

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 59.1 million tons and for the 2024/25 season 63.4 million tons. The United States of America remains the largest contributor (8.7 million tons in the 2024/25 season). 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<br>Trade Year, Thousand Metric Tons |               |              |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                                                     | 2021/22       | 2022/23      | 2023/24      | 2024/25      | 2025/26 Sep  |
| Trade Year Exports                                                                  |               |              |              |              |              |
| Australia                                                                           | 2 267         | 2 753        | 2 060        | 2 700        | 2 600        |
| Argentina                                                                           | 1 800         | 800          | 1 100        | 1 400        | 1 400        |
| Brazil                                                                              | 10            | 1            | 93           | 175          | 75           |
| India                                                                               | 41            | 37           | 33           | 40           | 50           |
| Nigeria                                                                             | 50            | 50           | 50           | 50           | 50           |
| Ukraine                                                                             | 72            | 66           | 36           | 40           | 45           |
| Paraguay                                                                            | 21            | 38           | 63           | 135          | 35           |
| Others                                                                              | 170           | 85           | 86           | 97           | 102          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                     | <b>4 431</b>  | <b>3 830</b> | <b>3 521</b> | <b>4 637</b> | <b>4 357</b> |
| United States                                                                       | 7 387         | 2 965        | 5 964        | 2 400        | 5 400        |
| <b>World Total</b>                                                                  | <b>11 818</b> | <b>6 795</b> | <b>9 485</b> | <b>7 037</b> | <b>9 757</b> |
| Trade Year Imports                                                                  |               |              |              |              |              |
| China                                                                               | 10 991        | 4 863        | 8 341        | 5 500        | 7 600        |
| Mexico                                                                              | 362           | 176          | 60           | 500          | 600          |
| European Union                                                                      | 167           | 38           | 16           | 200          | 200          |
| Japan                                                                               | 258           | 241          | 127          | 130          | 200          |
| Kenya                                                                               | 79            | 152          | 24           | 160          | 75           |
| Eritrea                                                                             | 95            | 63           | 162          | 70           | 60           |
| Ethiopia                                                                            | 12            | 35           | 14           | 275          | 50           |
| Somalia                                                                             | 50            | 50           | 50           | 50           | 50           |
| Sudan                                                                               | 75            | 110          | 60           | 75           | 50           |
| Taiwan                                                                              | 55            | 50           | 51           | 55           | 50           |
| Others                                                                              | 386           | 310          | 475          | 549          | 303          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                     | <b>12 530</b> | <b>6 088</b> | <b>9 380</b> | <b>7 564</b> | <b>9 238</b> |
| Unaccounted                                                                         | - 712         | 707          | 104          | - 528        | 519          |
| United States                                                                       | 0             | 0            | 1            | 1            | 0            |
| <b>World Total</b>                                                                  | <b>11 818</b> | <b>6 795</b> | <b>9 485</b> | <b>7 037</b> | <b>9 757</b> |

**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 2024/25 corresponds to Oct 2024 to Sep 2025.

| Table 1b: World Sorghum Production and Consumption<br>Local Marketing Years, Thousand Metric Tons |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                   | 2019/20       | 2020/21       | 2021/22       | 2022/23       | 2023/24       |
| Production                                                                                        |               |               |               |               |               |
| Nigeria                                                                                           | 6 725         | 6 806         | 6 400         | 6 500         | 6 900         |
| Brazil                                                                                            | 3 120         | 4 789         | 4 426         | 6 000         | 4 900         |
| India                                                                                             | 4 150         | 3 814         | 4 737         | 6 000         | 4 600         |
| Mexico                                                                                            | 4 840         | 4 892         | 4 540         | 4 200         | 4 300         |
| Ethiopia                                                                                          | 4 450         | 4 140         | 4 010         | 4 100         | 4 100         |
| Sudan                                                                                             | 3 528         | 5 248         | 3 055         | 3 300         | 3 300         |
| China                                                                                             | 3 377         | 3 094         | 3 000         | 3 000         | 3 100         |
| Argentina                                                                                         | 2 883         | 1 610         | 2 487         | 3 500         | 3 000         |
| Australia                                                                                         | 2 648         | 2 638         | 2 215         | 2 325         | 2 500         |
| Niger                                                                                             | 1 207         | 2 100         | 1 700         | 1 900         | 1 907         |
| Burkina Faso                                                                                      | 1 644         | 2 014         | 1 772         | 1 900         | 1 900         |
| Mali                                                                                              | 1 248         | 1 603         | 1 528         | 1 640         | 1 500         |
| Cameroon                                                                                          | 1 200         | 1 200         | 1 200         | 1 200         | 1 200         |
| Bolivia                                                                                           | 595           | 886           | 1 771         | 1 000         | 1 000         |
| European Union                                                                                    | 801           | 522           | 794           | 1 089         | 975           |
| Others                                                                                            | 7 407         | 7 288         | 7 354         | 7 036         | 7 270         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                                   | <b>49 823</b> | <b>52 644</b> | <b>50 989</b> | <b>54 690</b> | <b>52 452</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                                                                              | <b>11 375</b> | <b>4 770</b>  | <b>8 071</b>  | <b>8 734</b>  | <b>10 217</b> |
| <b>World Total</b>                                                                                | <b>61 198</b> | <b>57 414</b> | <b>59 060</b> | <b>63 424</b> | <b>62 669</b> |
| Total Consumption                                                                                 |               |               |               |               |               |
| China                                                                                             | 14 300        | 7 900         | 11 300        | 8 500         | 10 800        |
| Nigeria                                                                                           | 6 650         | 6 750         | 6 400         | 6 450         | 6 850         |
| Brazil                                                                                            | 3 000         | 4 700         | 4 400         | 5 800         | 5 000         |
| Mexico                                                                                            | 5 000         | 5 100         | 4 600         | 4 700         | 4 900         |
| India                                                                                             | 4 450         | 3 900         | 4 600         | 5 750         | 4 750         |
| Ethiopia                                                                                          | 4 650         | 4 250         | 4 050         | 4 300         | 4 250         |
| Sudan                                                                                             | 3 700         | 5 200         | 3 250         | 3 350         | 3 350         |
| Niger                                                                                             | 1 400         | 2 000         | 1 800         | 1 850         | 1 950         |
| Burkina Faso                                                                                      | 1 650         | 1 950         | 1 800         | 1 900         | 1 900         |
| Mali                                                                                              | 1 400         | 1 550         | 1 500         | 1 600         | 1 600         |
| Argentina                                                                                         | 1 150         | 1 000         | 1 100         | 2 300         | 1 500         |
| European Union                                                                                    | 948           | 552           | 795           | 1 116         | 1 216         |
| Cameroon                                                                                          | 1 215         | 1 210         | 1 215         | 1 230         | 1 215         |
| Bolivia                                                                                           | 650           | 850           | 1 750         | 1 000         | 1 000         |
| Chad                                                                                              | 950           | 975           | 915           | 780           | 925           |
| Others                                                                                            | 7 394         | 7 131         | 7 215         | 6 957         | 6 980         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                                                                   | <b>57 719</b> | <b>55 101</b> | <b>57 065</b> | <b>56 806</b> | <b>58 870</b> |
| <b>United States</b>                                                                              | <b>3 175</b>  | <b>2 585</b>  | <b>1 912</b>  | <b>5 842</b>  | <b>4 700</b>  |
| <b>World Total</b>                                                                                | <b>60 894</b> | <b>57 686</b> | <b>58 977</b> | <b>62 648</b> | <b>63 570</b> |

**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, September 2025.

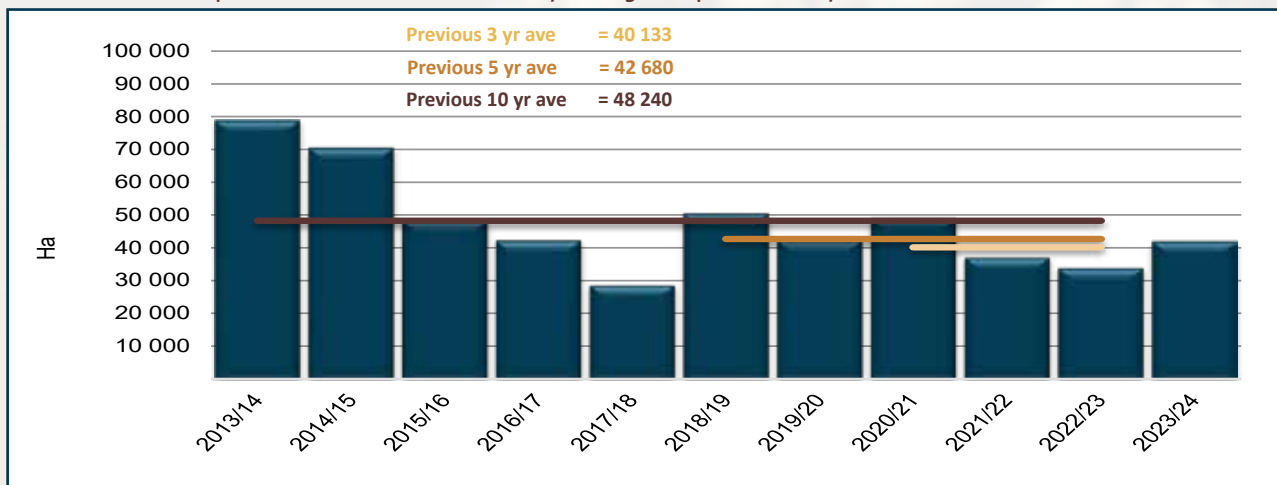
The last three seasons' local production figures (including the 2023/24 season) represents the lowest production since the 70 500 tons of the 2015/2016 season. The local area utilised for sorghum production however increased by almost 24%, from 34 000 hectares in the 2022/23 season to 42 100 hectares this season. This increase failed to compensate for the national yield decreasing from 2.78 t/ha last season to 2.33 t/ha.

See Table 2 for an overview of sorghum production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2023/24 season, compared to the 2022/23 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.

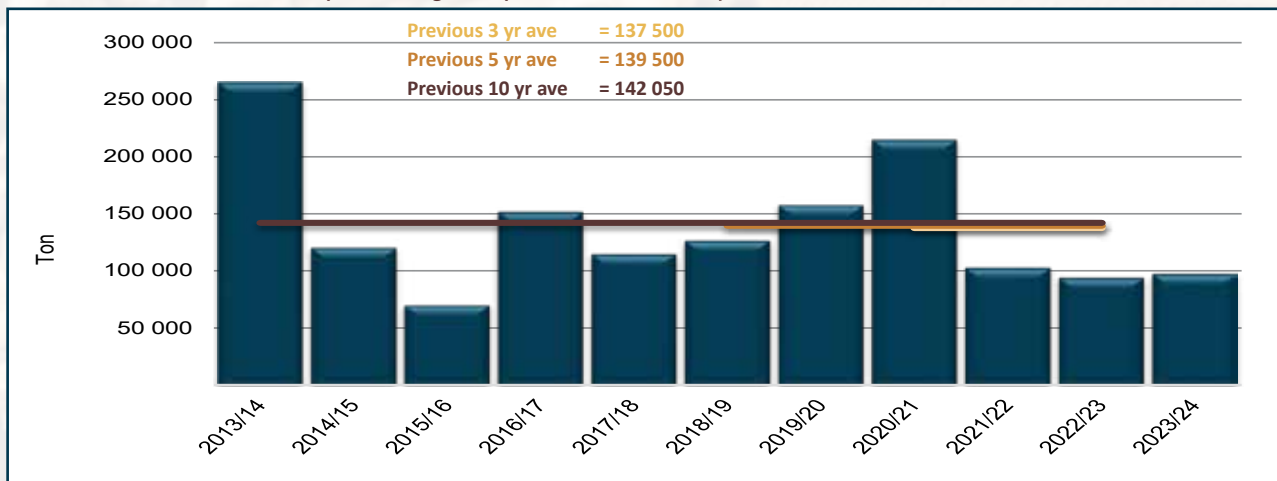
| Table 2: Sorghum production over the last two seasons |                    |                      |                  |             |                      |                  |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Province                                              | Type of production | 2023/24              |                  |             | 2022/23              |                  |             |
|                                                       |                    | 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            | 11 500               | 19 740           | 1.72        | 5 200                | 14 820           | 2.85        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Total              | 11 500               | 19 740           | 1.72        | 5 200                | 14 820           | 2.85        |
| Eastern Cape                                          | Dryland            | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | 100                  | 300              | 3.00        | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Total              | 100                  | 300              | 3.00        | -                    | -                | -           |
| KwaZulu-Natal                                         | Dryland            | 100                  | 350              | 3.50        | 100                  | 400              | 4.00        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Total              | 100                  | 350              | 3.50        | 100                  | 400              | 4.00        |
| Mpumalanga                                            | Dryland            | 8 300                | 36 520           | 4.40        | 8 500                | 35 275           | 4.15        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Total              | 8 300                | 36 520           | 4.40        | 8 500                | 35 275           | 4.15        |
| Limpopo                                               | Dryland            | 17 000               | 31 700           | 1.86        | 13 350               | 25 800           | 1.93        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | 1 000                | 3 400            | 3.40        | 2 150                | 7 525            | 3.50        |
|                                                       | Total              | 18 000               | 35 100           | 1.95        | 15 500               | 33 325           | 2.15        |
| Gauteng                                               | Dryland            | 100                  | 390              | 3.90        | 100                  | 420              | 4.20        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | -                    | -                | -           | -                    | -                | -           |
|                                                       | Total              | 100                  | 390              | 3.90        | 100                  | 420              | 4.20        |
| North West                                            | Dryland            | 3 850                | 5 100            | 1.32        | 4 400                | 9 440            | 2.15        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | 150                  | 500              | 3.33        | 200                  | 680              | 3.40        |
|                                                       | Total              | 4 000                | 5 600            | 1.40        | 4 600                | 10 120           | 2.20        |
| RSA                                                   | Dryland            | 40 850               | 93 800           | 2.30        | 31 650               | 86 155           | 2.72        |
|                                                       | Irrigation         | 1 250                | 4 200            | 3.36        | 2 350                | 8 205            | 3.49        |
|                                                       | Total              | 42 100               | 98 000           | 2.33        | 34 000               | 94 360           | 2.78        |

Figures provided by the CEC.

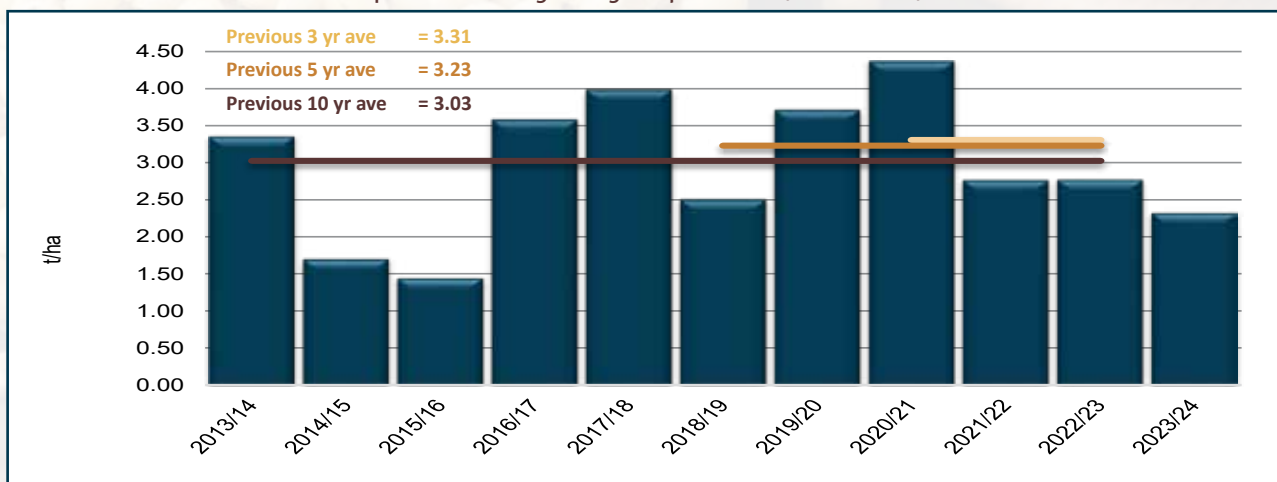
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sorghum production from 2013/14 to 2023/24



Graph 3: Sorghum production in RSA from 2013/14 to 2023/24

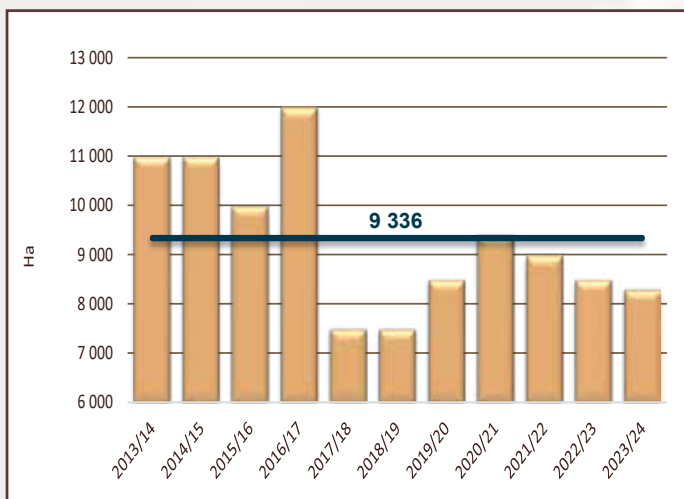


Graph 4: RSA Sorghum yield from 2013/14 to 2023/24

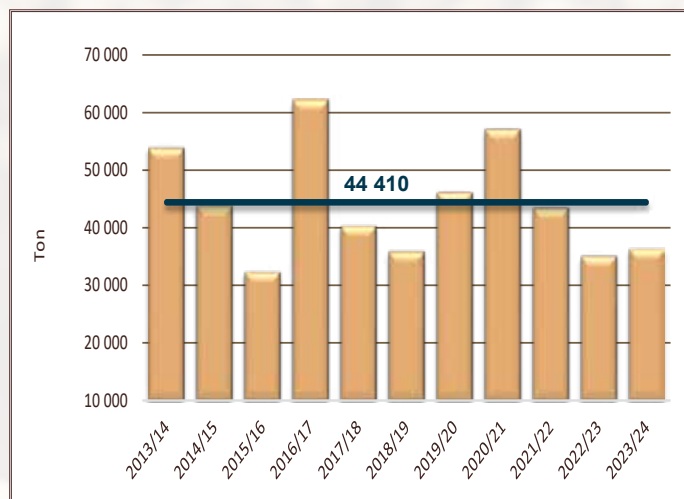


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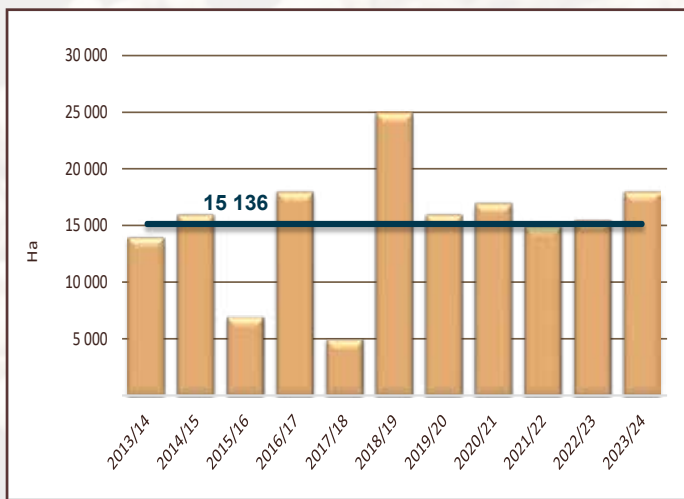
Graph 5: Area utilised for sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2013/14



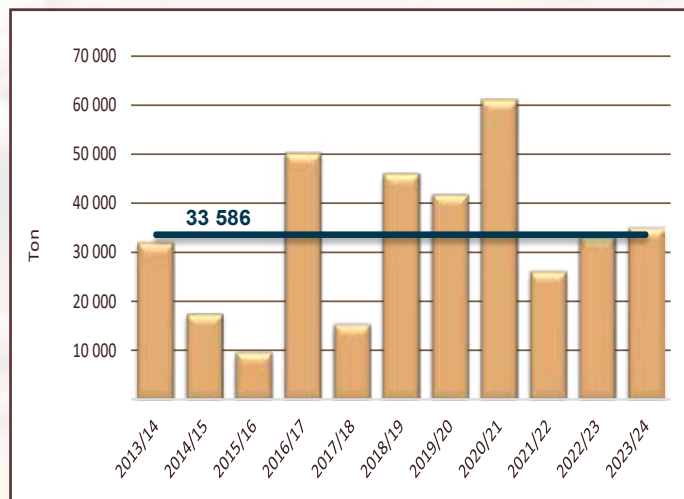
Graph 6: Sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2013/14



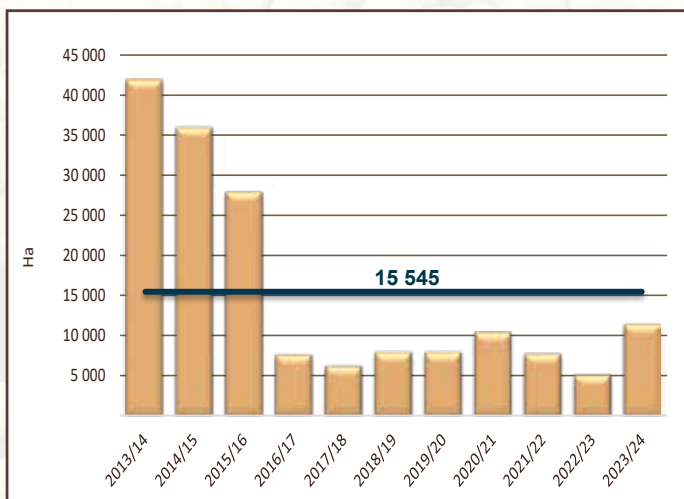
Graph 7: Area utilised for sorghum production in Limpopo since 2013/14



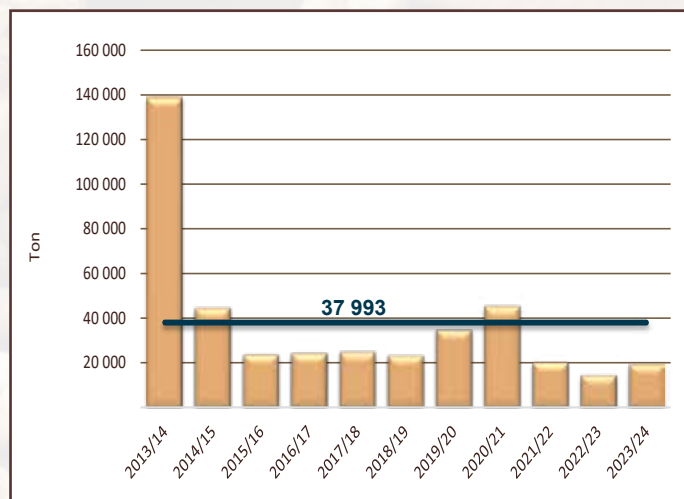
Graph 8: Sorghum production in Limpopo since 2013/14



Graph 9: Area utilised for sorghum production in the Free State since 2013/14



Graph 10: Sorghum production in the Free State since 2013/14



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average