

The local area utilised for sorghum production decreased by almost 16%, from 50 500 hectares in the 2018/19 season, to 42 500 hectares this season. However, as a result of the increased yield, the production figure is the highest since the 2013/14 season.

According to *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2020 – 2029*, when looking at the outlook for field crops, specifically summer grains and oilseeds, sorghum area is projected to expand by 28%, with most of this gain being achieved over the next three years. Yields are expected to improve by 6% in the next ten years to 2029. The historic failure of sorghum yield growth to keep up with alternative crops such as yellow maize, has been one of the reasons for consistent decline in area in the past.

Please see Table 2 for an overview of sorghum production under dry land conditions versus irrigation in the 2019/20 season, compared to the 2018/19 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 overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2019/20			2018/19		
		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	8 000	35 200	4.40	8 000	23 600	2.95
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8 000	35 200	4.40	8 000	23 600	2.95
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	1 200	4 200	3.50	500	1 500	3.00
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 200	4 200	3.50	500	1 500	3.00
Mpumalanga	Dryland	8 500	46 340	5.45	7 500	36 000	4.80
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	8 500	46 340	5.45	7 500	36 000	4.80
Limpopo	Dryland	15 350	39 350	2.56	24 650	44 625	1.81
	Irrigation	650	2 600	4.00	350	1 500	4.29
	Total	16 000	41 950	2.62	25 000	46 125	1.85
Gauteng	Dryland	265	795	3.00	1 000	3 200	3.20
	Irrigation	35	165	4.71	-	-	-
	Total	300	960	3.20	1 000	3 200	3.20
North West	Dryland	7 800	25 500	3.27	8 300	15 725	1.89
	Irrigation	700	3 850	5.50	200	850	4.25
	Total	8 500	29 350	3.45	8 500	16 575	1.95
RSA	Dryland	41 115	151 385	3.68	49 950	124 650	2.50
	Irrigation	1 385	6 615	4.78	550	2 350	4.27
	Total	42 500	158 000	3.72	50 500	127 000	2.51

Figures provided by the CEC.