Terms of Reference

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

12 September – 14 September 2016

Component C: Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics

Activity C.2: Methodology for the Implementation and Maintenance of Farms Frame

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 use the conclusions of C1.A in order to develop a methodology for the integration of different administrative sources and the already existing survey results in in the establishment of the farms frame.

As the sources do not agree with each other, there is a need to compile an algorithm in order to reach a comprehensive and accurate list of farms.

The topics listed below will be covered:
- Establishment of a farm register (including discussion on creating an algorithm in order to reach a comprehensive and accurate list of farms)
- Maintenance (including registers)

- Typology (classification of farms)
- Test of concept for calculating farmers income by combining data from multiple sources
- Quality of official statistics according to CoP
  - Documentation of methodology and processes of statistical production e.g. by means of GSBPM
  - Metadata
  - Publication- dissemination of the data
  - Indicators

2. EXPECTED OUTPUT OF THE ACTIVITY
- Activity report
- Recommendations for a methodology - including a method for the integration of different administrative sources and already existing survey data into a farm register and outline of how a register is updated / maintained

3. PARTICIPANTS

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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.