South African
COMMERCIAL SOYBEAN QUALITY FOR THE 2019/2020 SEASON

Acknowledgements
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- *South African Grain Information Service (SAGIS) for providing supply and demand figures relating to soybeans.*
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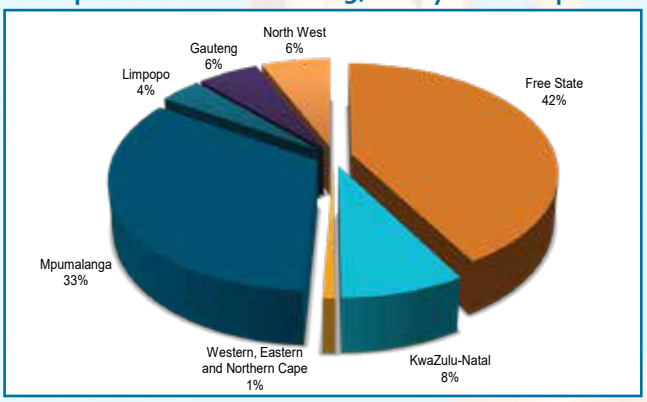
- *Precision Oil Laboratories for providing Fatty Acid Profile analyses.*

Introduction

The final commercial soybean crop figure of the 2019/20 season, as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC), is 1 245 500 tons and represents a 6% increase (75 155 tons) year on year. The major soybean producing provinces, namely the Free State and Mpumalanga, contributed 75% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Provincial contribution to the production of the 2019/20 soybean crop



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of soybeans at the various silos was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 39. One hundred and fifty composite soybean 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. Fifteen randomly selected samples were analysed to quantitatively determine the presence of genetically modified soybeans. Twenty samples, randomly selected to represent the different production regions, were submitted to Precision Oil Laboratories for fatty acid profile analyses.

This is the nineth annual soybean 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 soybean crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies, highlight quality differences in the commercial soybeans produced in different local production regions and provide important information on the quality of commercial soybeans intended for export when applicable.

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 2019/20 Report of the National Soybean Cultivar Trials conducted by the ARC-Grain Crops in Potchefstroom, is included in totality and as received, in this report. The national grading regulations as published in Government Notice NO. R.370 of 21 April 2017 are also provided.

Production

Soybeans are the most important oilseed crop produced in South Africa, driven mainly by the demand for protein feed in the animal feed industry. Soybeans have benefits to producers in crop rotation programs, especially as part of conservation agriculture, but also due to lower input requirements compared to other commodities for example wheat and maize.

Table 1: Soybean production overview over two seasons

Province	Type of production	2019/20			2018/19		
		Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha	Hectares planted, ha	Production, tons	Yield, t/ha
Western Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	-	-	-	100	10	0.10
	Total	-	-	-	100	10	0.10
Northern Cape	Dryland	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 550	5 425	3.50
	Total	2 000	7 000	3.50	1 550	5 425	3.50
Free State	Dryland	304 000	486 750	1.60	292 800	368 350	1.26
	Irrigation	11 000	33 000	3.00	8 200	22 950	2.80
	Total	315 000	519 750	1.65	301 000	391 300	1.30
Eastern Cape	Dryland	1 300	2 300	1.77	1 150	1 380	1.20
	Irrigation	200	700	3.50	-	-	-
	Total	1 500	3 000	2.00	1 150	1 380	1.20
KwaZulu-Natal	Dryland	22 000	56 000	2.55	20 000	47 000	2.35
	Irrigation	13 000	45 500	3.50	13 000	52 000	4.00
	Total	35 000	101 500	2.90	33 000	99 000	3.00
Mpumalanga	Dryland	252 000	390 000	1.55	297 000	470 000	1.58
	Irrigation	8 000	26 000	3.25	13 000	41 500	3.19
	Total	260 000	416 000	1.60	310 000	511 500	1.65
Limpopo	Dryland	2 700	4 350	1.61	2 800	4 980	1.78
	Irrigation	12 800	43 700	3.41	13 400	42 000	3.13
	Total	15 500	48 050	3.10	16 200	46 980	2.90
Gauteng	Dryland	34 000	63 200	1.86	28 500	56 550	1.98
	Irrigation	2 000	7 000	3.50	3 000	9 600	3.20
	Total	36 000	10 200	1.95	31 500	66 150	2.10
North West	Dryland	30 000	51 000	1.70	29 200	27 500	0.94
	Irrigation	10 000	29 000	2.90	6 800	21 100	3.10
	Total	40 000	80 000	2.00	36 000	48 600	1.35
RSA	Dryland	646 000	1 053 600	1.63	671 450	975 760	1.45
	Irrigation	59 000	191 900	3.25	59 050	194 585	3.30
	Total	705 000	1 245 000	1.77	730 500	1 170 345	1.60

Figures provided by the CEC.