

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL SUNFLOWER QUALITY FOR THE 2014/2015 SEASON



Acknowledgements

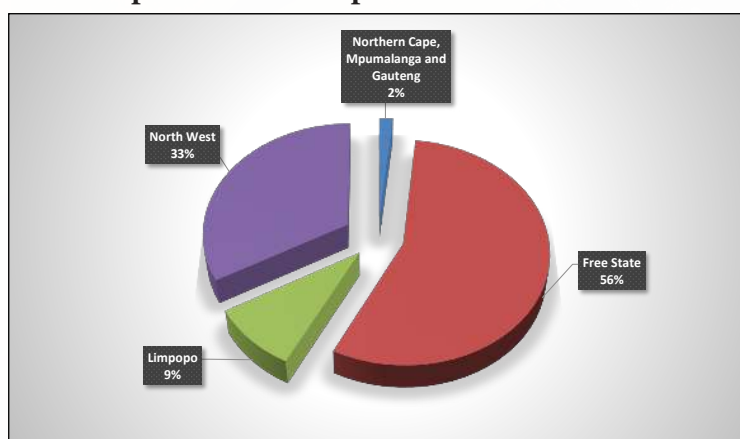
With gratitude to:

- *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 this 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 sunflower.*

Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2014/2015 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 663 000 tons. The final calculated crop figure was slightly adjusted upward by 2 100 tons (0.32%). The commercial sunflower crop decreased by 20% (169 000 tons) compared to the 2013/2014 season as a result of drought conditions experienced. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 89% of the total crop.

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



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower 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 24. One hundred and seventy six composite sunflower 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.

This is the third 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 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 goal of this crop quality survey is the compilation of a detailed database, accumulating quality data collected over several seasons on the national commercial sunflower crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies and highlight quality differences in the commercial sunflower produced in different local production regions.