

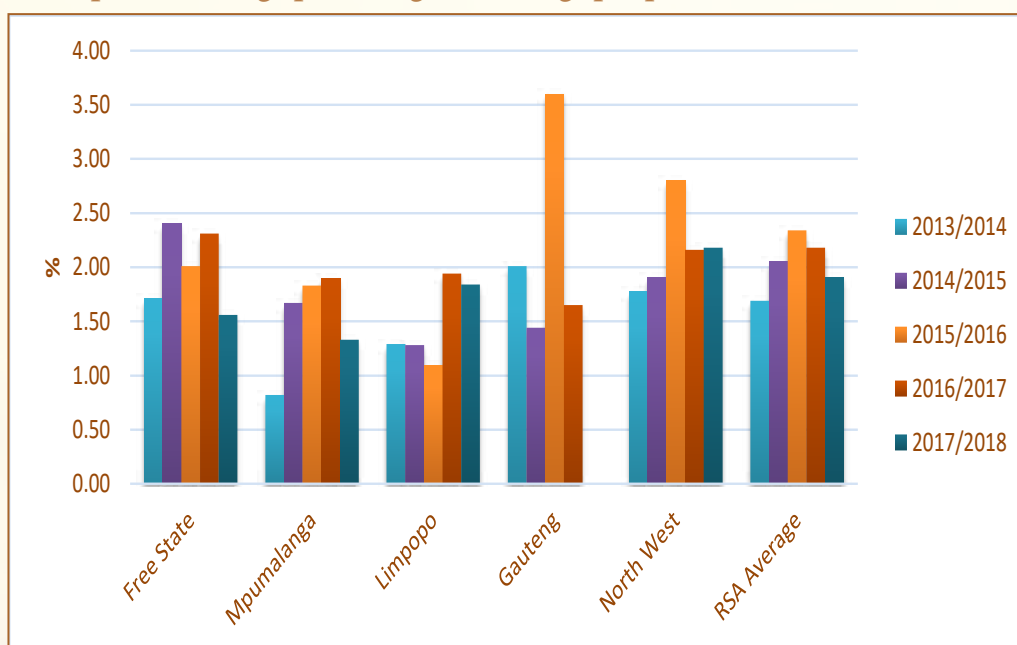
Sunflower Crop Quality 2017/2018 – Summary of results

Eighty-one percent (143) of the 176 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey were graded as Grade FH1, with 33 of the samples downgraded to COSF (Class Other Sunflower Seed). The percentage of FH1 samples decreased compared to the 85% of the previous season. In the 2015/2016 season, this percentage was 78%.

- Eighteen 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.
- Eight samples were downgraded as a result of the presence of poisonous seeds (*Datura spp* or *Crotalaria spp.*) exceeding the maximum permissible number, namely 1 per 1000 g.
- One sample was downgraded as a result of the presence of poisonous seeds (*Xanthium strumarium*) exceeding the maximum permissible number, namely 7 per 1000 g.
- The remaining six samples were downgraded as a result of a combination of one or more of the following deviations exceeding the maximum permissible deviation: percentage screenings, percentage foreign matter, percentage collective deviations as well as the presence of poisonous seeds or an undesired odour.

North West province (99 samples) reported the highest weighted average percentage screenings namely 2.18%, followed by Limpopo (N = 5) and Free State (N = 64) provinces with 1.84% and 1.56% respectively. Mpumalanga (8 samples) reported the lowest average percentage screenings of 1.33%. The weighted national average was 1.91% compared to the 2.18% of the previous season. No samples were received from Gauteng province this season.

Graph 16: Average percentage screenings per province over five seasons



The highest weighted percentage foreign matter (1.40%) was reported on the samples from the Free State. North West averaged 1.06% and the lowest percentages were found in Limpopo and Mpumalanga with 0.68% and 0.66% respectively. The South African average was 1.16% compared to the 1.06% and 1.41% of the previous two seasons.