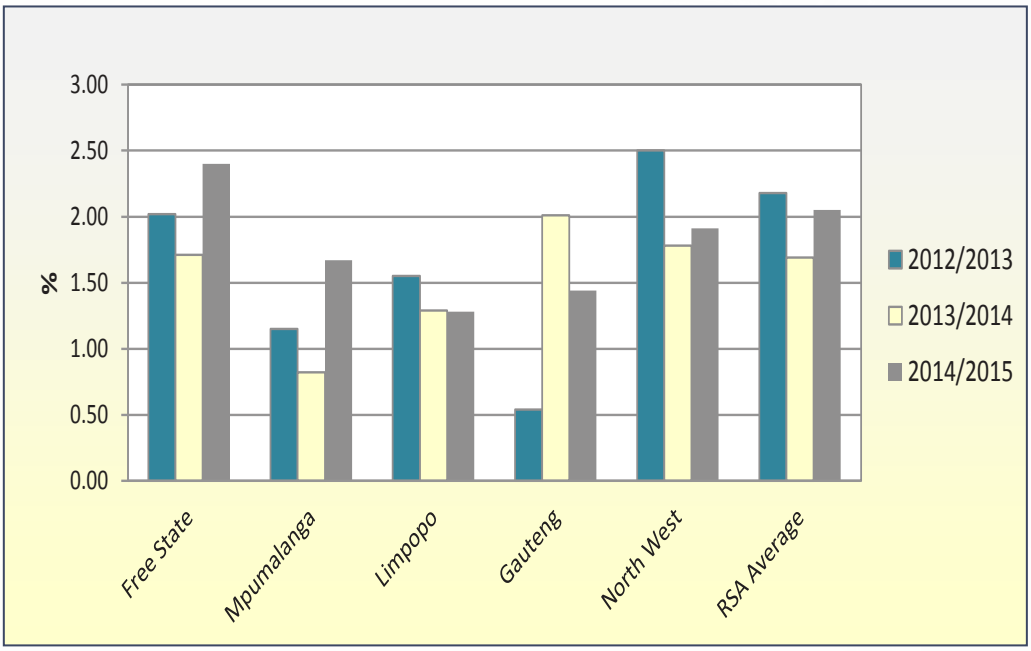
Sunflower Crop Quality 2014/2015 – Summary of results

Eighty six percent (151) of the 176 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey were graded as Grade FH1 and twenty five of the samples were downgraded to COSF (Class Other Sunflower Seed). The percentage of FH1 samples showed an increase compared to the 82% and 80% of the 2013/2014 and 2012/2013 seasons respectively.

- Twenty of the samples were downgraded as a result of the percentage of either the screenings or the collective deviations or a combination of both exceeding the maximum permissible deviations of 4% and 6% respectively.
- Two of the samples were downgraded as a result of a combination of the foreign matter and collective deviations exceeding the maximum permissible deviations of 4% and 6% respectively.
- Of the remaining three samples, one was downgraded due to the percentage damaged sunflower seeds exceeding the 10% maximum permissible deviation, one as a result of the presence of poisonous seeds *(Datura sp.)* exceeding the maximum permissible number (1 per 1000 g) and the last sample was downgraded as a result of the presence of stones, glass, metal, coal or dung.

The Free State province (69 samples) reported the highest weighted average percentage screenings namely 2.40%, followed by North West (N = 86) and Mpumalanga (N = 8) provinces with 1.91% and 1.67% respectively. Limpopo (eight samples) reported the lowest average percentage screenings of 1.28%. The weighted national average was 2.05% compared to the 1.69% of the previous season.

Graph 16: Average percentage screenings per province over three seasons



As in the previous season, the highest weighted percentage foreign matter (2.18%) was reported for the samples from Gauteng (N = 5). The Free State and North West provinces averaged 1.15% and 1.16% respectively. The lowest average percentage was found in Limpopo at 0.71%. The RSA average of 1.17% was the lowest of the last three seasons.