

SURVEY ON ORCHARDS

LEGISLATION

2017 Survey on orchards is carried out pursuant to the Official statistics law (Official gazette RS, no 104/2009) and the Regulation on the Plan of official statistics for 2017.

METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUNDS

Objective of statistical survey

The data compiled in this Survey are expected to upgrade knowledge on the real status in the domain of fruit production, which will ensure the proper creating of agricultural policy in the Republic of Serbia. The Survey represents the frame for implementing annual statistical surveys by the means of which we collect the data on fruit plantations areas and production.

Through this Survey compiled are the data on areas, plantation density and age for the following fruit species: apples, pears, apricots and peaches presented by sorts, regardless whether they are desert kind of intended for industrial processing. In addition, compiled are the data on planted areas for the following fruit species: plums, sour cherries, raspberries, cherries, quinces, walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, blackberries and blueberries.

Reporting units

Observation units are agricultural holdings in the territory of the Republic of Serbia that have areas under fruit plantations. Reporting units are agricultural holdings selected for the sample of this Survey.

Survey coverage

From the Statistical farm register (SFR), family agricultural holdings and holdings of legal entities and unincorporated enterprises engaged in fruit production were selected for the sample. The sample is expected to ensure the coverage of minimum 95% of all planted respective fruit species areas.

Method and timing of data collection

For the selected family agricultural holdings and holdings of unincorporated enterprises the data are collected by the method of interview, in accordance with the List of selected agricultural holdings provided by the SFR. The interviewing is conducted by consultants who are experts in fruit growing and come from the extension services in agriculture (*PSSS*, 34) that are under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture; laptop PCs are used for the data entry in applications.

For the selected agricultural holdings of legal entities (enterprises, farm cooperatives and other organizations with the status of legal entity), the data are compiled by reporting method according to accounting and other records available for the reporting unit. Reporting units of legal entities are expected make their own entry of available data into the web application created by the SORS.

Data entry control shall be carried out by the persons responsible for interviewing legal entities, i.e. staff members employed in the SORS regional divisions.

This Survey is implemented on five-year basis.

2017 Survey on orchards was implemented in the period from 1 October to 29 December 2017.

Individual data protection – confidentiality

Individual and other data compiled in this Survey represent official statistics and as such they are subject to special terms of protection that shall be ensured through all stages of the implementation. The direct participants implementing the Survey are obligated to act in accordance with the provisions of the Official statistics law and to keep the data obtained in the process of interview as trade secret.

Definitions and main features – indicators

Holder is the person (physical/natural person) who is economically and legally responsible for the activities of the holding, and in whose name the holding is operated, i.e. the person who takes the economic risks of operation.

Address of the holder provides the details on the actual place of residence of the holder of agricultural holding and is not necessarily the same in in the ID card.

Orchards are perennial fruit plantations on a land area during an extensive period, giving yields for several years. The Survey covers plantations the output of which is mainly produced for the market for the fruit species and sorts presented in *Annex 1*, Survey on orchards – Methodological guidelines. When several fruit species or sorts are planted on the same land area (so-called mixed plantation), these areas shall be presented separately according to the share of each species or sort.

Total area of orchards represents the entire area of plantations and extensive orchards where fruit trees are planted.

Area of productive orchards represents the area providing the yields. The area of productive orchards does not include the area under young fruit trees that still cannot give yields and the area of abandoned orchards.

Year of plantation means the first year when trees reached the stage of vegetative development, i.e. the day after a tree is planted on the area where it is expected to give yields. Putting trees on the area where to produce yields refers to the planting of trees, however also to the process of engrafting (putting shoot on a base). The age of plantation is calculated starting from the year of plantation as the first year.

Therefore, the Survey shall include all fruit plants erected in the current year, up to the time of survey implementation, even those plants that are in the process of being erected in the time of interview. These young plants are considered to be aged one year.

Representative data

The survey data are representative for the level of the Republic of Serbia and the level of regions (*NSTJ 2*). SORS may not provide available the data for Region Kosovo i Metohija.

Harmonisation with international recommendations and standards

The Survey is aligned with the Regulation (EC) No 1337/2011 concerning perennial plantations and the Eurostat methodology on orchards surveys – Eurostat Handbook for Structural Statistics on Orchards (Regulation (EU) No 1337/2011, Annex 1).

SURVEY ORGANIZATION

Authority

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is the authorized producer of the subject data. Sample holdings are interviewed by consultants, i.e. experts from the domain of fruit growing, employed with the extension services in agriculture and the SORS regional offices staff members; interviewers are obligated to attend training courses and act in accordance with the Survey on orchards methodological guidelines.

The interviewing procedure and controlled data entry together is envisaged to take 90 days. The final material control, weighting, creation of final output tables with assessment of features and publication is carried out at the SORS – Belgrade head office.

Responsiveness

Pursuant to the Official Statistics Law, the reporting units are obligated to provide data to the SORS.

Timetable – main survey stages

The deadline for finalizing the interviewing procedure was 29 December 2017.

The survey results shall be published until 30 September 2018 latest.

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Questionnaire (paper form and website)

Guidelines for survey implementation

Releases and publications

The survey results shall be published until 30 September 2018 latest and available from the SORS database on the SORS website at www.stat.gov.rs.

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