***COMMENTARY***

*The total production of individual crops is based on the size of areas under crops surveyed in May and on changes of growing conditions during the vegetation period.*

*The harvested* ***area of cereals*** *(including grain maize and other cereals) decreased by 68.8 thous. ha (i.e. by 5.0%), year-on-year, to 1 317.2 thous. ha. The total harvest of cereals reached 7 995.5* *thous. tonnes and went down by 222.9 thous. tonnes (i.e. by 2.7%) in comparison with 2022. The harvest of winter wheat, winter barley, and triticale was above the 2022 level. The harvest of winter wheat was 5 106.9 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 168.4 thous. tonnes (by 3.4%) more than in the previous year. The harvest of rye was 125.0 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 3.2 thous. tonnes (i.e by 2.5%) less than in the previous year. The harvest of spring barley accounted for 950.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 175.8 thous. tonnes (by 15.6%) less than in 2022, and that of winter barley reached 813.8 thous tonnes (by 62.6 thous. tonnes or by 8.3% more than in 2022). The harvest of basic cereals was lower than in the previous year. The harvest of wheat amounted to 5 262.4 thous. tonnes (by 73.7 thous. tonnes or by 1.4% more than in 2022). The harvest of barley was 1 764.2 thous. tonnes (by 113.2 thous. tonnes or by 6.0% more than in 2022). The harvest of grain maize accounted for 507.5 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 131.9 thous. tonnes (by 20.6%) less than in 2022.*

*The* ***per hectare yield of cereals*** *was 6.07 tonnes; it was by 0.14 t/ha (i.e. by 2.4%) higher compared to the previous year. The yields were 6.56 t/ha for winter wheat (6.16 t/ha in 2022), 3.86 t/ha for spring wheat (4.73 t/ha), 5.07 t/ha for rye (5.31 t/ha), 6.32 t/ha for winter barley (6.13 t/ha), 4.94 t/ha for spring barley (5.31 t/ha), 2.76 t/ha for oats (3.72 t/ha), 7.88 t/ha for grain maize (7.95 t/ha), and 4.98 t/ha for triticale (5.12 t/ha).*

*The production of* ***pulses******and protein crops*** *decreased compared to 2022; in total 111.7 thous. tonnes of pulses were harvested. The harvest of field peas was 105.7 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 9.5 thous. tonnes (by 8.2%) less than in the previous year. The total production of* ***grain crops*** *(cereals and pulses) reached 8 107.2* *thous. tonnes; it went down by 235.2* *thous. tonnes (i.e. by 2.8%) in comparison with 2022.*

*The total harvest of* ***potatoes*** *including households’ production was 703.1 thous. tonnes; it showed a decrease by 90.1 thous. tonnes (by 11.4%) compared to 2022. The yield of potatoes reached 26.02 t/ha and was by 2.65 t/ha lower than in 2022. The harvest of early potatoes reached 19.1 thous. tonnes. The average per hectare yield of other potatoes was 28.65 tonnes; it means by 2.85 t/ha less than in 2022. Their production reached 499.3 thous. tonnes and was by 83.4 tonnes lower than in the previous year. The harvest of* ***sugar beet*** *was 3 833.9* *thous. tonnes (4 055.5 thous. tonnes in 2022) and its average yield reached 65.20 t/ha; its harvest decreased by 5.5% in comparison with the previous year.*

*In 2023, the total area under* ***oil seed crops*** *increased by 33.3 thous. ha (by 7.6%) to 470.4 thous. ha. Their production was 1 454.4 thous. tonnes, i.e. by 125.2 thous. tonnes more than in the previous year. The harvest of rape seed reached 1 309.5 thous. tonnes, while in 2022 it was 1 166.4 thous. tonnes; i.e. there was an increase by 143.1 thous. tonnes. The rape seed yield was 3.45 t/ha; it went up by 0.06 t/ha. The production of poppy seed went down: in total 18.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed were harvested from the area of 26.3 thous. ha, with its average yield of 0.69 t/ha (in 2022, there were 22.0 thous. tonnes of poppy seed harvested and its yield was 0.84 t/ha).*

*The production of* ***fodder crops*** *on arable land was 4 320.9* *thous. tonnes as hay; i.e. by 289.5 thous. tonnes less than in 2022. Out of this amount, 7 189.8 thous. tonnes of green maize were harvested; i.e. by 425.3 thous. tonnes less in comparison with the previous year. The harvest of clover hay reached 325.6 thous. tonnes and lucerne 442,2 thous. tonnes.*

*Production of* ***vegetables*** *including households’ estimates was higher than in 2022; in total 344.0 thous. tonnes of vegetables were harvested (303.0 thous. tonnes in 2022). The harvest of* ***fruits*** *(including households’ production)**reached**278.1 thous. tonnes and was lower than in the previous year (337.3 thousand tonnes in 2022).*

*In total 77.0 thous. tonnes of grapes were harvested from 16.3 thous. ha of* ***vineyards in production****, i.e. by 14.8 thous. tonnes less than in 2022; their average yield was 4.73 t/ha (5.59 t/ha in 2022). The* ***hop*** *production reached 6 997 tonnes; it increased by 2 545 tonnes (i.e. by 57.2%) compared to 2022. The per hectare yield of hop, accounting for 1.44 t/ha, went up as well by 0.54 t/ha in comparison with the previous year.*