

Code: TCP/MOL/3203 (D)

Title: PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE FOR THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Country: Moldova

Starting date: August 2009

Expiring date: November 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Moldova is a predominantly agricultural country and is passing through a process of agrarian reforms. Availability of reliable data is a prerequisite for preparation of an effective reform process and for monitoring the results. The agricultural statistics system of the country is based on community based registers and report received from enterprises. Although some thematic censuses, e.g. for sown crop areas (1985), livestock (1992) and orchards and vineyards (1994) were conducted, a General Agricultural Census (GAC) has never been carried out in the country. Even these thematic censuses could not be continued, mainly due to lack of funds.

Against this background, the Government recognizes that there is an urgent need to conduct a comprehensive agricultural census to:

- (a) provide aggregate totals on the structure of the agricultural sector to use as benchmarks for intercensal estimates;
- (b) provide a frame for other agricultural sample surveys;
- (c) provide data for small administrative units and detailed cross-classifications of farm structural attributes.

An Agricultural Census is one of the priorities identified in the National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMPTF) recently developed with TCP assistance.

Under appropriate law the Government had constituted a Working Group on GAC and has carried out a pilot census in 2008. The Government has approached FAO to urgently provide technical assistance to review their methodology, work plan and budget for the census which is planned to be carried out in 2010.

The two national institutions that will be involved in the planning and conducting of the agricultural census are: the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) as the lead agency for the census; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI).

The National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS) has estimated the costs of this agricultural census to approximately USD 8.5 million of which USD 1.6 million will be provided by the Government and the rest by Sida. The FAO representative for the Republic of Moldova is in touch with Sida and has ascertained their commitment to funding GAC of the Republic of Moldova. Sida has also approached FAO to provide review the budget and work plan prepared by the Government, so that the procedure for funding the main census could be started.

This project will play a catalytic role in the whole process by starting the preparatory activities for the GAC and will assist the donor in ensuring that a methodologically sound census is carried out.

The main outcome of the assistance will be to help the country carry out a methodologically sound agricultural census.

National Counterparts

National Bureau of Statistics

in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry

Funding Source

Technical Cooperation Programme

Budget

USD 247 000