



RAPID ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR CROP MONITORING

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening Georgia's food and energy resilience
under

Joint SDG Fund: Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance

POLICY DIALOGUE

Tbilisi, Georgia
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Content:

- Key Objectives and Methodology
- Analysis of the Existing Situation
- Challenges
- Recommendations

Key Objective and Methodology:

Assessing the existing data collection and analysis tools and resources in Georgia

Qualitative Methods: 4 questionnaires were elaborated

Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia;
- LEPL National Statistics Office of Georgia;
- Regional Services of the Rural Development Agency of Georgia;
- Georgian Farmers Association



Existing Data Collection Methodologies and Practices - National Statistics Office of Georgia

- The main source of information on agricultural statistics is the agriculture household survey;
- The agricultural census is carried out once in 10 years in the country, and the agriculture household survey depends on it;
- The sampling volume is estimated as 12,000 agricultural holdings, of which 11,600 are family holdings, and around 400 are agricultural enterprises;
- sample is around 2% of the total 642,000 agricultural holdings;
- About 250 interviewers and coordinators are involved in the process of information gathering and interviews;
- The survey process is conducted electronically through electronic tablets;
- 13 people are involved in agricultural data processing from GEOSTAT.

Existing Data Collection Methodologies and Practices - Information Consultation Centres of MEPA

- Regional services annually collect information on annual crop production, yields, cultivated areas, perennial crop production and livestock indicators;
- Information is collected by the representatives of the regional service, they get the information directly by conducting interviews with the farmers and/or they are provided with information by the local municipality representatives;
- The research methodology is not based on any international methodology and is fully based on the practices that have been accumulated over the years.

Key Challenges:

- Lack of human resources for data processing (GEOSTAT)
- Need to bring the methodology of food balances closer to international standards and introduce it (GEOSTAT)
- Lack of calculation and publication of food balances for new agricultural crops (GEOSTAT)
- Absence of data on food losses in the primary production (GEOSTAT)

Key Challenges:

- Lack of forecasting for food balances (GEOSTAT or Ministry)
- Late publication of data about agricultural crops by GEOSTAT (GEOSTAT)
- Need for additional training (Ministry and GEOSTAT)
- Regional services rely entirely on individual assessment and do not have a specific methodology when collecting data (Regional Services)

Recommendations:

- GEOSTAT - Add agricultural products to the food balances and ensure diversity of the food balances;
- GEOSTAT - Collect data on losses of primary production using appropriate international methodology and also collect data on food losses using relevant international methodology. The data should be published on the official GEOSTAT website as soon as possible;
- GEOSTAT - Increase funding and additional human resources should be mobilized to support information processing rapidly, simplify processes, and ensure timely and high-quality publication, which will facilitate evidence-based decision-making by relevant parties;

Recommendations:

- GEOSTAT - Review the existing methodology of food balances and to approximate it to the international proven practice/methodology, considering the peculiarities of Georgia;
- GEOSTAT/MEPA – Provide forecasting in the direction of food balances, considering pessimistic and optimistic scenarios;
- The MEPA and GEOSTAT - Conduct additional trainings on the analysis and forecasting of time series and the study of new software packages;
- ICCs of MEPA - Evaluate and analyse type of information to be collected and provide training to employees. The data collected should be based on specific questionnaire and international methodology.



Thank You for Your Attention!