

All-Russia Agricultural Census 2006

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The implementation of required organizational and methodological arrangements for agricultural census conducting is determined by the Mid-term Prospects Social-Economic Development Program of the Russian Federation (2002-2004), (2003-2005). According to the Russian Federation Government instructions № 1626-p (dated 10 November 2003) the census will be conducted in the year 2006.

1. All-Russia agricultural census conduction actuality

During the last decade significant changes took place in Russian agriculture. Among them there is mixed economy; new production structure which appeared because of deconsolidation of agricultural organizations; activation of individual sector and changes in property relations.

Along with development of new economic relations the reorganization of agriculture status statistical survey took place. Traditionally used by state statistics all-over survey method become inefficient because of high cost.

Nowadays one of the main directions of the statistics survey development is the wide usage of sampling method. In Russian Statistics sampling survey system has been used for 10 years regarding private (peasant) farms.

According to the international practice the agricultural censuses are organized every 5-10 years. This faces the recommendations of FAO and other international organizations. This is vital for proper quality and objectiveness of statistical information on agriculture.

All-Russia agricultural census will be conducted for the first time in decade. Last time similar work was organized in 1920. Later several single-purpose agricultural censuses were organized. Special attention should be given to crop sown area censuses of 1964, 1976, 1985, fruit and berries and vineyards censuses of 1984, all-category household censuses and cattle production censuses (January 1996). Almost all of the last censuses were conducted before the reforms in agriculture took place. Therefore it is vital to organize All-Russia census in the context of new economic conditions.

2. All-Russia agricultural census purposes and objectives.

All-Russia agricultural census is the large-scale event. At the moment there are approximately 25 thousands of large and medium agricultural organizations, 8 thousands of small enterprises, 264 thousands of private (peasant) farms, 16 millions of private household farms, 14.6 millions families which have collective and individual

kitchen gardens, more than 5 millions families which have plots for individual construction and other agricultural producers. All-Russia agricultural census will provide better quality of information on situation and tendencies in the agricultural development trends; structural changes connected with land reforms; role of each category of agricultural producers in formation of the country's food resources and other relevant issues.

This census organization will help to get detail characteristics of agricultural production. They will be used as a basis proportions when updating statistical indicators in the intercensal period. They will help to conduct the actualization of general totalities to organize sample surveys on small administrative entities.

The results of agricultural census will have important meaning for the effective policy development and formation of more complete information on food complex which is one of the parameter of economic security.

Agricultural census will be conducted in frameworks International round of agricultural censuses and in accordance with FAO and other international organizations recommendations.

During the preparation to Russian agricultural census the experience of USDA, National Statistical Offices of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania was studied.

3. Regulatory Provision of the All-Russia agricultural census

The preparation of the federal Law on All-Russia agricultural census is the key point of the census regulatory provision.

The adoption of the federal Law on All-Russia agricultural census will provide required regulatory base to conduct census and will help to regulate the relations appear during preparation, collection, processing, storage and dissemination of census materials.

According to the draft law all the relevant legal bodies are obliged to participate in the agricultural census irrespective of their organizational and legal status. For the citizens who produces agricultural products the participation in the census will be their public duty.

Draft law determines the list of data to be received from citizens during the census and also contains a rule on protection of primary data received from respondents during the All-Russia agricultural census conduction. There is also responsibility for confidentiality rules breaking for persons who provide preparation, collection, processing, storage and dissemination of census materials.

Draft law determines conditions, organizational and census conduction order of agricultural censuses; rights and duties of governmental, local authorities and respondents. One of the most important law sections determines delimitation of authority, terms of reference and duties of different level authorities (federal and regional executive and local authorities) in respect of organization and conduction of All-Russia agricultural census.

In separate section of law financing sources concerning preparation and conduction of All-Russia agricultural census, the census results preparation and publishing, expenses on salary for persons who collects data will be determined.

The draft law must be approved by ministries and than presented to the Government of the Russian Federation.

4. All-Russia agricultural census Program

According to the documents and recommendations of FAO in the census program indicators on structure, forms of ownership and usage of agricultural holdings, demographical characteristics of agricultural producers and employment in agriculture, sizes and structure of sown areas, livestock and poultry population, merchantability of agricultural production, availability of the machinery and equipment, construction, agricultural work, etc.

Statistical survey entity or objects of agricultural census are legal bodies owing agricultural plots or and (or) farm animals; individuals owing agricultural plots or and (or) farm animals.

The subjects of the census are the following agricultural producers:

- agricultural organizations
- the private (peasant) farm and self-employed entrepreneurs
- private household farms
- garden, kitchen garden, animal husbandry and country non-profit citizen communities

5. Pilot agricultural census

Pilot agricultural census is the preparatory stage of All-Russia agricultural census. It was conducted (from 1 till 25 of August 2004) in accordance with The Russian Federation Government order № 1626-p (dated 10 November 2003) in Briuhovetsky and Krimsky districts of the Krasnodar Territory, Partizansky and Shushensky districts of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Nizhnelomovsky and Shemisheysky districts of the Penza Region, Petrovsky and Pugachevsky of the Saratov region.

The aim of the pilot census is an examination of organizational and methodological principles of All-Russia agricultural census conducting. It also involves approbation of All-Russia agricultural census Program, determination of duration and information collection methods; wages conditions for the staff involved; toolkit testing and staff load measuring; data processing software development; cooperation with local authorities and internal affairs bodies.

For the purpose of the All-Russia agricultural census Program and Tool-Pack approbation in frameworks of STASYS project pilot surveys in the Moscow and the Belgorod regions were conducted in May 2004.

The main methodological and organizational principles on agricultural census conduction, recommendation on listing of agricultural producers, questionnaires for different agricultural producers, instructions on filling the questionnaires and other census tools were approved by Federal service of State Statistics. Also the program on regional statistics organizations staff and census employee training program was developed.

During the pilot agricultural census 4 types of questionnaires were used:

- agricultural organizations questionnaire - type 1
- the private (peasant) farm and self-employed entrepreneurs questionnaire – type 2
- private household farms and other individual households of population questionnaire – type 3
- garden, kitchen garden, animal husbandry and country non-profit citizen communities questionnaire – type 4

The developed indicators system provides information on all main characteristics of all agricultural producers. At the same time questionnaires contain distinctions of each category of households.

The different methods of data collection were used for different agricultural producers:

- in agricultural organizations the respondents filled the questionnaires themselves
- for other census subjects the general request method was used

At the moment we processing the results of pilot agricultural census using the method of machine readable questionnaire scanning. Methods of mathematic analysis and modeling will be used in the process of automatic data processing to provide procedure of the auto correction and imputation of statistical data.

The outcomes of pilot agricultural census will be used to improve organizational, methodology and technological issues of conducting All-Russia agricultural census 2006.