

CZECH HOP PRODUCTION: 5.925 T OF HOPS IN 2020

Production of Hops in the Czech Republic in 2020

Variety/ Region	Saaz(t)			Auscha(t)			Tirschitz(t)			Czech Rep. (t)		
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018
Saaz	3 408	4 156	3 267	535	703	429	565	614	394	4 508	5 474	4 090
Sládek	447	513	302	88	101	62	215	217	134	749	832	498
Premiant	198	203	155	71	94	42	81	80	44	350	377	241
Agnus	84	111	84	19	21	5	3	4	2	106	136	91
Saaz Late	67	97	77	0	0	0	3	4	4	70	102	81
Kazbek	32	65	45	12	14	13	8	13	6	51	92	64
others	89	131	60	1	0	0	1	1	2	91	132	62
Total	4 323	5 277	3 990	726	934	551	876	935	586	5 925	7 145	5 126

According to the latest report from Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture, the total hop production reached **5.925 tons** in the Czech Republic in 2020.

The table above includes hop production in all **Czech hop growing regions – Saaz, Auscha and Tirschitz**. The average yield for all hop varieties grown in the Czech Republic was **1.19 t per hectare**.

The vegetation period from March to June could be judged as more or less favourable for a hop growth and development (except few hail storms damaging about 150 ha). July was however very bad. The volume of precipitation was critical with only 12,6 mm of precipitation for the month of July which was the lowest value in the last twenty years. In August the rainfall was registered only at the end of this first decade followed by very high temperatures. The precipitation was mostly of a stormy nature. Due to strong winds in these storms, 53 hectares of hop gardens fell. In a second half of August, very strong wind storms with a wind force over 75 kph hit practically the entire territory of our country. It caused the fall of a high number of hop plants, the break of the lateral shoots and the beating off hop cones themselves. This also resulted in a decrease in hop production.

The total hop production in the Saaz hop region was 4.323 tons, which is 73,0 % out of the total production. In the Auscha hop region the production was 726 tons, which is 12,3 % out of the total hop production and in the Tirschitz hop region the production reached 876 tons (14.7 % out of the total production).



SAAZ variety

The fine aroma variety SAAZ accounts for 76.0 % out of the total production, which is 4.508 tons (2019 – 5.474 tons, 2018 – 4.090 tons). In the SaaZ hop growing region, the total SaaZ variety harvest reached 3.408 tons, in the Auscha hop growing region the production reached 535 tons and in the Tirschitz region the number was 565 tons.

Sladek, Premiant, Kazbek, SaaZ Late, Agnus

749 tons were harvested of variety Sladek which is 10 % less than in 2019. The average yield was 2.0 tons per hectare. Premiant variety was harvested 350 tons with an average yield of 1.79 tons per hectare.

With SaaZ Late, the harvest reached 70 tons, which is 32 tons less than in the previous year. The Kazbek variety was harvested 51 tons, which is 41 tons less than in 2019 and the harvest of Agnus variety reached 106 tons.

Content and production of alpha bitter acids

This year, the average contents of alpha acids among all varieties exceeded 10 – year as well 5 – year average. They are also higher than alpha contents recorded in 2019 crop year.

The content of alpha acids for **SaaZ was 3.6 %** (2019 – 3.4 %, 2018 – 2.9 %, 2017 – 3.0%), for **Sladek 6.8 %** (2019 – 5.4 %, 2018 – 4.3 %, 2017 – 6.2 %) and for **Premiant 7.8 %** (2019 - 7.1 %, 2018 – 5.1 %, 2017 – 7.6 %).

The detailed view on main Czech varieties is in a second part of this report.

Market

Due to a lower crop, hardly any hops from 2020 crop were on the spot market. Some demands were covered by the hops from previous harvests. Based on negotiations with our partners and their helpfulness it was possible to postpone part of their contracted volumes. Very limited quantities from some previous harvests are still available, for example Kazbek variety.

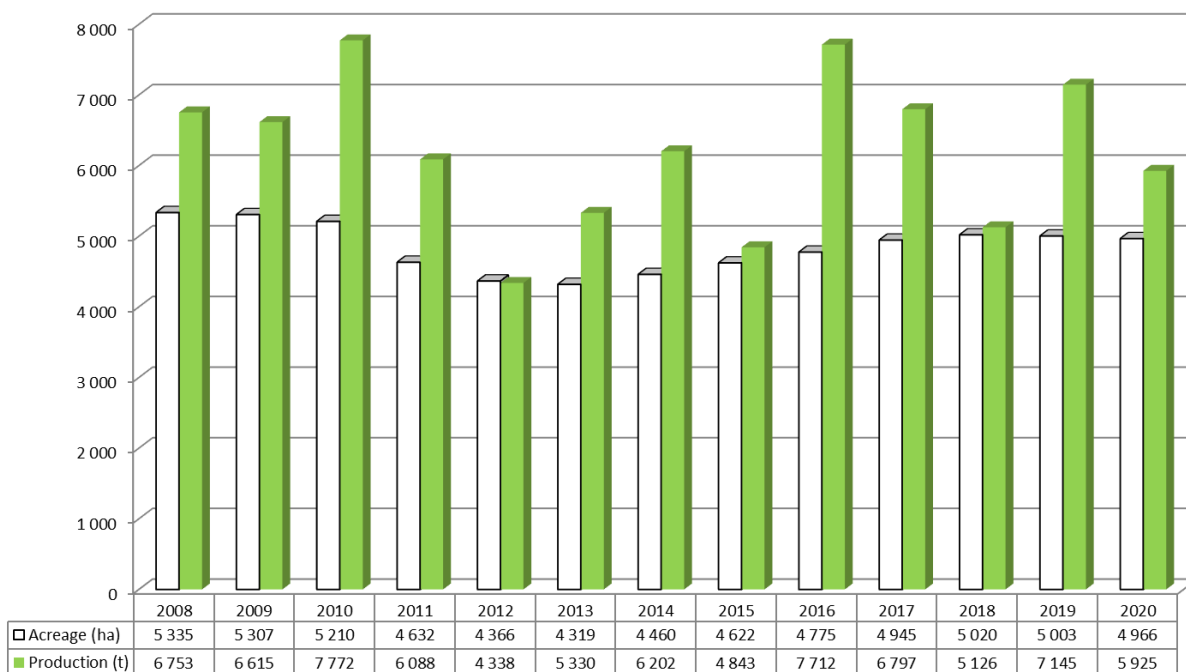
At the same time Czech growers keep investing into replanting of their hop fields as well as irrigation to stabilize their production and keep high investments into new technologies supplied by our CHMELARSTVI Mechanizace Plant.

The harvest 2021 is basically under contracts already. Contracting up to 2025 has also been successful. Strong interest is visible in the traditional variety SaaZ as well as other Czech varieties.

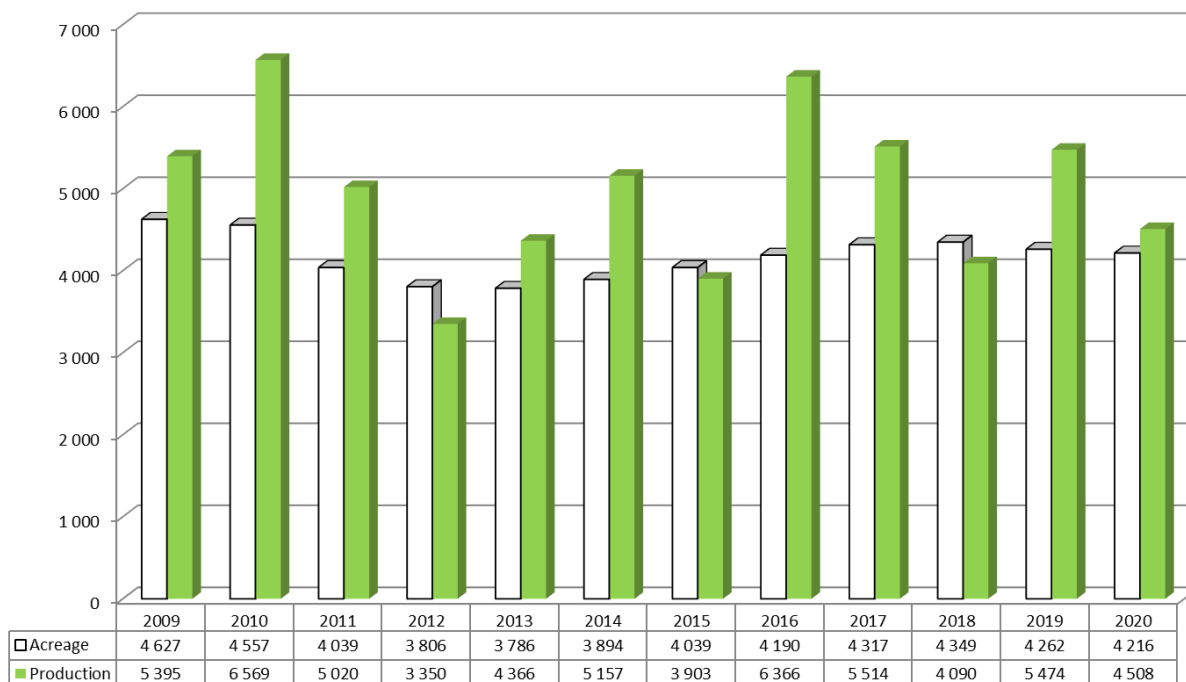


Graphs

Total Hop Acreage - Including All Varieties

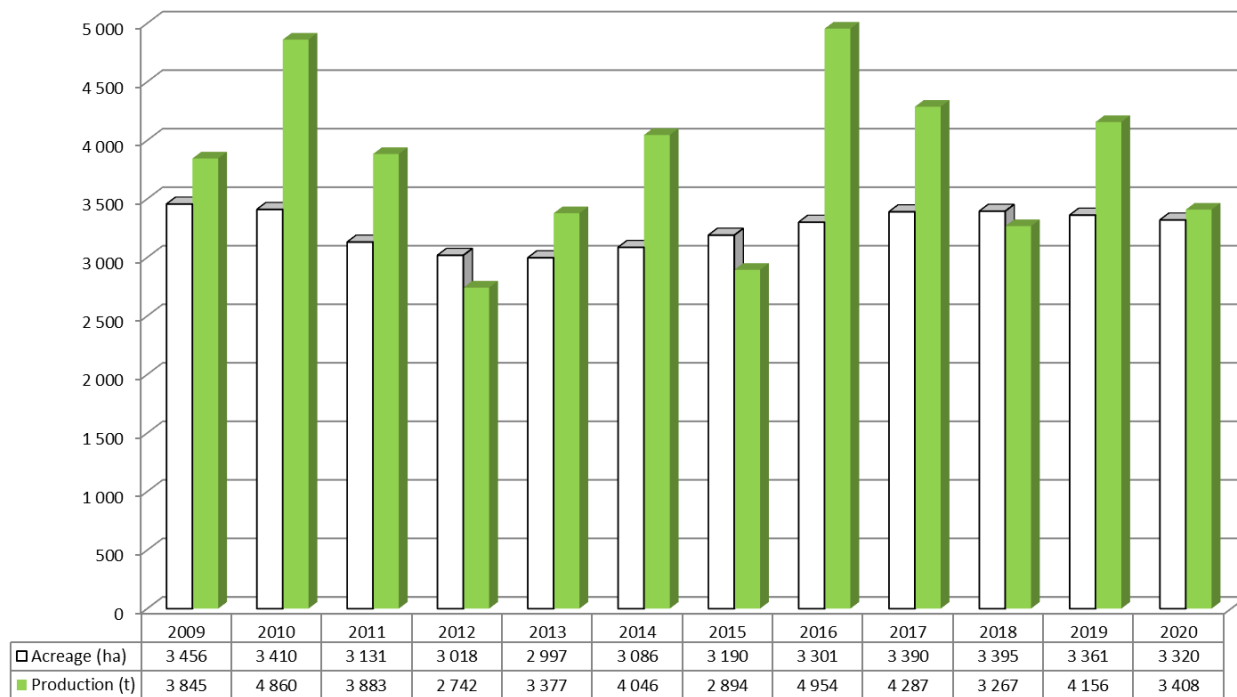


SAAZ (Czech Republic) - Acreage and production

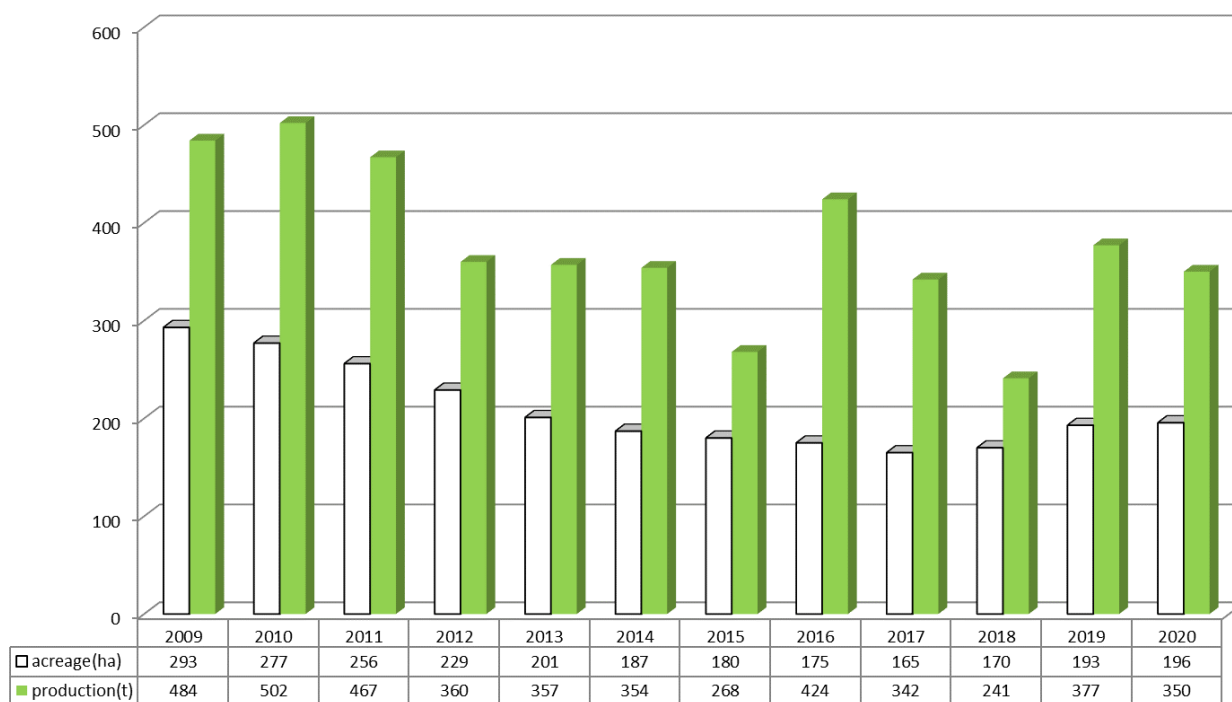


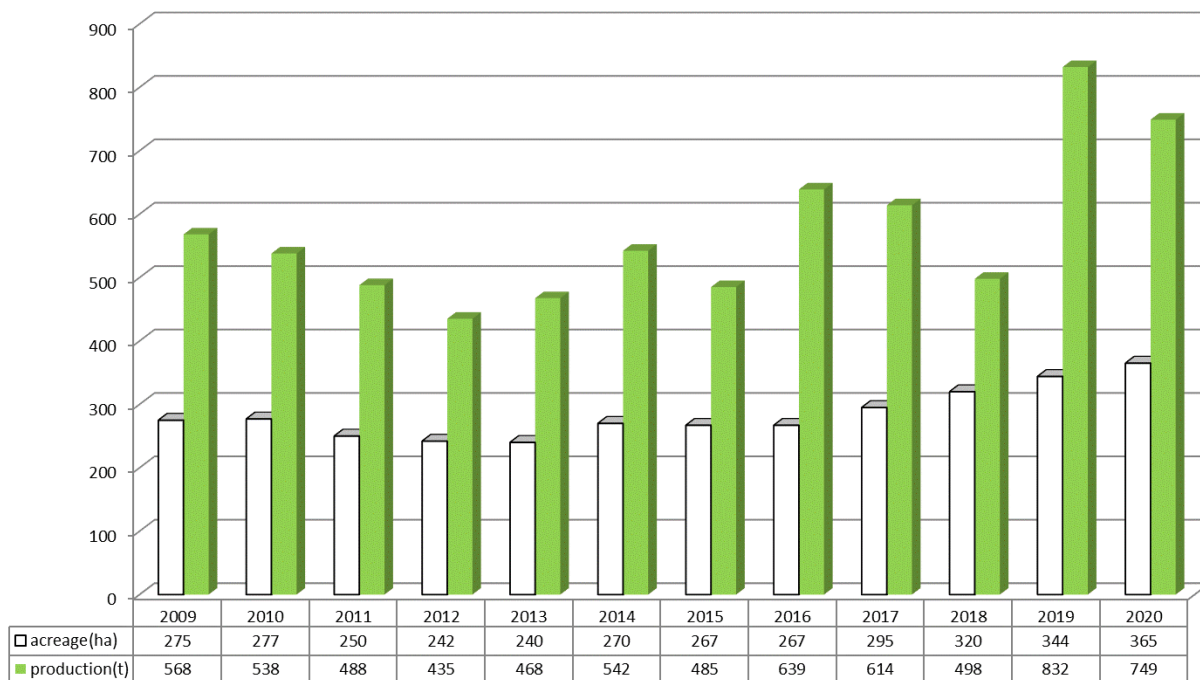
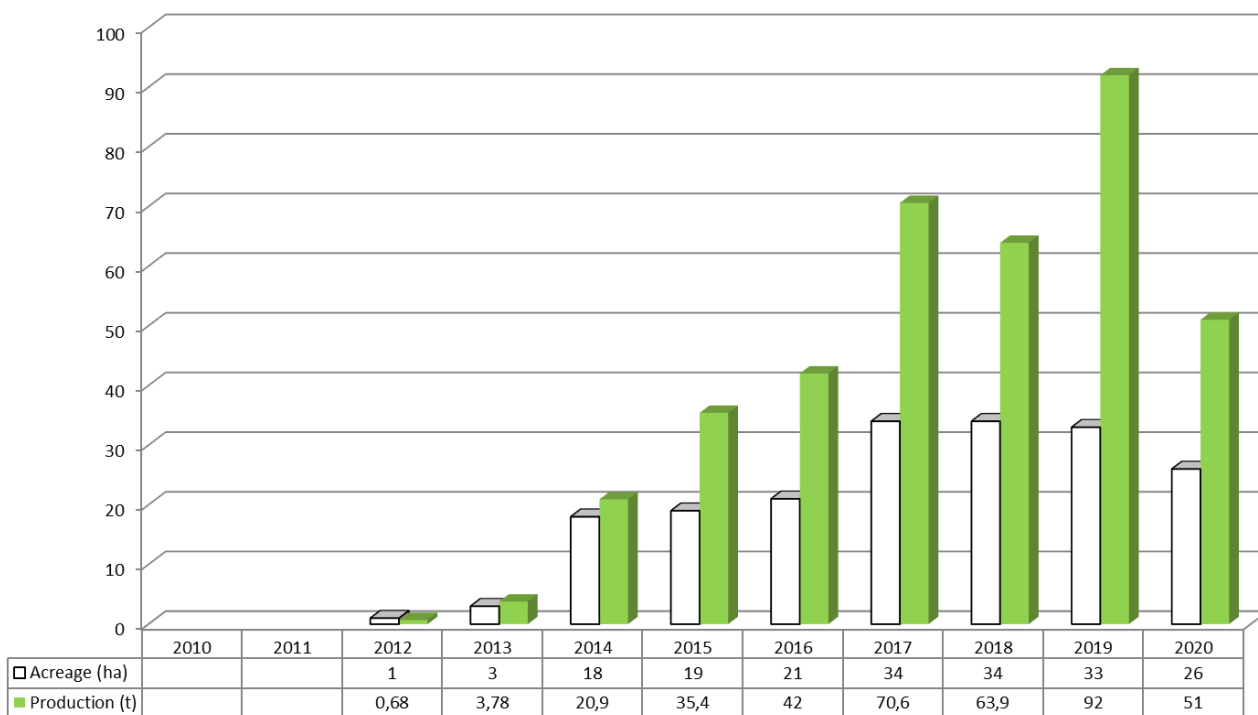


SAAZ- Saaz Hop Growing Region



PREMIANT - Acreage and Production



SLADEK - Acreage and Production

KAZBEK - Acreage and production


Crop 2020 in the Czech Republic in comparison with the past 10 years

The total hop production of 2020 crop amounted 5.925 tones. From a long-term point of view, this result is slightly below average and caused an indisputable disappointment among Czech growers. Unfavorable climatic conditions during vegetation period resulted in a below average crop that did not fulfill our primary expectations. The difference is especially visible in comparison with the crop 2019 that reached 7145 t.

However, when comparing this year production with the average of the last 10 years, the result of 2020 does not sound so unfavourable.

The **average production among all Czech varieties from 2011 to 2020 reaches 5.951 tons**. The final amount harvested in 2020 corresponds to the value of this average. However, 10 % decrease in yields as well as in production was recorded compared to 5 – year average (6.541 tons).

A brief information about main Czech hop varieties and their results in the last years can be seen bellow.



SAAZ



10 - year production average of SaaZ variety recorded in a **period from 2011 to 2020 is 4.775 tons**. This amount is only 267 tons over 4.508 tons reached in 2020 crop year. However, the final result of 2020 crop of SaaZ hops is 682 tons lower than 5 -year average and 996 tons compared to 2019 crop. This is the main difference and decrease of the 2020 crop.

The average content of alpha acids of SaaZ variety reached 3,6 % in 2020 crop year. This value is above 5- year average (3,26 %) and 10- year average (3,21 %) as well as average content of alpha acids recorded in 2019 crop (3,4 %).

Although the year-on-year production varies, the **supply and production of SaaZ hops have been stable** from a long-term point of view. The **SaaZ variety yield average has improved** in the past several years from a 10-year average yield of 1,17 tons per hectare to a last 5-years average of 1,22 tons per hectare which shows a positive impact of regular new planting of hops gardens with SaaZ hops on a final yield.



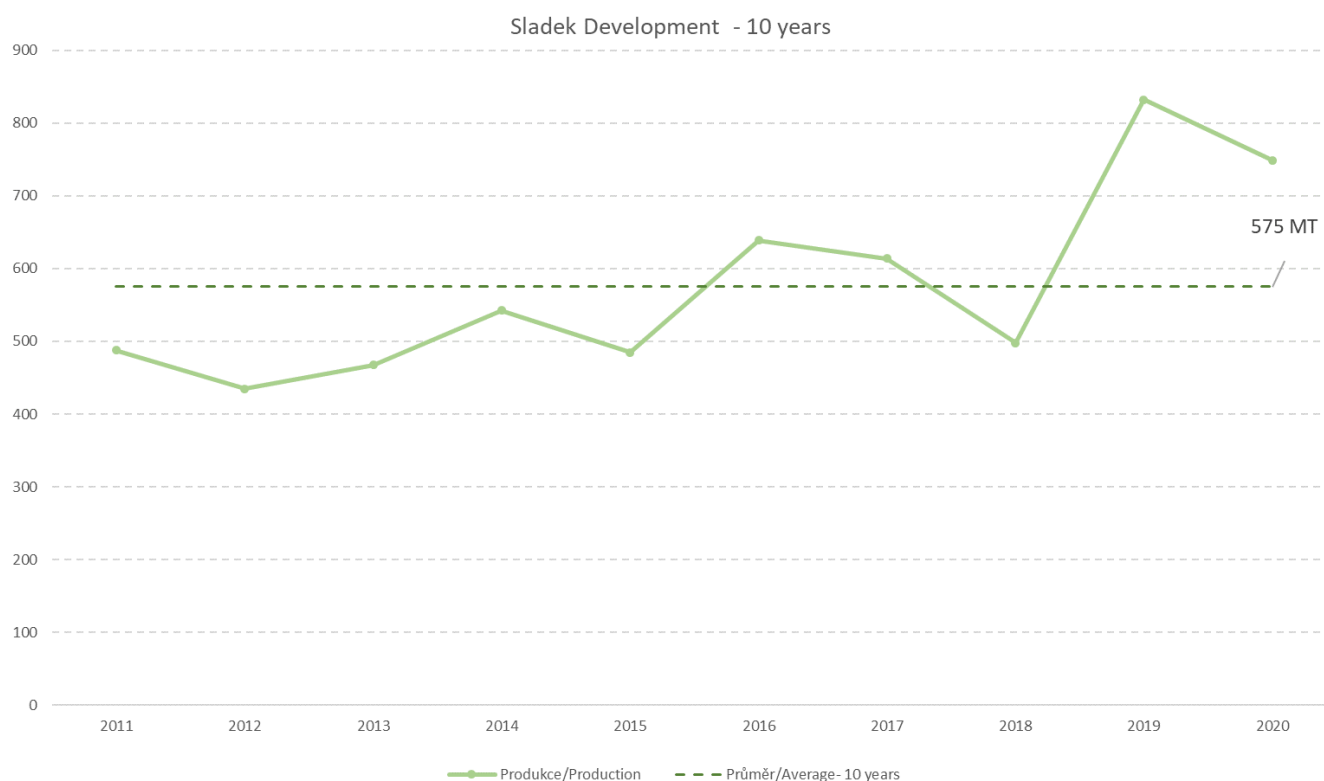
SLADEK



The average production of **Sladek variety from 2011 to 2020 crop is 575 tons**. The production of 2020 crop (749 t) is 174 tons higher in comparison to 10-year average and is also higher than 5-year average (666 t).

The average content of alpha acids reached 6,8 % in 2020 crop year. This value is above 5-year average (5,84 %) and also 10-year average (6,27 %) as well as the average content of alpha acids recorded in 2019 crop (5,4 %).

The production and acreage of Sladek has gradually been increasing. 10 – year average of yield of Sladek hops is around 2,0 tons per hectare. It shows the **quality and long-term stability of this Czech aroma variety.**



PREMIANT



The average production of **Premiant variety from 2011 to 2020 is 354 tons**. Thus, the production of 2020 crop (350 tons) corresponds to 10 – year average as well as 5 – year average that is 347 tons. Only 2019 crop was 27 tons higher.

The average content of alpha acids reached 7,8 % in 2020 crop year. This value is above 5- year average (7,22 %) and also slightly above 10 - year average (7,7 %). The alpha content of Premiant variety from 2019 crop (7,1 %) was lower as well.

Due to a renewal of hop gardens within last seasons, **Premiant hops reach stable production**. Nevertheless, the average yields are 10 % lower in comparison to Sladek variety. Premiant 10 -year average is 1,82 tons per hectare, 5 – year average yield is 1,93 tons per hectare. The yield of 2020 crop is 1,79 tons per hectare.

