

COMMENTARY

Total production of individual crops is based on sowing areas surveyed in May and the development of vegetative conditions.

Production area of cereals (including grain maize and other cereals) decreased by 21,2 thous. ha (-1,3 %) to have reached 1 558,6 thous. ha. Total production of cereals was 8 369,5 thous. tonnes and matching the year 2007 stepped up by 1 216,6 thous. tonnes (+17,0 %). Only the harvest of spring wheat with 161,2 thous. tonnes (-9,1 %) and also oats with 155,9 thous. tonnes (-2,2 %) were down the harvest 2007. Wheat production was at the level of 4 631,5 thous. tonnes, it means by 692,6 tonnes more (+17,6 %) matching the year 2007. Total barley harvest at the level of 2 243,9 thous. tonnes, it means by 350,5 thous. tonnes (+18,5 %) less than the harvest 2007. Rye harvest overcame by 209,8 thous. tonnes (+18,2 %) previous year.

Yield of cereals per 1 ha was 5,37 tonnes, matching 2007 is up by 0,84 tonnes (+18,6 %). Winter wheat reached the yield of 5,88 tonnes (5,01 tonnes in 2007), spring wheat reached 3,84 tonnes (2,91 tonnes), rye 4,83 tonnes (4,73 tonnes), winter barley 4,67 tonnes (4,81 tonnes), spring barley 4,64 tonnes (3,44 tonnes), oats 3,18 tonnes (2,70 tonnes), grain maize 7,54 tonnes (6,80 tonnes) and triticale 4,42 tonnes (4,11 tonnes). **Legumes** production decreased matching the year 2007. It was harvested 47,9 thous. tonnes of legumes in total. Field peas production was 40,9 thous. tonnes, matching the year 2007 it means by 14,1 thous. tonnes less. Total production of **grain plants** (cereals plus legumes) reached 8 417,4 thous. tonnes, matching 2007 is by 1 199,3 thous. tonnes up (+16,6%).

Total **potatoes** harvest including production of kitchen gardens was 945,2 thous. tonnes, it is a decrease by 52,4 thous. tonnes (-5,3 %) matching 2007. Yield of potatoes was 25,00 tonnes/ha and it is also by 0,21 tonnes up matching 2007. Early potatoes harvest reached 55,6 thous. tonnes. The average yield of "other potatoes" was 26,49 tonnes/ 1 ha, it means by 0,39 tonnes/ 1 ha more. The other potatoes production of 798,9 thous. tonnes is by 50,8 thous. tonnes down than in the year 2007. **Sugar beet** was harvested in amount of 2 884,6 thous. tonnes (2 889,9 thous. tonnes in 2007), it means a decrease by 0,2 %.

In 2008 sowing areas of **oleaginous plants** increased totally by 32,2 thous. ha (+7,1 %), the total acreage reached 483,9 thous. ha. The production from that area was 1 194,2 thous. tonnes, it means up by 48,7 thous. tonnes than in 2007. Rape harvest was 1 048,9 thous. tonnes, in the year 2007 it was 1 031,9 thous. tonnes, it means by 17,0 thous. tonnes up. Rape seed yield was 2,94 tonnes/ 1 ha and it is down by 0,12 tonnes. The production of poppy seed increased matching 2007, from the area of 69,8 thous. ha was harvested 49,4 thous. tonnes with an average yield of 0,71 tonnes/ 1 ha (33,1 thous. tonnes with the yield of 0,58 tonnes/ 1 ha were harvested in 2007).

The production of **annual fodder crops** on arable land was 6 690,0 thous. tonnes of green forage, it means by 558,6 thous. tonnes over than in 2007. Green maize and maize for silage were harvested in total amount of 6 143,8 thous. tonnes, it means an increase by 574,1 thous. tonnes matching 2007. Hay production from perennial fodder crops was at the level of 1 257,2 thous. tonnes. Red clover production was 386,4 thous. tonnes.

Vegetables production including households gardens was down in comparison with the production 2007 and reached the level of 274,3 thous. tonnes of vegetables (282,0 thous. tonnes in 2007). 397,3 thous. tonnes of **fruit** was up the production 2007 (359,5 thous. tonnes in 2007). 98,3 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 16 thous. ha of **bearing vineyards** with the yield of 6,03 tonnes/ 1 ha (5,82 tonnes/ 1 ha in the year 2007), it means by 706 tonnes down than in 2007. **Hop production** at the level of 6 753 tonnes increased by 1 122 tonnes (+19,9 %) matching 2007. Hop yield of 1,27 tonnes/ 1ha is also up by 0,22 tonnes/ 1 ha matching the year 2007.