EC/FAO Programme on Information Systems to Improve Food Security decision-making in the ENP East Area

Study tour

Improvement of Food Balance Sheet

14-18 November 2011

1. Background

The 5 days study tour to Lithuania was jointly organized by the “EC/FAO Programme on Information Systems to Improve Food Security Decision-making in the ENP East Area” and the Statistics Lithuania. The tour was organized for the staff of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Ministry of Economy Development (MoED).

The objective of the Programme in Azerbaijan is to improve the information on food security to support decision-making processes. The Programme is financed by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Support is being provided under one of the key components of the Programme to the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan to improve Food Balance Sheet (FBS) and related statistics. The objective under this component is to improve capacity in producing and using FBS to develop strategies in the food and agriculture sectors.

2. Objectives of the study tour

Global objective: Staff of SSC and MoED that are involved in the compilation of FBS and the use of FBS for forecasting food demand and supply in Azerbaijan to learn from the Lithuanian experience in compiling Food Balance Sheets, according to EU requirements, and using FBS for evidence based policy making and impact evaluation.

Specific objectives:

- Get acquainted with all issues related to the compilation of FBS in Lithuania according to the EU requirements; understand the differences with the work being carried out in Azerbaijan and the reasons for these differences. Specifically, review:
  - the available data sources used for FBS calculation;
  - evaluation of stocks and losses by kinds of agricultural products in producers’ farms, trade and processing enterprises;
  - evaluation of agricultural products by kinds: consumption for seeds and for fodder and for processing of non-foodstuffs;
  - use of foreign trade data (import and export) in FBS calculation, including coefficients used to convert raw products in processed products;
  - evaluation of the human consumption in FBS;
  - documentation of metadata and methodological notes;
  - publication and dissemination of results.
3. Participation

The study tour was attended by participants representing both producers and users of FBS in Azerbaijan:

1. Mr Alisa Zeynalli - SSC, Head of Food Security and Balances Division;
2. Mr Seyfaddin Yusifov - SSC, Head of Agriculture Statistics Division;
3. Mr Zamin Badirkhanov – MoED, Chief Adviser, Department for Strategic Planning of Economic Development; and

4. Process

The programme of the study tour is provided in Annex 1 and the list of people met in Annex 2.

Ms. Aldona Gibaite-Kudzmiene, the deputy director of the Statistics Lithuania, welcomed the participants. She presented the organization of the statistical system in Lithuania and the coordination existing among different state institutions in the field of official statistics and the production of regional statistics. Statistical information is available free of charge to all users interested in the socio-economic development of Lithuania on the website of Statistics Lithuania.

The first presentation was delivered by Ms. Ausra Jablonskiene, head of Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Division, on the organization of the agricultural statistics surveys as the main data sources for compilation of FBSs in Lithuania. Participants were introduced to the methods used for collection of all statistical information on agriculture and the legal basis for production of agricultural statistics.
Statistics Lithuania is responsible for collecting all statistical information on agriculture on the basis of:

- Law on National Statistics, which was approved by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 23 December 1999;
- Regulation No 223/2009 of the European Council on the Community Statistics;
- Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Lithuania;
- National Program for Statistical Data Collection;
- Order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania on the approval of the questionnaires and methodology.

The production of agricultural statistics in Lithuania is carried out by the Statistics office and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Regarding crop statistics, the MoA is responsible for early estimates on Crop Production, agricultural and non-agricultural ethanol statistics, wine statistics, olive and other oil statistics, agricultural seeds statistics, compound feed statistics, sugar statistics (reserves, production, realization, purchase, sugar balance sheet), and organic farming. The Statistics Lithuania produces data on crop area, harvest and average yields, as well as supply balance sheets for crop products. The statistics on livestock, meat and eggs are also divided between the two institutions. The responsibility for estimation of the number of livestock and poultry, livestock production, productivity, livestock and poultry slaughter, supply balance sheets of livestock products, structure and use of poultry hatcheries, number of chicks and foreign trade is given to the Statistics Lithuania. MoA produces statistics related to slaughter forecast, daw milk statistics (purchase, sale, production of milk products, prices, etc.), poultry slaughter, reserves of poultry meat and eggs, production of livestock meat and meat products, trade, reserves, prices, amount of animal’s products for non human use, and organic farming.

Data are collected by conducting complete enumeration and applying sample methods. The resulting information is used by the state, and municipal and scientific institutions to shape agricultural policies, providing support to agricultural producers in line with the EU principles. Farmers and family farms are questioned by interviewers, while agricultural companies and enterprises provide statistical data via printed or electronic statistical reports.

Administrative data from various sources are used for production of official statistics:

- The Ministry of Agriculture provides data from - the Cadastre Register; Agricultural and Rural Business Register; Livestock Register; Crop Register for subsidies; Organic farming Register, and Economic Indicators on the Activities of agricultural partnerships and enterprises;
- The Institute of Agrarian Economics is responsible for the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) data collection;
- Population Register;
- Register of Addresses.

The Statistics Lithuania is responsible also for the Farm Structure Surveys and Agricultural Census. The Farm Structure Survey has been conducted every two years until 2010 and every three years after 2010. Agricultural Censuses has to be conducted every ten years. The first Agricultural Census in the re-independent Lithuania was conducted in 2003. The main target of the census was to get the data from all potential agricultural producers of Lithuania. The census is used as a basis for the Statistical Farm Register, and also for sampling and the preparation of reliable and comparable statistical information on agriculture.
The second Agricultural Census was carried out in 2010 and linked to a special survey of agricultural production practices in agricultural holdings.

The provision of additional statistics for the development of agro-environmental policy and the improvement of the quality of agro-environment is also important. The presentation on organization of the crop statistics as one of the main data sources for compilation FBSs in Lithuania was delivered by Ms. Gricevic, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division. The performance of farmers’ and family farms is monitored through sample surveys (stratified simple random sampling), while agricultural companies and enterprises are monitored through a comprehensive statistical survey.

Ms. Pinkeviciute, Chief specialist, introduced sampling techniques applied in crop and animal statistics surveys. Population consists of farms selected from the database of the Agricultural Census. Information is updated using data from other statistical surveys. Sampling frames for statistical survey on agricultural crop area and production – all farms, which have utilised agricultural land and satisfy the definition of the statistical unit of the survey (163067); while for statistical survey on the number of livestock and animal production – all farms, which have animals (116485). Stratified simple random sampling is applied using standard output (SO), municipalities, specific farms, number of strata, strata boundaries, sample size allocation in strata.

The second day of the study tour started with the presentation of Mr. Alisa Zeynalli, Head of the Food Security and Balances Statistics Division, SSC, on legal basis, product groups, data sources, compilation processes used for calculation of Food Balance Sheets in Azerbaijan. He informed participants that the legal basis of FBS is the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 20 November 2009, where the responsibility for compiling FBS is given to SSC, while the Ministry of Economic
Development is responsible for producing forecast FBSs. The speaker also gave information on the administrative data, which are used for compiling FBS along with official statistics.

Then Mr. Vaitkevicius, Senior specialist, Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division delivered presentation on calculation of supply balance sheets in Lithuania. He informed that Agriculture and environment statistics division started compiling Supply Balance Sheets in 1988. At first, the balances were compiled for many agricultural products for calendar year and were used for national purposes. Since 2000, a new methodology has been implemented in order to equalize, improve and harmonize FBS with other EU countries Supply Balance Sheets (SBS). New reference periods and new agriculture product groups were added. The SBSs are now calculated for calendar year (for national purposes) and crop year (for Eurostat).

Supply Balance Sheets are produced for 89 crop products and product groups are produced for crop year, 18 per calendar year (Sugar balance is estimated by MoA);

Data collection systems for industry statistics were introduced by Ms. V. Kunigeliene, Head of the Division and Ms. Z. Gold, Chief Specialist. The objective of statistical surveys on industrial production is to obtain comprehensive, relevant and reliable information on industrial output and sales, and their changes in volume and value terms. The products are classified according to a national version of the Prodcom list – Classification of products, goods and services is used; national version (EVRK Rev. 2) of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2). Survey population is industrial enterprises of all types and forms of ownership; survey period – month.

Statistical information is published according to an approved calendar: in a press releases; monthly publication on Economic and Social Development in Lithuania; in annual publications on Production of Commodities, Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania, Counties of Lithuania, Information Technologies in Lithuania; in the Database of Indicators of Statistics Lithuania; in a UN publication Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook; in the Eurostat’s database. Statistical information is also provided upon user request.

The Foreign trade statistics were introduced by Ms. I. Jociene, Head of the division. She informed participants about the objective of the compilation of foreign trade statistics which is to provide information on the flows of goods between Lithuania and other countries.

In foreign trade statistics the following classifications are used:

- Valid edition of the Combined Nomenclature on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff;
- The Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC);
- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC);
- Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2008);
- Country and Area Nomenclature, on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

The focus of foreign trade statistics is on goods arriving to and leaving the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. After the accession to the European Union (EU), indicators of foreign trade statistics have been calculated based on two data collection systems (Extrastat and Intrastat). The Extrastat system includes data on trade between Lithuania and non-member countries of the EU, the source of these data being information of the Special Additional Duty (SAD) of customs declarations. Intrastat is a data collection system based on information from value added tax (VAT) payers trading with EU countries. Respondents provide the Customs with data on dispatches to EU countries in a monthly Intrastat report (UPS-01) and on arrivals from EU countries in a monthly Intrastat report (UPS-02). However, Intrastat exemption
thresholds have been set by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania, i.e. the value of dispatches/arrivals to/from the EU over a year below which VAT payers are exempted from the obligation to provide Intrastat reports. Data of VAT payers who are exempted from the provision of Intrastat declarations and respondents who have not provided Intrastat reports in time are adjusted using VAT declarations’ data.

Foreign trade of Lithuania is defined by four indicators: exports and imports define trade volumes of Lithuania with non-Member States of the EU, while dispatches and arrivals define trade with EU Member States. In general, foreign trade volumes are defined using the exports and imports concepts. The main parameters are statistical value and quantity of goods.

Statistical information on foreign trade is published no later than on the 40th calendar day after the end of reporting period, according to publication calendar, approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania. General information on foreign trade statistics is published in a separate press release. More detailed information is provided in a monthly statistical bulletin Economic and Social Development in Lithuania, and in the Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania.

Aggregated and detailed monthly, quarterly and annual statistical information is published on the website of Statistics Lithuania. Statistical information is also provided on user request.

The third day of visit started with the presentation of Ms. A. Markova, Senior specialist, Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division, on methods, techniques and surveys which are used to compile FBSs on animal products. She presented the methods of calculation for Supply Balance Sheets and the data sources used for calculation of FBS for animal products, which comprise:

- Total meat: beef and veal meat, pig meat, sheep and goat meat, poultry meat, horse meat, other meat, offals;
- Milk and dairy products;
- Eggs and egg products;
- Animal and vegetable fats.

Supply balance sheets for agricultural and processed products are compiled in accordance with balance method. A balance sheet is a system of statistical indicators, defining the formation of resources and reflecting the chain of production from the moment of production to the moment of final consumption.

Data sources for the compilation of agricultural products supply balance sheets are statistical reports, administrative sources and other additional sources.

The day continued with discussions on industry and foreign trade statistics departments, mainly focusing on information on animal products and other related issues.

The fourth day of the study tour was dedicated to the meeting with the main users of statistics – representatives of the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics (LAEI): Ms. I Krisciukaitene, Ms. D. Juskeviciene and Mr. V. Vaikutis discussed with the participants the importance of FBS for policy development and analysis.

Ms. V. Sapolaite delivered a presentation on the use of FBS for the calculation of Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA). She said that the calculation of EAA is produced by LAEI and the final figures for EAA are consolidated using OPAL software. FBS data by products (Cereals by kind, dried pulses, potatoes, sugar beet, fruits and vegetables, meat by kind, milk and eggs) are used for calculation of EAA.

In the elaboration of Economic Accounts for Agriculture, the output is progressively broken down by different items of a minimum list, first in quantity terms, and then average prices are applied.
On the last day of the study visit, presentations and discussion were on dissemination of agricultural statistics, including FBS. Data on FBS are published in:
- An annual publication - Agriculture in Lithuania (in October);
- Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania (in November);
- Database of Indicators according established timetable;
- Information to the users provided upon request.

Data are transmitted to Eurostat via eDAMIS system according to an established schedule.

Statistical information on agricultural crop area, production and yield, number of livestock and production of animal products is published:
- in a press release;
- in statistical publications Agriculture, Counties of Lithuania, Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania;

Ms. Aldona Gibaite-Kudzmiene, the deputy director of the Statistics Lithuania, participated in the last wrap-up session:

5. Main results and follow-up activities

The Study tour provided a unique opportunity to Azerbaijani FBS producers and users to debate different aspects of FBSs with their colleagues in Lithuania. Discussions in Lithuania confirmed the importance of FBS for policy development and analyses. They also highlighted the relations between FBS, Agricultural statistics and FADN and the use of supply balance sheets for calculation of economic accounts for agriculture. Participants are now familiar with all issues related to the compilation of FBS according to EU requirements. A number of issues were reviewed, including:
- data sources used for FBS calculation;
• evaluation of stocks and losses by type of agricultural products in producers’ farms, trade and processing enterprises;
• evaluation of agricultural products by kinds: consumption for seeds and for fodder and for processing of non-foodstuffs;
• use of foreign trade data (import and export) in FBS calculation, including coefficients used to convert raw products in processed products;
• evaluation of the human consumption in FBS;
• documentation of metadata and methodological notes;
• publication and dissemination of results.

Proposed follow up activities:
• Support further cooperation with the Statistics Lithuania, continue exchange of information, experience with other new member states;
• Use Lithuanian experience in improvement of questionnaires for Agricultural statistics and development of Agricultural survey in SSC;
• Elaborate data availability for compilation of FBS by kind of products;
• Preparation of brief methodology (sample) for dissemination among external users;
• Use Lithuanian experience in improvement of web-database, dissemination of information.
### Annex 1. Programme of the study tour to Lithuania, 13–19 November 2011

#### 13 November, 2011, Sunday

**Arrival and accommodation**

#### 14 November, 2011, Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Opening of the workshop: Welcome speech and introduction.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Aldona Danuté Gibaitė-Kudžmienė, Deputy Director General, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Overview of agricultural statistics in Lithuania: legislative and institutional settings, division of labour between Statistics Lithuania and the Ministry of Agriculture, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Aušra Jablonskienė, Head of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30–14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00–16:00</td>
<td>Presentation of organization of the agricultural statistics surveys as the main data sources for compilation FBSs in Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Vanda Gricevič, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Laura Pinkevičiūtė, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<td>16:00–16:30</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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#### 15 November, 2011, Tuesday

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00–11:00</td>
<td>Presentation of FBSs in Azerbaijan: legal basis, product groups, data sources, compilation processes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Mr. Alisa Zeynalli, SSC</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00–12:00</td>
<td>Work in Agriculture and environment statistics division of Statistics Lithuania: Presentations and discussions of methods, techniques and surveys, which are used to compile FBSs on crops products</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Mr. Artūras Vaitkevičius, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00–13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30–14:00</td>
<td>Work in Agriculture and environment statistics division of Statistics Lithuania: Presentations and discussions of methods, techniques and surveys, which are used to compile FBSs on crops products</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Mr. Artūras Vaitkevičius, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00–16:30</td>
<td>Work in Industrial statistics division and in Foreign trade statistics division: Discussions on main data sources which are used to compile FBSs on crops products</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Violeta Kunigelienė, Head of Industrial statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Irena Jocienė, Head of Foreign trade statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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#### 16 November, 2011, Wednesday

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00–12:00</td>
<td>Work in Agriculture and environment statistics division: Presentations and discussions of methods, techniques and surveys which are used to compile FBSs on animal products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Ana Markova, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00–13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30–16:30</td>
<td>Work in Industrial statistics division and in Foreign trade statistics division: Discussions on main data sources which are used to compile FBSs on animal products</td>
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<td><em>Ms. Violeta Kunigelienė, Head of Industrial statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Ms. Irena Jocienė, Head of Foreign trade statistics division, Statistics Lithuania</em></td>
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#### 17 November, 2011, Thursday
10:00–12:00  Meeting with the data users: in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
   Ms. Irena Kriščiukaitienė, Head of Division, Principal Researcher, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
   Ms. Vaida Sapolaitė, Specialist, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
   Ms. Danutė Juškevičienė, Researcher, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
   Mr. Viktoras Vaikutis, Researcher, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics

12:00–13:30  Lunch

13:30–16:30  Discussion on specific issues and problems of calculation data on FBS in Azerbaijan and in Lithuania

18 November 2011, Friday

10:00–12:00  Presentation and discussions of publication and dissemination of FBSs in Lithuania
   Mr. Artūras Vaitkevičius, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania
   Ms. Ana Markova, Chief Specialist of Agriculture and environment statistics division, Statistics Lithuania

12:00–13:30  Lunch

13:30–16:30  Conclusions and wrap-up session

19 November 2011, Saturday

Departure
## Annex 2. List of people met

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, surname</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Audronė Miškinienė</td>
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<td>Mr. Viktoras Vaikutis</td>
<td>Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annex 3. Power Point presentations and documents from the workshop

Presentations:
- Overview of Agricultural Statistics in Lithuania: Legislative and institutional settings
- Census of Agriculture 2010 in Lithuania
- Crop Statistics
- Sampling of Agricultural Surveys
- FBSs in Azerbaijan (in Russian)
- Supply Balance Sheets
- Animal products balances (in Russian)
- Supply balance sheets used for calculation of economic accounts for Agriculture

Documents:
- List of SUAs in Lithuania