



Estimation, Methods for Macro Agricultural Statistics – Hungarian example

Éva Laczka Ph.D.

Central Statistical Office, Budapest, Hungary – eva-laczka@ksh.hu

Abstract

The system of agricultural statistics is one of the most regulated field of the EU Statistical System aimed at providing information, data for the planning of the Common Agricultural Policy, the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation. Its subsystems are the micro and macro statistics, EU macro-statistics are embodied in the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) which is in practice a satellite account of National Accounts. The function of the satellite account is to measure and analyse the income of agricultural activity.

The Member States of the European Union have been publishing EAA data since 1964, the uniform methodological requirements of EAA were published for the first time in 1989. Hungary joined the macro-system at the beginning of the 2000-ies and has been publishing data on the Hungarian agricultural sector since 1999. In the reference year two preliminary and one final accounts are compiled on agricultural output, the first estimates are produced in November of the reference year when the year has not finished yet.

EAA are based on agricultural surveys and numerous administrative data sources complemented by a great number of estimations. For the first estimates statisticians rely almost exclusively on estimation, because at that period statistical data sources are not yet available. Some statistical data sources are available for the second estimates, but even the production of final data requires several estimations. The measurement of agricultural labour input (Annual Working Unit – AWU) is of outstanding importance. The measurement, estimation of AWU is a challenge especially in the case of private farms, because in the majority of cases part-time agricultural activity must be transposed into full-time work equivalent. The other big task is to create the bridge between the activity based data of EAA and the National Accounts data based on economic branch approach.

The purpose of the presentation is to present the data sources, estimations related to the EAA and the problems to be solved.

Keywords: satellite account; EAA; estimates of the EAA; Annual Working Unit.