

South African COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN QUALITY FOR THE 2017/2018 SEASON



Acknowledgements

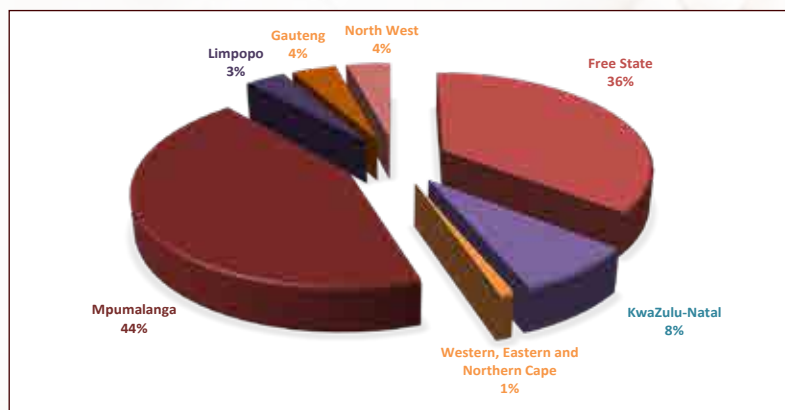
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- The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for providing production related figures.
- South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to soybeans.
- The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) for providing research based market analysis.

Introduction

The final figure for the commercial soybean crop of the 2017/2018 season, as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC), is 1 540 000 tons. The final calculated crop figure was adjusted downward slightly by 0.70% or 10 800 tons. This is the second consecutive year that an all-time high record crop has been harvested.

Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2017/2018 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 28. 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 when applicable.

This is the seventh 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 Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.

In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand information is provided in table and graph format. Import and export figures over several seasons as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seeds products, are also included.

The 2017/18 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in Potchefstroom, is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. R.370 of 21 April 2017 are also provided.

Production

Soybeans is the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa, driven mainly by the demand for protein feed in the animal feed industry. Soybeans have benefits to producers in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture, but also due to lower input requirements compared to other commodities for example wheat and maize.

The commercial soybean crop production and area planted figures increased by 17% and 37% respectively to reach 1 540 000 tons and 787 200 hectares, the highest on record. The average national yield decreased by 14% to 1.96 t/ha, closer to the 10-year average of 1.75 t/ha. The major soybean-producing provinces, contributing 79.5% of the total crop, were Mpumalanga and the Free State as in previous seasons.

Province	Type of production	2017/2018			2016/2017		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	800	1 200	1.50	700	1 050	1.50
	Total	800	1 200	1.50	700	1 050	1.50
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	3 000	10 500	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
	Total	3 000	10 500	3.50	3 000	10 500	3.50
Free State	Dryland	330 500	508 500	1.54	232 600	477 700	2.05
	Irrigation	14 500	43 500	3.00	7 400	26 300	3.55
	Total	345 000	552 000	1.60	240 000	504 000	2.10
Eastern Cape	Dryland	2 400	2 900	1.21	1 850	2 775	1.50
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2 400	2 900	1.21	1 850	2 775	1.50
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	26 300	75 000	2.85	22 000	58 155	2.64
	Irrigation	13 700	49 000	3.58	8 500	31 450	3.70
	Total	40 000	124 000	3.10	30 500	89 605	2.94
Mpumalanga	Dryland	298 000	632 000	2.12	234 700	533 500	2.27
	Irrigation	12 000	40 700	3.39	6 300	20 800	3.30
	Total	310 000	672 700	2.17	241 000	554 300	2.30
Limpopo	Dryland	6 000	10 000	1.67	1 500	3 750	2.50
	Irrigation	14 000	44 000	3.14	7 000	26 000	3.71
	Total	20 000	54 000	2.70	8 500	29 750	3.50
Gauteng	Dryland	27 000	51 000	1.89	22 900	61 620	2.69
	Irrigation	3 000	10 500	3.50	2 500	9 500	3.80
	Total	30 000	61 500	2.05	25 400	71 420	2.80
North West	Dryland	28 000	38 000	1.36	15 600	25 500	1.63
	Irrigation	8 000	23 200	2.90	7 400	27 400	3.70
	Total	36 000	61 200	1.70	23 000	52 900	2.30
RSA	Dryland	718 200	1 317 400	1.83	531 150	1 163 000	2.19
	Irrigation	69 000	222 600	3.23	42 800	153 000	3.57
	Total	787 200	1 540 000	1.96	573 950	1 316 000	2.29

Figures provided by the CEC.