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**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
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(OECD)**

**STATISTICAL RECORDING AND ANALYSIS
OF POPULATION FOOD SUPPLY AND ITS QUALITY***

Supporting paper submitted by Statistics of Azerbaijan**

Summary: The current report includes brief information on the place and role of agriculture in the country's economy, information on statistical reporting units, procedures of statistical reporting on crop and livestock production, methodological and practical aspects of international trade, information sources for preparing food balances, food supply to population and on activities by corresponding bodies aimed at food quality control, etc.

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** Paper posted on Internet as submitted by the country.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture takes an important place in the economy of Azerbaijan. In this sector 15% of GDP is produced. About 40% of all employed population is in agriculture.

Agricultural land makes 54.8% of the country's territory, and forests 12%. Arable land constitutes 37.4% of agricultural land, perennial plants 4.8%, meadows and pastures 56%.

Cereals, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, vegetables, forage crops, fruit and berries, grapes and tea plantation are grown in agriculture. Cattle breeding and poultry are also developed in the country. At the beginning of the 2003 there were 2.2 million heads of cattle, 7.0 million heads of sheep and goats, 19.8 thousand heads of pigs, over 15 million poultry in Azerbaijan.

2. MAIN UNITS OF STATISTICAL OBSERVATION

Main units of statistical observation are 2.4 thousand agricultural enterprises and organizations and over 880 thousand household plots and farmers. Statistical observations on agriculture are realized by means of monthly, quarterly and annual statistical reports, special sample surveys and ad hoc surveys. Main data sources on crop production are: monthly statistical reports during the harvest period and annual reports on final gross output of crops as of the 1st of December.

As to livestock statistics, data on livestock numbers and animal products output are collected quarterly from agricultural enterprises. Private plots and farmers are covered by quarterly sample surveys.

Agriculture statistics are disseminated monthly, quarterly and annually and on ad hoc basis.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

International trade statistics of Azerbaijan Republic are collected since 1991. The methodological base of international trade statistics is the second revised version of International commodity trade statistics: concepts and definitions (ICTS2), prepared by the UN Statistical Commission in 1998. The "CIS foreign trade nomenclature" is used to record exports and imports of goods. This nomenclature is based on the harmonized system (HS) and on the European Union's combined nomenclature (CN).

Information on external trade is received mainly from customs. Standard procedure used for these purposes is Freight Customs Declaration (FCD) which is filled in on import and export of goods in custom stations. Totals are cumulated from the beginning of the year. After 28-30 days of the reporting period, express information is prepared which contains total volume of imports and exports, balance, main trade partners and volume of the turnover with these countries.

4. RESOURCES AND USE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In order to provide data on the supply of the population with food, Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan compiles a balance of resources and usage which is based on annual macro level data on arable and livestock products such as

meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, eggs, vegetable oil, fish and fish products, sugar, potatoes, etc. In accordance with the recommendations of FAO, the balance of crops is calculated by types of crops.

Main information sources for the compilation of the balance of resources and foodstuff usage are the data on the gross harvest of agricultural crops, the production of livestock products, data of annual reports of agricultural enterprises, internal and external trade data, family budget surveys and results of special sample surveys on agriculture.

Data on resources and usage of agriculture products is published in statistical yearbooks.

During the last years the output of agricultural products for human consumption has appreciably increased, which has improved the supply of various types of foodstuff for the population. So, in comparison with 1995, in 2002 annual average consumption of potatoes per population is 2.9 times higher, vegetables, melons and gourds 2.3 times, fruit and berries increased by 2%, meat by 23%, milk and dairy products by 22%, while eggs decreased by 8.7%.

In 2002 self-sufficiency of Azerbaijan on bread and bakery products was 81%, meat and meat products 84%, milk and dairy products 81%, eggs 95%, fish and fish products 85%, potatoes 104.3%, vegetable oil 72%, vegetable, melon and gourds 100%, fruit and berries, including grapes (without conversion into wine) 106%. These calculations include intermediate consumption of agricultural producers.

Drawing on the household budget survey, the average per capita consumption of food by types of food products is also calculated. The survey covers currently 2200 households.

5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE FLOWS

Azerbaijan has trade relations with many countries. In 2002 the share of food products in total imports was 14.3%, and in comparison with 1995 decreased by 39.7 million dollars. These changes reflect the growing agricultural output in the country.

The main imported food products are: sugar, rice, cereal, flour, dairy products (particularly butter), poultry meat, eggs and fish. Republic of Azerbaijan exports fruit and vegetables.

6. FOOD QUALITY

Food safety is concerned with economic, organizational, technological, social, ecological and other factors of food production with the aim at providing the population with diverse and competitive food that complies with scientific-founded norms, as well as the creation of required reserve stocks and the export of surplus products.

With the adoption of a number of laws and legal regulations, modern requirements to production, marketing, transportation and storage of foodstuff have obtained obligatory status.

To protect consumers from potentially dangerous food products, but also to protect conscientious domestic producers, rules for food stuff certification have been developed. Also, statistical reports in health statistics contain data on results of product quality control by sanitary-hygienic inspectors.

Similar control activities are conducted by the veterinary services and other departments of the Agriculture Ministry. Furthermore, for the purpose of food safety, food products are analysed in toxicological control laboratories to check levels of pesticide residue, nitrates and other poisonous substances that are used in production of agricultural products.

The State Agency for standardization has obliged all legal and natural persons trading in food products to have a commodity certificate for each traded item. The Ministry of Economic Development has a consumer goods examination unit which also contributes to the protection of consumers.

CONCLUSION

In order to improve the quality of the balance of resources and use of food products and of the data on food consumption, it is necessary:

- To improve the completeness of data on products in production and on import-export operations;
- To periodically conduct sample surveys to check for unused stocks of food products in all stages of the food chain, especially in processing and trade;
- To receive full information about products quality;
- To develop scientific norms of recommended consumption of foodstuff by the population.
