

Agricultural Statistics as an Integral Component of the National Statistical System in Poland

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Abstract: The paper presents agricultural statistics and its position in the system of official statistics in Poland. It presents the organisation of the statistical system, its legal basis, the role and tasks of the Central Statistical Office and regional offices, and also outlines the role and tasks of the government administration, as well as, research institutes and agencies in shaping agricultural statistics in Poland.

A number of issues connected with agricultural statistics are reflected upon in the paper. The paper attempts to integrate the conceptual need for information by the agriculture and rural population to ensure that all of the statistical data users' information needs are met. Since current information is extremely important not only to the stakeholders, there is a need to develop and expand the knowledge of agriculture by purposely including information needs of local societies, as well as, social and professional information users in the rural population. The information requirements need to include sustainable agriculture and to ensure coverage by the current series of production statistics in addition to addressing the statistical needs from a wider and more problematic perspective – the rural labour force, food safety, agri-environmental statistics and other aspects of rural areas and agriculture which are of major concerns of modern societies.

In the context of such a wide presentation of agricultural statistics and in relation to the increased future needs for information – this paper addresses the question whether production agricultural statistics are losing their traditional role or are becoming an integrated part of economic data required to sustain modern societies' economic growth.