
SERBIA - Census of Agriculture 2012 – Explanatory notes

1. Historical Outline

The last comprehensive Agricultural Census in the Republic of Serbia territory was conducted in 1960. Since then, only basic data on agriculture have been collected within the Population Census. The implementation of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 coincides with the national needs since there is a lack of structural and detailed data on agriculture at the holding level, which are of vital importance for socio-economic analyses and planning.

2. Legal Basis and Organization

The Law and enabling legislation for the 2011 Census of Agriculture (Official gazette RS, number 104/09 and 24/11) was passed pursuant to Article 112(1/2), the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the responsible authority for preparing, organizing, and conducting the Census of Agriculture - pursuant to Law on the Census of Agriculture 2011 and EU project IPA 2011 (Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance). The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, led the census project with the co-operation and assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and other ministries and selected organizations such as the Municipality Census Commissions that were given responsibility for the interviewers' field collection operation.

3. Reference Period or Date

Reference date: September 30, 2012, for the data on available land, number of livestock, number of owned machinery; number and capacity of owned buildings.

Reference period: October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012 (Crop Year 2011/12), for the data on use of agricultural land; utilisation of fertilisers and pesticides; organic farming; utilised capacity of buildings; utilised machinery and equipment; agricultural production methods; labour force; non-agricultural gainful activities on the holding; use and sale of own agricultural products, use of loans. Last three years, for the average irrigated area, use of government support measures, and establishment and maintenance of landscape features, such as borderlines between utilized agricultural areas.

4. Enumeration Period

Enumeration was between 1 October and 15 December 2012.

5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

Family agricultural holdings having at least 0.5 hectares of agricultural land (area) on which they perform agricultural production;

Family agricultural holdings having less than 0.5 hectares of agricultural land, which they utilize for crop farming, livestock breeding, fruit growing, vineyards, vegetable production, flower growing (glass and plastic protective covers), and for other forms of practices of agricultural production, intended for marketing, as well as fish farming, mushroom growing, snail farming, bee-keeping, etc.

Enterprise, farm cooperative, unincorporated enterprise and other forms of organization with the status of legal entity that are registered as mainly dealing with agricultural production, and

Enterprise, institution and other legal entities registered for another activity, having organized branches or other organizational units in which their agricultural production is carried out.

6. Geographic Coverage

Covered was the territory of the Republic of Serbia, without the AP Kosovo and Metohija.

7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

None noted other than those stated as the minimum threshold of agricultural activity in the national definition of an agricultural holding.

8. Methodology

Framework

The frame is all agricultural holdings in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Lists of households with own-account agricultural production were created based on 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, and updated with actual administrative and other sources. The Register of legal entities was established for the purpose of the Census of Agriculture by using all available sources (Statistical Business Register, local government bodies, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and others), and by combining the territorial and organizational principles of reporting, by the SORS regional offices/departments.

Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods

All holdings in scope were enumerated and there was no sampling.

Collection Method

Interviewers, visiting the family holdings recorded the data on a printed questionnaire collected in a personal interview.

Questionnaire(s)

The Census of Agriculture used a single questionnaire. There were however two forms for the Census of Agriculture questionnaire: (1) Questionnaire for Agricultural Holdings, both family and enterprise, and (2) Control List for all agricultural households noted during enumeration.

Controls to Minimize Non-Sampling Errors

The primary method for minimising non-sampling errors was particularly extensive and rigorous controls and procedures for the data collection activity. Interviewers were very well trained as were their supervisors and once in the field they were provided with detailed procedures and questionnaire manuals. There was also close supervision and coordination of the field collection operation and extensive checks on the data collected by the interviewers throughout the period that they were in the field.

Innovative Methodologies

Article 2 of the Law on the Census of Agriculture specifies the relationship between the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Population. The Census of Population was to provide data on agricultural activities carried out in households and the data used for a List of Households to be used for the Census of Agriculture. The coordination of activities saved funds and had a value added to the usefulness of data from both censuses. The enumeration

areas, drawn up by the Geodetic Office of the Republic of Serbia for the purposes of the Census of Population were used for the Census of Agriculture.

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

Data entry was made through optical reading and the Census processing centralized.

10. Data Dissemination and Use

The preliminary Census results were published 30 days after the Census of Agriculture was complete and the final census data were published, December 2014. The data obtained by the Census of Agriculture 2010 provide an overview of the status of agriculture in the Republic of Serbia at the national, local, and holding level, as well as establishing a good quality framework for the conduct of regular surveys, which will be harmonized with the international standards and which, together with this Census, will constitute the backbone of the agricultural statistics system. The data obtained in the census will contribute to acquiring the knowledge about the actual situation of agriculture of the Republic of Serbia. That is of particular importance for all future users of aggregate data, in particular for the respondents – census units, which will be able to better plan agricultural production, apply for national and European funds supporting agriculture.

11. Census Data Quality

For the purpose of checking the reliability of the census results, in the period from 14 to 31 January 2013 the Post-census survey was implemented, which served as the basis to control the quality of data compiled through the Census of Agriculture

12. Data Sources

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia:

<http://popispoljoprivrede.stat.rs/?lang=en>

<http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2012/PP-knjiga1.pdf>

<http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2012/PP-knjiga2.pdf>

13. Contact

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Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia: <http://popispoljoprivrede.stat.rs> ; www.stat.gov.rs