

Cultivars

In the Western Cape, SST 88 dominated the market (35 %). SST 027 (29 %) and SST 015 (26 %) were also popular cultivars. The Western Cape produced 38 % of all wheat grown in South Africa during the 2010/2011 season.

Regions 21 to 24 of the Free State were dominated by PAN 3120 (26 %) and SST 835 (23 %). Elands dominated regions 25 to 28 (40 %). Matlabas and SST 356 were also popular cultivars with 16 % and 13 % respectively.

Farmers in the Vaal and Orange River areas preferred SST 835 (34 %), Duzi (30 %) and SST 843 (15 %).

The most preferred cultivar in the North West was SST 835 (36 %), followed by SST 843 (27 %) and Duzi (8 %).

In Limpopo, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, SST 835 (42 %) was the dominant cultivar followed by SST 843 (22 %), Kariiega (19 %) and Duzi (10 %).

The above information was calculated from the cultivar identification done on all 372 crop samples.

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites produced by fungi on agricultural commodities intended for human and animal consumption. These mycotoxins are potentially dangerous to humans and animals since they are, amongst other also carcinogens. Aside from health risks, mycotoxin contamination can also reduce the value of the crops. Environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, soil and storage conditions influence toxin production.

During 2010 SAGL implemented a multi-mycotoxin screening method using UPLC-MS/MS. With this technique simultaneous quantification and confirmation of Aflatoxin G₁; B₁; G₂; B₂, Fumonisin B₁ and B₂, Deoxynivalenol, T2-toxin, Zearalenone and Ochratoxin A are possible in one run.

Thirty samples (representing different regions as well as different classes and grades) were selected randomly for mycotoxin analyses.

All ten mycotoxins were not detected on all thirty samples tested.