

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 as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seeds products, are also included.

The 2019/20 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in Potchefstroom, is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. R.370 of 21 April 2017 are also provided.

Production

Soybeans are the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa, driven mainly by the demand for protein feed in the animal feed industry. Soybeans have benefits to producers in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture, but also due to lower input requirements compared to other commodities for example wheat and maize.

Table 1: Soybean 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	-	-	-	100	10	0.10
	Total	-	-	-	100	10	0.10
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 550	5 425	3.50
	Total	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 550	5 425	3.50
Free State	Dryland	304 000	486 750	1.60	292 800	368 350	1.26
	Irrigation	11 000	33 000	3.00	8 200	22 950	2.80
	Total	315 000	519 750	1.65	301 000	391 300	1.30
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 300	2 300	1.77	1 150	1 380	1.20
	Irrigation	200	700	3.50	-	-	-
	Total	1 500	3 000	2.00	1 150	1 380	1.20
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	22 000	56 000	2.55	20 000	47 000	2.35
	Irrigation	13 000	45 500	3.50	13 000	52 000	4.00
	Total	35 000	101 500	2.90	33 000	99 000	3.00
Mpumalanga	Dryland	252 000	390 000	1.55	297 000	470 000	1.58
	Irrigation	8 000	26 000	3.25	13 000	41 500	3.19
	Total	260 000	416 000	1.60	310 000	511 500	1.65
Limpopo	Dryland	2 700	4 350	1.61	2 800	4 980	1.78
	Irrigation	12 800	43 700	3.41	13 400	42 000	3.13
	Total	15 500	48 050	3.10	16 200	46 980	2.90
Gauteng	Dryland	34 000	63 200	1.86	28 500	56 550	1.98
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	3 000	9 600	3.20
	Total	36 000	10 200	1.95	31 500	66 150	2.10
North West	Dryland	30 000	51 000	1.70	29 200	27 500	0.94
	Irrigation	10 000	29 000	2.90	6 800	21 100	3.10
	Total	40 000	80 000	2.00	36 000	48 600	1.35
RSA	Dryland	646 000	1 053 600	1.63	671 450	975 760	1.45
	Irrigation	59 000	191 900	3.25	59 050	194 585	3.30
	Total	705 000	1 245 000	1.77	730 500	1 170 345	1.60

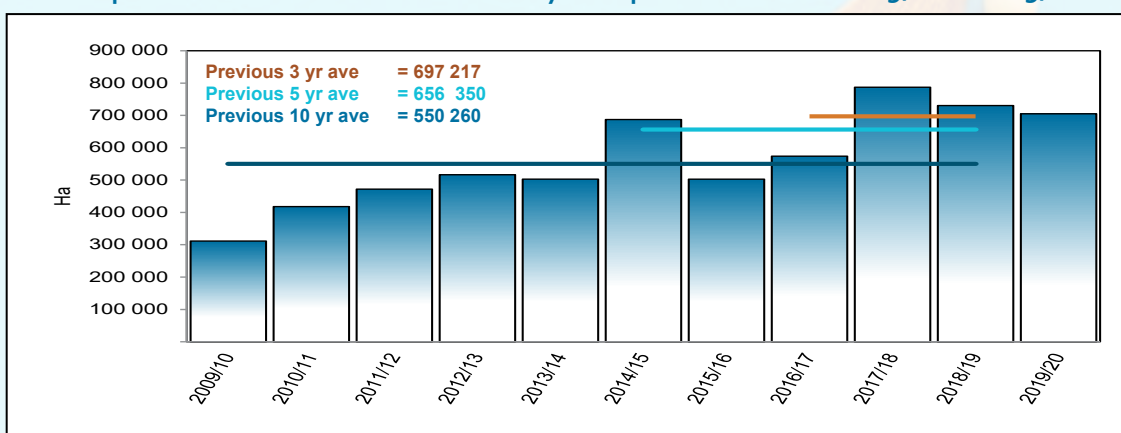
Figures provided by the CEC.

Compared to the 2018/19 production season, the area utilised for commercial soybean crop production decreased by just more than 3% (25 500 hectares). Both the area planted as well as the production figure, are the third highest figures on record. The average national yield increased by almost 11% to 1.77 t/ha.

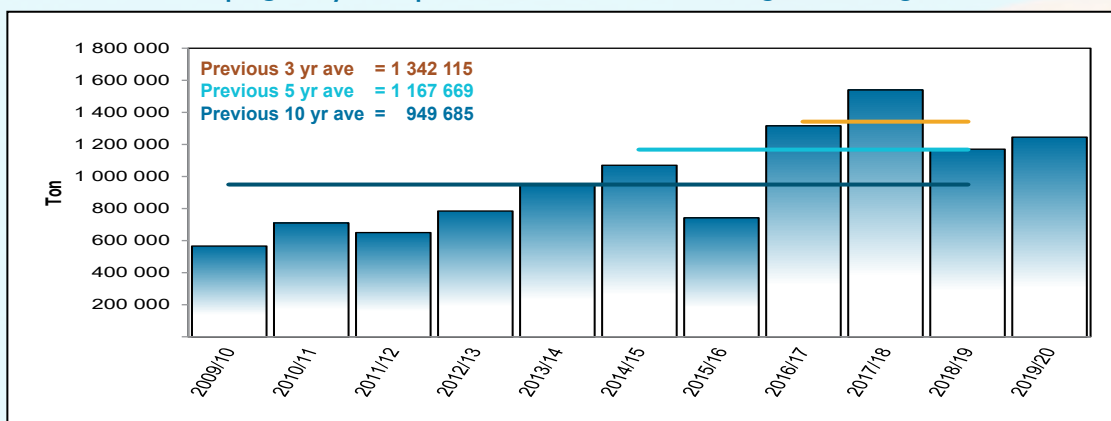
According to the *BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2020 – 2029*, the area cultivated to soybeans is projected to continue increasing, expanding by 47% over the ten-year period to 2029. A substantial share of further area expansion is expected in the western regions, traditionally considered to be more marginal with regards to soybean production. The national average yield is nevertheless still projected to increase by 13% relative to the base period, as the introduction of the breeding technology levy, is expected to incentivise seed companies to make the latest technology available to South African producers.

Soybeans account for more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE – 610)* an estimated 339.00 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2019/20 season. Brazil, the United States and Argentina are the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production during the 2020/21 season is projected to be 361.82 million metric tons.

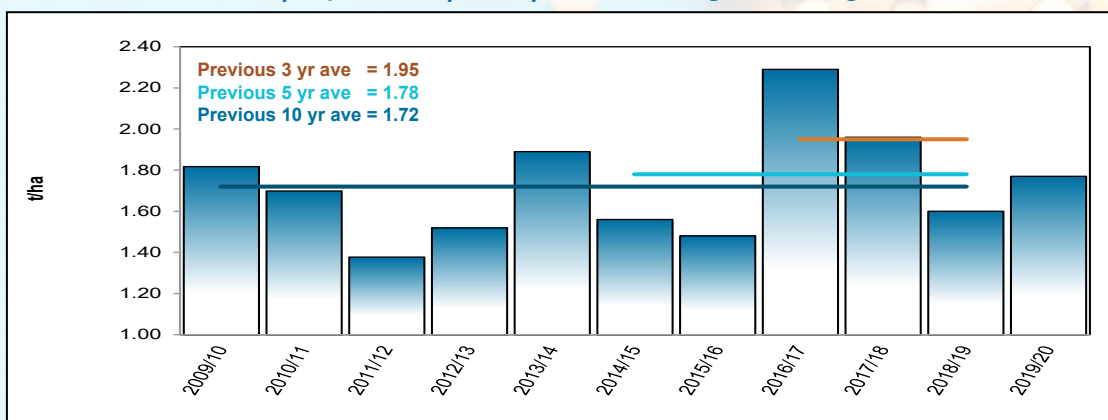
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2009/10 to 2019/20



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2009/10 to 2019/20

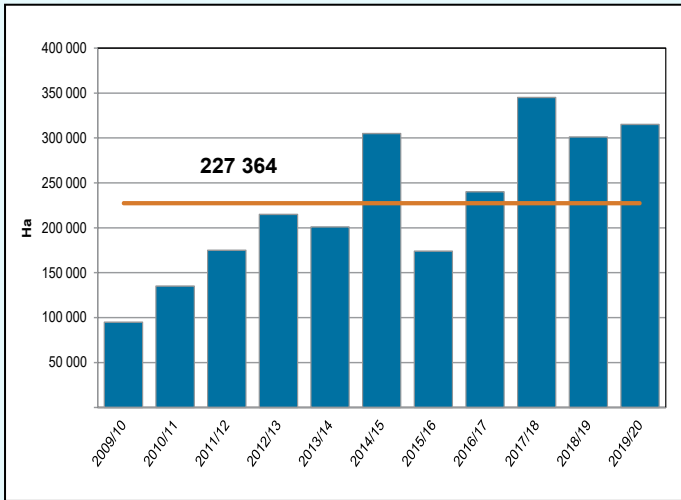


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2009/10 to 2019/20

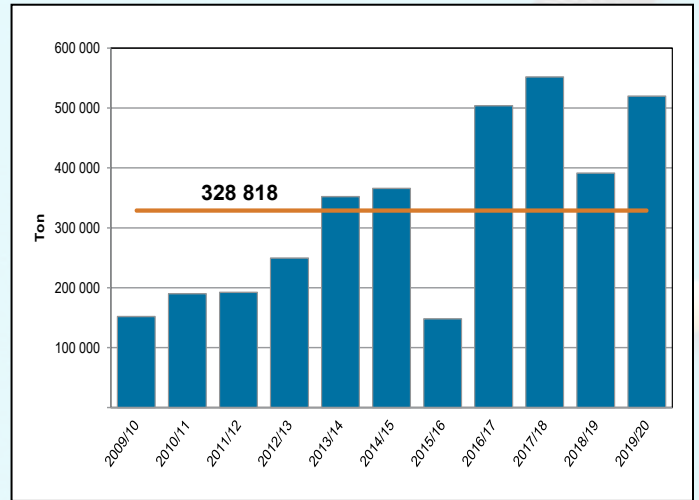


Figures provided by the CEC.

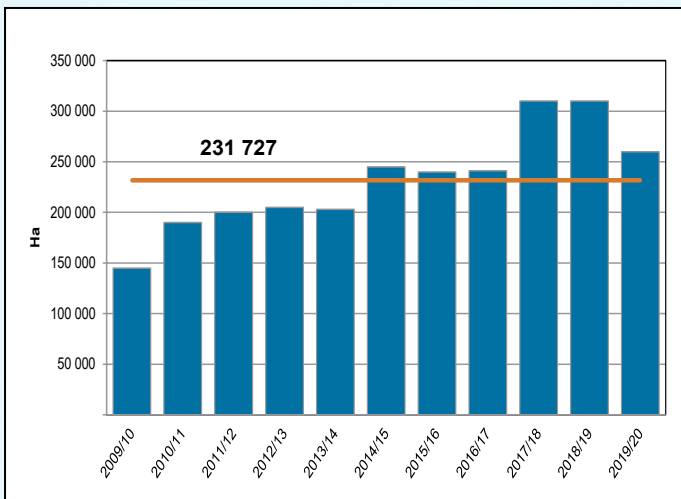
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2009/10



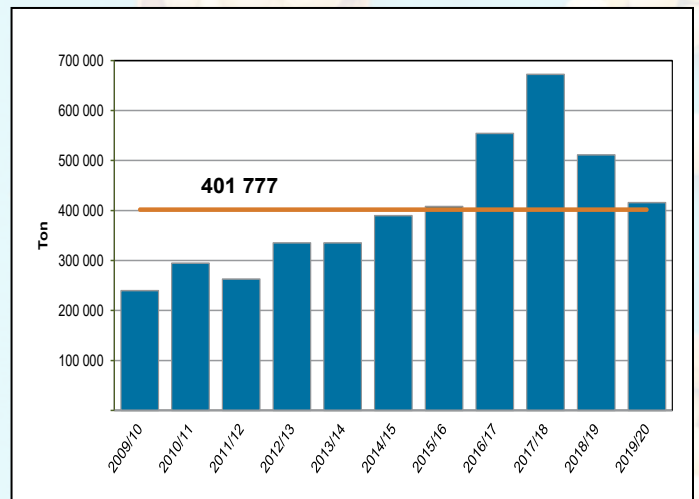
Graph 6: Soybean production in the Free State since 2009/10



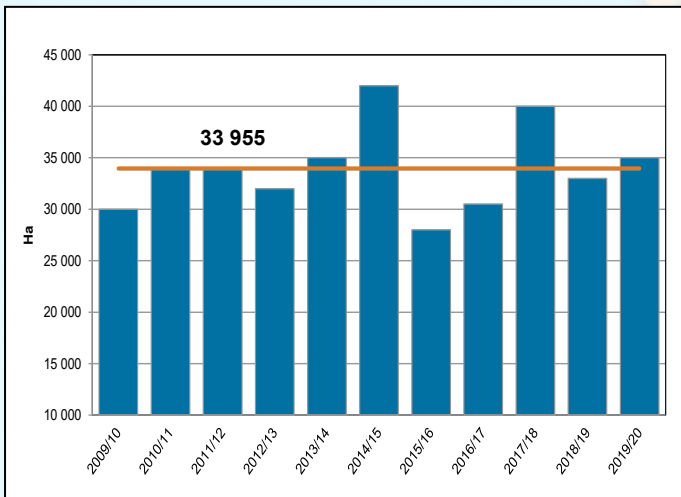
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2009/10



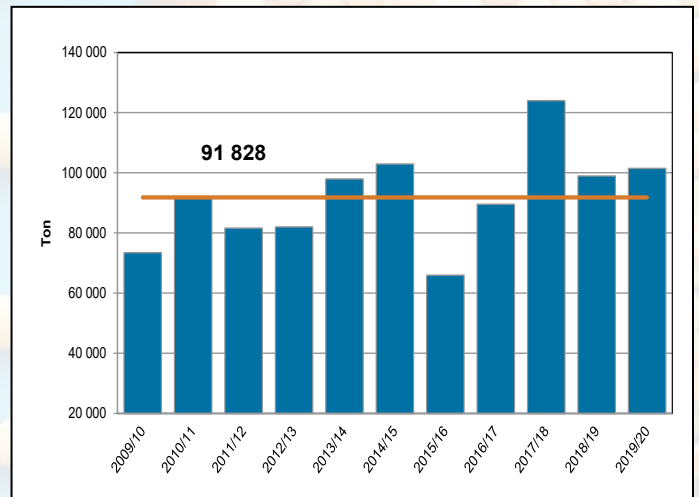
Graph 8: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2009/10



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2009/10



Graph 10: Soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2009/10



Figures provided by the CEC.

— Eleven season average