

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN QUALITY FOR THE 2012/2013 SEASON

Acknowledgements

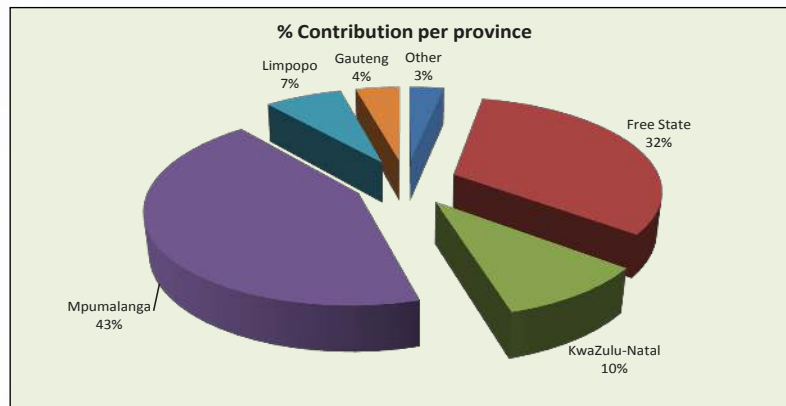
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Introduction

The finalized commercial figure for the soybean crop of the 2012/2013 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 784 500 tons. The final calculated crop figure was adjusted downward by 2 600 tons (0.33%). The commercial soybean crop increased by almost 21% (134 500 tons) from the 2011/2012 season. The major soybean-producing provinces, contributing 75% of the total crop, were Mpumalanga and the Free State.

Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2012/2013 soybean crop



Information provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of soybeans at the various silos was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 22. One hundred and fifty composite soybean samples, proportionally representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and chemically analysed for moisture, protein, fat and ash content. Fifteen randomly selected samples were analysed for genetic modification and ten for protein bound amino acid profile. The amino acid analyses were sponsored by the SAGL.

The goal of this crop quality survey is to accumulate quality data on the commercial soybean crop on a national level. This valuable data reveal general tendencies, highlight quality differences in the commercial soybeans produced in different local production regions and provide important information on the quality of commercial soybeans intended for export. A detailed database containing information collected over several seasons is essential and will assist with decision making processes.

This is the second annual soybean 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 one national and twelve international proficiency testing schemes as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The results are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The hard copy reports are posted to all the Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.