

PRODUCTION CONDITION REPORT

24 February 2026



Gewas toestand
Crop Condition



Klimaat
Climate



Vergelyk
Compare



Opbrengs potensiaal
Production potential



Gewas opkoms
Greenup



Kaarte
Maps



Verslae
Report

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Definitions

- **Soil Water Index (SWI):** This represents an overview of the soil water percentage throughout the growing season. It compares three periods: the current season, the previous season, and the 5-year average. This average serves as a baseline, indicating typical soil water conditions.
- **Green Leaf Indicator (GLI):** Values over the growing season, illustrating the patterns of crop growth during the season.
- **Greenup:** Shows the current crop emergence progress compared to the 5-year average.

All the 2025/26 season data is from 1 July 2025 to 24 February.

Optimal planting dates

Gewas/Crop	Region							
	KZN	Mpumalanga & Gauteng	Limpopo	Oos-Vrystaat (VKB)	Oos Vrystaat (OVK)	Noordwes Vrystaat	Noordwes	Noord Kaap
Maize	1 Oct -30 Nov	1 Oct - 15 Nov	1 Nov - 31 Dec	1 Oct - 15 Nov	1 Oct - 30 Nov	15 Nov - 15 Dec	15 Nov - 15 Dec	1 Oct - 15 Dec
Soybean	1 Oct - 7 Dec	1 Nov - 7 Dec	1 Nov - 20 Dec	1 Nov - 7 Dec	1 Nov - 30 Nov	15 Nov - 10 Dec	15 Nov - 15 Dec	1 Oct - 30 Nov
Sunflower		1 Nov - 15 Dec	1 Nov - 15 Feb	1 Nov - 10 Jan	1 Nov - 10 Jan	10 Nov - 10 Jan	20 Nov - 10 Jan	1 Dec - 30 Jan

Final Area Planted

SUMMARY: FINAL AREA PLANTED AND CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES OF COMMERCIAL SUMMER CROPS FOR 2025:

CROP	FINAL AREA PLANTED 2025 HA (A)	FINAL CROP ¹⁾ 2025 TONS (B)	CEC AREA PLANTED NOV 2025 HA (C)	CEC FINAL ESTIMATE ²⁾ NOV 2025 TONS (D)	FINAL CROP vs FINAL ESTIMATE % (B) ÷ (D)
White Maize	1 599 700	8 450 000	1 599 700	8 378 250	+0,86
Yellow Maize	997 000	8 200 000	997 000	8 057 400	+1,77
Total Maize	2 596 700	16 650 000	2 596 700	16 435 650	+1,30
Sunflower seed	555 700	700 000	555 700	708 300	-1,17
Soybeans	1 151 000	2 800 000	1 151 000	2 771 225	+1,04
Groundnuts	48 125	63 350	48 125	62 474	+1,40
Sorghum	41 150	150 000	41 150	146 605	+2,32

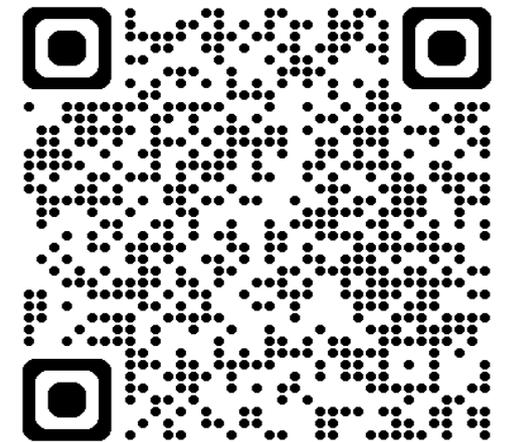
1) For ease of reference, projected figures have been rounded to the nearest 1 000 tons.

2) As estimated by the CEC on 27 November 2025

Source: CEC



For More information on the Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) meeting that took place on the 12th of February, please scan the QR code below.



Summary

Crop Conditions

Overall, summer grain regions across South Africa have shown some improvement due to recent rains, although there are areas that did not receive rain and remain under pressure. Recent weekend rainfall improved conditions in several regions, while others are still extremely dry and continue to deteriorate. **Rainfall is very sporadic and varies from one farm to the next.** Many production areas have now received follow-up rain that is helping to maintain the remaining yield potential. Regions that received rain have stabilised for the moment, but large parts of the country still rely heavily on immediate moisture. Without meaningful rain within the next week, national yield potential could decrease, especially for soybeans and dryland maize. Conditions differ by region, but many areas are trending toward average outcomes, depending on whether this week brings sufficient rainfall.

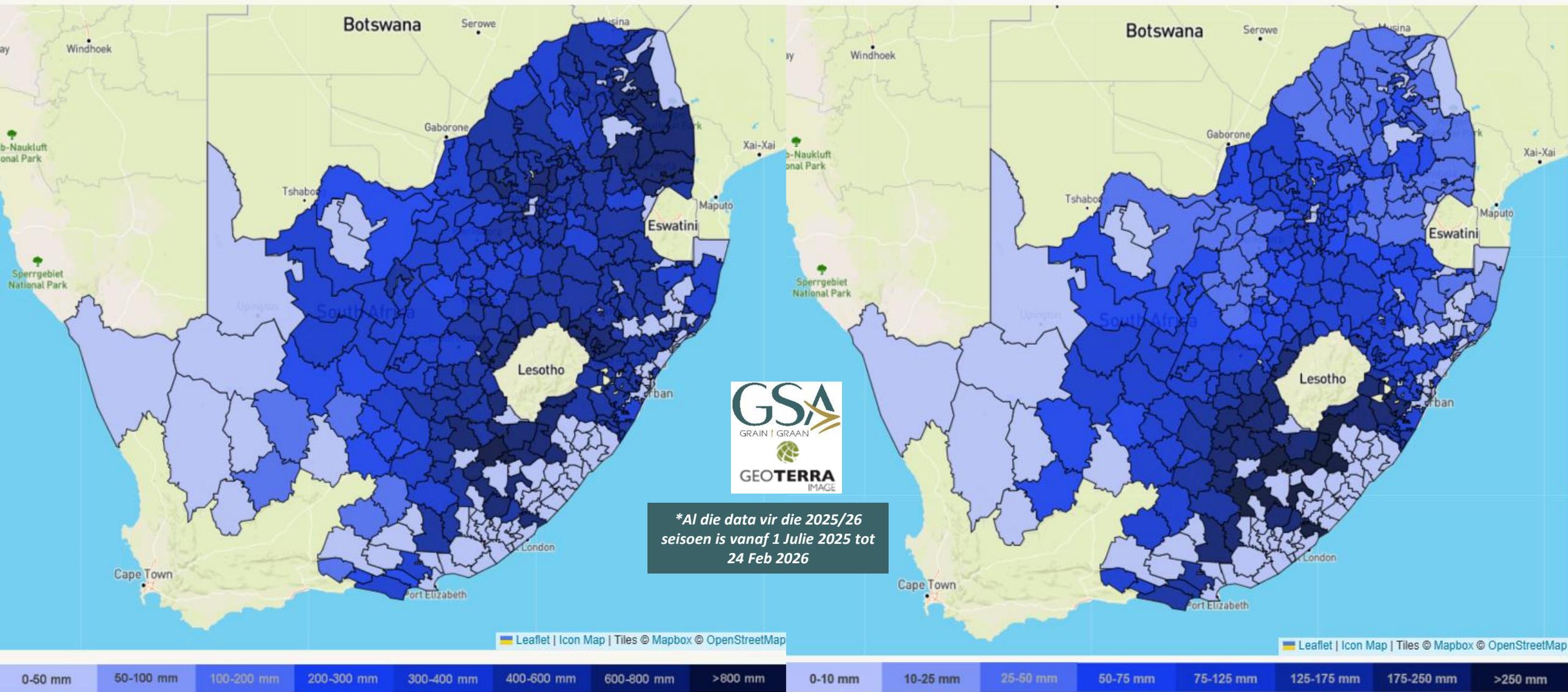


The revised area planted and 1st production forecast will be released on the 26th of February 2025.

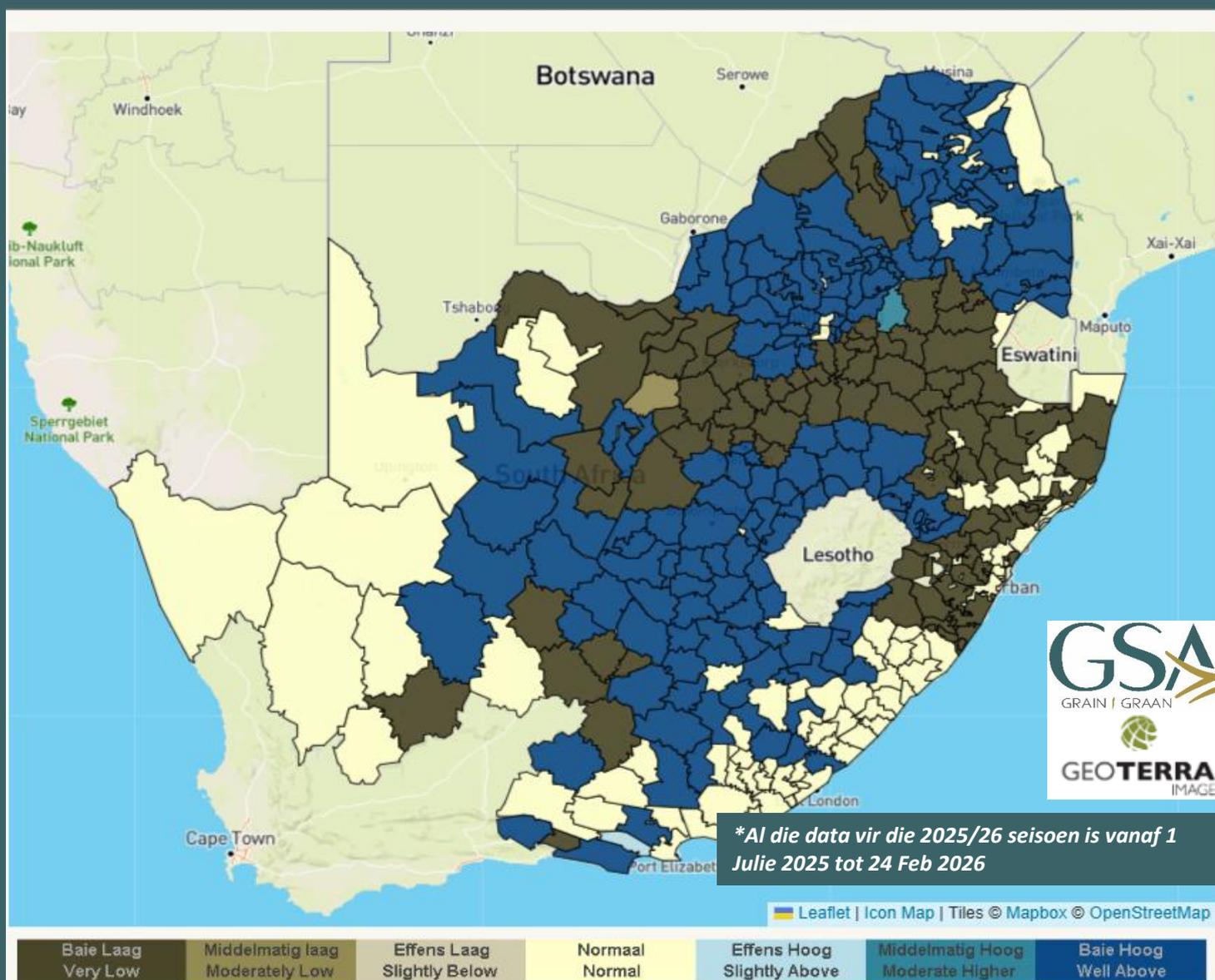
Total Rainfall

Totale Reënval/Total Rainfall

Reënval vir die afgelope 30 dae/Rainfall for the past 30 days



The average rainfall deviation over the previous 5 years



The rainfall overview highlights the deviation of rainfall in the current season in comparison with the 5-year-average. **Most of the regions received average rain over the past weekend.**

Free State: Over the past two weeks, widespread rainfall significantly improved conditions.

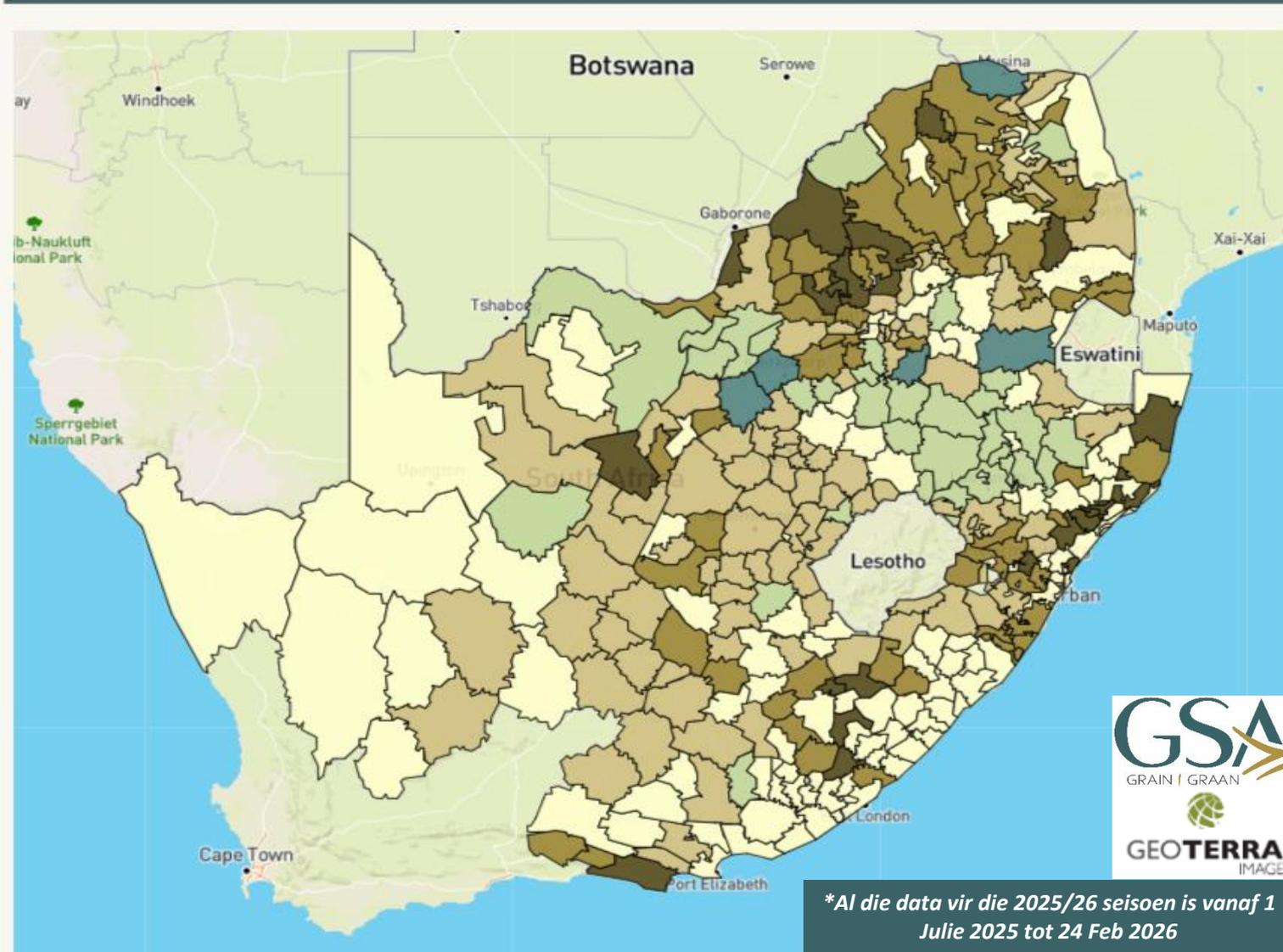
- The **Eastern Free State** saw some recovery with recent rain-in areas such as Frankfort, approximately 100mm, Theunissen, around 79mm and Vrede, almost 80mm for the month, easing earlier moisture and heat stress during critical growth stages.
- The **Western Free State** is very mixed, particularly parts around Bloemfontein and Bultfontein, while other areas are still in need of rain.

Limpopo: The Springbokvlakte region remains extremely dry, receiving little to no rainfall during the past week. Nylstroom, in contrast, received substantial rain in the previous week, which provided temporary relief and helped replenish moisture in deeper soils. Temperature fluctuations (from hot to cooler days) increased evapotranspiration, intensifying stress in areas that missed the rainfall.

Eastern Highveld: Most of the region received good rains over the past two weeks, especially areas such as Hendrina and Amersfoort. Other areas remain completely dry, increasing pressure during important crop development stages.

North West Province: Most regions recorded between 20 mm and 60 mm, improving soil moisture reserves. The rainfall is very sporadic. Areas such as Lichtenburg, Sannieshof, Stella and the western regions remain very dry with only isolated light showers. Several areas in the province recorded minimum rainfall this month, including areas where ground moisture has decreased.

Grondvog Indeks / Soil Water Index



*Al die data vir die 2025/26 seisoen is vanaf 1 Julie 2025 tot 24 Feb 2026



The soil moisture index compares current conditions with both the previous season and the 5-year average.

Free State

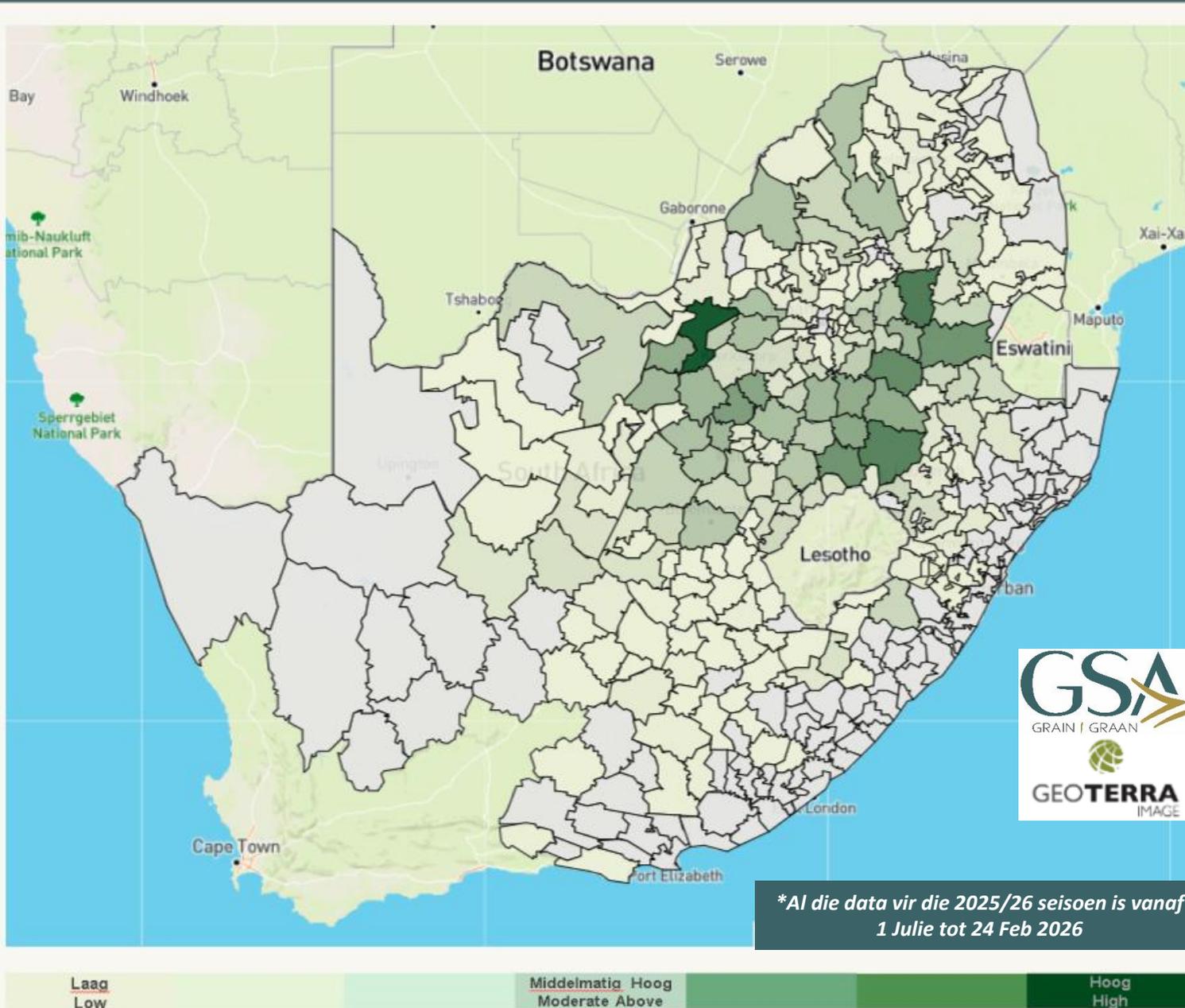
- **Northwest Free State:** Soil moisture has improved following the amount of rainfall received over the past two weeks, and the soil profiles have been replenished. Although conditions have stabilised significantly, consistent follow-up rainfall will still be required to sustain favourable moisture levels through the remainder of the grain-filling period.
- **Eastern Free State:** Good rainfall across a large part of the region has recharged topsoil moisture and improved subsoil reserves, reducing immediate crop stress. Soil moisture is now generally adequate to support late-season development, although variability remains. Further development will still depend on additional rainfall to prevent renewed stress.

Limpopo: Soil moisture remains uneven across the province. While isolated areas benefited from recent showers that improved topsoil moisture temporarily, much of the province, particularly Springbokvlakte, remains below optimal levels. Sandy soils continue to lose moisture rapidly under warm conditions, and meaningful follow-up rainfall will be necessary to prevent further deterioration.

Eastern Highveld: Soil moisture has improved and, in many areas, is now above the seasonal norm following heavy accumulations over the past two weeks. However, in areas that previously experienced waterlogging, root damage may limit efficient moisture uptake, and isolated saturated fields may experience temporary drainage constraints.

North West: Soil moisture has improved significantly across large parts of the province following widespread rainfall. Nevertheless, some western areas remain comparatively dry and will require further rainfall to fully replenish moisture levels and prevent crop damage.

Gewasopkoms per Distrik / Crop Greenup per District



The crop green-up indicators highlight current crop emergence and canopy development relative to the 5-year average.

Free State

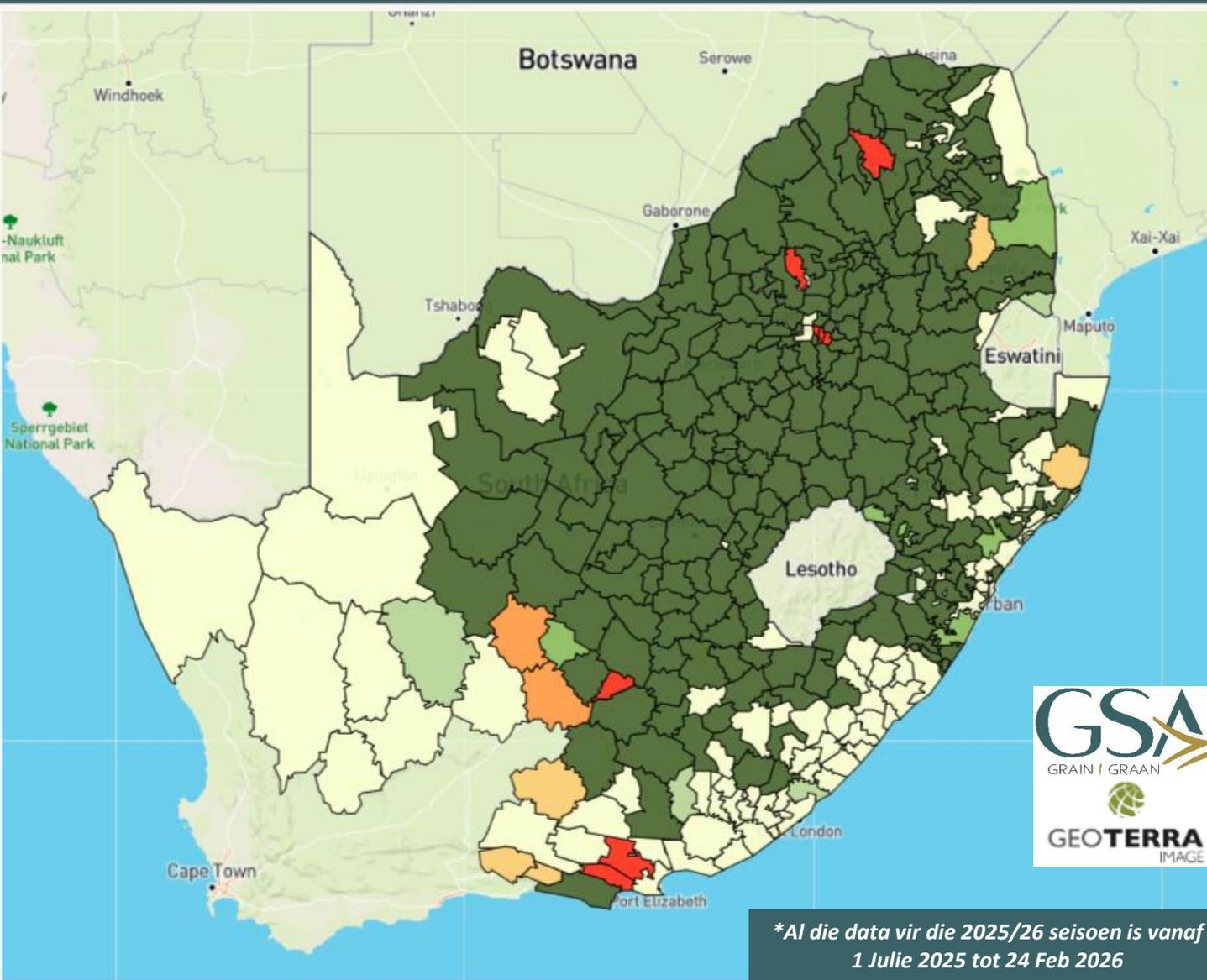
- **Northwest Free State:** Crops showed visible green-up within days following the rain, driven by improved water availability and reduced heat stress. Leaf colour improved, especially in maize, indicating recovery from previous drought-induced wilting. Greenup is strongest on heavier soils that respond quickly to moisture recharge.
- **Eastern Free State:** Minimal green-up is visible due to the ongoing drought. Early-season growth has stalled, and crops are drying out earlier than normal. Significant and constant rainfall is needed to improve vegetation in this region.

Limpopo: Greenup is moderate across due to sustained dryness. In Nylstroom, some green-up occurred after rain, especially in maize-producing areas and later-planted sorghum, but the improvement is low. Overall vegetative recovery remains constrained by inconsistent rainfall patterns.

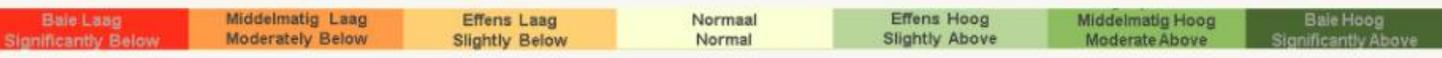
Eastern Highveld: Greenup is moderate. Crops show recovery where moisture is available, but remain dull in areas with shallow rooting from earlier waterlogging. Overall vegetative growth is below seasonal expectations.

North West: Strong green-up is visible mostly in the Wolmaranstad area, where sufficient rain increased crop growth. Most western regions show minimal or no green-up, with crops losing colour, wilting, and showing signs of advanced moisture stress. Variability in green-up reflects the patchy nature of rainfall across the province.

Gewas Toestand / Crop Condition



**Al die data vir die 2025/26 seisoen is vanaf 1 Julie 2025 tot 24 Feb 2026*



The Green Leaf Index reflects crop growth and development throughout the season, with conditions across most summer rainfall regions significantly above the 5-year average.

Free State

- **Northwest Free State:** Mostly normal to above-normal vegetation across the region. Earlier stress symptoms have largely stabilised, and yield expectations have improved from below average toward average to slightly above average levels in some isolated areas. Minimal damage from the earlier dry spell remains in isolated fields, but the overall outlook shows recovery.
- **Eastern Free State:** Recent rainfall has reduced moisture stress and stabilised late-planted crops. However, damage during pollination, particularly in areas such as Warden and Harrismith, cannot be reversed, and some maize fields will still reflect poor kernel set. Soybeans remain vulnerable in lighter soil areas, but the widespread crop failure risk has declined. Constant rain is still needed in this region.

Limpopo: Crop conditions remain uneven. While parts of the province show normal vegetation, several pockets still reflect below-normal conditions. Early plantings that experienced heat and moisture stress will not fully recover, and yield potential remains constrained. Later plantings have benefited from recent rainfall where it occurred, but sustained follow-up rain is still needed to improve production prospects.

Eastern Highveld: The region now reflects predominantly normal to above-normal vegetation conditions. Heavy rainfall has strengthened crop development and improved grain-fill prospects. Earlier waterlogging damage may still limit performance in isolated fields, but overall crop conditions are better than two weeks ago. Yield expectations have stabilised and, in some areas, improved relative to earlier downward pressure.

North West: There is an improvement in crop development in the region. Maize in grain-fill stages is benefiting from replenished soil moisture. While isolated western pockets remain weaker, the provincial outlook has shifted from predominantly negative to moderately positive. Yield potential has stabilised in most central and eastern production areas, with variability persisting in drier western zones.



THANK YOU!

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