

South African

Commercial sunflower quality for the 2020/21 Season



Acknowledgements

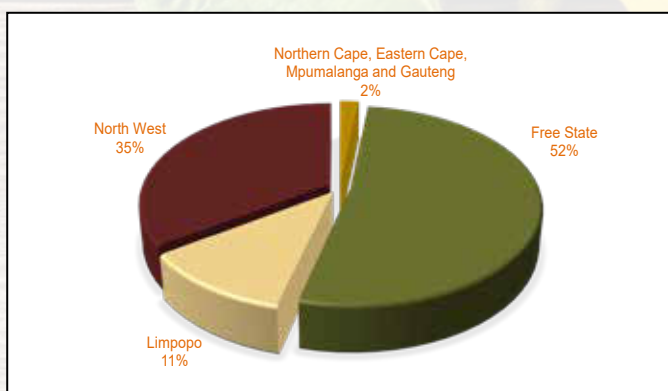
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Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2020/21 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 678 000 tons, an increase of 0.11% compared to the final crop estimate figure. The crop decreased by 14% (110 500 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 87% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2020/21 sunflower crop



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower seed at the various grain intake points, was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 37. One hundred and fifty-seven (157) composite sunflower samples, representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre and ash content. Twenty samples, randomly selected to represent the different production regions, as well as 30 cultivar samples were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the ninth annual sunflower crop quality survey performed by The Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 on 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 sunflower crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies and highlight quality differences in the commercial sunflower seed produced in different production regions nationally.

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 in a PDF format 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 report of the Evaluation of sunflower cultivars 2020/21 season conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops Institute in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta, Sensako and Limagrain is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. 45 of 22 January 2016 are also provided.

Production

World sunflower seed production for the 2020/21 season stands at 50.4 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 54% to this total. An area of 28.0 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 1.80 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2021/22 season is 57.7 million metric tons harvested on 29.9 million hectares and with a yield of 1.93 metric tons/hectare.

Please see Table 1 for the world sunflower seed supply and disappearance figures.

Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)						
Season	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (Revised)	2021/22 (Forecast)
Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)	26 964	26 885	27 265	27 413	28 037	29 915
Yield (MT/Ha)	1.86	1.83	1.91	2.03	1.80	1.93
Production (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	3 300	3 400	3 530	3 020	2 800	3 100
European Union	8 641	10 058	9 482	9 469	8 904	10 574
China	2 750	2 580	2 550	2 680	2 750	2 850
Russia	11 600	11 000	12 756	15 379	13 420	15 400
Ukraine	15 100	13 400	15 250	16 500	13 900	16 800
United States	1 203	970	956	887	1 353	863
South Africa	874	862	678	810	677	820
Turkey	1 470	1 700	1 530	1 700	1 580	1 750
Other	5 130	5 086	5 292	5 202	5 032	5 527
TOTAL	50 068	49 056	52 024	55 647	50 416	57 684
Import (1 000 MT)						
Turkey	611	721	1 051	1 058	844	840
European Union	632	520	550	1 057	817	630
Other	1 396	1 322	1 445	1 451	1 297	1 410
TOTAL	2 639	2 563	3 046	3 566	2 958	2 880
Export (1 000 MT)						
Argentina	74	58	149	214	178	161
United States	99	89	87	64	73	63
Russia	362	103	338	1 278	528	270
Ukraine	261	50	119	76	186	220
Other	1 804	2 234	2 392	1 980	1 921	2 222
TOTAL	2 600	2 534	3 085	3 612	2 886	2 936
Oilseed crushed	44 845	44 663	47 231	50 300	45 410	51 275

*National Sunflower Association website www.sunflowernsa.com, Table updated 12 January 2022;
Source: Oil World & USDA.*

Sunflower seed production is very suitable for South African climatic conditions as sunflower plants are drought tolerant. The deep root system of a sunflower enables the plant to perform better than other crops during dry seasons. Planting sunflowers is also advantageous when rainfall occurs late in the season, due to the late planting window relative to that of maize.