

# South African

## Commercial sunflower quality for the 2019/2020 Season

### Acknowledgements

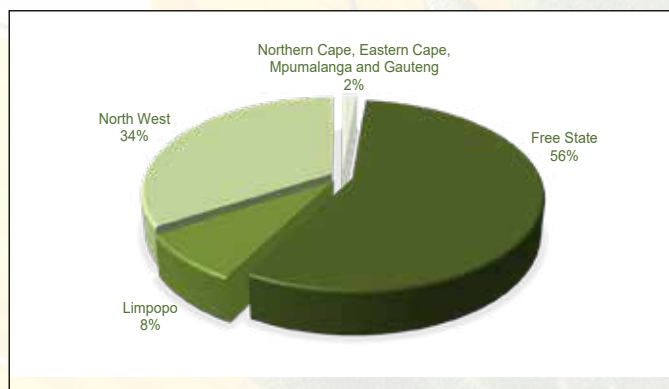
#### With gratitude to:

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- Agbiz Grain and its members for their cooperation in providing the samples to make this survey possible.
- The Crop Estimates Committee (CEC) of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for providing production related figures.
- South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to sunflower.
- The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) for providing research based market analysis.
- Precision Oil Laboratories for providing Fatty Acid Profile analyses.

## Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2019/20 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 788 500 tons, an increase of 2 590 tons or 0.33% compared to the final crop estimate figure. The crop increased by 16.3% (110 500 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 90.3% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2019/20 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 35. One hundred and seventy-six (176) 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, were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the eighth 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](http://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 2019/20 season conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in collaboration with Agricol, Pannar, Pioneer, Syngenta, Sensako and Link Seed 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 2019/20 season stands at 55.9 million metric tons with the Ukraine and Russia contributing 57% to this total. An area of 27.4 million hectares were harvested resulting in a yield of 2.04 metric tons/hectare. The forecasted figure for the 2020/21 season is 50.5 million metric tons harvested on 28.2 million hectares and with a yield of 1.79 metric tons/hectare.

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

<b>Table 1: World Sunflower Seed Supply and Disappearance (October through September)</b>						
<b>Season</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20 (Revised)</b>	<b>2020/21 (Forecast)</b>
<b>Area Harvested (1 000 Ha)</b>	<b>25 242</b>	<b>26 964</b>	<b>26 885</b>	<b>27 265</b>	<b>27 440</b>	<b>28 226</b>
<b>Yield (MT/Ha)</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.04</b>	<b>1.79</b>
<b>Production (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	2 830	3 300	3 400	3 530	3 150	2 830
European Union	7 769	8 641	10 058	9 482	9 485	8 696
China	2 698	2 750	2 580	2 550	2 680	2 730
Russia	9 700	11 600	11 000	12 756	15 379	13 200
Ukraine	12 100	15 100	13 400	15 250	16 500	14 300
United States	1 326	1 203	970	956	887	1 353
South Africa	755	874	862	678	786	780
Turkey	1 350	1 470	1 700	1 530	1 700	1 550
Other	4 386	5 130	5 086	5 292	5 346	5 020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42 914</b>	<b>50 068</b>	<b>49 056</b>	<b>52 024</b>	<b>55 913</b>	<b>50 459</b>
<b>Import (1 000 MT)</b>						
Turkey	436	611	721	1 051	1 058	950
European Union	577	632	520	550	1 036	880
Other	1 100	1 396	1 322	1 445	1 401	730
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 113</b>	<b>2 639</b>	<b>2 563</b>	<b>3 046</b>	<b>3 495</b>	<b>2 560</b>
<b>Export (1 000 MT)</b>						
Argentina	302	74	58	149	214	170
United States	107	99	89	87	64	80
Russia	105	362	103	338	1 261	500
Ukraine	171	261	50	119	76	180
Other	1 467	1 804	2 234	2 392	1 911	1 617
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 152</b>	<b>2 600</b>	<b>2 534</b>	<b>3 085</b>	<b>3 526</b>	<b>2 547</b>
<b>Oilseed crushed</b>	<b>38 177</b>	<b>44 845</b>	<b>44 663</b>	<b>47 231</b>	<b>50 474</b>	<b>45 499</b>
<i>National Sunflower Association website <a href="http://www.sunflowernsa.com">www.sunflowernsa.com</a>, Table updated January 12, 2021; Source: Oil World &amp; USDA.</i>						

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.