

## 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 3.5 thous. ha (i.e. by 0.3%), year-on-year, to 1 409.6 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 8 779.3 thous. tonnes and in comparison with 2013 it increased by 1 266.7 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 16.9%). The harvest of winter and spring rye decreased by 47.2 thous. tonnes (by 26.8%) to 129.1 thous. tonnes compared to 2013. The harvest of main cereals grew in comparison with the last year. The harvest of wheat was 5 442.3 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 741.7 thous. tonnes (by 15.8%) more than in 2013. The harvest of barley reached 1 967.0 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 373.3 thous. tonnes (by 23.4%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of maize for grain reached 832.2 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 156.9 thous. tonnes (by 23.2%) more than in 2013.

The **yield of cereals** was 6.23 tonnes per hectare; it was by 0.91 t/ha (i.e. by 17.2%) higher compared to the previous year. The yields were 6.61 t/ha for winter wheat (5.75 t/ha in 2013), 4.85 t/ha for spring wheat (4.15 t/ha), 5.13 t/ha for rye (4.70 t/ha), 5.74 t/ha for winter barley (4.47 t/ha), 5.56 t/ha for spring barley (4.61 t/ha), 3.60 t/ha for oats (3.19 t/ha), 8.43 t/ha for grain maize (6.97 t/ha), and 5.03 t/ha for triticale (4.58 t/ha).

The production of **pulses** increased compared to 2013 as well; in total 53.8 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The field peas harvest was 42.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 12.0 thous. tonnes (by 39.2%) more than in the previous year. Total production of **grains** (cereals and pulses) reached 8 833.1 thous. tonnes; it went up by 1 282.2 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 17.0%) in comparison with 2013.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 832.8 thous. tonnes; it showed an increase by 185.9 thous. tonnes (by 28.7%) compared to 2013. Yield of potatoes reached 27.68 t/ha and was by 5.6 t/ha more than in 2013. Harvest of early potatoes reached 46.6 thous. tonnes. The average yield of other potatoes was 29.36 t/ha, it means by 6.27 t/ha more than in 2013. Their production reached 716.2 thous. tonnes and was by 160.5 thous. tonnes higher than in 2013. **Sugar beet** harvest was 4 424.6 thous. tonnes (3 743.8 thous. tonnes in 2013) and its average yield reached 70.28 t/ha; its harvest increased by 18.2% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2014 the total sowing area of **oleaginous plants** decreased by 22.6 thous. ha (by 4.6%) to 464.3 thous. ha. Their production was 1 644.1 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 110.4 thous. tonnes more than in the previous year. The harvest of rape reached 1 537.3 thous. tonnes, while in 2013 it was 1 443.2 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was an increase by 94.1 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.95 t/ha; it increased by 0.50 t/ha. The production of poppy seed grew as well; in total 24.7 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 27.0 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.91 tonnes/ha (in 2013 there were 13.9 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested with its yield of 0.69 t/ha).

The production of **annual fodder crops** on arable land was 10 709.2 thous. tonnes of green forage; i.e. by 2 212.1 thous. tonnes more than in 2013. Out of this amount there were harvested 9 577.9 thous. tonnes of green maize and maize for silage; i.e. by 1 942.5 thous. tonnes more in comparison with 2013. Harvest of hay from perennial fodder crops was 1 306.8 thous. tonnes, of which red clover harvest reached 367.4 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was higher than in 2013; in total 294.2 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (239.7 thous. tonnes in 2013). The harvest of **fruit** (including households) reached 314.7 thous. tonnes and was higher than in the previous year (303.4 thousand tonnes in 2013).

In total 63.5 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 15.8 thous. ha of **bearing vineyards**, i.e. by 11.2 thous. tonnes less than in 2013; their average yield was 4.03 t/ha (4.77 t/ha in 2013). **Hop** production reached 6 202 tonnes; it increased by 872 tonnes (i.e. by 16.4%) compared to 2013. Hop yield of 1.39 t/ha grew by 0.16 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.