AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The Survey of Agricultural Holdings is the main information source for agricultural statistics. One round of the survey (reference year) includes 5 inquiries: The Inception interview is carried out using the inception questionnaire during the period of January-February of the reference year. During this interview the sampled holdings are identified and situation existing at the holding as of first January is recorded. I, II and III quarter interviews are conducted by means of quarterly questionnaire at the beginning of the following month of the corresponding quarter of the reference year. Based on these surveys, the information about agricultural activities during the corresponding quarter is collected. The final interview is conducted by means of final questionnaire in January of the following year of the reference year. During this interview, the information about agricultural activities at the holding during IV quarter of the reference year and the summery information about agricultural activities at the holding during the whole reference year (from 1 January to 31 December of the previous year) are collected.

The Agricultural Census 2014 is the main source of the sample frame for the Survey of Agricultural Holdings. During all five interviews, the same agricultural holdings (about 12 000) are interviewed which are selected by a two-stage stratified cluster random sampling procedure out of about 642 000 agricultural holdings operated in Georgia. On the first stage clusters (settlements) are selected. On the second stage holdings are selected within the selected clusters. The survey completely covers the territory of Georgia, excluding the occupied territories of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region. Each year a new sample is selected based on a rotational design. In particular, every year approximately 4 000 holdings out of 12 000 holdings selected a year before are changed. Sampled holdings participate in the survey for 3 years. Large agricultural holdings are sampled every year with complete coverage. The statistical unit of the survey is an agricultural holding (family holdings and agricultural enterprises) - economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size in which agricultural activities are conducted by the supervision of a holder (in case of households - a member of household, in case of agricultural enterprises - director or authorized person), who is responsible for making decisions and takes all economic risks and expenses related to agricultural activities.

More than 270 interviewers participate in the survey fieldwork. For the Data collection computer-assisted personal interviewing method (CAPI) is used in the family holdings. In case of agricultural enterprises, the authorized persons of the enterprises (respondent) fill the electronic (online) questionnaires by themselves (CAWI). Coordination of the interviewers and the primary control of the collected data during the field is carried out by coordinators. Their working area covers several municipalities. The function of the coordinators also includes consultation for agricultural enterprises on methodological and technical issues related to the survey.

Field staff are regularly trained to raise their skills and awareness. During the trainings instructions of the survey and instruction of the questionnaires are discussed, including issues related to the changes made in the questionnaires. Besides, mistakes made by interviewers during previous surveys are underlined and analyzed.

After the field work, cleaning and harmonization of all inquiries are established at the Geostat central office - logical and arithmetical inconsistencies, as well as non-typical and suspicious data are detected, checked and corrected. Verification of the data is performed by contacting the respondents by phone. If verification with respondent is impossible, different imputation methods are used.

Finally, indicators are calculated using weighted data. The obtained results are compared with corresponding results of the previous periods. In case of significant differences, the possible causes are identified and analyzed.

Special surveys are conducted for calculation of several indicators:

• Information on sheep and goats, as well as production of melons is obtained based on interviewing representatives of administrative units in municipalities).

• Information about production of tea leaves is obtained by surveying the crude leaf processor enterprises.

Average parameters are calculated as follows:

• Average yield - total production from pure sown area during the reference year divided by the respective harvested area;

• Average yield of dairy cows – annual milk production divided by the average number of dairy cows during the year;

• Average litter - number of born animal during the reference year divided by the average number of female animals during the year;

Agricultural statistics on official website of Geostat are published according to the statistical calendar:

February 19 - Preliminary data on livestock indicators in IV quarter of the previous year;

March 15 - Express data on sown area of winter crops of the previous year;

April 17 - Preliminary data on crop indicators of the previous year (sown area, harvested area, production and yield of annual crops. Also, production of permanent crops);

May 20 - Preliminary data on livestock indicators in I quarter of the current year;

June 14 - Final data on agricultural indicators of the previous year – statistical publication “Agriculture of Georgia”;

August 19 - Preliminary data on livestock indicators in II quarter of the current year;

August 29 - Express data on sown area of spring crops of the current year;

November 19 - Preliminary data on livestock indicators in III quarter of the current year.

The preliminary data are published at the country level, while the final data at the regional level. The sample size is insufficient for obtaining reliable results for all indicators at the level of all regions. The indicators of those regions for which, due to insufficient sample size, it is impossible to obtain reliable results, are published in the aggregated form under the heading “the remaining regions.”

Note: Detailed methodology is available at: MORE

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