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Press Release

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Final Results of the Cultivated Area and Production of Chili Pepper, Sesame and Highland Potatoes in 2025

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Final Results of the Cultivated Area and Production of Chili Pepper, Sesame and Highland Potatoes in 2025

□ **The production of chili pepper recorded 61 thousand tons in 2025, falling by 9.7% from 2024.**

○ 68 thousand tons in 2024 → 61 thousand tons in 2025 (7 thousand tons ↓, 9.7% ↓)

- The production of chili pepper showed a year-on-year decrease owing to earlier harvest and increased damage from insects, which were caused by frequent rainfall.

□ **The production of sesame recorded 11 thousand tons in 2025, increasing by 20.4% from 2024.**

○ 9 thousand tons in 2024 → 11 thousand tons in 2025 (2 thousand tons ↑, 20.4% ↑)

- The production of sesame showed a year-on-year increase owing to sufficient sunshine hours and good weather conditions.

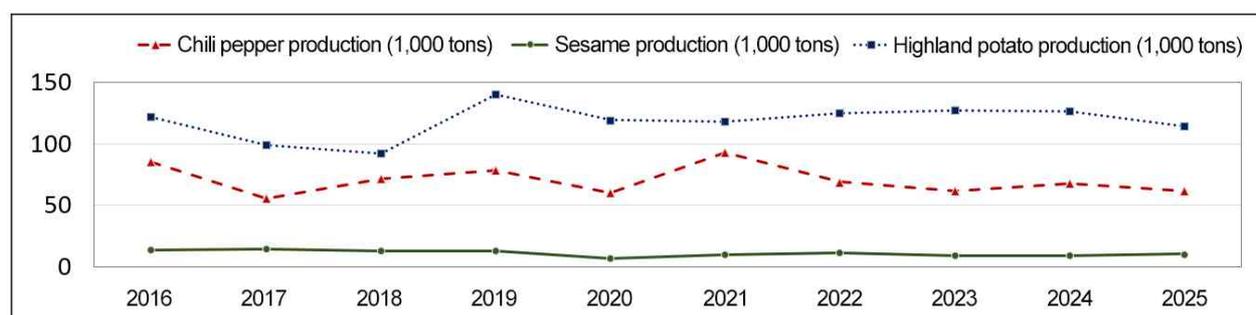
□ **The production of highland potatoes recorded 114 thousand tons in 2025, falling by 9.6% from 2024.**

○ 126 thousand tons in 2024 → 114 thousand tons in 2025 (12 thousand tons ↓, 9.6% ↓)

- The production of highland potatoes showed a year-on-year decrease due to the drop in the cultivated area caused by rising temperatures in major production regions.

< Cultivated area and production of chili pepper, sesame and highland potatoes >

Classification	Cultivated area (ha)			Production per 10a (kg)			Production (1,000 tons)		
	2024	2025	Percent change (%)	2024	2025	Percent change (%)	2024	2025	Percent change (%)
Chili pepper	26,430	25,743	△2.6	258	239	△7.3	68	61	△9.7
Sesame	18,856	19,298	2.3	48	56	17.6	9	11	20.4
Highland potato	3,928	3,605	△8.2	3,218	3,171	△1.5	126	114	△9.6



< Trend in the production of chili pepper, sesame and highland potatoes by year >

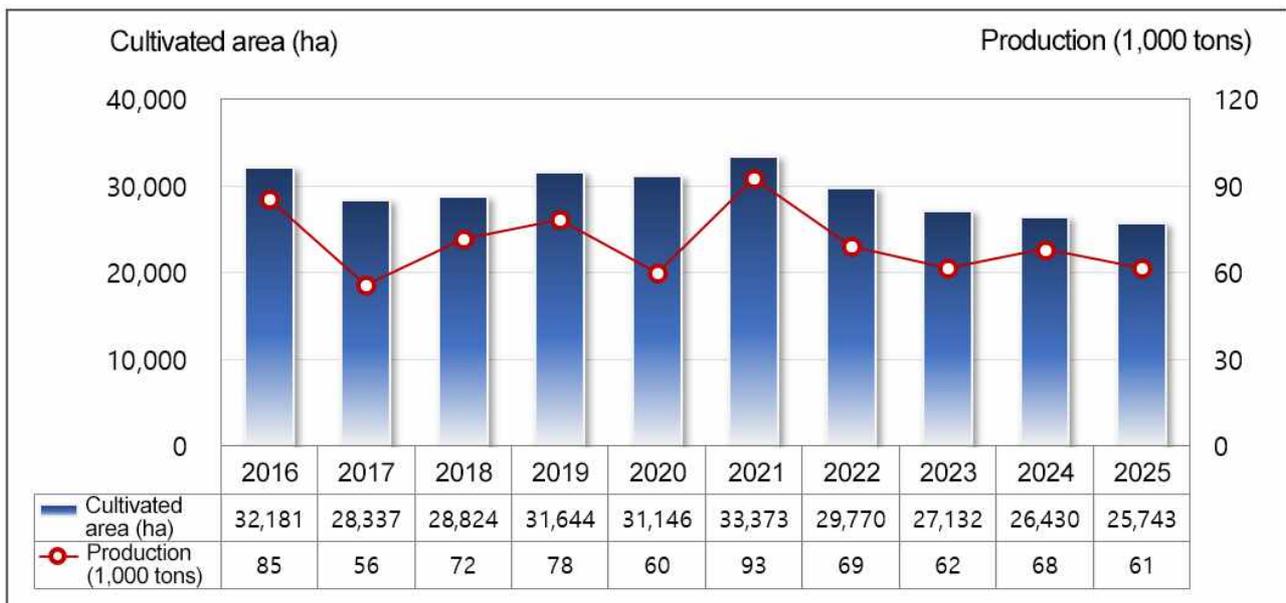
1. Chili pepper production

- The production of chili pepper recorded 61 thousand tons in 2025, falling by 7 thousand tons ($\Delta 9.7\%$) from 68 thousand tons in 2024.
- The chili pepper production showed a year-on-year decrease owing to the drop in the cultivated area ($\Delta 2.6\%$) and the production per 10a ($\Delta 7.3\%$).

< Cultivated area and production of chili pepper by year >

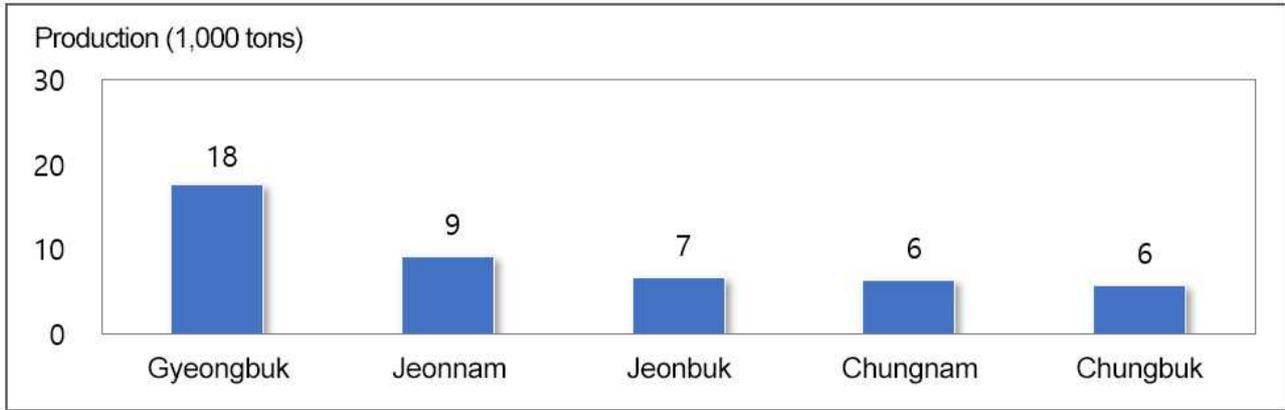
Classification	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change from the previous year	Percent change (%)
Cultivated area (ha)	33,373	29,770	27,132	26,430	25,743	$\Delta 687$	$\Delta 2.6$
Production per 10a (kg)	278	232	227	258	239	$\Delta 19$	$\Delta 7.3$
Production (1,000 tons)	93	69	62	68	61	$\Delta 7$	$\Delta 9.7$

* Unit: 1ha = 10,000m², 10a = 1,000m², 1 ton = 1,000kg



< Trend in the cultivated area and production of chili pepper by year >

- The cultivated area of chili pepper fell by 687ha ($\Delta 2.6\%$) from 26,430 hectares in 2024 to 25,743 hectares in 2025.
- The production per 10a dropped by 19kg ($\Delta 7.3\%$) from 258kg in 2024 to 239kg in 2025.
- As for chili pepper production by province, Gyeongbuk recorded the highest figure of 18 thousand tons, which accounted for 28.7% of the total chili pepper production. This figure was followed by Jeonnam (9 thousand tons, 14.8%) and Jeonbuk (7 thousand tons, 10.8%).



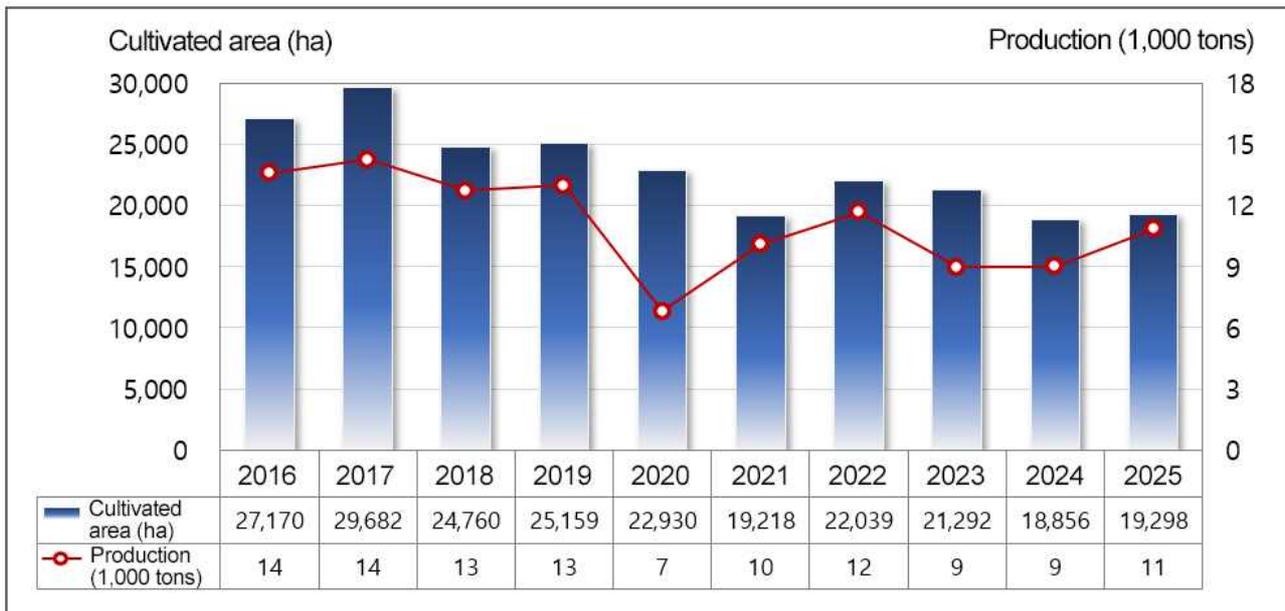
< Chili pepper production of top 5 provinces >

2. Sesame production

- The production of sesame recorded 11 thousand tons in 2025, increasing by 2 thousand tons (20.4%) from 9 thousand tons in 2024.
- The sesame production showed a year-on-year increase owing to the rise in the cultivated area (2.3%) and the production per 10a (17.6%).

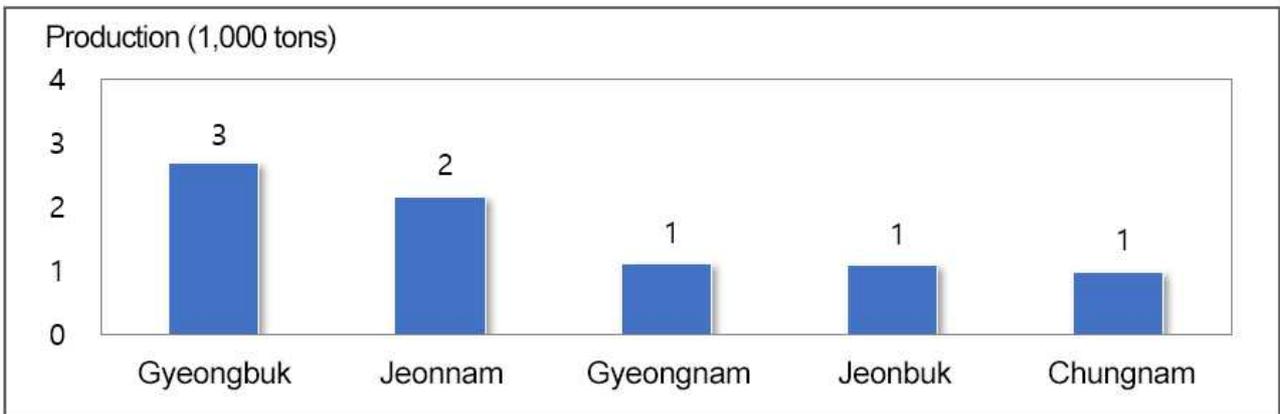
< Cultivated area and production of sesame by year >

Classification	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change from the previous year	Percent change (%)
Cultivated area (ha)	19,218	22,039	21,292	18,856	19,298	442	2.3
Production per 10a (kg)	53	53	42	48	56	8	17.6
Production (1,000 tons)	10	12	9	9	11	2	20.4



< Trend in the cultivated area and production of sesame by year >

- The cultivated area of sesame grew by 442ha (2.3%) from 18,856 hectares in 2024 to 19,298 hectares in 2025.
- The production per 10a grew by 8kg (17.6%) from 48kg in 2024 to 56kg in 2025.
- As for sesame production by province, Gyeongbuk recorded the highest figure of 3 thousand tons, which occupied 24.9% of the total sesame production. This figure was followed by Jeonnam (2 thousand tons, 20.0%) and Gyeongnam (1 thousand tons, 10.2%).



< Sesame production of top 5 province >

3. Highland potato production

- The production of highland potatoes recorded 114 thousand tons in 2025, falling by 12 thousand tons ($\Delta 9.6\%$) from 126 thousand tons in 2024.
- The highland potato production showed a year-on-year decrease owing to the drop in the cultivated area ($\Delta 8.2\%$) and the production per 10a ($\Delta 1.5\%$).

< Cultivated area and production of highland potatoes by year >

Classification	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change from the previous year	Percent change (%)
Cultivated area (ha)	3,888	3,495	3,835	3,928	3,605	$\Delta 323$	$\Delta 8.2$
Production per 10a (kg)	3,037	3,562	3,304	3,218	3,171	$\Delta 47$	$\Delta 1.5$
Production (1,000 tons)	118	124	127	126	114	$\Delta 12$	$\Delta 9.6$



< Trend in the cultivated area and production of highland potatoes by year >

- The cultivated area of highland potatoes declined by 323ha ($\Delta 8.2\%$) from 3,928 hectares in 2024 to 3,605 hectares in 2025.
- The production per 10a dropped by 47kg ($\Delta 1.5\%$) from 3,218kg in 2024 to 3,171kg in 2025.
- As for highland potato production by province, Gangwon recorded the highest figure of 114 thousand tons, which accounted for 99.9% of the total highland potato production. This figure was followed by Gyeongbuk (162 thousand tons, 0.1%).

< Cultivated area and production of potatoes >

Classification	Cultivated area (ha)			Production per 10a (kg)			Production (1,000 tons)		
	2024	2025	Percent change (%)	2024	2025	Percent change (%)	2024	2025	Percent change (%)
Total	23,969	-	-	2,474	-	-	593	-	-
Spring potato	15,521	14,927	$\Delta 3.8$	2,562	2,383	$\Delta 7.0$	398	356	$\Delta 10.5$
Highland potato	3,928	3,605	$\Delta 8.2$	3,218	3,171	$\Delta 1.5$	126	114	$\Delta 9.6$
Autumn potato	4,520	-	-	1,527	-	-	69	-	-