



PRESS RELEASE

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THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN ARMENIA

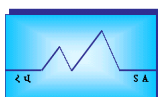
In the second part of the 20th century when the United Nations Organization (UNO) was founded the world society committed to creation of a new statistics system with unified definitions, classifications and methodology. It refers to all aspects of human activities including agriculture. Statistical data about agriculture are gathered with the means of annual reports that include administrative register and sample surveys, as well as overall census.

In the republic of Armenia the data is gathered only through ongoing annual and monthly surveys, while an agricultural census never have taken place. An agricultural census is an overall data collection about agricultural systems, agricultural lands, number of livestock, agricultural equipment and facilities, human and financial resource management and etc. In Armenia the census will help in forming a unified statistical data system, statistical register of entities engaged in agriculture and use more efficient statistical tools for sample surveys complying with the international standards and explore the tendency of agricultural infrastructures to change during the years. The data collected though census is also used for creation of monitoring systems in the following fields:

- Monitoring of poverty; a major part of village population faces the problems of isolation of their houses, bad infrastructure, low employment rate, difficult access to the markets and other.
- Monitoring of food security; the availability and accessibility and distribution of food products as well as for economic, social and ecological indicators etc.
- Agricultural projecting and strategy development in the field; an overview of the all activities of the subjects, the agricultural lands, number of animals, their productivity and use.
- Conduct of gender statistics
- Improve the quality of ongoing statistics
- Provide more information to consumers

A big role in conducting of agricultural census belongs to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which from the moment of foundation assisted the countries in conducting their agricultural census. In this regards there were developed programs for conducting of international agricultural censuses for years 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. The programs reflect all definitions and concepts, standards and management principles and have a purpose of providing unified and comparable methodology for statistics, support to statistical bodies on the national level to improve the abilities and skills, and support the strategy development and implementer parties.

For the purpose of realization of the above mentioned the “Law of Census” was adopted in the Republic of Armenia in 2008 and it reflects the international practices in methodology and concepts. In particular the agricultural censuses are conducted for statistical purposes only once in 10 years, the information is gathered directly from the food producers (companies or farmers), data



providing is mandatory, gathered information is denominated, processed, summarized and finally published .

This law was processed in cooperation of National Statistics Service and the Ministry of Agriculture, great support was provided by FAO and USDA experts. In Armenia the Agricultural Census is very important, since agriculture makes a great portion in the economy of the country. Its portion in GDP makes 16-20%, and the employment makes 492 000 thousand people among total 45% employed. There are about 340 000 households in the field that make 90% of the total production, and they are small size, have no internal accounting and have low productivity (45% of their production is for self consumption, 20 % barter exchange, and only 35 % is for sales) , low rate of qualification among producers, small investments and income and other. The intend of this roundtable is to present to the public the importance of census for the Republic of Armenia by presenting the experience of Russia, USA and other countries in agricultural census.

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