

According to The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2019 – 2028, when looking at the outlook for field crops, specifically summer grains and oilseeds, the smallest yield improvement is evident for sorghum, which is in line with past trends. Failure of yield growth to keep up with alternative crops such as yellow maize, can be ascribed as 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 2018/19 season, compared to the 2017/18 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 Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Free State.

Table 2: Sorghum production overview over two seasons							
Province	Type of production	2018/19			2017/18		
		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	23 600	2.95	6 000	23 600	3.93
	Irrigation	-	-	-	300	1 600	5.33
	Total	8 000	23 600	2.95	6 300	25 200	4.00
Eastern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	500	1 500	3.00	500	2 200	4.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	500	1 500	3.00	500	2 200	4.40
Mpumalanga	Dryland	7 500	36 000	4.80	7 500	40 500	5.40
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	7 500	36 000	4.80	7 500	40 500	5.40
Limpopo	Dryland	24 650	44 625	1.81	5 000	15 500	3.10
	Irrigation	350	1 500	4.29	-	-	-
	Total	25 000	46 125	1.85	5 000	15 500	3.10
Gauteng	Dryland	1 000	3 200	3.20	1 500	4 950	3.30
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 000	3 200	3.20	1 500	4 950	3.30
North West	Dryland	8 300	15 725	1.89	7 700	25 050	3.25
	Irrigation	200	850	4.25	300	1 600	5.33
	Total	8 500	16 575	1.95	8 000	26 650	3.33
RSA	Dryland	49 950	124 650	2.50	28 200	111 800	3.96
	Irrigation	550	2 350	4.27	600	3 200	5.33
	Total	50 500	127 000	2.51	28 800	115 000	3.99

Figures provided by the CEC.