

South African

Commercial Soybean Quality for the 2024/2025 Season

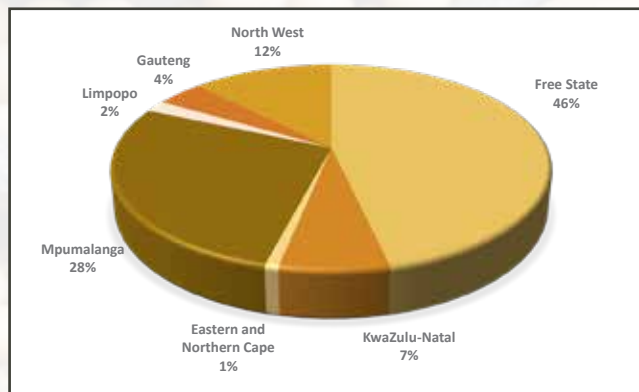
Acknowledgements

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- The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture (NDA) for providing production related figures.
- South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to soybeans.

Introduction

The final commercial soybean crop figure of the 2024/25 season, as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC), is 2 800 000 tons. This all-time high record crop represents a year-on-year increase of almost 52% (952 000 tons). The major soybean producing provinces, namely the Free State and Mpumalanga, contributed 74% of the total crop.



Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2024/25 soybean crop
Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of soybeans at the various silos was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 32. Two hundred and fifty composite soybean samples, representing the different production regions where soybeans are cultivated, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre and ash content.

This is the fourteenth annual soybean crop quality survey performed by The Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 at the request of the Grain Industry. SAGL is an ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratory and participates in various proficiency testing schemes, both nationally and internationally, as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The goal of this crop quality survey is the compilation of a detailed database, accumulating quality data collected over several seasons on the national commercial soybean crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies, highlight quality differences in the commercial soybeans produced in different local production regions and provide important information on the quality of commercial soybeans intended for export when applicable.

The results of this survey are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). Hard copy reports are distributed to all Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available to read or download from the website.

In addition to the quality information, production figures (obtained from the Crop Estimates Committee (CEC)) relating to hectares planted, tons produced and yields obtained on a national as well as provincial basis, over an eleven-season period, are provided in this report. SAGIS (South African Grain Information Service) supply and demand information is provided in table and graph format. Import and export figures over several seasons as well as information on the manufacture, import and export of oil seeds products, are also included.

The 2024/25 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in Potchefstroom, is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. R. 370 of 21 April 2017 are also provided.

Production

Soybeans are the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa, driven mainly by the demand for protein feed in the animal feed industry. Soybeans have benefits to producers in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture, but also due to lower input requirements compared to other commodities, for example wheat and maize.

Province	Type of production	2024/25			2023/24		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	2 000	7 500	3.75	1 200	4 380	3.65
	Total	2 000	7 500	3.75	1 200	4 380	3.65
Free State	Dryland	545 000	1 227 000	2.25	530 000	636 460	1.20
	Irrigation	20 000	73 000	3.65	15 000	52 500	3.50
	Total	565 000	1 300 000	2.30	545 000	688 960	1.26
Eastern Cape	Dryland	5 100	14 825	2.91	4 900	12 910	2.63
	Irrigation	400	1 400	3.50	400	1 400	3.50
	Total	5 500	16 225	2.95	5 300	14 310	2.70
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	33 500	135 000	4.03	36 500	128 000	3.51
	Irrigation	13 500	55 350	4.10	10 500	45 900	4.37
	Total	47 000	190 350	4.05	47 000	173 900	3.70
Mpumalanga	Dryland	305 500	735 650	2.41	314 500	604 750	1.92
	Irrigation	9 500	36 100	3.80	5 500	19 250	3.50
	Total	315 000	771 750	2.45	320 000	624 000	1.95
Limpopo	Dryland	4 000	10 075	2.52	4 000	7 850	1.96
	Irrigation	12 500	41 900	3.35	17 000	64 600	3.80
	Total	16 500	51 975	3.15	21 000	72 450	3.45
Gauteng	Dryland	50 000	107 400	2.15	54 500	78 525	1.44
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 500	5 475	3.65
	Total	52 000	114 400	2.20	56 000	84 000	1.50
North West	Dryland	136 000	307 000	2.26	139 000	138 000	0.99
	Irrigation	12 000	40 800	3.40	16 000	48 000	3.00
	Total	148 000	347 800	2.35	155 000	186 000	1.20
RSA	Dryland	1 079 100	2 536 950	2.35	1 083 400	1 606 495	1.48
	Irrigation	71 900	263 050	3.66	67 100	241 505	3.60
	Total	1 151 000	2 800 000	2.43	1 150 500	1 848 000	1.61

Figures provided by the CEC.