

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS IN THE CIS COUNTRIES

Note prepared by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS Countries

1. CIS countries compile and publish a considerable amount of data characterizing the major aspects of economic process in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. These refer to the number of agricultural enterprises, output in current prices, broken down by major types of enterprises: agricultural organizations (relatively large enterprises with different type of ownership – state, collective and private), holdings of population and holdings of farmers, indices of volume of agricultural output in constant prices (the same breakdown by types of enterprises), output of major agricultural commodities (both crop and animal products) in physical units, data on agricultural land used for production of specific commodities, data on livestock (by type), data on development of private farms and holdings of population. The countries also publish data on stock of various types of agricultural machinery, use of fertilizers. These data provide the basis for analysis of state and development of agriculture and this information is essential for policy makers. These data are also used for compilation of national accounts and this makes it possible to assess the changing role of agriculture in the economy, to study interrelationship between the agriculture and other industries. The list of indicators of agricultural statistics of the CIS countries collected and disseminated by CIS-STAT is given in the annex to this note.

2. There is also a general understanding of the need of further improvement of agricultural statistics on the basis of the international standards. The common view is that the work on improvement of agricultural statistics should focus on compilation of additional analytical indicators essential for taking decisions on managing the agriculture. These refer to indicators of resources available to producers, financial indicators (assets and liabilities of producers, profits and losses, subsidies from the budget) productivity, income of farmers etc. The reliability of figures on basic agricultural activities of farmers and holders of personal plots of households obtained from the sample surveys is believed to require serious attention in a number of countries. It is also commonly recognized that it is essential to secure improvement of statistics of prices of agricultural goods sold at different prices at different markets and different channels of realization.

3. It should be emphasized that statistics of agriculture in the CIS countries has undergone significant changes during the last 16 years of existence of the CIS. The changes in statistics reflect to a considerable extent the transformation of centrally planned economies into market oriented economies in all sectors of economies and in agriculture, in particular. As a result of economic reforms in agriculture a number of large agricultural enterprises (with state or collective ownership) were liquidated and significant number of small and medium size private enterprises and farms were created in their place. This

development resulted in considerable problems with collection of primary data needed for compilation of agricultural statistics relating to various aspects of economic process in this sector of economy. Under these conditions a system of sample surveys had to be introduced in order to obtain data on activities of numerous small private farms and personal plots of households which were to supplement the data from the reports submitted to statistical authorities by agricultural organizations (relatively large enterprises with different type of ownership).

4. The transition from the Material Product System (MPS) to the SNA required introduction of new concepts of output and intermediate consumption in order to ensure compilation of production account for agriculture consistent with the SNA requirements. The CIS countries were assisted in this endeavor by CIS-STAT which did it in the context of more general work associated with implementation of the SNA 1993 by the CIS countries. The issue which requires attention in this context refers to treatment of the work in progress as prescribed in the SNA, treatment of different types of subsidies, adjustment of figures on seasonality. Besides, using the above concepts in practice required a considerable work associated with collection of primary data both on output and input and achieving consistence of the estimates based on the data from different sources. It should be reminded that in the former USSR an essential element of agricultural statistics used for compilation of the most important tables of the MPS was a wide and detailed system of supply and use tables compiled for major groupings of agricultural products (both in physical and value terms) compiled in breakdown by the major types of agricultural enterprises (state farms, collective farms, personal plots of members of collective farms, personal plots of employees, etc.). Data from this system of tables were used for computation of agricultural output, major elements of input and some items of disposition of agricultural goods (final consumption, increase in stocks, etc.). Unfortunately, during transition to market this system of tables was considerably reduced and the structure of tables was simplified. As a result agricultural statisticians face serious problems associated with provision of data for compilation of major SNA accounts in strict compliance with the adopted definitions and classifications. For example, the structure of supply and use tables currently used by many CIS countries does not make it possible to isolate the consumption from own production which is to be valued in basic prices as the SNA requires.

5. There are certain problems with using sample surveys carried out to obtain data on activities of numerous small private farms. The coverage of these surveys in some cases is not complete and as a result the accuracy of figures decreases. In any case measuring output of small farms, personal holdings of households is a problem for a number of countries. In cases, when sample surveys do not secure the reliable results some adjustments are introduced on the basis of analysis of different sources and also using experts estimates.

6. Under these conditions the importance of agricultural censuses was recognized in majority of the CIS countries. CIS-STAT prepared some materials to assist the CIS countries in this area and, in particular, it worked out a model questionnaire for conducting agricultural censuses; this model was worked out on the basis of recommendations of the Program of the World Agricultural Census of Year 2000 prepared by the European Economic Commission and FAO: some adaptations were introduced in the model in order to take into account peculiarities in organization of economy and statistics of the CIS countries.

7. During recent years a number of the CIS countries carried out agricultural censuses: Kyrgyzstan in 2002, Georgia in 2004, Azerbaijan in 2005, Kazakhstan in 2006, Russia in 2006. As a result of these censuses valuable information of state and development of agriculture (in the country as a whole and for individual regions) was obtained. For example, data on a number of agricultural enterprises were updated and they can be used for planning and organizing different sample surveys. As a rule, censuses provided data not only for the whole country but also for regions. The most important directions of future work in the above countries are the following:

- permanent actualization of general population of agricultural enterprises;
- improvement of methodology of sample surveys;
- retrospective revision of past series of data.

8. In such countries as Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine the agricultural censuses are intended to be carried out in foreseeable future.

ANNEX

A LIST OF DATA OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF CIS COUNTRIES CURRENTLY COLLECTED BY CIS STAT

Crop production

- Stock and structure of agricultural land used by agricultural producers – total and in breakdown by major types of enterprises – agricultural enterprises and organizations, holdings of farmers, holdings of other types of households
- total agricultural land
 - of which
- total area of agricultural land of agricultural producers
 - of which
 - total area of arable land used by agricultural producers
 - area of mowing ground used by agricultural producers
 - area under crops
 - of which
 - area under cereals and leguminous crops
 - area under industrial crops (cotton, sugar beats, flax and so forth)
 - area under potatoes, vegetables and melons
 - area under fruits and berries
 - area under grapes
 - Gross production of crops
 - of which
 - cereals and leguminous crops
 - industrial crops
 - potatoes, vegetables and melons
 - fruits and berries
 - grapes
 - Production of animal products
 - Number of livestock and poultry
 - of which
 - number of cattle
 - number of pigs
 - number of sheep and goats
 - number of horses
 - number of camels
 - number of poultry
 - production of meat (slaughtering weight)
 - production of cattle
 - production of milk
 - production of eggs
 - production of wool
 - **Value indicators of agricultural production**
 - Gross output of agriculture in current prices (broken down by major types of producers)
 - Gross output of production of crop products in current prices (broken down by major types of producers)
 - Gross output of production of animal products in current prices (broken down by major types of producers)

- Indices of volume of agricultural production (constant prices) broken down by major types of producers
- Indices of volume of production of crop products (constant prices) broken down by major types of producers
- Indices of volume of production of animal products (constant prices) broken down by major types of producers
- Sales of agricultural products by all producers (all channels) broken down by major types of organizations engaged in purchases of goods
- Sales of major types of agricultural products by all producers (separately by type of product)
- Average prices of major agricultural products
- Price indices of agricultural products

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