

Bulgaria - Census of Agriculture, 2010

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

BGR_2010_CA_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

Overview

ABSTRACT

In the second half of 2010 the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) carried out the farm structure survey (FSS) and the survey on agricultural production methods (SAPM) on the entire country's territory in accordance with the Law on Agricultural Census 2010 in Bulgaria. This was the first census carried out in Bulgaria being a member of the European Union (EU) and the second one, in compliance with the legislation of the EU. The census was conducted using a methodology consistent with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 and Regulation (EC) No 1200/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, as regards to livestock unit coefficients and definitions of the characteristics. This ensured comparability of the results on the structure of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria and agricultural production methods with those of the EU Member States (MS). The Agricultural Census is the main source of information on the status and trends in agriculture. It has to provide a current economic, social and environmental overview of the agrarian sector needed for the decision making in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The census data will be taken as a basis for sampling of the annual production surveys, to determine the framework of the Rural Development Program for the programming period after 2013, to define the field of observation of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) and to start the creation a statistical farm register.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households

Scope

NOTES

Agricultural activities including crop and livestock production

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agriculture & Rural Development	FAO	
Food (production, crisis)	FAO	
Land (policy, resource management)	FAO	
Labor	FAO	
Livestock	FAO	
Pastoralism	FAO	
Social Development	FAO	
Community Driven Development	FAO	

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

UNIVERSE

In compliance with the EU Regulations Bulgaria applied the following national threshold:

0.5 ha of utilised agricultural area; or 0.3 ha of arable land; or 0.5 ha of natural meadows; or 0.1 ha of orchard (compact plantation), vineyard, vegetables, hops, tobacco, spices, medical and essential oil crops, flowers, ornamental plants; or 0.05 ha of greenhouses; or 1 cow/ buffalo-cow; or 2 cattle/ buffaloes; 1 female for reproduction (equidae); or 2 working animals (equidae); or 5 pigs; or 1 breeding-sow; or 5 breeding-ewes; or 2 breeding she-goats; or 50 laying hens; or 100 chicken for fattening; or 1 reproductive male animal used for natural mating - bull, stud, boar, etc.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
The Ministry of Agriculture and Food	

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Agrostatistics department		Technical assistance
Regional offices of the Ministry		Technical assistance
Central Census Commission		Technical assistance
Regional Census Commissions		Technical assistance

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Office of Chief Statistician	OCS	Food and Agriculture Organization	Adoption of metadata for FAM
Census team, Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization	Metadata producer

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

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DDI DOCUMENT ID

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

(a) Frame

All agricultural holdings throughout the country on the list of agricultural holdings prepared by the Agrostatistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The list contained 750 733 agricultural holdings and was based on data from the previous census, agricultural administrative records and the annual updates from twelve major sources.

(b) Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods

There was no sampling as the Census was an enumeration of all agricultural holdings for both the Farm Structure Survey, and the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods.

Questionnaires

Overview

EU Regulations require information on holding location and geo-coordinates, legal status, ownership and tenancy, land use and crops grown, irrigation, livestock, organic farming, machinery (mandatory in 2013 FSS), renewable energy installations, other gainful activities, socio-economic circumstances (full and part-time farming), labour force (family, non-family, contractors), agricultural and vocational training of the manager, inclusion in rural development support programmes, soil tillage methods, crop rotation, erosion protection, livestock housing and livestock management, grazing of animals, manure application, manure storage and treatment facilities, maintenance and installation of landscape features. In addition, Bulgaria included more detailed breakdown on land ownership, area with aromatic crops – oil rose, coriander, lavender, spearmint, valeriana; questions on holding's bookkeeping, mineral fertilizers and plant protection products application on open-field area; availability and types of milking facilities. There were three collection forms. The main statistical questionnaire (Form No.1) was a questionnaire collecting information on farm characteristics. The household-listing questionnaire (Form No.2) was used to determine whether the households in urban areas met the criteria for an agricultural holding. Form No.3 was used for temporary or permanently inactive holdings being part of the farm holdings list or the Farm Register.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2010-09-01	2010-12-30	N/A

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

The Agricultural Census data was collected via face-to-face interviews, conducted by 2,654 enumerators. The enumerators visited and interviewed all statistical units in the list and new holdings, not included in the initial list and identified with the support of the mayors of the settlements. The information was recorded on printed questionnaires.

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Data Processing

Data Editing

(a) Data Entry, Edits and Imputations, Estimation and Tabulation

Data processing, estimation and analysis were carried out on central level. The data file was prepared and sent to Eurostat for final validation. A special computer module was prepared for data entry. Data entry from the completed questionnaires in the computer module began in mid-September 2010 by operators in the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Data regarding Rural Development Support was cross-checked with the administrative records of the Paying Agency. In the case of doubt, data from Paying Agency was imputed into the database.

(b) Census Data Quality

The individual and aggregated data control on regional and central level started from mid-September 2010, together with the data entry of the questionnaires into the computer program. The 28 regional offices sent data to Headquarter's database on a weekly basis. The Agrostatistics Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food conducted multiple checks of the logical links within each data record. Obvious erroneous questionnaires with incoherent data were compared with data from administrative sources. In case of significant differences holdings were revisited for follow-up interviews. The data was summarized and analyzed at central level for the 28 districts and the 6 statistical regions. The data from regular crop, livestock, poultry and beekeeping surveys proved to be comparable with the Census data. Some of the differences were attributable to the different survey reference periods. The difference in annual crop estimates was often due to non-harvested area and was normally within the published survey sampling errors.

Data Appraisal

Estimates of Sampling Error

The primary effort to minimize non-sampling error was placed in the interviewer and supervisor training programs and the instruction and procedures manuals for the field collection operation. Processes were also put in place for correction of the anticipated under-coverage, duplicate records, non-response and no contacts. Measurement errors were mostly detected by control in the computer module or by the additional monitoring of the data at central level. When discovering errors the regional experts and the enumerators contacted the holder for data clarification and data correction.

Other forms of Data Appraisal

The preliminary results were published in May 2011 on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, seven months after the end of the reference period (crop year). Final detailed results were released in October 2012. The census results reflect the state of agriculture in Bulgaria in 2010 and are the basis for decisionmaking by state and local governments, as well as by the European Union and other European institutions in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the EU.