

Commentary

The agricultural land area as recorded in the Areas under Crops Survey 2017 accounts for 3 521 thous. ha, i.e. by 33 thous. ha more (+0.9%) than in 2016. The arable land area reaches 2 498 thous. ha in total; it went up by 4 thous. ha (+0.2%) compared to 2016. The share of arable land in the total agricultural land is 70.9%. Permanent grasslands cover 978 thous. ha, i.e. by 30 thous. ha more (+3.1%) than in the previous year. Their proportion in the total agricultural area is 27.8%. Fallow land area accounts for 26 thous. ha; it decreased by 4 thous. ha (-13.0%) since 2016 and now it shares 1.1% of the total arable land surveyed.

Cereals are grown on 54.7% of the total sowing area; out of them, common winter wheat as the most widespread one shares 31.8% of the sowing area. Root crops represent 3.6% of the sowing area, oil seed crops 19.4% (of which rape shares 82.2% of the oil seed crops total), and fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 18.8% (of which 11.2% for annual ones) of the total sowing area.

The sowing area planted with cereals covers 1 352 thous. ha, i.e. by 540 ha more than in 2016. Pulses are sown on 43 thous. ha, i.e. by 7 thous. ha more compared to 2016. Root crops share 90 thous. ha, i.e. by 5 thous. ha more in comparison with 2016. Potatoes are planted on 23 thous. ha in the frame of agricultural sector while their estimated area for households' production is 6 thous. ha. An increase was noted for oil seed crops whose current area is 480 thous. ha; it went up by 9 thous. ha since 2016. The sowing area of industrial plants increased since 2016 as well by 12 thous. ha to 489 thous. ha. Fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 465 thous. ha, i.e. by 19 thous. ha less than in 2016.