General Overview of the 2006 All-Russia Agricultural Census - Procedures, Design and Content

Konstantin Laykam
Russian State Statistics Service
Moscow, Russia
Email: stat@gks.ru; dmitrieva_n@gks.ru

Abstract: This paper discusses the details of conducting the first agricultural census in Russia in over eighty years. In accordance with the federal law and Russian government resolution, the All-Russia Agricultural Census was conducted in July 2006. For remote and “not easily accessible” areas, data collection activities took place within the period of September 15 through November 15, 2006. The previously most recent census of agriculture was organized and conducted in Russia in 1920.

Totally, about 30 million questionnaires were completed. To optimally collect data on the agricultural census population across Russia, four different types of questionnaires were used. The latest technology was utilized to speed questionnaire processing and approximately 225 million pages were scanned.

The general concept for the All-Russia Agricultural Census content and procedure was developed based on the recommendations of FAO and other international organizations. An in-depth study of experience gained in United States, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, and Estonia, was undertaken as part of the census planning and designing process. The census content included the following six items:

1. General characteristics of the census list units;
2. Labour force and employment in the agricultural sector;
3. Land resources;
4. Land in agricultural crops and perennial plants;
5. Livestock inventory; agricultural machinery and equipment, buildings and constructions;
6. Types of farm-related activities.

Preliminary agricultural census data have been released beginning December 2006 when the first volume “Agricultural Enterprises and Private Farms” was issued, followed by the second volume “Horticulture, Kitchen-Garden, Livestock and Dacha Non-Profit Citizens’ Associations” in March 2007. The publication of preliminary census results will be completed in November 2007. The full release of agricultural census data in nine (9) volumes is scheduled for 2008.