

Also presented by the HOP GROWERS UNION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ZATEC ON SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 2011

## **Czech hop crop 2011**

Central Institute of Supervising and Testing, department of hop in Zatec provided definitive data of acreage of hops in Czech Republic for harvest 2011. Total harvested acreage was 4632 hectares and decreased 578 ha compare with last crop year. The main variety is still fine aroma variety SAAZ with 87,2 %. New plants were realised on 200 hectares (4,32 %).

The hop year was characteristic by hard winter although spring works were realised without serious problems. At the beginning of April came summer temperatures and freezes in May without strong damages. Following course of weather shifted maturation forward but weather in July took lead back. Just course of July and August were characterised by high rainfalls. There was proceeded 30-years average in Saaz hop-growing region by more than 130 mm and even proceeded rainy end of hop season by 70 mm of precipitation. Total precipitation were the same in comparison with the last year. Serious damages by hails were not recorded (only a few hectares). Unfortunately, in June and mainly at the end of August were affected 150 hectares of hopgardens by hail-storms and higher amounts of rainfalls (mainly in Rakovník district at the part of Saaz hop-growing region).

Most of all hop growers started picking their hops since 15.8. ,a little bit early than usually due to maturation of hops.

### **Preliminary results of production**

Hop Growers Union of the Czech Republic issued closely before harvest estimation of crop. Now, we estimate crop of average character in comparison with long-term average. Yield is estimated above of average. The result od harvest could reach approximately 6.100 tonnes and 5.200 tonnes should reach Saaz hop production from it.

Due to current known analysed deliveres of Saaz variety we suppose alpha quality will be higher than long-term average and higher than last crop. It also confirmes evaluation of production´ dynamics of alpha acids in cones carried out by Hop Research Institute Ltd. before harvest.

Current market situation is known. Czech hop growers were forced decerase its acreages or to use temporary measures as uncultivating edges of hop-gardens, training at the one wire etc.

Variety/Region	Saaz (ha)	Auscha (ha)	Trschitz(ha)	Czech Rep. (ha)
Saaz	3132	460	448	4040
Sládek	169	15	65	249
Premiant	142	44	70	256
Agnus	49	3	0	52
Total	3517	524	591	4632

Exact results of 2011 crop production will be available in December.

**Hop Growers Union of the Czech Rep. will also have an exposition at the trade fair Brau Beviale 2011. Invite us, stand 532, hall 1. Come to discuss about Czech Hops. We are looking forward to you.**