Press release

June 6, 2014

**Fruit growing**

The publication „Fruit Growing“ is based on the data of the Census of Agriculture 2012. Fruit growing is a very important agricultural activity, and Serbia is the leading fruit producer in the region. Like other agricultural branches, fruit growing is susceptible to various oscillations, primarily of the volume of production, quality and prices.

The objective of this publication is to present to the expert and scientific public the real situation of fruit production in Serbia and to identify all the problems influencing the oscillation of production, as well as to propose concrete solutions and measures to overcome them in the next period.

 **The authors of the publication are:** Zoran Keserovic, PhD, Nenad Magazin, PhD, Marko Doric, M.Eng, Aleksandar Kurjakov, M.Eng, Jovica Gosic, B.Eng.

The authors underline that the Census of Agriculture 2012 has provided for the first time, after 50 years, accurate data on **land areas under orchards**, both in terms of total area and area by fruit species. The Census shows that 4.8% of agricultural land is occupied by orchards, which is not much given the favourable climate and soil conditions. Fruit and fruit preparations are of high quality, thus our products are very valued on the world market. Analyzing the distribution of areas under orchards, the authors state that the proximity of Belgrade market, beside excellent weather conditions for fruit growing development, is a factor in the largest areas under orchards (Grocka, Valjevo). In other municipalities (Prokuplje, Smederevo, Cacak) favourable agroecological factors, but also the impossibility to grow other crops, have played a crucial role in fruit growing development.

The authors deal in detail with all **fruit species** covered by the Census of Agriculture 2012. For every fruit species, shown are the enumerated areas and the rank in Europe of the respective fruit species. In addition, production from 2000 to 20013 is shown graphically. The areas under fruit species are presented in maps, providing thus an idea of the geographical distribution.

The publication contains a multitude of data which will be of great use to those engaged in the promotion of fruit growing and creation of agricultural policy. Analytical data provide the basis to start creating region layout of fruit production in Serbia, as was done with viticulture.

The special publication “Fruit Growing” is the second one of the edition 2012 Agriculture Census – Agriculture in the Republic of Serbia.

 Director

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