



TWINNING CONTRACT

CRIS 2015/370-467



Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in Improving the Quality of Official Statistics

MISSION REPORT

on

Component C **Infrastructures for agricultural statistics**

Activity C.x **Combining economic agricultural data with GIS data**

Implemented by

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Jerusalem

7. December 2016

Version: Final

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List of Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary country
EU	European Union
FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network
FSS	Farm Structure Survey
GIS	Geographic information system
IACS	Integrated Agricultural Control System
ICBS	Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
IT	Information Technologies
MS	Member State (of the EU)
SO	Standard output
ToR	Terms of Reference
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared as part of the Twinning Project “*Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) in Enhancing the Quality of Official Statistics*”. This was the third mission of Component C: Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics.

The main activities of the mission were:

- Presenting the overview of EU agricultural statistics based on the experience of Poland including use of administrative data (IACS), spatial data (GIS), data collection methods
- Discussion concerning construction of frames for agricultural surveys / censuses including spatial aspects i.e. use of GIS as well as methodological and organizational aspects
- Formulating conclusions and recommendations

The mission assisted the ICBS, MARD and the Twinning Project experts in getting an overview of agriculture statistics including needs coming from different policies and data users as well as data collection sources and methods including use of spatial data and administrative registers. The issues concerning methodological and organisational aspects of the agricultural census were also discussed.

The experts would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for their kind support and for the valuable information they provided, which highly facilitated the experts' work.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily represent the views of EU, ICBS, CSO Poland or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and Results

The current mission focused on the overall assessment of ICBS needs concerning agricultural statistics underlining different aspects of GIS use.

The discussion led to the conclusion confirming necessity for carrying out the agricultural census. The major obstacle seems to be financing the project, but some last efforts made by the National Statistician (the Director of CBS) are in progress and mentioned during the mission as the optimistic approach.

Nevertheless, the efforts for explaining the importance and necessity of the agriculture census aimed to obtain financial resources have to be continued.

The recalculation and possible optimisation of census costs should also be considered.

It has to be mentioned that statistics can profit from use of administrative registers, which are in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It concerns also a spatial approach to agricultural observations (use of GIS).

The discussion yielded several conclusions and recommendations, which can help modernise the Israeli agricultural statistics.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

In the discussion with Israeli side the following conclusions and recommendations were formulated:

1. Carrying out the agricultural census is necessary for reliable agricultural statistics. The census should include information concerning production, environmental and social aspects. The draft census questionnaire can be developed and used to collect data.
2. The master frame for the future census should possibly cover the whole population of farms (agricultural holdings). On the basis of information obtained from the MARD and ICBS, the farm population can be estimated to be about 30 000 units.
3. For the creation of the master frame different administrative source can be used. Data from the special database of MARD seem to be the major input and the starting point. Nevertheless, search for other sources is strongly recommended e.g. animal register, moshavim or kibutz records.
4. Based on the information from the registers the population stratification of farms should be performed in order to decide about exact census methodology.
5. The methodology of the census should foresee covering as many agricultural holdings as possible. However, the combined approach to the census and the representative survey can also be considered. The final decision should be taken after analysis of the population (stratification).
6. A multimode data collection method (CAI/CAWI, CATI, CAPI) could be advised in order to reduce costs and optimise organisation. Consequently, the database of telephone numbers should be accomplished.
7. Estimations of census costs should be optimised taking into account efficiency of interviewers (an average of 4 interviews per day), data collection methods as well as optimal census methodology namely combination of the census and the representative survey.
8. Use of the GIS and the geocoding methodology based on the EA's division of country should be foreseen at the stage of preparation e.g. selection of farms with building for livestock, or the survey execution e.g. monitoring of interviewers' work, as well as data analysis.
9. The outcome of component Cx of the current project would be very helpful for establishing methodology as well as organisation of the agricultural census and surveys

Actions needed for moving forward as well as for preparing the next mission –add rows as needed.

Action	Deadline (depends on funding status)	Responsible person
Submission of revised documentation concerning census to the Ministry of Finance	As soon as possible – end of 2016	ICBS
Population stratification of farms relaying on data from MARD	End of January 2017	ICBS
Preparing the list of sources for building the master frame for the census and surveys	End of January 2017	ICBs
Assessing the master frame consistency	1 st quarter 2017	MS experts

