Sorghum Crop Quality 2024/25 – Summary of Results

The National Grading Regulations (Government Notice NO. R.15 of 08 January 2016, Regulation 4. Standards for classes) states that a consignment of sorghum shall be classified as Class GM Sorghum if it consists of malt sorghum that does not have a dark testa and complies with the standards for the grades. A consignment of sorghum shall be classified as Class GH Sorghum if it consists of malt sorghum that has a dark testa and complies with the standards for the grades.

Sixty-seven (67) percent of the 15 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey was determined to be class GM. Of these, 8 samples (80%) were graded as Grade GM1. The remaining two samples (20%) were graded GM2. All five of the samples determined to be class GH, were graded GH1.

No white sorghum samples were received this season for inclusion in the survey.

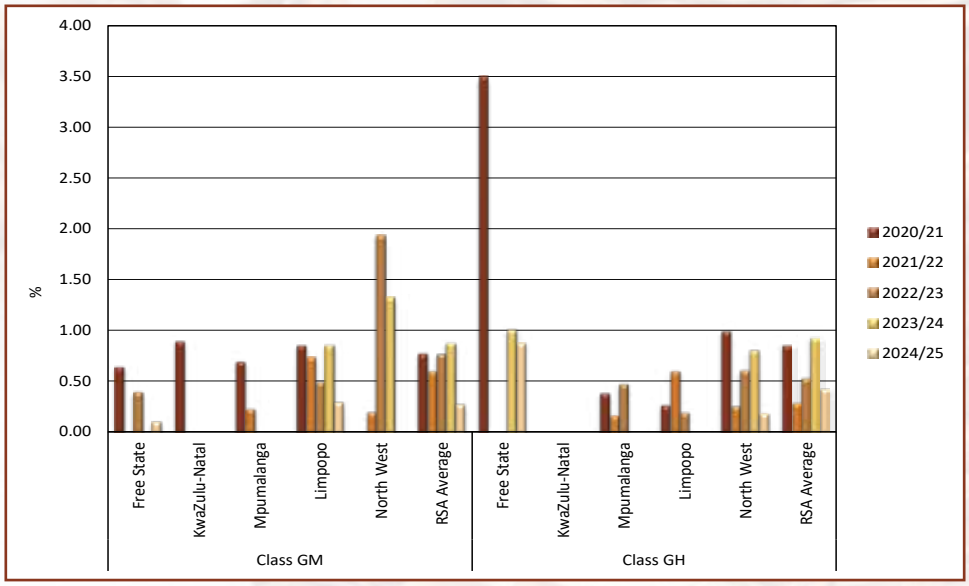
Certain varieties of sorghum contain tannins (specifically condensed tannins) in the seed coat layer beneath the pericarp (commonly referred to as the testa layer) of the grain. These varieties are variously referred to as: tannin, high-tannin, brown, bird-proof, bird-resistant, or bitter sorghums.

Varieties of sorghum not containing tannins are referred to as: non-tannin, low-tannin, condensed tannin-free, or sweet sorghums.

The detection of tannin in sorghum grain for grading purposes is done by SAGL by means of the bleach test. Please refer to the methodology followed under Methods on page 31.

Graphs 16 to 18 present the weighted average percentages foreign matter, defective sorghum and small kernel sorghum per class per province over five seasons.

GM sorghum's foreign matter varied between 0.11% for the single sample from the Free State and 0.30% for Limpopo (9 samples). GH sorghum's foreign matter varied between 0% for the single sample from Mpumalanga to 0.88% for the two samples of the Free State. North West's two samples averaged 0.19%. The national weighted averages for GM and GH sorghum were 0.28% and 0.43% respectively.



Graph 16: Average percentage foreign matter per class per province over five seasons

The percentage defective GM sorghum averaged 1.41% for Limpopo and was 3.19% on the single sample from the Free State. The average defective GH sorghum varied from 0.39% in the sample from Mpumalanga, to 1.13% and 1.63% on the two samples each from the Free State and North West respectively. The national weighted averages were 1.59% for GM and 1.18% for GH sorghum.