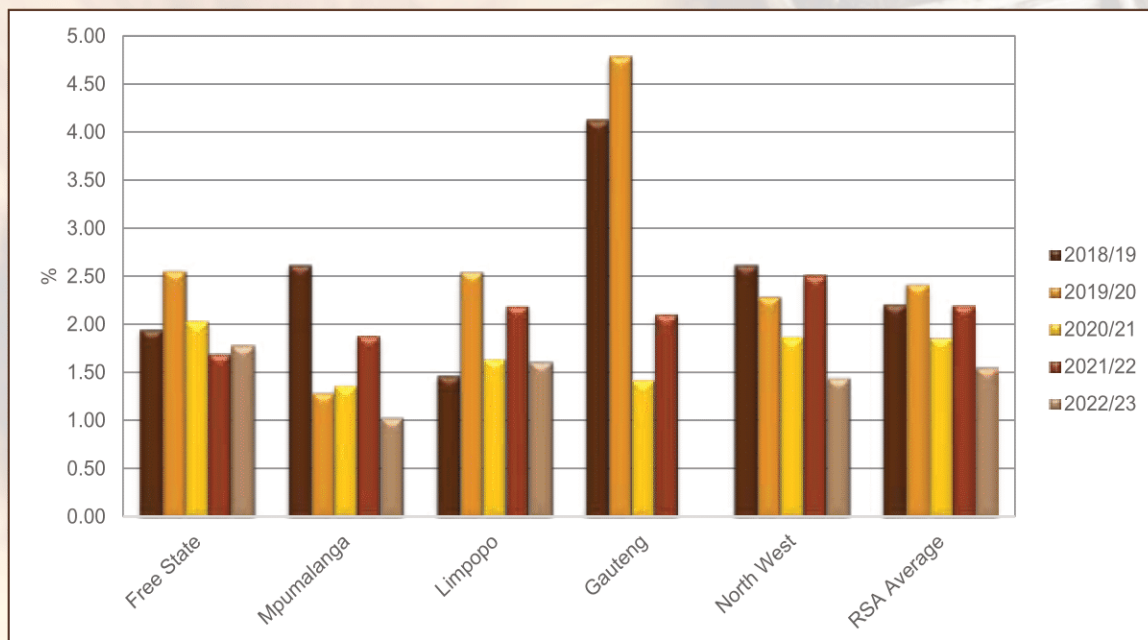# Sunflower Crop Quality 2022/23 – Summary of results

Eighty-three percent (145) of the 174 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey were graded as Grade FH1, with 29 (17%) of the samples downgraded to COSF (Class Other Sunflower Seed). The percentage of samples graded FH1 increased compared to the previous season's 75%. The ten-year weighted average of the percentage samples graded as FH1 is 79%.

The grading results of the 29 samples downgraded to COSF can be summarised as follows:
- Percentage screenings exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in eight samples.
- Percentage sclerotia from the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in two samples.
- Percentage foreign matter exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in five samples.
- Percentage collective deviations exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 6% was present in 14 samples.
- Poisonous seeds *(Datura sp.)* exceeding the maximum permissible number of 1 per 1000 g were present in eleven samples.
- One sample was downgraded due to the presence of a musty odour and another due to the presence of a musty and sour odour.
- Eleven of the 29 samples downgraded to COSF were as a result of a combination of two or more of the above mentioned deviations.

The samples from the Free State province (N = 64) reported the highest average percentage screenings namely 1.78%, followed by Limpopo (N = 17) and North West (N = 82) with 1.61% and 1.44% respectively. Mpumalanga (N = 11) reported the lowest percentage screenings of 1.03%. The weighted national average was 1.55% compared to the 2.20% of the previous season.

Graph 16: Average percentage screenings per province over five seasons

The highest weighted average percentage foreign matter (1.52%) was reported for the samples from the Mpumalanga regions. The Free State and Limpopo followed with 1.36% and 1.23% respectively. The lowest percentage was found in North West (0.87%). The national average was 1.13% compared to the 1.23% and 1.18% of the previous two seasons. Please see Graph 17.