

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.