

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 2024/25 season was almost 63.0 million tons, with 62.5 million tons for the 2025/26 season to date. The United States of America remains the largest producer, contributing 8.7 and 11.1 million tons in the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons, respectively. 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					
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 Apr
Trade Year Exports					
Australia	2 267	2 753	2 060	2 500	2 600
Argentina	1 800	800	1 100	1 300	1 300
Paraguay	21	38	63	153	115
Brazil	10	1	93	121	75
India	41	37	33	41	50
Nigeria	50	50	50	50	50
Ukraine	72	66	36	37	45
Others	170	85	86	88	97
Subtotal	4 431	3 830	3 521	4 290	4 332
United States	7 387	2 965	5 964	2 295	5 400
World Total	11 818	6 795	9 485	6 585	9 732
Trade Year Imports					
China	10 991	4 863	8 341	5 531	7 500
European Union	167	38	16	259	500
Mexico	362	176	60	562	450
Brazil	14	17	55	140	100
Ethiopia	12	35	14	303	100
Kenya	79	152	24	151	75
Saudi Arabia	7	5	7	7	70
Japan	258	241	127	73	50
Somalia	50	50	50	50	50
Sudan	75	110	60	110	50
Others	515	401	626	501	387
Subtotal	12 530	6 088	9 380	7 687	9 332
Unaccounted	- 712	707	104	-1 103	399
United States	0	0	1	1	1
World Total	11 818	6 795	9 485	6 585	9 732

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 (TY 2025/26 corresponds to Jan - Dec 2026).

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), Grain: World Markets and Trade report, April 2026.

Table 1b: World Sorghum Production and Consumption Local Marketing Years, Thousand Metric Tons					
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 Apr
Production					
Nigeria	6 725	6 806	6 402	6 417	6 500
Brazil	3 120	4 789	4 426	6 102	5 200
India	4 150	3 814	4 737	6 000	4 300
Ethiopia	4 450	4 140	4 010	4 100	4 100
Mexico	4 840	4 892	4 540	4 200	3 800
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	2 496	2 853	2 900
Australia	2 648	2 638	2 215	2 685	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
Chad	896	967	878	720	950
Others	7 312	6 843	7 015	7 248	7 216
Subtotal	49 823	52 644	50 745	54 265	51 373
United States	11 375	4 770	8 071	8 734	11 096
World Total	61 198	57 414	58 816	62 999	62 469
Total Consumption					
China	14 300	7 900	11 300	8 500	10 700
Nigeria	6 650	6 750	6 400	6 400	6 425
Brazil	3 000	4 700	4 400	6 000	5 400
India	4 450	3 900	4 600	5 750	4 450
Ethiopia	4 650	4 250	4 050	4 300	4 300
Mexico	5 000	5 100	4 600	4 800	4 300
Sudan	3 700	5 200	3 250	3 400	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	1 110	1 650	1 500
European Union	948	552	795	1 040	1 344
Cameroon	1 215	1 210	1 215	1 230	1 220
Bolivia	650	850	1 750	1 000	1 000
Chad	950	975	915	780	925
Others	7 394	7 131	7 060	6 824	6 875
Subtotal	57 719	55 101	56 920	56 300	57 813
United States	3 175	2 585	1 912	6 066	5 463
World Total	60 894	57 686	58 832	62 366	63 276

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.

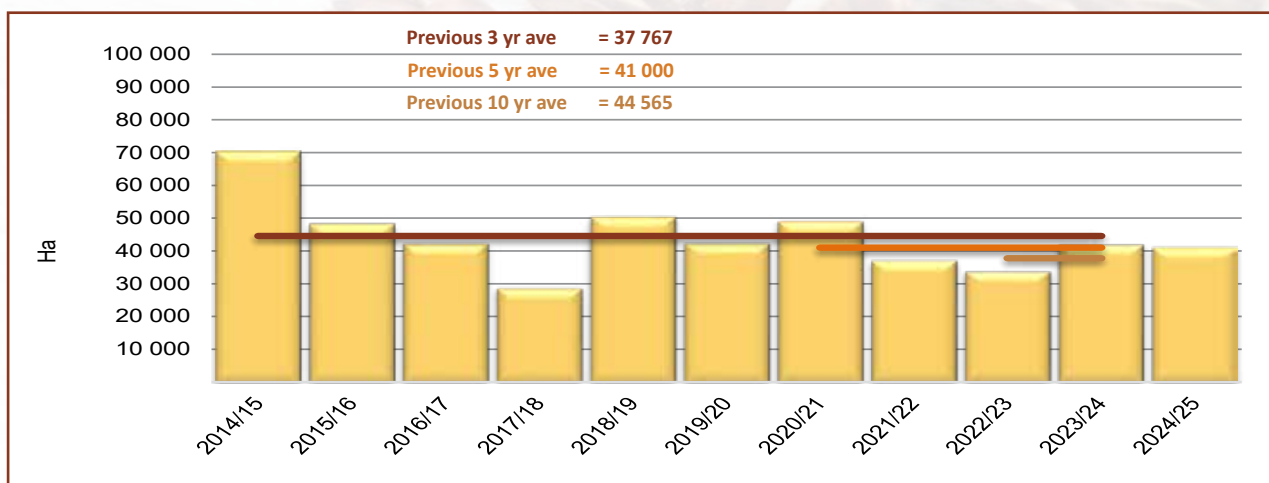
Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), Grain: World Markets and Trade report, April 2026.

The local production figure this season is the highest since the 2020/21 season's 215 000 tons. The local area utilised for sorghum production decreased slightly by 950 ha or 2.3% to 41 150 hectares. The national yield average increase of 1.32 t/ha, however compensated for the decline in area.

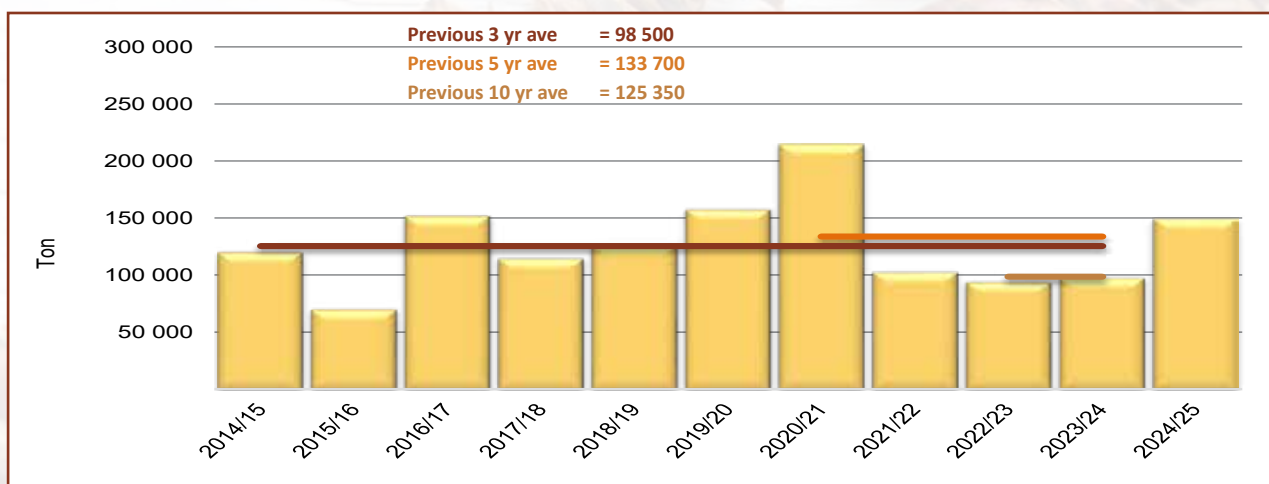
See Table 2 for an overview of sorghum production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2024/25 season, compared to the 2023/24 season. Graphs 2 to 4 provide national figures with regards to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained over the last 11 seasons. Graphs 5 to 10 on page 6 provide similar figures for the major sorghum producing provinces this season, namely the Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Table 2: Sorghum production over the last two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2024/25			2023/24		
		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	12 800	46 755	3.65	11 500	19 740	1.72
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	12 800	46 755	3.65	11 500	19 740	1.72
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	200	600	3.00	100	300	3.00
	Total	200	600	3.00	100	300	3.00
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	100	380	3.80	100	350	3.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	100	380	3.80	100	350	3.50
Mpumalanga	Dryland	9 200	45 080	4.90	8 300	36 520	4.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	9 200	45 080	4.90	8 300	36 520	4.40
Limpopo	Dryland	12 300	35 250	2.87	17 000	31 700	1.86
	Irrigation	700	2 450	3.50	1 000	3 400	3.40
	Total	13 000	37 700	2.90	18 000	35 100	1.95
Gauteng	Dryland	850	3 485	4.10	100	390	3.90
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	850	3 485	4.10	100	390	3.90
North West	Dryland	4 850	15 460	3.19	3 850	5 100	1.32
	Irrigation	150	540	3.60	150	500	3.33
	Total	5 000	16 000	3.20	4 000	5 600	1.40
RSA	Dryland	40 100	146 410	3.65	40 850	93 800	2.30
	Irrigation	1 050	3 590	3.42	1 250	4 200	3.36
	Total	41 150	150 000	3.65	42 100	98 000	2.33

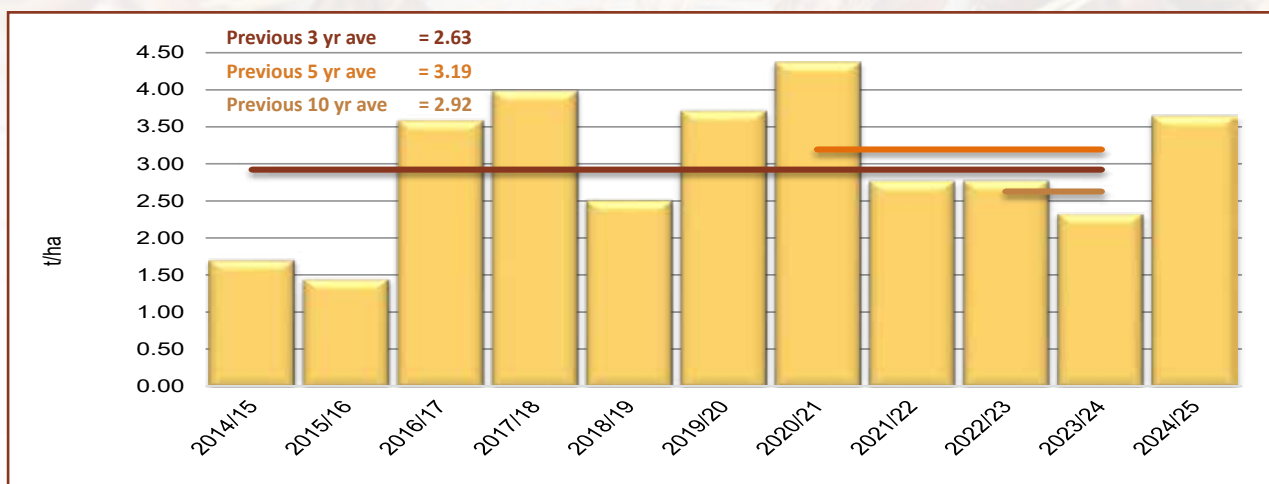
Figures provided by the CEC.



Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for sorghum production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

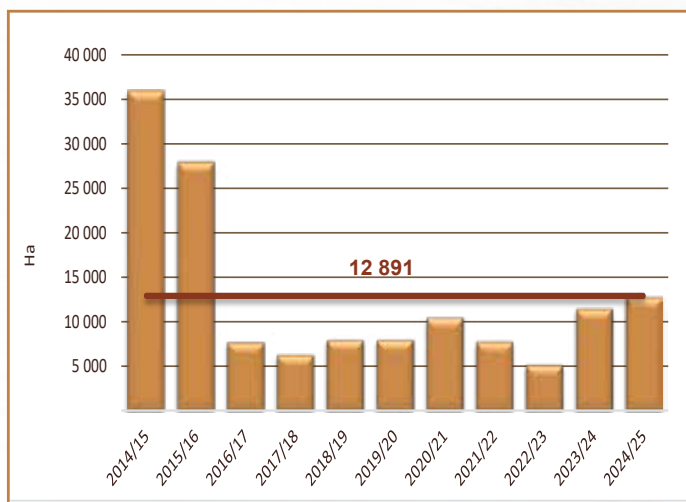


Graph 3: RSA Sorghum production from 2014/15 to 2024/25

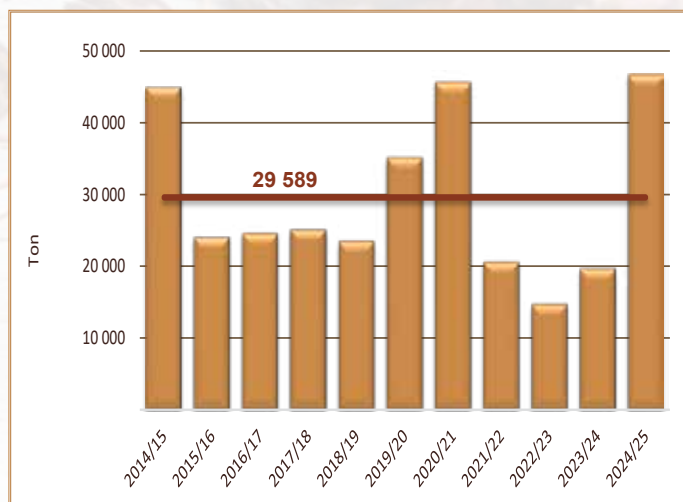


Graph 4: RSA Sorghum yield from 2014/15 to 2024/25

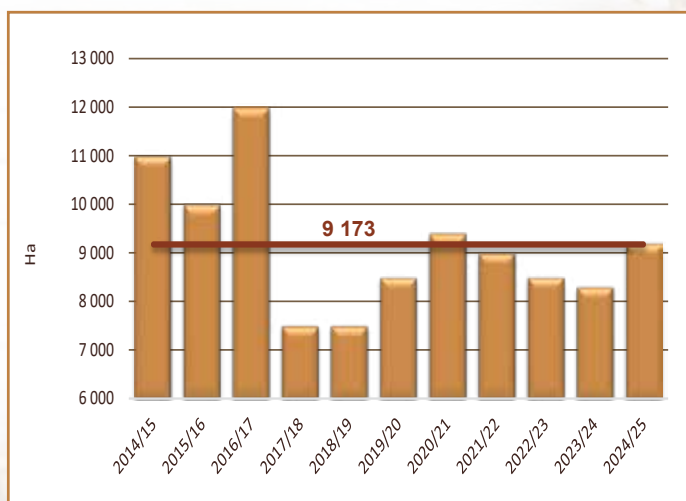
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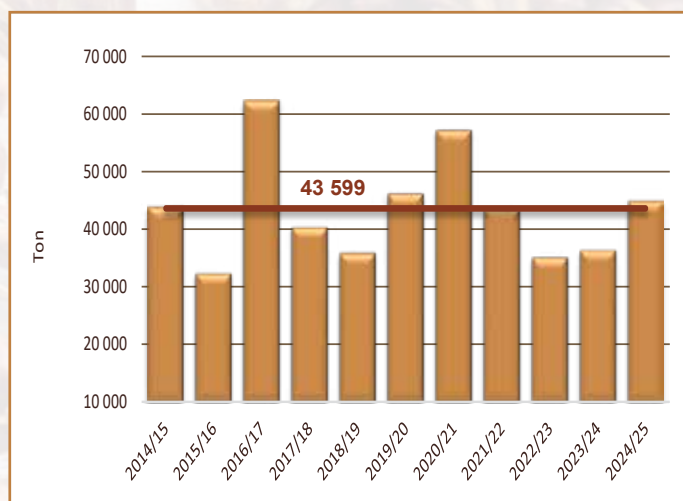
Graph 5: Area utilised for sorghum production in Free State since 2014/15



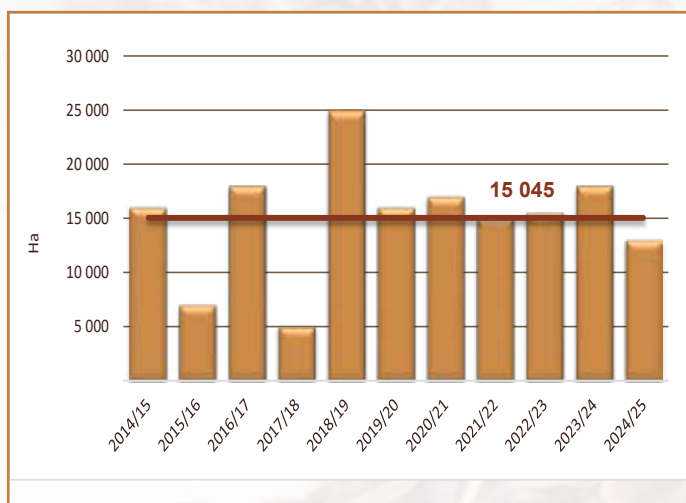
Graph 6: Sorghum production in Free State since 2014/15



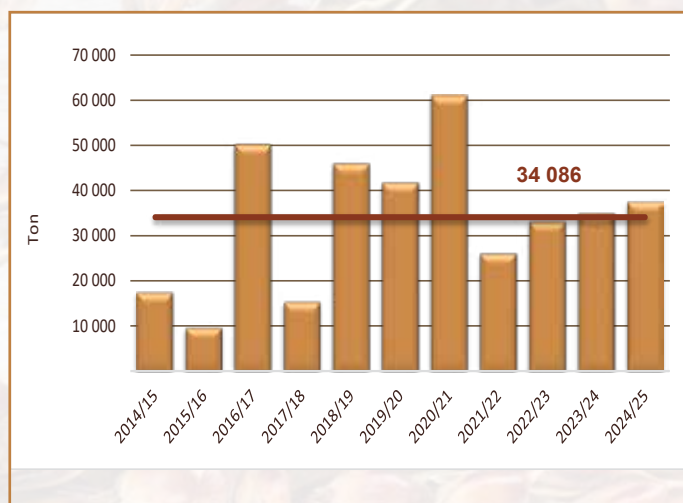
Graph 7: Area utilised for sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 8: Sorghum production in Mpumalanga since 2014/15



Graph 9: Area utilised for sorghum production in the Limpopo since 2014/15



Graph 10: Sorghum production in the Limpopo since 2014/15

Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average