



SWOT analysis

General Census of Agriculture

2 December 2002 - 31 January 2003

Romania

**ECE-FAO-Eurostat-OECD
Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics
(Geneva, 2-4 July 2003)**



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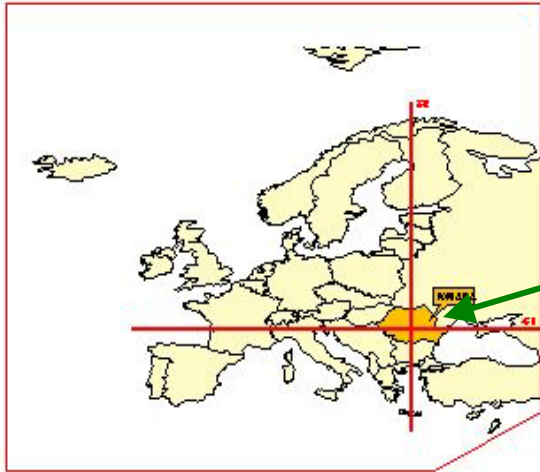
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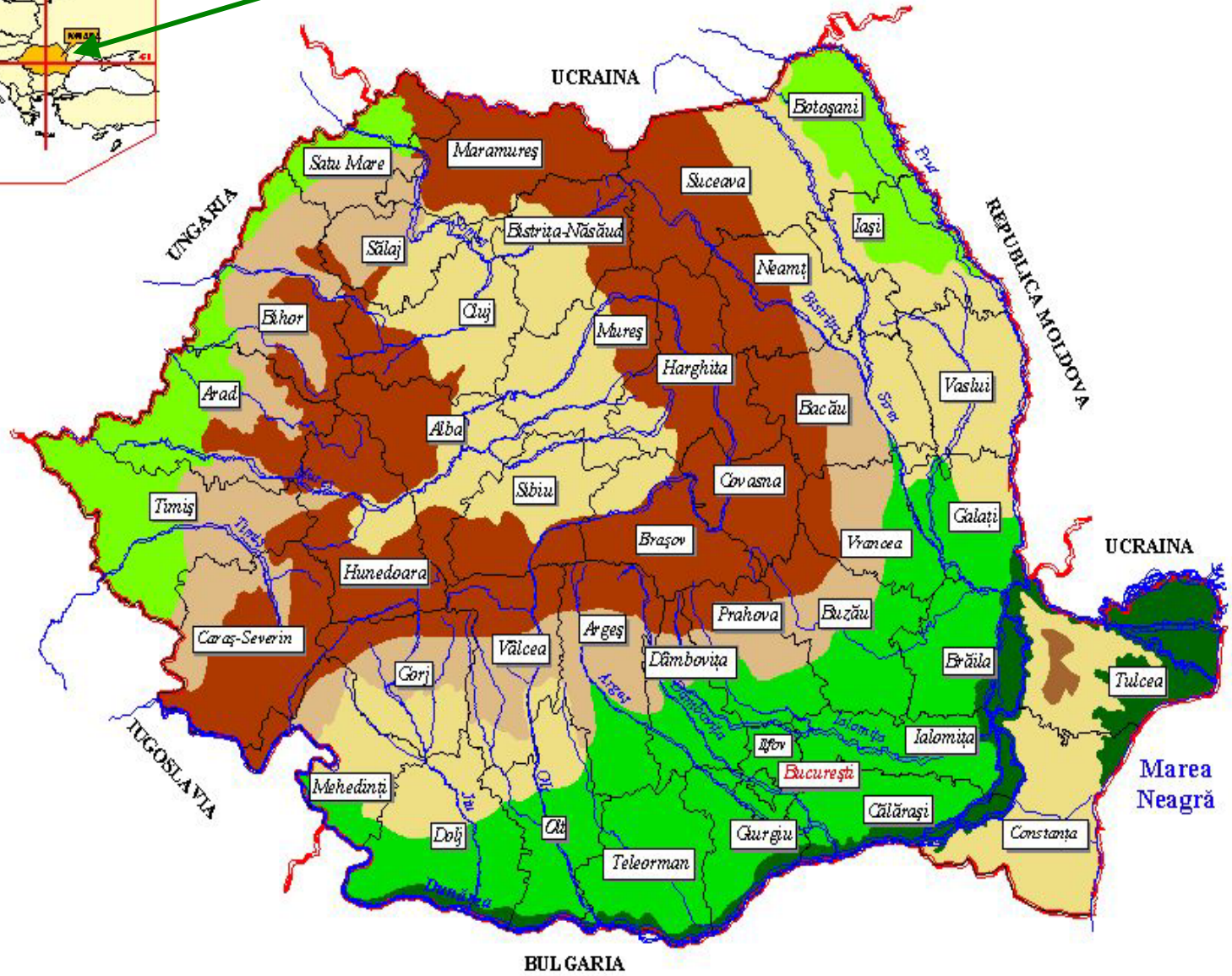
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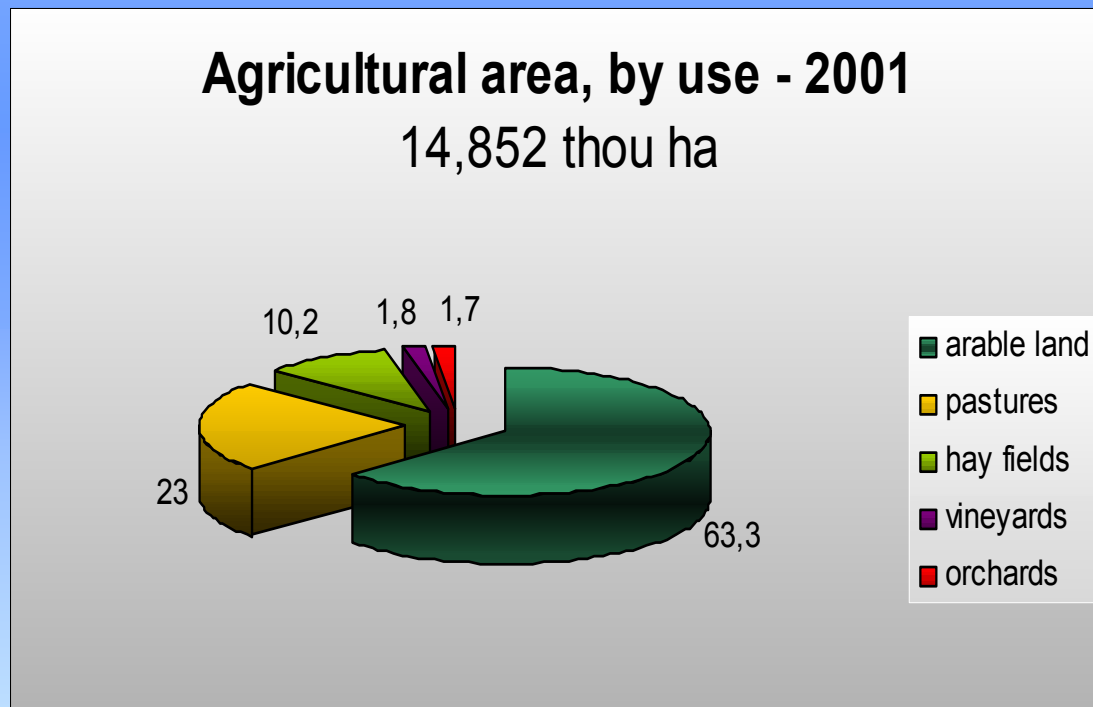
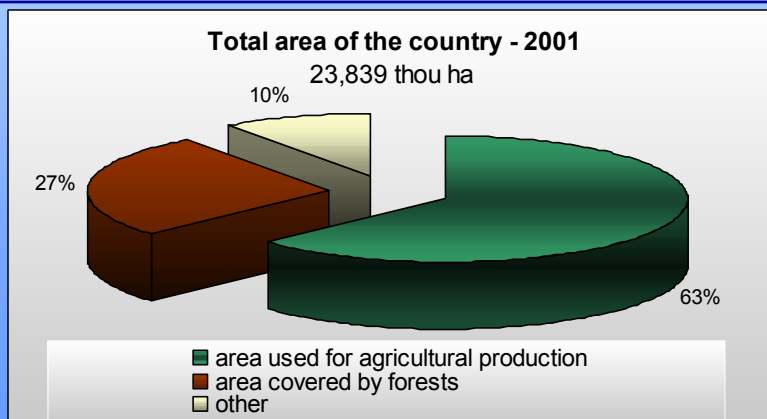


ROMANIA





I. General Environment





I. General Background Before the 1990's

a. Romanian Agriculture

- **1941 and 1948** - two general censuses of agriculture
- **After 1948** - only specialised censuses:
 - ⇒ **livestock censuses:**
 - yearly, between 1951-1954;
 - every 4 years (1954-62 and 1973-77);
 - yearly between 1979-1989;
 - ⇒ **vineyards and trees censuses (1964, 1979)**



I. General Background Before the 1990's

b. Agricultural Censuses – Historical Outline

Before the 1990's:

- Land mainly under state property
- Farming system highly centralised

No need for a GCA, since no important structural changes affected the farming system.

- Monthly detailed statistical report on the activity developed by each agricultural state unit
- Information on agricultural households → administrative agricultural register



I. General Background After 1990

- **Growing demand for up-dated information, both from national and international level**
- **Reinstatement of a regular cycle of censuses and surveys as part of the Romanian agricultural statistics program**



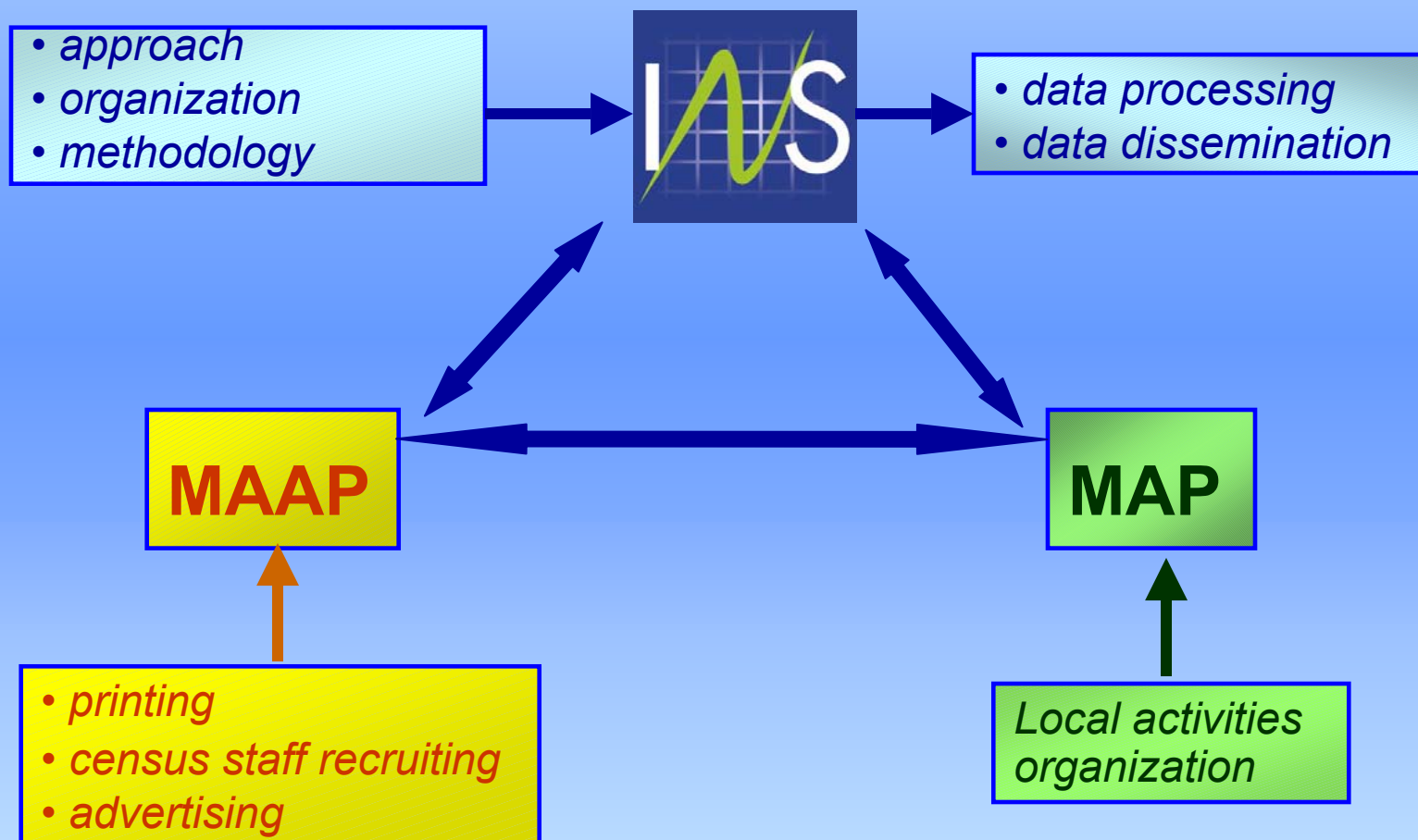
II. General Census of Agriculture

a. Main Objectives

- 1. to obtain an exhaustive picture of the structural characteristics of the national agricultural system;**
- 2. to built a data base, comparable at international level, regarding the key agricultural variables;**
- 3. to provide a sampling frame for the agricultural sample surveys to be carried out between censuses.**
- 4. provides statistical data needed for sustainable development policy in agriculture**



II. General Census of Agriculture - institutional frame -





II. General Census of Agriculture

- **Pilot Survey:** 15-20 August 2002
 - on a sample size → 3150 units
- **Control Survey:** 5 - 20 February 2003,
 - national representative sample size → about 20.000 units



III. SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Census done in a good co-operative environment, involving main actors**
- NIS previous experience**
- Progressive improvement of know-how skills through active participation in international working groups + seminars + Phare multi-country programmes + FAO training 2002**
- 2000 National Phare Twinning Programme on agricultural statistics**



III. SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- High skilled top managers, at statistical county divisions, for conducting and co-ordinating statistical surveys**
- Several training sessions + internal seminars and debates on GCA**
- Efficient utilisation of limited staff and financial resources**
- Young employees , skilled in IT and foreign languages, specially hired at NIS central level for GCA**



III. SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

- ❑ **Pilot Census in August 2002: testing of census tools and of organisational issues**
- ❑ **Control Survey in February 2003, certified the census coverage and the data quality**
- ❑ **Benefit from Population Census experience**
(conducted in March 2002)
- ❑ **Availability of IT facilities**



III. SWOT Analysis

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of structural information on Romanian agriculture -> impossibility to set a size threshold before census operations.**
- Land fragmentation; large number of statistical observation units**
- Lack of defined agricultural holding**
- Lack of methodological coherence between the current approach and that of census.**



III. SWOT Analysis

WEAKNESSES

- NO Statistical Farm Register available -> impact on census registering lists; agricultural register not accurately and timely updated**
- Not updated Cadastre register -> impact on census registering lists**
- Large number of non-residents farmers (lot of land owners living in urban areas)**



III. SWOT Analysis

WEAKNESSES

- Institutional framework not clearly perceived by actors**
- Lack of a national roster of specialised enumerators**
- Tight time-schedule**
- Overlapping of census activities with other projects**



III. SWOT Analysis

OPPORTUNITIES

- Gained experience on General Census of Agriculture organisational and operational procedures**
- Basis for a solid harmonisation of national census methodology with EU requirements and FAO recommendations.**
- Comparable statistical indicators available**



III. SWOT Analysis

OPPORTUNITIES

- Setting up a sampling frame for implementing basic agricultural surveys**
- Good premises for setting a proper threshold, to define agricultural holding, considering the specificity of Romanian agriculture**
- Good prerequisite for setting up the Statistical Farm Register.**



III. SWOT Analysis

OPPORTUNITIES

- Good premises for setting up a national roster of specialised trainers and enumerators**
- Awareness of other Romanian institutional bodies for the need of using the new set of indicators developed under the agricultural census.**
- Basis to define statistical indicators related to agriculture**
- Increased interest of the users in the census results and their trust in agricultural statistical data**



III. SWOT Analysis

THREATS

- Burden of implementing new requirements at once in all the agricultural statistical domains**
- Insufficient human resources for developing on new foundations all the agricultural statistical system, process**
- Insufficient skills and resources to implement and maintain updated Statistical Farm Register, due to the staff scarcity and big number of units, and an adequate network**
- Difficulties in adjusting time series**



IV. CONCLUSIONS

Continuous efforts for identifying internal and international support for sensitisation of main actors and decision makers to support the development of agricultural statistics