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Forty-fourth plenary session
(Paris, 11-13 June 1996)

**THE FOURTH IWG.AGRI WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (BRDO, SLOVENIA, 11-14 OCTOBER 1995)**

Note by the ECE secretariat

1. The Fourth IWG.AGRI Workshop on Agricultural Statistics for Central and Eastern European Countries was held in Brdo, Slovenia from 11-14 October 1995. It was organized jointly by Eurostat, FAO, OECD and UN ECE. FAO played the focal point role. The workshop was attended by Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Sweden, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United States.
2. The provisional agenda was adopted.
3. Ms. B. Domaszewicz (Poland), Mrs. I. Orešnik (Slovenia) and Mr. A. González-Villalobos (FAO) were elected to co-chair the workshop.
4. Following the opening ceremony and the first plenary session for invited papers, participants were distributed into two Working Groups to allow for more detailed technical discussions of possible solutions to practical problems of agricultural statistics in transition countries. During the last day of the workshop two plenary sessions were held to summarize the conclusions and results of each Working Group.
5. The topics of the Working Groups were the following:

Working Group 1: Agricultural Censuses and Farm Registers. Agricultural censuses conducted on a complete enumeration basis; census and registers items (variables studied) and classifications; census frame; data

collection procedures; quality control methods; data processing, data analysis, presentation of results; and census/registers data dissemination.

Working Group 2: Agricultural production sample surveys. Livestock sample surveys and objective crop yield surveys; survey items (variables studied) and classifications; survey frame; survey design; data collection procedures; quality control methods; analysis of crop-cutting samples; data processing, data analysis, presentation of results; estimation and presentation of survey errors and data dissemination.

6. The discussions in Working Group 1 were focused on:
 - a) Census of agriculture in an integrated statistical programme:
 - (i) the place of the agricultural census inside the statistical system; (ii) frequency and timing of the census; (iii) link of agricultural census with population census.
 - b) Census objectives and scope: (i) what is the purpose of the agricultural census; and (ii) what items should be included.
 - c) Coverage, threshold, census frame: (i) coverage and threshold; (ii) use of different data sources for construction of the frame; (iii) test of the completeness of the frame.
 - d) Data analysis, presentation and dissemination: (i) levels of analysis; (ii) methods of data presentation and dissemination.

7. The discussions in Working Group 2 were focused on:
 - a) The general characteristics of the country concerning data collection of current agricultural statistics.
 - b) Data requirements.
 - c) The use of registers and censuses as sampling frames.
 - d) Updating of registers.
 - e) The definition of farm. Definition of minimum farm size.
 - f) Coverage of farms dedicated only to subsistence agriculture.
 - g) Multi-purpose versus specific purpose surveys for a single commodity.
 - h) Different types of surveys designs (area frame, list frame or multiple frame designs).
 - i) Type of segments used in the area frame designs.
 - j) Multiple frame designs.

- k) Sample size.
- l) Stratification procedures.
- m) Allocation of the sample to strata.
- n) Quality controls.
- o) Organization of field work. Different data collection procedures.
- p) Data processing.
- q) Problems of under coverage, missing data and updating of the sampling frames.
- r) Economic criteria to measure size and typology of farms.
- s) Bias in responses by farmers.
- t) Mail surveys.

8. The meeting thanked wholeheartedly the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the staff of the Statistical Office of Slovenia for hosting and smooth organization of the Workshop.

9. Detailed proceedings of the workshop were prepared and distributed by FAO to the workshop participants in the beginning of March 1996.

Future work on agricultural statistics in the CES work programme

10. The meeting stressed the importance of IWG.AGRI workshops for transition countries and asked IWG.AGRI to continue its assistance activities in the area of agricultural statistics.

11. The possibility of organizing two more workshops in 1997, one for Central and Eastern European countries and the other for CIS countries is presently under consideration by IWG.AGRI.