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## ROMANIA - Census of Agriculture 2010 – Explanatory notes

### 1. Historical Outline

In Romania, the first General Agriculture Census (GAC 2002) was carried out in December 2002 and January 2003. The main objective was to get an exhaustive picture of the structural features of the national agricultural system. At the same time, the 2002 Census provided the data necessary for establishing the Farm Register, which used as the sampling frame for the annual agricultural sample surveys in the inter-censal period.

### 2. Legal Basis and Organization

The National Institute of Statistics is the government office with the authority and responsibility for collecting, compiling, analysing and publishing official statistics

The National Legislation and framework for the 2010 General Agricultural Census are the following:

- (1) Law no. 153, July 2008 provides the legal framework needed and establishing the working structures at central level (Central Commission and Central Technical Secretariat;
- (2) Government Decision no. 1370, November 2009 established the working structures at territorial level and their responsibilities, and the Census budget;
- (3) Law no. 226/2009 the organization and functioning of official statistics in Romania;
- (4) Government Decision no. 957/2005 defines the organization and functioning of the National Institute of Statistics.

### 3. Reference Period or Date

The reference period and dates were as follows:

- (1) December 1, 2010, - for livestock, organic farming (livestock) and animal housing
- (2) September 30, 2009 to October 1, 2010, or crop year 2009/10) - for all crops
- (3) Previous 3 years - for average area actually irrigated, landscape features and rural development measures

### 4. Enumeration Period

The 2010 Census data collection operation took place between 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2010 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2011.

### 5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

EC Regulation 1166/2008 defines the statistical unit as an agricultural holding. "Agricultural holding" or „holding“ means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities listed in Annex I to the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity. In addition, the EU regulation determines thresholds of size. Romania did not apply a threshold; all units with an agricultural activity were included in the list.

### 6. Geographic Coverage

Covered the entire country.

### 7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

No threshold was established.

### 8. Methodology

#### ***Use of the FAO Modular Approach***

Yes

#### ***Frame***

The Census frame is the Agricultural Administrative Register (AAR), at each commune hall level (locality). The AAR is the official Register of information on agricultural households, companies/ agricultural associations, natural persons and/or legal units that own or use agricultural areas and/or have livestock.

The Register is maintained on paper and in an electronic format by the person named by the mayor, such as an agricultural agent, and is updated based on owner declarations. Owners are obliged by law to declare the information on their households and companies/ agricultural associations, on natural persons and/or legal units, contained in this register, by very specific deadlines.

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**Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods**

All holdings in scope were enumerated and there was no sampling for either the Farm Structure Survey or the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods.

**Sample Design**

Not applicable.

**Collection Method**

The data collection method, for the 2010 General Agricultural Census (Farm Structure Survey) and the 2010 Survey of Agricultural Production Methods, was face-to-face interviews with the holding's head or another adult for agricultural holdings in the household sector and by self-registration for legal units (companies and enterprises).

In the case of agricultural holdings in the household sector the recoding of the responses was the responsibility of enumerators. Administrative data sources were not used as a data source for any of the information or questionnaire characteristics required from respondents.

**Questionnaire(s)**

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, and erosion protection, livestock keeping places and keeping methods, animal grazing, manure application and manure storage and treatment facilities, maintenance and installation of landscape features.

The Census data were collected using a single questionnaire, which was a combination of the Farm Structure Survey questionnaire and the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods.

**Controls to Minimize Non-Sampling Errors**

A critical element of the strategy to minimize non-sampling errors was the rigorous program for training interviewers and the development of manuals and reference documents documenting all matters and procedures related to filling in the questionnaire in the "Enumerator Handbook" and in the "Methodological Guide".

**Innovative Methodologies**

None noted.

**9. Data Entry, Edits and Imputations, Estimation and Tabulation**

Data entry was decentralised at the level of the 42 territorial statistical offices. For this activity, 450 computer operators were hired.

The data used to prepare preliminary results, and recorded on the first page of Census questionnaire, were scanned. The computer operator entered all the other data for the Census questionnaire, both for the Farm Structure Survey and the Survey of Agricultural Production Methods.

After data entry and resolving all the errors identified at the micro or record level, the data passed to the Central Technical Secretariat. The Secretariat reviewed the data at the aggregate level (both national and at county level), using tables specially designed for each indicator to identify possible inconsistencies. Depending on the type of problems found, they were solved by imputations at the local or central level. Imputations were made when information was missing. The impact of the imputations is estimated to be less than 2 percent.

**10. Data Dissemination and Use**

The National Institute of Statistics released the Census of Agriculture (Farm Structure Survey and Survey of Agricultural Production Methods) preliminary estimates December 2011 in the format of both a printed publication and a CD that contained data at the national, macro-region, development region and county level, for about 20 characteristics. The final results were released July 2012 and most of the publically available data can be found on Romania's National Institute of Statistics website ([www.insse.ro/cms/en](http://www.insse.ro/cms/en)).

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## **11. Census Data Quality**

In February 2011 the Census Control Survey was carried out, on a probability sample basis at the National level. The Control Survey objective was to check the quality and coverage of information gathered from the 2010 Census.

In addition the data from the Census were evaluated by comparing the Census estimates at the macro level with the data from other agricultural surveys.

## **12. Data Sources**

Eurostat:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agricultural\\_census\\_2010](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agricultural_census_2010)

Final report:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/RO\\_NMR\\_FSS\\_2010.pdf/fd24fb92-c80d-46fb-92bd-3ec98b8bb69a](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/749240/749313/RO_NMR_FSS_2010.pdf/fd24fb92-c80d-46fb-92bd-3ec98b8bb69a)

## **13. Contact**

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