

## COMMENTARY

The first estimate of yields and harvest of main cereals (except maize for grain and other cereals), early potatoes, rape, strawberries and early fruit species was performed as at 20 June 2015 on the basis of the Areas under Crops survey as at 31 May 2015 results.

According to the first estimate, the harvest of main cereals should account for 6 815 thous. tonnes of grain. It is by 1 120 thous. tonnes less (-14.1 %) in comparison with 2014 final values. The estimated average yield of basic cereals reaching 5.23 t/ha is by 0.86 t/ha lower than the last year's final value (6.09 t/ha).

The harvest of the key cereal species – winter wheat – is estimated to be 4 391 thous. tonnes; it is by 832 thous. tonnes (-15.9 %) less than in 2014. Its estimated yield accounting for 5.64 t/ha is by 0.97 t/ha lower compared to 2014 results. The estimated production of spring barley is 1 245 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 131 thous. tonnes (-9.5 %) less than in 2014. Its yield of 4.76 t/ha is by 0.80 t/ha (-14.4 %) lower compared to 2014 finals.

The estimated production of early potatoes (potatoes harvested before 30 June) is 20 thous. tonnes with the yield of 16.47 t/ha. The production of rape is expected to be 1 202 thous. tonnes and its yield 3.28 t/ha; it means a decrease by 335 thous. tonnes (-21.8 %) compared with 2014 harvest.