



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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More potatoes in 1999

This year the crop of consumption and seed potatoes will be 6% higher than the record crop in 1996. The total harvest on sandy ground is even expected to exceed the record by 20%. New figures from Statistics Netherlands further show that total yield on clay soil will only be a few per cent higher than in 1996. About three quarters of the total crop of consumption and seed potatoes are grown on clay soil. The yield per hectare of seed onions will be 14% less than in 1998.

More and more potatoes grown on sandy soil

In 1985 14% of potatoes were grown on sandy soil, by 1996 this share had grown to 21% and 1999 it is expected to be 24%. The increase is caused by both an increase in the area of sandy ground used to grow potatoes and an increase in the yield per hectare on this soil type. The potato yield per hectare on sandy soil will equal that on clay soil in 1999 for the first time. It is usually lower, although the wet autumn of 1998 made that year an exception: the yield per hectare of sandy soil was some 5 tons higher than that for clay soil. The yield on sandy soil reached a all-time high while that on clay soil reached a record low. The waterlogged ground meant that in 1998 38% of potatoes in clay soil could not be harvested compared with 26% in sandy soil. Potatoes from sandy soil accounted for 28% of the potato crop in 1998.

Yield per hectare of seed onions lower

The yield per hectare of seed onions is 14% lower than last year according to the provisional crop estimate. The yield per hectare is variable. In many areas it will be around 50 tons, but in the province of Flevoland it is expected to be a third to a quarter higher.

Nearly 800 hectares more land was planted with seed onions in 1999. Last year the wet weather resulted in only 80% of the area being harvested. If the total crop is harvested this year, it should be about one sixth up on 1998.

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