

## NEWS RELEASE

14 October 2022

**Maize and potato harvest will be lower this year****Supplementary information to the News Release on Harvest estimates – September 2022**

According to the latest estimate of this year's harvest as at 15 September, the total harvest of cereals is comparable to the last year's above-average harvest (–0.6%). Production of grain maize slumped by 38.9%, whereas harvest of basic cereals was by 4.7% higher, year-on-year (y-o-y). The following were also harvested in a higher amount: rape (+12.7%), soya (+27.9%), and sunflower (+8.9%), whereas poppy production decreased by almost a third, year-on-year (–30.8%). Lower production of potatoes and sugar beet is expected (–8.6% and –11.2%, respectively). Fodder crops also have been harvested in lower amounts as follows: green and silage maize by 9.3%, lucerne by 17.9%, and red clover by 15.3%.

The total harvest of **cereals including maize** in the amount of 8 167 thousand tonnes is comparable to the last year's above-average harvest (–0.6%) and exceeds by 6.4% the average of harvests for the last five years (the sowing area +2.9%; the per hectare yield +3.5%).

**Basic cereals** were harvested in the amount of 7 563 thousand tonnes, by 338 thousand tonnes more, year-on-year (+4.7%), whereas production of **grain maize** is estimated to be in the amount of 604 thousand tonnes, which is by 384 thousand tonnes less (–38.9%) when compared to the last year's above-average harvest. The following are to be blamed: a smaller sowing area of 80 thousand hectares (–21.7% compared to the last year's harvested area) as well as a decrease in the per hectare yield to 7.53 tonnes per hectare (t/ha; –21.9%) due to dry weather during the vegetation period.

**Winter wheat**, the most important cereal in the Czech Republic, was harvested, according to the estimate, in the amount of 4 927 thousand tonnes, by 337 thousand tonnes more than in the previous year (+7.3%). Also the following were harvested in higher amounts: **spring barley** (1 123 thousand tonnes; +2.4%), **winter barley** (747 thousand tonnes, +14.6%), and **triticale** (215 thousand tonnes; +10.9%). On the other hand, **spring wheat** (256 thousand tonnes; –30.9%) and **oats** (169 thousand tonnes; –13.3%) are estimated to be harvested in lower amounts. Harvest of **rye** was approximately on the same level as in the previous year (126 thousand tonnes; –0.7%).

The production of **potatoes** expected to be in the amount of 614 thousand tonnes is by 8.6% lower, y-o-y. This year, farmers planted potatoes on 22 thousand hectares, which is approximately by a thousand hectares less than in the previous year (–5.0%). For a long-term, there is a decreasing interest in growing potatoes and areas planted this year are the lowest in the whole history of the surveys. On average, 28.32 tonnes of potatoes are harvested from one hectare (–3.8%). When compared to the five-year average of harvests, the estimated potato harvest is by 5.9% lower this year (the area planted with potatoes –6.5%; the per hectare yield +0.6%).

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The estimated production of **sugar beet** of 3 682 thousand tonnes is by 11.2% lower, y-o-y, owing to a decrease of the estimated per hectare yield to 63.22 t/ha (-6.6%) and also a decrease of the sowing area to 58 thousand hectares (-4.9%). The sowing area of sugar beet decreased by 8 thousand hectares compared to the sowing area in 2017 when the system of the sugar production quotas was terminated. This year, the estimated sugar beet production is by 6.1% lower compared to the average production for the last five years (the sowing area -6.4%; the per hectare yield +0.3%).

According to the latest estimate, the **rape** production was 1 156 thousand tonnes, by 131 thousand tonnes more (+12.7%), year-on-year, thanks to the favourable per hectare yield of 3.36 t/ha (+12.2%). The sowing areas of 344 thousand hectares remained almost on the same level (+0.5%). Despite that, this year's rape production estimate is by 3.5% lower compared to the five-year average of harvests (the sowing area -9.3%; the per hectare yield +6.5%).

This year, **soya** became the second most spread oil seed crop in the Czech Republic (following rape, which is the first one) thanks to an increase in its sowing area to 29 thousand hectares (+45.0%). According to the estimate, 66 thousand tonnes of soya will be harvested; it is by 27.9% more compared to the last year. The per hectare yield of 2.31 t/ha decreased by 11.8%, y-o-y. In comparison to the five-year average, the estimated soya production is by 88.5% higher, mainly thanks to its record-high sowing area (the sowing area +86.2%; the per hectare yield +1.2%).

The expected **poppy** production of 21 thousand tonnes is by a third lower (-30.8%), year-on-year, owing to a slump in its sowing area by 40.4% to 26 thousand hectares. The estimated per hectare yield of 0.79 t/ha is by 16.3% higher. Compared to the average of harvests for the last five years, the poppy production this year is by 11.2% lower (the sowing area -27.1%; the per hectare yield +21.8%).

The estimated production of **sunflower** of 57 thousand tonnes is by 8.9% higher thanks to a considerable increase of the sowing area to 22 thousand hectares (+25.0%). The per hectare yield of 2.52 t/ha decreased by 12.9%, year-on-year. The estimated sunflower production is by a third higher when compared to the average for the last five years thanks to an increase in the sowing area (production +34.6%, the sowing area +35.6%; the per hectare yield -0.7%).

The production of **grain peas** of 119 thousand tonnes is by 13.8% higher, y-o-y. The year-on-year increase in production is contributed to mainly by an expansion of the sowing area to 41 thousand hectares (+5.5%), but also by a higher per hectare yield of 2.92 t/ha (+7.9%). The estimate of peas production is also considerably higher when compared to the five-year average of harvests (production +43.3%; the sowing area +24.0%; the per hectare yield +15.5%).

Expected **green and silage maize** production of 7 646 thousand tonnes is by 9.3% lower, year-on-year. The per hectare yield decreased to 36.05 t/ha (-7.2%) and the sowing area to 212 thousand hectares (-2.3% compared to the previous year's harvested area). Due to a decrease in the per hectare yield, lower production is also expected as for other surveyed fodder crops. **Lucerne** is estimated to be harvested in the amount of 479 thousand tonnes (-17.9%) and

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production of **red clover** will be 345 thousand tonnes (–15.3%). The production estimate of the surveyed fodder crops is lower than the five-year average; green and silage maize production is lower by 4.4%, lucerne by 3.8%, and red clover by 11.6%.

More detailed information also dealing with estimated harvest of other varieties of field crops, hops, grapes, and selected varieties of fruit and vegetables in the Czech Republic as a whole and broken down by Region is given in the related publication: 'Harvest Estimates – Operative Report as at 15 September 2022'. The Czech Statistical Office will publish final data on the 2022 harvest as for all surveyed agricultural crops on 23 February 2023.

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