

## Commentary

The agricultural land area as recorded in the Areas under Crops Survey 2016 accounts for 3 489 thous. ha, i.e. by 5 thous. ha less (-0.1%) than in 2015. The arable land area reaches 2 494 thous. ha in total; it went up by 2 thous. ha (+0.1%) compared to 2015. The share of arable land in the total agricultural land is 71.5%. Permanent grasslands cover 949 thous. ha, i.e. by 9 thous. ha (-1.0%) less than in the previous year. The proportion of permanent grassland in the total agricultural area is 27.2%. Fallow land area accounts for 30 thous. ha; it decreased by 5 thous. ha (-14.0%) since 2015 and now it shares 1.2% of the total arable land surveyed.

Cereals are grown on 54.9% of the total sowing area; out of them, common winter wheat as the most widespread one shares 32.8% of the sowing area. Root crops represent 3.4% of the sowing area, oil seed crops 19.1% (of which rape shares 83.6% of the oil seed crops total), and fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 19.7% (of which 12.2% for annual ones) of the total sowing area.

The sowing area planted with cereals covers 1 352 thous. ha, i.e. by 52 thous. ha (-3.7%) less than in 2015. Pulses are sown on 36 thous. ha, i.e. by 2 thous. ha more compared to 2015. Root crops share 85 thous. ha, i.e. by 4 thous. ha more in comparison with 2015. 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 470 thous. ha; it went up by 24 thous. ha since 2015. The sowing area of industrial plants increased since 2015 as well by 22 thous. ha to 477 thous. ha. Fodder crops harvested green on arable land cover 485 thous. ha, i.e. by 27 thous. ha more than in 2015.