

South African

Commercial sunflower quality for the 2022/23 Season

Acknowledgements

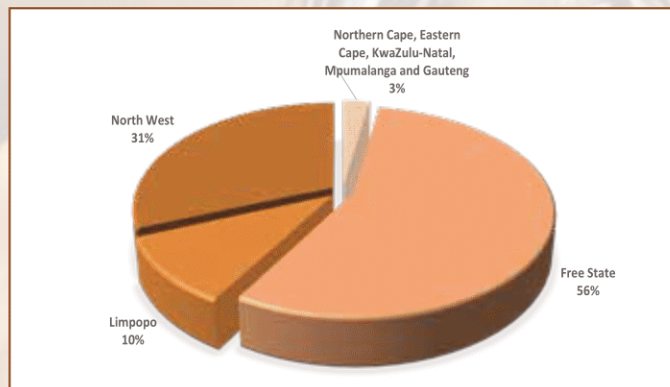
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- **Precision Oil Laboratories for providing Fatty Acid Profile analyses.**

Introduction

The final calculated commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2022/23 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 720 000 tons, which is 0.57% less than the final crop estimate figure of 724 110 tons. The crop decreased by almost 15% (125 550 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 87% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2022/23 sunflower crop



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower seed was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations at the various grain intake points. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 35. One hundred and seventy-four (174) 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. Twenty samples, randomly selected to represent the different production regions, as well as 20 cultivar samples were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the eleventh 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 various 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 seed produced in different production regions nationally.

Results of previous surveys to date are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). Reports in an easy to page format, are available to read or download. Hard copy reports are distributed to Directly Affected Groups and interested parties.