



CIHEAM

International Centre for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

MED-Amin
Harvest & Planting Progress

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Summary

The present document covers the harvest and planting progress for MED-Amin countries. It is the result of a specific data collection realized with the cooperation of the MED-Amin focal points and from commentaries sent by focal points.

For each cereal, this progress report is preceded by a synthesis of cereal harvests forecasts realized at the end of August 2018 using reference data (USDA, AMIS, FAO, IGC, EU/MARS, MED-Amin) as well as press releases from ministries and cereal offices extracted directly from official websites or from press articles.

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Legend :

Trends tis year (of production/yield) :

● Positive outlook ● Stable ● Concerns ● Not enough data at this point

Wheat

Global trends

It is estimated that by the end of August about 80% of the AMIS countries' wheat (corresponding to more than 87% of world production) is harvested. AMIS does not distinguish between soft wheat and durum, so we keep this choice in the presentation of the general trends.

● World: On 10 August, USDA forecasts global wheat production in 2018/19 well below the record level of the previous two years (730 Mt against 758 Mt last year, or -4%). Similarly, the projections are 721 Mt for IGC (27 July) and 736 Mt for AMIS (5 July). Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

● EU (21% of world production¹): Eurostat estimates that, on average, 97% of EU harvests are over by the end of August, with a special advance this year in northern countries. The hot and dry conditions (since May) have affected large areas across northern and central Europe, where crops account for more than one third of the EU wheat production. These conditions have led to "catastrophic" yields in Germany, Poland, the Baltic countries and Scandinavia. In the southern and the western Europe, wheat crops have benefited from milder and more favorable conditions (milder temperatures and higher than normal rainfall). MARS forecasts yields in the five-year averages for durum wheat and soft wheat, hiding a wide disparity across countries. Production is estimated at 137.5 Mt by USDA (143 Mt by DG AGRI on 26/07 and 147 Mt by AMIS on 05/07) being the lowest production since 2012/13.

● China (17%): In China, conditions are generally favorable as the harvest ends for winter wheat and continues for spring wheat. Production is estimated at 128.0 Mt (USDA) and 126.7 Mt (AMIS) at the same level as the previous two years.

● India (8%): Winter wheat has been harvested since June. Production is estimated at 97 Mt (USDA) and 95.5 Mt (AMIS) at a very good level compared to the poor two-year period 2015/17.

● USA (8%): On August 6th, USDA reported that harvest, slightly behind the five-year average, was 90% complete for winter wheat and 13% for spring wheat (the quality of the latter is estimated at 74% of the in good condition, against 78% a week earlier and much better than the year 2017/18). USDA forecasts a harvest of 51.2 Mt, slightly catching up the poor 2017/18 year (47.4 Mt), significantly lower than in 2016/17 (62.8 Mt). For AMIS (5 July 2018), the improvement is lesser: 49.7 Mt (2018/19), 47.4 Mt (2017/18).

● Russia (8%): Winter wheat harvest has started earlier than usual due to dry weather (AMIS, 02/08). In some areas, the dry, hot conditions of the season have significantly reduced yields compared to last year, especially in the Volga and the South, but are mostly in the five-year average. Spring wheat is in more favorable conditions as recent rains have been beneficial. Russian production will nevertheless fall sharply (68 Mt according to USDA, 66 Mt according to AMIS and IGC) in comparison to the 2017/18 record year in the post-Soviet period (85 Mt). However, Russia is expected to remain the world's largest wheat exporter for the second year in a row.

Assessment of crop conditions by GEOGLAM released in August 2018 (AMIS Market Monitor, data from July 28) indicates that more than 1/3 of EU production is rated as "poor" or "to watch", 1/4 "poor" in the US, 1/2 "poor" in Ukraine. In the southern hemisphere, winter wheat conditions are favourable, while drought continues in eastern Australia (1/3 "to watch").

MED-Amin trends

For the MED-Amin countries, wheat harvests are completed by the end of August.

● Albania: The expected production this year is 259,000 tons of soft wheat, of "good" quality, achieved under good conditions despite locally severe rain events with yields slightly increasing compared to the five-year average.

● Algeria: The authorities anticipate 1,493,700 ha harvested in durum wheat (+19% vs. 2017/18) and 462,700 ha in soft wheat (+21% vs. 2017/18) with less than 4% damaged areas. According to MARS (23/07), yields are estimated at around 1.86 t/ha (+ 15% compared to the five-year average). This important production (3.0 Mt according to USDA 10/08) is expected to bring down this year the country's imports, one of the world's largest importers of wheat.

● Egypt: USDA forecasts a stable harvest around 8.4 Mt (mostly irrigated crop), while AMIS forecasts 9.1 Mt (average yields at 6.51 t / ha according to MARS). Egypt is the largest world importer of wheat.

MED-Amin region : Progress of harvest - Wheat

- Spain: The crop forecasts are excellent in 2018/19 with exceptional yields (+ 15% compared to the five-year average according to DG AGRI 26/07 and MARS 23/07). For soft wheat, Spain currently expects production of 6.1 Mt, erasing the bad year in 2017/18. The durum wheat harvest would also be significant, estimated at 1.1 Mt because of good yields and increased planted area.
- France: Harvests are 10 days ahead of the five-year average for soft wheat. In July, the ministry of agriculture reported production of 36.1 Mt of good quality soft wheat (protein content > 11.5% on dry matter according to FranceAgriMer on 9 August) and 1.9 Mt of durum wheat (-12% vs 2017, the southern regions having suffered from very unfavorable crop conditions).
- Greece: According to local experts, Greece experienced exceptional weather conditions from April to June posing problems especially in northern Greece during the harvest (succession of rain, heat, violent and cool storms). The production of soft wheat is stable (0.4 Mt according to DG AGRI 24/07) and the quality is very variable (fungal infestations, seed germination on cobs). This is more significant for durum wheat leading to a very variable grain quality depending on the region and an estimated total production of 1.1 Mt.
- Italy: The harvest started in early June, of good quality but in variable quantity. In the southern regions, durum wheat conditions were from "to watch" to "poor" with lower yields compensated at the national level by more favorable conditions in the northern regions. Production estimated by DG AGRI (24/07) is 2.8 Mt of soft wheat (down vs. five-year average) and 4.2 Mt of durum wheat (average).
- Lebanon: Harvests are completed in June 2018. Crop conditions have been promising and harvest are good, despite excessive spring moisture and notable summer heat.
- Morocco: The 2017/18 cereal season had favourable or even exceptional conditions, thanks to the abundance, regularity and good distribution in space and time of rainfall. Given the area planted and good yields (soft wheat: 2.14 t/ha against 1.86 t/ha vs. 5-year average), the forecast production is 4.8 Mt of soft wheat, 2.3 Mt of durum wheat.
- Portugal: From the very late rainfall in February 2018, the weather conditions were good throughout the entire development cycle of soft wheat, especially during grain filling (mild temperature and soft rain), but poor at the end for durum wheat (heavy rains that degraded both quantity and quality of the grains). The production of soft wheat will increase vs previous year (+ 5%) and decreased for durum wheat (-10%) while the sown areas are down this year for both (respectively -19% and -32%). At the end of July, harvests were finished in Alentejo but not yet in Ribatejo.
- Tunisia: Again this year, the areas cultivated with soft wheat are decreasing in favor of durum wheat which is more profitable and barley, a less demanding culture. The drought has affected the central regions of Tunisia for a long time, with negative consequences on yields (-4% vs. 5-year average according to MARS) and national production.
- Turkey: The harvest is completed in Turkey and stable (19 Mt according to USDA 10/08, 21 Mt according to AMIS 05/07). Yields improved, + 8% compared to the five-year average according to MARS (23/07).

Country	Type of Wheat	Date of measurement	Estimated Harvested Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Harvested Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Harvest	Progress in Harvest Last Year	Estimated End of Harvest	Average Quality of Grains	Meteorological Conditions
Albania	(soft)	10/08/18	65	-7%	99%	92%	30/08/18	+	+
Algeria	(soft)	08/08/18	463	+21%	94%	86%	30/08/18	+	+
	(durum)		1494	+19%	97%	92%		+	+
France	(soft)	29/07/18	4940	-4%	99%	89%	01/08/18	+	+
	(durum)		360	-5%	99%	100%		+	+
Greece	(soft)	03/08/18	100	-11%	100%	100%	30/07/18	+/-	+/-
	(durum)		292	-7%	100%	100%	15/07/18	++/-	++/-
Lebanon	(soft)	30/06/18	6	n.d.	100%	98%	30/06/18	+	+
	(durum)		12	+5%	100%	98%		+	+
Portugal	(soft)	31/07/18	26	+3%	90%	100%	30/07/18	+	+
	(durum)		3	-20%	100%	100%	30/07/18	-	+/-
Tunisia	(soft)	14/08/18	62	-29%	100%	100%	n.d.	+	+/-
	(durum)		391	-21%	100%	100%	n.d.	+	+/-
Turkey	(soft)	17/08/18	1240	-1%	100%	80%	08/2018	+	+
	(durum)		6450	-1%	100%	80%	01/08/18	+	+

Maize

Global trends

It is estimated that at the end of August, about 15% of AMIS corn (91% of world production between 2016 and 2018) is harvested.

● **World:** On 10 August, USDA forecasted a global harvest of 1061 Mt vs. 1033 Mt in 2017/18 (a poor year). AMIS, on the other hand, forecasted on 5 July 1045 Mt vs 1091 Mt in 2017/18. In the southern hemisphere, harvest conditions for summer crops (the majority of maize crops) in Brazil are poor, yields and production are significantly reduced compared to last year. Harvests in Argentina are performed in bad conditions. In the northern hemisphere, conditions are mixed: wet conditions in the US and dry in the EU, Canada and Russia. Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

● **USA (35% of world production¹):** Harvests have not started yet (generally scheduled to start in mid-September). According to USDA, production is forecasted at 370 Mt, up from the July projection and up sharply from the previous year's reduced harvest. AMIS forecasts 357 Mt while production was 371 Mt in 2017/18. Early yield estimates are 11.2 t/ha.

● **China (22%):** Maize in the South has already been harvested, while in the northern region harvest is in progress. The USDA forecasts 225 Mt (9 Mt more tons than 2017) and AMIS 214 Mt.

● **Brazil (8%):** The first harvest (about 40% of total production) ended in early summer, the second is currently ending. It is considered that on average 95% of the harvest is over by the end of August. This year USDA forecasts a harvest of 94.5 Mt (compared to 83 Mt in 2017/18 and 98 Mt in 2016/17). AMIS: 85 Mt. More than half of the crop areas are in conditions of concern according to the Market GEOGLAM monitor of 28 July 2018 due to prolonged drought conditions.

● **EU (7%):** Harvests have not started yet. USDA forecasts a harvest of 60 Mt in 2018/19, equivalent to the previous two good campaigns. MARS expects yields above the five-year average (7.64 t/ha or +5% compared to the five-year average), particularly in eastern European countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia). AMIS forecasts a stable production at 63 Mt.

● **Argentina (3%):** The maize harvest is normally finished in late July - early August. USDA reports forecasts in line with previous trends: 41 Mt. AMIS: 42 Mt. However, the GEOGLAM Market Monitor of 28 July 2018 indicates that crop conditions are "poor" (over 75% of maize crop areas) due to excessive humidity in the north of the country.

MED-Amin trends

Country	Date of Measurement	Estimated Planted Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Planted Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Planting	Progress in Planting Last Year	Estimated End of Planting
Albania	10/08/18	58	-1%	100%	100%	n.d.
France	29/07/18	1434	=	100%	100%	n.d.
Greece	03/08/18	109	-16%	100%	100%	30/05/18
Portugal	31/07/18	90	+5%	100%	100%	15/07/18
Turkey	17/08/18	650	-4%	100%	100%	06/2018

MED-Amin region : Progress of planting - Maize

MED-Amin trends

Regarding maize in the MED-Amin area, harvesting will generally begin in October, except in Albania where it is already completed.

- **Albania:** The expected production this year is 383 000 tons out of 58 000 hectares. Production is equivalent to last year and benefits from favourable growing conditions.
- **Egypt:** Harvests usually take place in October-November. USDA announces a stable production forecast at 6.4 Mt and AMIS at 7.3 Mt.
- **Spain:** Seedlings are complete and have benefited from spring and summer rains and high level of soil moisture (compared to average). Production is estimated at 3.8 Mt by DG AGRI and average yields at 11.4 t / ha (grain maize) by MARS.
- **France:** After a somewhat late sowing, the share of areas experiencing “good” to “very good” growing conditions is estimated at 66% at the end of July 2018, compared to 79% in 2017 at the same period. MARS expects yields (9.24 t/ha) slightly lower than last year and in line with the five-year average. Production is estimated at 13.3 Mt by MARS, which is slightly lower than in 2017/18.
- **Greece:** Maize crop is mainly irrigated. Planting was completed in late May 2018, with normal to favourable growing conditions. A few cases of corn beetle infestations (*Diabrotica virgifera*) have been reported. Yields estimated by MARS are average (10.8 t/ha) and the production is slightly down to 1.5 Mt (DG AGRI).
- **Italy:** In the producing areas of northern Italy, heat waves in July associated to substantial rains benefited to maize crops, avoiding droughts of the past years (although largely irrigated in the region). MARS anticipates yields of 9.82 t/ha, slightly higher than the five-year average (+1.2%) and an estimated production of 6.2 Mt, down more than 10% due to lower planted areas this year.
- **Portugal:** Like in many other countries in the zone, Portuguese maize production is mainly irrigated (91%). Irrigated maize sowing started later than usual due to heavy rains and finished only at the beginning of July on increased areas (+5% vs 2017). Short production cycle varieties were sowed. MARS forecasts yields in the average (8.62 t/ha, +2% compared to the five-year average) and a production of 0.7 Mt.
- **Turkey:** Planting ended in June and covered 650 000 hectares according to the Turkish authorities. Harvesting is just beginning in the Middle Eastern part of Turkey (about 10% of production), while elsewhere it is in October. There is a secondary crop for corn planted in June and harvested normally in October. The JRC MARS forecasts good yields (9.52 t/ha), above the five-year average (+3.4%). USDA (10/08) forecasts production of 5.1 Mt and AMIS 6 Mt.

Barley

Global trends

The European Union, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Australia, Turkey and the US are the largest producers of barley. Together, they accounted for 80% of world production between 2013 and 2016 (FAO data). It should be noted that Argentina has for several years reached the US barley production levels (4 Mt estimated during this 2018/19 campaign).

- World: On August 10, USDA forecasted a stable global harvest compared to last year at around 144.4 Mt (144.3 in 2017/18). Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

- EU (41% of world production¹): Harvests are completed in most European countries. The Scandinavian and Northeastern European countries saw their harvest schedule advanced by several weeks due to drought conditions. USDA forecasts a stable production level of 59.1 Mt. On July 23, the MARS Bulletin reported yields below the five-year average (5.60 t/ha, or -3.3% for spring barley and 4.13 t/ha or -2.9% for winter) revealing a great heterogeneity between countries (between North and South of the EU, see below).

- Russia (11%): The Ministry of Agriculture announced on 13 August that half of the winter and spring barley was harvested on 3.4 million hectares (2.3 million hectares in 2017), with 9 Mt harvested (7.6 Mt in 2017). USDA forecasts a reduced harvest of 17 Mt from 2017/18 (20.2 Mt).

- Ukraine (6%): Barley crops such as wheat crops are expected to be adversely affected by drought and heavy rain that occurred in spring and summer this year. USDA forecasts a harvest of 8 Mt lower than last year and 2016/17 (respectively 8.7 Mt and 9.9 Mt).

- Canada (6%): The Canadian campaign has started. USDA forecasts an abundant harvest of about 8.8 Mt, up from 7.9 Mt in 2017/18.

- Australia (6%): The Australian harvest usually extends from October to January. At this early stage, USDA is forecasting a harvest of 8.8 Mt at the level of 2017/18 but much lower than that of 2016/17 (13.5 Mt), also because of drought conditions (El Niño) and a lower acreage.

- Turkey (5%): The Turkish barley harvest, which usually takes place in June-July, is now complete. USDA forecasts a harvest of 7.4 Mt, slightly higher than the previous year (6.4 Mt) and previous years thanks to good yields around the 2015/16 level (2.06 t/ha in 2018/19). The figures announced by MARS in its July Bulletin indicate yield levels above 2.76 t/ha (+7% from the five-year average).

- USA (3%): The harvest follows the average observed in previous years. USDA forecasts a slight increase of 0.3 Mt from 2017/18 at 3.4 Mt.

MED-Amin trends

Country	Date of Measurement	Harvested Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Harvested Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Harvest	Progress in Harvest Last Year	Estimated End of Harvest	Quality of Grains	Meteorological Conditions
Albania	10/08/18	3	-18%	98%	93%	30/08/18	+	+
Algeria	08/08/18	1092	+49%	99%	83%	30/08/18	+	+
France	29/07/18	1860	-3%	100%	100%	n.d.	+	+
Greece	03/08/18	162	+27%	100%	100%	15/07/18	+	+
Lebanon	30/06/18	3	=	100%	98%	30/06/18	+	+
Portugal	30/07/18	18	-24%	90%	100%	07/08/18	++	+
Tunisia	14/08/18	251	-36%	100%	100%	n.d.	+/-	-
Turkey	17/08/18	2500	-9%	100%	80%	08/2018	+	+

MED-Amin region : Progress of harvest - Barley

MED-Amin trends

The barley harvest takes place for the majority of countries in the MED-Amin area between May and August. It is consequently finished.

● **Albania:** The expected production this year is 8 000 tons. Good yield levels (2.9 t/ha) offset the decrease in acreage compared to 2017/18 (-18%). The extreme climatic conditions in place affected barley crops less than wheat (less precocious).

● **Algeria:** The country recorded 1.28 million hectares planted with barley, 50% more than the previous year. The level of damaged surfaces remains significant at 10%. USDA forecasts a harvest of 1.4 Mt, more than the levels of the previous two years (yields recorded at 1.56 t/ha in 2018/19 according to USDA and a production at 1.44 Mt according to MARS).

● **Egypt:** MARS reported in July yields slightly down vs five-year average (1.58 t/ha for 2018/19 vs. 1.63 t/ha) while USDA estimates production at 110 000 tons (yield of 1.3 t/ha).

● **Spain:** Spain currently expects production of 6.9 Mt, down from the previous year despite significantly higher yields (+11% for winter barley, +22% for spring barley in relation to the five-year average), which is explained by a decrease in planted areas. Like wheat, this crop benefited from exceptional weather conditions.

● **France:** Harvests were 7 days ahead of the average of the last 5 years. The 2018 harvest is estimated at 12.1 Mt on 1.86 million hectares planted. To a lesser extent than for wheat, MARS (23/07) expects yields close to the five-year average (6.50 t/ha for winter barley and 5.86 t/ha for spring barley).

● **Greece:** According to local experts' reports, winter barley growing conditions have generally been good (unlike wheat). The harvest ended mid July. Very few regions are concerned with reduced yields and quality. MARS estimates 0.4 Mt and yields of 2.75 t/ha (+4% compared to the five-year average).

● **Italy:** This year MARS expects yields in the five-year average (3.8 t/ha, +1% from the five-year average). DG AGRI forecasts a production of 1.0 Mt.

● **Morocco:** The cropping season was characterized by very favorable growing conditions for barley. The forecast production is 2.5 Mt thanks to good yields this year (1.67 t/ha according to USDA, 1.68 t/ha according to MARS against 0.9 t/ha, or +34% vs five-year average).

● **Portugal:** As for soft wheat, this is a good year for barley. The authorities announce a production 20% higher than in 2017, exceeding 57 000 tons even though planted surfaces were cut off. At the end of July, harvesting is concluded in Alentejo but not yet in Ribatejo. MARS forecasts improved yield levels (estimated at 2.45 t/ha for winter barley, +19% vs five-year average).

● **Tunisia:** The areas planted with barley are down sharply (-36% this year in favor of soft wheat) after the increase of the previous year. The production will be limited to 0.45 Mt according to USDA. MARS forecasts lower yields on June 23 (1.09 t/ha) compared to the five-year average (-4%) and the previous year (-10%).

● **Turkey:** USDA forecasts a harvest of 7.4 Mt, slightly higher than the previous year (6.4 Mt). The JRC/MARS Bulletin of 23 July forecasts yield levels above 2.76 t/ha (+7% compared to the five-year average).

Rice

● Global trends

According to the FAO, 1/3 of the production recorded for the 2018/19 season or marketing year is performed by the end of August. Trends indicate reduced 2018/19 global supplies of milled rice due to reduced production in Madagascar and Iraq. World trade is up slightly, driven by rising Pakistani exports and Iraqi imports. Overall consumption and closing stocks will be reduced.

● World: USDA forecasts a relatively stable harvest at this stage compared to the previous year (487.6 Mt in 2018/19 compared to 488.6 Mt in 2017/18 and 486.7 Mt in 2016/17) whereas the IGC (26/07) and FAO/AMIS (July) forecast a slight increase to respectively 491 Mt and 511 Mt. Among the countries covered by AMIS, the following trends can be observed:

● China (29% of world production¹): At the end of August, it is estimated that China produced about 33% of the production that will be counted for the 2018/19 season. Conditions are generally favorable for rice throughout the country, with good crop growth (AMIS Crop Monitor of August published by GEOGLAM). USDA forecasts a production of 142.2 Mt, down slightly from previous years. AMIS predicts stable production around 143 Mt.

● India (21%): It is generally considered (FAO-CBS, USDA-PSD) that the Indian campaign starts in October. At this stage, the harvest recorded for 2018/19 has not started yet. The AMIS Crop Monitor of 28 July announces that more than 1/3 of the surfaces suffer from drought and are rated at “watch” status. USDA forecasts steady annual production around 109 Mt. For AMIS production continues to grow at 114 Mt.

● Indonesia (9%): 80% of the annual harvest is performed between January and August. Dry season rice planting has started in irrigated areas. Planting is late due to low rainfall levels but moisture levels in Java and the smaller Sunda Islands have been restored with recent rains. USDA forecasts a steady annual output around 37 Mt. For AMIS production continues to grow up to 47 Mt.

● Vietnam (9%): 85% of the annual harvest is produced between January and August. The harvest of winter rice (dry season rice) was completed under favorable conditions. Summer and autumn rice seedlings (wet season rice) are near completion in the south and start right in the north. In the south, the total area planted is reduced compared to last year due to the late harvest of dry season rice. USDA and AMIS forecast a stable annual production around 29 Mt.

● Thailand (6%): The wet season rice is at tillering stage under favorable conditions thanks to heavy rainfall. An increase in the total planted area is expected. USDA forecasts a slight increase in production to 21.2 Mt for 2018/19 against 19.2 Mt in 2016/17, stable for AMIS at 23 Mt.

MED-Amin region : Progress of planting - Rice

Country	Date of Measurement	Estimated Planted Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Planted Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Planting	Progress in Planting Last Year	Estimated End of Planting
France	29/07/18	14	-7%	n.d.	100%	n.d.
Greece	03/08/18	27	-8%	100%	100%	10/06/18
Portugal	31/07/18	30	+5%	100%	100%	30/06/18
Turkey	17/08/18	110	-6%	100%	100%	05/2018

MED-Amin trends

For the whole MED-Amin area, the rice harvest has not started yet, generally occurring between September and November.

- EU: On average, it is estimated that 13% of EU rice production is carried out at the end of August. USDA forecasts a stable production at 2.0 Mt, as well as AMIS (1.7 Mt).
- Egypt: The main rice harvest takes place in October. USDA forecasts a decrease in production to 3.3 Mt due to reduced area sown to less water-demanding crops (4.3 Mt in 2017/18 and 4.8 Mt in 2016/17).
- Spain: The growing conditions seem favorable to rice crops.
- France: Harvests are generally carried out in September-October. The authorities announce a 7% reduction of the planted areas this year (14 180 ha) under good growing conditions.
- Greece: Considering the low international prices, a slight decrease in the planted area is observed this year again (27 000 ha, or -10% compared to 2017/18). According to the authorities, planting was completed on 10 June under good conditions.
- Italy: Harvests are also made in September-October. Italy indicates that cultivated areas are expected to be stable this year (DG AGRI, 26/07).
- Portugal: Rice sowing started later than usual due to heavy rains and finished only at the end of June. Planted area is slightly up this year (+5%). Crop conditions are normal.
- Turkey: The rice harvest usually takes place between September and October. The authorities announce equivalent planted areas as last year's acreage (110 000 ha planted till May 2018). AMIS and USDA expect stable production of 0.5 Mt in 2018/19.



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