

South African

Commercial sorghum quality for the 2024/2025 Season

Acknowledgements

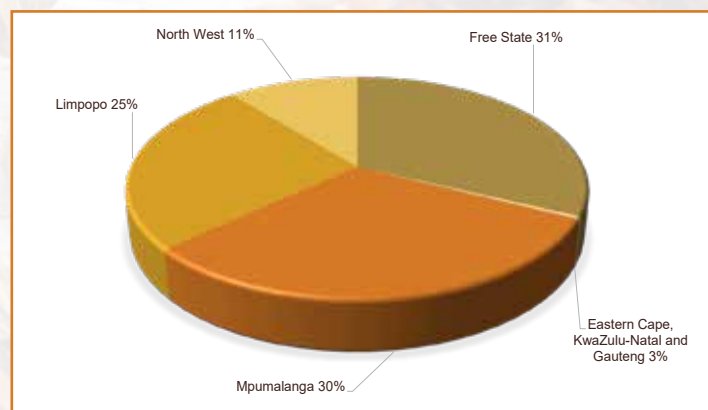
With gratitude to:

- The Sorghum Trust for its financial support in conducting this survey.
- Agbiz Grain and its members for providing to make this survey possible.
- 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 sorghum.



Introduction

The final commercial sorghum crop figure of the 2024/25 production season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) was 98 000 tons. This figure represents a year-on-year increase of 53% (52 000 tons). The three major sorghum producing provinces this season, namely the Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, contributed 86% to the total crop. The national yield average increased by almost 57% to 3.65 t/ha compared to the previous season.



Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2024/25 sorghum crop

Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sorghum 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 31. Fifteen (15) composite sorghum samples, representing different production regions, were received and analysed for quality. In addition, nine (9) imported sorghum samples from Brazil and one (1) from the USA were analysed and the results compared to that of the local sorghum crop.

The samples were graded, and test weight and thousand kernel mass determined. Sub-samples were milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat and total starch content. After sieving and dehulling by means of a Barley pearler, the fraction of the sample larger than 1.8 mm were milled and Hunter Lab colour analyses conducted. Multi-mycotoxin analyses as well as Image analyses (Length, Width, Elongation (% Width/Length) and Volume/surface area (%)) were also performed on these samples.

This is the eighth annual sorghum 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 sorghum crop. The data reveal general tendencies and highlight quality differences in the commercial sorghum produced in different local production regions. A detailed database containing reliable analytical data collected over several seasons, is essential in enabling industry to comment on proposed legislative levels and to supply reliable data for targeted research projects.