

Agricultural Forecasts

May 31, 2017

Drought affects irrigated campaign and drives to a reduction on areas of Spring / Summer crops in Alentejo. Good campaign perspectives in cherry

Early estimates on May 31 point to a good year in fruit trees, with a considerable yield increase in cherry, compared to 2016 (the lowest in the last decade), expected to exceed 3 ton/ha. Peaches production is also expected to be higher than last year (+15%). On the other hand, in autumn/winter cereals, and due to the high temperatures and poor soil moisture conditions in the phases of flowering and the beginning of the formation of the grain, generalized decreases in yield are expected.

For spring/summer crops - with the exception of irrigated potatoes which planted area are expected to increase by about 1,000 hectares and processed tomato with roughly the same contracted area as last season- there are decreases in the areas, namely in grain maize (-5%, as a result of maintaining low market prices and reduced availability of irrigation water), rice (-5%, also due to the low levels of water storage in the reservoirs) and sunflower (-10%).
