## COMMENTARY

At the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year 2018, agricultural organizations showed the following stocks of crop products: 2 888 thous. tonnes of cereals, 38 thous. tonnes of field peas, 171 thous. tonnes of potatoes, 421 thous. tonnes of sugar beet, 311 thous. tonnes of rape, 7 thous. tonnes of poppy and 17 thous., tonnes of sunflower. In total 52 thous. tonnes of cereals, 357 tonnes of field peas, 20 thous. tonnes of potatoes, and 7 thous. tonnes of rape were harvested until 30 June 2018. During the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year, 222 thous. tonnes of cereals, total (of which the largest amount – 78 thous. tonnes – of barley), 17 thous. tonnes of field peas, 69 thous. tonnes of sunflower were purchased by agricultural organisations.

Sales of crop products in the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year comprised 2 141 thous. tonnes of cereals, total (the largest share – 1 385 thous. tonnes – was recorded for wheat). Direct exports of cereals, total, reached 93 thous. tonnes. Further sales included 33 thous. tonnes of field peas, of which 1 thous. tonnes were directly exported. Sales of potatoes, total, were 152 thous. tonnes and their direct exports reached 2 thous. tonnes. Sugar beet sales were 405 thous. tonnes. The amount of rape sold during the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year was 301 thous. tonnes, of which 7 thous. tonnes directly exported. Agricultural organisations sold 9 thous. tonnes of poppy, of which 302 tonnes by direct exports. The amount of sunflower sold was 13 thous. tonnes, of which 231 tonnes were directly exported.

The consumption of cereals, total, in agricultural organizations during the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year reached 583 thous. tonnes, with the largest share – 250 thous. tonnes – of wheat. Out of this amount, 3 thous. tonnes were used for food purposes, 496 thous. tonnes for feed purposes, 69 thous. tonnes as seeds, and 16 thous. tonnes for other use. The consumption of field peas reached 12 thous. tonnes, of which 6 thous. tonnes for feed purposes and 7 thous. tonnes as seeds. In total 96 thous. tonnes of potatoes, total, were consumed: 4 thous tonnes for food purposes, 5 thous. tonnes for feed purposes, 80 thous. tonnes as seeds and 7 thous. tonnes for other use. Agricultural organisations consumed 2 thous. tonnes of sugar beet, of which 514 tonnes for feed purposes and 1 thous. tonnes for other use. The amount of consumed rape was 6 thous. tonnes: 3 tonnes for feed purposes and 2 thous. tonnes for other purposes. The poppy consumption reached 173 tonnes, of which 123 tonnes for feed purposes and 49 tonnes as seeds. Agricultural organizations consumed 252 tonnes of sunflower, of which 117 tonnes for feed purposes and 119 tonnes as seeds.

Losses during storage during the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year 2018 amounted to 1 thous. tonnes of cereals, total, 66 tonnes of field peas, 6 thous. tonnes of potatoes, total, 2 tonnes of sugar beet, 165 tonnes of rape, and 24 tonnes of poppy.

Stocks at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half-year 2018 were 437 thous. tonnes of cereals, total (of which the largest ones – 179 thous. tonnes – were those of wheat), 10 thous. tonnes of field peas, 6 thous. tonnes of potatoes, 21 thous tonnes of sugar beet, 33 thous. tonnes of rape, 1 thous. tonnes of poppy, and 6 thous. tonnes of sunflower.