Standard Summary Project Fiche

IPA decentralised National programmes

Project number: TR 07 02 25

1. Basic information

1.1 CRIS Number:

1.2 Title: Strengthening the statistical capacity of the MARA (the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs)

1.3 Sector: Statistics

1.4 Location: Turkey

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Implementing Agency:

The Director of the CFCU will act as Programme Authorising Officer (PAO) of the project. His contact details are:

Mr. Muhsin ALTUN
Programme Authorising Officer – CFCU Director
Central Finance and Contracts Unit
Phone: +90 312 295 49 00
Fax: +90 312 286 70 72
E-mail: muhsin.altun@cfcu.gov.tr
Address: Eskişehir Yolu 4.Km. 2.Street. (Halkbank Kampüsü) No:63 C-Blok 06580 Söğütözü/Ankara Türkiye

1.6 Beneficiary (including details of SPO): MARA

Contact details of the Senior Programme Officer:

Mr. Gazi KAYA
Head of the Information Systems and Evaluation Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Eskişehir Yolu 9. Km Lodumlu – ANKARA / TURKEY
Tel : +90 312 287 33 60
Fax: +90 312 285 69 37
E-mail: gazi.kaya@tarim.gov.tr

Beneficiaries of the project is MARA

1.7 Overall cost: € 1,150,150
1.8 EU contribution: € 1,100,150
1.9 Final date for contracting: 2 years after the signature of the FA
1.10 Final date for execution of contracts: 4 years after the signature of the FA
1.11 Final date for disbursements: 5 years after the after the signature of the FA

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:
To contribute to the harmonization with the acquis on statistics, particularly by improving the capacity at selected data providers other than TURKSTAT.

2.2 Project purpose:
Improved quality of the statistical data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA
Accession Partnership (AP) priority:
Council Decision of 23 January 2006 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Turkey (2006/35/EC)

Under the SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES
"Reinforce the strategy for the development of statistics in particular in priority areas, such as: demographic and labour market statistics, regional statistics, business statistics (including Business Register) and agricultural statistics."

Under the MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES
"Intensify the use of administrative sources for data collection."

NPAA Priority:
NPAA (Official gazette dated 24 July 2003, No 25178 bis)
Priority 12.16 Agricultural Statistics

"Statistics on structure and typology of agricultural holdings, viticulture, fruit growing, crop production, other agricultural statistics, animal production and fisheries will be compiled in compliance with the respective EU legislation."

In 2005 Regular Report, under Chapter 18: Statistics:

"Substantial efforts are needed to progress towards overall alignment with the acquis in all main areas for statistical development (business statistics, social statistics, agricultural statistics and macro-economic statistics, trade statistics, regional statistics and environment statistics)."

In 2006 Regular Report, under Chapter 18: Statistics:
“Development regarding the business register, and statistics on business, public finance, and agriculture, as was as the national accounts, is at an early stage.”

The accession negotiations on Chapter 18: Statistics has started as of 26 June 2007, with the following closing benchmark:

“Turkey submits a detailed description on progress made in setting up the farm register and on foreseen methodology and organisation set-up used for the collection of statistics, as well as relevant statistics.”

2.4 Link with MIPD

Transition Assistance and Institution building”, section 4. Main Priorities, sub-section “Transposition and implementation of the acquis”

Institution Building support may also be provided to the acquis chapters: Statistics (demographic, labour market, regional, agricultural and business statistics).

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

9th Development Plan:

Problems related to the quality and quantity of agricultural statistical data will be eliminated through the consolidation of different information collecting and processing.

2.6 Link with national/sectoral investment plans (where applicable)

Not Applicable

1. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

In Turkey, agricultural production statistics (crop production, vegetables-fruits, etc.) are collected via the local districts of MARA and shared with TURKSTAT (the Turkish Statistics Institute). Estimation meetings for each production period are being held three times a year with the participation of MARA, TURKSTAT and several organizations and institutions. In addition, animal statistics, agricultural machinery statistics are shared with TURKSTAT with an anonymous method as well and published by TURKSTAT.

MARA plays a key role in all stages of the agricultural statistics process and has an advantage of possessing a broad provincial and regional organization with 81 provincial offices and 822 district offices. The reform of agricultural statistics in Turkey and the process of the EU alignment require MARA to strengthen its institutional management of agricultural statistics.

However, MARA staff’s knowledge about statistical methods and survey management and specific methodologies of the EU agricultural statistics system is still limited. Extensive knowledge of methods applied for statistical and policy oriented analysis of data is crucial for
preparation of policy reforms within the overall economic reform process and EU rapprochement. So, the human resources of the MARA in central and provincial offices need to be improved. This aim will be achieved by both increasing the number of staff working solely on statistical issues and with their training. In addition to the technological developments, human capital should be given more attention to improve the quality of agricultural statistics. Therefore, strengthening the human resources at the Ministry is of vital importance for the success of this project.

The need for verifying data by spot checks on the field to get more reliable information on some major crops (wheat, maize, and olive) is evident. However, the absence of appropriate verification methods (crop cutting, whole enumeration, remote sensing etc.) impedes data quality.

Agricultural statistics are mentioned as benchmark for the Agriculture chapter Priority 12.16 Agricultural Statistics in NPAA says that statistics on structure and typology of agricultural holdings, viticulture, fruit growing, crop production, other agricultural statistics, animal production and fisheries will be compiled in compliance with the respective EU legislation.

Under this project which aims at improving the agricultural statistical infrastructure of MARA, the coordination between the Ministry, the NGOs, producer associations and other government organizations is essential.

In order to establish good contacts with the farmers and to obtain the relevant data from those farms, the Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture (TZOB) will be a vital instrument. Likewise, with an aim to get the precise number of olive trees in the selected provinces by the end of the survey, coordination with Union of Turkish Agricultural Sales Cooperatives such as TARIS will be useful in order to get in touch with the olive producers. Moreover, experts from statistical departments of universities will participate in the training component of the project.

It is technically possible to merge the existing databases at MARA. However, further studies are needed to improve efficiency. In this context, the project will be a path of development of agricultural statistical infrastructure of MARA. Accordingly, MARA will be able to collect more reliable data. Afterwards, the statistical systems such as National Farm Registry System, TURKVET, organic farming database, green house database, fisheries information system, seeds database, FADN will be further integrated with TURKSTAT and harmonized with EU standards.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

By the end of the project, MARA staff will be competent in the field of agricultural statistics system and survey design. Hence, this will be used for the future surveys and data collection in line with the EU standards and more accurate data will able to be collected. On the other hand, the impact of the project is not confined with the staff of the Ministry. Statistical data is vital for every sector to achieve progress. This aim can be managed through qualified survey designs and statistical knowledge. In order to improve the agricultural sector by using efficient agricultural policies, agricultural statistics need to be accessible and reliable.
Afterwards, such data can be used while forming a credible frame of reference for the sector.

In addition, academic world requires reliable data. Academic reports can be used to draw a map prior to the establishment of new policies for the agricultural sector. Hence, every segment of the agricultural community will benefit from this project.

Within the project, a number of MARA personnel will be dedicated to work solely on statistics and these staff members will be trained about the statistical methods and agricultural statistics. The capability to be achieved will be permanent. The knowledge gained will be further improved by conducting future surveys in coordination with TURKSTAT. Besides, spillover effects will emerge as a result of the activities on the training of trainers in the project.

MARA staff will extend their knowledge and experience during the implementation of the project.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

**Result 1**: Coordination between MARA and TURKSTAT has been improved within the project: In order to establish a powerful coordination, educated staff has been dedicated to the statistical issues within the Ministry.

The achievement of this result is indicated by

- An Action Plan (on the integration/consolidation of existing data collection systems (FADN, IACS, etc) the rationalization of internal organizational structures including assigning a department as in charge of statistics at the MARA, activities to improve the coordination with TURKSTAT, the identification of training areas, setting the responsibilities of MARA and other relevant institutions providing agricultural data) has been prepared in collaboration with MARA and TURKSTAT

- Monitoring and maintaining of the Agricultural Statistics System in compliance with the EU requirements.

- TURKSTAT approval of the produced agricultural data

**Result 2**: Knowledge of MARA staff has been improved on survey design and collection of more reliable data in line with the EU methods

The achievement of this result is indicated by

- 37 persons (centre and local offices of MARA) have been trained

- A census for whole enumeration of olive trees in İzmir and Manisa has been designed by the MARA staff at the forth quarter of 2009.

- The approval of this survey design and its outputs by TURKSTAT

**Result 3**: New methodologies have been introduced.

At least 100 persons worked on the early estimation of yield, in particular for maize and wheat in Konya and Adana during the project. This group may include the persons who are working on agriculture (agricultural input distributors, agricultural irrigation unions etc.), as well as regional staff of MARA.
Early estimation will be mainly conducted by MARA staff and these groups will help early yield estimation by using a small questionnaire. This early estimation of project groups will be used in cross checking of yield data as an alternative information source. The sustainability of future early estimation activities will be ensured by MARA.

Existing data collection methods have been replaced by objective, new methods

The achievement of this result is indicated by

- 100 persons from two provinces have been trained
- The number of questionnaires filled in
- The number of data has been collected by new sampling survey techniques (crop cutting)

3.4 Activities:
Activity 1: For the training of MARA staff on the statistical system of EU, survey design and several special methods (crop-cutting, whole enumeration of olive trees in selected provinces) of EU agricultural statistical system, data collection to get the total number of olive trees in the selected provinces. Service Contract for TA and Data Collection

Activity 2: For purchasing basic hardware and software. Supply Contract, 75% EU support, 25% co-financing

Activity 3: During the project, groups will be established and early estimation of yield information will be obtained in selected districts (Adana, Konya), in particular for maize and wheat.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:
The success of the project largely depends on the coordination between MARA and TURKSTAT.

The Contracting Authority shall request TURKSTAT’s written opinion on the Terms of Reference for the service tender before launching the necessary procedures.

Contract Sequence will be as follows:

1. Service Contract for TA and Data Collection
2. Supply Contract, 75% EU support, 25% co-financing

3.6 Linked activities

FWC Request 2006/120479 Technical Support to MARA on Statistics

Final Report of the Project 2005 / 101022 “Assessment of Five Main Data Providers of the Turkish Statistical System”

DELTUR/MEDTQ/008-04 Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey

TR 05 03 16 Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey — Phase II (USST-II)
The project aims at supporting the improvement of the business Register System and business, social, demographic, tourism, agricultural, environmental and health statistics. The project has a training grant component, which enables the participants from Turkstat and other data providers, including MARA, to participate in training courses, study visits, working parties, conferences, and local meetings. The total budget of the training grant is €1,750,000.

**Phare 2005 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme**
This project provides a multi-beneficiary facility for the improvement of statistics in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey. Total project budget is €5,000,000, while €1,250,000 has been allocated for Turkey. Agricultural statistics is one of the intervention areas, in particular the improvement of quality of crop statistic, implementation of meat statistics, and implementation of statistics on subsistence and semi-subsistence farms. TURKSTAT and other data providers can benefit from the technical assistance activities and project related country work.

**IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary statistical cooperation programme**
The project has a total budget of €3,000,000. The IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary programme covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo, and Turkey. Workshops, study visits, seminars, training, and data collection surveys can be financed in the area of statistics, including agricultural statistics.

TURKSTAT and MARA are expected to benefit from the USST-II, Phare 2005 and IPA 2007 Multi-beneficiary programmes so that their staff can participate in workshops, study visits, seminars, and training in areas related to this project. Moreover, additional data collection surveys can be financed with these facilities, if necessary. Thus, above mentioned three facilities will have a complementary function to this project.

### 3.7 Lessons learned

The linked activities revealed that MARA staff has some deficiencies in the EU agricultural statistics methodology and there is need for improvement of institutional capacity.

Under the project of “Upgrading the statistical system of Turkey” carried out by TURKSTAT, a framework contract - “Technical Support to MARA on Statistics” was conducted in 2006. The project made a preliminary assessment on the agricultural statistical system in Turkey, the role of MARA in the system, data collection methods, institutional structure, and its organization. Some recommendations have been made to bring Turkish agricultural statistical system in line with EU requirements on the basis of these recommendations. This project has been built on the experience gained through this preliminary study and the recommendations submitted by the contractor.

The mission report on the EU agricultural statistical system, basic statistical methods and survey management has been attached to this project fiche as an annex.
### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>TOTAL PUBLIC COST</th>
<th>SOURCES OF FUNDING</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EU CONTRIBUTION</td>
<td>NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>% *</td>
<td>IB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract 3.1: Service Contract For Technical Assistance and Data Collection</td>
<td>950,150</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>950,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract 3.2: Supply Contract for basic hardware and software and office equipment</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,150,150</td>
<td>1,100,150</td>
<td>950,150</td>
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</table>

** compulsory for INV (minimum of 25 % of total EU + national public contribution) : Joint cofinancing (J) as the rule, parallel co financing (P) per exception

* expressed in % of the Total Public Cost
5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Start of Tendering</th>
<th>Signature of contract</th>
<th>Contract Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3Q/2008</td>
<td>3Q/2009</td>
<td>Q3 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract 3.2: Supply Contract for Hardware, software and office equipment</td>
<td>3Q/2008</td>
<td>4Q/2009</td>
<td>Q1 2010</td>
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</table>

Duration of the project is 17 months.

6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

6.1 Equal Opportunity
Not Applicable.

6.2 Environment
Not Applicable.

6.3 Minority and vulnerable groups
Not Applicable.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE
1. Log-frame in standard format
2. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter
3. Institutional framework
4. Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents
5. Details per EU contracts
6. List of equipment to be supplied
7. Mission Report by Peter PAULI
ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting period expires: 2 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement</th>
<th>Disbursement period expires: 5 years after the signature of the Financing Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logical intervention</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Source of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Overall objective** To contribute to the harmonisation with the acquis in statistics, particularly by improving the capacity at selected data providers other than TURKSTAT. | - Improved compliance with the acquis in related fields by the end of 2010  
- Progress in the collection of necessary data for the accession process in the selected areas of statistics by the end of 2010 | - Periodical review, assessment and reporting including independent monitoring and evaluation  
- Progress reports |  |
### Project Purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Purpose</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Source of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Improved quality of the statistical data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.. | - The number of data entered in statistical database increased significantly as of 2010  
- The accuracy of the data produced by MARA and sent to TURKSTAT and policy makers has improved | - Periodical review, assessment and reporting including independent monitoring and evaluation  
- Evaluation reports  
- Progress reports  
- Financial reports  
- Technical reports | - Commitment towards Turkish accession to EU continues  
- EU and government resources are available to support the new capacity in the longer term  
- Implementation of complementary project/s at national level |

### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators</th>
<th>Source of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Coordination between MARA and TURKSTAT has been improved | - Agricultural data is in line with TURKSTAT' requirements  
- An Action Plan has been prepared in collaboration with MARA and TURKSTAT  
- MARA identifies one of its departments/sections as in charge of statistics  
- An analysis made on the integration/consolidation of existing data collection systems at MARA | - Working group’s reports and minutes  
- Survey reports, Terms of reference for the whole enumeration  
- Terms of reference for purchasing technical equipments  
- Yield reports | - The Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of coordination between MARA and TURKSTAT is signed. |
2. MARA staff has improved their knowledge about survey design and collected more reliable data in line with the EU rules

- At least 100 MARA staff received training at central and local level.
- A census for whole enumeration of olive trees in İzmir and Manisa has been designed by the MARA staff at the forth quarter of 2009.
- Reliable data have been collected through the specific methods in selected provinces by end-2010

3. New methodologies have been introduced at MARA

- At least 100 persons, involved in group surveys for early estimation of yield especially for maize and wheat in Konya and Adana during the project.

- Questionnaires applied to olive producers
- Training programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

15
1. Establishment of working groups including both MARA and TURKSTAT staff in crop statistics mainly olive, maize and wheat and determination of training areas, program in cooperation with TURKSTAT

2. Training of MARA staff on the statistical system of EU, survey design and several special methods (crop-cutting, whole enumeration of olive trees in selected provinces) of EU agricultural statistical system.

3. Purchasing basic software and hardware

4. Formation of groups to collect data especially on early estimation of yield in selected districts

- Service contract for TA and Data Collection
- Supply Contract

950,150
150,000

- Trained staff do not leave the institution
- Staff are willing to participate

16
## ANNEX II: Amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project & Implementation Schedule (IPA contribution only)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>285,045</td>
<td>375,045</td>
<td>720,090</td>
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<td>1,005,135</td>
<td>1,100,150</td>
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</table>

### Components

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<th>Service</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P – Preparation  T – Tendering  C – Contracting  I – Implementation
ANNEX III: Institutional framework

MARA plays a key role in all stages of the agricultural statistics process and has an advantage of possessing a broad provincial and regional organization with 81 provincial offices and 822 district offices. This competent structure is effectively enough for the succession of the implementation of the project.

The Implementing Agency for this Project will be the Central Financing and Contracting Unit (CFCU), who will be responsible for all procedural aspects of the tendering processes, contracting matters and financial management (including payments) of the Project activities. CFCU works as a monitoring and supervision agency. CFCU will be responsible for financial implementation of the project, ensuring full transparency in financial transactions, management and reporting and will also monitor and supervise the project implementation. The director of the CFCU will act as Programme Authorising Officer (PAO) of the project.

The SPO of the project will be Mr. H.Gazi KAYA, Head of the Information Systems and Evaluation. His main responsibility is to maintain the co-ordination between the components of the project.

Strategy Development Board - the Information Systems and Evaluation Department will be the Project Management Unit (PMU) and will be responsible for assuring effective co-ordination of the project as well as monitoring and reporting during the implementation phase, and provide technical and administrative support for management. PMU is also responsible for implementing the project on behalf of MARA in close coordination with TURKSTAT. In addition, coordination with other public institutions such as, TARIS, TZOB, and universities will be ensured.

A Steering Committee will be established, which composed of the SPO, representatives from Information Systems and Evaluation Department of MARA, and representatives from TURKSTAT, and TZOB. The CFCU and the European Commission Delegation to TURKEY will participate in the steering committee meetings as observers.

The Steering Committee receives and comments all work plans and reports on the implementation of the project. The Steering Committee acts as adviser and arbitrator if any difficulties in program implementation are encountered. Appropriate reporting from meetings are established and disseminated by the Project Management Unit.

Each Steering Committee will meet at least four times a year and will be chaired by the SPO.

For monitoring of project management and activities, the beneficiary will prepare the monitoring reports and will submit them to the National Aid Coordinator (NAC).
ANNEX IV: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents

1. Accession Partnership (AP) priorities:
   *Council Decision of 23 January 2006 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Turkey (2006/35/EC)*

   Short-term priorities
   Medium-term priorities

2. NPAA Priority:
   NPAA (Official gazette dated 24 July 2003, No 25178 bis)
   Priority 12.16 Agricultural Statistics

3. In 2005 Regular Report, under Chapter 18: Statistics:

4. In 2006 Regular Report, under Chapter 18: Statistics:


6. Turkish Agriculture Law Numbered.5488 Dated 18.04.2006

7. Official Statistics Programme of TURKSTAT

8. 9th Development Plan:
ANNEX V: Details per EU contract

- **For TA contracts:** Contactor will support the Project Management Unit with adequate experts in the specialized areas for the activities related to the Technical assistance. These expertise areas will be clearly identified in the Terms of Reference of the TA team.

- **For Supply Contract:** Equipment is needed to implement and to support sustainability of the results of the project. It includes the procurement of basic hardware and software for the statistical units at MARA.

  The Ministry is planning to determine other statistics-related IT needs through a separate short-term technical assistance contract. This contract is expected to be financed by the Project Preparation Facility (PPF). Those IT needs, if and when they become ready, might be considered in the future programming exercises.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Summary</th>
<th>Units (days)</th>
<th>Unit cost (€)</th>
<th>Total cost (€)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1   Team Leader</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>262,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   Expert on statistical survey methodology</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>118,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   Expert on EU agricultural statistics</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>118,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expert on statistics</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
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<td>-----</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Other experts</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>Reimbursables</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Data collection fees</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Contingency</td>
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</table>

**Technical Assistance Total**

950,150

**Supply**

1 | 150,000 | 150,000

**Total Budget**

1,100,150

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**ANNEX VI: List of Equipment to be supplied (indicative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit price(€)</th>
<th>Price(€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal computer</td>
<td>For staff in the selected provinces</td>
<td>Standard PC, office software included</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebook</td>
<td>For staff in MARA Center and selected provinces</td>
<td>Office software included notebook</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>112,000</td>
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<td>Software</td>
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<td>Licensed Statistical Package program</td>
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<td>31,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A4 Printer</td>
<td>For staff in MARA Centre and selected provinces</td>
<td>42 ppm laser network printer</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Activity 3; EU Agricultural Statistical System, Basic Statistical methods and Survey Management

People met

Four missions were carried out by the expert. The first two missions focussed on training provision. In the list of people met, the trainees are not recorded. They can be found in the official documentation collected by MARA (Mrs Ulusoy).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Gazi Kaya</td>
<td>MARA</td>
<td>Department of Information Systems and Evaluation, Head of the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Vuslat Ulusoy</td>
<td>MARA</td>
<td>Department of Information Systems and Evaluation, Agricultural Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Güner Kaş</td>
<td>MARA</td>
<td>Department of Information Systems and Evaluation, Agricultural Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Yavuz Akova</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Agricultural Statistics Group Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Göktuğ Tamzalioğlu</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Team leader Crop Production Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Nihat Fidan</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Team leader Livestock Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Nilgün Egemen</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Team leader Agri-Environment, Supply Balance Sheets, EAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sevilay Alpay</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Team leader Agricultural Structures Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Aysun Karabulut</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Expert, Agricultural structures Statistics Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ali Ay</td>
<td>TURKSTAT</td>
<td>Team Leader Remote Sensing/Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Christian Böse</td>
<td>ECO-3</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Theo Wirtz</td>
<td>ECO-3</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of the missions

The basic tasks of this component as set out in the ToR were:

- Inform on the EU Agricultural Statistical System
- Explain Basic Statistical Methods
• Train in Survey Management

MARA’s management suggested to add “data quality analysis and verification” as a priority because MARA collects most of the data for current statistics but confrontation with other sources (e.g. from producers’ organisations) sometimes show discrepancies which are difficult to explain. This issue was addressed in the third mission and led in the end to the development of a project proposal to reconstruct the statistical process in MARA’s regional offices.
During the first two missions the three basic methodological issues were addressed in a series of training sessions with following titles:

- The EU Agricultural Statistics Information system
- Introduction to the National Accounts
- Introduction to the Economic Accounts for Agriculture
- A workshop around the “The statistical process” with; Requirements and elements around setting up and managing a survey in general and agricultural surveys in particular (Project management, Methodology, Register, Sampling, Questionnaire design, Instruction manuals, Field work, Data validation)
- The “old” (MARA) and “new” (TURKSTAT) survey approach

Lectures and other material can be found in the annexes to the mission reports.

The first three introductions mainly have a methodological character and focus on the links and synergies between global information systems. This is a prerequisite for everybody active in agricultural statistics.

The approach was to first paint the overall picture of the Agricultural Statistics Information system in the EU, which is the main responsibility of EUROSTAT although DG Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture in the EU, plays a very prominent role in that process. The second stage was to determine the place and role of the statistical information emerging from the system in the national economy, which is the domain of the National accounts (NA). To round up this cycle, the basic features and special position of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) in the system of NA was explained and the connection with data sources outside the statistical system such as the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), which is in a very early stage of development in MARA (see also Mr Böse’s section on this issue) and the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) which was sideways discussed in Mr Wirtz’s missions.

Two lectures were dedicated to the statistical process; one to project management in general the other one to the specific statistical issues in this process. A separate introduction focussed on the statistical analysis methods and techniques.

The overall observation is that the level of knowledge across MARA staff involved in statistics of the systems, techniques, methods etc. is highly unevenly distributed. This to a large extend is caused by the high frequency in staff changing.

It became apparent that, even though one unit is formally responsible for statistics, the statistical process in MARA is distributed over all its divisions and not in the most transparent way. In addition, the coordination between MARA and other institutions (e.g. TURKSTAT) was and is also not centralised. Due to this disintegrated and fragmented approach, many people are only sideways involved in the statistical process in MARA and only a few have a limited broader view on agricultural statistics. No one or no unit however, has the overall picture including national and international issues and developments (TURKSTAT, EUROSTAT, FAO, OECD etc.).

Addressing and resolving this issue will most probably boost the institutional setting as is the objective of activity 1 of this project but also the statistical, methodological and organisational know-how in MARA. On top of that, it will enable MARA to get a better grip on the whole
(internal) statistical process which will lead to a better positioning in the data analysis and interpretation and hence in negotiations around the data quality issue.

The discussion paper “MARA’s internal Statistical process and organisation” was produced, which presents the current situation and possible solutions.

The bottom line is that at present, each unit can independently from any central body carry out statistical data collection, analysis and distribution. The effects of this are:

- MARA’s 881 Province and District offices collect data (Crop, Livestock, Machines, Prices, etc.) and deliver to those who have a demand
- Other General Directorates (GD) also carry out surveys (e.g. Fishery)
- Each GD has its own internal and external “clients” from or to which they collect and/or provide information;
  - The MARA policy makers
  - The other MARA Units
  - TURKSTAT
  - Other ministries
  - Other bodies in Turkey
  - EUROSTAT
  - OECD
  - FAO
  - EC (Brussels)
  - Etc.

All this leads to complex and numerous data flows, which, as the following diagrams show are and can consequently not be monitored and controlled.
If MARA does not substantially reorganise its internal structures, it will miss the connection with national and international developments such as the new Law on statistics and the EU membership with its additional rules and requirements. New statistical systems such as Crop surveys, Livestock surveys, FSS and FADN are and/or will be (further) developed. Furthermore, administrative sources and databases will merge and integrate into powerful information sources (cf. IACS), partially replacing traditional statistical data collection and MARA has to play a leading role here.

This growing demand for timely and internationally harmonised and high quality data, using fewer resources can only be satisfied in a comprehensive information system in which MARA can play a vital complementary role. Hence, not modernising its internal statistical information system now, bringing it in line with common international practice, means losing more and more ground.

Hence, the question is not “does MARA need to reorganise?” but “how is MARA going to reorganise (today) to remain an important player in the domain of agricultural statistics?” The following figure is not a blue print, only an indication of the way in which one may think.
Apart from its internal reorganisation, the expert’s assessment is that also the statistical process as it stands now has to be revised. During the last two missions, in coordination with Mr Böse, an inventory was made of the whole current agricultural statistics programme in Turkey, MARA’s place in it and where MARA can play an additional role.

TURKSTAT is in the process of bringing its data collection methods in line with international (EU) regulation and methods. Via its USST-1 programme, the Farm Structure Survey, the Crop production survey and the Livestock survey for 2006 were carried out via interviewing on the farm (as a sample survey from a Farm register). Till to date this data part of the data collection (of Crop and Livestock) was an administrative estimation managed by the regional offices of MARA.

The idea was discussed to create a (EU funded) project at MARA, focusing on transforming/modernising the traditional statistical process in its 881 regional offices into the desired “new” TURKSTAT approach. In this way, existing resources can be used more efficiently and possibly combined with future TURKSTAT activities (via projects and/or its regular work programme).

A reorganisation of the MARA role in agricultural statistics first needs the awareness of the need for redesign at MARA leadership. A number of issues play a role regarding the reorganisation:

- the current organisational aspects; inside MARA, between MARA and the Regional offices and with TURKSTAT as an important player
- the organisational, financial and human resource consequences of a “new” organisation
the current statistical aspects; for each survey in the programme a detailed analysis and assessment of the state of play is required before being able to make any proposal for possible changes.

the consequences for the statistical process of each of the surveys; e.g. questionnaire design where (inter)national requirements must be respected; for instance frequency of observations, method of observation (panel, sample, expert etc), detail and timeliness.

training need assessment and training programmes concerning the statistical and technical capacity of the regional staff involved.

data entry and processing; e.g. who enters the data, who makes calculations and on what aggregate before transmitting it to the next phase (i.e. TURKSTAT)

is the current statistical programme (Annex 1) sufficient or can some of TURKSTAT’s programme (e.g. the recently developed Crop and Livestock survey under the USST-1 project) partially be covered.

All these and probably many more issues have to be dealt with prior to the decision when and how to implement them and cannot even be carried out in one big step and better be tested by a Pilot study; it is not unimaginable that more options are feasible.

Because much of the test work concerns practical fieldwork directly connected to the agricultural production cycle a project with a time span of 18 months was proposed; 12 months to follow all stages and steps during the agricultural year and a possible 6 months for analysis and final decisions. Due to the complexity and magnitude in terms of variety of products and the scale of agriculture in Turkey, it was proposed to select a target list of Crop products to be tested in a limited number of provinces to keep such a pilot manageable;

- early estimates via e.g. crop cutting or expert estimates
- final estimates via expert estimates or farm visits
- sown and harvested areas
- production, yield, losses
- commodities with different production cycles etc.
Conclusions

In EU Member States, the Ministry of Agriculture is the leading institute if it comes to decision making in agricultural statistics work programmes. However, the huge demand for agricultural statistics can often not entirely be covered by the statistical offices; not only in terms of number of surveys but also in detail, timeliness and frequency. Ministries of Agriculture therefore often play an active and important role in the actual data collection of regular statistics and this is not different in Turkey. MARA, with its network of 881 regional offices, collects national statistics data in different key agricultural statistics domains. At present, the statistical process is decentralised and distributed over practical all MARA’s Directorates. One unit is formally responsible for statistics, but because of the restricted mandate, huge workload and limited number of staff, even organising and coordinating the broader part of the work is hardly possible.

Upgrading of MARA’s know-how and capacity about and around the agricultural statistical process and systems is required but at present only an ad-hoc activity because no comprehensive sustainable strategy exists to tackle the issues mentioned here before. Via the training provided in this framework project component however, MARA staff involved realised and understood better their position in the national and international (agricultural) statistical process. This immediately resulted in a closer involvement in activities such as TURKSTAT’s USST-1 and 2 surveys and training component and EUROSTAT’s Working Party meetings on Agricultural statistics where the Ministries of Agriculture and the Statistical offices are represented. It is also a standard procedure that in the EC support programmes (PHARE, MEDSTAT) the participation to the meetings of both TURKSTAT and MARA representatives is financially covered. This cooperation automatically creates a closer work relationship, a common understanding and know-how with “education permanent” about the statistical process.

MARA’s additional request to focus on the quality of the data it collects and how to better respond to confrontations with results of similar information from other institutions, resulted in a separate activity which was closely linked to the task of Mr Böse. The root of the problem seems to be the way data is collected in the field (via MARA’s regional offices) and processed in MARA and solutions developed before more training on methods and analysis will be provided.

Recommendations

If MARA wants to play a key role in the statistical process as decision maker and data provider and/or user, it must focus first on creating a centralised, robust and well organised statistical department. Not all (in- and external) data collection and distribution has to or will be carried out here but all must be coordinated by one strong department. Too much information is collected and distributed on individual department level (of which there are plenty at MARA) without passing a central information point.

Only if MARA manages to bring all its statistical (and research) activities together in such a unit, which communicates and works in parallel and cooperation with TURKSTAT’s (Agricultural and Environmental Statistics Department) staff and international bodies, further training in the statistical process, data analysis and field application management is meaningful. If not, MARA’s position will gradually weaken and attempts to strengthen the institutional setting remain limited to cosmetic operations. To achieve this, a comprehensive long term strategy needs to be developed on short notice, which inevitably will require additional resources and a drastic and urgent reorganisation; of the internal structures and the actual data collection methods in its Regional offices.
All this is surely much more than only training in the statistical process, data analysis and field application management of MARA staff which need most definitely further attention. However, in this respect TURKSTAT could and should play an important role having received (and continues receiving) already much transfer of know-how under the USST-1 and other projects.

One important domain concerns the data collection method where the traditional field application method carried out by MARA is for a great deal up for modernisation while TURKSTAT faces budget constraints to continue with the “new” target methods developed under the USST 1 project.

Under the USST 1 project, TURKSTAT tested a direct survey method; interviews on the farms, selected via a sample from a register. Results are not available yet hence no comparisons with the traditional method can be made and conclusions be drawn yet. However, all institutes involved in the statistical process already expressed their wish to move in the direction of the more dynamic “on farm” data collection approach as future method. It is worth investigating if, how and to what extend, a special project could be developed to restructure the data collection methods in MARA’s (881) regional offices and bring it in where possible line with TURKSTAT’s “new” approach.

Not all issues can be tackled at the same time and MARA and TURKSTAT should consider putting together a comprehensive and robust project around this topic and request for financial support from the EC. It should aim at a period of 18 months covering a complete production cycle (12 months) followed by 6 months for evaluation and recommendations.