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STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (CPSA)

28-29 April 2014

AMPERE, BECH BUILDING
KIRCHBERG, LUXEMBOURG

CHAIRED BY: MR. DÍAZ MUÑOZ

3.2. STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND*

* Document available on Circabc: https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/c4586750-3062-4014-b2bb-400569781c3a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this document is to report on the progress made with regard to the strategic plan for the development of future agricultural statistics, 2020 and beyond. The first part of this document refers to the document prepared for discussion in the forthcoming ESSC meeting to take place on 14 and 15 May in Luxembourg. The second part presents concrete actions and a roadmap for the implementation of the proposed strategic review on agricultural statistics.

The Members of the CPSA are invited to:

- take note and comment on the proposed ESSC document outlining a strategic plan for agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond, presented in the first part of this document;

- comment on the proposed list of actions as well as the roadmap presented in the second part of the document, in particular the setting up of a Task Force reporting to the CPSA to steer this process.

Part I

THE CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN ON FUTURE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SUBMITTED TO ESSC

21st Meeting of the European Statistical System Committee

Luxembourg,

14th – 15th May 2014

Item 15 of the agenda

Plan for setting up a strategy for Agricultural Statistics to 2020 and beyond
Work Programme Objective 3.3.4.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

The ESSC is asked to approve the main lines for a strategy for development of a new agricultural statistical system from 2020 onwards and to mandate the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (SCAS/CPSA) to define, develop and supervise the corresponding action and to regularly report to the ESSC.

2. BACKGROUND AND BRIEF HISTORY

The agricultural statistics have had so far as main purpose the monitoring and evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Currently however, there are a number of other policies that also need good quality agricultural data. These are in particular related to environment and climate change, and to social policies related to rural development to maintain rural areas in good condition and to avoid depopulation of rural areas. Furthermore, information on agricultural production is needed to track the food supply changes and understand the impact of food supply on prices. It has been however the adoption of the CAP review post-2013 that has triggered the need for launching a re-design of the agricultural statistics, in particular to adapt the collected data to the new data needs as well as to simplify the agricultural data collection processes wherever needed and appropriate.

The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) is the backbone of agricultural statistics. It is used for monitoring the structural changes in farms and farming practices. The legal basis for FSS expires after the 2016 survey and hence a new framework is needed for the period 2020-2027. Eurostat proposes to use this as an opportunity firstly, to screen and, secondly to harmonise as much as possible also other agricultural statistics, namely crop and animal production statistics, permanent crop statistics, agro-monetary statistics and agro-environmental indicators.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

Regulation (EU) N° 99/2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17 addresses the collection of adequate agricultural statistics and states that the significance of agriculture among the Union policies will remain and that statistical work will be strongly influenced by the outcome of the reflection on the CAP after 2013 (item 3.3.). Hereby, special attention has to be devoted to the review and the redesign of the agricultural data collection processes in line with the data requests stemming from the new CAP post-2013 and considering the agro-environmental, land use and rural development dimensions, while improving their quality and timeliness (objective 3.3.4.).

Agricultural data needs are evolving constantly, due to the changes in the policy context, notably the new CAP, agricultural practices, world food markets, rural livelihood, consumer behaviours and deeply-rooted and complex inter-linkages with environmental issues, climate change and sustainability in a broader sense. It is important to make sure that statistical time series of good quality on main aspects of agriculture continue to be provided but also new data needs have to be met. For this reason it is important to steer agricultural statistics towards a framework system linking the various parts together in an integrated harmonised system, favouring as much as possible synergies.

4. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS STAKEHOLDERS

It is essential that both the data users and data providers participate fully in the strategy process. Eurostat envisages setting up a discussion group for Agricultural Statistics 2020 and beyond. It would consist of the representatives of the national statistical organisations, Policy DGs and other data users (e.g. JRC and EEA, farmers unions). In addition, the strategy will be discussed intensively in the SCAS/CPSA and in the agricultural Working Groups with regular reporting to the ESSC. This means that the NSIs need to commit themselves to contribute to this strategic work.

5. OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS

The main problem is the tight timetable as the FSS framework (basic act and implementing acts) needs to be in place by latest in 2018. As the strategy discussions will touch a wide range of agricultural statistics, the available time has to be used efficiently. It is likely that a 2 step approach is followed as described in the annexed document.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

The main risks are: there may be not sufficient time to prepare a comprehensive system for harmonised agricultural statistics by 2018. For this reason the preparations will need to be scheduled in such a way that the framework covering only the new farm survey system will be prepared in parallel with more profound restructuration of agricultural statistics that may have to be fully implemented later.

On the other hand, postponing a general reflection on agricultural statistics until after a new legal basis for FSS is developed has to be avoided since some elements of this reflection will have to be taken into account when designing the new farm surveys system.

7. NEXT STEPS

Once mandate and broad roadmap is approved by ESSC, the discussion will be started in the SCAS/CPSA, concerned working groups and the discussion group to develop a more consistent system to be applied for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond.

PLAN FOR SETTING UP A STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS 2020 AND BEYOND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taking into account the significance of agriculture among the Union policies, statistical work needs to be guided by changing data needs and simplification in data collection processes to achieve high quality data at reduced burden in line with policy expectations as stated in the multi-annual European statistical programme 2013-17 (Item 3.3.). There is an opportunity and a need to set up a system for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond. This must be done with care, ensuring that the users get quality data they need, that resources are used efficiently and that European statistics are as coherent as possible with international developments. Two time-horizons are relevant for setting up such a strategy:

- *Before 2020*, having as backbone a newly designed farm survey system consisting of core, module and satellite surveys, while the other legal and organizational elements will be adapted only to the extent that will be possible. Nevertheless, this will include a general reflection on the whole system aiming at optimizing the efficiency gains by tapping on the possible synergies and paving the way to a longer term horizon as described below.

- *Horizon beyond 2020*, allowing for a comprehensive legal and organizational framework aimed to achieve a systematic and more consistent integrated system for agricultural statistics. An inventory on common areas, synergies, production steps and tools needs being worked on. They would be developed following an incremental process. Against this background, the increasing need for improving interoperability between agricultural statistics data flows could make it necessary to adopt a structured framework in order to design and implement the statistical agricultural environment consistently.

The ESSC is asked to approve the proposed plan to set up a strategy for agricultural statistics 2020 and beyond and in particular the presented broad roadmap with actions and timetable as proposed under item 4 of the document.

INTRODUCTION

The first discussion around a new strategy for agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond was raised in a seminar and meeting of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics (SCAS/CPSA) which took place in November 2013. Before launching such discussions and investigations, it was decided to ask opinion and formal mandate from the ESSC on how such new strategy for agricultural statistics can be settled.

This document describes the importance to evaluate the future agricultural data needs, to map the currently existing data flows as well as to re-design where needed the data flow processes. Finally, a broad roadmap for a design of agricultural statistics towards 2020 and beyond is proposed.

1. FUTURE AGRICULTURAL DATA NEEDS

1.1. Agricultural landscape

The project needs to analyse the boundaries and the contour of agricultural landscape. The following dimensions, described more closely in the Global Strategy on Agricultural Statistics[1], could serve as a first attempt to describe the landscape. The dimensions are:

- the economic dimension;
- the social dimension;
- the environmental dimension.

1) The *economic* dimension covers agricultural production and productivity, markets, and farm and non-farm income, all information that are important to decision and policy makers. These are issues quite well covered in EU agricultural statistics, even though improvements and further streamlining might be needed. The landscape refers to a picture, but fast evolution and changes must be closely followed to provide appropriate warning signals and eventually flexible required adjustments in the data flows.

2) The *social* dimension covers the need to reduce risk and vulnerability, including food security, and issues related to for example rural households and gender. In the EU it is not as critical as in other regions of the world, but is still an important aspect of agricultural statistics. For reducing risks forecasting production of both animals and crops is important, and thus for example early estimates of planted areas in combination with agro-meteorological is a key issue. The household aspects of this dimension can be described by highlighting the fact that according to the definition of agriculture, every one producing food products is a farmer, regardless if the person owns a basilica plant on the kitchen table or thousands of orange trees. Where the threshold should be drawn for the agricultural statistics? The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) needs in principle only information on the holdings eligible for support (i.e. active farming), but rural development policies need information on the number of households in rural areas. Thus there is a need to cover both farms and households, but must they be covered in the same surveys and/or with the same variables? Would it perhaps be more efficient to set up the data collection according to size, as the impact and needs are different?

3) The *environmental* dimension of agriculture comprises both the role as a user of resources (land, energy, chemicals, water, etc.) and as a provider of resources (energy, etc.) and environmental services. In addition to its direct use of natural resources in production, it also impacts water bodies, the soil, the air through production methods and the waste and emission by-products generated by the production, and with important implications for climate change and biodiversity. Recognition of the negative and potentially positive impacts that agriculture has on global, regional, and local environments points to the need for statistics that enable informed analysis of the interactions between agriculture's roles in the economy and in the environment. Two important issues related to the environmental dimension are

[1] http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/am082e/am082e00.pdf

the use of food and feed products for biofuel and the land cover and -use issues that both are gaining ground when analysing agriculture.

This work involves analysing each dimension from the point of view of setting the boundaries and identifying the main landmarks within each dimension and regarding the European reality. This exercise sets the limits to data needs and establishes the boundary surfaces against other statistical domains

1.2 Data needs for agricultural quality data stemming from several common policies

The needs of the data users, mainly the concerned policy DGs have to be taken on board. These needs must contain both the needs on which the present agricultural statistics are based, and the new and emerging needs. There is otherwise a clear risk that the mapping will fail, because knowledge of user needs has to remain the main driver of the analysis of future agricultural statistics. At the same time, the possible synergies between the different statistics can be analysed in that specific issue, as at the same time eventual discrepancies can be addressed. It will be easier to understand the possible reasons that way.

Reflection will be made on how statistical responses to these needs can be structured and in particular on how this is related to the current or planned legal framework. Emphasis will be put to needs linked to the interaction of agriculture with economic, social, environment, and climate change and on needs emerging from the new CAP. The information flows used for market monitoring policy will shrink due to simplification of the market regulations. Short term statistics need to be developed in order to provide a flexible and efficient warning system.

On the other hand, and to maintain a sustainable statistical system, a scrutiny of current data collection has to be made in order to review those information sets that have become less important for policy making.

2. MAPPING OF THE EXISTING DATA FLOWS FOR AGRICULTURE

2. 1. Screening of the current existing agricultural statistics

The objective of this exercise is to get an overview of the collected statistics and identify the possible inter-linkages and overlaps between the different surveys. Farm Structure Surveys (Reg. 1166/2008) is used as a basis for the screening, followed by identifying similar or the same information collected in Crop statistics, Livestock survey and Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA).

This exercise has a broader scope and includes analysis of the following surveys: Farm Structure Survey (FSS), Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN), Crop statistics, Livestock statistics, Permanent crops as well as available administrative data sources, mainly the Integrated Administrative Control System (IACS), registers. Also relevant data available in other domains, as for example environmental, energy, business, external trade and social statistics will be considered. The possible linkage between a Farm Statistical Register and the Business register will also be taken into account. The objective of this exercise will include comparison of the reference periods, coverage, scope, definitions, geographic level and time aspects. Additionally, the purpose of the

surveys and their main clients/users will be considered and a list of all synergetic characteristics made.

This work has started and several aspects mentioned above are covered in the exercise, but there is some further work to be done to get a really useful basis.

3. RE-DESIGN AND SYNERGIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DATA FLOW PROCESSES

3.1. Future Farm Surveys approach

System for farm surveys 2020-2027: This revision is necessary as there will be no legal basis for the agricultural census and the farm structure surveys after 2016.

In the approach until now, the existing FSS variables and the new data needs were considered together, as one list, and not as separate elements. Meanwhile, Eurostat has concluded that for an optimised future farm surveys system, the issue of existing FSS variables should be approached separately from newly emerging data needs. Following this reasoning, the new approach includes a system of core (main) surveys variables, as well as related survey(s), which would be added as modules and satellites to the core surveys.

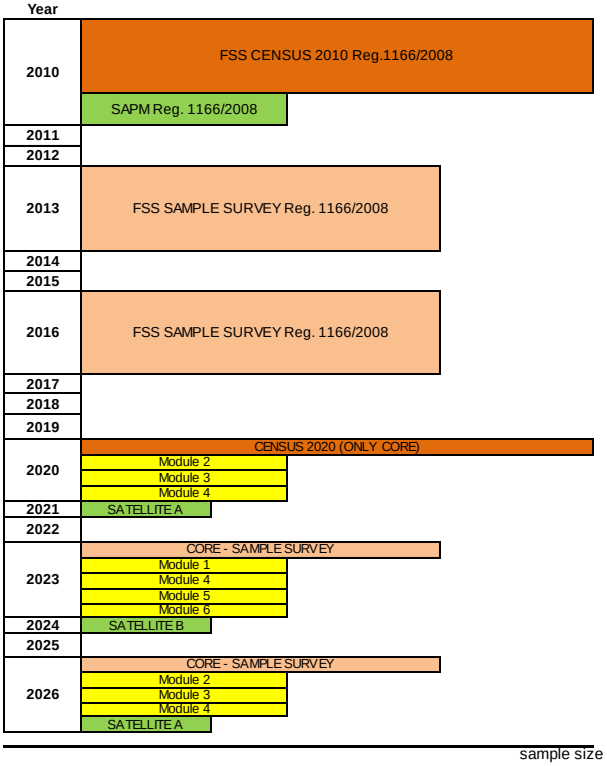
In such a system, the core variables (related to the structure of agricultural holdings) would be supplied by the survey taking place in regular time intervals. The farm survey(s), covering data related to other important issues, e.g. agro-environmental aspects, fertilisers, agricultural production methods, etc., are proposed to be added as modules and/or satellites to the core surveys, with the option to go for more flexible sample sizes or less frequent data collection intervals than the core surveys.

The system would allow more flexibility in responding to the new data needs. The module and satellite survey(s) would be linked with the core surveys i.e. it would be possible to match the structural information with agro-environmental and other surveyed data.

The basic idea for the new system of farm surveys is the following:

- Core list of characteristics always to be surveyed, with maximum coverage and reliability, to be used as well as basis for the different sample surveys;
- Modules, to be surveyed with less frequency and/or precision requirements;
- Satellites, to be surveyed with less frequency and precision requirements, and easier to adapt to changing needs.

New system of Farm Surveys 2020-2027 replacing the current FSS system



Possible scenario:

Core: **General characteristics**
Land
Livestock
Labour Force

Module 1- Machinery &equipment
Module 2 – OGA of holder
Module 3 – OGA related to holding
Module 4 – Rural Development
Module 5 – Soil Management
Module 6 – Irrigation

Satellite A – Agro-environment
Satellite B - Fertilisers

OGA: Other Gainful Activities

Important elements of this work will be the analysis of the statistical units, the feasibility of a unique farm identification number and agreement on a statistical farm register and its features.

3.2. New architecture for agricultural statistics

- Analysis of the agricultural datasets related to the structure of farms, production, agro-monetary, and taking into account the agro-environmental dimension.
    - Reflection in order to ensure synergy and coherence within all themes in agricultural statistics, in particular FSS, land use information and FADN. The combining need of existing data and eventual simplification to eliminate possible existing overlaps will be made.
    - Reflection on the need for more appropriate nomenclatures (e.g. product codes).
    - Reflection on the design of a new architecture and its scope.
- Proposal of a new framework for agricultural statistics covering as well new data needs especially agro-environmental statistics and agricultural prices with the objective to stabilise and review this data collection and to include in a compulsory way the domain of agro-environmental indicators, agricultural producer prices and land prices and rents.

3.3 Efficiency in Agricultural Statistics

The following efficiency aspects will be considered when designing an architecture for agricultural statistics:

- Facilitate the use of administrative sources. This aspect will build on the recent joint AGRI-Eurostat Task Force on the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, and profit from the fact that many of these sources are covered by EU legislation. Actions will aim at supporting Member States in developing policies, means and tools for access to the relevant information and aligning concepts between the administrative and statistical worlds.

- Develop synergies between different data collections, avoiding, in particular, overlapping data sets.

- Identify the optimal precision, geographical detail and frequency requirements.

- Improvement of the ESS production chain on agricultural statistics in order to make it more rapid, efficient and achieving higher data quality.

4. ROADMAP FOR A NEW DESIGN OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS TOWARDS 2020 AND BEYOND

Two time-horizons are relevant:

- *Before 2020*, having as backbone a newly designed farm survey system consisting of core, module and satellite surveys, while the other legal and organizational elements will be adapted only to the extent that will be possible. Nevertheless, this will include a general reflection on the whole system aiming at optimizing the efficiency gains by tapping on the possible synergies and paving the way to a longer term horizon.

- *Horizon beyond 2020*, allowing for a comprehensive legal and organizational framework aimed to achieve a systematic and more consistent integrated system for agricultural statistics. An inventory on common areas, synergies, production steps and tools needs being worked on. They would be developed following an incremental process. Against this background, the increasing need for improving interoperability between agricultural statistics data flows could make it necessary to adopt a structured framework in order to design and implement the statistical agricultural environment consistently.

Detailed timetable is annexed hereafter:

NEXT STEPS IN ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURE SYSTEMS FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Step	Timing
Agree on the issues to be tackled, the timeframes and on how work will progress	June 2014
Set up of the discussion group with concerned stakeholders and, if needed, establish other working structures (ad-hoc TF, workshop…)	June 2014
Elaboration and evaluation of needs	2014-2015
Screening of present agricultural statistics	December 2014
Design an action plan with milestones and reporting mechanisms	December 2014
Discussions in the SCAS/CPSA and concerned WGs	2014-2015
Proposal for synergies, integration and new approaches	2015
Impact assessments; cost/benefit analyses; Transmission to EP and to Council of Regulation on agricultural producer prices, including land prices and rents[3]	2016
Transmission to EP and Council of a new FSS for 2020 and beyond and possible other framework legislative packages covering crop and animal production statistics	2017
Further discussion on a more consistent system for agricultural statistics to be applied after 2020, including other legislative packages	2018-2020
Reporting to the SCAS/CPSA half yearly and to the ESSC yearly	Start 2015

[3] More details on strategy for legislation on land prices and rents are presented in the annexed document

Part II

I. KEY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DEFINING THE STRATEGY AND DESIGN OF THE FUTURE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

An initial reflection devoted to the launch of the strategy for future agricultural statistics identified the main aspects which need to be considered when defining the strategy and design for the future agricultural statistics. In order to have a systematic approach, these main aspects were grouped into five main categories:

A. Future data needs

Understanding the need for agricultural information is key to defining the strategy and design of an architecture for future agricultural statistics. There are a number of information requirements linked to on-going policy developments, in particular related to the review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as well as climate change, environmental and food chain monitoring policies, which require a sound system of agricultural statistics to fit the purpose. These new data needs are already partially identified and mapped (notably in the DireDate[2]), but additional needs may emerge and it is likely that others will still need to be identified, for example in the area of food security, rural development including the social dimension, and market developments. It should, therefore, be considered that the needs are evolving according to policy and societal concerns so that new and ad-hoc needs may emerge and a flexible way of addressing them should be established.

B. Scope of agricultural statistics

There are a number of aspects in this category which need to be considered when defining the strategy for the future design of agricultural statistics. First and foremost, a common agreement of the definition of the scope of agriculture should be established. Secondly, the borders should be drawn between forestry, aquaculture, land use, rural households, agro-food industry, etc. Thirdly, the geographical scope, level of detail and thresholds have to be set, along with defining a harmonised agricultural unit for statistical purposes. Finally, a flexible tier approach to the collection of agricultural statistics should be considered.

C. Time and scale dimension

Time dimension (long-term, mid-term and short-term) needs to be distinguished when defining the strategy for the future agricultural statistics. The data needs should be prioritised based on the urgency and the level of aggregation required (micro / macro level) for efficiency reasons. The frequency of different data collections and possibility for sporadic surveys should be considered. The combination of these elements shapes the statistical information architecture.

D. Data collection modes

Several data collection modes may be used, depending on their efficiency (cost / benefit) and relevance (fit for purpose). Ad-hoc surveys, farm and other registers

[2] http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-11-005/EN/KS-RA-11-005-EN.PDF

(such as tax or population register), other administrative data, big data, modelling, land use data and other sources such as FADN illustrate the diversity of possible sources. An important aspect would also be an analysis of potential alternatives to the census operation.
In order to optimise the use of various possible modes of data collection, there are important instruments to be considered, in particular (i) geo-referencing and (ii) unique farm identifier. These instruments would constitute a key element of the system, in order to ensure the links between different sources and to facilitate the maintenance of the statistical farm registers.

E. Methodological elements

Analysis of the concepts used and, where necessary, adaptation of concepts needed to obtain an optimal alignment between different data sources, including those used for administrative registers.
The units used in the FSS and other data collections need to be analysed in terms of their coherence. In particular the units used in FSS and those covered in the Statistical Business Register and IACS need attention.

F. System of European Statistics

Finally, there are certain aspects to be considered in the context of the overall System of European Statistics in order to facilitate the set up and functioning of the new architecture of agricultural statistics. Coherence of EU statistics with global approaches is to be sought and investigations are needed to achieve a better coordination at international, national and regional levels between data producers. Additionally, the improvements to the ESS production chain are an opportunity to increase efficiency and timeliness of data production and processing, while ensuring its high quality, as well as reliable metadata.

The issues raised above will require investigation and should be considered during further discussions on the design of the future agricultural statistics.

A preliminary overview of the possible order of priority of the elements discussed above, the organisational structure for proceeding with the project on future agricultural statistics, as well as an indicative timeframe is presented in the next section.

II. RE-DESIGN OF THE FSS AND POSSIBLE SYNERGIES WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL DATA COLLECTION

In the short to medium term, before 2020, there is a need to establish a legal act defining the new farm survey system. The effort already made during 2012 to design a FSS system will be the basis of this work. Therefore, it will likely consist of core, module and satellite surveys and will aim to be flexible enough to respond to the new potential data needs on an ad-hoc basis.

However, it is important to reflect on the whole system of agricultural statistics while defining the details of the future farm survey system and related legislation, in order

to pave the way - in the longer term - for coherent and complementary developments in other agricultural statistical domains.

In the context of issues discussed in section II, a certain order of priority emerges, clearly showing a logical sequence of tackling the issues to be addressed.
A proper understanding of the (new) data needs is the first and necessary pillar for any further investigations. Besides the types of data needed, the detail and required frequency is to be defined. On this basis, and in connection with the mapping of the existing information, it will be possible to get a clearer picture of the European agricultural statistical system needed in the forthcoming years.
Further issues, such as scope of agricultural statistics, time and scale dimension, methodological aspects, units and thresholds are to be further followed by the reflection on the data collection modes and available instruments such as geo-referencing or unique farm ID.
The general overview is presented in Figure 1.

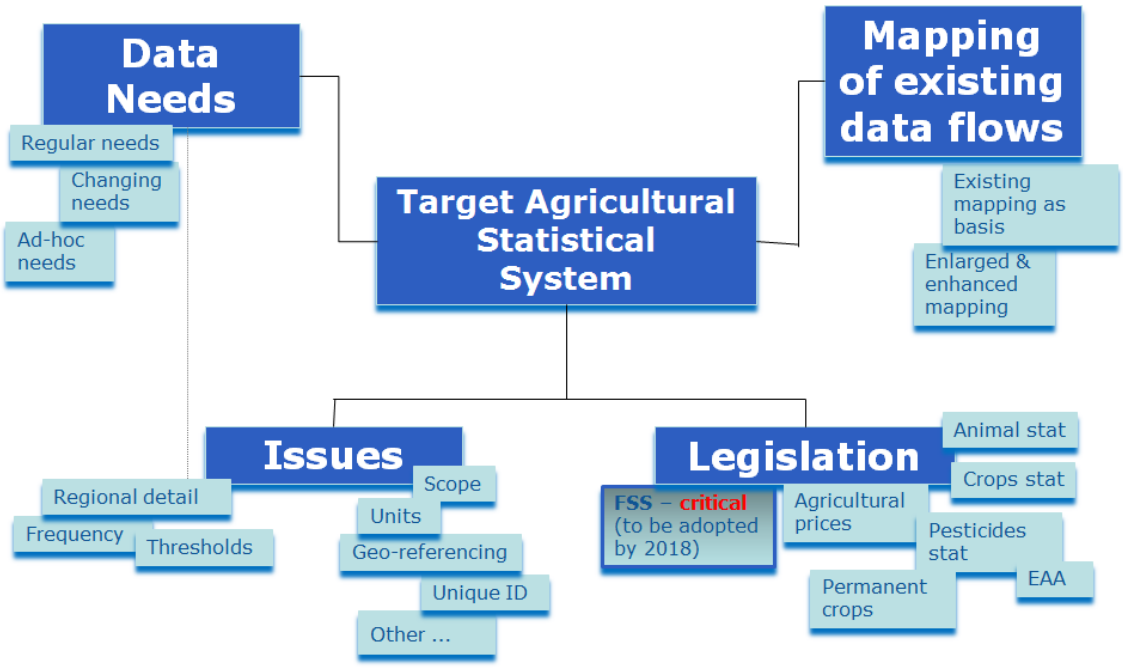


Fig.1. Towards the target agricultural statistical system

The more detailed process of defining the data needs could consist of the following steps:

- Mapping of the currently available data flows in the agricultural domain – the existing mapping (described below) could be used as a basis and further enhancing and enlarging of the mapping would take place to make it more complete;
- Identification, together with the main stakeholders, of the (new) data needs – it should be considered that data needs are changing with time and options should be analysed for finding a flexible way of responding to the changing and ad-hoc data needs;
- Analysis of the differences between the needs and currently available data flows, in order to find overlaps and possibilities for synchronisation and simplification of different surveys and data sources;

- Identification of redundancies, gaps, inconsistencies and economisation possibilities;
- Preliminary design of the target Agricultural Statistical System.

The initial mapping exercise has already been performed and consisted of two main steps:

a) Screening of agricultural statistics
The objective of this exercise was to get an overview of the statistics collected and identify the possible overlaps (or gaps) between the different surveys. Farm Structure Surveys (Reg. 1166/2008) was used as a basis for the screening and compared with EAA, crops and animal statistics. A summary of the results of this exercise is presented in Annex II, with a list of synergetic characteristics and explanatory comments on their compatibility.

b) Comparison of different surveys
This exercise had a broader scope and included an analysis of the following surveys: Farm Structure Survey (FSS), Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN), Crop statistics, Livestock statistics and Permanent crops. The objective of this exercise was also broader, and it included a comparison of the reference periods, coverage, scope, geographic level and time aspects. Additionally the purpose of the surveys and their main clients/users were considered and a list of all synergetic characteristics was made. Summary of these results can be found in Annex III.

The results of this exercise can be considered as a starting point for assessing the current situation with respect to the desired target system of agricultural statistics. For completeness this mapping should be enlarged and enhanced with other collection flows in the area of agriculture e.g. pesticide statistics, land prices and rents etc.

III. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND PLANNED ACTIONS TOWARDS THE NEW SYSTEM OF FARM SURVEYS AND RELATED LEGISLATION

1. Milestones in Agricultural Statistics from 2015 onwards

(i) Short term (2015-2016)
(a) Farm surveys 2020-2027: start of project immediately achieving draft basic legal text + implementing texts ready by 2016, aiming to submit for negotiation process by Council and EP at the end of 2016/beginning of 2017
(b) Commission Regulation on Land prices and rents (based on article 14 of Regulation 223/2009), approval by the CPSA/ESSC planned for beginning 2015
(c) Work of the CPSA Task Force on agricultural statistics strategy, interaction with users and liaison with Agricultural Working Groups.

(ii) Medium term (2015-2020)
(a) Draft basic EP and Council legal act + implementing acts for agricultural prices to be ready in May 2016, aiming to get the approval by Council and EP at the end 2017

(b) Amendment of legislation for Crop, Animal Production and Pesticides Statistics to be ready by 2017/2018, aiming to get the approval by Council and EP at the end 2019

(iii) Long term (2015-2025)
Proposal for full integration of agricultural statistics: start of the project immediately in order to achieve Draft basic legal text + implementing texts by May 2022 with the aim of adoption by the Council and EP at the end of 2024 and implementation from 2025

2. Steps for achieving the new system and legal act for FSS

The project on the future FSS legal act should be launched by the CPSA so that the framework for the project could be established as soon as possible during the 2nd quarter of 2014.

Within the framework defined, a detailed work plan would be drawn-up, specifying a time schedule and milestones for the execution phase. Taking into consideration the complexity of the future FSS legislation, it is likely that the project will need to be divided into a number of specific work packages - the following packages could be proposed:

- Strategic issues (scope of agriculture and definition of harmonised agricultural unit)
- Infrastructure issues (statistical units and links with other administrative data sources)
- Coherence issues (within the numerous agricultural domains)
- Methodological issues (alignment and harmonisation of the concepts)
- Technical issues (list of characteristics and level of detail to be provided)
- Organisational aspects (frequency of the surveys, census vs. sample surveys)
- Financing elements (budgetary resources, grant management)
- Legal aspects (framework regulation with associated implementing acts)

At this point the proposed list is only indicative and will be clarified after the detailed scope and objectives for the project are defined. It could be foreseen that around 3-6 months would be dedicated to defining the scope, framework and details of the work packages, and it could be foreseen to take place in the 2nd half of 2014.

The main execution of the project would take place during 2015, along with necessary consultations, task force and thematic seminars. The follow-up and finalising work would take place during 2016, with the impact assessment and adjustments to the final details, before submitting the legal proposal to the EP and the Council at the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017, with a view to the legal basis being in force from 2018. This time schedule fits well with the one discussed in the FSS WG on 24-25 February.

Further follow-up actions to the FSS legal act would involve parallel projects in the context of the whole Agricultural Statistical System and a larger review of agricultural statistics.

3. Project Organisation

In the context of the project on the new legislation for FSS 2020 onwards, the appropriate governance body in the context of strategic directions would be the CPSA, reporting to the ESSC regularly.

Additionally, subject to the mandate received from the CPSA, a Task Force (TF) could be established, consisting of stakeholders representing the Member States, Commission DGs, farmers' associations, etc. Additionally, one or more specific thematic seminars could take place focusing on specific issues e.g. the CPSA seminar in November 2014 could be fully dedicated to gathering user needs, subject to the mandate received from the CPSA.

During the last CPSA PG meeting, the proposal was made to create a Task Force reporting to the CPSA. The CPSA is therefore invited to give its mandate for creation of such a TF in the context of the project on the new system of farm surveys from 2020 onwards. Additionally, the CPSA is invited to give its mandate to a number of WGs (crops statistics, livestock statistics, EAA, FSS, etc.) to actively engage in the process.

List of Annexes:

Annex I:	Brief explanatory note describing how the collection of data on land prices and rents is planned to be implemented in the coming years.
Annex II:	Summary of the results of the screening exercise of agricultural statistics
Annex III:	Summary of comparison between FSS, FADN, Crop statistics, Livestock statistics and Permanent crops

Annex I - Collection of Data on Agricultural Land Prices and Rents

There is a strong policy interest, both at national and European levels, for the measurement of the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on the value of land. In response to this need, the collection of statistics on land prices and rents has been in the Eurostat work programme for several years. The topic has been discussed repeatedly in the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics (SCAS/CPSA), most recently in the November 2013 meeting. A common methodology was developed several years ago and an increasing number of countries currently supply data on a voluntary basis. Eurostat considers that, although still incomplete, these data can already be disseminated as was concluded in the last SCAS/CPSA meeting, which fits with the National Accounts initiative on land values.

Eurostat launched a programme of grants starting in 2011 to support countries to deliver data on this topic, following the common methodology agreed in the Working Party on Agricultural Accounts and Prices. Several Member States benefitted from co-financing projects which were launched in 2011-2012. Eurostat received applications in 2013 from six further countries. Some further cooperation could be envisaged in 2014-2015 with additional countries if funds were found and agreement could be reached. It should be noted that the means for collecting land prices may differ from those used to collect rents. Land prices can be obtained from register information, while for rents some existing sources such as the Farm Accounting Data Network (managed by DG-AGRI) may form a basis.

In the meantime, Eurostat has proposed to start a process towards a legal coverage of this domain to ensure sustainable and harmonized results amongst countries and covering the whole EU as far as possible. It was also considered that this legal basis could cover the prices of agricultural products. These price statistics (i.e. indices and absolute prices) have been collected by Eurostat for many years on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement. Although the level of compliance is high, there is an opportunity now to rationalise this domain and give more sustainability to these data which are very much used by AGRI and now also a component of the Food Price Monitoring Tool.

Eurostat with the Working Party and SCAS/CPSA considered developing a formal gentlemen's agreement (ESS agreement) to stabilise the collection of data on agricultural land prices and rents, and start responding to policy needs while the draft Council and Parliament Regulation would be prepared. However, while most Member States were ready to supply data according to a common methodology, some of them considered that an ESS Agreement would not be adequate to develop these statistics. Thus Eurostat is now exploring the drawing up of a Commission Regulation as a transitional measure in accordance with the regulatory procedure referred to in Article 27(2) of Regulation 223/2009.

As the National Accounts Unit in Eurostat is currently developing a compilation guide on the estimation of land value, it is decided to add a chapter to this guide on agricultural land which would reflect the common methodology previously elaborated and approved by the Working Party on Agricultural Accounts and Prices.

Finally, a feasibility study of legislation to cover all agricultural price statistics would be carried out in the framework of the overall strategy for agricultural statistics launched in forthcoming years, which includes in particular:- the launch of the feasibility study in 2014, a transitional period covered by a Commission Regulation for 2015-2017 (reference years 2014-2016), and a framework Regulation of the Council and European Parliament in force from 2017 onwards.

An exchange of views amongst some members took place in the 52th meeting of the ESSC Partnership Group and the following issues were raised:-

a) Eurostat underlined that the methodology to be used for the elaboration of statistics on agricultural land prices and rents would be based on concepts and definitions to be integrated in the compilation guide on land value estimation, currently being developed by the National Accounts Unit. Additionally, further investigations would be made during the feasibility study scheduled in 2014 and the preparation of the legislative framework for data collection in forthcoming years.

b) Concerning a Commission Regulation for the transitional period, and a Council and Parliament Regulation for the medium term, Eurostat believes that this approach would ensure sustainable data collection and enable the production of high quality data for the European Union. The appropriate solution seemed to be the development of a legislative framework, first as a direct action for three years and subsequently by a Council and Parliament Regulation on agricultural prices as a whole.

c) For the decision-making, according to Eurostat, the following roadmap could be envisaged:-

- confirmation and possible adjustment of the common methodology in close cooperation with the National Accounts Unit, before the end of 2014;
- continuation of on-going co-financing pilot projects with several volunteer countries in the period 2014 to 2015;
- a feasibility study of the proposed legislation, to be carried out in 2014;
- implementation of a Commission Regulation for a three-year transitional period from 2015 to 2017, providing data referring to 2014, 2015 and 2016; following the submission of a draft text to the SCAS/CPSA meeting of November 2014 with a view to its adoption by the ESSC in February 2015; and
- a Council and European Parliament Regulation in force from 2017 onwards (providing data for years starting with 2017) following the submission of a text to the Council in 2016.

Annex II – Summary of screening exercise of agricultural statistics

Summary of synergetic variables between the FSS and the following surveys:		CS - crop statistics AS - animal statistics EEA - Economic Accounts for Agriculture	
FSS		***Survey***	***Comments***
Common wheat and spelt	ha	CS	
Durum wheat	ha	CS	
Rye	ha	CS	
Barley	ha	CS	
Oats	ha	CS	
Rice	ha	CS	
Potatoes	ha	CS	
Sugar beet	ha	CS	
Tobacco	ha	CS	
Hops	ha	CS	
Rape and turnip	ha	CS	
Sunflower	ha	CS	
Soya	ha	CS	
Linseed (oil flax)	ha	CS	
Hemp	ha	CS	
Flowers - outdoor	ha	CS	Evaluation of the quality (for inventory purposes) of the figures from the two data sets need to be done
Flowers - under glass	ha	CS	Evaluation of the quality (for inventory purposes) of the figures from the two data sets need to be done
Forage plants - temporary grass	ha	CS	Temporary grasses
Forage plants - other green fodder - green maize	ha	CS	
Kitchen gardens	ha	CS	
Permanent grassland and meadow - total	ha	CS	
Permanent grassland and meadow - pasture and meadow	ha	CS	
Permanent grassland and meadow - rough grazings	ha	CS	
Fruit and berry plantations - nuts	ha	CS	
Citrus plantations	ha	CS	
Olive plantations - total	ha	CS	
Olive plantations - table olives	ha	CS	
Olive plantations - oil production	ha	CS	
Vineyards - total	ha	CS	
Vineyards - other wines	ha	CS	
Vineyards - table grapes	ha	CS	
Vineyards - raisins	ha	CS	
Permanent crops under glass	ha	CS	Evaluation of the quality (for inventory purposes) of the figures from the two data sets need to be done
Wooded area	ha	CS	
Cattle		AS	Bovine animals; In livestock statistics, buffaloes are accounted separately in two categories (breeding females, other)
Bovine under one year old - total	heads	AS	3 sub-categories (for slaughter, other male, other female); ~ Excluding buffaloes.
Bovine under 2 years - males	heads	AS	~ FSS label should indicate also "but not under 1 year". Excluding buffaloes.
Bovine under 2 years - females	heads	AS	2 sub-categories (for slaughter, other); ~ Livestock statistics exclude females having calved. Excluding buffaloes.
Bovine 2 years and older - males	heads	AS	~ Excluding buffaloes.
Heifers, 2 years and older	heads	AS	2 sub-categories (for slaughter, other)~ Livestock statistics include females under 2 years having calved. Excluding buffaloes.
Dairy cows	heads	AS	~ Livestock statistics include females under 2 years having calved. Excluding buffaloes. Including cull dairy cows.
Bovine 2 years old and over - other cows	heads	AS	~ Excluding buffaloes. Including draught cows.
Sheep - total	heads	AS	
Sheep - breeding females	heads	AS	2 sub-categories (dairy/other); Including ewe lambs put to the ram
Sheep - others	heads	AS	Excluding ewe lambs put to the ram
Goats	heads	AS	
Goats - breeding females	heads	AS	2 sub-categories (having already kidded/mated for the first time); Including goats which have been mated
Goats - others	heads	AS	Excluding goats which have been mated
Pigs	heads	AS	
Pigs - piglets under 20 kg	heads	AS	
Pigs - breeding sows over 50 kg	heads	AS	4 sub-categories; Including gilts not yet covered
Pigs - others	heads	AS	5 sub-categories
V. (i) Farm work of the holding		EAA	Under EAA, data on ALI (1000 AWU) are collected every year. These data are broken down by salaried and non-salaried ALI. In most MS the main data source is FSS and in between the LFS. The coverage of LFS is not satisfactory, therefore the data are extrapolated and often updated when new data from FSS are available.
VI.(i) List of other gainful activities		EEA	Under EAA, value data on secondary activities non agricultural non separable are transmited every year, but no clear distiction by type of activity is made.

Annex III: Summary of comparison between FSS, FADN, Crop statistics, Livestock statistics and Permanent crops

	FSS	Crop survey	Livestock survey	FADN	Permanent crop
Reference period	Reference period - land characteristics: period of 12 months ending on a reference day between 1 March and 31 October. Refefence period - livestock characteristics: reference day between 1 March and 31 December	Harvest year (means the calendar year in which the harvest begins)	May/June and November/December	Annual survey (january to december)	First reference year 2012 (excluding vines for purpose other than for the production of table grapes). 2015 for vines for purpose other than for the production of table grapes.
Coverage	Coverage for UAA: Exclude the smallest agricultural holdings which together contribute 2% or less to the total utilised agricultural area axcluding common land. Coverage for LSU: Exclude the smallest agricultural holdings which together contribute 2% or less to the total number of farm livestock unit	Representative of at least 95% of: utilised agricultural area, total area under cultivation of crops from arable land, total harvested area of vegetables, melons and strawberries, total production area of permanent crops.	Cover agricultural holdings for at least 95% of the total number of farm livestock unit	FADN survey covers only those farms exceeding a minimum economic size so as to cover the most relevant part of the agricultural activity of each EU MS i.e. least 90% of the potential agricultural production covered in the FSS.	Statistics to be provided for apple trees (dessert and industrial procsing), pear trees (desert and industrial processing)apricot trees, peach trees, orange trees, citrus trees, lemon trees, olice trees, vines intended for the production of table grapes, shall be representative of at least 95% of the total planted area in holdings produsing entirely or mainly for the marlet. The statistics for vines for purposes other than for the production of table grapes shall be representative for the data avaliable in the vineyard register.
Scope	Structural indicators on farms	Quantification of marketable production and yield	Quantification of marketable production	Structural and accountancy data relating to farms.	Structural statistics on permanent crops.
Geographic level	NUTS 2. Exception for NUTS 2 regions with fewer than 10 000 holdings - NUTS 1	NUTS 2. Exception NUTS 1 for DE and UK	NUTS 1 and NUTS 2. Exception NUTS 1 for DE and UK	Agricultural holdings are representative of NUTS 2 level. (ex.for 2007,the sample consists of approximately 81000 holdings in the EU-27 which represent 5.4 milion farms(39%) out of a total od some 14 million farms included in the FSS.)	NUTS 1 for species and regional breakdown. NUTS2/NUTS 3 for wine-grower holdings by type of production. NUTS 1/NUTS 2 for wine-grower holdings by degree of specialisation and size classes.
Time aspect	More than one year delay between collection and publication	Few months delay between collection and publication	Few months delay between collection and publication	Publication:15 months from the end of an accounting year.	2012 and every 5 years thereafter (excluding vines for purpose other than for the production of table grapes) 2015 and every 5 years thereafter for vines for purpose other than for the production of table grapes
Data users	DG Agri (main user) , DG Environment, DG Clima, JRC,	DG Agri and otters EU public services, EU institutions, decision makers, researchers, Unions	DG Agri…	DG Agri…((EIARD,EFARD,ERA-ARD ,GFAR)?)	DGs, ENTR, AGRI, REGIO, SANCO, ENV, ENTR, industry…
Purpose/aim	Support of CAP, updating the basic registers of agricultural holdings, information required for the stratification of sample survey, development of agri-environmental policy	Design follow up and evaluation of public political measures (mainly CAP), follow up and management of the agriculture commodity markets (mainly at EU and country level), etc.	Support of CAP…	To monitor the income and business activities of agricultural holdings and to evaluate the impacts of the common agricultural policy.	Structural statistics on permanent crops must be avaliable to ensure that the production potential and the market situation can be monitored. Statistics on permanent crops are esential for management of the markets at Union level.
Stratification of the sample	Statistical survey based on stratified random sampling which are disigned to provide representative statistics concerning agricultural holdings at regional and national level. The stratification shall include the size and type of agricultural holdings to ensure that agricultural holdings of different sizes and types are adequately represented.	MS conducting sample surveys shall ensure that the data meet precision requirements: 3% coefficient of variation for the area under cultivation for each of the following groups of main crops: cereals for the production of grain (including seed), dried pulses and protein crops for the production of grain (including seed and mixtures of cereals and pulses), root crops, industrial crops and plants harvested green.	As defined in article 2 of regulation 1166/2008	The returning holdins should be distributed among the various divisions and the varius categories of holdings on the basis of a stratification of the field of survey based on the Community typology for agricultural holdings as established by Commision regulation No.1242/2008	Holdings can be excluded if they are of less than 0.1h if their cumulated area represents less than 5% of the total planted area of the individual crop.The statistics for vines for purposes other than for the production of table grapes shall be provided using the data avaliable in the vineyard register(implemented in accordance with R.1234/2007 for all the holdings included n this register as degined in R.436/2009). The area of combined crops should be distributed between the different crops in proportion to the area of ground theu accupy.
Treatment of common land	Yes (common land has to be included in UAA)	In principal yes (for UAA land use)		No(?)	No

	FSS	Crop survey	Livestock survey	FADN	Permanent crop
Sinergetic characteristics with FSS	Total 198 FSS characteristics	35 synergetic characteristics with FSS	16 sinergetic characteristics with FSS. Bovine animals, buffaloes are accounted spartely in two categories (breeding females and other). For pigs 4 and 5 sub-categories.	28 characteristics - partially overlap. FSS characteristics are more detailed.Ex.FADN characteristics:cereals-total, vegetables and flowers…FSS: cereals are divided on wheat, rice, maize...)	Partially ooverlap on 8 characteristics. Permanent crop characteristics are more detailed(include species,breakdown,density classes). FSS units/categories are ha, permanent crop units/categories are trees.FSS: Fruit of temperate climate zones(ha). Permanent crop: apple trees, pear trees, apricot and peach trees.

	Crop survey	Livestock survey	FADN	Permanent crop
1	Common wheat and spelt	Bovine under one year old - total	Total Utilised Agricultural Area	Apple trees
2	Durum wheat	Bovine under 2 years - males	Rented U.A.A.	Pear trees
3	Rye	Bovine under 2 years - females	Cereals	Apricot trees
4	Barley	Bovine 2 years and older - males	Energy crops	Peach trees
5	Oats	Heifers, 2 years and older	Vegetables and flowers	Orange trees
6	Rice	Dairy cows	Vineyards	Small citrus fruit trees
7	Potatoes	Bovine 2 years old and over - other cows	Permanent crops	Olive trees
8	Sugar beet	Sheep - total	Olive groves	Table grapes
9	Tobacco	Sheep - breeding females	Orchards	
10	Hops	Sheep - others	Forage crops	
11	Rape and turnip	Goats	Woodland area	
12	Sunflower	Goats - breeding females	Protein crops	
13	Soya	Goats - others	Potatoes	
14	Linseed (oil flax)	Pigs - piglets under 20 kg	Sugar beet	
15	Hemp	Pigs - breeding sows over 50 kg	Oil-seed crops	
16	Flowers - outdoor	Pigs - others	Industrial crops	
17	Flowers - under glass		Citrus fruit	
18	Forage plants - temporary grass		Olives & olive oil	
19	Forage plants - other green fodder - green maize		Forage crops	
20	Kitchen gardens		Total livestock units	
21	Permanent grassland and meadow - total		Dairy cows	
22	Permanent grassland and meadow - pasture and meadow		Other cattle	
23	Permanent grassland and meadow - rough grazings		Sheep and goats	
24	Fruit and berry plantations - nuts		Pigs	
25	Citrus plantations		Poultry	
26	Olive plantations - total		Machinery	
27	Olive plantations - table olives		Fertilisers	
28	Olive plantations - oil production		Crop protection	
29	Vineyards - total			
30	Vineyards - quality wine			
31	Vineyards - other wines			
32	Vineyards - table grapes			
33	Vineyards - raisins			
34	Permanent crops under glass			
35	Wooded area			