distributed to all Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.

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 2018/19 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.

Table1: Soybean 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	100	10	0.10	800	1 200	1.50
	Total	100	10	0.10	800	1 200	1.50
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	1 550	5 425	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
	Total	1 550	5 425	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
Free State	Dryland	292 800	368 350	1.26	330 500	508 500	1.54
	Irrigation	8 200	22 950	2.80	14 500	43 500	3.00
	Total	301 000	391 300	1.30	345 000	552 000	1.60
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 150	1 380	1.20	2 400	2 900	1.21
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1 150	1 380	1.20	2 400	2 900	1.21
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	20 000	47 000	2.35	26 300	75 000	2.85
	Irrigation	13 000	52 000	4.00	13 700	49 000	3.58
	Total	33 000	99 000	3.00	40 000	124 000	3.10
Mpumalanga	Dryland	297 000	470 000	1.58	298 000	632 000	2.12
	Irrigation	13 000	41 500	3.19	12 000	40 700	3.39
	Total	310 000	511 500	1.65	310 000	672 700	2.17
Limpopo	Dryland	2 800	4 980	1.78	6 000	10 000	1.67
	Irrigation	13 400	42 000	3.13	14 000	44 000	3.14
	Total	16 200	46 980	2.90	20 000	54 000	2.70
Gauteng	Dryland	28 500	56 550	1.98	27 000	51 000	1.89
	Irrigation	3 000	9 600	3.20	3 000	10 500	3.50
	Total	31 500	66 150	2.10	30 000	61 500	2.05
North West	Dryland	29 200	27 500	0.94	28 000	38 000	1.36
	Irrigation	6 800	21 100	3.10	8 000	23 200	2.90
	Total	36 000	48 600	1.35	36 000	61 200	1.70
RSA	Dryland	671 450	975 760	1.45	718 200	1 317 400	1.83
	Irrigation	59 050	194 585	3.30	69 000	222 600	3.23
	Total	730 500	1 170 345	1.60	787 200	1 540 000	1.96

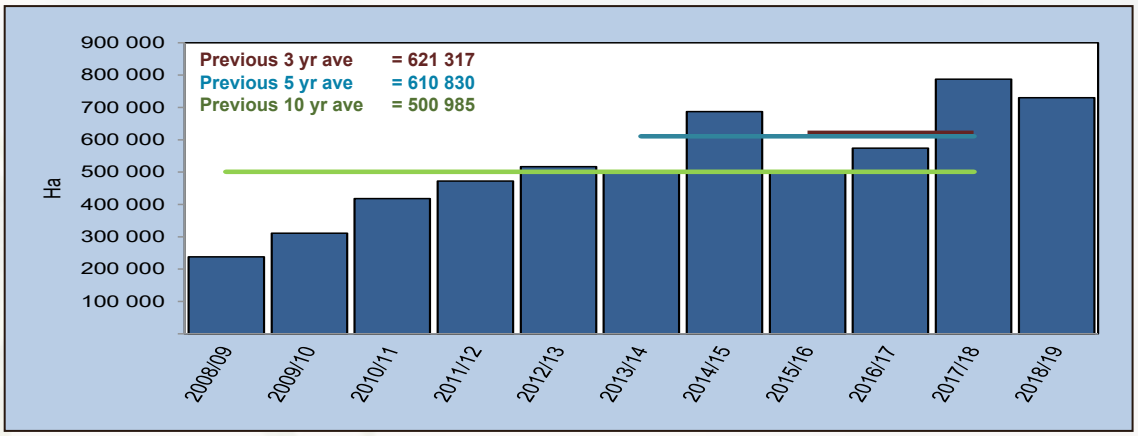
Figures provided by the CEC.

Compared to the 2017/18 production season, the commercial soybean crop production and area planted decreased by 24% and 7% respectively. Although both figures decreased, compared to the previous season, the area planted is still the second and the production figure the third highest figures on record. The average national yield decreased by 18% to 1.60 t/ha.

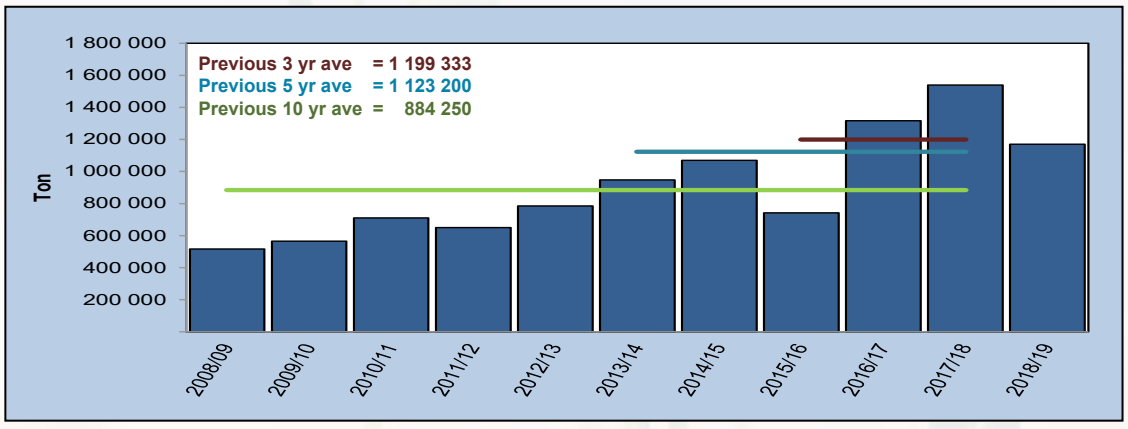
According to the BFAP Baseline, Agricultural Outlook 2019 – 2028, the area cultivated to soybeans is projected to continue increasing, expanding by 68% over the ten-year period to 2028. Where area expansion is substantial, particularly for soybeans, yield gains are less, as the expansion rate implies that some of the more marginal areas will enter production. Yield gains are based on the assumption of stable rainfall and continuously improving cultivars. The introduction of improved soybean cultivars is expected to accelerate, following the introduction of the breeding technology levy.

Soybeans account for more than half of the world oilseed production. According to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report (WASDE – 598)* an estimated 358.65 million metric tons of soybeans were produced during the 2018/19 season. The United States, Brazil and Argentina are the biggest contributors to this total. The world soybean production during the 2019/20 season is projected to be 341.76 million metric tons.

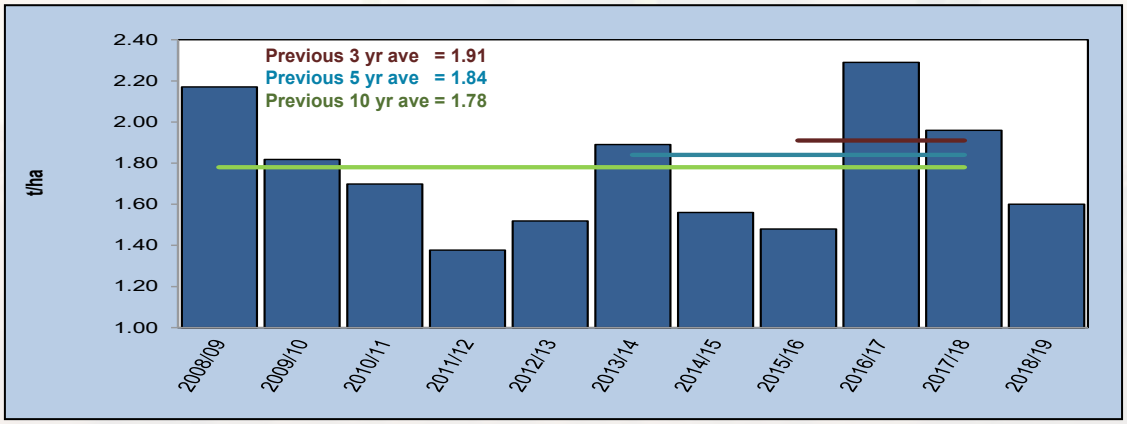
Graph 2: Total RSA area utilised for soybean production from 2008/09 to 2018/19



Graph 3: Soybean production in RSA from 2008/09 to 2018/19

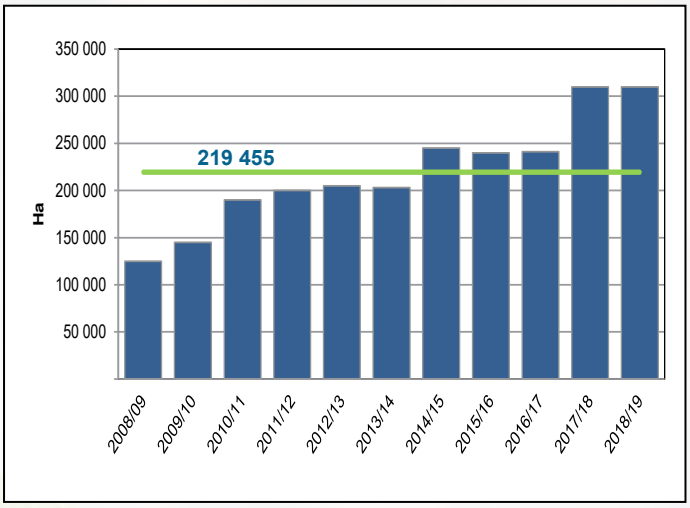


Graph 4: RSA soybean yield from 2008/09 to 2018/19

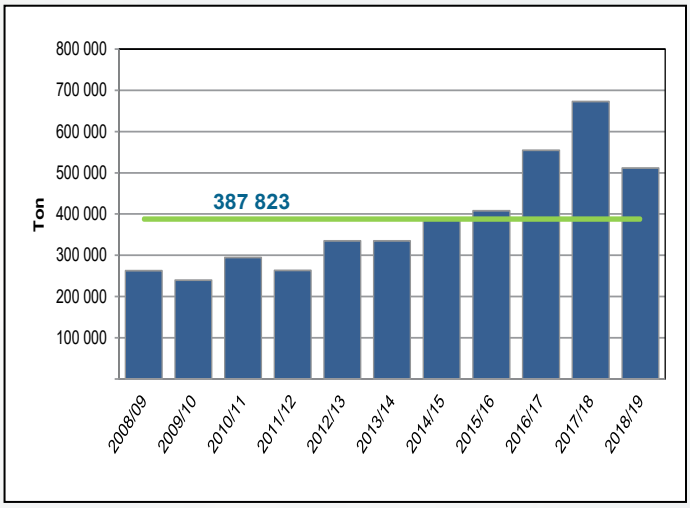


Figures provided by the CEC.

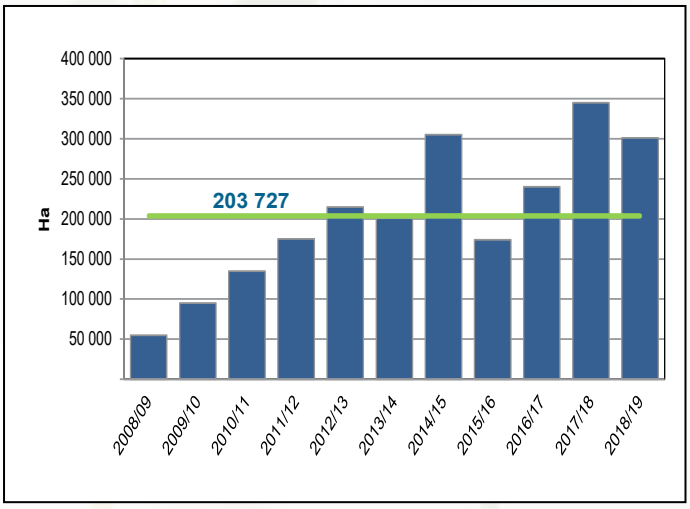
Graph 5: Area utilised for soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2008/09



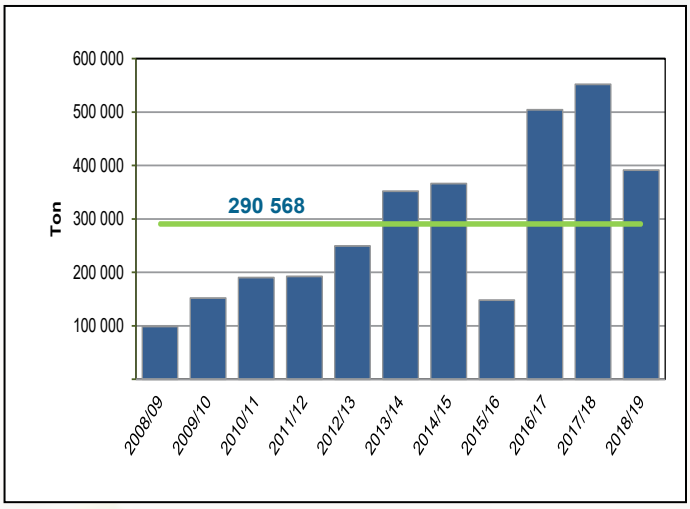
Graph 6: Soybean production in Mpumalanga since 2008/09



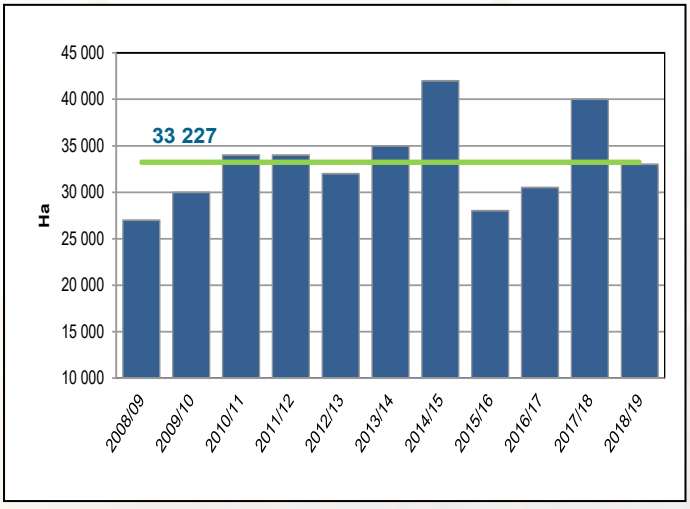
Graph 7: Area utilised for soybean production in the Free State since 2008/09



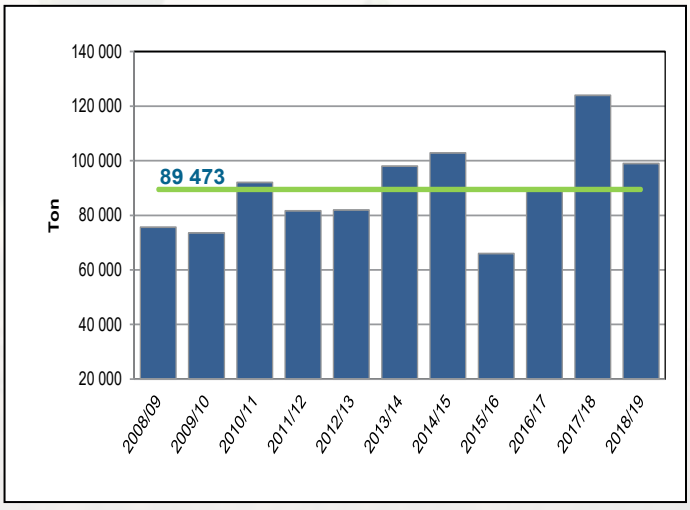
Graph 8: Soybean production in the Free State since 2008/09



Graph 9: Area utilised for soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2008/09



Graph 10: Soybean production in KwaZulu-Natal since 2008/09



Figures provided by the CEC.

Eleven season average