

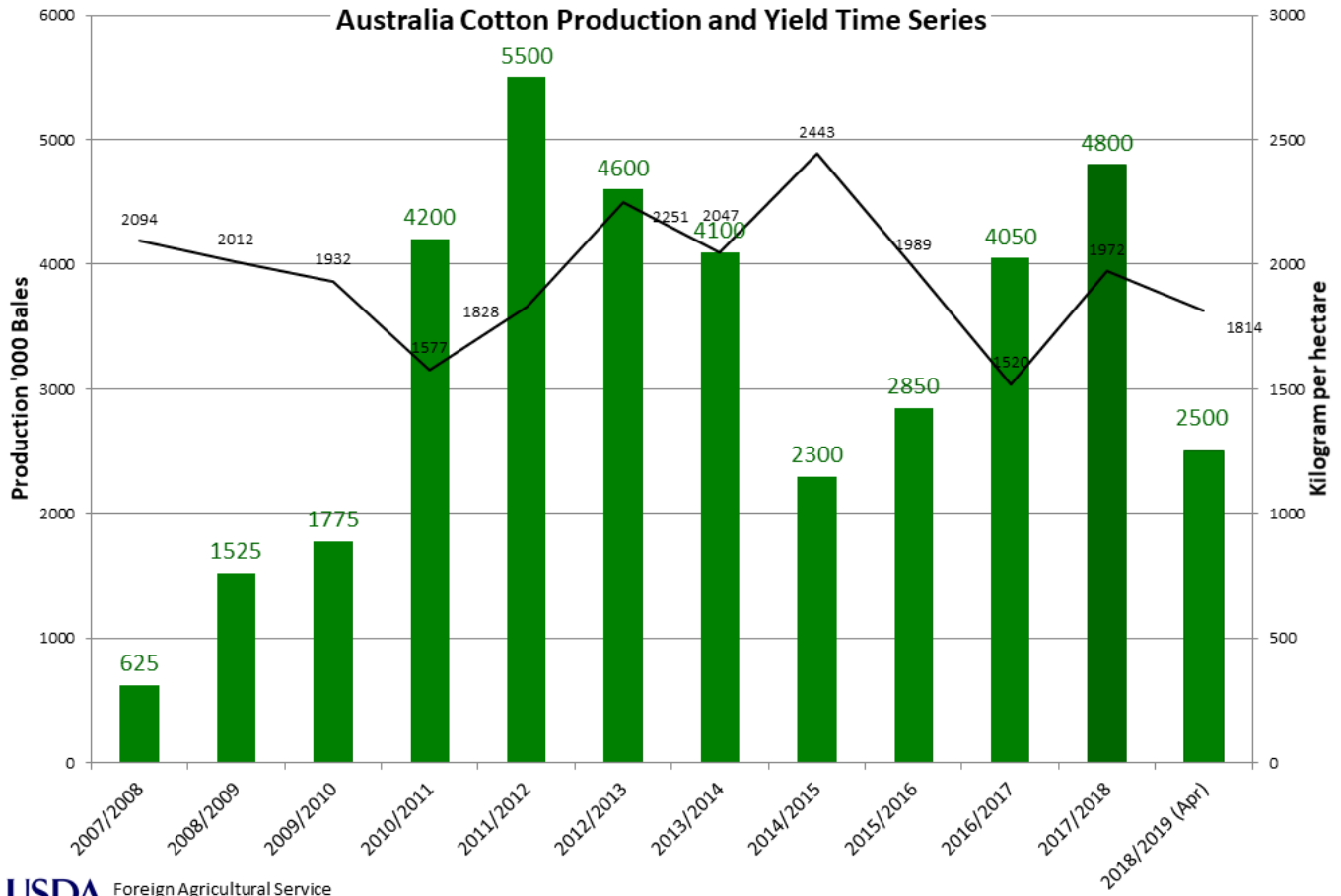
## Australia Cotton: Production Estimate Down 48 Percent from Last Year

The 2018/19 Australia cotton crop is estimated at 2.5 million 480-pound bales (0.544 million metric tons), down 2.3 million or 48 percent from last year (see figure 1). Australia is the eighth largest producer of raw cotton based on recent five-year average (see figure 2). Harvested area is estimated at 0.3 million hectares, unchanged from last month, but down 43 percent from last year.

Yield is forecast at 1,814 kilograms per hectare, 6 percent below the 5-year average. Australian cotton growers achieve the highest yields in the world - three times the world average. The recent five-year average cotton yield is 1981 tons per hectare as compared to the world average of 583 tons per hectares (see figure 3). Irrigated cotton yields are substantially higher than dryland yields, and the difference widens in low-rainfall years. On average about 90 percent of Australia's total cotton production comes from irrigated areas (see figure 4). According to the Australia government there are about 1,470 cotton farms, almost split evenly between New South Wales and Queensland, except for the 1% of farms in Victoria.

Area planted for dryland cotton tends to vary with the seasonal weather forecast and prices at sowing. A notable factor this season is the increase in cotton area in southern New South Wales. Persistent hot and dry conditions during January and February have resulted in lower dryland yield and reduced availability of water for some irrigated fields. Locations of irrigated, dryland and fallow land can be observed in satellite imagery where irrigated fields are bright red based upon healthy crops reflect much more in the infrared spectrum. This is apparent in the comparison of last year versus this season along the major producing region of Darling Downs located on the Queensland and New South Wales border (see figure 5). Cotton sowing commences in October and harvest is currently underway.

Australia is one of the world's largest exporters of raw cotton. More than 90% of Australia's production is exported, mainly to spinning mill customers in Asia. Australia is the fourth largest exporter based on the recent five-year average.



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service  
Office of Global Analysis  
International Production Assessment

■ AS Cotton Prod — AS Cotton Yield

Source: USDA FAS PSD

Figure 1 [Australia Cotton Production and Yield Time Series]

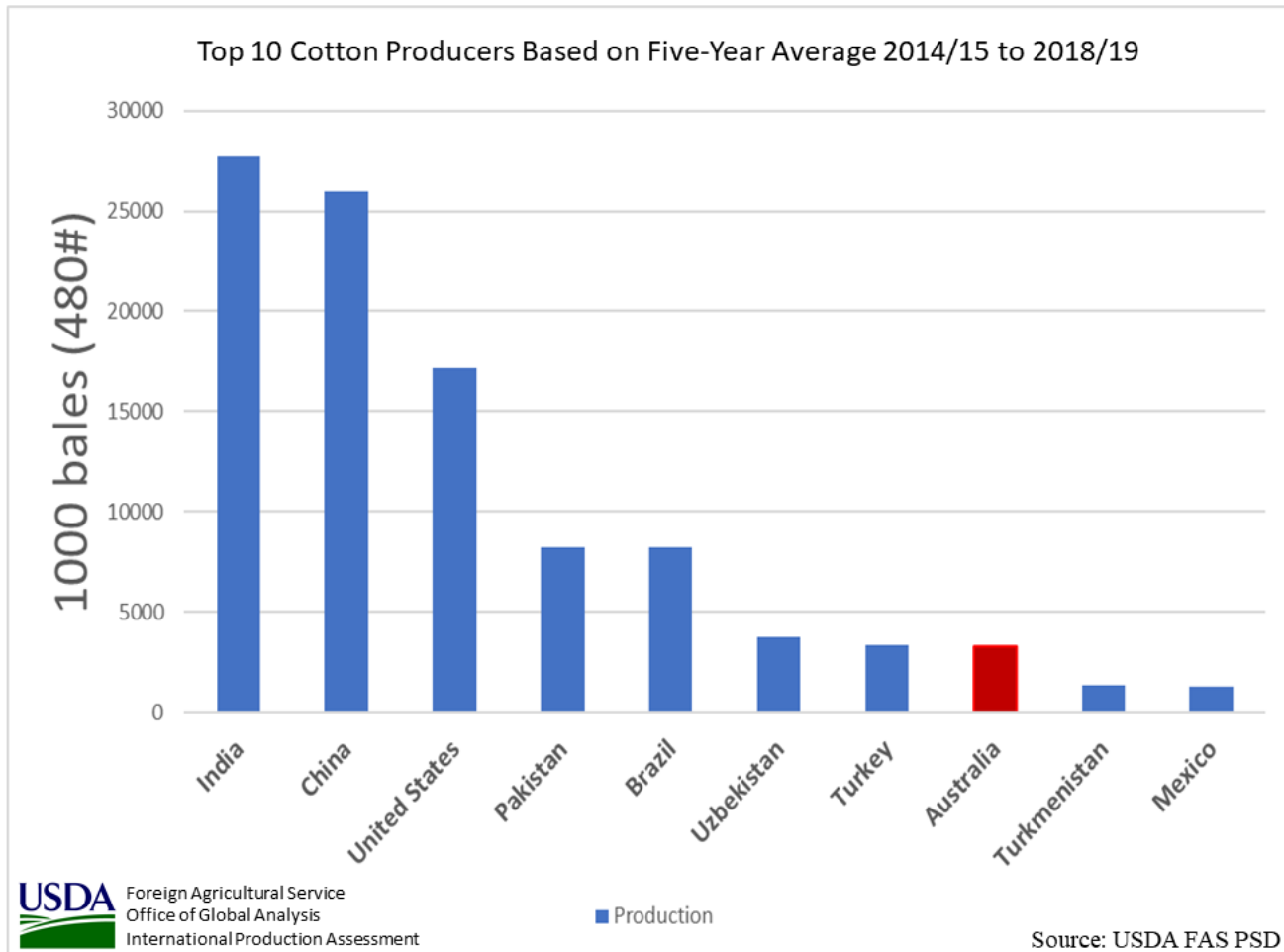


Figure 2 [Australia position among the top 10 world cotton producing countries.]

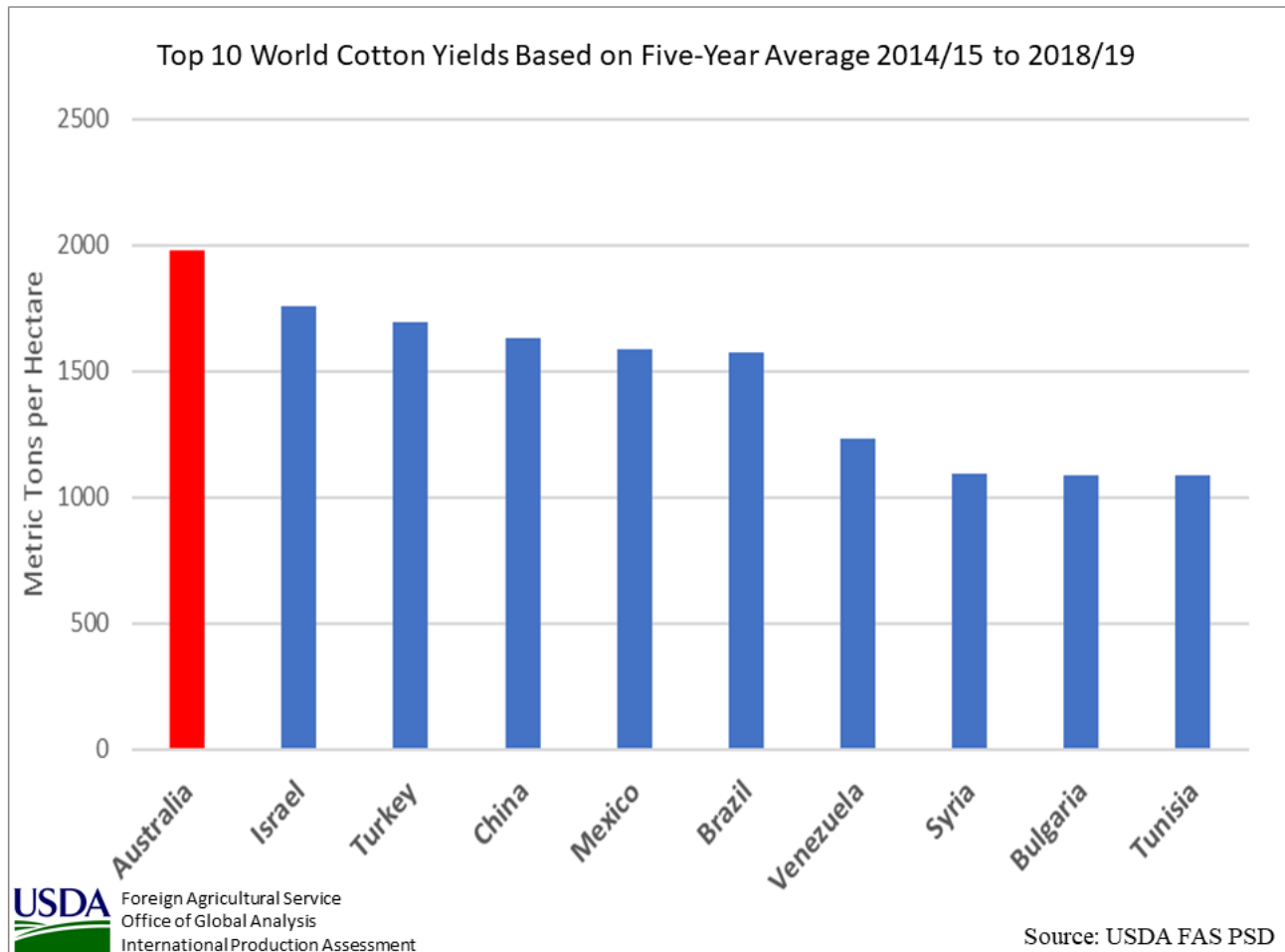


Figure 3 [Australia position in yield among the top 10 countries]

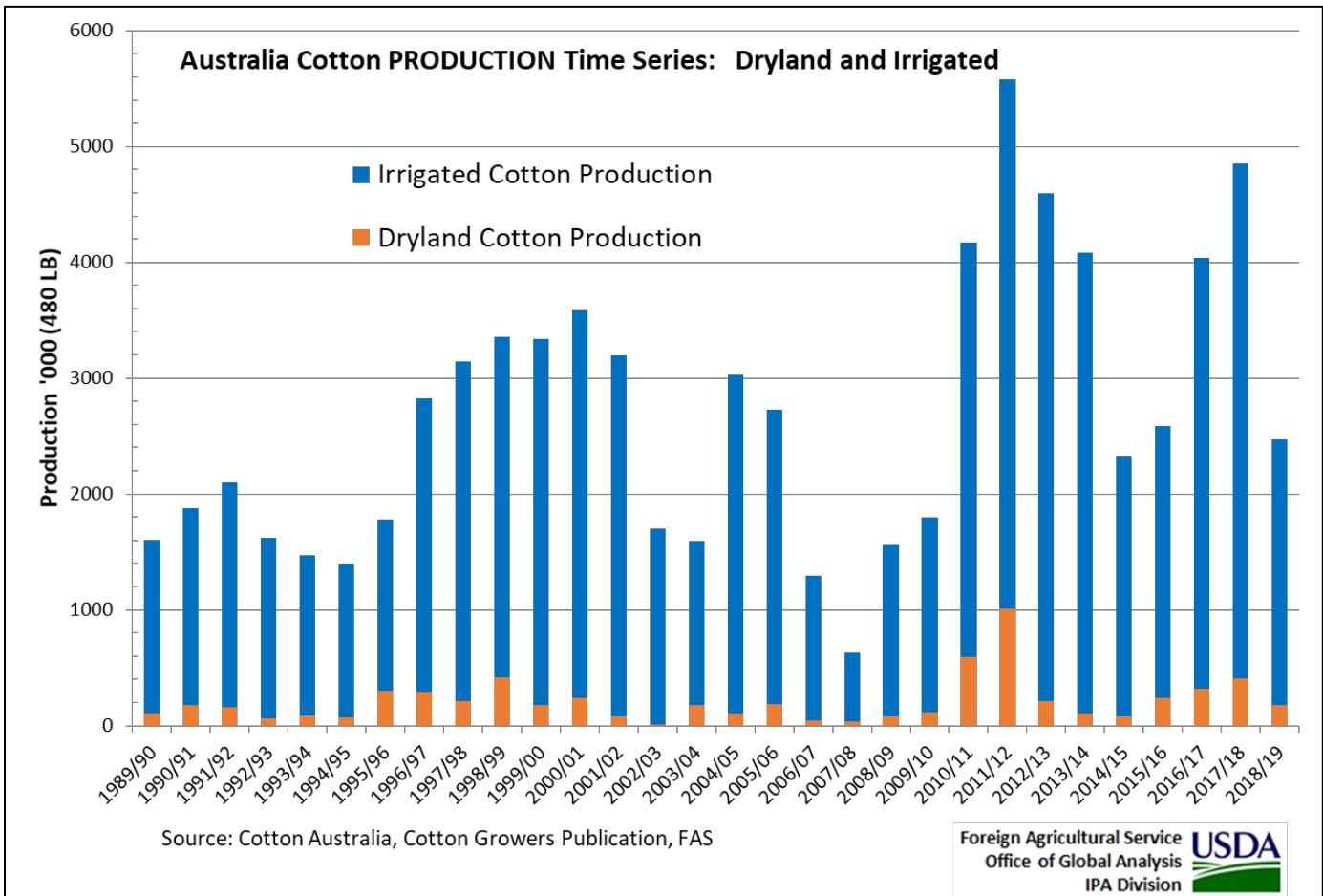


Figure 4 [Australia Cotton Production Time Series by Irrigated and Dryland]

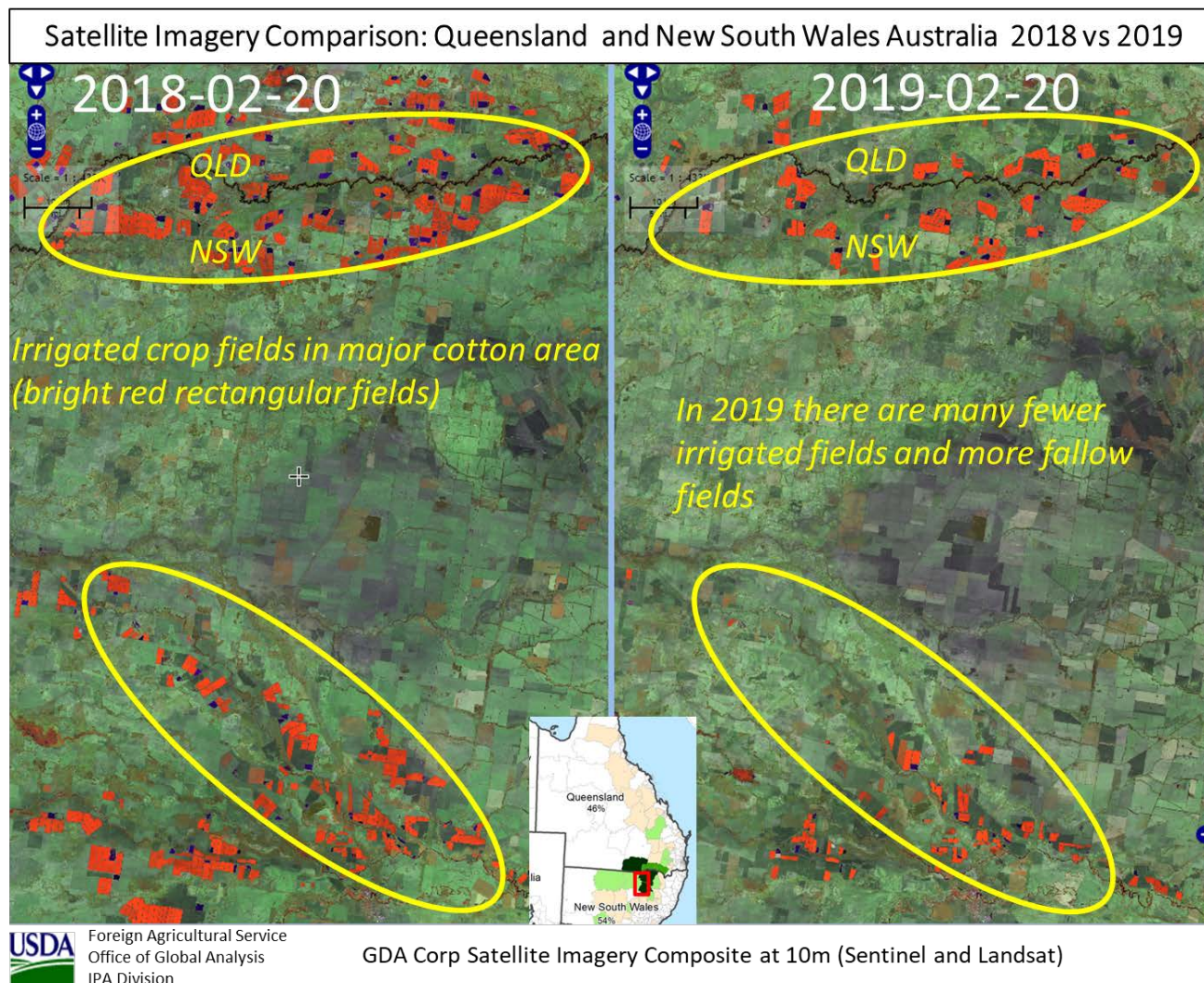


Figure 5 [Satellite image view comparing 2018 to 2019 in major cotton growing area of Darling Downs. Source GDA Corp: Sentinel-2A, Sentinel-2B; FAS]

For additional information contact Jim Crutchfield | [james.crutchfield@fas.usda.gov](mailto:james.crutchfield@fas.usda.gov) | (202) 690-0135

Current area and production estimates for grains and other agricultural commodities are available on IPAD's Agricultural Production page:

[Crop Explorer https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/](https://ipad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/) or

Production, Supply and Distribution Database (PSD Online):

<http://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/psdHome.aspx>

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
Office of Global Analysis  
International Production Assessment Division Ag Box 1051, Room 4630, South Building  
Washington, DC 20250-1051  
Telephone: (202) 720-1662 Fax: (202) 720-1158