

Survey on Small Agricultural Producers' Activity (SSAP)

Metadata

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

1. Contact Information

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

28.02.2024

2.2. Last update of metadata

28.02.2024

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 1-SSAP, 2-SSAP and 3-SSAP – selective statistical surveys of small agricultural producers (SSAP) redesigned by developing a new sample (creation of the new network of surveyed centers - 90 localities in accordance with the Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova no.935 of 24.09.18, point 5) and the revision of questionnaires A, B, C and D from the previous selective statistical surveys and implemented in statistical practice starting with March 1, 2019.

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.

The survey according to 1-SSAP "Production and sale of vegetable production" is carried out three times a year, according to 2-SSAP "Livestock of animals and poultry, animal production obtained and sold" – quarterly. Data according to 3-SSAP on income, expenditure and structure of use of agricultural production are prepared and available on an 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 (thou ha). Global yield is expressed in quintals, thousand quintals, and thousand tones (thou 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, m²) * 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.

<p>Milk average productivity (from one cow, goat), liters per day = produced milk, liters / total days in households.</p> <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>
3.3. Used classifications
<i>Classifier of Ownership Forms in the Republic of Moldova</i> (CFP), approved via the Decision of the Standards, Metrology, and Technical Supervision Department No. 276-st dated 04.02.1997.
3.4. Scope
3.4.1. Sector coverage
The sample statistical surveys in agriculture cover the activity of small agricultural producers.
3.4.2. Statistical population
<p>The scope of the sample statistical surveys in agriculture covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - 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 way¹, with the agricultural area up to 10 ha.
3.4.3. Geographical coverage
SSAP is carried out in the entire country, except for the localities from the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality.
3.4.4. Time coverage
SSAP data are available starting with 2001.
3.5. Disaggregation level
<p>SSAP data are <u>disaggregated</u> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - categories of producers; - geographical zones (North, Center, South,) development regions (Chisinau, North, Center, South, ATU Gagauzia). <p>If disaggregated data cover confidential information, they are not disseminated; they are aggregated at the minimum available level to ensure data confidentiality.</p>
3.6. Dissemination frequency
<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,</p>

¹ Note: hereinafter referred to as farms

attraction of labor force, etc.
3.7. Timeliness
According to the deadlines foreseen in the Program of Statistical Works
3.8. Revision
Data are final at first dissemination. The data revision policy is in accordance with the Data Revision Policy, approved by NBS order no. 35 of 30.08.2022: https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/despre/planuri/Politici/Politica_revizuire_2022_en.pdf .
3.9. Period of reference
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.

4. Data Collection and Processing
4.1. Data source
4.1.1. Statistical surveys
The survey regarding small agricultural producers (SSAP) is carried out by questioning the households subject to the survey in 90 villages selected based on sample statistical-mathematical methods.
4.1.2. Administrative sources
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 mayoralities of villages (communes), towns, and municipalities, on quarterly basis.
4.1.3. Estimations
Not applicable.
4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey
4.2.1. Objective and background
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, attraction of labor force. SSAP practical organization and implementation in the field is performed by the National Bureau of Statistics through its territorial divisions/sections. The Small Agricultural Producers Survey (SSAP) is a permanent survey on an annual sample. The volume of the sample was calculated with a probability of guaranteeing the results of 95% and a representativeness error of 5%, ensuring representativeness at national level and by development regions: Chisinau municipality, North (excluding Balti), Center (excluding Chisinau), South and ATU Gagauzia. The sample base has as source the Statistical Register of Agricultural Producers, which in turn was created based on the 2011 General Agricultural Census. The sample design is probabilistic, in two stages. At the first stage, 90 Primary Sampling Units (PSU) were selected, these being administrative-territorial units of level II (cities and communes) in all 4 statistical regions. At the second stage, the households from each PSU selected in the first stage were selected randomly. Thus, the volume of samples for each component of the SSAP survey is as follows: for the survey according to the questionnaire 1- SSAP - 1890 households, 2- SSAP - 3240 households and 3- SSAP - 900 households. According to the sample volume, an interviewer received an average of 21 households

on the 1- SSAP questionnaire, 36 households on the 2- SSAP questionnaire and 10 households on the 3- SSAP questionnaire.
4.2.2. Statistical unit
<p>The observation unit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the population household the farm with an agricultural area up to 10 ha.
4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey
<p>Within the survey regarding the vegetal production - the questionnaire 1-SSAP -1890 households, with the annual rotation of 100% of the households; on animal production - questionnaire 2- SSAP -3240 households, with their annual turnover, on income and expenditure related to agricultural activity - questionnaire 3- SSAP - 900 households, with annual turnover 100%.</p>
4.2.4. Survey frequency
<p>The collection, processing and generalization of centralized data on the survey of small producers in agriculture is carried out 3 times a year - on the harvested areas, the volume of vegetable production obtained; quarterly - on the existence of animals and poultry, the animal production obtained and sold, the size and structure of incomes, consumptions and expenses related to the agricultural activity, the structure of the use of agricultural production, the attraction of labor force, etc.</p>
4.2.5. Data collection
<p>The collection of data from the households included in the survey is carried out by the method of questioning small producers by interview operators based on the respective instrument (questionnaires and methodological norms regarding their completion and the surveyor's manual).</p> <p>The completion of the survey questionnaires is performed by the interview operators based on the data obtained during the visit of the surveyed households (during the interviewing of the households).</p>
4.3. Processing and compilation of data
4.3.1. Data validation
<p>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.</p>
4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data
<p>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.</p>
4.3.3. Adjustments
<p>No adjustments are made.</p>
4.3.4. Quality assurance
<p>Quality assurance of statistical data is based on the compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, approved by the United Nations General Assembly on January 29, 2014, as well as stipulated in the Law of the Republic of Moldova on official statistics no. 93 of 2017.</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</p>

well as with data available from other statistical surveys and administrative data sources. The missing or inconsistent data are imputed, if needed.

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.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The non-response rate is calculated according to the formula r/n where:

r – number of households which effectively not participated in the survey; **n** – number of households selected in the sample.

The non-response rate for SSAP in average at country level:

The questionnaire 1-SSAP – 8%

The questionnaire 2-SSAP – 11%

The questionnaire 3-SSAP – 10%

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Not applicable.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

Survey is conducted according to European recommendations.

5.2. Comparability over the time

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.

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

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”.

Measurement difference: 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.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

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 accordance with Government Decision 935 of 24.09.2018 on the organization and operation of the NBS, the Bureau exercises the following tasks:

- 1) Coordinates the national statistical system on the development and production of official statistics;

- 2) Elaborates and implements strategies for the development of the national statistical system, annual and multiannual statistical programs;
- 3) Elaborates the normative and institutional framework necessary for the achievement of the strategic objectives in its field of activity, as well as the mechanisms for their implementation in practice;
- 4) Performs the management and control of the achievement in quality conditions of the programs and statistical plans adopted at central and regional level;
- 5) Harmonizes and aligns national statistical indicators, methodologies, methods and techniques with international regulations and standards;

Promotes the statistical culture in the society.

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page <https://statistica.gov.md/en>, under *About* (<https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html>).

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 Release calendar is developed by NBS.
8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications
The release calendar is posted on the NBS official page https://statistica.gov.md/en .
8.1.3. Access to statistical data
<p>According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, art. 23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under About / Normative acts (https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html).</p> <p>The NBS web page https://statistica.gov.md/en represents the most important information source for ensuring users' access to different statistical information and transparency about the NBS activity.</p> <p>All news releases, analytical reports, time series, as well as the statistical publications developed by NBS are placed on official web site.</p>
8.2. Dissemination format
8.2.1. News releases / Analytical reports
News releases and analytical reports are published on the NBS official web site: https://statistica.gov.md/en under <i>Media/News Releases</i> , according to the <i>Release Calendar</i> .
8.2.2. Publications
<p>The publication on small agricultural producers surveys' results "Agricultural Activity of the Small Agricultural Producers in the Republic of Moldova" are developed on annual basis and 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 small agricultural producers, and diagrams.</p> <p>Publication is accessible in electronic format on NBS official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under <i>Products and services/Publications</i> https://statistica.gov.md/ro/publications.</p>
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.gov.md , under <i>Statistics by themes/Economy and business/Agriculture</i> .
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, news releases, analytical reports placed on the official website, in the limits of available information, in line with the Law on Official Statistics. Request can be sent personally, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or via online web form – https://statistica.gov.md/en under: <i>Products and services / Statistical data request</i> : https://statistica.gov.md/ro/information_request .

9. Useful References (links)
9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology
The methodology is available on the official website https://statistica.gov.md/ro , under <i>Metadata and classifications / Reference metadata</i> (https://statistica.gov.md/en/metadata).
9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports
The NBS assessment reports are available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en , under <i>About/External assessments and user surveys/Assessment reports</i> (https://statistica.gov.md/en/assessment-reports-9930.html).

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User surveys are available on the official page <https://statistica.gov.md/en>, under *About / External assessments and user surveys / User surveys* (<https://statistica.gov.md/en/user-surveys-9933.html>).

9.4. Other useful references

IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	https://statistica.gov.md/en/prezentare-general-a-9865.html
EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
UNData database	http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx
UN Economic Commission for Europe database	http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/