

METHODS

SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

A working group determined the process to be followed to ensure that the crop quality samples which are sent to the SAGL by the various grain silo owners/agricultural businesses, are representative of the total crop.

Each delivery is sampled as per the grading regulations for grading purposes.

After grading, the grading samples are placed in separate containers according to class and grade.

After 80% of the expected harvest has been received, the silo divides the content of each container with a multi slot divider in order to obtain a 3 kg sample (this should be done for each class and grade separately).

If there is more than one container per class and grade, the combined contents of the containers is mixed thoroughly before dividing it with a multi slot divider to obtain the required 3 kg sample.

The samples are marked clearly with the name of the depot, the bin/bag/bunker/dam number(s) represented by each individual sample as well as the class and grade and are then forwarded to the SAGL.

GRADING:

Full grading was done in accordance with the Regulations relating to the Grading, Packing and Marking of Sunflower Seed intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa (No. R. 493 of 8 May 2009).

See pages 54 to 62 of this report.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:

Milling

Prior to the chemical analyses, the Sunflower samples were milled on a Retch ZM 200 mill fitted with a 1.0 mm screen.

Moisture

The moisture content of the milled samples was determined as a loss in weight when dried in an oven at 105 °C for 5 hours according to AgriLASA method 2.1, latest edition.

Crude Protein

The Dumas combustion analysis technique was used to determine the crude protein content, according to AACCI method 46-30.01, latest edition.

This method prescribes a generic combustion method for the determination of crude protein. Combustion at high temperature in pure oxygen sets nitrogen free, which is measured by thermal conductivity detection. The total nitrogen content of the sample is determined and converted to equivalent protein by multiplication with a factor of 6.25 to obtain the protein content.

Crude Fat

In-House method 024 was used for the determination of the crude fat in the samples. After sample preparation the fat is extracted by petroleum ether with the aid of the Soxhlet extraction apparatus, followed by the removal of the solvent by evaporation and weighing the dried residue thus obtained. The residue is expressed as % crude fat.

Ash

Ash is defined as the quantity of mineral matter which remains as incombustible residue of the tested substance, after application of the described working method. In-house method No. 011, based on AACCI method 08-03.01, was used for the determination.

Crude Fibre

In-House method 020 was used for the determination of the crude fibre in the samples. Crude fibre is the loss on ignition of the dried residue remaining after digestion of the sample with 1.25% H₂SO₄ (Sulphuric acid) and 1.25% NaOH (Sodium hydroxide) solutions under specific conditions.

This method is based on AACCI method 32-10.01, latest edition and the method described in the Government Gazette No. R. 31 of 25 January 2008.