

MOLDOVA – General Agricultural Census 2011 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The General Agricultural Census (GAC) 2011 was the first one of this scale carried out in the Republic of Moldova. Till 2011 there were conducted several specialized agricultural censuses, such as the Census of sown area in 1985, Livestock census in 1992 and the Census of permanent crops in 1994. The scope of the GAC was to obtain relevant data necessary for the evaluation of agricultural policies and to establish the Statistical Register of Agricultural Holdings.

Legal basis and Organization

The legal framework of the organization and the conduct of the GAC was based on the Law on Official statistics No. 412-XV of 09.12.2004, the Government Decision No. 309 of 17.03.2007 "On the conduct of the General Agricultural Census"; the Government Decision No 839 of 25.07.2007 "Regulation on the Republican Commission for the General Agricultural Census ", the Government Decision No. 992 from 03.09.2007 "On approval of the Action Plan for implementation of the General Agricultural Census" and the Government Decision No. 371 from 06.05.2010 "On the organization and conduct of the General Agricultural Census 2011".

The methodology of the organization and conduct of the GAC was elaborated in accordance with FAO recommendations outlined in the WCA 2010 programme and the Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The responsible institution for the organization and carrying out the GAC is the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Republic of Moldova.

Moldova received technical assistance from FAO and USA and financial support from Sweden, Romania and European Union (80% from census budget, the remaining 20% were supported by the Moldavian Budget) for the proper conduct of its first agricultural census.

There were more than 6000 census staff, from which 4600 persons were involved in the process of data collection (enumerators).

Enumeration period

The census was conducted from 15th of March till 15th of April 2011.

Reference date/period

Reference date: 1st of March 2011 - for: livestock herds, agricultural buildings, agricultural machinery and equipment owned.

Reference period: a) the agricultural year 2010 (1 November 2009 – 31 October 2010) - for: land use and land tenure, destination of agricultural production, labour force, use of pesticides and fertilizers, use of irrigation, machinery and equipment, etc.; b) the last 3 years - for rural development measures benefited by the agricultural unit.

Definitions

Agricultural holdings – is a technical-economical unit of agricultural production (with or without juridical status) with a single management, performing agricultural activities by using agricultural land and/or raising livestock or activities to maintain the agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental conditions, whether as a principal activity or as a secondary activity.

Geographical Coverage

The census covered the entire geographic territory, except for the territories of the Administrative-territorial unit on the left side of the Nistru River and Bender municipality.

Data items coverage

The GAC covered the following data items: general information about the agricultural producer, land use, land tenure, livestock herds, agricultural buildings, agricultural machinery and equipment, labour force, irrigation, use of pesticides and fertilizers, organic agriculture, soil degradation, rural development, non-agricultural activities, information regarding the location of land and livestock, etc.

Methodology

Two types of census questionnaires have been applied:

Form 1-GAC (a long census questionnaire) – was used to collect data from the following categories of agricultural holdings:

- All agricultural units with and without juridical status;
- auxiliary agricultural units of other enterprises population auxiliary households from rural area;

- The tenants of horticultural plots and the population auxiliary households from urban area,, which comply with at least one of the following conditions:
 - have under tenure 10 ares (0.1 ha) and over of agricultural land, or
 - have under tenure 1 are (100 m²) and over of land under greenhouses, or
 - have at least 1 head from the species: cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, or
 - have 20 or more heads of poultry.

Form 2-GAC (a short census questionnaire) was used for the small size agricultural units:

- members of fruit-tree associations owners of plots under orchards and vineyards,- population households from the urban area/ which simultaneously meet the following conditions:

- agricultural land are less than 10 ares,
- area under greenhouse up to 1 are,
- do not have animals from the species: cattle, sheep, pigs, goats,
- have up to 20 heads of poultry.

In order to collect key census data on community level, the **Annex** was applied to be filled in for each community where the holding operated parcels.

The exhaustive enumeration method was used for all agricultural units that were subject to Form 1-GAC.

Sample survey enumeration was applied for “small agricultural units”, i.e. which were subject to Form 2-GAC.

For the *sample enumeration* of “small agricultural units” in urban areas a *two-stage sample design* was applied. At a *first stage*, the enumeration massifs (EMs) were sampled with a probability proportional to the size in terms of area. At a *second stage* - the agricultural households from sampled EMs were randomly selected. Out of the total number of 96 thousand of “small agricultural units” in urban area, 5.5 thousand units have been selected for sample enumeration.

The *sample enumeration* of the agricultural households-members of fruit-tree associations was also organised in *two stages*. The *first stage* was the selection of the associations in each rayon with a probability proportional to their size (area of each association). The *second stage* included the random selection of the operated parcels from each sampled association. The sample of the associations comprised at least 20% of the area of the associations in each rayon and the sample of parcels (ultimate sampling units) – 10% of the total number of parcels from each selected association, but not less than 50. About 7.7 thousand parcels were selected for the sample enumeration (out of 58 thousand parcels in total) of agricultural households-members of fruit-tree associations.

The agricultural enterprises (with or without juridical status), the auxiliary agricultural units of other enterprises and institutions, the peasant farms which operated 10 hectares and more of land, completed the questionnaire 1-GAC through **self-registration method**.

Face-to-face interviewing method was used to collect census data from the remaining units.

Frame

The census frame was established based on the use of statistical & administrative registers, as well as the listing operation. The former included: Statistical Business Register (RENU) and administrative data sources: households register, cadastre register, the register of land tax payments owned by local public administrations.

Quality aspects

To assess the accuracy of key census data, a Post-enumeration survey (PES) was carried out immediately after the census.

Data dissemination

Preliminary and final census results of the GAC were disseminated in the printed form (in three printed publications and leaflets) and on-line through NBS website. Analytical (thematic) reports have also been released. The following themes were covered by thematic studies:

- leaflet “Men and women in agriculture in the Republic of Moldova”,
- thematic study on Vineyards in the Republic of Moldova,
- thematic study on endowment of agricultural holdings with agricultural buildings, technical means and equipment in the Republic of Moldova.

Census results are presented at the country level and in the territorial profile (development regions, municipalities and rayons).

Data source

NBS website: <http://www.statistica.md> .

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