Methods

SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

A working group determined the procedure to be followed to ensure that the crop quality samples sent to the SAGL by the various grain silo owners, were representative of the total crop.

Each delivery was sampled as per the grading regulations for grading purposes.

After grading, the grading samples were placed in separate containers according to class and grade, per silo bin at each silo.

After 80% of the expected harvest had been received, the content of each container was divided with a multi slot divider in order to obtain a 3 kg sample.

If there were more than one container per class and grade per silo bin, the combined contents of the containers were mixed thoroughly before dividing it with a multi slot divider to obtain the required 3 kg sample.

The samples were marked clearly with the name of the depot, the bin/bag/bunker number(s) represented by each individual sample as well as the class and grade and were then forwarded to the SAGL.

GRADING:

Full grading was done in accordance with the Regulations relating to the Grading, Packing and Marking of Sunflower Seed intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa (No. 45 of 22 January 2016).

See pages 56 to 63 of this report.

TEST WEIGHT:

Test weight provides a measure of the bulk density of grain and oilseeds.

Test weight does not form part of the grading regulations for sunflower in South Africa. An approximation of the test weight of South African sunflower is provided in this report for information purposes. The g/1 L filling weight of the sunflower samples were determined by means of the Kern 222 apparatus. The standard working procedure were followed. The test weight was extrapolated by means of the following formulas obtained from the Test Weight Conversion Chart for Sunflower Seed, Oil of the Canadian Grain Commission: $y = 0.1936x + 2.2775$ (138 to 182 g/0.5 L) and $y = 0.1943x + 2.1665$ (183 to 227 g/0.5 L).

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS:

Milling

Prior to the chemical analyses, the sunflower samples were milled on a Retch ZM 200 mill fitted with a 1.0 mm screen.

Moisture

The moisture content of the samples was determined as a loss in weight when dried in an oven at 105 °C for 5 hours according to AgriLASA method 2.1, latest edition.

Crude Protein

The Dumas combustion analysis technique was used to determine the crude protein content, according to AACCI method 46-30.01, latest edition.

This method prescribes a generic combustion method for the determination of crude protein. Combustion at high temperature in pure oxygen sets nitrogen free, which is measured by thermal conductivity detection. The total nitrogen content of the sample is determined and converted to equivalent protein by multiplication with a factor of 6.25 to obtain the crude protein content.

Crude Fat

In-House method 024 was used for the determination of the crude fat in the samples. After sample preparation the fat is extracted by petroleum ether with the aid of the Soxhlet extraction apparatus, followed by the removal of the solvent by evaporation and weighing the dried residue thus obtained. The residue is expressed as % crude fat.

Ash

Ash is defined as the quantity of mineral matter which remains as incombustible residue of the tested substance, after application of the described working method. In-house method No. 011, based on AACCI method 08-03.01, was used for the determination. The samples were incinerated at 600 ± 15 °C in a muffle furnace for 2 hours.

Crude Fibre

In-House method 020 was used for the determination of the crude fibre in the samples. Crude fibre is the loss on ignition of the dried residue remaining after digestion of the sample with 1.25% Sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) and 1.25% Sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solutions under specific conditions.