

# South African COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN QUALITY FOR THE 2016/2017 SEASON



## Acknowledgements

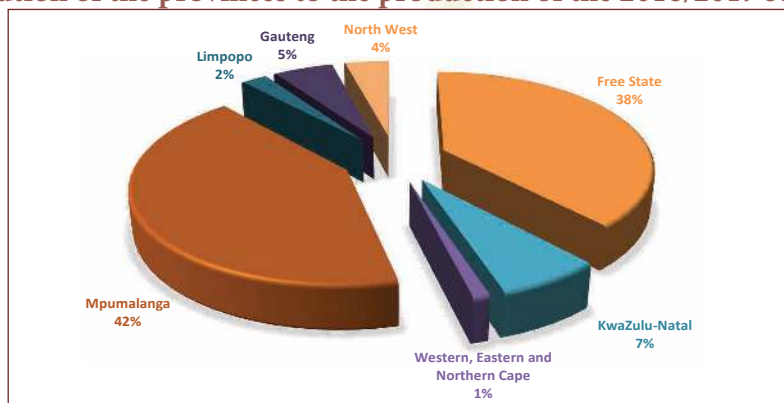
*With gratitude to:*

- *The Oil & Protein Seed Development Trust for its financial support in conducting this survey.*
- *Agbiz Grain and its members for their cooperation in providing the samples to make the survey possible.*
- *The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for providing production related figures.*
- *South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to soybeans.*
- *The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) for providing research based market analysis.*

## Introduction

The final figure for the commercial soybean crop of the 2016/2017 season is 1 316 000 tons, as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC). The final calculated crop figure was adjusted downward slightly by 370 tons (0.03%). This all-time high record crop represents an increase of 77.4% (574 000 tons) compared to the severely drought affected 2015/2016 season. The major soybean-producing provinces, contributing 80.0% of the total crop, were Mpumalanga and the Free State.

**Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2016/2017 soybean crop**



*Figures 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 28. One hundred and fifty composite soybean 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. Fifteen randomly selected samples were analysed to quantitatively determine the presence of genetically modified soybeans.

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 soybean crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The 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 when applicable.

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