Kingdom of Lesotho

Bureau of Statistics

Statistical Report

NO …… of 2019

2018/2019 Crop Forecasting Report

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Mission: To coordinate the National Statistical System(NSS) and produce accurate, timely and reliable culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence-based planning, decision making, research, policy, program formulation and monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the needs of users and producers.

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Technical Note

- Farming Household is an economic unit of Agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size.
- Production is defined as overall crop-output obtained from the area planted.
- Yield is production per area harvested.
- Availability of cereals includes; previous stock attained in the past Agricultural Year, production of the current year, cereals purchased by the households and those received as gifts and incoming exchange of cereals with other commodities.
- Total utilization refers to the quantity of cereals used by households inclusive of the stock available in a Marketing Year. Utilization of cereals consists of sales of cereals and those given to friends or relatives, outgoing exchange with other commodities, other uses (seeds, animal feeds) and current stock available at the date of interview.

Preface

In this publication the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) reports on the crop forecasts of two major crops: Maize, Sorghum and actual estimates of Wheat for 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. Crop forecasting is a process of estimating the most likely yield or production of a crop on the basis of known facts at the time of making the forecast. Assumptions used for forecasts are based on conditions such as weather, damage by pests, production of crops between date of forecast and final harvest. Crop forecasting is based on a sub-sample of the on-going annual Agricultural Production Survey (APS). A maximum of five fields for each crop per Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) constituted the sample for the crop forecasting exercise that covered summer season only.

The results of this survey are expected to inform Government planners, policy makers and the private sector with forecasted crop production so as to make informed and effective decisions concerning availability of food in the country and to make timely and necessary preparations in the event of a likely food deficit or surplus.

I would like to pay special thanks to Agriculture and Food Security Statistics Division (AFSSD) and BOS Field Organization staff for their valuable contribution during data collection, processing, analysis and report writing.

Gratitude is due to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their support during data collection and to households who were selected for Crop Forecasting without whose participation, understanding and patience, this task would not have been easy to achieve.

M. Molato

Director of Statistics

Executive Summary

Crop forecasting is a process of estimating the most likely yield and production of crop on the basis of known facts at the time of forecasting. Assumptions used for forecast are based on conditions such as weather and damage by pests. The other important assumption is that there is no change in production of crops between date of forecast and final harvest.

This report is divided into six sections. Section One is the introduction, elaborating on the background of crop forecasting and the uses of crop forecasts. Methodological issues such as sampling procedures, coverage and data collection are dealt with in Section Two. Section Three presents the findings of the 2018/2019 Crop Forecasting Survey.

The findings revealed that area planted to maize, sorghum and wheat for 2018/2019 was 44,296, 15,539 and 9,926 hectares (ha) respectively. Yield of maize is estimated at 0.78 metric tons per hectare (mt/ha), sorghum at 0.33 and wheat at 1.74 mt/ha. Production of wheat for 2018/2019 Agricultural Year is estimated at 8,366mt while maize and sorghum production is expected to be 34,734mt and 1,013mt respectively.

Considering the availability and utilization of cereals in the farming households in the past marketing year (2018/2019) and the expected consumption in the current year (2018/2019) as well as the 2017/2018 Agricultural year forecasts, the farming households will have a deficit of 819mt of maize, 7,726mt of sorghum and the surplus of 2,522mt of wheat.

1.0 Introduction

Lesotho has been undertaking Agricultural Production Survey (APS) annually since 1973/1974 Agricultural Year. The APS estimates are usually available by the end of October for summer and winter crops. In addition to APS, the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) conducts Crop Forecasting Survey (CFS) as early as April every year. The main purpose of the forecasts is to inform the planners and policy makers about the expected crop production in order to make effective decisions concerning availability of food in the country and to make necessary preparations if there is shortage of food.

Crop forecasting is a process of estimating the most likely yield and production of cereals on the basis of known facts at the time of making the forecast. Assumptions used for forecast are based on conditions such as weather and damage by pests. Forecasts assume that there is no change in production of crops between date of forecasting and final harvest.

It should be noted that crop forecasting is undertaken at the time when wheat is being harvested, therefore, the results will reflect the final production estimates. Normally, the results of Maize and Sorghum from the CFS, though are subject to sampling error, do not differ much from those of the actual APS. The report also includes total availability and utilization of cereals.

1.1 Uses of Crop Forecasts

- Government requires information in advance regarding production as it is an important factor in measuring national income. In countries which are not self-sufficient in food like Lesotho, forecasts of local farmers' production are needed to ascertain the quantities of cereals needed in the country for the following agricultural year.
- Crop Forecasts can be used by public and the private sectors dealing with agriculture for providing the necessary storage adjustments and for making available credit on the basis of crop prospects or forecasts.
- Production forecasts are essential to inform all users in the forecasting of prices of agricultural inputs and forecasts on household's food security.

2.0 Sampling procedure and coverage

A stratified multi-stage sampling scheme was adopted for the selection of the sample for the APS. Large enumeration areas constituted Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) and individual agricultural holdings (farming households) constituted Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs) for the estimation of land use, crop areas and livestock population. Fields under Maize, Sorghum and wheat formed the third sampling unit for the estimation of crop yield. Two sub-plots for crop cutting in each selected field formed the ultimate units for yield estimation. About 100 PSUs in the rural areas that covered about 2,000 farming households were selected. A maximum of five fields, each for Maize, Sorghum and their mixtures per PSU constituted the sample for the crop forecasting exercise that covered summer season only. Wheat which had already reached its maturity stage covers 10 fields per PSU following the APS sampling procedure. The PSUs have been selected with probability proportional to size, the size estimate being the number of households being obtained from the 2016 Population and Housing Census. In each PSU, an average of 20 agricultural households was selected through systematic sampling from a list of all agricultural households.

2.1 Data collection

The crop forecasting data collection exercise for the Agricultural Year 2018/2019 was carried out during the last two weeks of April and first week of May 2019 throughout the country. Data was collected by BOS enumerators under close supervision of Field Officers, Senior Field Officers and Statisticians.

3.0 The Survey Findings

This section presents forecasts of Maize and Sorghum as well as actual estimates of Wheat production. Area planted and yield is used to estimate production. Area planted is measured in hectares (ha) and yield is measured in metric tons per hectare (mt/ha). Yield is considered high when it is in the range of 1.00mt/ha and above, regarded average at 0.50mt/ha and poor when it is below average. The overall area planted to all crops in the country has decreased from 277,708ha of the previous year to 70,785ha in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. The expected overall yield estimates for Maize, Sorghum and Wheat is 0.78mt/ha, 0.33mt/ha and 1.74mt/ha respectively. The forecasting estimates are valid until October when the actual harvest estimates are released.

3.1 Maize

Section 3.1 covers area planted, production and yield forecasts of Maize in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. Area planted, yield and production of Maize are shown in Table 1. Total area (44,296ha) planted to Maize had decreased by 102,037ha from the previous agricultural year.

Maize yield for 2018/2019 is expected to be 0.78mt/ha. The highest yield is expected in Leribe with 1.35mt/ha followed by Berea with 1.26mt/ha. Maize production is expected to decrease by 29,918mt from 64,652mt of the previous year.

Table 1: Area Planted, Yield and Production of Maize by District for 2018/2019 Agricultural Year

District	Area Planted (ha)	Yield(mt/ha)	Production(mt)
Botha-Bothe	1,267	0.58	737
Leribe	9,661	1.35	13,020
Berea	6,984	1.26	8,788
Maseru	7,810	0.63	4,947
Mafeteng	3,642	0.60	2,172
Mohale's Hoek	2,675	0.19	514
Quthing	1,037	0.07	72
Qacha's Nek	1,407	0.01	11
Mokhotlong	4,742	0.52	2,465
Thaba-Tseka	5,071	0.40	2,008
Lesotho	**44,296**	**0.78**	**34,734**

3.1.1 Trend of Area Planted to Maize

Trend of Area planted to Maize for a period of five years (2014/2015 to 2018/2019) is shown in Table 2. Total area planted to Maize had been fluctuating throughout these years. There was a decline of 34.2 percent from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016. A drastic increase from 73,506ha to 174,500ha was observed from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017. Another decline from 174,500ha to 44,296ha was observed From 2016/2017, to 2018/2019.

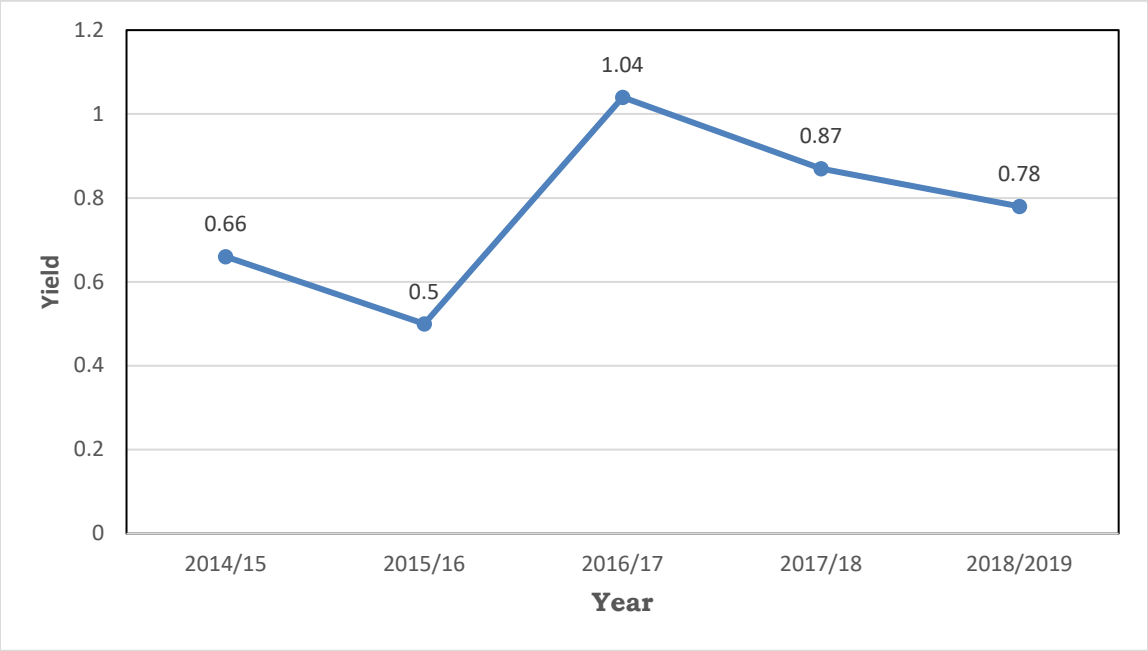
Table 2: Area Planted (ha) to Maize by District, 2014/2015 - 2018/2019 Agricultural Year

District	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Botha- Bothe	4,765	2,451	9,461	7,632	1267
Leribe	18,937	10,685	33,629	27,259	9,661
Berea	13,705	9,942	22,172	20,516	6,984
Maseru	22,177	13,781	33,624	21,881	7,810
Mafeteng	19,269	4,449	21,095	20,848	3,642
Mohale'sHoek	9,671	6,042	15,383	12,062	2,675
Quthing	4,438	2,934	5,315	5,623	1,037
Qacha's Nek	2,301	4,387	10,125	3,858	1,407
Mokhotlong	6,901	9,882	9,879	10,114	4,742
Thaba- Tseka	9,475	8,953	13,818	16,521	5,071
Lesotho	**111,640**	**73,506**	**174,500**	**146,313**	**44,296**

3.1.2 Trend of Maize Yield

A trend of Maize yield for a period of five years (2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years) is illustrated in Figure1. A decrease of 24.2 percent was noticed from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016 Agricultural Year. A sharp increase of 108 percent was noted in 2016/2017. In 2017/2018, a decline of 16.3 percent is noticed. Another decrease of 10.3 percent from the previous year was observed in 2018/2019.

Figure 1: Trend of Maize Yield (mt/ha), 2014/2015 - 2018/2019 Agricultural Years



3.1.3 Maize Production Trend

Maize production trend is compared for a period of five consecutive years. Table 3 presents actual Maize production from 2014/2015 to 2017/2018 Agricultural Years and 2018/2019 forecasts by district.

Maize production decreased by 70.8 percent from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016. An increase of 153,484mt was observed from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017 followed by 36.3 percent decrease in 2017/2018. Another decline of (68.4 percent) is expected in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year.

Table 3 : Maize Production (mt) by District, 2014/2015 - 2017/2018 Agricultural Years and 2018/2019 Forecasts

	Actuals				Forecasts
District	**2014/2015**	**2015/2016**	**2016/2017**	**2017/2018**	**2018/2019**
Botha-Bothe	3,343	1,284	7,838	11,651	737
Leribe	18,849	3,748	39,454	21,374	13,020
Berea	6,476	528	33,398	23,308	8,788
Maseru	14,873	3,710	37,738	21,069	4,947
Mafeteng	3,001	649	9,606	9,789	2,172
Mohale'sHoek	4,068	1,551	18,819	2,791	514
Quthing	1,911	609	4,003	1,708	72
Qacha's Nek	396	1,191	4,108	3,493	11
Mokhotlong	8,197	3,742	7,730	8,030	2,465
Thaba-Tseka	4,523	2,170	9,972	6,698	2,008
Lesotho	**65,636**	**19,182**	**172,666**	**109,912**	**34,734**

3.2 Sorghum

This section covers area planted, yield and production of Sorghum. Table 4 presents area planted, yield and production of Sorghum by District in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. The total area planted for Sorghum was estimated at 15,539ha and had decreased from 88,999ha of the previous Agricultural Year. Leribe experienced the highest area (9,292ha) planted to Sorghum followed by Maseru and Berea with 1,433ha and 1,399ha respectively.

Sorghum yield in 2018/2019 is forecasted to be 0.33mt/ha. The forecasts revealed that Quthing is expected to have the highest yield of 0.12mt/ha .Sorghum production is estimated to be 1,013mt. Leribe is expected to have the highest Sorghum production of 702mt followed by Thaba-Tseka with 79mt.

Table 4: Area Planted, Yield and Production of Sorghum by District, 2018/2019 Agricultural Year

District	Area Planted (ha)	Yield(mt/ha)	Production(mt)
Botha-Bothe	257	0.02	5.3
Leribe	9,292	0.08	702
Berea	1,399	0.04	56
Maseru	1,433	0.05	69
Mafeteng	550	0.06	35
Mohale's Hoek	622	0.02	10
Quthing	359	0.12	43
Qacha's Nek	279	0.00	0
Mokhotlong	224	0.07	15
Thaba-Tseka	1,123	0.07	79
Lesotho	**15,539**	**0.33**	**1,013**

3.2.1 Trend of Area Planted to Sorghum

Table 5 shows area planted to Sorghum in hectares from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years. Area planted to Sorghum from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016 decreased by 6925ha. An increase was seen in 2016/2017 (46,591ha) followed by a decrease of 32,918ha in 2017/2018. Another decrease of 15,539mt is also expected in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year.

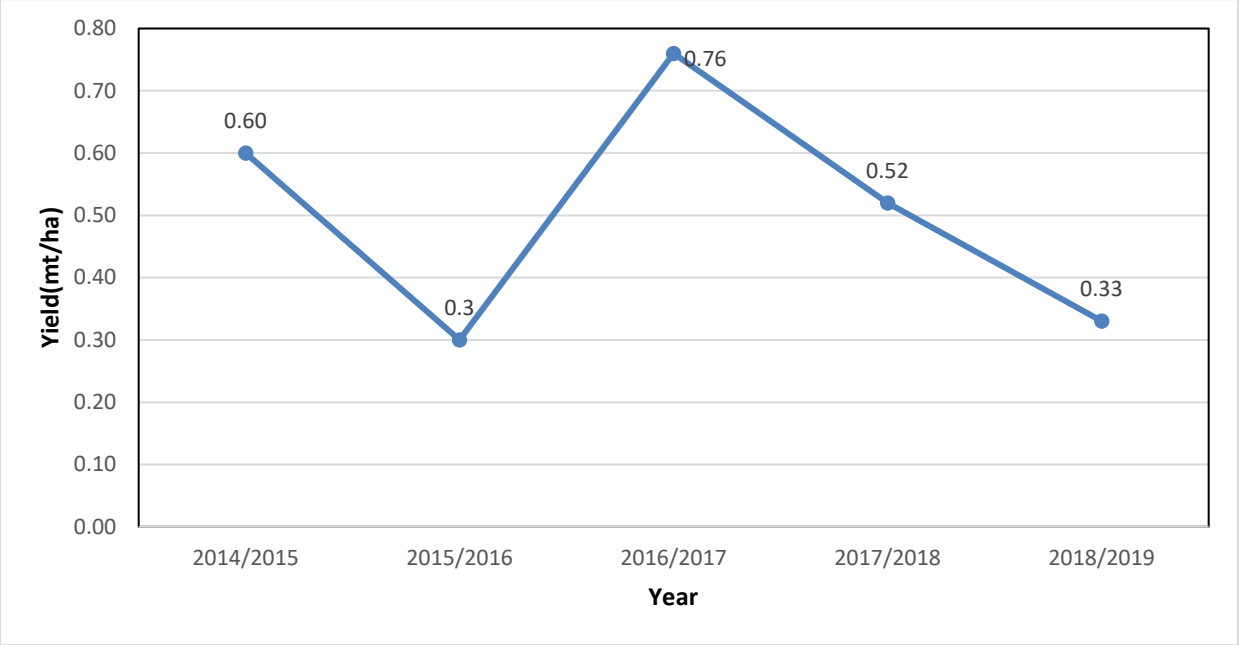
Table 5: Area Planted (ha) to Sorghum by District, 2014/2015 - 2018/2019 Agricultural Years

District	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Botha- Bothe	671	13	2,407	2,325	257
Leribe	2,129	1,804	6,910	6,483	9292
Berea	2,062	395	5,423	3,077	1399
Maseru	2,787	3,033	8,616	6,737	1433
Mafeteng	2,379	1,481	5,742	3,054	550
Mohale'sHoek	3,513	1,061	5,777	6,226	622
Quthing	1,763	395	2,673	1,933	359
Qacha's Nek	265	0	1,922	171	279
Mokhotlong	318	268	665	793	224
Thaba- Tseka	1,458	1,972	6,455	2120	1123
Lesotho	**17,346**	**10,421**	**46,591**	**32,918**	**15,539**

3.2.2 Trend of Sorghum Yield

Figure 2 depicts Sorghum yield from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years. In 2018/2019 yield is expected to decrease from 0.52mt/ha to 0.33mt/ha. Sorghum Yield decreased by 50 percent from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016. There was an increase of 153 percent increase from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017 followed by a decrease of 31.6 percent from 2016/2017 to 2017/2018. There was another decrease of 36.6 percent from 2017/2018 to 2018/2019.

Figure 2: Trend of Sorghum Yield (mt/ha), 2014/2015 -2018/2019 Agricultural Years



3.2.3 Sorghum Production Trend

Table 6 illustrates actual Sorghum production from 2014/2015 to 2017/2018 Agricultural Year and 2018/2019 forecasts by district.

Sorghum Production shows a decrease from 9,529mt in 2014/2015 to 1,159mt in 2015/2016 Agricultural Years. However, an increase was experienced from 2016/2017 (33,858mt) to 2017/2018 (40,335mt). In 2018/2019 Agricultural Year, Sorghum production is expected to be 1,013mt

Table 6: Sorghum Production (mt) by District, 2014/2015 - 2017/2018 Agricultural Year and 2018/2019 Forecasts

District	Actual				Forecasts
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Botha-Bothe	223	2	948	588	5.3
Leribe	1,894	57	5,981	4,280	702
Berea	846	2	6,516	2,292	56
Maseru	2,025	643	7,063	25,309	69
Mafeteng	1,193	20	2,147	1,737	35
Mohale'sHoek	1,998	266	3,986	4,018	10
Quthing	841	10	2,834	1,024	43
Qacha's Nek	55	0	696	23	0
Mokhotlong	273	16	411	585	15
Thaba-Tseka	180	143	3,275	479	79
Lesotho	**9,529**	**1,159**	**33,858**	**40,335**	**1,013**

3.3 Wheat

Area planted, yield and production for Wheat are discussed in section 3.3. Table 7 presents area planted, yield and production of Wheat for 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. Area planted to Wheat was 9,926ha. The highest area planted to Wheat was observed in Berea (5,682ha). Yield for Wheat was 1.74mt/ha in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year. Mafeteng recorded the highest yield of 1.45mt/ha, followed by Berea with 1.22mt/ha. Wheat production was 8,366mt and Berea recorded the highest production of 6,763mt.

Table 7: Area Planted, Yield and Production of Wheat by District, 2018/2019 Agricultural Year

District	Area Planted	Yield	Production
Botha- Bothe	27	0.00	0
Leribe	333	0.60	122
Berea	5,682	1.22	6,763
Maseru	628	0.71	131
Mafeteng	121	1.45	54
Mohale's Hoek	327	0.01	25
Quthing	27	0.35	5
Qacha's Nek	200	0.33	51
Mokhotlong	940	1.15	1,060
Thaba-Tseka	1,640	0.18	153
Lesotho	**9,926**	**1.74**	**8,366**

3.3.1 Trend of Area Planted to Wheat

Table 8 shows area planted to wheat in hectares from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years. Total Area planted to Wheat has been fluctuating throughout the years. There was an increase of 79.7 percent in 2015/2016. A decrease of 11.0 percent is observed in 2017/2018 Agricultural Year. In 2018/2019, a decrease of 4 percent is noted.

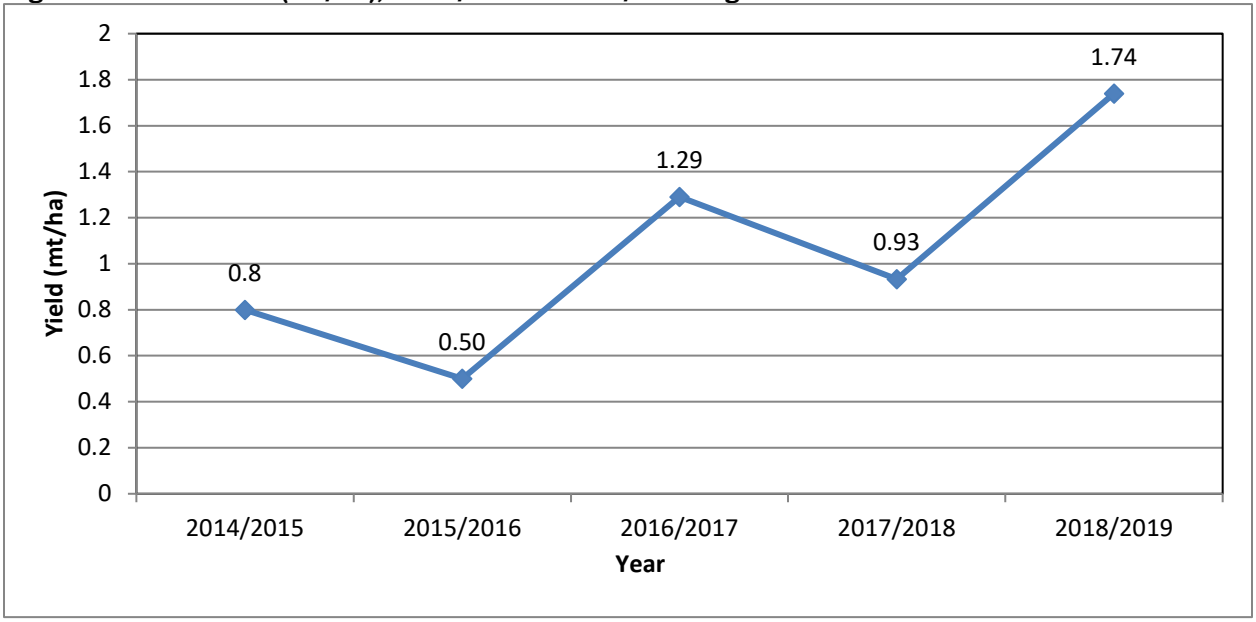
Table 8: Area Planted (ha) tor Wheat from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years

District	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Botha- Bothe	396	126	270	341	27
Leribe	1,055	880	2,045	2,205	333
Berea	0	200	870	403	5,682
Maseru	729	2,844	1,446	1,445	628
Mafeteng	320	315	830	0	121
Mohale'sHoek	589	1,809	793	300	327
Quthing	861	1,523	897	615	27
Qacha's Nek	637	940	1,014	316	200
Mokhotlong	2,745	2,690	1,661	2,483	940
Thaba- Tseka	1,661	4,831	2,237	2,233	1,640
Lesotho	**8,992**	**16,160**	**12,064**	**10,341**	**9,926**

3.3.2 Trend of Wheat Yield

Figure 3 portrays a trend of Wheat yield from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years. Wheat yield decreased by 37.5 percent 2015/2016 Agricultural Year. In 2016/2017, it increased to 1.29mt/ha. A decrease of 27.6 percent is noted in 2017/2018. An increase of 86.4 percent was observed in 2018/2019 Agricultural Year.

Figure 3: Wheat Yield (mt/ha), 2014/2015 - 2018/2019 Agricultural Years



3.3.3 Trend of Wheat Production

The section covers a trend of Wheat production from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019. Table 9 presents Wheat production by district from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years. Wheat production decreased by 38 percent from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016 Agricultural Year. However there was an increase to 10,028mt in 2016/2017. In 2017/2018, a decrease of 29.7 percent was noted. In 2018/2019 Agricultural Year, an increase of 18.6 percent was observed.

Table 9: Wheat Production (mt) by District, 2014/2015 to 2018/2019 Agricultural Years

District	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Botha-Bothe	227	0	161	128	0
Leribe	855	396	777	319	122
Berea	0	26	570	0	6,763
Maseru	422	532	711	143	131
Mafeteng	252	1	148	0	54
Mohale'sHoek	294	932	1,464	135	25
Quthing	914	115	848	176	5
Qacha's Nek	192	1	470	1,576	51
Mokhotlong	,2511	1,044	3,742	3,139	1,060
Thaba-Tseka	1,403	1,339	1,136	1,436	153
Lesotho	**7,069**	**4,386**	**10,028**	**7,052**	**8,366**

Annex

Area Planted (ha) to all crops by District and Zone, 2017/2018 Agricultural

District	Zone	MAIZE	WHEAT	SORGHUM	Beans	Peas	Other Mixture	Barley	Other Crops	Fallow
Botha-Bothe	Lowlands	394	9	160	84	0	0	0	0	1402
	Foothills	349	0	97	0	0	0	0	0	381
	Mountains	524	18	0	0	23	0	30	1	4
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1267	**27**	257	**84**	**23**	**0**	**30**	**1**	**1788**
Leribe	Lowlands	5110	57	8641	664	0	10	52	0	9861
	Foothills	1405	0	487	175	0	15	29	20	2295
	Mountains	3146	242	165	38	70	0	116	28	151
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	9661	**299**	9292	**878**	**70**	**26**	**196**	**48**	**12306**
Berea	Lowlands	4966	0	707	338	70	521	0	9	9134
	Foothills	2017	0	692	0	0	199	0	0	1179
	Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	6984	**0**	1399	**338**	**70**	**720**	**0**	**9**	**10312**
Maseru	Lowlands	2035	0	368	1049	0	0	0	4	13528
	Foothills	4370	0	1065	0	0	221	0	27	2325
	Mountains	1406	199	0	0	84	0	199	84	292
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	**7810**	**199**	**1433**	**1049**	**84**	**221**	**199**	**115**	**16145**
Mafeteng	Lowlands	3268	0	215	959	0	0	34	0	15397
	Foothills	375	0	335	0	0	0	0	0	1947
	Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	**3642**	**0**	**550**	**959**	**0**	**0**	**34**	**0**	**17344**
Mohale's Hoek	Lowlands	1403	0	266	144	0	0	0	0	4429
	Foothills	216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	544
	Mountains	124	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	247
	SRV	933	0	253	72	0	0	0	0	5082
	Total	**2675**	**0**	**622**	**215**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10303**
Quthing	Lowlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Foothills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mountains	654	0	190	95.552	4.635	0	0	0	971.96
	SRV	383	27.2	169	31.83	0	0	0	0	841.15
	Total	**1037**	**27.2**	**359**	**127.38**	**4.635**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1813.1**
Qacha's Nek	Lowlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Foothills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mountains	723	200	60	179.04	18.181	0	8.612	0	601.98
	SRV	684	0	219	21.833	0	0	13.708	0	160.69
	Total	1407	200	279	200.87	18.181	0	22.32	0	762.66
Mokhotlong	Lowlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Foothills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mountains	4742	939.8	224	647.67	155.08	0	61.897	112.68	1664.7
	SRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	4742	**939.8**	224	**647.67**	**155.08**	**0**	**61.897**	**112.68**	**1664.7**
Thaba-Tseka	Lowlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Foothills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mountains	3947	1553.2	206	164.42	71.751	0	406.93	108.72	2678
	SRV	1125	86.353	917	55.347	0	0	10.235	82.241	281.49
	Total	**5071**	**1639.6**	**1123**	**219.76**	**71.751**	**0**	**417.16**	**190.96**	**2959.5**
Lesotho		**44296**	**3332**	**15539**	**4718**	**496**	**966**	**961**	**476**	**75398**