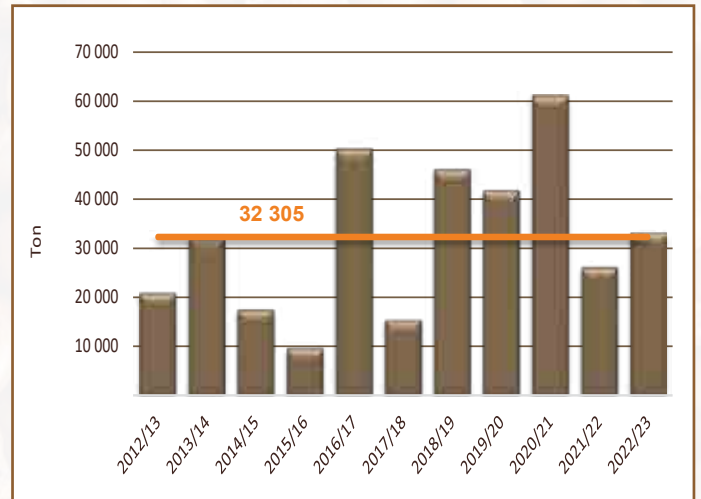
Graph 6: Sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2012/13



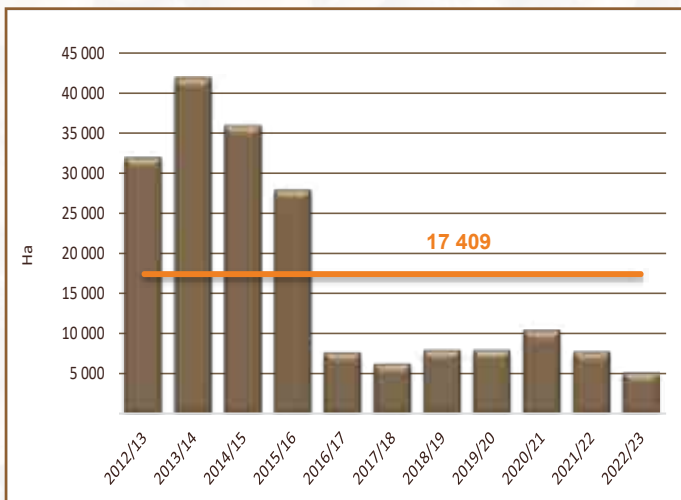
Graph 7: Area utilised for sorghum production in Limpopo since 2012/13



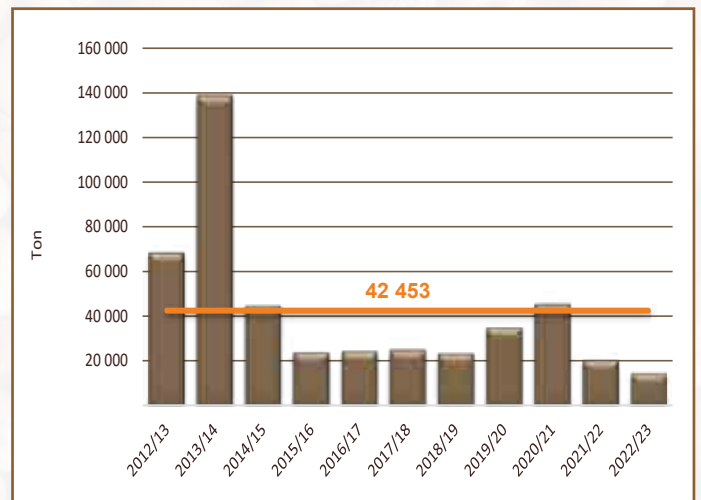
Graph 8: Sorghum production in Limpopo since 2012/13



Graph 9: Area utilised for sorghum production in the Free State since 2012/13



Graph 10: Sorghum production in the Free State since 2012/13



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average