

Sunflower Crop Quality 2021/22 – Summary of results

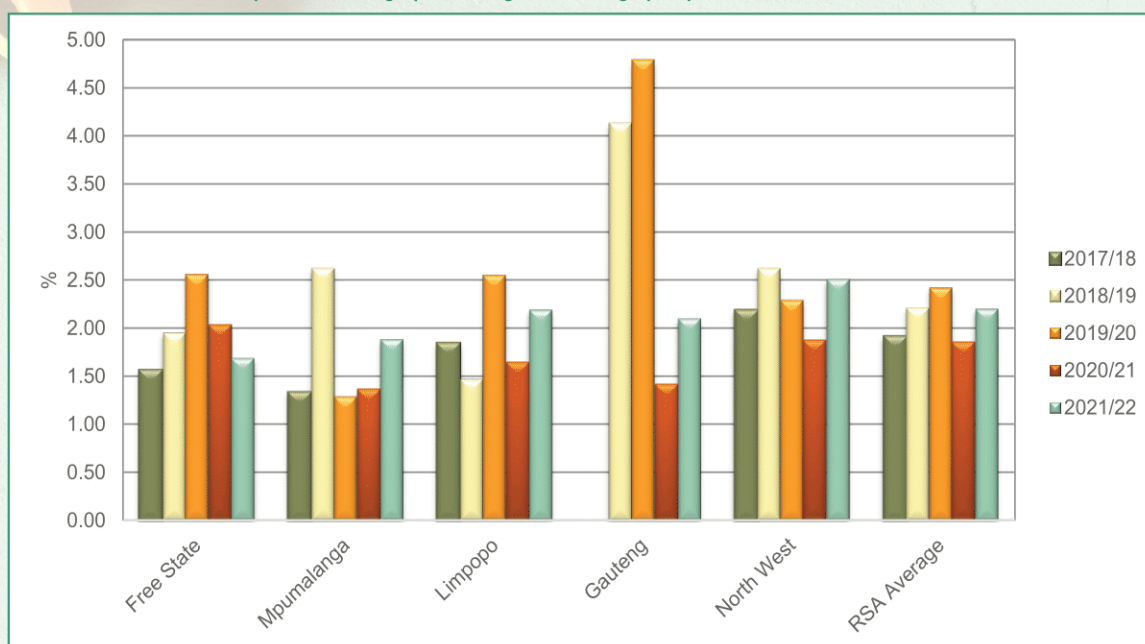
Seventy-five percent (132) of the 176 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey were graded as Grade FH1, with 44 (25%) of the samples downgraded to COSF (Class Other Sunflower Seed). The percentage of samples graded FH1 decreased compared to the previous season's 83%. The ten-year weighted average of the percentage samples graded as FH1 is 79%.

The grading results of the 44 samples downgraded to COSF can be summarised as follows:

- Percentage screenings exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in 21 samples.
- Percentage sclerotia from the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in nine samples.
- Percentage foreign matter exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 4% was present in four samples.
- Percentage collective deviations exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 6% was present in 30 samples.
- Poisonous seeds that exceeded the allowable number were present in a total of 15 samples. Eleven samples contained *Datura sp.* exceeding the maximum permissible number of 1 per 1000 g. Three samples contained *Ipomoea purpurea Roth.* (morning glory) seeds exceeding 7 per 1000 g and one sample contained *Xanthium sp.* seeds also exceeding 7 per 1000 g.
- Twenty-six of the 44 samples downgraded to COSF were as a result of a combination of two or more of the above mentioned deviations.

The samples from North West province (N = 89) reported the highest average percentage screenings namely 2.51%, followed by Limpopo (N = 27) and the single sample from Gauteng with 2.19% and 2.10% respectively. The Free State (N = 46) reported the lowest percentage screenings of 1.69%, while Mpumalanga averaged 1.88%. The weighted national average was 2.20% compared to the 1.86% of the previous season.

Graph 16: Average percentage screenings per province over five seasons



The highest weighted average percentage foreign matter (1.76%) was reported for the 13 samples from the Mpumalanga regions. The Free State and North West followed with 1.30% and 1.20% respectively. The lowest percentages were found in Limpopo (0.93%) and Gauteng (0.92%). The national average was 1.23% compared to the 1.18% and 1.55% of the previous two seasons. Please see Graph 17.