

# Survey on Small Agricultural Producers' Activity (SSAP)

Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS)

## 1. Contact Information

### 1.1. Responsible subdivision within NBS

Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division

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## 2. Metadata Update

### 2.1. Last certification of metadata

16.02.2018

### 2.2. Last update of metadata

16.02.2018

## 3. Statistical Presentation

### 3.1. General description

The statistical data regarding the agricultural activity of individual auxiliary households and farms holding land plots of up to 10 ha (hereinafter referred to as – small agricultural producers) are obtained based on questionnaires A, B, C and D – sample statistical surveys in such households and farms (SSAP), carried out in line with the Decision of the Republic of Moldova Government no. 619 dated June 30, 2000 on organization and implementation of sample statistical surveys regarding the agricultural activity of individual auxiliary households and farms.

The SSAP objective is to obtain authentic complex information regarding the activity of small agricultural producers, including:

- i) characteristics of the land sector
- ii) existence of livestock and poultry
- iii) volume of obtained production
- iv) structure of agricultural production use
- v) revenues incurred from agricultural activity
- vi) size and structure of consumption and expenses for agricultural production
- vii) existence of technique
- viii) embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, etc.

SSAP on agricultural production is carried out on quarterly basis (indicators I-III indicated above). Data on revenues and expenditures - (indicators IV-VIII) are developed and available on annual basis.

### 3.2. Concepts and definitions

#### 3.2.1. Definitions

**Small agricultural producers** – this category of producers includes population households and farms with land plots of up to 10 ha, registered in the established way, and the persons who were given parcels in the counterpart of shares of equivalent land, but did not register the household in the established way.

**Population households** – agricultural production produced by using the work performed by members of

the household (on the near house plots and gardens) to meet the needs for food products and other needs.

**Farms** – form of entrepreneurship activity performed by using the land plot and the patrimony in the private ownership or use of the farmer who deals with production, processing, and sale of agricultural production. This category of producers includes also the persons who were given land parcels in the counterpart of shares of equivalent land, but did not register the households in the established way. The volume of vegetal production for this category of producers includes only the global yield of the agricultural crops obtained on farmers' lands, excluding the production from the near house plots.

**Type of household:**

type 2 – if the household subject to the survey, besides the near house plot, also has land plot attributed as equivalent land share, regardless of the fact if the farm was registered or not in the established way.

type 3 – if the household subject to the survey has only near house a plot and gardens.

The volume of **agricultural production sale**, both: in natural and processed condition, is included in the sale of production through all the channels of the procurement enterprises and organizations, and on the market, etc.

The volume of **production stocks** includes all the production existing in the household by the end / beginning of the year, both – own and purchased production, production attributed as rent payment, production received through barter, production received as present, and other.

**Consumption and expenditures for agricultural production** include: the value of material resources procured during the current year for producing agricultural production, payment for services and works performed by other organizations (persons) (ploughing, harvesting, etc.), work remuneration for employed persons, contribution for social insurance and contribution for compulsory health insurance for employed workers, payment for land rent, fixed assets, animals, etc.

**Revenues related to agricultural activities** include: payments received from selling vegetal, animal and fish production (including from processed production sale); monetary revenues from renting out land, techniques, and other assets; revenues incurred from service provision and execution of works; amounts from sale of fixed funds of production and other goods, endowments and allowances issued from state budget means, related to agricultural production, as well as the amounts of credits (loans) taken for agricultural production needs and other revenues (compensations from insurance, fines, penalties, indemnities, and other).

### 3.2.2. Unit of measure

Data expressed in absolute values: area of land under ownership and use, sown area (near house plots and farmers' land) are presented in hectares and thousand hectares (th ha). Global yield is expressed in quintals, thousand quintals, and thousand tonnes (th t), average yield is expressed in quintals per hectare (q/ha), structure of agricultural production use – in percentage. Revenues and expenditures related to agricultural activity - in lei.

Some variables are expressed in units of measure (number of temporary employees – in person/day, existence and movement of agricultural technique – in units, etc.).

### 3.2.3. Computation formula

Average harvest of agricultural crops on the near house plots, quintals per 1 ha = (total harvest, kg / area, m<sup>2</sup>)\* 100

Average harvest of agricultural crops on farmers' land plots, quintals per 1 ha = total harvest, q / area, ha

Structure of sown areas, % = (sown area of one crop or groups of crops / total sown area)\* 100

Average sale price of agricultural products, lei per 1 kg= payments from sale, lei / sold quantity, kg

Milk average productivity (from one cow, goat), liters per day = produced milk, liters / total days in households

<p>Average productivity of eggs from one layer, pieces = obtained eggs / average number of layers</p> <p>Monetary revenues obtained from agricultural activity in average per household = obtained monetary revenues, lei / number of survey households</p> <p>Monetary revenues obtained from agricultural activity in average per 1 ha = obtained monetary revenues, lei / total area in use, ha</p> <p>Value of procured material means and paid-for services in average by a household = value of procured material means and paid-for services, lei / number of surveyed households</p> <p>Value of procured material means and paid-for services in average per 1 ha = value of procured material means and paid-for services, lei / total area in use, ha</p> <p>Annual data are calculated as arithmetic means of quarterly data, except for the data regarding the production volume, consumption and expenditure for agricultural production and revenue related to the agricultural activity.</p>
<b>3.3. Used classifications</b>
<i>Classifier of Ownership Forms in the Republic of Moldova</i> (CFP - <i>Clasificatorul formelor de proprietate din Republica Moldova, in Romanian</i> ): approved via the Decision of the Standards, Metrology, and Technical Supervision Department No. 276-st dated 04.02.1997;
<b>3.4. Scope</b>
<b>3.4.1. Sector coverage</b>
The sample statistical surveys in agriculture cover the activity of small agricultural producers.
<b>3.4.2. Statistical population</b>
<p>The scope of the sample statistical surveys in agriculture covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- population households dealing with breeding livestock and poultry and cropping plants on the near house plots and gardens, which are located within and outside the built-up area of the locality, attributed in line with art.11 (82) and 39 of the Land Code;</li> <li>- farms, as well as the persons who were given land parcels in the counterpart of shares of equivalent land (according to art. 12 of the Republic of Moldova Land Code and art. 2 of the Law on introducing changes and completing the Land Code no. 173-X.IV dated 22.10.98), but who did not register their agricultural farm in the established way<sup>1</sup>, with the agricultural area up to 10 ha;</li> </ul>
<b>3.4.3. Geographical coverage</b>
SSAP is carried out in the entire country, except for the localities from the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality.
<b>3.4.4. Time coverage</b>
SSAP data are available starting with 2001.
<b>3.5. Disaggregation level</b>
<p>SSAP data are <u>disaggregated</u> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- categories of producers;</li> <li>- geographical zones (North, Center, South,) in line with the RM Government Decision No. 514 dated May 10, 2007;</li> </ul> <p>If disaggregated data cover confidential information, they are not disseminated; they are aggregated at the minimum available level to ensure data confidentiality.</p>
<b>3.6. Dissemination frequency</b>
<p>Quarterly – data on land plots, existence of livestock and poultry, volume of obtained production</p> <p>Annually – data on size and structure of revenues, consumption and expenditures related to agricultural activity, structure of agricultural production use, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, etc.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Note: hereinafter referred to as farms

<b>3.7. Timeliness</b>
Quarterly – on the 45 <sup>th</sup> day after the reported quarter. Annually – April.
<b>3.8. Revision</b>
Data are final at first dissemination.
<b>3.9. Period of reference</b>
The period of reference for the data of the quarterly surveys on areas, existence of livestock and poultry, volume of obtained production, size and structure of revenues, consumption and expenditures related to agricultural activities, structure of agricultural production use, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, etc. is the beginning and end of the reported quarter, for the one-time survey of sown areas with agricultural crops in farms – according to the situation as of June 1, for the one-time survey on global yield obtained in farms – according to the situation as of December 1.

<b>4. Data Collection and Processing</b>
<b>4.1. Data source</b>
<b>4.1.1. Statistical surveys</b>
The survey regarding small agricultural producers (SSAP) is carried out by questioning the households subject to the survey in 106 villages selected based on sample statistical-mathematical methods.
<b>4.1.2. Administrative sources</b>
The data of the Republic of Moldova Land Cadastre are used, developed by the Land Relations and Cadastre Agency and the administrative data regarding the population of livestock and poultry held by households – supplied by the mayoralties of villages (communes), towns, and municipalities, on quarterly basis.
<b>4.1.3. Estimations</b>
Not applicable.
<b>4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey</b>
<b>4.2.1. Objective and background</b>
<p>SSAP is the only source for obtaining complex and authentic information regarding the agricultural activity of households and farms having in use land plots of up to 10 ha, including the characteristics of the land plot, existence of livestock and poultry, volume of obtained production, size and structure of consumption and expenditures for agricultural production, structure of agricultural production use, revenues obtained from agricultural activity, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, used of credits for extending production process.</p> <p>The SSAP methodological and organizational concept was developed with the technical assistance of the specialists from the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Government.</p> <p>SSAP practical organization and implementation in the field is performed by the National Bureau of Statistics through its territorial divisions/sections.</p> <p>There are 2 stages in carrying out the SSAP:</p> <p><u>I stage:</u> 2000 – 2003 – organization and implementation in line with the Republic of Moldova Government Decision No. 619 dated June 30, 2000 “On organization and conducting sample statistical surveys of agricultural activities in households and farms” according to the questionnaires A, B and C with quarterly/annual dissemination.</p> <p>The pilot survey was carried out in the second semester of 2000. The aim of the pilot survey was to verify and assess the tools and the organization in the field, as well as to test the electronic program for entering and processing the data obtained within the survey. Starting in 2001, the survey itself began.</p> <p>The sample of households selected for the survey was set using the method of sampling stratified in 3 extraction stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- extraction of mayoralties of villages (communes), which were selected with a probability</li> </ul>

proportional to the size of the indicator which serves as basis for selection – area of near house plots and of land plots attributed to the population as equivalent land shares;

- creation of the network of villages participating in the survey from the selected mayoralties;
- survey units – households and farms were selected with equal probability.

As a result, the survey network was created from 106 primary sampling units (PSU). The size of the base sample, according to questionnaire A, represents 2332 households; the households are surveyed during one year with quarterly rotation, the one-time surveys are carried out in June and December (questionnaires B and C) cover over 3 thousand households. A number of 106 interviewers and 11 controllers were employed to perform the works in the field.

II stage: to obtain complex information regarding the activity of the small agricultural producers, including the revenues and expenditures related to their agricultural activities, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, use of credits for extending production process, questionnaire D was developed in December 2003, followed by the pilot survey and continuous survey which started in 2004.

To obtain the given information from the sample frame of households (2332), used to monitor the agricultural production, a sample of 530 households was extracted. The sample included households which have only near-house plots, as well as households that have near-house plots and farm plots, and which participated during the year in the basic survey.

#### **4.2.2. Statistical unit**

The observation unit is:

- the population household
- the farm with an agricultural area up to 10 ha;

#### **4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey**

Within the quarterly base survey: questionnaire A – 2332 households, with the quarterly rotation of 14% of households; questionnaire D - 530 households, with their annual rotation. The one-time surveys: questionnaires B and C – over 3000 farms.

#### **4.2.4. Survey frequency**

The collection, processing, and generalization of centralized data regarding the small agricultural producers is performed on quarterly basis – regarding the areas, existence of livestock and poultry, volume of obtained production, size and structure of revenues, consumption, and expenses related to the agricultural activity, structure of agricultural production use, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force, etc. and annual basis regarding the sown areas with agricultural crops in farms – as of June 1, and the global yield obtained in farms – as of December 1.

#### **4.2.5. Data collection**

The data are collected from the households included in the basic survey and one-time surveys using the population questioning method; the interviews are performed by interviewers based on the respective tools (questionnaires, record keeping registries, authentic complex information regarding the agricultural activity, methodological norms on how to fill in the questionnaires and guidelines for interviewers). The questionnaires of the basic survey are filled in by the interviewers once per quarter based on the monthly data collected while visiting the surveyed households. The questionnaires of the one-time surveys (from June and December) are filled in while interviewing the households.

### **4.3. Processing and compilation of data**

#### **4.3.1. Data validation**

After receiving the survey data, they are subject to logical, arithmetical control and electronic processing. Data are verified and analyzed from their quality point of view, especially in relation to their internal coherence, temporal coherence, as well as coherence with other data.

#### **4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data**

The annual data on areas, existence of livestock and poultry, volume of obtained production, size and structure of revenues, consumption, and expenditures related to the agricultural activity, structure of agricultural production use, existence of technique, embedment of fertilizers, attraction of labor force are

calculated by summing up the quarterly data.
<b>4.3.3. Adjustments</b>
No adjustments are made.
<b>4.3.4. Quality assurance</b>
<p>The quality of statistical data is assured by observing the fundamental principles of official statistics approved by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in 1992 (and Statistical Commission/UN in 1994), as well as those set forth in the Republic of Moldova Law on Official Statistics.</p> <p>In its activity of producing statistical information, NBS pays huge importance to ensuring high quality of data. In this respect, a number of measures for quality assurance are carried out at every stage of the statistical process: organization of statistical surveys, collection, processing, and development of statistical information.</p> <p>Important efforts are undertaken to ensure the plenitude and quality of data presentation by the respondents included in the statistical surveys.</p> <p>Errors, inconsistencies, and suspicious data are brought to light so as to be verified and corrected.</p> <p>The primary data are verified and analyzed from internal coherence point of view (within the questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data from previous periods), with data of other similar units, as well as with data available from other statistical surveys and administrative data sources. The missing or inconsistent data are imputed, if needed.</p> <p>To ensure the quality of the primary data, meetings (seminars) are organized with respondents for explaining the definitions, the correct way to fill in the questionnaires, especially when they are modified or implemented.</p>
<b>4.4. Data accuracy</b>
<b>4.4.1. Non-response rate</b>
<p>The non-response rate is calculated according to the formula <math>r/n</math> where:</p> <p><b>r</b> – number of households which effectively participated in the survey; <b>n</b> – number of households selected in the sample.</p> <p>The non-response rate for SSAP does not exceed 1%.</p>
<b>4.4.2. Sampling errors</b>
Not applicable

<b>5. Comparability and Coherence</b>
<b>5.1. International comparability</b>
Survey is conducted according to European recommendations.
<b>5.2. Comparability over the time</b>
The main indicators regarding the agricultural activity of households (sown areas, gross harvest, average yield) are comparable fully with the data series from the previous years.
<b>5.3. Coherence with other statistics</b>
<p>The coherence of SSAP data with the data of the exhaustive surveys of the economic units based on statistical forms: “Areas sown with agricultural crops”, “Sown areas and global yield of agricultural crops”, “Livestock sector status”.</p> <p><i>Measurement difference:</i> information collected through exhaustive survey method refers (as period of reference) to the calendar date or calendar month, calendar year, while the data of the sample surveys refer to the calendar quarter.</p>

<b>6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)</b>
The NBS activity is based on respecting the Republic of Moldova Constitution, the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, other legislative and normative acts, NBS management decisions and



orders.

The Law on Official Statistics regulates the organization and operation of the unique system of official statistics, establishing the general principles for collecting, processing, centralizing, diminishing, and stocking statistical information (art.1).

Art. 5 of the Law provides that the production of statistical information is based on respecting the following principles: impartiality, objectiveness, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency etc.

Being the central statistical body, the National Bureau of Statistics is an administrative authority created under the Government for leading and coordinating the activity in the statistics area.

In line with the Government Decision No. 1034 dated 29.12.11 on approval of the NBS Regulation and the Nominal Composition of the NBS Collegium, the National Bureau of Statistics:

- develops alone or jointly with other central administrative authorities and approves the methodologies for statistical surveys, as well as the methodologies for calculating statistical indicators, in line with the international standards, especially the EU standards, and with the advanced practice of other countries, and taking into account the peculiarities of the social-economic conditions of the Republic of Moldova;
- organizes, in line with the Program of Statistical Work, approved annually by the Government, statistics surveys regarding the economic, social, and demographic situation and development of the country, carrying out collection, processing, centralization, stocking, and dissemination of statistical data;

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under About NBS (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&>)

## 7. Confidentiality

### 7.1. Principles

According to art. 19 of the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, producers of official statistics shall take all regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to protect confidential data and prevent their disclosure.

Chapter VII of the above-mentioned law stipulates that the data collected, processed and stored for the production of statistical information are confidential if they allow the direct or indirect identification of the respondents. ) The following shall not be considered confidential:

- a) data that can be obtained from publicly accessible sources according to the legislation;
- b) individual data on address, telephone, name, type of activity, number of employees of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs;
- c) data referring to public enterprises, institutions and organizations funded from the budget, submitted at the request of the public administration authorities.

According to the Law on Official Statistics, art. 20, access to confidential information is granted to the persons who, according to their official functions, participate in the production of statistical information shall have access to individual data in so far as individual data are necessary for producing this information.

The same article stipulates that the access to individual data, which do not allow the direct identification of respondents, may be given for scientific survey projects, whose expected results do not refer to identifiable individual units, under the regulation approved by the central statistical authority.

Art. 23 (5) of the Law stipulates that the the statistical information cannot be disseminated to users if it refers to 1-3 statistical units.

### 7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

To ensure the protection of confidential statistical data in compliance with the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, the National Bureau of Statistics undertakes all the regulatory, administrative, technical, and organizational measures to protect the confidential statistical information and prevent its

disclosure.

In compliance with the above-mentioned law, the employees of producers of official statistics, including temporary employees who, according to their official functions, have direct access to individual data shall be obliged to observe the confidentiality of these data during and after termination of employment.

Before being disseminated, the statistical data are verified if they meet the protection requirements set for confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p. 7.1), they are not disseminated, but aggregated at the minimum available level which ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

## **8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format**

### **8.1. Access to information**

#### **8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications**

Annually the Advance release calendar is developed by NBS.

#### **8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications**

The press release calendar is posted on the NBS official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md).

#### **8.1.3. Access to statistical data**

According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, art. 23:

- a) Producers of official statistics shall be obliged to disseminate the statistical information within the deadlines specified in the programme of statistical works and in the press-release calendar.
- b) The dissemination of statistical information laid down in the programme of statistical works to all categories of users shall be made free of charge and under equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and time of dissemination

The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under About NBS / legislative and normative acts (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&>)

The NBS web page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) represents the most important information source for ensuring users' access to different statistical information and transparency about the NBS activity.

All the operative information, informative notes, time series, as well as the statistical publications developed by NBS are placed on its official web page.

### **8.2. Dissemination format**

#### **8.2.1. Operative information / Analytical notes**

The operative information and analytical notes are published on the official page of NBS: <http://www.statistica.md> under Press Releases, according to the Press Release Calendar.

#### **8.2.2. Publications**

The publication on agricultural surveys' results are developed on annual basis:

- "Agricultural Activity of the Small Agricultural Producers in the Republic of Moldova (results of statistical survey)" – contains description of the main methodological principles for carrying out the survey, analysis of the received results, and tables for the entire country and by categories of surveyed producers, and diagrams.

Access to publications:

- in electronic format, on NBS official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under Publications <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=350&nod=1&>

#### **8.2.3. Databases/time series**

Time series on agriculture, including for the category of small agricultural producers, are placed on the official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under Statistics by themes / Agriculture

#### **8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations**

No questionnaires are sent.

#### **8.2.5. Requests for additional data**

NBS makes available for users additional statistical information beyond the data presented in the statistical



publications, informative notes, operative information, as well as the data placed on the official web page in the limits of available information, in line with the Law on Official Statistics. Request can be sent personally, by post, by e-mail or via online web form – [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) heading Products and services / Statistical data request [http://www.statistica.md/solicitare\\_informatii\\_statistice.php?l=en](http://www.statistica.md/solicitare_informatii_statistice.php?l=en)

## 9. Useful References (links)

### 9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The methodology is available on the official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) , under Metadata (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=351&nod=1&> ).

### 9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

The NBS assessment reports are available on the official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) , under About NBS / Assessments and Opinions on NBS / Assessment Reports (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739> ).

### 9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User surveys are available on the official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) , under About NBS / Assessments and Opinions on NBS / User Surveys (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2740> ).

### 9.4. Other useful references

IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	<a href="http://www.statistica.md/SDDS/?lang=en">http://www.statistica.md/SDDS/?lang=en</a>
EUROSTAT database	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database</a>
UNData database	<a href="http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx">http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx</a>
UN Economic Commission for Europe database	<a href="http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/">http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/</a>