

South African

Commercial sunflower quality for the 2019/2020 Season

Acknowledgements

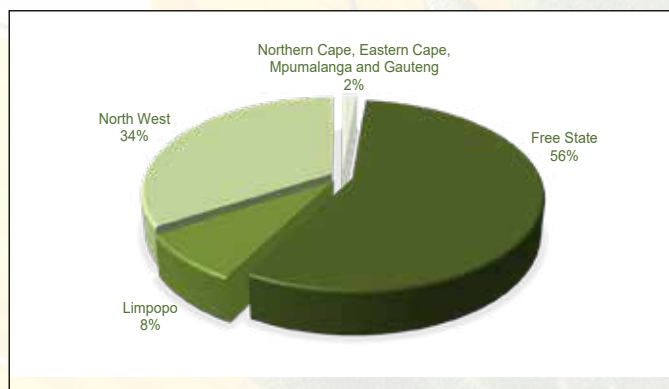
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- Precision Oil Laboratories for providing Fatty Acid Profile analyses.

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). 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.