

## Terms of Reference

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

Three days between 13 June – 15 June 2016

### Component C: Infrastructures for agricultural statistics

#### Activity C.1a: Data sources for agricultural statistics and farms frame I

#### 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

During activity C.1.A the ICBS and MS experts will define and agree upon an overall work plan for the component. ICBS and MS will present the current situation.

The discussions and presentations will help define the need for data, evaluate the available data sources and identify needs for additional data and the need for additional sources.

#### ICBS staff will introduce :

The agricultural sector in Israel

- An overview of potential / available data sources
- Results of the survey in the organised sector

## **MS staff will introduce:**

### ***The European standard of farm structure statistics:***

- Regulation and cooperation with Eurostat
- The questionnaire
- Coverage of the survey, thresholds, inclusion of small farms

## **What is a farm?**

- General definition
- Different types of farms
- Normal farms – one man farms
- Household plots
- Collective farms
- Israeli types of farms – Typology used by the ICBS
- etc.

## **2. EXPECTED OUTPUT OF THE ACTIVITY**

- Activity report
- Recommendations on how to improve the planning of field work using various methodologies (including geo-spatial tools)
- Input to position analysis / methodological paper
- Prioritized plan for actions / work in component D

## **3. PARTICIPANTS**

### **ICBS**

#### **Agriculture, Environment and Energy**

- Mr. Moshe Yanai; BC Component Leader for Component C, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Energy Sector, Economic –Infrastructure Senior Department; [yanaim@cbs.gov.il](mailto:yanaim@cbs.gov.il)
- Mr. Noam Tal, [noamt@cbs.gov.il](mailto:noamt@cbs.gov.il)
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#### **Economic-Infrastructure**

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#### **Statistical Methodology**

- Mr. Theodor Itzkov, [theodori@cbs.gov.il](mailto:theodori@cbs.gov.il)
- Ms. Isca Chiko, [irinac@cbs.gov.il](mailto:irinac@cbs.gov.il)

#### **Survey Department**

- Mr. Nitzan Hacoen, Director, Survey Department, [nitzanh@cbs.gov.il](mailto:nitzanh@cbs.gov.il)
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#### **Various Departments**

- Ms. Idit Ofek, Head of Sector, [idite@cbs.gov.il](mailto:idite@cbs.gov.il)
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- Lior Zisman [Liorz@cbs.gov.il](mailto:Liorz@cbs.gov.il)

### **Ministry of Agriculture (MARD) staff**

- Dr. Yael Kahal, [raelk@moag.gov.il](mailto:raelk@moag.gov.il)
- Mr. Erez Osman, [erezo@moag.gov.il](mailto:erezo@moag.gov.il)

- Mr. Raif Falah, [RaefF@moag.gov.il](mailto:RaefF@moag.gov.il)
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#### **Ministry of Finance**

- Mr. Eli Bing, [Elibing@mof.gov.il](mailto:Elibing@mof.gov.il)

#### **MS experts**

- Mr. Peter Vig Jensen, MS Component Leader for Component C, Head of Division, Food Industries, Statistics Denmark; [pvj@dst.dk](mailto:pvj@dst.dk)
  - *Specialist knowledge: Agricultural Statistics*
- Mr. Karsten Kjeld Larsen, Head of Section, Food Industries, Statistics Denmark; [kk1@dst.dk](mailto:kk1@dst.dk)
  - *Specialist knowledge: Agricultural Statistics – farm structures and typology*

#### **Twinning Staff**

- Mr. Yoel Finkel, BC Project Leader, Associate Government Statistician, [yoel@cbs.gov.il](mailto:yoel@cbs.gov.il), assisted by Ms. Sigalit Mazeh, Director, International Relations and Statistical Coordination Department, [sigalit@cbs.gov.il](mailto:sigalit@cbs.gov.il)
- Ms. Batia Attali, RTA Counterpart, BC Component Leader for component A, International Relations and Statistical Coordination Department, [batia@cbs.gov.il](mailto:batia@cbs.gov.il)
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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.

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 upgrade of 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 C1: 13 June – 16 June 2016

### Data sources for agricultural statistics and farms frame I

<b>Day 1</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>June 13</b> <b>2016</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Overall Subject: Farm Definition and Agricultural Census in the EU and in neighbouring countries which had Twinning projects in Agriculture</b> <i>Participants: Selected ICBS and MARD Staff, MS experts, the Twinning team of Component C</i> <b>Location: ICBS</b>
	9:00-9:30	<b><i>Introduction of the project and round table</i></b>
	9:30-10:40	<b><i>BC: Agricultural Census in Israel-</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>History of previous Census/surveys</i></li> <li>• <i>Goals</i></li> <li>• <i>Sources of information</i></li> <li>• <i>Preparatory activities for a future census</i></li> <li>• <i>Challenges for a census in Israel</i></li> </ul>
	10:40- 11:00	Coffee break
	11:00-12:00	<b><i>BC: Agricultural Statistics in Israel- Current status and challenges</i></b>
	12:00-13:00	Lunch break
	13:00-14:00	<b><i>MS: What is a farm? Definition and thresholds in the EU and its neighbours</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Example and variations of thresholds</i></li> <li>• <i>Methodology for threshold setting</i></li> <li>• <i>Small farms characteristics</i></li> <li>• <i>Challenges</i></li> </ul>
	14:00-15:00	<b><i>MS: Agricultural census and data sources for Agricultural statistics in the EU and its neighbours</i></b>
	15:00-15:20	Coffee break
	15:20-16:00	<b><i>MS: Regulation regarding census and farm register in the EU and its neighbours</i></b>
	16:00-16:30	<b><i>Discussion and summary of the first day</i></b>

<b>Day 2</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>June 14</b> <b>2016</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Overall Subject: Farm Register and GIS as supporting tool</b> <i>Participants: Selected ICBS and MARD Staff, MS experts, the Twinning team of Component C</i> <b>Location: ICBS</b>
	9:00-10:40	<b>BC: Establishing a Farm register in Israel:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presentation of the current status of farm register in the ICBS</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion on the current data sources and their quality</i></li> <li>• <i>How to select a proper data source?</i></li> </ul>
	10:40-11:00	Coffee break
	11:00-12:00	<b>MS: Farm register in the EU- a review of current status and methodology</b>
	12:00-13:00	Lunch break
	13:00-14:30	<b>BC/MC: The questionnaire</b>
	14:30-14:50	Coffee break
	14:50-16:30	<b>MS: Maintenance of Farm registers in the EU- experience and challenges</b>
	16:30-17:00	<b>Discussion and summary of the second day</b>

<b>Day 3</b> <b>Wed</b> <b>June 15</b> <b>2016</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Overall Subject: Users needs for agricultural Census and Farm Register</b> <i>Participants: Selected ICBS and MARD Staff, MS experts, the Twinning team of Component C</i> <b>Location: MARD</b>
	9:00-9:15	<b>BC: Introduction of the project and participants</b>
	9:15-10:15	<b>MARD: The need for Agricultural census and farm register for decision making in the Ministry of Agriculture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural statistics- the user perspectives benefits and challenges</li> <li>• What are the benefits agricultural census for decision making</li> <li>• Long-term vs. Short term goals</li> <li>• Challenges (i.e. confidentiality)</li> </ul>
	10:15-10:30	Coffee break
	10:30-12:00	<b>MS: Agricultural census and farm register data as a basis for decision making in the EU</b>
	12:00-13:00	<b>MARD: GIS as a tool in agricultural census and farm register</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Israeli Experience</li> <li>• Presentation of the EU experience</li> </ul>
	13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break and going to ICBS
<b>Day 3</b> <b>Wed</b> <b>June 15</b> <b>2016</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Overall Subject: Summing up the Mission and recommendation</b> <i>Participants: Selected ICBS and MARD Staff, MS experts, the Twinning team of Component C</i> <b>Location: MARD</b>
	14:00 – 16:00	<b>BC/MS: Summing up the Mission and recommendation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of the Mission</li> <li>• Recommendations on how to improve the planning of field work using various methodologies ( including geo-spatial tools)</li> <li>• Input to position analysis / methodological paper</li> <li>• Prioritized plan for actions / work in component D</li> <li>• Economy</li> </ul>

**Abbreviations:**

BC = Beneficiary Country (Israel)

MS = Member State (Denmark)

ICBS = Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics

IT = Information Technologies

**Material to be prepared and sent before the activity:**

Presentations.