

SOUTH AFRICAN

COMMERCIAL SUNFLOWER QUALITY FOR THE 2012/2013 SEASON

Acknowledgements

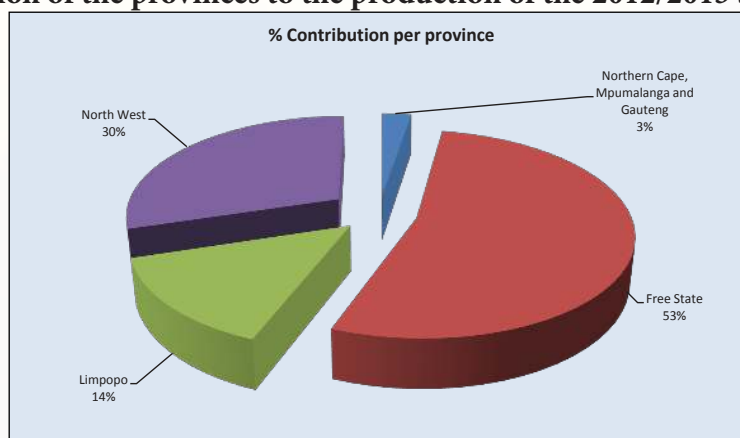
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Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2012/2013 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 557 000 tons. The final calculated crop figure was adjusted downward by 9 600 tons (1.69%). The commercial sunflower crop increased by 6.7% (35 000 tons) from the 2011/2012 season. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West provinces, contributed 83% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2012/2013 sunflower crop



Information provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflowers 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 21. One hundred and fifty two composite sunflower samples, proportionally representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and chemically analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre as well as ash content.

This is the first annual sunflower 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 one national and twelve international proficiency testing schemes as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The goal of this crop quality survey is to accumulate quality data on the commercial sunflower crop on a national level. This valuable data reveal general tendencies, highlight quality differences in the commercial sunflower produced in different local production regions and provide important information on the quality of commercial sunflower intended for export (if any). A detailed database containing information collected over several seasons is essential and will assist with decision making processes.