

## **SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE**

### **1. Basic Information:**

- 1.1. Désirée Number: BG 0006.05
- 1.2. Title: **RESTRUCTURING THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SYSTEM**
- 1.3. Sector: Agriculture
- 1.4. Location: Bulgaria

### **2. Objectives**

#### **2.1 Wider Objectives:**

- Improvement of the compliance of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria to EU standards
- Definition and implementation of a coherent annual programme of national statistical surveys applied in line with the “acquis communautaire”
- Provision of reliable statistical data and surveys in order to support to the other services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) for the reinforcement and the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) mechanisms in Bulgaria.

#### **2.2 Immediate Objectives:**

- Strengthening the structure of the Bulgarian agricultural statistics system on the basis of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Statistics Institute (NSI) and the MAF.
- Further transfer of technical know-how on EU practice and procedures to the official staff of the Department for Agro-statistics of the MAF at headquarters and in the regional offices, and the experts conducting statistical surveys. The Bulgarian authorities shall be able to conduct the programme without EU financial assistance in the medium-term.
- Establishing a full-operating Bulgarian agricultural statistical network based on the model elaborated under Phare 1999 assistance. Further development of the network for the collection, the processing, and the dissemination of agricultural statistics to local, regional and national authorities and for the provision of EC databases in all regional offices and at headquarters.
- Implementation of the 2-nd year of the Phase C of the programme for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria (launched in July 1997<sup>1</sup>): preparation of feasibility tests of surveys on fruit growing, on vegetables, preparatory work for the development of FADN system, further work on specific surveys on animal and animal products, including all types of animals as required in the EU legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> “Plan for development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria 1997 - 2002”, published by MAF in November 1998 .

- Launching the development and the implementation of all the modules of agricultural statistics covered by the Statistical Requirements Compendium<sup>1</sup>. Surveys implemented in 1999 and 2000 as pilot surveys (feasibility tests) will be implemented in 2001 as regular ones, according to the experience acquired.

## 2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority:

AP priority – point 4.2 Medium term: Agriculture, priority: reinforce the CAP management mechanism; Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity, including management and control of EU funds, priorities: Strengthen statistical capacities.

NPAA – “Adoption of the *acquis communautaire* in agrostistics” is foreseen by the end of 2002.

## 3. Description

### 3.1 Background and justification:

During the last 10 years, due to the land restitution process in Bulgaria, the number of agricultural farms has increased considerably. The former agrostistics system was organized in a way that insures the possibility to collect administrative information from a restricted number of large agricultural enterprises. Because of the significant increase of the number of small units of production, this system has become obsolete. Thus, it was necessary to change the system of production of agricultural statistics and to reorient the techniques towards the sample surveys.

In order to fully implement the “*acquis communautaire*” in this sector, and due to the needs for reliable information for the implementation of the National Agrarian Reform Program, the Bulgarian authorities have adopted in 1997-1998 a Plan for the Development of Agricultural Statistics in Bulgaria for the period 1997-2002, in line with EU standards. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NSI and the MAF was signed on 26 April 1999, defining the responsibilities of the two bodies for the preparation of agricultural statistics, and creating the Department for Agro-statistics in the MAF. The main mission of this Department, acting in line with Council Regulation (EEC) n° 322/1997 (the EC “Statistical law”), is the preparation of the adoption of the “*acquis communautaire*” for agricultural statistics; the support to the MAF by the provision of reliable information for the reinforcement of the national agricultural policy and the implementation of the CAP mechanisms in Bulgaria.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical Requirements Compendium (SRC), Eurostat - A5, July 1998

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum of Understanding, signed on April 26, 1999 between the President of NSI and the Minister of MAF, (attached here as annex) where the clear separation of responsibilities between NSI and MAF is explained.

The Plan for the Development of Agricultural Statistics in Bulgaria for the period 1997-2002 consists of 3 main phases:

Phase A (from July 1997 to December 1998):

During Phase A, the MAF has developed a Land cover/Land use survey based on area frame sampling (BANCIK). Three publications have been disseminated concerning this survey.

1. Methodology of the Land Use/ Land Cover survey (BANCIK) – short version, September 1998
2. Preliminary results of the Land Use/ Land Cover survey (BANCIK) – short version, September 1998
3. Final results of the Land Use/ Land Cover survey (BANCIK) – complete version including the methodology and the nomenclature, in January 1999.

Phase B (from January 1999 to December 1999):

During Phase B, which was financed with Phare 1999 assistance, the following surveys have been carried out:

1. Land Use/ Land Cover survey (called BANCIK) renewal:

The Land use/Land cover survey is based on the method of area frame sampling. About 111000 points defined once for all are distributed in 3123 segments each with a side length of 1.410 km and containing 36 points. The choice of an aligned systematic area sample entailed creating a regular grid comprised of lines running N-S and E-W at intervals of 6 km. A programme developed for this section features a module for randomly determining the origin of the grid outside the rectangle drawn on Bulgarian territory. Each intersection on the grid becomes the centre of a segment that may be considered random. Bulgaria's borders were "pushed back" by a 827 m strip to offset any inaccuracies in the basic cartography.

During each visit, at maximum interval of one year, trained enumerators observe the same points in the same segments. This provides reliable data on change.

Human observation enables the use of detailed land cover/land use nomenclature. For example, it is possible to distinguish between the all crops and types of grassland and between woodland species. The nomenclature was compiled after consulting specialists in each type of land cover.

2. Sample survey on early estimation of crop production for wheat and barley
3. Sample survey on yield of main crops
4. Feasibility test on the farm structures survey along the lines of the Council Regulation (EEC) n° 571/88 and of the relevant Commission decisions on the organization of the Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings.

Phase C (from January 2000 to end in December 2002):

Phase C includes 3 annual components, which will cover the same activities.

1. From January 2000 to December 2000, the first component of Phase C will receive Phare 1999 assistance. The main objective is know-how transfer in order to develop a sustainable Bulgarian agricultural statistical system and to put into practice the legal implementation of the *acquis communautaire*.

During this component of Phase C, the following activities are included:

- The surveys tested during the previous years (Phase B) will be renewed and implemented by the Bulgarian officials on a permanent basis, in conformity with the Statistical Requirements Compendium (SRC). SRC comprises all requirements for delivering statistics by current and future Member States. It is completely based on the new Statistical Programme 1998-2002 to be adopted by Council and Parliament which is divided into chapters (the EC policies), themes (two digit code) and modules (three digit code). The element of description is the module. The intention is to give the references to EU documentation where further detail can be found.
- New surveys covered by the SRC will be conducted on an experimental basis: animal stocks surveys (pigs and bovines), animal production surveys including milk and vineyard survey.
- Farm structure survey will be reconducted on the basis of the methodologies and questionnaires developed during the 1999 pilot survey.

2. The second component of Phase C lasts from January 2001 to December 2001: reconduction of the activities covered by the first component.

3. The third one is envisaged for the period January 2002 – December 2002: reconduction of the activities covered by the first component.

The request for assistance under the Phare 2000 (second component of the 3-years programme) will cover mainly the consolidation of the situation implemented in the previous years (1999 and 2000). The surveys conducted so far on a pilot basis and with the assistance of EC experts will be put into full operation by Bulgarian officials on their own.

During the execution of the Plan, MAF will finance the running costs (including salaries of expert of agrostatics within MAF, office costs and transport for the experts) and also the surveyors' payment for the surveys included in the working programme at regular basis and in conformity with the EU legislation.

The PHARE project will finance the surveys introduced as feasibility tests or pilot surveys which are not yet fully in conformity with EU requirements.

Thus progressively the MAF will take charges to the global functioning of the system of agrostatics. It has to become independent from external aid at the end of the Phase C of the programme.

During each annual component, there will be new surveys included in the annual programme. That's why it is necessary that there is a considerable European assistance (general coordination in the form of short term expertise).

The know-how transfer will last during the 3 components of the Phase C in order to prepare the autonomy of the Bulgarian system of agrostatics.

The survey programme is very important part of the project. It will be included in all 3 annual components.

The development of agricultural statistics network should be finished at the end of 2001 (under Phare 2000).

### 3.2. Linked activities:

All previous projects are a part of the entire statistical working programme aiming the collection of data according EU legislation and enabling to manage the national agricultural policy:

- Land cover/Land use survey called BANCIK - 1998 and 1999 (Bilateral project with France)
- Early estimation of winter crops sowing - April 1999 (financed by French – Bulgarian Fund - bilateral project)  
Based on the same method as Land cover/land use survey. A sample of “agricultural” points has been drawn up.
- Survey on yield of main crops – in 2 phases (financed by French – Bulgarian Fund - bilateral project).

The 1-st phase was carried out in June 1999 – an observation made by agronomists on the yield on the field, before the harvest, and the second phase – in October and November 1999 – by interviews with agricultural producers.

PHARE projects for support to agrostatistics – comparison table:

1998	1999	2000
<p>Project Number BG 9806-03-02-001 Budget: 0.3 Meuro</p> <p>Technical assistance for Feasibility test of a survey methodology on the farms structure.</p>	<p>Project Number BG 9913-04 Budget: 1.34 Meuro</p> <p>Technical assistance for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer of know-how;</li> <li>▪ Training and creation of local expertise for the implementation of the field surveys;</li> <li>▪ Creation of a prototype for a developed statistical information network;</li> <li>▪ Implementation of Land use/Land cover survey and improvement of the questionnaire on crop products surveys;</li> <li>▪ Introduction of new surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Livestock and animal products (pilot survey);</li> <li>- Vineyards survey (test);</li> <li>- Milk and milk products survey (test).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Project Number BG 0006.05 Budget: 2.0 Meuro</p> <p>Technical assistance for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land use/Land cover survey and surveys on crop products and crop yields carried out on regular basis;</li> <li>▪ Improvement of questionnaires and representatives of surveys tested in PHARE1999 programme covering sub-sectors: milk and milk products, livestock and animal products, vineyards;</li> <li>▪ Introducing of system for agricultural accountancy (FADN) and start-up of micro-economical analysis of the new farming enterprises;</li> <li>▪ Trained personnel and enumerators for the entire agrostatistics programme;</li> <li>▪ Methods and techniques for questioning improved for surveys in conformity with EU legislation;</li> <li>▪ Beginning of the preparation for a basic agricultural farm structure survey (Regulation 571/88);</li> <li>▪ Introduction of survey on perennials.</li> </ul>

- The Phare multi-country Statistical Cooperation Programme, managed by Eurostats, also cover agricultural statistics. The aim of this horizontal programme is to transfer know how following on a common methodology, where the delivery mechanisms are multilateral. Whereas the national Phare programme should support operations within the countries.
- A population census is organized by the NSI in 2001. There are a few general questions concerning agriculture included in the questionnaire. It will facilitate the MAF in the estimation about the existing agricultural activities in the households. This information will be useful for the creation of the list necessary for the phase of preparation of the basic farm structure survey envisaged in 2003 (agricultural census in conformity with Council Regulation 571/88).

### 3.3. Results:

The results of the current financing will be:

- Production of statistics for livestock and animal products, according to Council Directives 93/23, 93/24, 93/25, 97/77; Commission Decisions 94/432, 94/433, 94/434, and 95/380. A specific methodology will be implemented in order to cover all type of animal breeding farms and households.
- Realization of a vineyard survey, according to Council Regulation (EEC) 357/79 of 5 February 1979 - consolidated, Commission Regulation 2802/85. This test will be

organized together with the Farm Structure Survey. The information collected will cover the following main topics from basic vineyard survey (as postulated in the Regulation 357/79): agricultural area in use and area under vine cultivated (wine grape varieties and area under table grape varieties).

- Introduction of a survey on perennials – according the Council Directive 76/625 – consolidated. The information collected will cover the following main topics from basic fruit trees survey (as postulated in the Directive 76/625): variety of fruit, age of trees, net area planted, number of trees and density of the plantation.
- Production of statistics for milk and milk products, according to Council Directive 96/16/CE, Commission Decision 97/80/CE. This survey is oriented toward the dairies and not toward the agricultural producers.
- Production of statistics for crop production, crop yields, according to Regulations R837/90, R959/93 – based on the point of Land use/Land cover survey. Before the harvest a sub-sample of agricultural point is observed by agronomists in order to make an estimation of the potential yield and to evaluate the health of plants. After the harvest (in October and November) the second phase of the survey is carried out – survey by interview with agricultural producers.
- Evaluation of land use/land cover – based on area frame sampling method.
- Beginning of the preparation of basic farm structure survey; according to R571/88 – consolidated, Commission Decisions 89/651 – consolidated, 85/377 – consolidated. The survey is based both on points of Land Use /Land Cover survey and on the existing list of agricultural producers (established during the surveys carried out in 1999).
- Specifications for the preparation of the FADN (farm accountancy network system), based on the analysis of the pilot surveys conducted in new areas (mainly methodological aspects), according to Regulation No 79/65/EEC of the Council - Consolidated version, Commission Decision 85/377 - consolidated.
- Full implementation of a global statistical information network system for the support of the Bulgarian agricultural policy and for the provision of reliable and representative information to the EC Commission. The first stage of the implementation of this global statistical information network system begins in 2000 (PHARE 1999). Under Phare 2000, the hardware in 5 regional delegations will be installed and the software for the database management will be developed. The system includes central server, local servers, telecommunications, creation of database and appropriate user-friendly software. The aim is that the processed data (results) are accessible for all users.
- Publication and dissemination of reports for the survey results for regional, national and EC use.

Significant transfer of know-how for agro-statistics has been and is provided to the Bulgarian authorities under Phare. However, the rate of EU financial participation in the programme has been digressive. The Bulgarian authorities shall ensure they will be capable to continue the implementation of the programme without the EU assistance, in the medium term.

### 3.4. Activities:

#### Transfer of know how:

Most of the requirements necessary to achieve the objectives of this project will be European assistance for further training and know-how transfer to Bulgarian officials.

This should assure the implementation of statistical methodologies and practices compatible with the EU legislation. The objective of Phare assistance is that after the end of the 3 years Programme, end 2002, the Bulgarian agro-statistics structures are able to work without external aid.

The EU assistance will be provided through short-term expertise (18 man/months) and 40 man/week of training (know how transfer) made by expert from official statistical bodies of different Member States. The training will include at least the following topics: statistical theory, descriptive statistics, sampling techniques, computer processing in statistics, statistical data base, data control, data analyses, data publication and dissemination and specific item such as FADN system, surveys on orchards, and surveys on vegetables. The beneficiaries of the training are agrostatistics experts of the MAF, in central department and in regional delegations.

The transfer of know how should permit the Bulgarian authorities to implement the programme without EU assistance in the medium-term.

#### Provision of equipment:

The development of the agricultural statistical network and of the information system requires the construction of the software and hardware infrastructure adapted to the specific requirements of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria. This system consists of 9 local servers into the 9 regional delegations and 1 central server with high-speed connections between them. The central server will be accessible for the internal and external users. The architecture of the Information system is global and covers the choice of the operating system (OS), the data base management system (DBMS) and the hardware equipment for each of the departments. The sizing of the IS takes into account the global volume of agricultural statistics, the number of people operating the system and the number of transactions (amount of work and data entry constraints) foreseen at the ultimate stage of the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria.

Under Phare 1999, a feasibility study specifying the hardware which should be installed in the central department for agrostatistics and 4 regional delegations.

Under Phare 2000, tenders will be organized in order to provide all necessary equipment for 5 regional delegations including servers, work stations, telecommunications and the development of the software for database management. Training on the use of the equipment and database will be organized.

The MAF will ensure the maintenance of the equipment during the project implementation and after the project completion.

#### Conduction of surveys:

The conduction includes

1. Preparatory phase: the preparation of the questionnaires, nomenclatures, instruction booklets, and sample plan; to draw up the sample according to the representativeness required and taking into consideration the existing resources;
2. Implementation in the field, data capture;
3. Processing of the results;
4. Preparation of the publications and dissemination.

Phare financing will not include the payment of the salaries of the surveyors.



#### 4. Institutional Framework

Within the MAF, an independent Division has been created for the development and the management of agricultural statistical in Bulgaria. The Order of the Minister of Agriculture from January 1999 creates this Division in conformity with the Law on Statistics<sup>1</sup>. An Order laying down the organization of statistics in the MAF was adopted in April 1998.

In April 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the President of NSI and the Minister of MAF. According to this MoU, the MAF is in charge of the preparation of the statistics on: Land use (mod. 611); Farm structure survey and Community typology of Agricultural holdings (mod. 621); EUROFARM database (mod. 622); Statistics on viticulture (mod. 623); Statistics on fruit growing (mod. 624); Agricultural labour input statistics (mod. 634); Crop production statistics (mod. 641); Supply balance sheets for crop and animal products– in quantity (mod. 642 and 653); AGROMET (mod. 643); Livestock statistics (mod. 651); and Animal products statistics (mod 652)<sup>2</sup>

The central division of the new Department in the MAF is in charge of the developments of concepts, the organization and the co-ordination of the surveys, the statistical analysis of the results, the organization of the training and of the contacts and the reporting to the EC Commission. The division implements the EC quality requirements for the data sets. It is expected that at the beginning of the project in 2001, the Agro-statistics Division will have 10 officials at central level. At present there are 7 official in the central department of agrostatistics.

The agrostatistics Division in MAF has set up regional agro-statistics representations in the following 9 macro-regions: Sofia north, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Haskovo, Bourgas, Varna, Rousse, Lovetch, Montana (see Annex 7). The regional delegations are in charge with the coordination and management of the surveyors in the zone of action of the delegation. The 9 delegations have been chosen in order to obtain a regular coverage of the territory. The system is organized to provide information even if the borders of the regions are changed. It optimizes the costs of surveys and the possibility to organize and train the surveyors. The representativeness of the data and the capacity to provide statistical information on sub-regional level depend on the ratio of the sample of the surveys and not on the territorial organization of the agrostatistics delegation. The regional delegations conduct the surveys, capture the questionnaires and process them at the regional level. They carry out the analysis of the results at the regional level, control the validity, correct (edit) the data, improve and ensure the quality of the data collected at the regional level. After the implementation of the Agro-statistics Program in 2002, local staff who has been trained will be recruited as employees of the MAF. Surveyors will be recruited for the collection of information for the different types of surveys (concerning also the beginning of the creation of FADN system).

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<sup>1</sup> Law on statistics , Official Journal of the Republic of Bulgaria, No 57/ 25.06.1999

<sup>2</sup> The translation of the Memorandum of Understanding is attached

## 5. Detailed Budget:

*in MEuro*

Item	Phare Support			National Co-financing*	IFI*	TOTAL
	Investment Support	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)			
Contract 1	0.80	1.20	2.00	0.50		2.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.50</b>		<b>2.50</b>

The MAF will contribute to the financing of the project as follows:

- Payment of surveyors (0.2M€) in cash payments.
- In kind financing that will amount 0.3M€ covering the general running costs (salaries, office equipment costs and transport expenditures for the officials and regional level).

The surveyors are not permanent employees of agrostistics unit. They are recruited for one survey under a service contract (civil contract). Usually, the contract lasts 1 month. The number of surveyors for each survey is different and depends on the rate of the sample (number of points for observation or number of farmers to be interviewed). In order to minimize the transport costs of the surveys, the regional delegations (who are in charge with the recruitment of the surveyors) choose the enumerators on the territorial principle. It is necessary that the surveyors are familiar with the agriculture and they are obliged to assist to the special training organized for them before each survey.

## 6. Implementation arrangements

### 6.1. Implementing Agency:

The CFCU will be responsible for tendering and contracting. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be responsible for the control of the project implementation.

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A Steering Committee, established during the implementation of Phare 1999 project, composed of representatives from the EC Delegation in Sofia, Eurostat, the Contractor, and the MAF will continue to monitor the activities. The Committee will meet regularly (at least every 4 months) in order to approve project reports and discuss future activities. The minutes of the meetings will be copied to the participants and to the Commission services in Brussels.

### 6.2. Twinning:

Non applicable.

### 6.3. Non-standard aspects:

This project will be implemented through direct agreement with Landsis G.e.i.e. (non-profit organization).

Landsis G.e.i.e. (Land Statistical Information System) is a European Interest Grouping created in September 1998 in Luxembourg under the umbrella of the European Agricultural Statistics Committee. The grouping has been founded by the statistical departments of the Ministries of Agriculture of France and Finland, and “CESD-Communautaire” in Luxembourg, itself an association of European statisticians of National Statistical Services (France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and United Kingdom). The grouping is participating to the European Statistical System. It constitutes an execution tool able to intervene efficiently in the field of agricultural statistics, rural development, environment and regional planning within and outside the European Union.

Its main objective is to contribute to statistical harmonization through the execution of studies and statistical work. To achieve this objective, Landsis brings together national statistical entities or entities whose activities are related to the European Statistical Information System

Landsis carries out its work following the general orientation given by the European Agriculture Statistics Committee. It works according to the professional code of the European Statistical System. It supports the harmonization of statistics and promotes the use of standards and methods lay down in the legal framework of the European Union Statistics. It develops activities in close co-operation with its members and uses to a large extent technical expertise provided by official statistical services of the EU member-states. The 15 members of the European Agriculture Statistics Committee have provided a list of experts of their own organizations.

In the framework of its activities in Candidate Countries, in order to answer the needs and requirements in the terms of expertise and transfer of know-how, Landsis G.e.i.e uses the experts of the 15 official bodies in statistics. For instance, under the Phare 1999 program for Bulgaria, short-term experts from 6 Member States of EU are envisaged.

The appropriate execution of the programme that lasts 3 years requires an indispensable continuity of management assured by a consultant familiar with the existing situation in the country and the difficulties in the implementation of new methodologies. This will avoid the waste of time during the execution.

This Consultant is able to get over the difficulties and obstacles during the implementation of the survey programme because of the experience gained.

A better opportunity for MAF will be to receive transfer of know-how from this European Interests grouping which experts know very well the EU legislation and the best EU practices concerning agricultural statistics rather than from any private company.

#### 6.4. Contracts

One direct contract amounting to 2.0 MEuro is envisaged to be signed with Landsis G.e.i.e. This contract will include the supply of all necessary equipment including software and training on use, regarding the item “development of an agricultural statistical network system“. The DIS Manual will strictly be followed during the implementation of the project.

## **7. Implementation Schedule**

7.1. Start of contracting:	November 2000
7.2. Start of project activities:	January 2001
7.3. Project Completion:	January 2002

## **8. Equal Opportunity**

The agrostistics unit gives equal opportunity to men and women to participate in the activities. There are no restrictions nor for men neither for women to apply for different positions announced. The choice is made on the criteria of proficiency and ability. In fact, at present more than 50 % of the agrostistics expert are women.

## **9. Environment:**

Non applicable.

## **10. Rates of return:**

Non applicable.

## **11. Investment criteria:**

Non applicable.

## **12. Conditionality and sequencing**

The conditionalities will be verified by the EC Delegation in Sofia before the project can start.

- The activities described in the project fiche have to be consecutive, following one after the other. There shall be no interruption between the programs in order to establish a coherent annual program for agro-statistics surveys. Therefore, the activities included in Phare 1999 project should be implemented successfully at the moment the current project starts. All results available from previous surveys or feasibility tests shall be used.
- All contracting activities should be finalized before 1 March 2001 because it is necessary to respect the most favorable periods for the different surveys regarding the vegetation and climatic conditions (ex. for the surveys on vegetable products) and the requirements of the EU legislation in force.
- The MAF should provide the relevant co-financing before the project can start and ensure that the staffing of the Agro-statistics Unit of the MAF is finalized:
  1. General running costs – 0.3 MEUR, including salaries and office costs and transport for the officials (at central and regional level);
  2. Payment for surveyors – 0.2 MEUR.
- The MAF will commit itself to ensure the maintenance of the equipment during the project implementation and after the project completion.



## Annex 1

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR “Restructuring of the agricultural statistical system”			Contracting period expires: 31.12.2002	Disbursement period expires: 31.12.2003
			Total budget: 2.5MEURO	Phare contribution: 2.0MEURO
Wider Objectives	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement the compliance of agricultural statistics to EU standards;</li> <li>Definition and implementation of a coherent annual programme of national statistical surveys applied in line with the “<i>acquis communautaire</i>”</li> <li>Provision of reliable statistical data and surveys in order to support the other services of the MAF for the reinforcement and the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) mechanisms in Bulgaria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical publications on results, available for all users</li> <li>Surveys carried out according the EU legislation and practice</li> <li>Database accessible for the users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yearly – specific report from Eurostat, and Landsis</li> <li>Commission screening exercise</li> <li>Publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment from the Government and the Minister of Agriculture</li> </ul>	
Immediate Objectives	Indicators of Achievement*	How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured	Assumptions and Risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the structure of the Bulgarian agricultural statistics system on the basis of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between National Statistics Institute (NSI) and the MAF.</li> <li>Training of the official staff of the Department for Agro-statistics of the MAF at headquarters and in the regional offices on EU practice and procedures. Further transfer of technical know-how to the experts conducting statistical surveys.</li> <li>Establishing a full-operating Bulgarian agricultural statistical network based on the model elaborated in 2000 (under Phare 99). Further development of the network for the collection, the processing, and the dissemination of agricultural statistics to local, regional and national authorities and for the provision of EC databases in all regional offices and at headquarters.</li> <li>Implementation of the 2-nd year of the Phase C of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of employees trained</li> <li>Quality of sample surveys carried out</li> <li>Number of weeks of know-how transfer</li> <li>Number of surveys carried out according to EU legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eurostat – ICO and country-leader 3-months reports</li> <li>Executive report after each survey</li> <li>Validation of transfer of know-how</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained staff remains employees of MAF (in the central and regional units)</li> </ul>	

<p>programme for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria (preparation of feasibility tests of surveys on fruit growing, on vegetables, preparatory work for the development of FADN system, further work on specific surveys on animal and animal products, incl. all types of animals)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching the development and the implementation of all the modules of agricultural statistics covered by the Statistical Requirements Compendium.</li> </ul>			
<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement*</b>	<b>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development and implementation of agricultural statistics surveys included into the Community legislation for livestock and animal products, vineyard survey, milk and milk products, crop statistics crop yields and land use.</li> <li>▪ Beginning of the work on FADN and typology especially methodological issues</li> <li>▪ Data base for surveys</li> <li>▪ Initial preparation of agriculture census (foreseen in 2002-2003)</li> <li>▪ Full-operating information system</li> <li>▪ Publications of the results for all surveys included in the annual programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collected for crop area, yield of main crops, number of main livestock, milk and milk products, vineyards, FADN system</li> <li>• Data transmitted to Eurostat according EU legislation</li> <li>• Statistical publications on results available for all users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurostat – ICO and country-leader progress reports</li> <li>• Steering Committee and its reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The great part of surveys need to be carried out in appropriate time of a year (due to both specific vegetation conditions and climatic conditions) as required in the EU legislation concerned</li> <li>• Network preparation and establishment will not be delayed.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement*</b>	<b>How, When and By Whom Indicators Will Be Measured</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of know how: European assistance – short term experts and know how transfer made by EU official statistical bodies, teaching of the statistical methodology of the EU, participation of the Bulgarian experts to the EU working party meetings in the agricultural statistics sector</li> <li>• Provision of equipment: Software and hardware infrastructure adapted to the specific requirements</li> <li>• Conduction of surveys: collection of data ‘on the field’ , processing and publication.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional specifications and feasibility study. Technical specification developed. Participation in EU working party meetings concerning agricultural statistics</li> <li>• Functional statistical network</li> <li>• Realization of all the planned surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eurostat to verify the functional specifications, the feasibility study and the technical specification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The staff recruited is appropriate</li> <li>▪ Good management and monitoring are available</li> <li>▪ Bulgarian expertise is adequate</li> </ul>

## **Annex 4**

### **Relation of project with previous Phare activities and with ongoing projects financed by other sources, including State budget**

All previous projects are a part of the entire statistical working programme aiming the collection of data according EU legislation and enabling to manage the national agricultural policy.

#### **Bilateral projects:**

- Land cover/Land use survey called BANCIK - 1998 and 1999 (Bilateral project with France)  
In 1998 a Land use/Land cover survey has been conducted. It was based on the method of area frame sampling. In this land cover / land use survey, over 111.000 points are observed defined once for all and distributed in 3.129 segments each with a side length of 1,410 km and containing 36 points. The choice of an aligned systematic area sample entailed creating a regular grid comprised of lines running N-S and E-W at intervals of 6 km. A programme was developed for this section. It features a module for randomly determining the origin of the grid outside the rectangle drawn on Bulgarian territory. Each intersection on the grid becomes the centre of a segment that may be considered random. Bulgaria's borders were "pushed back" by an 827 m. strip to offset any inaccuracies in the basic cartography. On each visit, at maximum interval of one year, enumerators observe the same points in the same segments. This provides reliable data on change. Human observation enables the use of detailed land cover/land use nomenclature. For example, it is possible to distinguish between the all crops and types of grassland and between woodland species. The nomenclature was compiled after consulting specialists in each type of land cover.
- Early estimation of winter crops sowing - April 1999 (financed by French – Bulgarian Fund - bilateral project). Based on the same method as Land cover/land use survey. A sample of "agricultural" points has been drawn up.
- Survey on yield of main crops – in 2 phases (financed by French – Bulgarian Fund - bilateral project).  
The 1-st phase was carried out in June 1999 – an observation made by agronomists on the yield on the field, before the harvest, and the second phase – in October and November 1999 – by interviews with agricultural producers.

#### **PHARE Projects:**

##### **1. BG 9806-03-02-001**

Feasibility test of a survey methodology on the farm structures - in accordance with the Council Regulation (EEC) N° 571/88 on organization of the Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings and taking into account the various decisions that amended this Regulation.

The objectives of the test are:

- Determine methods and the definitions compatible with the European definition of Bulgarian agricultural holdings;
- An assessment made of the legal status of agricultural holdings and management structures;



- Feasibility of interviews tested in terms of refusals of answer, maximum duration, quality and probability of the answers.

## **2. BG 9913-04**

Support to the restructuring of the agricultural statistics and its approximation to the EU standards.

This is the 1 year of the 3 –years programme of last phase of the programme for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria. The objectives of this project are:

- Strengthening the specialized central technical and administrative infrastructure in MAF;
- Organization and programming of the statistical data collection and processing;
- Implement the requested surveys;
- Creation of an appropriate sampling base constituted answering to the national and Community needs, the necessary area frame surveys and surveys on lists carried out
- Statistical tools for MAF which enable data collection complying to EU quality standards in relation to the future negotiations for accession of Bulgaria to EU;
- Management of Bulgarian agricultural policy for short and medium term and CAP in long term in the future.

The following surveys are planned during 2000:

- Early estimation of the areas sown with winter crops
- Estimation of the potential production of wheat
- Land cover/Land use survey (BANKIK)
- Yield survey
- Farm structure survey (following the feasibility study of 1999 – PHARE 1998)
- Livestock survey – bovine and pig livestock (specific methodology adapted to the situation in livestock sector) – feasibility test
- Specialised surveys on vineyards – feasibility test
- Specialised survey on milk– feasibility test

All new surveys, introduced for the first time in practice in Bulgaria during the implementation of this programme should be considered as feasibility tests during the first year.

## **3. Phare Multi-country project (Eurostat) on methodological aspects of the preparation of agricultural census in Candidate Countries, typology and balance sheets of main products**

The Phare multi-country Statistical Cooperation Programme, managed by Eurostats, also covers agricultural statistics. The aim of this horizontal programme is to transfer know how following a common methodology, where the delivery mechanisms are multilateral, whereas national Phare programme should support operations within the countries.

### **Other:**

Population census is organised by NSI in 2001.

There are a few general questions concerning agriculture included in the questionnaire. It will facilitate the MAF in the estimation about the existing agricultural activities in the households. This information will be useful for the creation of the list necessary for the phase of preparation of the basic farm structure survey envisaged in 2003 (agricultural census in conformity with Council Regulation 571/88).

## Annex 5

### List of relevant Laws and Regulations

#### Bulgarian Legislation:

1. Law on statistics (State Gazette No 57/25.06.1999)
2. Memorandum of Understanding, signed on April 26, 1999 between the President of NSI and the Minister of MAF (see below)
3. Decision of Council of Ministers on National statistics programme for 2000 (State Gazette No 8/2000)

#### EU Legislation:

- Surveys on crop products:  
R837/90 - Concerning statistical information to be supplied by the member states on cereal production;  
R959/93 - Concerning statistical information to be supplied by the member states on crop products other than cereals
- Livestock and animal products:  
Council Directives 93/23, 93/24, 93/25 - Statistical surveys to be carried out on pig production, bovine animal production, on sheep and goat stocks;  
Commission Decisions 94/432, 94/433, 94/434 - Laying down detailed rules for application of Council Directives 93/23, 93/24, 93/25;  
Commission Decision 95/380 - Amending Commission Decisions 94/432, 94/433, 94/434;  
Council Directive 97/77 - Concerning statistical surveys to be carried out on pig, bovine animal and sheep and goat production
- Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings:  
Council Regulation (EEC) N° 571/88 on organisation of the Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings and taking into account the various decisions which amend this Regulation.  
Commission Decision 85/377 on the Community typology of agricultural holdings
- Survey on milk and milk products  
Council Directive 96/16/CE on statistical surveys concerning the milk and milk products sector  
Commission Decision 97/80/CE concerning the application of the Council Directive 96/16/CE on statistical surveys concerning the milk and milk products sector
- Surveys on viticulture and fruit growing  
Council Regulation (EEC) 357/79 of 5 February 1979, concerning the statistical surveys into the areas under vines.  
Council Directive 76/625/EEC of 20 July 1976 concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the MS in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees.
- FADN system  
Regulation No 79/65/EEC of the Council of 15 June 1965 setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Economic Community.  
Consolidated version Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2237/77 of 23 September 1977 amending Regulation No 118/66/EEC on the form of farm return to be used for the purpose of determining incomes of agricultural holdings.

Consolidated version Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1915/83 of 13 July 1983 on certain detailed implementing rules concerning the keeping of accounts for the purpose of determining the incomes of agricultural holdings  
Commission Decision of 7 June 1985 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings - Consolidated version (85/377/EEC).

## Memorandum of Understanding (translation in French)

Pour l'INS

Pour MAFRA

President (Hadjiiski)

Minister (Varbanov)

### Memorandum of understanding

Aujourd'hui, le 26 avril 1999, prenant en consideration l'extreme importance des donnees statistiques agricoles pour la conduite de la politique agricole en Bulgarie et aussi en Union Europeenne et l'importance du processus de preparation des negociations d'adhesion a l'UE, le president de l'INS d'une part et le Ministre de l'agriculture d'autre part concretisant leur intention pour cooperation sont d'accord pour ce que suit:

1. En conformite avec l'article 6, par.8 de la loi de statistique (JO 25 de 1991) et de l'art. 5 de Arrete d'organisation de la statistique au MAFRA, adopte en avril 1998 apres l'avis favorable de l'INS, une division Agrostatique a ete creee dans la structure central du MAFRA, placee sur l'autorite directe du Ministre. Cette unite dispose de 9 delegations regionales dans le pays, reparties au niveau 2 de la NUTS (NUTS(2)).

L'unite centrale et ses delegations et l'INS constituent les structures en charge de la reprise progressive de l'acquis communautaire dans le domain d'agrostatique conformement a la repartition des activites determinee aux points 6 et 7 de ce Memorandum.

2. La division Agrostatique du MAFRA beneficie de la cooperation et de l'appui de l'INS, conformement a la loi statistique en matiere de coordination des activites et d'echange d'information entre les deux organisations.

3. La division Agrostatique travaille en conformite avec la deontologie statistique notamment le Reglement UE 322/97.

4. Le programme de travail de l'unite agrostatique du MAFRA est arrete chaque annee calendaire par la Commission d'agrostatique au sein du MAFRA conformement a l'article 3, par. 2 de l'Arrete d'organisation de la statistique au MAFRA. Il tient compte des besoins nationaux exprimes par les principaux utilisateurs consultes sur les priorites et des engagements internationaux.

Le programme de travail s'execute en prenant en compte les exigences de l'acquis communautaire et de la legislation europeenne en vigueur dans le domaine.

5. Un plan cadre couvrant la periode 1997 - 2002 a ete arrete et publie comme "Plan de developpement de la statistique agricole en Bulgarie". Ce plan elabore en concertation avec Eurostat sera mis en oeuvre durant la periode pour aider le Gouvernement Bulgare dans la preparation des negociations

d'adhesion. Un recensement agricole est prévu a la fin de la periode - en 2003 en conformite avec la legislation de l'Union.

6. Conformement au programme mentionne ci-dessus, la division Agrostatistique du MAFRA maintient le systeme RICA, organise et conduit les enquetes de l'agriculture, des forets et de la peche, conformement aux modules du SRC suivants:

- 611 - utilisation du territoire
- 612- remote sensing
- 621 - enquete des structures des exploitations agricoles et typologie
- 622 Eurofarm
- 623 statistiques viticoles
- 624 statistique des vergers
- 634 - statistique de la main d'oeuvre
- 641 - statistique vegetale
- 642 les bilans des produits vegetaux /en quantites physiques/
- 643 agromet
- 651, 652, 654 - statistique des aminaux
- 653 - les bilans des produits animaux /en quantites physiques/
- 681 statistique des forets
- 691-694 - statistique de la peche

L'unite agrostatistique prepare les analyses statistiques a partir des resultats obtenus.

Les modules prioritaires pour l'annee 99 sont 611, 612, 621, 641, 642

7. Conformement au programme mentionne au point 5 de ce Memorandum l'INS continuera d'elaborer les travaux statistiques sur les modules du SRC suivants :

- 531 - Commerce interne (INTRASTAT),
- 532 - Commerce externe,
- 536 - Statistique de commerce,
- 631 - Comptes economiques agricoles,
- 632 - revenus agricoles,
- 633 - statistique des prix agricoles,
- 635 - modele SPEL,
- 642 et 653 - Les bilans des produits vegetaux et animaux en valeur,
- 721 - comptes economiques regionaux

et aussi organisera les enquetes sur la consommation des menages agricoles.

8. Pour aider au developpement de l'unite agrostatistique et assurer une bonne coordination des activites l'INS detache au moins un representant a la division Agrostatistique du MAFRA. Si necessaire, l'INS assure une aide de consultance et une aide technique a l'unite.

9. Font parties integrantes de ce memorandum le "Plan de developpement de la statistique agricole en Bulgarie pour la periode 1997-2002" comme mentionne au point 5 et la lettre de M. Heath - directeur de la Direction F "Statistique de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et de l'energie" - Eurostat (Commission Europeenne) du 15.02.1999

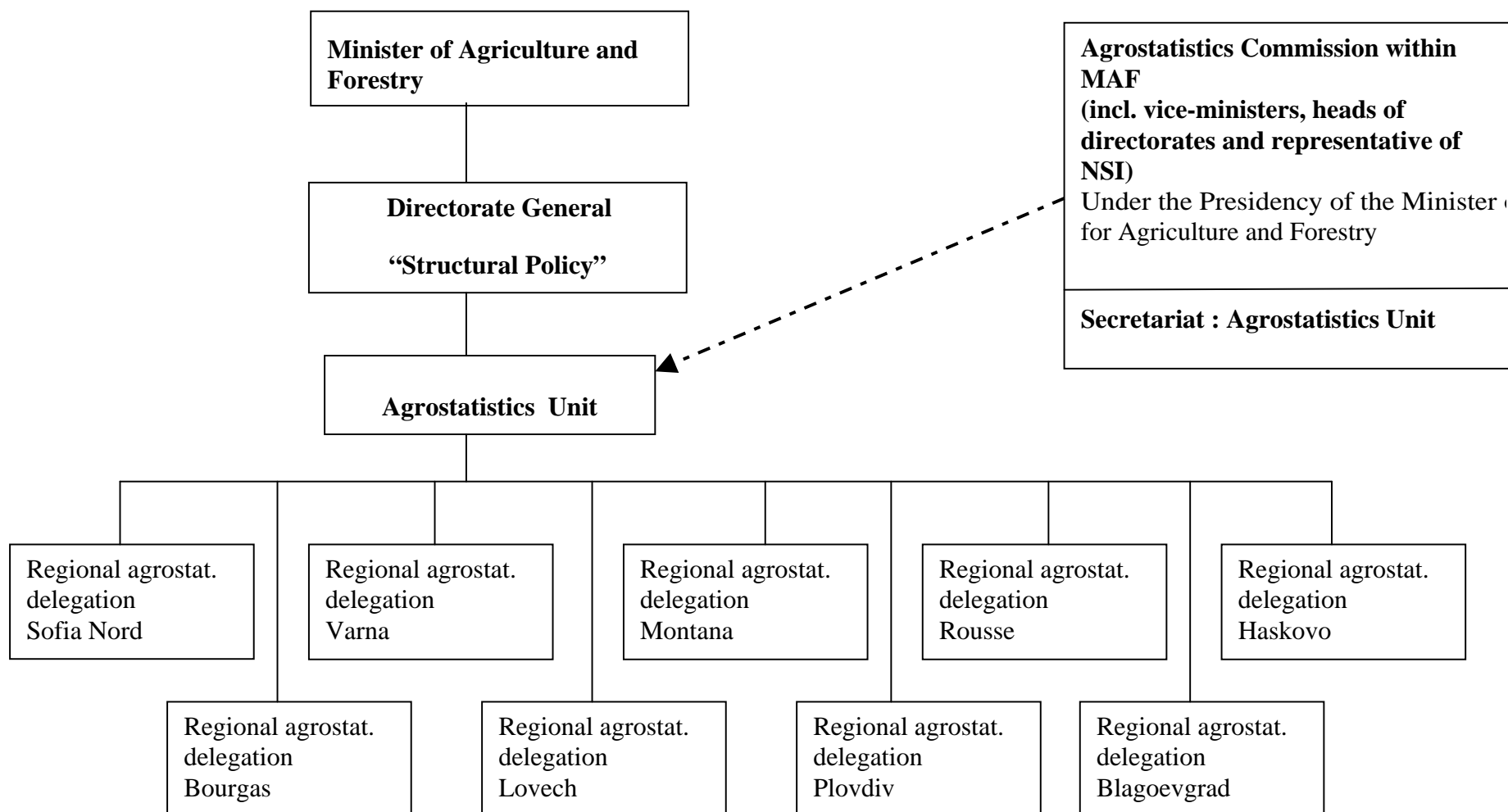
## **Annex 6**

### **Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies**

1. “Plan for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria 1997 - 2002”, published by MAF in November 1998 (available in Bulgarian, French and English);
2. “Strategy for development of statistics” – under preparation, co-ordinator: NSI.

## Annex 7

### Administrative Structure of Agrostatistics within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry





## **Annex 8**

### **Publications concerning surveys carried out in 1998 and 1999 (series “Results and Analyses”)**

No 1 – 1999	BANCIK: L’utilisation du sol en Bulgarie en 1998 (versions bulgare et francaise) publié en Fevrier 1999
No 2 – 1999	BANCIK 1999: Resultats preliminaires de l’enquete d’occupation et d’utilisation du sol (versions bulgare et francaise) publié en Juin 1999
No 3 – 1999	Résultats definitifs de l’enquete BANCIK 1999 (version bulgare) publié en Septembre 1999
No 4 – 1999	BANCIK 1999: Resultats définitifs de l’enquete d’occupation et d’utilisation du sol en Bulgarie en 1999 (versions bulgare et francaise) publié en Novembre 1999
No 5 – 1999	Resultats preliminaires de l’enquete rendement 1998-1999 (versions bulgare et francaise) publié en Decembre 1999
No 6 – 2000	Resultats definitifs de l’enquete rendement 1998-1999 (versions bulgare et francaise)

## Annex 3

### CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING and DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (2.0 MEUR)

Date	31/12/2000	31/03/2001	30/06/2001	30/09/2001	31/12/2001	31/03/2002	30/06/2002
Contracted	#####	#####	#####	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.000.000
Disbursed		400.000	800.000	1.400.000	1.600.000	1.800.000	2.000.000

NB: 1. *all contracting should normally be completed within 6-12 months and **must** be completed within 24 months of signature of FM*  
2. *all disbursements **must** be completed within 36 months of signature of the FM*