

AAGWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series

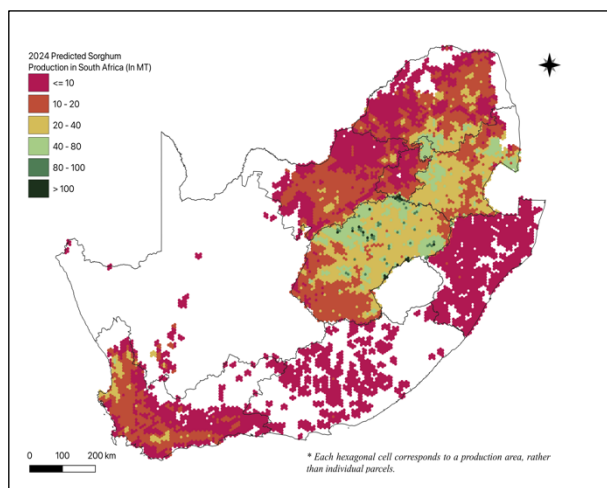
South Africa – Sorghum

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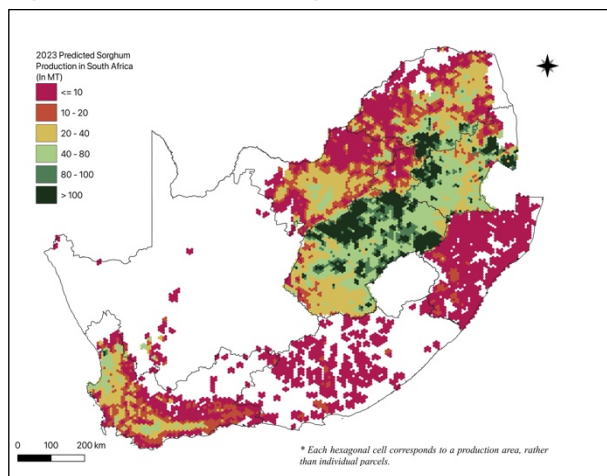
The crop production forecast brief series by AKADEMIYA2063's Africa Agriculture Watch (AAGWa) aims to provide more accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for ten major crops across nearly 50 African countries. The timeliness, wide availability, and easy access to this type of data will allow stakeholders across the value chain to better plan and execute policy and business actions more efficiently. The data published in the briefs are generated through the Africa Crop Production (AfCP) model, an Artificial Intelligence (AI-based) model applied to remotely sensed geo-biophysical data to produce estimates at pixel as well as administrative levels as early as the beginning of every growing season. In Brief 145, we provide forecasts on sorghum production in South Africa.

Figure 1. South Africa 2024 Sorghum production forecast.



Data source: Africa Agriculture Watch (www.aagwa.org).

Figure 2. South Africa 2023 Sorghum production forecast.



Data source: Africa Agriculture Watch (www.aagwa.org).

In 2024, sorghum production in South Africa is projected to decline by 53% compared to 2023, with an annual production of 126,101 metric tons (MT). However, the most significant sorghum production levels are expected in the Eastern and Southern districts, particularly in Thabo Mofutsanyane (Free State), Lejweleputswa (Free State), Fezile Dabi (Free State), Gert Sibande (Mpumalanga), and Xhariep (Free State) with production levels estimated at 15,861 MT, 14,841 MT, 10,764 MT, 10,050 MT, and 8,385 MT, respectively. In contrast, lower production values are observed in Siyanda (Northern Cape), John Taolo Gaetsewe (Northern Cape), Pixley ka Seme (Northern Cape), O.R.Tambo (Eastern Cape), and Frances Baard (Northern Cape), with production of respectively, 14 MT, 14 MT, 21 MT, 21 MT, and 23 MT.

Moreover, the highest sorghum production declines in 2024 are expected to occur in areas such as Thabo Mofutsanyane, Lejweleputswa, Fezile Dabi, Gert Sibande, and Nkangala (Mpumalanga), with differences of respectively -25,333 MT, -24,617 MT, -17,415 MT, -12,528 MT, and -11,177 MT. These correspond to changes of -61%, -62%, -62%, -55%, and -61%, respectively.

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Annex – 2024 South Africa Sorghum Production Forecast at District level

Provinces	Districts	2024 Production (MT)	2023 Production (MT)	Difference (MT)	Change (%)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	81	86	-5	-6%
Eastern Cape	Amathole	282	284	-2	-1%
Eastern Cape	Buffalo City	0	0	0	
Eastern Cape	Cacadu	1033	844	189	22%
Eastern Cape	Chris Hani	592	513	78	15%
Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi	244	246	-2	-1%
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay	27	23	4	17%
Eastern Cape	O.R.Tambo	21	7	14	188%
Free State	Fezile Dabi	10764	28179	-17415	-62%
Free State	Lejweleputswa	14841	39458	-24617	-62%
Free State	Mangaung	3074	7947	-4874	-61%
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyane	15861	41194	-25333	-61%
Free State	Xhariep	8385	18195	-9809	-54%
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg	106	93	14	15%
Gauteng	City of Tshwane	752	1115	-363	-33%
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni	514	945	-430	-46%
Gauteng	Sedibeng	754	1807	-1053	-58%
Gauteng	West Rand	624	1119	-495	-44%
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	446	259	187	72%
KwaZulu-Natal	eThekweni	40	23	17	74%
KwaZulu-Natal	iLembe	147	38	109	289%
KwaZulu-Natal	Sisonke	509	713	-204	-29%
KwaZulu-Natal	Ugu	230	80	150	187%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umgungundlovu	481	619	-138	-22%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umkhanyakude	511	24	487	2040%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umzinyathi	415	239	176	74%
KwaZulu-Natal	Uthukela	519	481	38	8%
KwaZulu-Natal	Uthungulu	262	31	231	738%
KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand	685	130	555	427%
Limpopo	Capricorn	2154	3746	-1592	-42%
Limpopo	Mopani	2630	4599	-1968	-43%
Limpopo	Sekhukhune	4884	11610	-6726	-58%
Limpopo	Vhembe	2261	3245	-984	-30%
Limpopo	Waterberg	5649	9393	-3745	-40%
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	5713	12357	-6644	-54%
Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande	10050	22578	-12528	-55%
Mpumalanga	Nkangala	7297	18474	-11177	-61%
North West	Bojanala	2126	2971	-845	-28%
North West	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	2580	5023	-2444	-49%
North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi				
North West	Mompati	3034	4937	-1903	-39%
North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema	3858	6557	-2699	-41%
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	23	57	-34	-60%
Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe	14	7	8	120%
Northern Cape	Namakwa	500	634	-135	-21%
Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme	21	11	10	91%
Northern Cape	Siyanda	14	0	14	inf
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	2307	3561	-1253	-35%
Western Cape	Central Karoo	518	458	60	13%



Western Cape	City of Cape Town	147	167	-20	-12%
Western Cape	Eden	2149	3053	-904	-30%
Western Cape	Overberg	1836	3196	-1360	-43%
Western Cape	West Coast	4136	7839	-3703	-47%
Total		126101	269165	-143063	-53%

MT (Metric tons): 1 MT is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms.

Change: refers to the relative difference and is calculated as (2024 prod – 2023 prod) divided by 2023 prod.

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