



# NEWS LETTER

**ISSUE #14 – Feb. – Mar. 2016**

## WINTER PLANTING IN FRANCE

### WINTER SEEDLINGS HAVE BEEN MADE IN GOOD CONDITIONS

#### A particularly mild winter

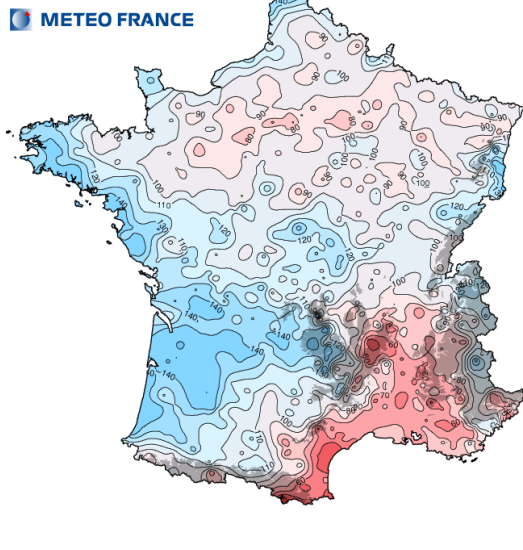
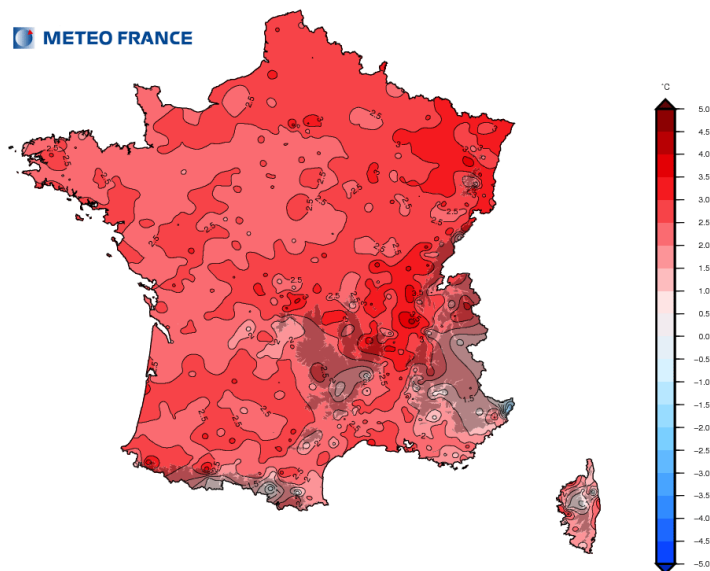
Winter average temperature in France reached 8 °C exceeding by 2.6 °C the average 1981-2010 (**Map 1**). No region has been avoided by the exceptional softness. With temperatures average by 3.9 °C above normal, December 2015 was one of the warmest ever seen.

Similarly, January and February kept average temperatures much above normal, despite three cooler periods. During these months, maximum temperatures were also set numerous records. The very late winter frost was infrequent in the plains, with often half as many frost days as normal.

#### Dry in December but humid in January and February

**Map 2 : Rainfall. Cumulated values in France from January 01 to February 15, 2016**

**Map 1 : Deviation of average temperature (in December-february) to the baseline seasonal average 1981-2010 - France**



Contrary to an exceptionally dry December, January and February were very watered (**Map 2**). Rainfall was excess from 10 to 50% on the Atlantic coast but also in the north of the Massif Central as well as north of the Alps. However, it was generally in deficit from 20 to 40 % in the southeast of France. On average in France and on the season, rainfall was excess of nearly 10%.

## FRENCH WINTER AREA

In 2016, winter grain area would cover 7.4 million hectares, up 1.9% year on year. Wheat area would increase by 1.1% to 5.2 million hectares. Durum wheat area would rise significantly (+ 11%). Winter barley area would increase by 4.1%. (**Table 1**).

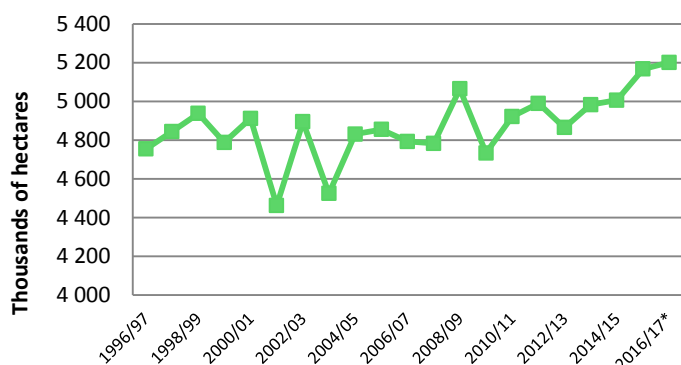
**Table 1: French Winter plantings, in thousands hectares**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average 11-15	2016 estimates	2016/2015	2016/average 11-15
<b>WINTER PLANTING</b>	<b>6 908</b>	<b>6 723</b>	<b>6 887</b>	<b>6 968</b>	<b>7 218</b>	<b>6 941</b>	<b>7 352</b>	<b>+1.9</b>	<b>+5.9</b>
<i>Including Wheat</i>	4 976	4 818	4 957	4 983	5 143	4 975	5 201	+1.1	+4.5
<i>Including Durum wheat</i>	411	421	327	281	317	351	351	+10.7	-
<i>Including Winter Barley</i>	1 055	994	1 140	1 238	1 304	1 146	1 358	+4.1	+18.5

Source: Agreste

### 5.2 million hectares of wheat

**Chart 1: Evolution of French wheat area**



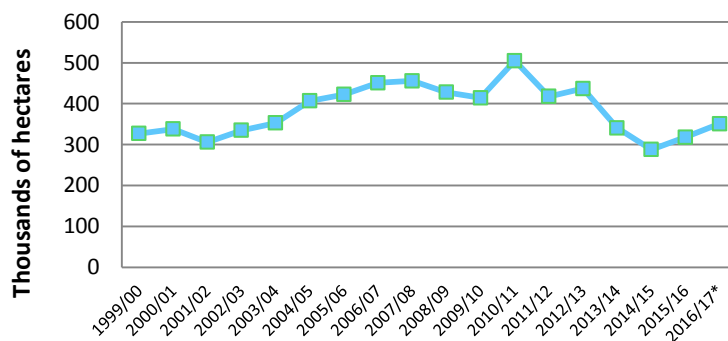
Source: France Agrimer, Agreste

Winter wheat should cover 5.2 million hectares in 2016, up 1.1% year on year (**Chart 1**) and 4.5% over the 2011-2015 average. Surfaces increase in most French regions and especially in the Loire Valley (+ 4.6%). In the South of France, wheat is expected to decline, partly for the benefit of durum wheat.

### Durum wheat area up 12%

In one year, durum wheat area rise by 11% for the second year (+ 13% in 2015), after two marketing years in sharp decline (**Chart 2**). Since September 2014, the price ratio between milling wheat and durum wheat is favorable to the latter. Price difference must be sufficient to compensate the difference of productivity in order to make durum wheat culture more attractive.

**Chart 2 : Evolution of French durum wheat area**



Source: France Agrimer, Agreste

**“France Export Céréales” (FEC), is a non profit organization, founded in 1997 as an initiative of grain producers (wheat, other cereals & maize). It promotes French cereals and the French cereal sector on export markets and provides information to their members on current and future needs of France’s export customers, so that they can adjust French offer to specific requirements, and capture new markets.**