

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN QUALITY FOR THE 2014/2015 SEASON



Acknowledgements

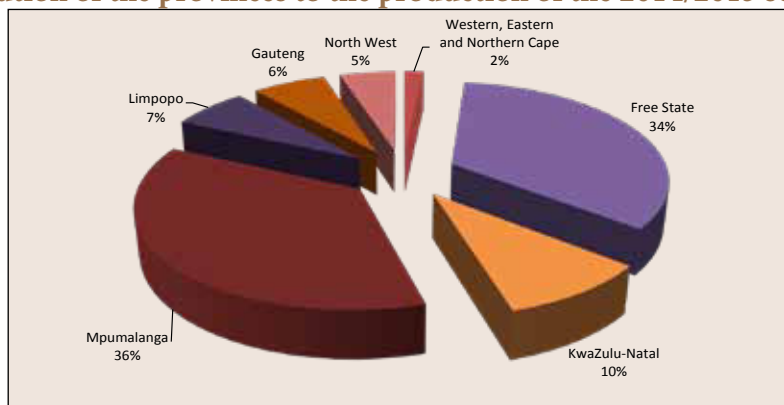
With gratitude to:

- *The Oil & Protein Seed Development Trust for its financial support in conducting this survey.*
- *Agbiz Grain and its members for their cooperation in providing the samples to make the survey possible.*
- *The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for providing production related figures.*
- *South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to soybeans.*

Introduction

The highest South African soybean crop ever was produced during the 2014/2015 season. The final commercial figure as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 1 070 000 tons. The final calculated crop figure was adjusted upward by 10 150 tons (0.96%). The commercial soybean crop increased by almost 13% (122 000 tons) from the 2013/2014 season. The major soybean-producing provinces, contributing 70.6% of the total crop, were Mpumalanga and the Free State.

Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2014/2015 soybean crop



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of soybeans at the various silos was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 25. One hundred and fifty composite soybean samples, representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre and ash content. Fifteen randomly selected samples were analysed to quantitatively determine the presence of genetically modified soybeans.

The goal of this crop quality survey is the compilation of a detailed database, accumulating quality data collected over several seasons on the national commercial soybean crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies, highlight quality differences in the commercial soybeans produced in different local production regions and provide important information on the quality of commercial soybeans intended for export.

This is the fourth annual soybean crop quality survey performed by The Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 on request of the Grain Industry. SAGL is an ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratory and participates in a number of proficiency testing schemes, both nationally and internationally, as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The results of this survey are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The hard copy reports are distributed to all the Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.