

## COMMENTARY

The total production of individual crops is based on the 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 4.3 thous. ha (i.e. by -0.3%), year-on-year, to 1 354.7 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 7 456.8 thous. tonnes and it went down by 1 139.6 thous. tonnes (i.e. by -13.3%) in comparison with 2016. The harvest of common spring wheat went above the 2016 level to 188.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 49.6 thous. tonnes more (by 35.7%) than in the previous year. Higher than in 2016 were also harvests of rye, which accounted for 109.2 thous. tonnes (by 4.9 thous. tonnes or by 4.7% more); and of oats, which was 142.4 thous. tonnes (by 10.2 thous. tonnes or by 7.7% more). The harvest of basic cereals was lower than in the previous year. The harvest of common wheat amounted to 4 718.2 thous. tonnes (by 736.5 thous. tonnes or by 13.5% less than in 2016). The harvest of barley was 1 712.3 thous. tonnes (by 133.0 thous. tonnes or by 7.2% less than in 2016). The harvest of grain maize accounted for 588.1 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 257.7 thous. tonnes (by 30.5%) less than in 2016.

The **yield of cereals** was 5.50 tonnes per hectare; it was by 0.82 t/ha (i.e. by 13.0%) lower compared to the previous year. The yields were 5.77 t/ha for common winter wheat (6.57 t/ha in 2016), 4.05 t/ha for common spring wheat (4.54 t/ha), 4.92 t/ha for rye (4.98 t/ha), 5.85 t/ha for winter barley (6.13 t/ha), 4.96 t/ha for spring barley (5.45 t/ha), 3.23 t/ha for oats (3.52 t/ha), 6.84 t/ha for grain maize (9.79 t/ha), and 4.89 t/ha for triticale (4.88 t/ha).

The production of **pulses** increased compared to 2016; in total 100.4 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The harvest of field peas was 87.3 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 18.6 thous. tonnes (by 27.1%) up than in the previous year. The total production of **grain crops** (cereals and pulses) reached 7 557.2 thous. tonnes; it went down by 1 123.8 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 12.9%) in comparison with 2016.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 819.7 thous. tonnes; it showed a decrease by 11.4 thous. tonnes (by 1.4%) compared to 2016. Yield of potatoes reached 27.85 t/ha and was by 0.28 t/ha lower than in 2016. Harvest of early potatoes reached 37.1 thous. tonnes. The average yield of other potatoes was 29.28 t/ha, it means by 0.38 t/ha less than in 2016. Their production reached 719.7 thous. tonnes and was by 54 tonnes higher than in the previous year. **Sugar beet** harvest was 4 399.5 thous. tonnes (4 118.4 thous. tonnes in 2016) and its average yield reached 66.56 t/ha; its harvest increased by 6.8% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2017 the total sowing area of **oil seed crops** increased by 9.3 thous. ha (by 2.0%) to 479.5 thous. ha. Their production was 1 269.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 207.0 thous. tonnes less than in the previous year. The harvest of rape reached 1 146.2 thous. tonnes while in 2016 it was 1 359.1 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was a decrease by 212.9 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 2.91 t/ha; it went down by 0.55 t/ha. The production of poppy seed went down as well: in total 20.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 32.6 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.62 tonnes/ha (in 2016 there were 28.6 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested with its yield of 0.80 t/ha).

The production of annual **green fodder crops** on arable land was 8 196.1 thous. tonnes of green forage; i.e. by 1 989.4 thous. tonnes less than in 2016. Out of this amount, 7 777.0 thous. tonnes of green and silage maize were harvested; i.e. by 1 768.2 thous. tonnes less in comparison with the previous year. Harvest of hay from perennial green fodder crops was 1 241.5 thous. tonnes, of which red clover harvest reached 398.1 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was higher than in 2016; in total 311.3 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (298.6 thous. tonnes in 2016). The harvest of **fruits** (including households) reached 252.9 thous. tonnes and was lower than in the previous year (309.7 thousand tonnes in 2016).

In total 79.8 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 15.8 thous. ha of **vineyards in production**, i.e. by 3.9 thous. tonnes more than in 2016; their average yield was 5.05 t/ha (4.80 t/ha in 2016). **Hop** production reached 6 797 tonnes; it decreased by 919 tonnes (i.e. by 11.9%) compared to 2016. Hop yield of 1.37 t/ha went down by 0.24 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.