

# South African

## Commercial sunflower quality for the 2022/23 Season

### Acknowledgements

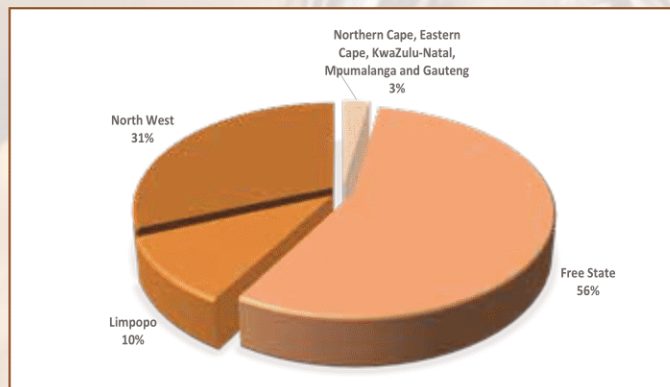
#### With gratitude to:

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- **Agbiz Grain and its members for their cooperation in providing the samples for this survey.**
- **The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for providing production related figures.**
- **South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing sunflower related supply and demand figures.**
- **The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) for providing research-based market analysis.**
- **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](http://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.



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 report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars for the 2022/23 season, conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta and Limagrain Zaad South Africa, is included in totality and as received. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. 45 of 22 January 2016 are also provided.

## Production

World sunflower seed production for the 2022/23 season stands at 55.2 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 53% to this total. An area of 29.8 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.85 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2023/24 season is 56.5 million metric tons harvested on 29.6 million hectares and with a yield of 1.91 metric tons/hectare.

Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed supply and disappearance figures.

Season	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (Revised)	2023/24 (Forecast)
<b>Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)</b>	<b>27 185</b>	<b>27 413</b>	<b>28 045</b>	<b>29 877</b>	<b>29 801</b>	<b>29 552</b>
<b>Yield (MT/Ha)</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>1.91</b>
<b>Production (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	3 530	3 020	3 200	3 360	4 130	3 600
European Union	9 482	9 469	8 969	10 389	9 520	9 863
China	2 550	2 680	2 750	2 880	2 930	3 000
Russia	12 756	15 379	13 420	15 660	16 600	16 800
Ukraine	15 250	16 500	13 900	16 900	12 400	14 400
United States	956	887	1 353	864	1 276	1 027
South Africa	678	810	678	846	724	830
Turkey	1 530	1 700	1 580	1 750	1 820	1 320
Other	5 292	5 202	4 995	5 652	5 834	5 674
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52 024</b>	<b>55 647</b>	<b>50 845</b>	<b>58 301</b>	<b>55 234</b>	<b>56 514</b>
<b>Import (1 000 MT)</b>						
Turkey	1 051	1 058	844	673	981	580
European Union	550	1 057	817	1 807	1 466	896
Other	1 445	1 451	1 308	1 639	1 513	1 571
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 046</b>	<b>3 566</b>	<b>2 969</b>	<b>4 119</b>	<b>3 960</b>	<b>3 047</b>
<b>Export (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	149	214	178	158	91	140
United States	87	64	72	69	64	72
Russia	338	1 278	528	280	285	352
Ukraine	119	76	186	1 793	1 685	640
Other	2 392	1 980	1 907	1 875	1 750	1 806
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 085</b>	<b>3 612</b>	<b>2 871</b>	<b>4 175</b>	<b>3 875</b>	<b>3 010</b>
<b>Oilseed crushed</b>	<b>47 231</b>	<b>50 300</b>	<b>45 568</b>	<b>48 315</b>	<b>52 192</b>	<b>52 586</b>

National Sunflower Association website [www.sunflowernsa.com](http://www.sunflowernsa.com),  
Table updated January 16, 2024; Source: Oil World & USDA.

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions. Sunflower plants are drought tolerant and thus a crucial risk diversification crop going forward. The deep root system of a sunflower plant enables the plant to perform better than other crops during dry seasons. Planting sunflowers is also advantageous when rainfall occurs late in the season, due to the late planting window relative to that of maize.