

South African

Commercial sunflower quality for the 2021/22 Season

Acknowledgements

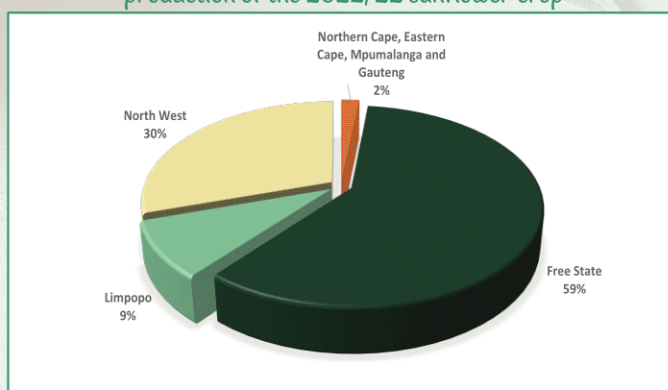
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- **Precision Oil Laboratories for providing Fatty Acid Profile analyses.**

Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2021/22 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is unchanged from the final crop estimate figure of 845 550 tons. The crop increased by almost 25% (167 550 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 89% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2021/22 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-six (176) 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-two samples, randomly selected to represent the different production regions, as well as 18 cultivar samples were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the tenth 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, is 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 2021/22 season, conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta, Sensako and Limagrain, 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 2021/22 season stands at 57.9 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 56% to this total. An area of 30.2 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.92 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2022/23 season is 52.9 million metric tons harvested on 28.7 million hectares and with a yield of 1.84 metric tons/hectare.

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

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)						
Season	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (Revised)	2022/23 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)	26 885	27 265	27 413	28 045	30 152	28 714
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.83	1.91	2.03	1.81	1.92	1.84
Production (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	3 400	3 530	3 020	3 200	3 400	3 700
European Union	10 058	9 482	9 469	8 969	10 467	9 529
China	2 580	2 550	2 680	2 750	2 880	2 900
Russia	11 000	12 756	15 379	13 420	15 400	16 000
Ukraine	13 400	15 250	16 500	13 900	16 800	10 600
United States	970	956	887	1 353	864	1 276
South Africa	862	678	810	678	846	800
Turkey	1 700	1 530	1 700	1 580	1 750	2 050
Other	5 086	5 292	5 202	4 995	5 532	6 003
TOTAL	49 056	52 024	55 647	50 845	57 939	52 858
Import (1 000 MT)						
Turkey	721	1 051	1 058	844	673	570
European Union	520	550	1 057	817	1 805	1 936
Other	1 322	1 445	1 451	1 308	1 704	1 735
TOTAL	2 563	3 046	3 566	2 969	4 182	4 241
Export (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	58	149	214	178	158	155
United States	89	87	64	72	69	78
Russia	103	338	1 278	528	281	250
Ukraine	50	119	76	186	1 793	2 080
Other	2 234	2 392	1 980	1 907	1 895	1 762
TOTAL	2 534	3 085	3 612	2 871	4 196	4 325
Oilseed crushed	44 663	47 231	50 300	45 568	48 526	49 346
National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowernsa.com , Table updated January 13, 2023; Source: Oil World & USDA.						

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions as sunflower plants are drought tolerant. The deep root system of a sunflower 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.