

## **Terms of Reference**

**EU Twinning Project IL/12 CRIS 2015/370-467**

**20-23 February 2017**

### **Component C: Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics**

#### **Activity C.3: Study visit to The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)**

#### **0. MANDATORY RESULTS AND BENCHMARKS FOR THE COMPONENT**

Mandatory results:

- *Setting an overall programme for the establishment and maintenance of a farms register to be used as a framework for agricultural statistics (February 2018)*

Benchmarks:

- **IC1:** *Mapping of all the available data sources and identifying new sources of information (Ultimo November 2016)*
- **IC2:** *A methodology is set for determining the size threshold for defining a farm (Ultimo November 2016)*
- **IC3:** *A methodology is developed for the integration of different administrative sources for the establishment of farmers frame (Ultimo February 2017)*
- **IC4:** *Questionnaires are drafted and fit needs of direct data collection (Ultimo May 2017)*
- **IC5:** *A methodology is developed for the maintenance of farms register (Ultimo August 2017)*
- **IC6:** *A plan is established to produce farms statistics based on administrative data, GIS layers and direct data collection by (Ultimo August 2017)*
- **IC7:** *A plan is established for routine data collection from various sources for agricultural statistics by (Ultimo August 2017)*

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY

The aim of this activity is to learn and discuss **Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics** from The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) (<http://www.istat.it/en/>). The study visit should include both the use of administrative data as well as survey data (preferably including GIS data), in order to compare experiences regarding the preparation and updating of agricultural statistics and to learn how these data serve the relevant stakeholders.

The topics listed below will be covered:

- Overview of Italian Agricultural statistics - Census, Surveys, farmers frame
- Data sources (Administrative data, direct data collection, GIS layers)
- Collection of data and statistical methods
- Questionnaire design
- Establishment and maintenance
- Quality control and checking of data
- Estimation methods for missing data
- How to deal with multiple crops within a field season
- Collection of economic data including price margins
- Methods for combining agricultural data with GIS data
- Communication methods with farmers and collecting methods
- How to deal with data on small farms (frequency of data collection, thresholds, methods of communication)
- Mixed activities on the farm, including non- agricultural activities
- Perhaps a field trip to meet farmers and hear about burden of response, means of communications, data collection, how farmers send data to ISTAT

## 2. EXPECTED OUTPUT OF THE ACTIVITY

- Activity report
- Recommendations on description of how the obtained knowledge can be used by the ICBS in an Israeli context

## 3. PARTICIPANTS

- **Dr. Moshe Yanai**, Head of Agriculture, Environment and Energy Sector. Moshe works at the ICBS since 2004. His PhD from the Geography Department at the University of Illinois dealt with Ecological Economics. Moshe is incharge, among others, for the calculation of the greenhouse gases inventory and the development of climate change indicators. He prepared the second National Communication on Climate Change to the UNFCCC and was nominated as one of the organizations' inventory reviewers (energy sector). Moshe leads the team that plans the agricultural census and acts to promote the census since 2008. Email: [yanaim@cbs.gov.il](mailto:yanaim@cbs.gov.il)
- **Ms. Chani Shamir**, Senior coordinator of fresh fruits and vegetables produce, ICBS. Chani works at the Agriculture, Environment and Energy sector since 2011. Chani is in charge of the fresh products survey, which includes collecting, processing and publishing data on monthly and quarterly basis. Chani is a member of a team that is in charge of planning the agricultural census. Chani participated in several international conferences regarding agriculture statistics that were organized by the Medstat Project (EU) and the FAO. Chani owns MA in Communication studies and a BA in Public Policy. Email: [Chanas@cbs.gov.il](mailto:Chanas@cbs.gov.il)
- **Mr. Noam Tal**, Senior coordinator, Agriculture, Environment and energy sector. Noam joined the ICBS Agriculture, Environment and Energy sector in 2013. Noam is in charge of the animal produce statistics. Noam is a member of a team that is in charge of planning the agricultural census. Noam worked as a quality assurance manager; between the years 2010-2013 at the IT department of the

ICBS, and between 1999 and 2010 in the high tech sector. Previously, Noam was also a kibbutz member and a dairy farmer. Noam owns a MA in political science and internal audit and a BA in Geography. Email: [noamt@cbs.gov.il](mailto:noamt@cbs.gov.il)

- **Mr. Nitzan Hachohen**, Senior director of survey department, ICBS. In his former role Nitzan was head of domain of the population field work census that was implemented in 2008. At 2009 joined the survey. The department is planning and managing all the Icbs surveys and censuses. Nitzan took part in the first stage of the preparation for the agricultural census. Email: [Nitzanh@cbs.gov.il](mailto:Nitzanh@cbs.gov.il)
- **Mr. Erez Osman**, Director of Economic Policy and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture & rural Development. Erez is a member of the joint committee for price control of agricultural products along with the Ministry of Finance. He is responsible for market review and reporting of the Israeli agriculture including daily monitoring of the Markets. He is also responsible for policy research and design in various topics including subsidies, trade policy, producer organizations and water. Erez holds an MBA, specializing in Finance and BA in economics both from Ben Gurion University. Email: [erezo@moag.gov.il](mailto:erezo@moag.gov.il)
- **Ms. Tamar Rand**, Resident Twinning Adviser Assistant since March 2016 where she assist in the co-ordination and liaison with the ICBS, the European Union Delegation, stakeholders and experts from EU member states; Furthermore, Tamar Rand perform interpretation and translation from Hebrew to English and vice versa. Before entering the Twinning project Tamar Rand worked as a Manager of Recruiting and Training in a large educational tourism business. Tamar Rand has a MA in Early Childhood Development. Email: [tamarra@cbs.gov.il](mailto:tamarra@cbs.gov.il)
- **Ms. Charlotte Nielsen**, Resident Twinning Adviser since March 2016 where her main responsibilities include planning and co-ordination of Twinning activities with the ICBS, the European Union Delegation, stakeholders and experts from EU member states. Between 2008 – 2016. Ms. Charlotte Nielsen, held a position as Senior Advisor in the Research Services division of Statistics Denmark. Charlotte Nielsen has a Ph.D. in insect pathology and a master degree in agricultural studies. Email: [cln@dst.dk](mailto:cln@dst.dk)

#### **4. CURRENT STATUS OF INFRASTRUCTURES FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (QUOTES FROM THE TWINNING CONTRACT)**

The current structure of the agricultural economy in Israel is not clear enough and there is a need for further characterization. The main economic activity of many small farms is not always agricultural, but not taking into account those farms in the statistics would result in an under-estimate of the agricultural activity of Israel.

In many cases, administrative files do not provide comparable data, in terms of size, that would allow clear threshold settings. However, there is a need to improve their usability for the creation and maintenance of a register of farms.

The last agriculture census was conducted in 1981, 34 years ago, and an extensive survey was conducted in 1995. Over these years the agriculture industry underwent numerous changes that affected the statistics in Israel, among others: The privatization of the agricultural sector, a change in the composition of the economic activities in farms, and a major decrease in the activity of organizations and associations of farmers (which were the main providers of data on agricultural activities).

The quality of many of the current administrative sources is poor and they cover only parts of the agricultural activities. As accurate and reliable agricultural data remains very important for various stakeholders, the ICBS and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) agreed on the need to upgrade the data regarding the agricultural infrastructure for the improvement of the quality of the Agriculture statistics, starting with the establishment of a farm register.

Efficient cooperation with the MARD will contribute to the successful implementation of the project. It is recommended that the Ministry is closely involved in relevant activities. Finally there is a need to combine business data with GIS layers in order to complete the picture on the Agricultural sector.

In Israel, the government has only partial information regarding the farming activities, and agricultural data are usually not collected directly from the farmers on a regular and complete basis. Taking these conditions into account, relevant expertise is needed for Agricultural Census.

One of the issues to be addressed is the generation of a sampling frame for agricultural farms in Israel, based on administrative files with poor quality. The challenge is also in bringing together different sources which cover different entities (financial data, agricultural area, livestock) with different IDs, and using them to establish harmonized sampling frame.

Once established, the challenge resides in maintaining updated farms register, and an updated interface with the business register.

One of the difficulties that Israel encounters in the production of agricultural statistics is the estimation of agricultural production used for self-consumption, mainly in traditional agricultural farms.

Also of interest is combining economic agricultural data with GIS data in order to present a full picture of the agricultural sector. The project will run a very compressed schedule in component C in order for the ICBS to carry out a full census in 2017 were funding for such an undertaking may be available – it can be considered if the use of GIS will add value or will distract from the work.

## **Programme for Activity C3: Study visit to The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) 20-23 February 2017**

### **DAY 1: 20 February 2017**

#### **Morning**

9,00-10,30

Background information about Agricultural Statistics at ICBS (ICBS)

10,30-11,00

*Coffee break*

11,00-12,00

The agricultural census in Italy: organization, statistical content, lessons learnt (M. Greco)

12,00-13,00

The Farm Register(C. Viviano)

13,00-14,00

13,00-14,00

*Lunch break*

#### **Afternoon**

14,00-15,00

Organizing and conducting the thematic surveys in the livestock sector: milk, meat (C. Sermoneta)

15,00-15,30

*Coffee break*

15,30-17,00

Organizing and conducting the thematic surveys in the livestock sector: milk, meat - *continuation* (C. Sermoneta)

## **DAY 2: 21 February 2017**

### **Morning**

9,00-10,30

ISTAT organization and System of agriculture statistics in Italy (R. Gismondi)

10,30-11,00

*Coffee break*

11,00-12,00

Organizing and conducting the thematic survey in crop production sector (R. Gismondi)

12,00-13,00

Use of IACS data in crop surveys (R. Gismondi)

13,00-14,00

*Lunch break*

### **Afternoon**

14,00-15,00

The Farm Structure Survey and other structural surveys between the censuses (C. Manzi)

15,00-15,30

*Coffee break*

15,30-17,00

The Farm Structure Survey and other structural surveys between the censuses (C. Manzi)

### **DAY 3: 22 February 2017**

#### **Morning**

9,00-10,30

Organizing and conducting the thematic surveys as regards production means (fertilizers, pesticides) (D. Pagliuca)

10,30-11,00

*Coffee break*

11,00-13,00

Methodological and practical aspects of carrying out statistical surveys regarding the incomes and expenditures of farms in Italy (FADN) (F. Truglia – A.Cirianni)

13,00-14,00

*Lunch break*

#### **Afternoon**

14,00-15,00

Agriculture and National Accounts (D. Ciaccia)

15,00-15,30

*Coffee break*

15,30-17,00

Organizing and conducting the surveys on agricultural prices and calculation of price indexes: agricultural producers prices of procured goods and services for agriculture. Land prices and rents (R. Gismondi)

## **DAY 4: 23 February 2017**

### **Morning**

9,00-10,30

Territorial analysis of the agri-food chain in Italy (reading economic results of agricultural holdings in strict connection with the economic results of the agri-food chain enterprises using a time series and a territorial approach) (M.G. Magliocchi)

10,30-11,00

*Coffee break*

11,00-12,00

Methods for combining agricultural data with GIS data (F. Truglia)

12,00-13,00

Geo-referencing and crops classification: a pilot study on a farm (M. Macchia)

13,00-14,00

*Lunch break*

### **Afternoon**

14,00-15,00

Integrating geo-referenced data from different sources: livestock surveys and administrative data

(C. Sermoneta)

15,00-15,30

*Coffee break*

15,30-16,30

Enterprises and not enterprises (small farms versus big farms) in Italian agriculture: comparison among methodologies (F. Truglia, M.G. Magliocchi)

(Will deal with criteria for farms identification and classifications, including those used to define 'small farms' as compared to big farms).

16,30-17,00

Main conclusions (R. Gismondi)