

SURVEY ON AREAS AND PLANTATIONS AT THE END OF THE SPRING SOWING

LEGAL BASIS

The survey is regulated by the Regulation on Carrying out Certain Statistical Surveys ("Official Gazette" No 110/2009) in line with the Law on Official Statistics ("Official Statistics of RS", No 104/2009), as well as according to the Strategy for Official Statistics of the Republic of Serbia over 2009-2012.

METHODOLOGICAL BASIS

The survey aims to collect data on sown areas in spring sowing, which are indicative of arable land under crops (cereals, industrial, vegetable and fodder crops), of the structure of the sowing within each group of crops. They also show the areas under interplanting crops areas and sub-crops, areas occupied by orchards, the number of total of all fruit trees and that of productive fruit trees, the area under vineyards, the number of total vines and that of productive vines. The survey provides an overview of total areas by land utilization: agricultural area (arable land, gardens, orchards, vineyards, permanent grassland (meadows and pastures, fishponds, reeds and ponds), forest and infertile land. Data on the consumption and stocks of mineral fertilizers in agricultural legal units are collected for the period from 30 November of the previous year to 25 May of the current year.

Reporting units for this survey are:

- agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives and units of other agricultural legal units (PO 22a),
- estimation areas (in principle one estimation area is one or more cadastre municipalities, which depend on the share of plant production, size of the cadastre municipality, etc.) for family holdings (PO 22b).

Survey data cover areas sown in spring sowing period of all agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives and units of agricultural legal units. As for family holdings, the data include overall areas, as well as those outside family holdings (non-farm holdings, gardens in towns, etc.).

Data for agricultural legal units and farm cooperatives are collected by means of regular annual questionnaires, which are completed with data from accounting and other records.

As for family holdings, data for areas are estimates made on the basis of data of the comprehensive cadastre. A network of approximately 1250 statistical estimators has been formed for the purpose of estimation. The estimators provide data for about 4000 estimation areas, which are taken to be as a rule one or more municipalities. To be a statistical estimator, one should be expert or advanced farmers who are very well acquainted with local situation and have taken relevant training. They are constantly in contact with statistical bodies. Statistical appraisers use for their work the most recent cadastre information, estimates from previous years, data from the census of agricultural holdings, information gathered from farmers and experts, personal impression and other sources. This survey serves to present areas sown in spring as of 25 November.

Aggregated data are published for the levels of municipalities, districts, Vojvodina, Central Serbia and the Republic of Serbia. Personal data are protected by the law.

Definitions of main concepts:

Sown areas – areas that are worked and sown with crops.

Agricultural areas – land areas used for farming. Agricultural areas consist of: arable land, kitchen gardens, orchards, vineyards, permanent grassland, fishponds, reeds and ponds.

Arable land –land areas on which crops are grown in planned pattern or sequence (crop rotation): cereals, industrial crops, vegetable and fodder crops. Areas that are "left to recover", thus are not worked: green or black fallow land, and neglected land. Additionally, arable areas are also areas occupied by vine and fruit nurseries, as well as clover and Luzerne.

Orchards – areas on which fruit trees have been planted, of continuous type with spaces typical of a given fruit.

Productive fruit trees – fruit trees that, depending on their maturity, can bear fruit in normal vegetation conditions, whether they have bear fruit or not in the reference year.

Vineyard – areas occupied with vines, of continuous type.

Productive vines – that, depending on their maturity, can bear fruit in normal vegetation conditions, whether they have bear fruit or not in the reference year.

Meadows – areas covered by grass, which are regularly sown for hay. Areas of natural and those of sown meadows (artificial meadows) are presented under the same item.

Pastures – areas covered with grass, shrubs, etc. use exclusively for livestock grazing.

Fishponds – areas occupied by natural or built-up fish farming structures.

Reeds and ponds – are swamp land, mostly near a river, covered by reed, grass and miscellaneous pond plants.

Forest land – all areas covered by forests, bushes and shrubs.

Infertile land – areas on which plant production is not taking place. This category includes areas occupied by houses, yards, building plots, factories, roads, streets, railway lines, all watercourses, bare areas, etc.

The survey will be harmonized with EU standards after the Census of Agriculture, which is in the course of preparation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY MANAGEMENT

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the producer of the mentioned data.

Data are collected and entered in regional offices, processed, edited and presented in tables in the Division of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia sends, via its regional offices, questionnaires to agricultural legal units, farm cooperatives and units of other agricultural legal units (PO-22a), and to statistical estimators (PO-22b) for the purpose of collecting data. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the producer of the mentioned data.

Data are collected and entered in regional offices, processed, edited and presented in tables in the Division of Agriculture and Forestry.

Data are to be sent to the Office not later than 10 June as regard preliminary results, which are published on 15 June in the statistical release PO-13. As for final results they are to be sent not later than 30 June, which processing is to be completed up to 20 July.

Data are published in the publications: „Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia“, „Municipalities in Serbia“, bulletin „Agriculture“, and on the Internet site of the Office (www.stat.gov.rs).

SURVEY TOOLS

Questionnaire – annexed

Methodological notes

The nomenclature complies with the “Classification of Activities” (CA) and the nomenclature „Products and Services in Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing“.