

Should Agricultural Statistics Be Responsibility of National Statistics Services or Ministries of Agriculture?

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Abstract: Today in Russia, data collection responsibilities are distributed between the Russian State Statistics Service (Rosstat), the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, and other institutions that have the authority to gather statistics. Rosstat collects data on the key sectors of agricultural development. The Russian Ministry of Agriculture collects data from the Russian Federation territorial administrative offices of the Agri-Industrial Complex and from the organizations subordinate to the Ministry. By law, the Russian Ministry of Agriculture is a customer and coordinator of the federal informational resources in agriculture.

A recent joint effort between the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, Rosstat and the Russian Real Estate Agency aimed at processing and analyzing data from the 2006 Russian Agricultural Census was a positive experience. At the moment, our current practice is such that agricultural statistics is a responsibility shared by both the Russian State Statistics Service and the Ministry of Agriculture according to their respective authorities.