

SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information:

- 1.1 **Désirée number:** **BG 0103.08**
- 1.2 **Title :** **Improving the quality of agricultural statistics**
- 1.3 **Sector :** AG
- 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.
- Last phase of the training programme for the official staff of the Department for Agro-statistics of the MAF at headquarters and in the regional offices on EU practice and procedures in order to assure the autonomy of the system after 2003. Further transfer of technical know-how to the experts conducting statistical surveys.
- Taking advantage of the established full-operating Bulgarian agricultural statistical 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 annual statistical programme compatible with EU programme covering all modules of agricultural statistics (Statistical Requirements Compendium), including surveys on land use, on crop yields, on fruit growing and vineyards, on vegetables and flowers, on animals and animal products, on milk and milk products (3rd year of the Phase C of the programme for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria).
- development of FADN (Farm Accountancy Data Network) system
- preparatory work for the basic structure survey – agricultural census

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”

2001 - PHARE 2000 2,00 MEUR, Government Budget 0.5 MEUR

2002 - PHARE 2001 1.50 MEUR, Government Budget 0.65 MEUR

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

In order to fully implement the “acquis communautaire” in this sector, and due to the need 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 EC 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 for the adoption of the “acquis communautaire” for agricultural statistics; 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.

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)

Phase B (from January 1999 to December 1999):

1. During these two phases, 3 surveys have been introduced: a Land cover/Land use survey based on area frame sampling (BANCİK); Sample survey on yield of main crops; 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):

The main objective is the establishment of a well functioning Agrostatistics system that includes a transfer of know-how and training of local agro-statisticians, progressive implementation of an annual programme of national statistical surveys applied in line with the “acquis communautaire”, establishment of an Agro-statistics network system.

Phase C has 3 annual components.

1. From January 2000 to December 2000, the first component of Phase C under National Phare 1999 assistance
2. The second component of Phase C lasts from beginning of 2001 to beginning of 2002 (under National PHARE 2000 assistance).
3. The third one is envisaged for the period beginning of 2002 – beginning of 2003.

The request for assistance under the Phare 2001 (third component of the 3-year programme) will cover mainly the consolidation of the situation implemented in the previous years. 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. The objective is that progressively the MAF takes charge of the global functioning of the system of agrostatistics. It has to become independent from external aid at the end of the Phase C of the programme.

During the execution of the Plan, MAF will finance the running costs (including salaries of expert of agrostatistics 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.

In 2002 Working programme such surveys are: Land Use/Land cover, surveys on yield, surveys on milk (at least 4 surveys during the year), surveys on animals and animal products (without poultry and eggs).

The PHARE project will finance the surveys introduced as feasibility tests or experimental surveys which are not yet fully in conformity with EU requirements such as orchard survey, survey on vineyard and grape production, surveys on vegetables and flowers, survey on poultry and eggs, work on balance-sheets.

PHARE projects for support to agrostistics – comparison table

	Statistical programme 1999		Statistical programme 2000		Statistical programme 2001		Statistical programme 2002	
	PHARE 1998	MAF	PHARE 1999	MAF	PHARE 2000	MAF	PHARE 2001	MAF
Project Number	BG 9806-03-02-001		BG 9913-04		BG 00.05.05		BG	
Budget:	0.3 MEur?		1.34 MEuro		2.0 MEuro		1.50 MEuro	
			Know-how transfer with the assistance of European authorities;		Know-how transfer with the assistance of European authorities;		Know-how transfer with the assistance of European authorities;	
			Training and creation of local expertise for the implementation of the field surveys.		Training and creation of local expertise for the implementation of the field surveys.		Training and creation of local expertise for the implementation of the field surveys.	
			Creation of a prototype for a developed statistical information network.		Introduction of the developed statistical information network.			
Regulation 571/88 cons.: - Intermediate survey (FSS) - Full census	Technical assistance for Feasibility test of a survey methodology on the farms structure.		Feasibility test-cont.			sample survey	preparation	
Regulations 79/65 cons; 1859/82 cons; Decision 85/377 cons. (establishment of FADN and typology)					preliminary work		establishment of the system	
Regulations 837/90; 959/93: - areas under wheat and barley - early estimation (april-may) - direct observation - main crops - estimation of yield before harvest - direct observation - main crops production - survey by interviews				sample survey sample survey sample survey		sample survey sample survey sample survey		sample survey sample survey sample survey

Directives 93/23; 93/24; 93/25 cons. (livestock and animal products stat.)			feasibility tests			sample surveys		sample surveys
Dir 96/16 (milk and milk products stat)			feasibility tests			sample surveys		sample surveys
Land use statistics				area frame sampling survey		area frame sampling survey		area frame sampling survey
Regulation 357/79 cons. (stat. on vineyard structures)			feasibility test			sample survey		
Dir 76/625 cons. (stat. on fruit growing structures)					feasibility test			
stat. on fruit and grape production (gentlemen agreement)							feasibility test	
stat. on vegetable production and flowers (gentlemen agreement)							feasibility test	

The emphasis in this programme will be on the development of the FADN system and the preparation of the basic farm structure survey (agricultural census) envisaged in 2003 (in conformity with the recommendations of the Agricultural Statistics Committee – June 2000).

During each annual component of phase C, there are 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 lasts during the 3 components of the Phase C in order to prepare the autonomy of the Bulgarian system of agrostatistics.

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

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 (see the detailed implementation chart at annex 2):

- Land cover/Land use survey called BANCİK - 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 1st 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
- 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 a common methodology, where the delivery mechanisms are multilateral, whereas national Phare programme should support operations within the countries.

The project is also planned within the context of two strategy documents; the “Plan for development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria 1997 - 2002”, published by MAF in November 1998 and the “Strategy for development of statistics” .

Please see Annex 4 for a more detailed explanation of the link with previous Phare activities.

3.3. Results:

The results of the current financing will be:

- Production of statistics for livestock and animal products,
- Realisation of a survey on vineyard and grape production,
- Realisation of a survey on perennials
- Surveys on fruits and vegetables,
- Production of statistics for milk and milk products,
- Production of statistics for crop production, crop yields,
- Evaluation of land use/land cover – based on area frame sampling method.
- Core preparation of basic farm structure survey; according to R571/88 – consolidated, Commission Decisions 89/651 – consolidated, 85/377 – consolidated
- Development of the FADN system,
- Introduction of surveys on poultry and eggs
- Further work on balance-sheets
- Participation in the work on agricultural producer price statistics, which is essentially under the responsibility of NSI.
- Work on preparation of monthly information booklets on agriculture
- Publication and dissemination of reports for the survey results for regional, national and EC use.

3.4. Activities:

Transfer of know how:

Most of the requirements necessary to achieve the objectives of this project will be European assistance for final 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-year Programme, in 2003, the Bulgarian agro-statistics structures are able to work without external aid.

The EU assistance will be provided through short-term expertise and 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 – advanced course, sampling techniques – advanced course, computer processing in statistics and statistical data base, data control, data analyses, data publication and dissemination, micro-economic analyses and typology, surveys on fruits, vegetables and flowers, registers, the use of administrative sources. The beneficiaries of the training are agrostatistics experts of the MAF – in central department and in regional delegations.

Preparation of the agricultural census

It includes different steps:

1. preparation of a common list including information from all available lists existing in the central and regional agrostatistics delegations as well as in other services of MAF concerning agricultural producers (and households). All samples used in surveys conducted during previous years will be included into the common list.
2. preparation of a list as a result of the population census (conducted in 2001) This list will consist on all households who have declared any kind of agricultural activity
3. combining 3 existing sources: the lists mentioned in 1) and 2) and the BULSTAT register of the economic units (or Statistical Business register)

These 3 steps will begin in 2001 and do not required additional PHARE financing.

4. This step includes an organisation of special working groups (the best solution is to create such working groups in each ‘zemlishte’) between the representatives of each municipalities, specialists of agrostatistics delegation (surveyors trained for this purpose) and representatives of agricultural producers in each region in order to finalise the existing common list – to add newly created farms or missing ones, to draw out farms which do not exist already.

Activities of the working groups:

- the problem of determination of the limits between the “self-consumption” units and units producing for the market has to be solved case by case. The units producing for the market (part of the production or all) will be considered as holdings (farms) and will be included in the lists. This is one of the most important problems to be solved.
- working groups will examine all persons included in the lists in order to avoid repetitions (for example 2 members of one farm are included in the same list). It will separate the holdings (farms) which have the same (or very similar) names and are included in the list as one holding.

At this period we must have a clear definition about agricultural producer, applicable during the meetings and in conformity with the EU one.

Pilot tests are envisaged in 20 typical small regions (for example ‘zemlishte’). The objectives of the test are:

- elaboration of the final version of the questionnaire and the instruction for the surveyors;
- estimation of the average duration of interview;
- definition of quality control procedures.

The step 4) is the core preparation of the agricultural census and it will be carried out in 2002.

FADN

The preparatory work on the establishment of the FADN system includes an analysis of the existing fiscal system on agriculture in order to find the most effective way to introduce the special accountancy form for the FADN.

For the big agricultural enterprises where the bookkeeping exists it is necessary to recalculate the elements under the FADN format. This activity should begin in 2001. After that an analysis will be made about the missing information. For the households that are not obliged to have a bookkeeping, special accountants will be used.

In 2002 the sample of farms has to be designed, after the analysis mentioned above. This will be a temporary sample for the FADN system. The final sample will be determined after the agricultural census.

The unit in charge with the FADN system in DG Agri will be informed regularly about the stage of development of this activity. It will be consulted during the main phases of implementation.

Conduction of surveys (see 3.3):

In addition of the preparation of census and FADN system the following surveys will be conducted:

- survey on Land cover/Land Use;
- survey on yields;
- survey on orchards;
- on vineyards and grape production;
- livestock and animal products;
- on milk;
- vegetables and flowers;
- balance sheets of main products.

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.

4. Institutional Framework

Within the MAF, an independent Agrostistics department has been created for the development and the management of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria.

In April 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the President of NSI and the Minister of MAF with distribution of the modules included in Statistical Requirements Compendium between the two institutions. The central division of the new Department in the MAF is in charge of concepts development, the organization and the coordination 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 Agrostistics Division in MAF has set up regional agro-statistics delegations in the following 9 macro-regions: Sofia north, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Haskovo, Bourgas, Varna, Rousse, Lovetch, Montana. The regional delegations are in charge of 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 full 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 agrostistics 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.

5. Detailed Budget (*in Meuro*):

Item	Phare Support			National Co-financing*	IFT*	TOTAL
	Investment Support	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)			
Technical Assistance		2.0	2.0	0.35		2.35
TOTAL		2.0	2.0	0.35*		2.35*

** Another 0.30 Meur will be provided in kind from Bulgarian Government*

Please see Annex 6, which shows how the Phare contribution to surveillance payments has fallen since 1998. Please see Annex 7 for a more detailed breakdown of this budget.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency:

The CFCU in the Ministry of Finance will be responsible for tendering and contracting of the project. The monitoring and control of the project implementation will be done by Phare Implementing Agency of MAF.

A Steering Committee, established during the implementation of previous Phare projects, composed of representatives from the EC Delegation in Sofia, Eurostat, the Contractor, the NSI 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.

The Project Leader, responsible for day to day management of the project will be Nelly Georgieva, Head of Agrostistics Department.

6.2. Twinning:

Non applicable.

6.3. Non-standard Aspects:

No non-standard aspects are envisaged for tendering/contracting. There will be strict accordance with the DIS Manual procedures.

6.4. Contracts

It is envisaged that one contract only.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1. Start of contracting:	October 2001
7.2. Start of project activities:	January 2002
7.3. Project Completion:	December 2002

8. Equal Opportunity

The agrostatistics 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 agrostatistics expert are women.

9. Environment:

Not applicable.

10. Rates of Return:

Not applicable.

11. Investment criteria:

Not applicable.

12. Conditionality and Sequencing

- Designation of the Agrostatistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture as officially responsible for FADN;
- A written commitment from the Ministry of Agriculture to fully finance the programme without Phare assistance from 2002 onwards.
- The activities 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 2000 project should be implemented successfully at the moment the current project starts. All results available from previous surveys or feasibility tests must be used;
- All contracting activities should be finalized before 1 March 2002 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.

Annex 1: Logframe Planning Matrix

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR:			Contracting period expires: 30/11/2003	Disbursement period expires: 30/11/2004
“Improving the Quality of Agricultural Statistics”			Total budget: 2.35 MEURO	Phare contribution: 2.0 MEURO
Wider Objectives	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement the compliance of agricultural statistics to EU standards; Definition and implementation of a coherent annual programme of national statistical surveys applied in line with the “<i>acquis communautaire</i>” 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical publications on results, available for all users Surveys carried out according the EU legislation and practice Database accessible for the users Analysis made on the ground of the data from surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly – specific report from Eurostat, and other EU official bodies EU Commission screening exercise and negotiation process Publications other official bodies responsible for marketing research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment from the Government and the Minister of Agriculture 	
Immediate Objectives	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Last phase of the training programme for the official staff of the Department for Agro-statistics of the MAF at headquarters and in the regional offices on EU practice and procedures in order to assure the autonomy of the system after 2003. Further transfer of technical know-how to the experts conducting statistical surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of employees trained – 15 employees at central level and minimum 27 employees at regional level Quality of sample surveys carried out Number of weeks of know-how transfer At least 5 surveys carried out in full compliance with the EU legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive report after each survey Validation of transfer of know-how 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained staff remain employees of MAF (in the central and regional units) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking advantage of the established full-operating Bulgarian agricultural statistical 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 Annual statistical programme compatible with EU programme covering all modules of agricultural statistics (Statistical Requirements Compendium) including 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from surveys are accepted without remarks by the EU statistical officials 			

<p>surveys on land use, on crop yields, on fruit growing and vineyards, on vegetables and flowers, on animals and animal products, on milk and milk products (3-rd year of the Phase C of the programme for the development of agricultural statistics in Bulgaria).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of FADN system • preparatory work for the basic structure survey – agricultural census 			
Results	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and implementation of agricultural statistics surveys included into the Community legislation for livestock and animal products, vineyard and orchard surveys, surveys on vegetables, milk and milk products, crop statistics crop yields and land use. ▪ Implementation of FADN system, work on typology ▪ Data base for surveys compatible with Eurofarm database ▪ Publications of the results for all surveys included in the annual programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collected for crop area, yield of main crops, number of main livestock, milk and milk products, vineyards, FADN system • Data transmitted to Eurostat according EU legislation • Statistical publications on results available for all users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee and its reports • Eurostat to verify the functional specifications, the feasibility study and the technical specification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greater 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 • Network preparation and establishment will not be delayed.
Activities	Means		Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ▪ A core preparation phase for agriculture census (foreseen in 2003) • Conduction of surveys: collection of data ‘on the field’, processing and publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance contract 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The staff recruited is appropriate ▪ Good management and monitoring are available ▪ Bulgarian expertise is adequate

Annex 2: Time Schedule for Implementation

[illegible]

- P – Preparation
- E - Evaluation
- C - Contracting
- T – Tendering
- I – Implementation

Detailed Implementation Chart

1999												2000												2001												2002												2003											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D											
Investment																																																											
SP8 MAFRA statistical system construction																																																											
Project Management																																																											
Training in Bulgaria																																																											
Equipment (cars, computers..)																																																											

[illegible]

Preparation and training

114

Results

	10-12-2001	1-3-2002	4-6-2002	7-9-2002	10-12-2002	1-3-2003	4-6-2003	7-9-2003
Contracted	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0		
Disbursed	0.4	0.68	0.96	1.24	1.52	1.8	2.0	

	10-12-2001	1-3-2002	4-6-2002	7-9-2002	10-12-2002	1-3-2003	4-6-2003	7-9-2003
Contracted	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0		
Disbursed	0.4	0.68	0.96	1.24	1.52	1.8	2.0	

Annex 4: Relation of project with previous Phare activities and with ongoing projects financed from 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 (see the time table attached).

Bilateral projects:

- Land cover/Land use survey called BANCİK - 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

Previous PHARE Projects:

1. BG 9806-03-02-0001

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 1st year of the 3-year 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 (BANCİK)
- 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. BG 00.05.05

Restructuring of the agricultural statistics system.

This is the 2nd year of the 3-year 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 2001:

- Early estimation of the areas sown with winter crops
- Estimation of the potential production of wheat
- Land cover/Land use survey (BANCIK)
- Yield survey
- Farm structure survey (restricted sample)
- Livestock surveys
- Specialised surveys on vineyards
- Specialised survey on milk
- Survey on orchard – feasibility test
- Preparation for the FADN system – methodological aspects

4. 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 cover agricultural statistics. The aim of this horizontal programme is to transfer know how following a 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

Annex 6: Surveyor's Payments

Annual Survey Programme (ASP)	PHARE 1998		PHARE 1999			PHARE 2000		PHARE 2001	
	MAF	PHARE	MAF Obligation (as incl in Project fiche)	MAF Payment	PHARE	MAF Obligation (as incl in Project fiche)	PHARE	MAF Obligation (as incl in Project fiche)	PHARE
ASP 1999	0	0.18 MEuro	///	///	///	///	///	///	///
ASP 2000	///	///	0	0.06 MEuro	0.28 MEuro	///	///	///	///
ASP 2001	///	///	///	///	///	0.20 MEuro	0.45 MEuro	///	///
ASP 2002	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	0.35 MEuro	0.15 MEuro

Annex 7: Detailed Breakdown of Budgets

Item	Phare Support			National Co-financing*	IFI*	TOTAL
	Investment Support	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)			
General co-ordination and management (European assistance)		0.38	0.38			0.38
Transfer of the know-how (European assistance)		0.22	0.22			0.22
Local training and local consultants		0.3	0.3			0.3
General running costs - in kind (Provided by the Bulgarian Government)						
Survey programme (payment to the surveyors)		0.15	0.15	0.35		0.50
FADN		0.35	0.35			0.35
Preparation for the census		0.60	0.60			0.60
TOTAL		2.0	2.0	0.35*		2.35*

The surveyors are not permanent employees of the agrostatistics unit. They are recruited for one survey under a service contract. It is necessary that the surveyors are familiar with the agriculture and they are obliged to attend to the special training organized for them before each survey.

Annex 8: Glossary of Terms

AP	Accession Partnership
ASP	Annual Survey Programme
FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPAA	National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis
NSI	National Statistics Institute