

# South African

## Commercial sunflower quality for the 2018/2019 Season

### Acknowledgements

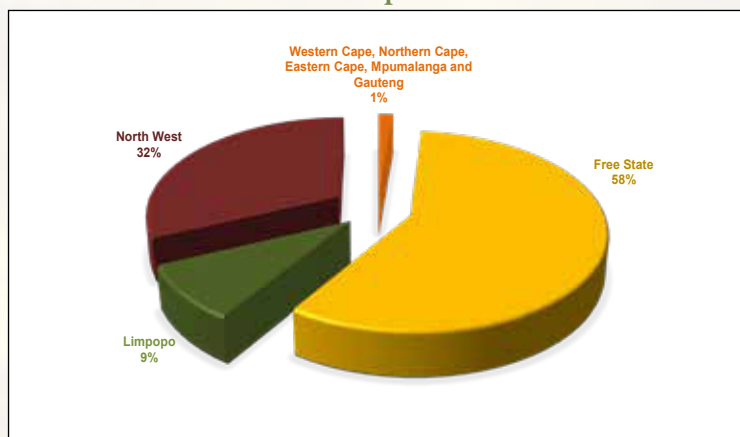
#### With gratitude to:

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

### Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2018/19 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 678 000 tons, a decrease of 2 940 tons or -0.43% compared to the final crop estimate figure. The crop decreased by 21.3% (184 000 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 89.6% of the total crop.

**Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2018/19 sunflower crop**



*Figures provided by the CEC.*

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower seed at the various grain intake points, was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 36. 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 samples, randomly selected to represent the different production regions, were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the seventh 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 a number of 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.

The results of this survey are available on the SAGL website ([www.sagl.co.za](http://www.sagl.co.za)). Hard copy reports are distributed to all the Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.