

ENPARD Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

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The role and necessity of Agricultural Census in agriculture statistics

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FOREWORD

- For the first time in Armenia, the General Agricultural Census 2014 was carried out within an integrated statistical programme, according to the FAO recommendations laid out in the World Agricultural Census Programme 2000, with a view to create the basis for national agricultural policies reflecting the major structural changes in agriculture

FOREWORD

- It is well known that agriculture represents one of the most complex activities within the ensemble of activities comprised in the programs of the UN FAO

FOREWORD

- The wide-spreading and the complexity of the agricultural sector are significantly emphasized by the weight in the implementation of the agricultural policies within the budget.
- Beyond tradition, specific activities of this domain continue to discover propitious conditions for development, providing an important contribution to the economic and social progress of the country.

FOREWORD

- For this important position of agriculture it is indispensable to have complex and detailed systems of statistical indicators which should provide statistical data, in total or in adequate structures, comparable at international level.
- Statistical information represents an essential support for the real substantiation of agricultural policies.

OVERVIEW

- An agricultural census is a survey collecting information about all agricultural holdings in a given country. Its objective is to present an updated picture of the structure of agricultural activities, from an economical, social and environmental point of view.
- Armenia conducted the General Agricultural Census in October 2014: an exhaustive statistical survey of the agricultural holdings on the whole territory of the country, both in rural and urban areas.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the General Agricultural Census was to obtain statistical data on:

- the number and structure of the agricultural holdings
- the size of the farms
- the size of utilised agricultural areas
- the size of unused agricultural areas
- the type of crops
- the number and type of livestock
- the labour force involved in the farm work
- the agricultural machinery and equipment
- the irrigated area and rural development
- etc.

STAKEHOLDERS

The main consumers of the agricultural data are:

- Governmental institutions:
 - Ministry of Agriculture of RA
 - Ministry of Teritorial Administration and Development of RA
 - Other ministries and governmental organizations
- International organizations:
 - World Bank
 - IMF
 - UN FAO
 - UNDP
 - UNIDO
- Academic Institutions and Research Centers
- Private Sector and Non-governmental Organizations
- General public

FAO technical assistance to NSS

- As it was the first General Agricultural Census for the Republic of Armenia, there were difficulties, which NSS successfully overcame.
- In the scopes of the FAO technical assistance to NSS, I have been providing consultancy to NSS since 2015.

FAO technical assistance to NSS

- Every country has its own peculiarities. It is important to follow international rules and standards, at the same time also taking into account the country's specialties.
- National Statistical Service of Armenia successfully followed international rules and standards considering also the local characteristics.

Summary of Activities

- Checking and modification of the correlations between variables
- Development of software applications for automatic corrections in case of missing or corrupt data and also for additional consistency checks
- Checking and modification of output tables, generation of new tables
- Checking the correlations between rows and columns and also between final tables
- Assistance with respect to the structure of the final volume

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The 2014 General Agricultural Census was a major milestone in NSS activities. Creation of **Statistical Farms Register (SFR)** is the pre-requisite for the development of a sustainable system of surveys in agricultural statistics.
- *Based on the results of the 2014 GAC, I recommend setting-up a fully-fledged operational SFR, ready to serve as a sampling frame for all relevant sample surveys to be carried out in agriculture.*

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The International Rules and Standards on agricultural structure statistics foresees organization and carrying out of statistical surveys regarding the structure of agricultural holdings, respectively General Agricultural Censuses, **carried out once every 10 years**, and
- *farm structure surveys done during the period between two censuses (sample based surveys)*

Conclusions and Recommendations

I express my strong belief that the main objectives of this statistical survey have been achieved and the consistency of General Agricultural Census of Republic of Armenia is in accordance with all the international rules and standards.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION