

COMMENTARY

The total production of individual crops depends on size of their sowing areas surveyed in May and on changes of growing conditions during the vegetation period.

The production **area of cereals** (including grain maize and other cereals) decreased by 19.8 thous. ha (i.e. by 1.5%), year-on-year, to 1 389.8 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 8 183.5 thous. tonnes and in comparison with 2014 it declined by 595.8 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 6.8%). The harvest of spring barley grew above the 2014 level to 1 420.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 44.1 thous. tonnes (by 3.2%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of oats went up as well to 154.6 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 2.3 thous. tonnes (by 1.4%) more. The harvest of basic cereals went down in comparison with the last year. The harvest of common wheat was 5 274.3 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 168.1 thous. tonnes (by 3.1%) less than in 2014. The harvest of barley reached 1 991.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 24.4 thous. tonnes (by 1.2%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of maize for grain reached 442.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 389.5 thous. tonnes (by 46.8%) less than in 2014.

The **yield of cereals** was 5.89 tonnes per hectare; it was by 0.34 t/ha (i.e. by 5.5%) lower compared to the previous year. The yields were 6.50 t/ha for common winter wheat (6.61 t/ha in 2014), 4.26 t/ha for common spring wheat (4.85 t/ha), 4.91 t/ha for rye (5.13 t/ha), 5.46 t/ha for winter barley (5.74 t/ha), 5.43 t/ha for spring barley (5.56 t/ha), 3.65 t/ha for oats (3.60 t/ha), 5.54 t/ha for grain maize (8.43 t/ha), and 4.72 t/ha for triticale (5.03 t/ha).

The production of **pulses** increased compared to 2014; in total 95.9 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The field peas harvest was 78.2 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 35.4 thous. tonnes (by 82.8%) more than in the previous year. Total production of **grain crops** (cereals and pulses) reached 8 279.4 thous. tonnes; it went down by 553.7 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 6.3%) in comparison with 2014.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 604.3 thous. tonnes; it showed a decrease by 228.4 thous. tonnes (by 27.4%) compared to 2014. Yield of potatoes reached 21.06 t/ha and was by 6.62 t/ha lower than in 2014. Harvest of early potatoes reached 37.7 thous. tonnes. The average yield of other potatoes was 21.77 t/ha, it means by 7.59 t/ha less than in 2014. Their production reached 515.7 thous. tonnes and was by 200.5 thous. tonnes lower than in 2014. **Sugar beet** harvest was 3 421.0 thous. tonnes (4 424.6 thous. tonnes in 2014) and its average yield reached 59.38 t/ha; its harvest declined by 22.7% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2015 the total sowing area of **oil seed crops** decreased by 18.3 thous. ha (by 3.9%) to 446.0 thous. ha. Their production was 1 355.0 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 289.1 thous. tonnes lower than in the previous year. The harvest of rape reached 1 256.2 thous. tonnes while in 2014 it was 1 537.3 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was a decrease by 281.1 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.43 t/ha; it went down by 0.52 t/ha. The production of poppy seed grew: in total 26.7 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 32.7 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.82 tonnes/ha (in 2014 there were 24.7 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested with its yield of 0.91 t/ha).

The production of **annual green fodder crops** on arable land was 8 076.5 thous. tonnes of green forage; i.e. by 2 632.7 thous. tonnes less than in 2014. Out of this amount, 7 134.4 thous. tonnes of green maize and maize for silage were harvested; i.e. by 2 443.5 thous. tonnes less in comparison with the previous year. Harvest of hay from perennial green fodder crops was 1 093.0 thous. tonnes, of which red clover harvest reached 308.8 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was lower than in 2014; in total 247.2 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (294.2 thous. tonnes in 2014). The harvest of **fruits** (including households) reached 391.4 thous. tonnes and was higher than in the previous year (314.7 thousand tonnes in 2014).

In total 90.6 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 15.8 thous. ha of **vineyards in production**, i.e. by 27.1 thous. tonnes more than in 2014; their average yield was 5.73 t/ha (4.03 t/ha in 2014). **Hop** production reached 4 843 tonnes; it decreased by 1 359 tonnes (i.e. by 21.9%) compared to 2014. Hop yield of 1.05 t/ha declined by 0.34 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.