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**DYNAMICS OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORT  
OF GRAINS AND POTATOES IN UKRAINE**

**Summary**

The article is based on an analysis of official statistical data sources and specialized publications reveals the dynamics of production and yield of grain and leguminous crops in Ukraine in 2010-2014. Considerable attention is also given to the export opportunities of Ukraine in the cereals sector, shows the share of Ukraine's role in the world market of products, trends and forecasts for 2014/2015 marketing year. The article also reviews the "potato segment" shows its importance in the agricultural sector of Ukraine, revealed priorities for further development and reform of the industry.

Production of cereals is a strategic sector of the economy of Ukraine. Because corn a source not only of baked goods, but also forage for livestock production and raw material for the processing industry. Grains is the basis of stability of the food market, so the production of cereals is extremely important, especially during the global food crisis.

Today Ukrainian grain market is a highly competitive environment, where the international companies that specialize in agricultural trade. Many foreign companies operating on the Ukrainian market for about 10 years.

Ukraine's grain market have a number of agricultural holdings. The largest of them is «UkrLandFarming», «NCH Capital», «MHP», «Mriya», «Astarte»,

«Ukrainian Agrarian Investments», «Kernel», «Agroproinvest», «HarvEast», «AgroGeneration&Harmelia», «Glencore International», «Agroton», «Privat-Agro», «Nibulon», «Ahreyn».

In 2012 the production of grain and leguminous crops in Ukraine amounted to 46.2 mln tons (1.8% of global production). It's almost twice as much as in 2000 when the figure was 24.5 mln tons.

The yield of grain and leguminous crops during 2000-2012 years. Varied from minimum 19.4 c/ha (2000) to the maximum – 37.2 kg/ha (2011), slightly decreased to 31.2 t/ha in 2012. For comparison, the global average rate in 2012 was 33.6 kg/ha.

As of early September 2014, Ukraine has collected 36.6 mln tons of grains with an average yield of about 37 kg/ha. With 14.9 mln ha planned for cleaning areas of grain and leguminous crops were threshed 10.0 mln ha (67%).

According to the group of companies "Zerno UA», in the 2013/2014 marketing year that ended July 1, 2014, Ukraine exported 32.3 mln tons. With this index, our country is among the top three largest world exporter of grains - just ahead of the United States (72.3 mln tons) and the EU (38.5 mln tons). Over the last decade, grain exports from Ukraine grew by 77%. Ukraine managed to avoid such recognized "breadbasket of the world", as Canada (28 mln tons per year), Argentina (21.9 mln tons) and Brazil (20.1 mln tons).

Working group under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade predicts gross grain production in Ukraine in 2014/2015 marketing year at the level of 58 mln tons to 63 mln tons in 2013/2014. The main reduction in cereal production forecast is explained by exclusion of the volume of goods Crimea (last season, these amounts are taken into account). According to the forecast of Economic Development, the 2014/2015 marketing year, Ukraine exported 32 mln tons of grain.

A global structure of potato production, the share of Ukraine is 6.4%. In particular, in 2012 worldwide was produced 365.4 mln tons of this product, in Ukraine – 23.3 mln tons. It is even more than in the United States – 21.0 mln tons. The global leader in "potato" segment is currently China is rapidly increasing its performance, from 32.0 mln tons in 1995 to 87.3 mln tons in 2012.

In Ukraine in 2012 turned out to be one of the most fruitful. According to official statistics, 23.3 mln tons were collected. The area of potato production has not changed since 2009 and was at 1.4 mln. ha. Favourable weather conditions affect the growth of productivity. In the 2011-2012 this rate was not lower than 16 t/ha.

The main potato production is concentrated in the household population. In 2012 the share of potatoes produced in agricultural enterprises and farms accounted for only 3.3% of total output. The quality and yield of potatoes in individual farmers are low. If the farms yield was 19.2 t/ha, the individual farmers - only 16 t/ha.

Potato consumption per capita in Ukraine in 2011 was 139 kg. Potatoes for the population of Ukraine is not just food, but serves as a substitute to other types of food.

The production of potatoes in the amount of 20-22 mln tons per year Ukraine can export 4 mln tons. Over the last three years, exports of potatoes from Ukraine increased by almost three times – up to 17000 tons. The main markets are Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Makedonia. But the poor quality of products does not allow Ukraine to supply the prospective EU market.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Ukraine in 2014 is expected to receive 22.8 mln tons of potatoes (with yield of 17.0 t/ha of the area in 1348 ths. ha). It is 987 ths. tons more than last year (excluding the Crimea).

Given the global trends in potato, a priority for further reform of the sector in Ukraine is establishing competitive production for the varietal characteristics, quality and price.