

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 30.8 thous. ha (i.e. by 2.2%), year-on-year, to 1 359.0 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 8 596.4 thous. tonnes and in comparison with 2015 it went up by 412.9 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 5.0%). The harvest of spring barley decreased to 1 207.8 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 212.6 thous. tonnes (by 15.0%) below the 2015 level. The harvest of oats went down as well to 132.2 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 22.4 thous. tonnes (by 14.5%) less. The harvest of basic cereals was almost the same as in the last year. The harvest of common wheat was 5 454.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 180.4 thous. tonnes (by 3.4%) more than in 2015. The harvest of barley reached 1 845.3 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 146.2 thous. tonnes (by 7.3%) less than in the previous year. The harvest of maize for grain reached 845.8 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 403.1 thous. tonnes (by 91.0%) more than in 2015.

The **yield of cereals** was 6.33 tonnes per hectare; it was by 0.44 t/ha (i.e. by 7.4%) higher compared to the previous year. The yields were 6.57 t/ha for common winter wheat (6.50 t/ha in 2015), 4.54 t/ha for common spring wheat (4.26 t/ha), 4.98 t/ha for rye (4.91 t/ha), 6.13 t/ha for winter barley (5.46 t/ha), 5.45 t/ha for spring barley (5.43 t/ha), 3.52 t/ha for oats (3.65 t/ha), 9.79 t/ha for grain maize (5.54 t/ha), and 4.88 t/ha for triticale (4.72 t/ha).

The production of **pulses** decreased compared to 2015; in total 84.6 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The field peas harvest was 68.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 9.5 thous. tonnes (by 12.1%) less than in the previous year. Total production of **grain crops** (cereals and pulses) reached 8 681.0 thous. tonnes; it went up by 401.6 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 4.9%) in comparison with 2015.

The total harvest of **potatoes** including households' production was 831.1 thous. tonnes; it showed an increase by 226.8 thous. tonnes (by 37.5%) compared to 2015. Yield of potatoes reached 28.13 t/ha and was by 7.07 t/ha higher than in 2015. Harvest of early potatoes reached 42.1 thous. tonnes. The average yield of other potatoes was 29.66 t/ha, it means by 7.89 t/ha more than in 2015. Their production reached 719.6 thous. tonnes and was by 203.9 thous. tonnes higher than in the previous year. **Sugar beet** harvest was 4 118.4 thous. tonnes (3 421.0 thous. tonnes in 2015) and its average yield reached 67.81 t/ha; its harvest increased by 20.4% in comparison with the previous year.

In 2016 the total sowing area of **oil seed crops** increased by 24.2 thous. ha (by 5.4%) to 470.2 thous. ha. Their production was 1 476.5 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 121.4 thous. tonnes higher than in the previous year. The harvest of rape reached 1 359.1 thous. tonnes while in 2015 it was 1 256.2 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was an increase by 102.9 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.46 t/ha; it went up by 0.03 t/ha. The production of poppy seed grew: in total 28.6 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 35.5 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.80 tonnes/ha (in 2015 there were 26.7 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested with its yield of 0.82 t/ha).

The production of annual **green fodder crops** on arable land was 10 863.6 thous. tonnes of green forage; i.e. by 2 787.1 thous. tonnes more than in 2015. Out of this amount, 9 545.2 thous. tonnes of green maize and maize for silage were harvested; i.e. by 2 410.9 thous. tonnes more in comparison with the previous year. Harvest of hay from perennial green fodder crops was 1 365.1 thous. tonnes, of which red clover harvest reached 417.8 thous. tonnes.

Production of **vegetables** including households' estimates was higher than in 2015; in total 298.6 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (247.2 thous. tonnes in 2015). The harvest of **fruits** (including households) reached 309.7 thous. tonnes and was lower than in the previous year (391.4 thousand tonnes in 2015).

In total 75.9 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 15.8 thous. ha of **vineyards in production**, i.e. by 14.7 thous. tonnes less than in 2015; their average yield was 4.80 t/ha (5.73 t/ha in 2015). **Hop** production reached 7 712 tonnes; it increased by 2 869 tonnes (i.e. by 59.2%) compared to 2015. Hop yield of 1.61 t/ha went up by 0.57 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.