

AAGWa Crop Production Forecasts Brief Series

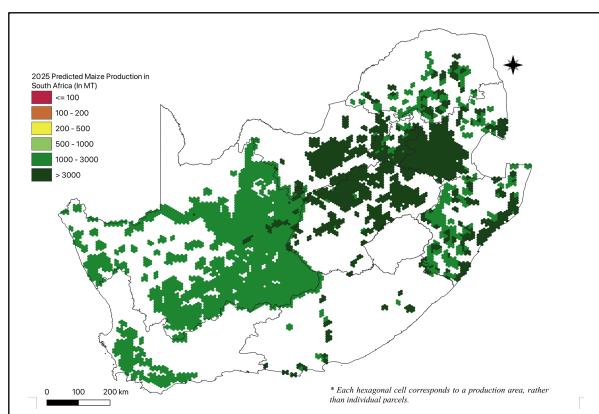
South Africa – Maize

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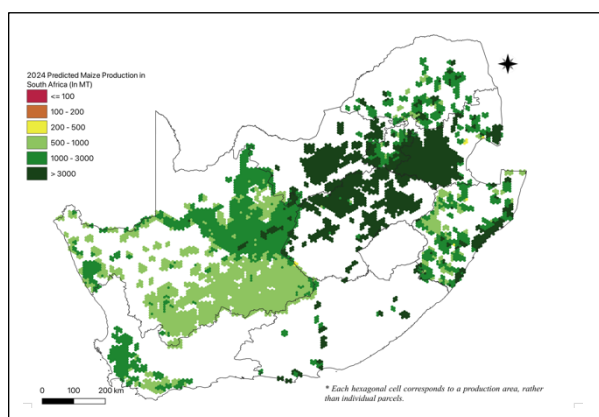
The crop production forecast brief series by AKADEMIYA2063's Africa Agriculture Watch (AAGWa) aims to provide more accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for 11 major crops across nearly 50

Figure 1. South Africa 2025 Maize Production Forecast.



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

Figure 2. South Africa 2024 Maize Production Forecast.



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

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 geobiophysical data to produce estimates at pixel as well as administrative levels as early as the beginning of every growing season. In Brief 260, we provide forecasts on maize production in South Africa.

In 2025, maize production in South Africa is projected to reach 15,301,067 metric tons (MT), corresponding to a 3% increase over 2024 production levels. The highest maize production values are expected in the Eastern and Northern districts such as in Pixley ka Seme (Northern Cape), Gert Sibande (Mpumalanga), Lejweleputswa (Free State), Ngaka Modiri Molema (North West), and Thabo Mofutsanyane (Free State), with production levels estimated at 2,277,513 MT, 1,399,579 MT, 1,339,502 MT, 1,221,246 MT, and 1,112,852 MT, respectively. In comparison, lower production values are observed in Nelson Mandela Bay (Eastern Cape), Vhembe (Limpopo), Alfred Nzo (Eastern Cape), City of Cape Town (Western Cape), and eThekweni (KwaZulu-Natal), with production of, respectively, 3,850 MT, 10,747 MT, 10,779 MT, 13,082 MT, and 14,091 MT.

Moreover, the most significant maize production increases in 2025 are expected in different areas such as Pixley ka Seme, Namakwa (Northern Cape), Siyanda (Northern Cape), John Taolo Gaetsewe (Northern Cape), and Uthukela (KwaZulu-Natal), with increases of respectively 941,044 MT, 505,294 MT, 194,374 MT, 78,377 MT, and 49,988 MT. These correspond to changes of 70%, 123%, 49%, 34%, and 64%.

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Annex – 2025 South Africa Maize Production Forecast at District Level

Provinces	Districts	2025 Production (MT)	2024 Production (MT)	Difference (MT)	Change (%)
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	10779	8989	1791	20%
Eastern Cape	Cacadu	71827	73770	-1943	-3%
Eastern Cape	Chris Hani	64893	52228	12665	24%
Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi	23602	18581	5021	27%
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay	3850	4453	-603	-14%
Eastern Cape	O.R.Tambo	17878	19916	-2038	-10%
Free State	Fezile Dabi	777586	968349	-190764	-20%
Free State	Lejweleputswa	1339502	1706901	-367399	-22%
Free State	Mangaung	78860	93853	-14993	-16%
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyane	1112852	1383275	-270423	-20%
Free State	Xhariep	127897	144743	-16846	-12%
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg	28944	22089	6854	31%
Gauteng	City of Tshwane	143774	141336	2438	2%
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni	171394	187633	-16239	-9%
Gauteng	Sedibeng	118131	121357	-3227	-3%
Gauteng	West Rand	164127	174919	-10793	-6%
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	73256	51057	22199	43%
KwaZulu-Natal	eThekwini	14091	13381	710	5%
KwaZulu-Natal	iLembe	87429	106445	-19016	-18%
KwaZulu-Natal	Sisonke	185960	146118	39842	27%
KwaZulu-Natal	Ugu	74482	70549	3933	6%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umgungundlovu	182035	163592	18443	11%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umkhanyakude	96592	101061	-4470	-4%
KwaZulu-Natal	Umzinyathi	70810	57396	13414	23%
KwaZulu-Natal	Uthukela	127622	77634	49988	64%
KwaZulu-Natal	Uthungulu	133090	146541	-13450	-9%
KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand	81398	74768	6630	9%
Limpopo	Capricorn	94204	80146	14058	18%
Limpopo	Mopani	112732	111208	1524	1%
Limpopo	Sekhukhune	161919	147907	14012	9%
Limpopo	Vhembe	10747	10904	-157	-1%
Limpopo	Waterberg	152352	148921	3432	2%
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	216796	226613	-9817	-4%
Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande	1399579	1564297	-164718	-11%
Mpumalanga	Nkangala	788177	915617	-127440	-14%
North West	Bojanala	221306	271822	-50516	-19%
North West	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	374859	471225	-96367	-20%
North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi				
North West	Mompati	234166	267160	-32995	-12%
North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1221246	1545609	-324364	-21%
Northern Cape	Frances Baard	434107	400206	33901	8%
Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe	310036	231658	78377	34%
Northern Cape	Namakwa	914867	409573	505294	123%
Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme	2277513	1336468	941044	70%
Northern Cape	Siyanda	591919	397545	194374	49%
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	104991	73210	31780	43%
Western Cape	Central Karoo	24470	9283	15187	164%
Western Cape	City of Cape Town	13082	9380	3702	39%
Western Cape	Eden	33284	21834	11450	52%



Western Cape	Overberg	87516	46117	41399	90%
Western Cape	West Coast	138539	95107	43432	46%
Total		15301067	14922748	378319	3%

MT (Metric tons): 1 MT is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms.
Change: refers to the relative difference and is calculated as (2025 prod – 2024 prod) divided by 2024 prod.

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