

ESS AGREEMENT ON ANNUAL CROP STATISTICS: ADDITIONAL CROP VARIABLES AND EARLY ESTIMATES

1. Introduction

The present document shall be regarded as a European Statistical System (ESS) Agreement within the meaning of Article 14(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics. According to that Article the European statistical programme can be implemented by individual statistical actions decided by means of an Agreement between the national statistical institutes (NSIs) or other national authorities, and Eurostat.

To guarantee a sufficient level of transparency, clarity and certainty in the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, this Agreement is in writing.

The national authorities participating to this Agreement are listed in the Annex I. Participants acknowledge this Agreement as a valid instrument for ensuring the statistical action that it foresees and are committed to its implementation taking into account the non-significant crops and data availability.

The annual crop data collection is based on Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 concerning crop statistics and on two non-formalised Gentlemen's Agreements: one on voluntary collection of additional crop variables and another on early estimates for crops.

The Gentlemen's Agreement on voluntary collection of additional crop variables and aggregates (agreed in 1990) covers crops which are not included in Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 and the Gentlemen's Agreement on early estimates for crops (agreed in 1990) covers early estimates for arable crops, vegetables and permanent crops which are not included in Regulation (EC) No 543/2009. Both the additional crop variables and early estimates are important for DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) for the good management and follow-up of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and market monitoring. Both existing Gentlemen's Agreements complement Regulation (EC) No 543/2009.

The purpose of this Agreement is to update the existing Gentlemen's Agreements on voluntary collection of additional crop variables and early estimates. Due to the changes in the Common Agricultural Policy it has become necessary to analyse the current needs and to update the content of the Gentlemen's Agreements. It was decided to merge the two Agreements into one, covering both the additional crop variables and the early estimates. The Task Force on Annual Crop Statistics (2013-2014) and the Working Group on Crop Statistics have contributed to the update of the Gentlemen's Agreements.

Variables with a low or zero prevalence in a Member State may be excluded from the statistics, provided that the Member State in question informs the Commission of all such crops and of the applicable threshold for low prevalence of each such crop by the end of the calendar year immediately preceding each of the reference periods.

2. Lists of variables/coverage

2.1 Additional crop variables

The Tables 1 – 4 specify the additional crop items for arable crops (Table 1), vegetables (Table 2), permanent crops (Table 3) and main agricultural land use (Table 4).

Table 1

Crops from arable land - Voluntary crops

Variables	Transmission deadlines	Area under cultivation (1 000 hectares)			Harvested production (1 000 tonnes)		
		31 Jan year n+1	31 March year n+1	30 Sept year n+1	31 Jan year n+1	31 March year n+1	30 Sept year n+1
Wheat and spelt		X	-	X	X	-	X
Common spring wheat and spelt		X	-	X	X	-	X
Rye		X	-	X	X	-	X
Winter cereal mixtures (maslin)		X	-	X	X	-	X
Spring barley		X	-	X	X	-	X
Oats and spring cereal mixtures (mixed grain other than maslin)		X	-	X	X	-	X
Other dry pulses and protein crops n.e.c.		-	-	-	-	X	X
Oilseeds		-	X	X	-	X	X
Rape, turnip rape, sunflower and soya seeds		-	X	X	-	X	X
Spring rape and turnip rape seeds		-	X	X	-	X	X
Other oilseed crops n.e.c.		-	-	-	-	X	X
Fibre crops		-	X	X	-	-	-
Other fibre crops n.e.c.		-	X	X	-	-	-
Other industrial crops n.e.c.		-	X	X	-	-	-
Plants harvested green from arable land		-	-	R	-	-	-
Lucerne		-	X	X	-	-	-
Other leguminous plants harvested green n.e.c.		-	X	X	-	-	-
Other plants harvested green from arable land n.e.c.		-	X	X	-	-	-

The ESS agreement covers also an additional delivery of yields for items requested in the Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 in August year n. Updated yield figures should be delivered when the data for area and production are delivered at the end January/March n+1, if available, otherwise at the end of September year n+1.

Table 2

Fresh vegetables (including melons) and strawberries - Voluntary crops

	Harvested area (1 000 hectares)	Harvested production (1 000 tonnes)
Transmission deadlines	31 March year n+1	31 March year n+1
Variables		
Fresh vegetables (including melons) and strawberries	-	X
Fresh vegetables (including melons)	X	X
Brassicas	X	-
Brussels sprouts	X	X
Other brassicas n.e.c.	X	-
Leafy and stalked vegetables (excluding brassicas)	X	-
Lettuces under glass or high accessible cover	-	X
Chicory	X	X
Chicory for processing	X	X
Other leafy or stalked vegetables n.e.c.	X	-
Vegetables cultivated for fruit (including melons)	X	-
Tomatoes for processing	X	X
Tomatoes under glass or high accessible cover	-	X
Cucumbers under glass or high accessible cover	-	X
Gourds and pumpkins	X	X
Peppers (capsicum) under glass or high accessible cover	-	X
Other vegetables cultivated for fruit n.e.c.	X	-
Root, tuber and bulb vegetables	X	-
Beetroot	X	X
Other root, tuber and bulb vegetables n.e.c.	X	-
Other fresh pulses n.e.c.	X	-
Other fresh vegetables n.e.c.	X	-
Strawberries under glass or high accessible cover	-	X
Champignons	-	X
Other cultivated mushrooms n.e.c.	-	X

Table 3

Permanent crops for human consumption - Voluntary crops

Variables	Transmission deadlines	Production area (1 000 hectares)	Harvested production (1 000 tonnes)	
		31 March year n+1	31 March year n+1	30 Sept year n+1
Fruits, berries and nuts (excluding citrus fruits, grapes and strawberries)		X	-	-
Pome fruits		X	-	-
Apples for processing		-	X	-
Pears for fresh consumption		-	X	-
Pears for processing		-	X	-
Other pome fruits n.e.c.		X	-	-
Stone fruits		X	-	-
Peaches and Nectarines		X	X	-
Peaches and nectarines for processing		-	X	-
Sweet cherries		X	X	-
Other stone fruits n.e.c.		X	-	-
Fruits from subtropical and tropical climate zones		X	-	-
Other fruits from subtropical and tropical climate zones n.e.c.		X	-	-
Berries (excluding strawberries)		X	-	-
Currants		X	X	-
Redcurrants		X	X	-
Blueberries		X	X	-
Other berries n.e.c.		X	-	-
Nuts		X	-	-
Other nuts n.e.c.		X	-	-
Navel oranges		X	-	X
White oranges (blancas)		X	-	X
Blood oranges (sanguines)		X	-	X
Other oranges n.e.c.		X	-	X
Other small citrus fruits (including hybrids) n.e.c.		X	-	-
Yellow lemons		X	-	X
Acid limes		X	-	X
Other citrus fruits n.e.c.		X	-	-
Grapes for other purposes n.e.c.		X	-	-
Olives		X	-	X
Other permanent crops for human consumption n.e.c.		X	-	-

Table 4

Agricultural land use - Voluntary crops

Variables	Transmission deadline	Main area (1 000 hectares)
		30 Sept year n+1
Root crops		X
Other root crops n.e.c.		X
Plants harvested green from arable land		R
Seeds and seedlings		X
Citrus fruits		X
Other permanent crops for human consumption n.e.c.		X
Other permanent crops		X
Kitchen gardens		X

2.2 Early estimates

The Tables 5 and 6 specify early estimates required for arable crops (Table 5) and vegetables and fruits (Table 6).

Table 5
Crops from arable land - Early estimates

Variables	Transmission deadlines	Area under cultivation (1000 hectares)			Harvested production (1000 tonnes)	
		30 April year n	31 May year n	30 November year n	31 August year n	30 November year n
Common wheat and spelt		-	x	x	x	x
Common winter wheat and spelt		x	x	x	x	x
Common spring wheat and spelt		-	x	x	x	x
Durum wheat		x	x	x	x	x
Rye and winter cereal mixtures (maslin)		x	x	x	x	x
Barley		-	x	x	x	x
Winter barley		x	x	x	x	x
Spring barley		-	x	x	x	x
Oats		-	x	x	x	x
Spring cereal mixtures (mixed grain other than maslin)		-	x	x	x	x
Grain maize and corn-cob-mix		-	x	x	x	x
Triticale		x	x	x	x	x
Sorghum		-	x	x	x	x
Rice		x	x	x	x	x
Field peas		-	x	x	-	x
Broad and field beans		-	x	x	-	x
Sweet lupines		-	x	x	-	x
Potatoes (including seed potatoes)		-	x	x	-	x
Sugar beet (excluding seed)		-	x	x	-	x
Rape and turnip rape seeds		-	x	x	x	x
Winter rape and turnip rape seeds		x	x	x	x	x
Sunflower seed		-	x	x	-	x
Soya		-	x	x	-	x
Linseed (oil flax)		-	x	x	-	x
Green maize		-	x	x	-	x

Table 6

Fresh vegetables and permanent crops for human consumption - Early estimates

Variables	Transmission deadlines	Harvested/production area (1 000 hectares)		Harvested production (1 000 tonnes)
		31 May year n	31 October year n	31 October year n
Tomatoes		x	x	x
Apples		x	x	x
Pears		x	x	x
Peaches		x	x	x
Nectarines		x	x	x
Oranges		x	x	x
Clementines		x	x	x
Olives for oil		x	x	x

Detailed descriptions of crop variables are included in the Annual Crop Statistics Handbook, rev. 2015 and hereafter in the yearly updates of the Annual Crop Statistics Handbook.

3. Quality requirements and reporting

3.1 Relevance

The additional crop variables and the early estimates are needed by DG AGRI for the good management and follow-up of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and market monitoring. The updated content of the ESS Agreement corresponds to the present needs of DG AGRI.

3.2 Accuracy

The precision requirements for additional crop variables are the same as defined in Regulation (EC) No 543/2009 (art. 5), when applicable. The early estimates are exempt of this precision requirement.

3.3 Timeliness

The voluntary crops area and production data refer to the final data of the crop year n.

3.4 Punctuality

For the transmission deadlines, please refer to the variable lists under headings 2.1 and 2.2.

3.5 Accessibility and clarity

Data and metadata will be available in main database tables on Eurostat's website.

3.6 Comparability

The early estimates should be comparable with other early estimates covered by Regulation (EC) No 543/2009.

3.7 Coherence

The coherence of the variables is checked with Regulation (EC) No 543/2009, and when relevant, with the Farm Structure Survey data (ex-post).

3.8 Quality Reporting

The quality reporting for the variables listed in this agreement will be done as a part of the Quality Report for annual crops statistics under Regulation (EC) No 543/2009.

4. Data sources

The statistics on additional crop variables and early estimates may be based on statistical surveys, administrative sources (registers, producers' or sales organisations' declarations, etc.), expert estimates or other suitable sources.

5. Format of the transmission of data files

The data will be transmitted to Eurostat via Web-Forms or by using SDMX standard files.

6. Data transmission procedure

6.1 Data flow

All data should be transmitted via the Single Entry Point (eDAMIS).

6.2. Deadlines for data transmission

The transmission deadlines are specified in Chapter 2 Tables.

6.3 Confidentiality measures

The data confidentiality is treated as stipulated in Regulation (EU) 223/2009.

7. Time frame

The present Agreement should be applied from June 2015 to the end of 2020.

At the latest six month before the end of the last reference period (30 June 2020), a report on its implementation will be presented by Eurostat to the Directors Group for Agricultural Statistics (DGAS). It will contain an analysis of the data and methodological information collected and conclusions on the eventual need of adaptation and/or renewal of the content.

Annex 1. List of countries and national authorities participating to this Agreement.

List of countries and institutions joining the ESS agreement	
Country	Institution
BE	Direction générale Statistique et Information économique
BG	Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Agrostatistics Department at Directorate General Agriculture and Regional Policy)
CZ	Czech Statistical Office
DK	Statistics Denmark
EL	Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment and Energy (Ministry of Rural Development and Food)
ES	Sub-directorate General for Statistics (Sub-Secretariat for Agriculture, Food and Environment. Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Environment).
FR	Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood industry and Forestry: SSP Statistics and Forecasting Service
HR	Croatian Bureau of Statistics
IT	Istituto Nazionale di Statistica
CY	Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT)
LV	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
LT	Statistics Lithuania
LU	Service d'Economie Rurale (Ministry of Agriculture)
HU	Hungarian Central Statistical Office
MT	National Statistics Office
PL	Central Statistical Office
RO	National Institute of Statistics
SK	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
FI	Natural Resources Institute Finland
SE	Statistics Sweden
UK	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs