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Poland

Agricultural Situation

Dry Weather Reduces Crop Prospects in Poland

2006

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Report Highlights:

A lack of precipitation combined with very high temperatures could limit crop prospects in Poland. If current weather conditions do not change soon, there could be up to a 30 percent reduction in harvest for some crop.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Warsaw [PL1]
[PL]

At the end of June, officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland revised up the pessimistic earlier grain forecast from 26.0 – 26.5 MMT (early June estimate) to 26.5 – 27.0 MMT due to favorable weather in June. However, at its July 7, 2006 press conference, Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister Andrzej Lepper, revised the previously optimistic forecast with a much more pessimistic outlook. Experts have indicated that record high temperatures and practically no precipitation have reduced some crops by about 10 percent and it is very likely that if the current conditions continue, the losses could reach 30 percent of yields.

While precipitation in June was 30 percent of the normal level, current water supplies are 50 percent lower when compared with averages for this period. The lack of rainfall, except in the southern regions of Poland, and very high temperatures have resulted in very dry conditions. The most affected crops are potatoes, sugar beets, spring grains and pastures. While in the Southern regions rain storms improved moisture conditions, in other regions the situation is worsening with every hour due to unusually high temperatures over 90 degrees.

The most affected areas are in central Poland, particularly Wielkopolska, Lubuskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Warminsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie and Mazowsze provinces. Some farmers have reported that they do not remember such unusual weather conditions after a very long and hard winter and late cold spring.

On July 10, Minister Lepper during his travel to some affected areas in the North-Eastern Poland confirmed significant losses – in Podlaskie and at Warminsko-Mazurskie provinces where about 40 percent of pastures are dry, while spring grain losses at Warminsko-Mmazurskie are estimated at 20-25 percent.

Deputy Prime Minister Lepper requested special monitoring from Institute of Land Cultivation and Soil Science at Pulawy and from the local Extension Service regarding the current situation to have a better and more precise view on the current situation to help farmers in their difficult time.