



NEWS LETTER

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WINTER PLANTING IN FRANCE

FRENCH WINTER AREA

By 2017, winter cereal area would reach 7.3 million hectares, down slightly from 2016 (-0.8%), after four years of increases. However, it would increase by 4.3% the 2012-2016 average (**Table 1**).

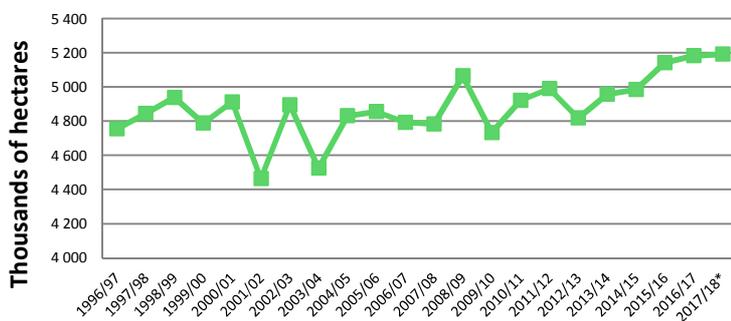
Table 1: French Winter plantings, in thousands hectares

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average 12-16	2017 estimates	2017/2016	2017/average 12-16
WINTER PLANTING	6 723	6 887	6 968	7 218	7 400	7 042	7 343	-0,8	+4,3
<i>Including Wheat</i>	4 818	4 957	4 983	5 143	5 182	5 017	5 191	+0,2	+3,5
<i>Including Durum wheat</i>	421	327	281	317	370	362	362	-2,1	+6,1
<i>Including Winter Barley</i>	994	1 140	1 238	1 304	1 235	1 378	1 378	-4,1	+11,6

Source: Agreste

Milling wheat area stable to 5.2 million hectares

Chart 1: Evolution of French wheat area



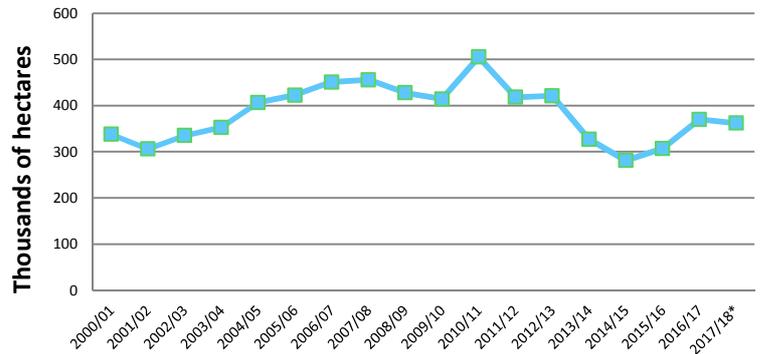
Source: France Agrimer, Agreste

Winter wheat area would reach 5.2 million Of hectares. It would be stable over one year (+ 0.2%) and increase by 3.5% compared to the 2012-2016 average (**Chart 1**). Areas would increase by 6% in Lorraine but would decrease by 3.1% in Champagne-Ardenne

Durum wheat area down 2,1 %

Over one year, durum wheat area would decline by 2.1% after two years of strong increases (**Chart 2**). During sowing of 2015 and 2016, the price ratio between the milling wheat and durum wheat was favorable to durum wheat. This benefit faded for the seedling of 2017.

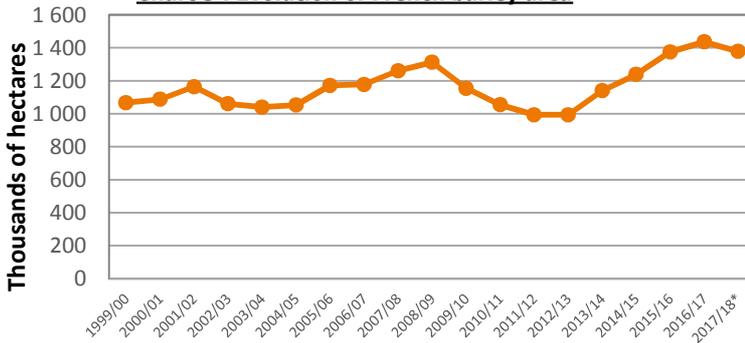
Chart 2 : Evolution of French durum wheat area



Source: France Agrimer, Agreste

Barley area down 4,1 %

Chart 3 : Evolution of French barley area



Winter barley area would decrease by 4.1% in 2017 after several years of progression (**Chart 3**). However, it would be up 12% compared to the average for 2012-2016. The surfaces would decrease 17% especially in Champagne-Ardenne.

DRY SOIL FOR WINTER SEEDLINGS

A rather cold and dry winter

France experienced a high temperature variability during the autumn period. September was warmer than usual in major parts of France. The first half of September was among the warmest on our records in France, with positive temperature anomalies of up to 6°C.

A cold weather prevailed in October. In November, temperature conditions returned to normal values. Shorter periods of unusually warm weather characterised this autumn. Major parts of France were affected by pronounced cold spell during the first half of January.

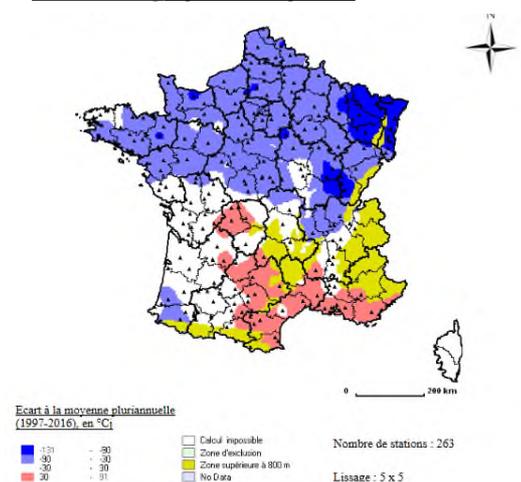
The situation at 20/02 appears to be contrasted between the northern half (below the usual cumulative temperatures since sowing) and the south-east (rather warmer than usual) (**Map 1**). This contrast is mainly due to differences observed in November and December, While January was cold fairly uniformly.

A rainfall deficit occurred in France, especially northern France.

For the time being, the conditions remain favorable:

- Surveys may have been delayed by the drought of autumn, but there is no deplorable loss to emergence, nor marked lags
- Winter frosts did not cause damage to most of the crops (especially foliar damage)
- The absence of hydromorphy is favorable, especially for rooting and access to nitrogen.

Map 1 : Deviation from the multiannual average of the cumulative temperature of the seedling by February 20th



Source: Arvalis

"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.

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