

## **Wheat grades**

Representative samples (480) of the crop graded as follows: 39 % were graded B1, 23 % were graded B2, 16 % were graded B3, 4 % were graded B4 and UT and COW made up 18 %.

In the winter rainfall area and the Free State the percentage B1 was 42 % and 45 % respectively. The irrigation areas and other summer rainfall areas produced 32 % and 30 % grade B1 wheat.

## **Cultivars**

In the winter rainfall area, two cultivars dominated the market. These two cultivars were SST 88 and SST 57. The Western Cape produces about 30 % of all wheat grown in South Africa.

Four cultivars dominated the market in the Free State. These cultivars were Elands, PAN 3377, SST 806 and SST 876. Gariiep was also planted but in lesser quantities.

The cultivars SST 806 and SST 876 dominated the market in the North West province. A smaller amount of SST 966 and PAN 3377 was planted in the south-eastern region of North West.

In Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal SST 806 and SST 876 were mainly planted. Elands was planted in the south-eastern Mpumalanga.

## **Mycotoxins**

Mycotoxins, as secondary metabolites of moulds or fungi, can cause toxic effects on humans and animals consuming contaminated foods or feeds. Thirty samples (representing the different regions) were selected randomly for mycotoxin analyses. These samples were tested for aflatoxin, deoxynivalenol and ochratoxin.

Tests are no longer done for T2, as the fungi producing this mycotoxin only grows at very low temperatures. As from this season, the SAGL did not test for fumonisin and zearalenone, because the fungi producing these toxins on maize do not grow on wheat. The Medical Research Council confirmed that no fumonisin B1 could be detected by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) at a detection limit of 5 ng/g on the previous year's crop samples. The fumonisin method used by the SAGL in the previous season was not applicable to wheat (the crop report stated "out of scope").

No aflatoxin was found on the 30 samples tested. In accordance with Act 54 of 1972, Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 ppb ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ). In accordance with Act 36 of 1947, Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies, the allowable level of total aflatoxin is 10 to 50 ppb ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ).

No ochratoxin was found. In all samples tested, levels of deoxynivalenol were found, averaging 1.06 ppm.