



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

(AGRARIAN REPORT 2016)

AGRARIAN REPORT 2015

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List of abbreviations

BFSA	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
BSMAEC	Bulgarian Survey for Monitoring the Agricultural and Economic Conjuncture
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Added Value
BSS	Bulgarian State Standard
BNB	Bulgarian National Bank
BEP	Biological and Economic Properties
BRC	Bulgarian Red Cross
RES	Renewable energy sources
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal Products
BCP	Border Check Points
BCRP	Border Crossing Points
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
FRM	Forest reproductive materials
FEPP	Forest Economic Plans and Programs
SFH	State Forest Holdings
VAT	Value Added Tax
SHA	State Hunting Areas
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises
SLF	State Land Fund
SFA	State Fund Agriculture
SFA-PA	State Fund Agriculture – Paying Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
SMNCP	Single Multi-Annual National Control Plan for Foods, Animal Feed, Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health
EERP	European Economic Recovery Plan
EU	European Union
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EFF	European Fisheries Fund

AFM	Agricultural and forestry machinery
PGI	Protected geographical indication
GMOA	Genetically Modified Organisms Act
PDO	Protected designation of origin
SPMA	Seed and Propagating Material Act
OUALA	Ownership and Use of Agricultural Land Act
EFA	Executive Forest Agency
VWEA	Executive Agency for the Vineyard and the Wine
EAFA	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture
EAPVFIGC	Executive Agency for Plant Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control
EASRLB	Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Livestock breeding
UAA	Utilised agricultural area
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
TCD	Traffic Control Department
TCI	Technical Control Inspectorate
MI	Ministry of Interior
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
LAG	Local action groups
LAFG	Local Action Fishery Groups
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
LDP	Local Development Strategies
NRA	National Revenue Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
NB	National budget
NAPDP	National additional payments to direct payments
NDRVM	National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Medical Institute
NMP	National monitoring program for control of pesticide residues in food of plant origin
NMPCR	National monitoring program for control of residues of veterinary medicinal products and environmental contaminants
NPCRP	National program for control of pesticide residues in food of plant and animal origin
NAP	National apiculture program

NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NGS	National Grain Service
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NAAS	National Agricultural Advisory Service
DD „Agriculture“	District directorates “Agriculture”
DFSD	District Food Safety Directorate
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMO	Common Market Organisation
OPFSD	Operational Program Fisheries Sector Development
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
IROUALA	Implementing Rules for the Ownership and Use of Agricultural Land Act
PPP	Plant protection products
RDP	Rural Development Program 2007 — 2013
FDI	Foreign direct investment
RDF	Regional Directorate of Forestry
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DHS	Distinctiveness, homogeneity and stability
SAPS	Single Area Payment Scheme
SIAL	System for Identification of Agricultural Lots
IA	Irrigation associations
AA	Agricultural Academy
FTST	Food with traditional-specific taste
CLVSEE	Central Laboratory for Veterinary Sanitary Expertise and Ecology
CLPQ	Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine
CLCTC	Central Laboratory for Chemical Testing and Controls
DOM	Digital Orthophoto map
PTC	Professional Training Center
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

SECTION A

I. NATIONAL ECONOMY SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK.

PLACE OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR WITHIN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

According to final data of NSI in 2015 the gross domestic product, produced in the country, has increased¹ by 3.6% compared to the previous year.

In nominal terms, the annual GDP amounted to 88 571 million BGN (45 286 million EUR).

As of the end of 2015, the inflation has marked a decrease by 0.4%, and the annual average inflation for the year is minus 0.1%.

According to data provided by BNB, in 2015 the export amounts to 42 871 million BGN (21 919 million EUR), which is 49.6% of the GDP. The import for the year amounts to 48 000 million BGN (24 542 million EUR) or 55.6% of GDP of the country. As a result of the faster rate of increase in exports compared to imports, the negative trade balance for the year decreased by 5.6% compared to the previous year, to -5 129 million BGN (-2 622 million EUR).

In 2015, the direct foreign investments in Bulgaria have amounted to 3 310 million BGN (1 692 million EUR), which is 3.7% of GDP.

According to data of the NSI, the level of unemployment in 2015 was 9.1%, as it declined by 2.3% points compared to 2014.

Table I.1. Basic macroeconomic indicators of the Republic of Bulgaria

Indicator	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
GDP, million BGN	80 759	82 040	82 166	83 634	88 571
GDP, million EUR	41 291	41 947	42 011	42 762	45 286
Annual real rate of change in GDP, %	1.9	0.0	0.9	1.3	3.6
Annual average inflation, %	4.2	3.0	0.9	-1.4	-0.1
Inflation at the end of the year, %	2.8	4.2	-1.6	-0.9	-0.4
Trade balance (FOB/CIF), million BGN	-5 262	-7 808	-5 736	-5 431	-5 129
Trade balance (FOB/CIF), million EUR	-2 690	-3 992	-2 933	-2 777	-2 622
Foreign direct investments, million BGN	2 887	2 583	2 706	2 271	3 310
Foreign direct investments, million EUR	1 476	1 321	1 384	1 161	1 692

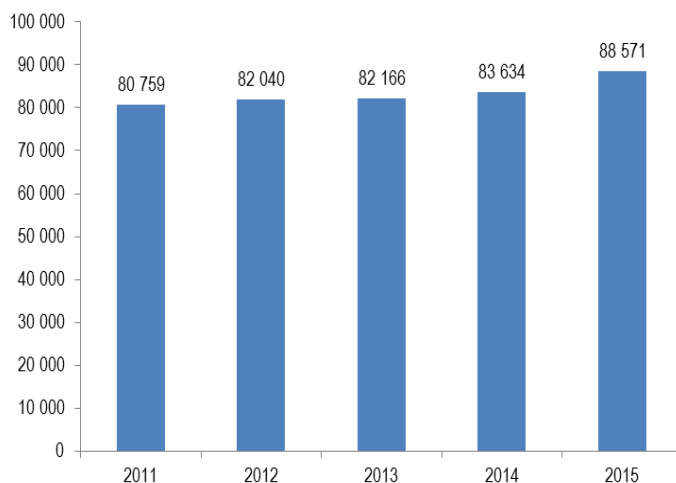
Source: NSI — GDP and inflation (final data), BNB — trade balance data and FDI, prepared according to the sixth edition of Balance of Payments Manual and international investment position of IMF, 2008 (provisional data for 2015)

¹ The actual rate of change is calculated compared to the prices of 2010

Gross Domestic Product

In 2015, GDP has increased by 3.6% in real numbers compared to the previous year. In nominal terms, it reaches 88 571 million BGN (45 286 million EUR), 12 001 BGN (6 136 Euro) per capita.

Figure I.1. Amount of GDP for the period 2011 – 2015, million BGN

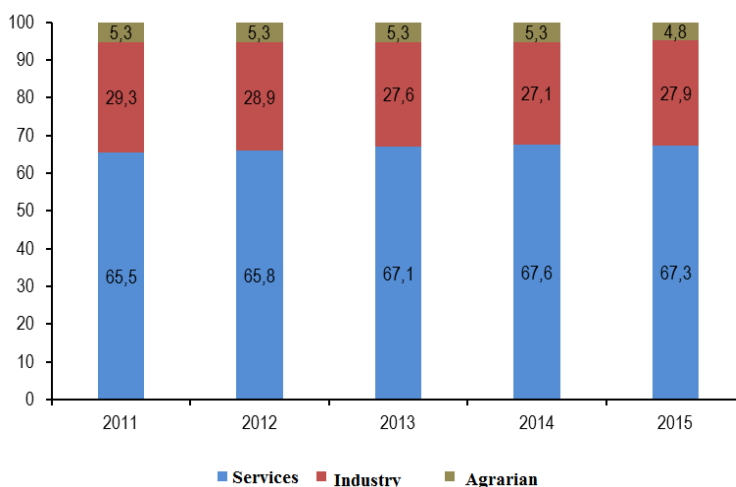


Source: NSI

Gross Value Added

The gross value added established by the sectors of the national economy in 2015 amounts to 76 546 million BGN (39 138 million EUR) according to current prices. In actual figures, it has increased by 3.0% compared to the previous year. The added value of the participants in the agrarian sector in 2015 amounts to 3 664 million BGN according to current prices, having declined by 6.8% in real terms on an annual basis.

Figure I.2. GVA by economic sectors for the period 2011 – 2015, %



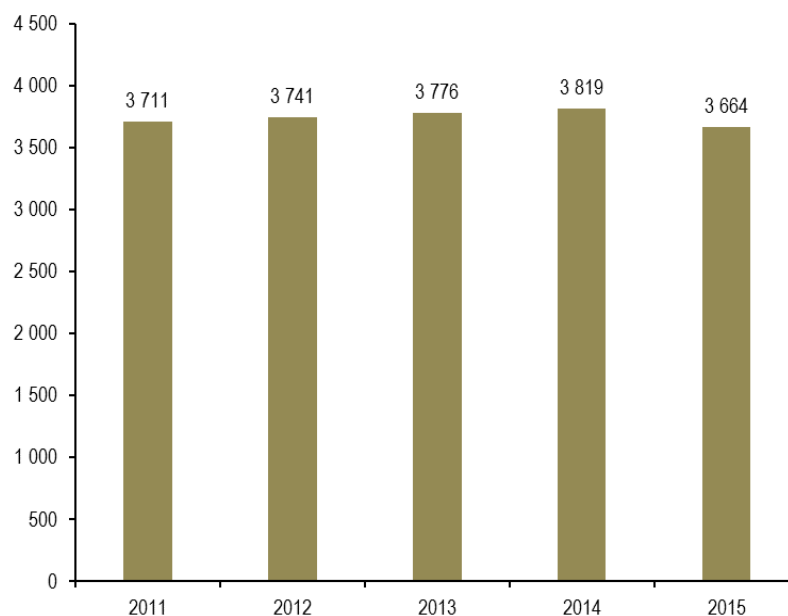
Source: NSI data processed by MAF

In terms of economic sectors, GVA for 2015 was distributed, as follows:

- Industry (including Construction) – 27,9%;
- Services – 67,3% ;
- Agrarian (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) – 4.8%.

The share of the agrarian sector in total GVA decreased by 0.5 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Figure I.3. GVA generated by sector "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries" 2011 – 2015, million BGN



Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2014.

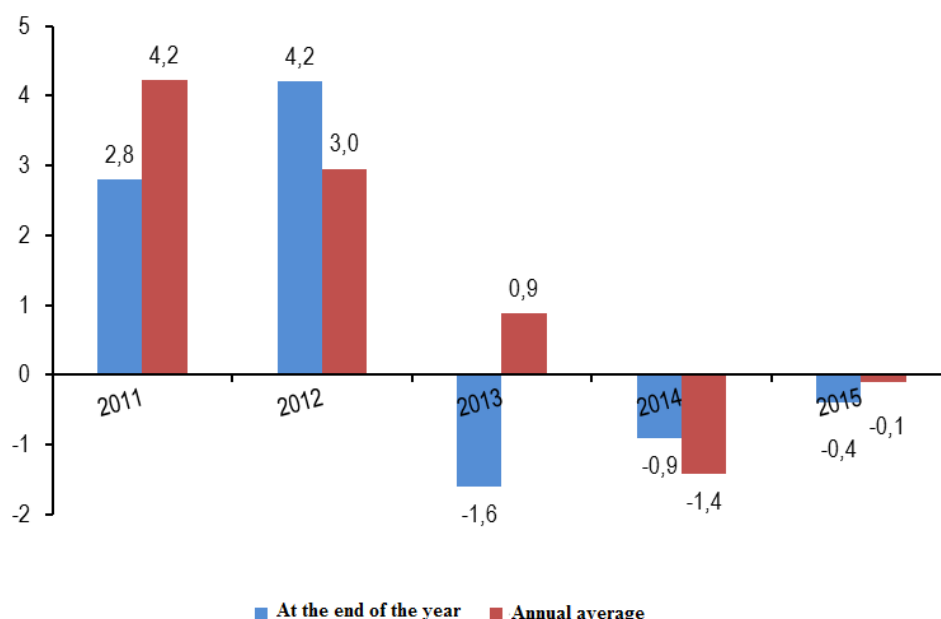
According to preliminary seasonally adjusted data of NSI, in the first and second quarters of 2016 the total GVA of the economy marked a real growth of 2.6% compared to the corresponding period of 2015. In terms of GVA, formed by the agricultural sector, the preliminary data show a decrease of 0.3% on an annual basis in real terms in the first quarter of 2016 and growth of 0.5% in the second quarter.

Inflation

The inflation, accumulated as of the end of 2015, is minus 0.4%, and the annual average inflation for the year is – 0.1%.

As of December 2015, the prices of food and non-food commodities have raised respectively by 0.5% and 1.5% on an annual basis, while the prices of non-food commodities and these of services have decreased respectively by 1.3% and 0.7%.

Figure I.4. Inflation 2011 — 2015, %



Source: NSI

Employment and unemployment

As a whole, 2015 reports improvement in key indicators of economic activity of the population, which can be explained by the observed economic growth.

According to NSI data, the annual average number of employed persons of 15 or more years of age in 2015 is 3 031.9 thousand - 1.7% higher than in comparison with the previous year. In the sector of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries there is a slight increase in the number of persons employed — by 0.5% to 207.9 thousand, causing a minor decrease in the share of the sector in the employment structure by economic activities up to 6.9% (at 7% in 2014).

The unemployment rate declined by 2.3 percentage points compared to 2014, up to 9.1%. The average number of unemployed was 305.1 thousand, with 79.4 thousand less than in 2014.

According to preliminary data of NSI, in 2015 the annual average employment salary of the full-time and part-time employees is 10 724 BGN, which is 864 BGN or 8.8% more compared to the average annual salary in 2014. In sector agriculture, forestry and fisheries the increase is 10.7%, up to an average of 8 844 BGN for 2015.

Export and import

According to BNB preliminary data concerning balance of payments, in 2015 the export of Bulgaria amounts to 42 871 million BGN (21 919 million EUR) — 4.2% above the level of the previous year, which is 48.4% of GDP. At the same time, the import reports a slightly less increase - by 3.1%, to 48 000 million BGN (24 542 million EUR) or 54.2% of GDP of the country.

Thus in 2015, the negative trade balance has decreased to –5 129 million BGN (–2 622 million EUR), compared to –5 431 million BGN (–2 777 million EUR) in 2014.

Figure I.5. Exports, imports and trade balance for 2011 – 2015, million BGN

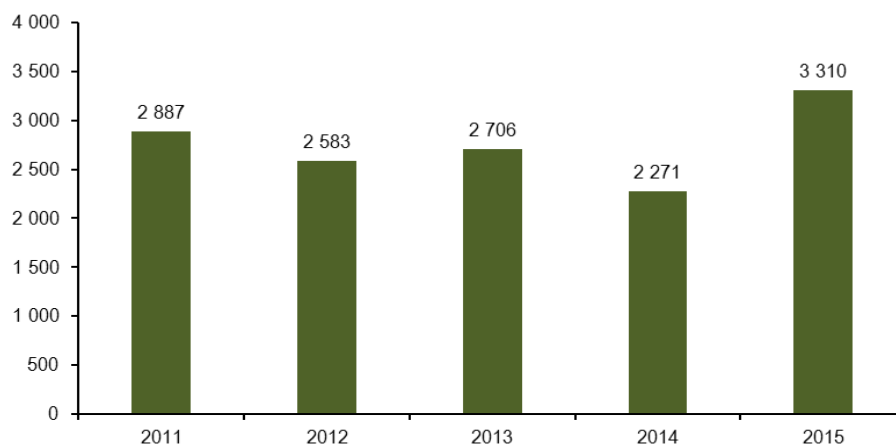


Source: BNB, preliminary data for 2015.

Foreign direct investment

According to preliminary data from BNB, FDI in the country for 2015 has amounted to 3 310 million BGN (1 692 million EUR), with 45.8% more than the previous year. The direct investments during the year represent 3.7% of the GDP, compared to 2.7% in 2014.

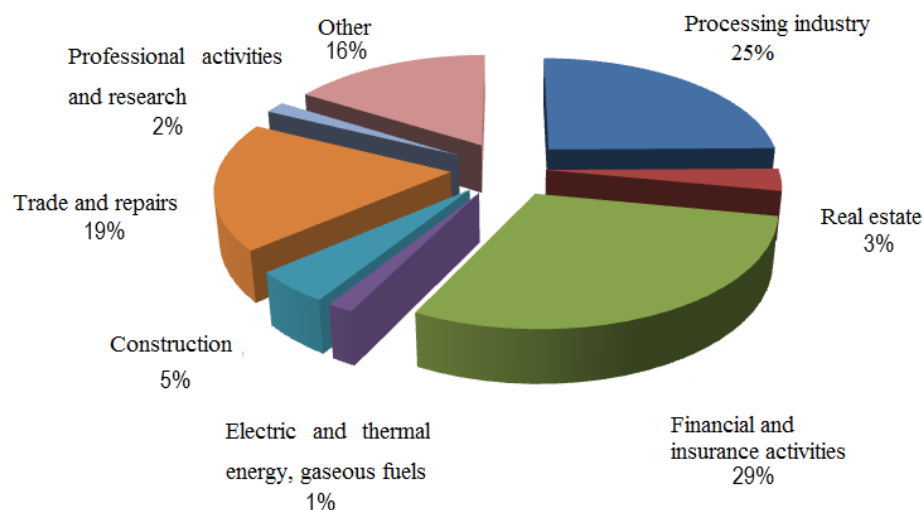
Figure I.6. Foreign direct investments 2011 – 2015, million BGN



Source: BNB (compiled data according to the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual and international investment position of IMF); Preliminary data for 2015

Within 2015 the largest investments were attracted in the sector of "Financial and insurance activities" and "Manufacturing industry" (respectively about 29% and 25% of total FDI), followed by "Trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles", "Construction" and etc. The net foreign investments in agriculture, hunting and forestry in 2015 were negative (-84.9 million BGN).

Figure I.7. Foreign direct investments by economic activities in 2015, %



Source: BNB; preliminary data, compiled according to the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual and international investment position of IMF)

Expenses for acquisition of tangible fixed assets (TFA)

According to preliminary data of the NSI, in 2015 the total expenditure on acquisition of TFA for all economic activities in the country amounted to 21 182.6 million BGN, 5.3% more than in 2014. In the agricultural, forestry and fishing sector the cost of acquisition of fixed assets increased by the significant 31.2% on an annual basis, to 1 891.4 million BGN, which is expected to contribute to improving the efficiency and economic performance in the sector in the coming years.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR IN 2015

1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture

1.1. Use of lands for agricultural purposes

The area with agricultural designation in 2015 is 5 202 752 ha, which represents approximately 47% of the territory of the country.

Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) is composed of arable land, perennial crops, plant nurseries, permanent grasslands and family gardens. In 2015, it amounts to 5 011 494 ha, which is nearly 45% of the territory of the country. Compared to the previous year, UAA has decreased by 0.7%.

Arable land includes areas where applies seed rotation, temporary meadows with grain and legumes grasses, fallow lands and greenhouses. In 2015 the arable land increased by 0.7% compared to the previous year, occupying 3 493 688 ha. The relative share of arable land compared to the utilised agricultural area of the country remained constant compared to the previous year - 69.7%.

Table II.1. Arable land, used agricultural area and area with agricultural purpose for the period 2011 – 2015, ha

OCCUPATION	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wheat	1 152 999	1 194 141	1 328 062	1 305 733	1 151 225
Barley	174 010	176 556	182 457	218 612	191 433
Rye and triticale	17 841	24 303	31 506	37 020	24 190
Oats	17 163	16 814	20 835	21 732	13 329
Maize	430 914	525 412	518 471	480 929	524 121
Other cereals	12 006	16 046	22 938	19 768	31 479
Sunflower	795 319	854 738	928 781	877 538	851 245
Tobacco	21 710	24 857	19 265	19 072	17 443
Industrial oil seed crops	233 934	144 457	123 544	208 212	225 847
Other industrial crops	54 458	40 989	29 795	47 676	53 755
Potatoes	16 852	17 465	10 634	10 224	9 449
Peas, kidney beans, broad beans, lentils and other	8 076	9 395	8 263	4 877	24 617

OCCUPATION	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
legumes					
Fresh vegetables	27 227	24 778	26 846	29 394	37 538
Plant nurseries	///	///	///	///	///
Annual fodder crops	3 804	11 035	4 685	7 206	6 871
Meadows planted with legumes and cereals	84 804	83 489	83 237	87 715	94 682
Fallow land	174 110	128 097	121 289	92 268	235 150
Greenhouses	2 010	2 113	1 509	1 412	1 314
ARABLE LAND:	3 227 237	3 294 685	3 462 117	3 469 388	3 493 688
Family gardens	22 517	22 226	16 757	17 072	15 664
Orchards	69 478	69 494	66 824	66 057	68 543
Vineyards — pure crop	78 468	77 341	60 474	53 521	54 210
Combined perennial plants	8 629	8 529	5 998	4 791	8 522
Plant nurseries	3 311	3 715	1 892	2 002	2 202
Total perennial crops:	159 886	159 079	135 188	126 371	133 477
Greenhouses	///	///	///	///	///
Permanent grasslands and meadows - fruit orchards	1 678 308	1 646 993	1 381 049	1 363 984	1 368 665
USED AGRICULTURAL AREA:	5 087 948	5 122 983	4 995 111	4 976 815	5 011 494
Uncultivated area	398 624	358 239	263 698	216 125	191 258
AREA WITH AGRICULTURAL PURPOSE:	5 486 572	5 481 222	5 258 809	5 192 940	5 202 752

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015, the total area seeded with **permanent crops** was 133 477 ha — by 5.6% more compared to 2014, as the largest contribution to this increase have areas with mixed perennials and orchards. Areas with plant nurseries and vineyards - pure crop also increased compared to the previous year, while only family gardens decreased.

Uncultivated lands include both abandoned perennial crops and arable land not used for agricultural production for more than two years, but their operational recovery is possible with minimal resources. In 2015, the uncultivated lands decline by 11.5% in comparison to the previous year, or up to 191 258 ha.

1.2. Use of agricultural lots

1.2.1. System for Identification of Agricultural Lots

The System for Identification of Agricultural Lots (SIAL) is a main subsystem to the Integrated Administration and Control System, which helps to submit application forms for support of areas and control

the eligibility of payments for such areas. Therefore the data therein must be the most up to date and reliable.

In 2015 and 2016, the maintenance of data in the Agricultural lots identification system includes the following activities:

- Updating the digital orthophotographic map of the country through new aerial photographing — 23% (25 531 km²) in 2015 and 24.75% (27 472.2 km²) in 2016. A contract under the PPA with reg. No. RD 51-52 from 03.08.2016 on shooting and making of digital orthophotographic map (DOM) in the period 2016-2019 with contractor "Georeal-Geoconsult". Scheduled for flight testing in 2016 territory is almost entirely captured.
- Updating physical blocks under the new DOM – borders, means of permanent use, layer “Areas eligible for support” according to the changes, which have occurred in the use of agricultural areas and their condition;
- Carrying out terrain inspections, using GPS devices for measuring and photographing the inspected blocks, of:
 - physical blocks, the borders and other characteristics of which may not be determined definitively under the new DOM;
 - a random sample of physical blocks updated under the new DOM and the layer “Areas eligible for support” to control the deciphering (1 885 physical blocks with total area of 45 425.71 ha for 2015);
 - physical blocks, in which support areas are declared outside the limits of the block and outside of the layer “Areas eligible for support” (over 36 600 physical blocks with a total area of 1 082 323 ha for 2015 and over 31 300 physical blocks with a total area of 991 117 ha for 2016, 90% of which have been checked as of the end of October 2016);
- Recording the findings and measurements of the terrain inspections in the SIAL database;
- Recording the findings of spot checks carried out by the Technical Inspectorate of the Paying Agency in the databases of SIAL;
- Quality control of SIAL data and preparation of an annual report on the condition of SIAL to the European Commission;
- On the updated physical blocks and the layer "Areas eligible for support" was made determination of payments per area;
- Update the specialized layer “Permanent grasslands” by issuing orders on individual applications.

1.2.2. Submission of support applications – campaigns 2015 and 2016

In 2015 and the first half of 2016 have been conducted Campaigns for 2015 and 2016 for submitting applications for support, which include:

- Training of new employees of the District Directorates of Agriculture and of the Municipal Agricultural Services on working with the software of State Fund Agriculture - Paying Agency to enter the data from the Application forms for registration;
- Providing application forms for support and of graphic material to locate the areas used by the applicants for support;
- Assisting the applicants for support with the completing of the applications for support and the identification of the agricultural areas used by them;
- Introducing applications provided in the System for registration of applicants and support applications – module of IACS (115 477 applications in 2015 and 115 549 applications in 2016);
- Submission of the completed and assembled General application to the relevant territorial structure of the Paying Agency.
- The submission of applications for support for areas for 2015 and 2016 was conducted on the basis of the updated DOM of the country, physical blocks and the „Areas eligible for support”.

1.3. Registration of farmers

The Register of farmers under Ordinance No.3 of 1999 serves for collection of information of the farmers and their activities in order to support agriculture and rural development.

The activity for maintenance of the register of farmers includes: registration of new farmers, re-registration and updating the data for already registered ones, such as de-listing of farmers upon termination of their activity.

In 2014/2015 economic year the total number of farmers registered in the Register under Ordinance No.3/1999 rises to 97 267 - nearly 21 thousand more than the previous year. The total number of registered farmers for the 2015/16 economic year is 98 303 - with 1 036 more than in the previous economic year.

Table II.2. Farmers, registered pursuant to Ordinance No.3/1999

	2010	2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
Total registered farmers	77 134	68 310	70 776	76 339	76 408	97 267	98 303

Source: MAF

1.4. Participation of the State Land Fund in land relations in Bulgaria

1.4.1. Providing real estate from SLF for rent or lease

The agricultural lands of the SLF are provided for use as rented/leased land using bidding procedures in compliance with the provisions of the Ownership and Use of Agricultural Land Act (OUALA). As of 2015, the total amount of agricultural properties, provided for rent or lease of SLF to natural persons or legal entities, amounts to 111 412 ha.

In 2015, pursuant to the provisions of Art.24a, para.1 of OUALA and Art.47b, para.1 of IROUALA have been held tenders for rental and lease of vacant farmland of the SLF in the country for economic 2015-2016 year. Of declared 159 825 dca of vacant farmland, 80 943 dca are contracted, as the total number of signed rental / lease contracts amounted to 652.

1.4.2. Distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows of state and municipal land fund under Art. 37 and of the OUALA

With the changes in OUFLA, adopted in 2015, were introduced new terms and conditions on letting for rent or lease of state and municipal pastures, grasslands and meadows. These lands are not subject to tender, but they are being allocated by appointed committees, only to owners or users of animal holdings with grazing livestock, registered in the Integrated Information System of the Food Safety Agency, according to the number and type of animals registered, at prices, determined by market mechanism.

In 2015 were held two procedures for distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows. From 1 March - for the economic 2014/2015, and from 1 July - for the economic 2015/2016.

Table. II.3. Information on the campaign for distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows under Art. 37 and of OUFLA

Economic year	Areas designated by decision of municipal council		Areas allocated by the municipal committee		Contracts concluded by the Municipal Land Fund		Areas distributed by SLF	Areas of the SLF with contracts concluded
	For general use	For individual use	For general use	For individual use				
	dca	dca	dca	dca	pcs.	dca	dca	dca
2014/2015	1 078 195	2 792 888	542 082	1 060 210	6 334	841 090	6 449	5 975
2015/2016	901 621	2 480 520	341 357	624 620	1 713	295 748	7 141	4 043

Source: MAF

1.4.3. Establishing limited rights in rem on land from SLF

In 2015, more than 60 requests from mayors of municipalities, legal entities and natural persons have been reviewed in relation to investment intentions for development or extension of area and/or linear sites, with which agricultural lands, property of State Land Fund are affected. Opinions were prepared on the possibilities to provide real properties from the State Land Fund for non-agricultural needs, which were provided for consideration to the Commission for the Agricultural Lands. On the grounds of the decisions of the Agricultural Lands Commission, 32 letters have been prepared, by which the Minister of Agriculture and Food, pursuant to Art.24c of OUALA has expressed preliminary consent for awarding the development of Detailed Site Development Plan for design of areas and routes, in conjunction with the development of water mains and sewerage networks, routes of power lines and technical infrastructure elements.

A total of 9 agreements for establishment of limited property rights over agricultural lands have been concluded by the State Land Fund on the grounds of article 24, paragraph 1 of OUALA, article 47, paragraph 20 and paragraph 21 of Implementing Rules of the Ownership and Use of Agricultural Lands Act (IROUALA), in relation to article 62, paragraph 1, article 64, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of the Energy Act.

1.5. Activities and contracts for maintenance of the Map of restituted ownership and registers

Following procedures conducted under the provisions of Public Procurement Act (PPA), a total of 59 agreements have been concluded for different judiciary districts, for performance of technical activities for maintenance of the map of restituted property. Services have been provided for 440 000 applications submitted by citizens and businesses pursuant to Ordinance No.49/2004. Collected fees, amounting to 3 million BGN, were transferred to the state budget. Guidelines for application of different provisions were prepared for the District Directorates of Agriculture.

For municipalities and investors for the development of GSDP and DSDP, digital information has been provided on the map of restituted property, and a total of 380 administrative services have been provided, to a value of 52 480 BGN. 720 inspections were carried out in the database of the map of restituted property "Court of Auditors" — for debtors of NRA owning farmlands and forests and lands from the forest fund.

1.6. Land relations

In 2015 methodological guidelines have been prepared for the unification of the rules for repayment by municipalities of the received pursuant to Art.37c, para.7 of OUALA amounts for the use of properties under Art.37c, para.3, item 2 of OUALA.

The interest in consolidated utilization of agricultural lands continues to increase, through the use of options, provided with Chapter Va “Utilization of agricultural lands” of OUALA, as a result of which, for the economic year 2015-2016, a total of 2 7968 voluntary agreements have been concluded, and 229 official allocations of agricultural lands for establishment of massifs for utilization have been made.

Training seminars for experts from DDA have been organized, as well as numerous meetings with explanatory purpose for districts with agricultural owners and sector organizations.

Orders have been prepared for processing of the Map of Restituted Ownership, for an established clear factual error and orders for rejecting perennial crops.

1.6.1. Consolidation (merger) of agricultural lands

Procedures for merger of agricultural lands in 15 areas in the territory of the country have been opened — village of Nikolaevo, Pleven municipality, Pleven district, village of Suhindol, municipality of Suhindol, district of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Fakia, Sredets municipality, district of Burgas; village of Asenovo, municipality Strazhitsa, district of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Lenkovo, municipality of Gulyantsi, Pleven district; town of Ugarchin, municipality of Ugarchin, district of Lovech; village of Radyuvene, municipality of Lovech, district of Lovech; village of Dolno Yabalkovo, municipality of Sredets, district of Burgas; village of Gorno Ablanovo, municipality of Borovo, district of Ruse; village of Gorsko Slivovo, municipality of Letnitsa, district of Lovech; village of Zhrebino, municipality of Elhovo, district of Yambol; village of Lalkovo, municipality of Elhovo, district of Yambol; village of Markovo, municipality of Kaspichan, district of Shumen; town of Strazhitsa, municipality of Strazhitsa, district of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Strelets, municipality of Gorna Oryahovitsa, district of Veliko Tarnovo, as the applications include approximately 7 000 ha.

1.7. Activities to protect agricultural land

In 2015, the Agricultural Lands Commission has reviewed a total of 880 proposals for change of the designation of agricultural lands, by establishing decisions for total of 1 936 ha.

The commissions with the District Directorates „Agriculture” have reviewed a total of 653 proposals for change in designation of agricultural lands, and they have pronounced decisions for 221 ha.

In this year, commissions for acceptance of recultivated terrains have been organized, and recultivated area has been accepted to the amount of 132 ha. The lands dedicated for recultivation are 100 ha.

2. Economic and production results in 2015 and provisional data for 2016

2.1. Economic accounts for agriculture for 2015

Table II.3. Basic economy indicators for agriculture for the period 2013 — 2015*, million BGN

	Products	2013	Change 2014/2013 (%)	2014	Change 2015/2014 (%)	2015*
1	Value of the production of crop husbandry and livestock breeding (per producer prices*), including:	7 638.2	-0.4%	7 604.1	-9.5%	6 885.1
1.1	Plant production	5 288.0	2.2%	5 406.4	-9.2%	4 907.0
1.2	Livestock production	2 350.2	-6.5%	2 197.7	-10.0%	1 978.1
2	Agricultural services	530.6	-3.4%	512.4	-7.4%	474.7
3	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	545.0	-41.1%	320.8	-23.4%	245.8
4	Value of the gross production of department "Agriculture" (for production prices*) (p4=p1.1+p1.2+p2+p3)	8 713.8	-3.2%	8 437.3	-9.9%	7 605.6
5	Value of the final production from sector "Agriculture" (at base prices**)	8 593.3	-2.1%	8 413.9	-9.4%	7 626.0
6	Interim consumption (without internal turnover)	5 279.5	-4.8%	5 027.1	-8.8%	4 586.9
7	Gross Added Value (at base prices**)	3 313.8	2.2%	3 386.8	-10.3%	3 039.1

Source: data of NSI, processed by MAF

* Producer's price — prices without subsidies by products

** Basic prices — prices with subsidies by products

*** Data for 2015 are preliminary.

2.1.1. Value of the gross production of sector Agriculture

The value of the gross production of sector „Agriculture“ for 2015, according to current prices of producers (upon provisional data) shall amount to 7 605.6 million BGN, by 9.9% below the level of the previous year. It is formed by the value of:

- Plant production – 4 907.0 million BGN or 64.5%;
- Livestock breeding production – 1 978.1 million BGN or 26.0%;
- Agricultural services – 474.7 million BGN or 6.2%.
- Production from inseparable supplementary activities – 245.8 million BGN or 3.2%;

In 2015 the production value of crop and livestock production decreased on an annual basis — by 9.2% and 10.0%, which is as a result of the accomplished lower production volume in some structurally significant directions (sub-sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the report).

The decline in production value of crop production is due mainly to weaker production results in the directions of greatest importance for the subsector - grains and oilseeds, as well as tobacco that are not

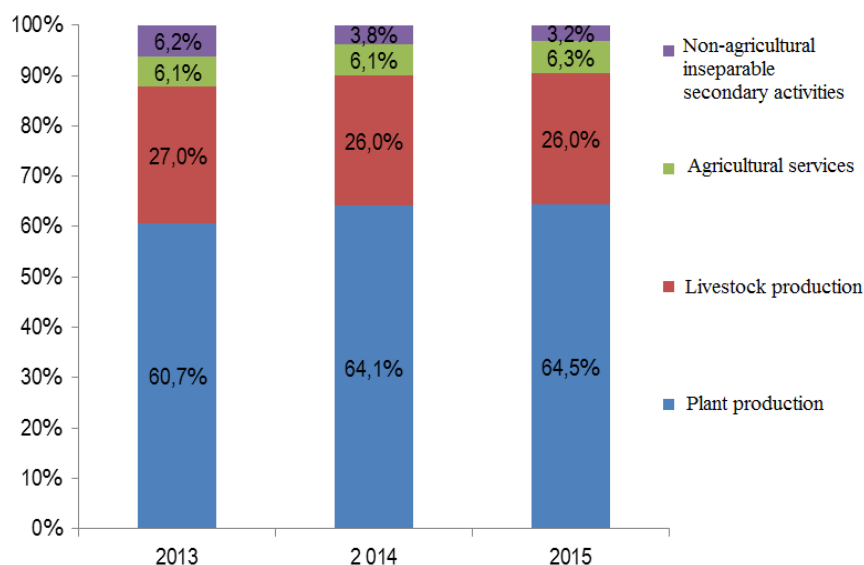
offset by achieved higher levels of producer prices. The value of production in fruit is growing (by 29.2%), resulting mainly from the growth in production. When the vegetables (except potatoes), although having larger production volume compared to the previous year, reported a decrease (by 13.6%), conditioned by the fall in producer prices (Annexes 2, 3 and production data - subsection 2.2 of the report).

The decline of the gross production in value in the livestock is generally influenced by lower prices during the year in most animal products (except products of sheep and goat breeding and eggs). Significant impact on the results of the industry has the decline in the value of production of its most important aspect - the milk production - by 16.6% compared to the previous 2014 (subject to reduction in both production volume and prices). (Annexes 2, 3 and production data - subsection 2.3 of the report).

Decrease compared to the previous year is also observed in other components of the value of gross output of the industry — by 7.4% in agricultural services provided and even more significant in the production of non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities — by 23.4%.

In 2015, the ratio of plant and animal production remains at the level of the previous year. The share of crop production in the production value of the agricultural sector this year is nearly two and a half times greater than that of livestock.

Figure II.1. Structure of the value of the gross production of sector “Agriculture” for the period 2013 – 2015*, %



Source: Calculations of MAF on data of NSI
*Preliminary data for 2015.

The total value of the agricultural commodities (products from crop husbandry and livestock breeding) realized via sales in 2015 amounts to 6 283.0 million BGN, or 82.6% of gross production of department Agriculture (Annex 1). The sold production from crop husbandry during the year is to the value

of 4 357.7 million BGN (57.3% of the gross production), and the sold livestock breeding production – to a value of 1 450.7 million BGN (19.1% of the gross production). Outside the sector, crop husbandry and livestock breeding production has been realized, for the amount of 5 886.0 million BGN (including exports), and within the limits of sales between agricultural enterprises – for 397.1 million BGN.

Agricultural units have used with production purposes the production throughout the year (seeds, planting material, feed, et. al.) for a value of 764.6 million BGN (10.1% of the gross production).

For own consumption in holdings, agricultural production to a value of 547.5 million BGN (7.2% of the gross production) has been utilized.

The production of commodities - main capital (production of productive animals) at own expense is worth 102.2 million BGN.

2.1.2. Value of the final production

Based on provisional data, the agriculture final production value (value of production after deduction of internal turnovers) under basis prices (prices with included subsidies on products) for 2015, amounts to 7 626.0 million BGN. Following the trend for changing the components of the value of the gross production, it decreases by 9.4% compared to the previous year (Annexes 5 and 6).

The structure of final production in agriculture for 2015 retained the ratios already formed between the areas of focus within the sector as outlined in the value of the gross production. In the final production the relative share of plant production is also the largest – 65.0%. For 2015, the relative share of the livestock breeding production is 25.5%, of agricultural services – 6.2% and of the production from integral non-agricultural secondary activities – 3.2%.

The following products from plant production had the biggest contribution in forming the value of the final production of sector “Agriculture” in 2015:

- Soft wheat – share of 16.8%, to a total of 1 281.9 million BGN (decrease by 14.7% in terms of value relationship compared to the previous year);
- Sunflower – share of 14.1%, to a total of 1 078.4 million BGN (decrease by 10.2%);
- Maize for grain – share of 8.8%, to a total of 673.3 million BGN (decrease by 13.4%);
- Rapeseed and colza – share of 4.0%, to a total of 306.7 million BGN (decrease by 7.6%);
- Tobacco – share of 2.6%, to a total of 201.0 million BGN (decrease by 25.6%).

The realized decline from the previous year in all major crops is due mainly to the reduction in the physical volume of production, which was not offset by price increases. In the wheat is available lowering in prices. (Annex 6).

In 2015 almost half of the value of final production (47.7%) continues to be formed by the production of grains and oilseeds (respectively in the amount of 2 264.1 million BGN and 1 386.0 million BGN).

At the same time, an increase of the share of the production of fruits and vegetables is observed (including potatoes), which is 8.8% for 2015, to 6.8% for 2014 and 8.1% for 2013. In 2015 have been registered annual growths in potatoes by 61% and fruits - by 28.5%. Fruits and vegetables are generally increased in volume of production compared to the previous year, accompanied by a decrease in prices (except for potatoes and wine grapes). (Annex 6)

The strands from the livestock breeding sub-sector, which have the highest contribution to the final production of sector "Agriculture" in 2015, are:

- Milk production – share of 9.2% with 702.2 million BGN (decrease by 19.5% compared to 2014);
- Poultry – share of 4.0% with 306.1 million BGN (decrease by 10.0%);
- Pig breeding – share of 3.6%, to a total of 272.2 million BGN (decrease by 9.6%);
- Sheep breeding and goat breeding – share of 2.9%, by 220.5 million BGN (increase by 5.4%);
- Cattle breeding – share of 2.8% with 215.8 million BGN (decrease by 12.8%);
- Production of eggs – share of 2.1% with 162.3 million BGN (increase by 5.5%)

2.1.3. Interim consumption

The interim consumption, used for establishing the final production of the sector in 2015, amounts to 4 586.9 million BGN, a decrease of 440.2 million BGN or 8.8% compared to the previous year (Annexes 4, 5 and 6).

The shrinkage of interim consumption compared to the previous 2014 as the overall results of the decline in the consumption of all of its elements. In most of them are observed both the reduction in the physical volume and lower price levels compared with 2014. (Annexes 5 and 6) The greatest reduction (by 12.3%) is for fertilizers, plant protection products, veterinary expenses and maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment. The feed consumption dropped by 11%, agricultural services - by 7.4%, seeds and seedlings - by 6.4 %, fuel and electricity - by 3% (despite the increased physical energy consumption).

In 2015, the interim consumption presents 60.1% of the value of production, respectively 59.7% for 2014 and 61.4% for 2013.

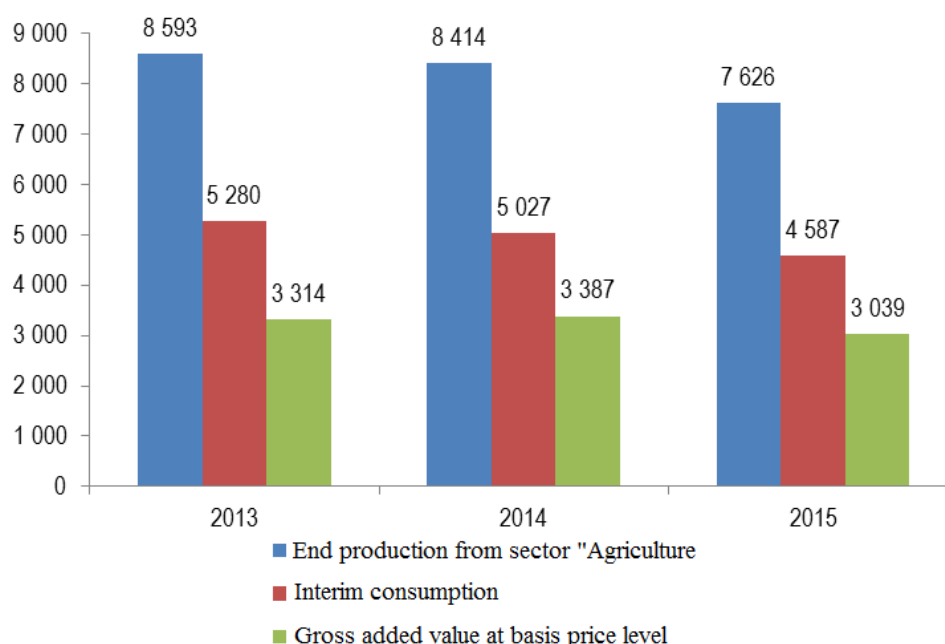
The highest share of its structure is occupied by the expenses for feed – 24.7% (1 131.7 million BGN), followed by the expenses for fuels and oils – 24.0% (1 100.0 million BGN), agricultural services – 10.3% (474.7 million BGN), expenses for fertilizers and soil improvement agents — 8.0% (366.0 million

BGN), expenses for maintenance and repair of machines and small size inventory – 6.9% (317.9 million BGN).

2.1.4. Gross Added Value

The gross added value (upon basis prices) created in agriculture in 2015 amounts to 3 039.1 million BGN, following the downward trend of the final output and decrease in the interim consumption by 10.3% compared to the previous year.

Figure II.2. General economic indicators for sector “Agriculture” for the period 2013 – 2015*, million BGN



Source: NSI

*Preliminary data for 2015

2.2 Production results in plant production

The reported 2015 was characterized by dynamic in terms of agro-climate conditions. There were periods of cooling and strongly waterlogging of soil, as a result of snow melting and heavy rains during the winter months, followed by excessive thermal conditions, which favor the development of the planted autumn sowings. During the months of March-April, the turning frosts have caused damage to permanent crops in some places in Southern and Northeastern Bulgaria.

The intense rainfall during May and June, accompanied by hail in many areas of the country, led to flooding and waterlogging of land and caused severe damage to crops. High temperatures and low rainfall during the summer months (July and August) disrupted the normal course of physiological processes in the later crops.

The drought cause serious damages to the corn crops in some areas of the country (drying of foliage and whole plants). In some places in Eastern Bulgaria the corn was ensiled before ending the reproductive stage of development. There were damages to the sunflower crops due to the summer droughts - drying of whole crops in the Upper Thracian plain.

2.2.1. Grain production

In 2015 were reported higher average yields on an annual basis in wheat, oats and rice. In almost all major cereals (except the rice) was observed decrease in production compared to the previous year, resulting from the decrease in the harvested areas and unfavorable weather conditions - floods, frost, hail and drought.

Table II.5. Production of main types of cereals from harvests `2014 and `2015

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Average yield (tons/ha)		Production (tons)		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Wheat	1 267 914	1 105 916	4.22	4.53	5 347 078	5 011 597	-6.3%
Rye	14 441	6 304	1.95	1.78	28 217	11 210	-60.3%
Triticale	18 907	12 714	3.19	3.02	60 361	38 402	-36.4%
Barley	214 697	175 957	3.97	3.97	852 231	697 863	-18.1%
Oats	14 886	11 076	1.80	1.96	26 883	21 694	-19.3%
Maize for grain	408 404	498 644	7.68	5.41	3 137 478	2 696 923	-14.0%
Rice	11 043	12 410	4.90	5.45	54 155	67 684	25.0%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics, a survey "Yields of crops"

Wheat

In 2015 wheat production is 5 011.6 thousand tons — by 6.3% below the level of 2014, resulting from the reduction of the harvested area by 12.7%, which is partly compensated by an increase of the average yield by 7.3%.

Lands planted with wheat in 2015 amounted to 1 113 561 ha, 13% less than the previous year. Of them 1 105 916 ha or 99.3% have been harvested, as the largest share is for the Northeastern region - 23.9%.

The data from a BANCİK survey of department "Agrostatistics" shows that in 2015 in the crop rotation, the cultivation of wheat after wheat is observed in 12.4% of the areas, at 14% in the previous year. In 2015, 66.8% of the areas are occupied with wheat planted after row crops with included 1.2% fallow lands. On approximately 86.2% of areas occupied with wheat harvest '2015, good rotation was made.

Rye and triticale

The production of rye in harvest year `2015 decreased by 60.3% compared to the 2014 as a result of decrease by 56.3% of the harvested areas.

In 2015 the harvested areas with triticale decreased by 32.8% on an annual basis, which leads to a drop in production by 36.4%. The most harvested with rye and triticale areas are observed in the South Central region - respectively 50.2% and 47.9% of the total area.

Barley

The production of barley in 2015 amounted to 697.9 thousand tons, which is 18.1% less than in 2014. The decrease is due to reduction in the areas occupied with barley by 18% (in both planted and harvested), while the average yield is maintained at the level from 2014.

The highest amount of areas with barley in 2015 has the Southeast region - 57 077 ha or 32.4% of the total harvested areas in the country. The Northern central region is second with a share of 35 642 ha or 20.2%.

In terms of its predecessors, approximately 70.9% of the areas with barley had a good crop rotation. The highest share in crop rotation has the sunflower — 38.5%. Fallow lands included in the crop rotation of barley in 2015 are 1.1%.

Oats

During 2015 were produced 21.7 thousand tons of oats - by 19.3% below the level of 2014, due to the reduced size of the harvested areas with 25.6%. Most areas seeded with oats were harvested in the Southwest region - 4 283 ha or 38.76% of harvested areas in the country. The average yield increased by 8.3% as compared to 2014 to 1.96 t / ha.

Maize for grain

Harvested grain of maize in 2015 decreased by 14% compared to the previous year, to 2 696.9 thousand tons due to the drought in the summer.

The average yield for the country decreased by 29.5% compared to 2014.

The areas sown with maize for grain in 2015 are 500 902 ha, which is 19.1% more than in 2014, as 99.5% or 498 644 ha of them were harvested.

The largest share of the harvested area of maize has the Northwest region - 34.6% (172 914 ha), followed by the North-East region with 31.6% (157 751 ha) and North Central Region - 26.3% (130 927 ha).

Like the previous years, in the rotation of maize the largest is the share of the maize planted after predecessor wheat - 47.7% and barley - 5.2%.

Rice

In 2015, production of paddy rice reached 67.7 thousand tons - 25% above the level of the previous year due to a combination of growth in areas and the average yield this year. The increase of the average yield for harvest '2015 was 11.2%, to 5.45 t / ha, and of the harvested areas of rice - 12.4%, to 12 410 ha.

2.2.2. Oil seed crops

The most common oil seed crops, grown in the country, are sunflower and winter oil-seed rapeseed.

Oilseed crops in 2015 were 1 077 092 ha, as there was a decrease by 0.8% from 2014.

The Northwest region has the largest share in their distribution - 25.4%, where there is an increase by 0.4% compared to 2014. The second place is occupied by the North Central region with 20.9% and an increase of 11.2% compared to 2014.

Table II.6. Production of oil seed crops in harvest '2014 and '2015

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Average yield (tons/ha)		Production (tons)		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Sunflower	843 644	810 841	2.38	2.09	2 010 668	1 699 228	-15.5%
Rape seed	190 194	170 421	2.77	2.48	527 912	422 092	-20.0%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Sunflower

The production of sunflower in 2015 declined by 15.5% compared to 2014, to 1 699.2 thousand tons. The decrease is due to reduction of the harvested sunflower crop areas by 3.9% (at 4% less growing areas), in combination with a decrease in the average yield of 12.2%.

The largest share of the harvested area of sunflower in 2015 is located in the Northwest region - 199 480 ha or 24.6% of harvested areas of the country. The second place is occupied by the Northeast region with 170 387 ha or 21% of the North Central region with 161,430 ha (19.9%).

For a consecutive year the largest is the share of sunflower crop areas planted on the predecessor wheat - 64%. No crop rotation was carried out on 5% of the areas.

Rape seed

In 2015 rape seed production amounted to 422.1 thousand tons - 20% below the level of 2014, at 10.4% fewer harvested areas and 10.5% lower average yield.

The most harvested areas with rape during the year were reported in the Northwest region - 43 047 ha or 25.2% of the harvested areas in the country, followed by the Southeast region with 43 009 ha (25.2%) and the Northeast with 37 245 ha (21.9%).

Estimated data for 2016

Table II.6. Provisional data on the production of basic grains and oilseeds in 2016

Grain crops	Area (thousand ha)	Average yield (tons/ha)	Production (thousand tones)
Wheat	1 142	4.9	5 642
Barley	162	4.4	718
Rye	6	2.0	13
Triticale	14	3.3	45

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

According to provisional data of department "Agrostatistics" of MAF, in 2016 the production of autumn grain crops is growing annually - 12.6% in wheat, 2.9% in barley, 13.4% in rye and 17.5% in triticale. The increase is due primarily to the combination of the increase in both harvested areas, by between 0.3% and 8.5% (excluding the barley, where was registered reduction of areas by 7.8%) and the average yields, within 8.3 - 13%.

2.2.3. Technical crops

Fibre crops

Cotton

The areas sown with cotton in 2015 increased by more than nine times compared to the previous year, to 2 920 ha. At the same time, the average yield decreased by 36.8%, amounting to 0.7 t / ha. The total production of cotton during the year reached 1 558 tons - nearly five times more on an annual basis.

Tobacco

Tobacco production in 2015 amounted to 23 480 tons. This is 21.7% less compared to 2014, resulting in a reduction of seedlings areas with 22.8% - from 17 572 ha in 2014 to 13 557 ha in 2015.

2.2.4. Medicinal, aromatic and essential oil crops

In 2015 the areas sown with basic medical, aromatic and essential oil crops (Rosa Damascena, lavender, lemon balm, mint, silibum, fennel, valerian, coriander) amounted to 54 602 ha, which is 38% more than in the previous year.

Harvested areas of these cultures during the year amounted to 50 629 ha, which is 20.3% more than in 2014.

The flower lavender production increased by 18.5% compared with 2014, to 18 768 tons, while the flower oil rose production declined by 16.2% to 8 487 tons.

Table II.8. Production of essential oil crops in harvest `2014 and `2015

Crop	Planted areas (ha)		Harvested areas (ha)		Average yield (tons/ha)		Production (tons)		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Lavender	6 892	6 018	6 117	5 420	2.59	3.46	15 844	18 768	18.5%
Rosa Damascena	3 587	3 926	3 226	3 708	3.14	2.29	10 125	8 487	-16.2%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

2.2.5 Fruits

In 2015 farms have produced 213 022 tones of fruits - by 26.1% more against the 2014. The largest share of the total fruit production in 2015 occupied apples - 27.4%, followed by cherries - 23.2%, plums and cherry plums - 17%, peaches and nectarines - 16.6%.

The leader in fruit production is the South Central region with 29.2% of the total production for the year, followed by the Southeast region - 28.6% and the Southwest region - 15.9%. In the South Central region is concentrated the production of apples (52%), plums and cherry plums (33%). In the Southeast region dominated peaches (54%) and cherries (45%). The North Central region has produced 85% of apricots.

Total areas planted with fruits and berry crops in 2015 were 55 113 ha, 64.7% of them were harvested (35 654 ha).

Total harvested area increased by 33.7% compared to 2014, of which the largest share occupy cherries - 22.6%, plums and cherry plums - 19.1% and apples - 13.4%. A significant increase in harvested areas compared with the previous year was observed in apricots - by 43%, plums and cherry plums - by 40%, cherries - by 28.8%, sour cherries - 26%, apples - by 20.6%, peaches and nectarines - by 18.2%. Minor reduction in harvested areas on an annual basis was reported only in almonds - by 8.5%.

Table II.9. Production of fruits, harvest years `2014 and `2015

Fruit crops	Harvested areas (ha)		Average yield (kg/ha)		Production (tons)		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Apples	3 951	4 765	13 794	12 260	54 502	58 419	7.2%
Pears	336	528	6 405	5 593	2 152	2 953	37.2%
Quinces	73	83	6 123	6 000	447	498	11.4%
Peaches and nectarines	3 139	3 711	9 586	9 521	30 483	35 334	15.9%
Apricots and sour apricots	1 735	2 481	6 552	5 715	11 367	14 179	24.7%
Plums and cherry plums	4 876	6 827	5 053	5 299	24 640	36 176	46.8%
Cherries	6 256	8 055	5 322	6 136	33 294	49 423	48.4%
Sour cherries	958	1 207	3 942	2 838	3 776	3 425	-9.3%
Walnuts	2 777	5 055	601	718	1 670	3 627	117.2%
Almonds	627	574	699	739	438	424	-3.2%
Hazelnuts	419	496	394	728	165	361	118.8%
Raspberries	1 191	1 522	3 836	4 497	4 569	6 845	49.8%
Others	329	350	-	-	1 458	1 358	-6.9%
Total:	26 667	35 654			168 961	213 022	26.1%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Lands with young orchards, not yet having reached full production in 2015 occupy 15 292 ha. The largest share of not intervening fruit-bearing areas during the year is occupied by plantations of walnuts — 47.1%, followed by those with hazelnuts — 14.6%, cherries — 12.7% and plums and cherry plums - 8.8%. Of the newly plantations in the business year 2014/2015, 58% are shell species, 29% — drupaceous species, and 2% — pomiferous.

Increase in average yields of fruit crops against the previous 2014 is reported at hazelnuts - by 84.8%, walnuts - 19.5%, raspberries - 17.2% and cherries - 15.3%. For the other fruit crops was observed a significant decrease mostly occurred in the sour cherries - 28%, apricots and sour apricots - by 12.8%, pears - by 12.7% and apples - by 11.1%.

97% of the produced in 2015 fruits are marketed. 51% of the fruits are directed at the marked, 34% - to the processing industry, and 5% are for own consumption.

2.2.6. Vegetables

The total output of vegetables - harvest `2015 amounted to 613.4 thousand tones, including 516.2 thousand tons of open areas and 97.2 thousand tons - from greenhouse production. Compared to the previous year, the total production of vegetables in the country increased by 17%, as the increase was observed both in the production from outdoor areas - by 19.6%, as well as in the production from greenhouse areas - by 5%. The greatest production during the year holds the potatoes - 164.9 thousand tones, tomatoes - 121.6 thousand tones, peppers (including sweet and hot) - 67.8 thousand tones, watermelons - 60 thousand tons and cucumbers - 45.8 thousand tons. The production of cultivated mushrooms is 2 520 tons.

In 2015, the used areas for vegetable production in the farms amounted to 46 388 ha, taking into account an increase of 37% compared to 2014. The open areas planted with vegetables rose by 37.7%, to 45 420 ha and the greenhouses - by 8.3%, to 968 ha. The total harvested areas of vegetables amounted to 43 914 ha - 45.7% more than the previous year.

Table II.10. Main areas, used for production of vegetables – harvest `2014 and `2015, ha

Main areas	Harvest `2014	Harvest `2015	Change 2015/2014
Open areas	32 976	45 420	37.7%
Total greenhouse area	894	968	8.3%
Total area	33 870	46 388	37.0%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

The most significant increase in harvested areas is reported in leguminous vegetables - nearly four times, followed by the areas occupied by fruit-bearing vegetables - by 52.4%, strawberries - with 12.5%, root and bulb vegetables - by 8.5%. Only in leafy vegetables was reported reduction of the harvested area, by 8.7%.

Harvested areas with potatoes have the largest share during the 2015 - 25.1% (about 11 thousand ha), sweet pepper - 8.4% (3.7 thousand ha), beans for grain - 7.5% (3.3 thousand ha) and watermelons - 7.3% (3.2 thousand ha).

Table II.11. Areas, production and average yields of vegetables – harvest `2015

Vegetable crops	Harvested areas (ha)	Production (tons)			Average yield (kg/ha)
		Total	Of open areas	Greenhouse production	
I. Fruit-bearing vegetables	18 067	353 733	258 898	94 835	///
Tomatoes	2 686	121 646	71 541	50 105	26 635
Peppers - sweet	3 681	65 105	62 342	2 763	16 936
Hot pepper	351	2 714	2 697	17	7 684
Cucumbers	309	45 814	4 230	41 584	13 689
Gherkins	283	4 521	4 263	258	15 064
Eggplant	486	9 933	9 902	31	20 374
Zucchini	156	4 418	4 418		28 321
Pumpkins	2 442	25 199	25 199	-	10 319
Pumpkins for seeds	2 938	2 844	2 844	-	968
Watermelons	3 212	59 960	59 960	-	18 667
Melons	654	7 338	7 270	68	11 116
Sweet corn	484	2 801	2 801		5 787
Okra	385	1 431	1 431	-	3 717
Zucchini and sweet corn - greenhouse production	-	9	-	9	-
II. Legumes	9 221	15 439	15 436	3	///
Kidney beans – grain	3 314	3 262	3 262	-	984
Lentils	1 449	1 860	1 860	-	1 284
Green peas	1 064	3 400	3 400	-	3 195
Kidney beans — green	361	2 323	2 320	3	6 427
Chick peas	2 466	3 100	3 100	-	1 257
Broad beans	567	1 494	1 494	-	-
III. Leafy vegetables	2 984	51 781	49 816	1 965	///
Headed cabbage	1 871	42 447	42 411	36	22 668
Artichoke	442	668	668	-	1 511
Cauliflower	162	2 035	2 035	-	12 562
Leek	83	651	651	-	7 843

Vegetable crops	Harvested areas (ha)	Production (tons)			Average yield (kg/ha)
		Total	Of open areas	Greenhouse production	
Broccoli	74	551	551	-	7 446
Salads and lettuce	73	2 533	875	1 658	11 986
Onions - green	67	1 136	987	149	14 731
Spinach	45	464	391	73	8 689
Cauliflower and leeks - greenhouse production	-	6	-	6	-
Other leafy vegetables (dill, parsley, celery - stems, garlic - green, savory, kohlrabi, kale, etc.).	167	1 290	1 247	43	-
IV. Root and bulb vegetables	12 886	187 426	187 052	374	///
Potatoes	11 017	164 866	164 866	-	14 965
Onions	1 074	8 926	8 926	-	8 311
Carrots	326	7 905	7 905	-	24 248
Garlic	187	717	717	-	3 834
Beetroot	145	2 776	2 776	-	19 145
Seed onions	100	1 273	1 273	-	12 730
Other root vegetables (turnip, radish, celery - heads, etc.).	37	953	589	364	-
Potatoes and garlic - greenhouse production		10		10	-
V. Strawberries	756	4 999	4 962	37	6 563
TOTAL:	43 914	613 378	516 164	97 214	///

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015 there was a significant increase in harvested areas in legumes - more than twice in the green peas to over six times in the lentil. Among other cultures, a significant increase in harvested areas is present in garlic and gherkins - by about three and four times.

On the other hand, the decrease in the annual basis was recorded in harvested areas with spinach - by 62.8%, broccoli - by 36.2%, leeks and salads and lettuce - about 33%, carrots - by 22% and others.

Harvested areas occupied by fruit-bearing vegetables (tomatoes, pepper, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and etc.) in 2015 amounted to 18 067 ha, with 52.4% more than in 2014. Of them, the highest relative share have areas planted with pepper (including hot pepper) - 22.3%, watermelons - 17.8%, pumpkins for seeds - 16.3%, tomatoes - 14.9% and pumpkins - 13.5 %.

Harvested areas with legumes (beans for grain, lentils, peas, green beans, green chickpeas etc.) in 2015 were 9 221 ha, nearly four times more than the previous year. The largest share of areas planted with these crops was occupied by beans - 35.9% and chickpeas - 26.7%.

In 2015 the total areas with leafy vegetables are 2 984 ha, as the highest percentage of occupied areas in the group holds the headed cabbage - 62.7%. This is the only group of vegetables, in which was registered decrease in harvested areas compared to 2014, as the spinach shows more significant decline - by 62.8%.

From areas planted with root and bulb vegetables, the highest share in 2015 is present in the areas sown with potatoes - 85.5%. Compared with 2014 the harvested areas showed an increase by 8.5%, the most significant in those with garlic - nearly tripled, to 187 ha.

In 2015, the production of fresh vegetables from open areas (excluding potatoes and legumes) amounted to 335.9 thousand tons. The largest share of the total production of fresh vegetables is present in tomatoes 28.1% (121.6 thousand tons), followed by pepper (including hot) - 15.7% (67.8 thousand tons), watermelons - 13.8% (60 thousand tons), cucumbers - 10.6% (45.8 thousand tons), headed cabbage - 9.8% (42.4 thousand tons) and others.

The production of tomatoes from outdoor areas during the year amounted to 71.5 thousand tons, decreasing by 11.1% compared to 2014. Production of cucumbers, onions, spinach, leeks, salads and lettuce shows a significant drop in annual base with between 33% and 76.8%. On the other hand, the production of gherkins grew more than twice. A significant increase was also registered in production from open areas of watermelons, melons, pumpkins and pepper - by between 38.4% and 78.1%.

The total production of legumes in 2015 grew more than twice compared to 2014 to 15.4 tons. In almost all of the observed leguminous vegetables was registered increase, ranging from 40% in green peas to over eight times in the lentils. Decrease was observed only in the production of green beans - by 11.7%.

In 2015, potato production grew by 24.3% on an annual basis to 164.9 thousand tones. As a result of a combination of an increase in both the harvested areas (8%) and the average yield (15.1%).

Table II.12. Total production of main vegetables in harvest years `2014 and `2015

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2014 (tons)	Harvest `2015 (tons)	Change 2015/2014
Tomatoes	120 489	121 646	1.0%
Pepper	49 909	65 105	30.4%
Eggplant	9 396	9 933	5.7%
Cucumbers and gherkins	53 263	50 335	-5.5%
Watermelons	33 662	59 960	78.1%
Melons	5 046	7 338	45.4%
Potatoes	132 651	164 866	24.3%
Headed cabbage	42 347	42 447	0.2%
Onions	13 327	8 926	-33.0%
Strawberries	4 203	4 999	18.9%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In most of the monitored vegetables in 2015 was reported a decrease in the average yield, which is explained by adverse weather conditions (hail, heavy rain, etc.) during the growing season of crops grown outdoors.

The average yield of cucumbers, gherkins, eggplants and onions decreased within 29-32%. Apart from the basic vegetable crops, more significant decrease in the average yield was observed in leeks, green peas, pumpkins and salads and the lettuces - by between 21.9% and 43.2%.

Among the major vegetable crops, a significant increase in the average yield per hectare, compared with 2014 was observed in respect of watermelons - by 58.7% and potatoes - by 15.1%, as well as a slight increase for melons - by 6.2% and strawberries - by 6.0%. The average yields of tomatoes retain the same - 26.6 t / ha.

The higher average yield in some of the major vegetable crops resulted from the application of appropriate technologies for their cultivation and use, as well as usage of quality certified seeds by farmers.

The greenhouse production in the country was determined by several vegetable crops, mainly tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, salads and lettuces. It is developed in accordance with market demand, as a large share of produced Bulgarian greenhouse vegetables are exported to European Union countries.

In 2015 the trend of increasing greenhouse areas for the production of the main vegetable crops - cucumbers, tomatoes and pepper remains. The process of modernization of existing greenhouses and

creating of new, applying more advanced technologies for production of high quality early vegetables, meeting the EU requirements, has continued.

The total production of greenhouse vegetables in 2015 amounted to 97.2 thousand tons. This is 5% more than in 2014, resulting from increased production of tomatoes by 25.1%, to 50.1 thousand tones (nearly 52% of the total greenhouse production), while the production of other greenhouse vegetables decreased. The growth in production of tomatoes is due to increase in areas and good farming practices of growing. The most significant was the decrease in the production of greenhouse salads and lettuces - by 56.6%, followed by that of gherkins - by 26.9%.

Table II.13. Greenhouse production of main vegetables from harvest years `2014 and `2015

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2014 (tons)	Harvest `2015 (tons)	Change 2015/2014
Tomatoes	40 041	50 105	25.1%
Sweet peppers	2 915	2 780	-4.6%
Cucumbers	44 514	41 584	-6.6%
Gherkins	353	258	-26.9%
Salads and lettuces	3 817	1 658	-56.6%
Other vegetables (without mushrooms)	924	829	-10.3%
Total	92 564	97 214	5.0%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Of the total vegetables produced in 2015, 97% were realized on the market, as 68% of them are designated for the commercial network, 16% for industrial processing, 8% for direct retail sale, 3% for own consumption and 2% for export.

2.3. Production deliverables from livestock breeding

In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food continues to conduct policy in the field of livestock aimed at protecting the interests of farmers, enhancing market orientation, increasing the productivity and competitiveness of Bulgarian production. Livestock breeding is one of the priority sectors, as the support for the sector involves combining of state financial instruments with the mechanisms applied under the EU funds. The year reported an update of existing legislation, extended is the scope of applicable state aid, while increasing volume of the schemes for production-coupled support and was increased the support for animals under selection control.

In 2015 continued implementation of the carcasses classification of cattle, pigs and sheep (lambs) on the scales of the EU. The classification is used for both recording and reporting of prices to the European Commission and for the needs of intervention and private storage. Moreover, the classification aims to improve market transparency and to enhance the competitiveness of meat products in the European market.

Already formed lasting downward trend in the number of farms raising livestock continued in 2015, mainly on account of dropping out of some small farms. On the other hand, continues to increase the average size of farms, which is a prerequisite for achieving higher production efficiency and economic stability.

Compared with 2014, the number of farms, which are breeding cattle and buffalo decreased respectively by 21.2% and 33.3%. In farms, which are breeding sheep and goats the number dropped respectively by 19.4% and 21.3%, while in pigs farming - by 35%.

Meanwhile, the total number of cattle and sheep in the country remained relatively stable - respectively by 0.5% and 0.3% less than in 2014, while that of buffaloes and pigs even grew - respectively by 13.5% and 8.5%. A significant decrease on an annual basis was recorded only in the total number of goats - by 5.4%.

In 2015, after the implementation of coupled support schemes in livestock farming (including schemes for cows for meat and animals under selection control) was observed changes towards productive direction in large and small ruminants, as part of dairy animals are directed to animals for meat. A significant increase compared to 2014 was registered in the cows for meat - by 55.6% and meat ewes - by 15.6%.

In 2015, the number of birds increased by 6.8% over the previous year to 15.6 million, which is mainly due to the increased number of chickens for meat (7 278 thousand - by 18.2% more).

Table II.14. Number of animals in 2014 and 2015 and projections for 2016.

Number of animals	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/2014	Projection for 01.11.2016
Cattle – total, incl.:	552 807	550 201	-0.5%	546 000
cows – total	344 496	352 571	2.3%	350 000
- cows bred for meat	49 122	76 411	55.6%	80 000
Buffalo – total, including:	9 555	10 834	13.4%	11 000
female buffalo	6 339	6 796	7.2%	7 000
Sheep – total, including:	1 335 283	1 331 894	-0.3%	1 340 000
breeding ewes – total	1 109 047	1 116 997	0.7%	1 120 000

Number of animals	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/2014	Projection for 01.11.2016
- bred for meat sheep	79 966	92 447	15.6%	93 000
Goats - total, including:	292 644	276 919	-5.4%	277 000
breeding goats	227 618	219 869	-3.4%	220 000
Pigs - total, including:	553 114	600 068	8.5%	620 000
Total souls exceeding 50 kg	55 167	58 149	5.4%	60 000
Birds total*, thousand birds, incl.:	14 609	15 600	6.8%	16 000
hens and pullets	6 815	6 980	2.4%	7 000
chickens for meat	6 155	7 278	18.2%	7 500
waterfowl poultry	1 538	1 245	-19.1%	1 400
other poultry	101	97	-4.0%	100
Equidae (horses, asses, mules or hinnies)	112 742	114 000	1.1%	116 000
Bee families**	588 379	747 434	27.0%	748 000
Rabbits	51 953	52 000	0.1%	52 000

*Data as of December 31; **Data as of October 1.

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics", BFSA – for equines and rabbits;

In all animal species in 2015 is reported a consolidation of farms. The most significant growth was registered in the average number of farmed buffalo - by 68.8%, to 27 animals (in 16 animals in 2014). Compared to the previous year, the average total number of pigs per farm increased by 66.9% and the average number of sows - by 77.9%. The growth is primarily due to the reduction by more than 50% of small farms (by 1-2 pigs). The average number of animals in farms raising cattle generally increased by 26.4% on an annual basis, and in those with sheep and goats the total increase was respectively 23.8% and 20.3%.

In 2015 there was a decrease in the number of most dairy animals, with the exception of female buffaloes. Combined with lower average milk production, it contributes to the decline in raw milk production in the country. Comparing with 2014, the production of raw milk during the year fell by 6.4% to 1 118 704 thousand liters. The biggest decrease was registered in the production of goat milk - by 8.4%, followed by production of cow milk - by 6.8% and more slightly pronounced in sheep milk - by 0.9%. Only the yield of buffalo milk increased by 6.8% on an annual basis, due to the increased number of female buffaloes.

The share of cow's milk out of the total milk yield during the year was 89.2%, followed by sheep's - 6.4%, goat's - 3.5% and buffalo's milk - 0.8%.

Leader in milk production for 2015 remains South Central region with a share of 27.6% of the total amount, followed by the Southeast region with 18.4% and the Northeast region by 15.2%.

Table II.15. Milk production in the period 01.11.2014 - 31.10.2015 by planning regions, thousand liters

Regions	Total Milk	Cow's Milk	Buffalo's Milk	Sheep's milk	Goats' Milk
Northwest	157 662	135 959	2 504	9 827	9 372
North Central	157 862	145 144	946	6 502	5 270
Northeast	170 157	153 230	960	11 168	4 799
Southeast	206 384	182 687	2 223	15 334	6 140
Southwest	118 035	94 249	755	13 260	9 771
South Central	308 604	286 824	1 791	15 719	4 270
Total for the country	1 118 704	998 093	9 179	71 810	39 622
Change 2015/2014	-6.4%	-6.8%	6.8%	-0.9%	-8.4%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015, the total meat production in the country increased by 2.4% compared to the previous year, amounting to 205 307 tons carcass weight. Red meat production increased slightly by 1.4% on an annual basis to 99 653 tons, due to the increased yield of meat in slaughterhouses (by 14%), while those in farms decreased (by 19%). The production of white meat reached 105 654 tons - 3.4% more than in the previous year.

Harvested in 2015 honey is 11 388 tons, marking an increase of 22.9% over the previous year, resulting in the increase in bee colonies during the year (by 27%).

Egg production during the year amounted to 1 285 779 thousand pieces - 5.5% more on an annual basis.

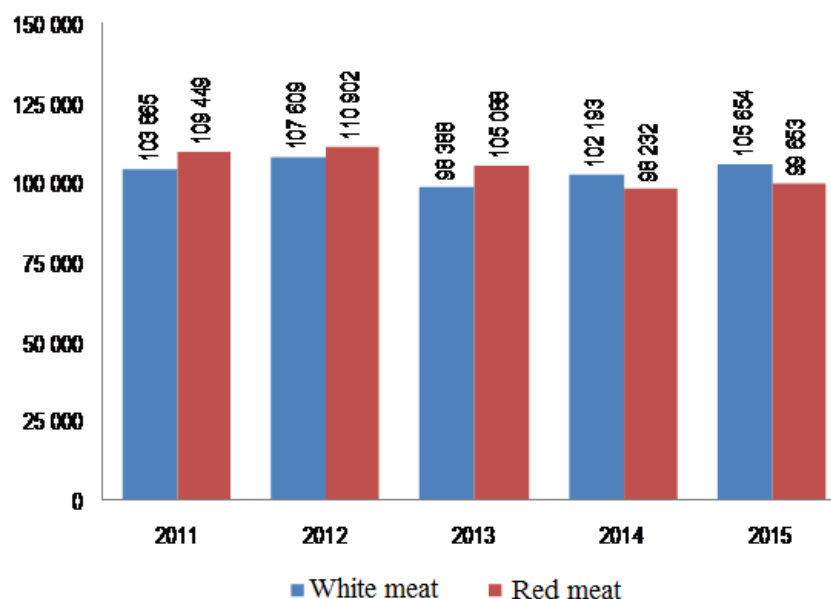
Table II.16. Production of animal produce in 2014 – 2015

Product	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
1. Milk — total (thousands liters), including:	1 194 915	1 118 704	-6.4%
Cow's milk	1 070 613	998 093	-6.8%
Buffalo's milk	8 593	9 179	6.8%
Sheep's milk	72 442	71 810	-0.9%
Goat's milk	43 267	39 622	-8.4%
2. Meat – total in carcass weight (tons), including:	200 425	205 307	2.4%
Red meat	98 232	99 653	1.4%
White meat	102 193	105 654	3.4%

Product	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
3. Eggs (thousand)	1 218 685	1 285 779	5.5%
4. Honey (tons)	9 268	11 388	22.9%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Figure II.3. Production of meat in the period 2011 - 2014, tons



Source: MAF, department „Agrostatistics“

Estimated data for 2016

In 2016, the total number of cattle, including cows, is expected slightly to fall by around 1% compared to 2015, due to the forced destruction of animals affected by the Lumpy skin disease occurring in April 2016 in the country. The number of cows for meat is projected to increase by nearly 5% on an annual basis, resulting in channeling of dairy cows to meat direction, driven by the implementation of linked subsidy schemes.

In 2016 is predicted a slight increase in the total number of sheep (1 340 thousand), including dairy sheep (1 120 thousand) and the meat direction. It is envisaged that the herd of goats will keep around the level of the previous year - 277 thousand animals.

The expected total production of raw milk in the country in 2016 was about 1 116 million liter - 0.2% below the previous year, mainly due to the expected less production of cow milk - 988 million liters, with 1% less than in 2015.

In 2016 is expected an increase in production of sheep's milk and goat's milk, accordingly to 77 thousand liters (+7% on an annual basis) and 41 thousand liters (+ 3.5%), due to projected slight growth in the number of dairy animals, in combination with a higher average milk production.

The meat production is expected to be slightly above the level of 2015 - about 206 thousand tones, including red meat - 100 thousand tons and poultry - 106 thousand tons.

The projected increase in total production of meat is mainly on account of the projected increase in the number of pigs and poultry, driven by lower prices of feed mixtures for animals for fattening and the financial assistance provided under the scheme of State aid for the welfare of pigs and poultry, launched in late 2012.

According to preliminary data of the Department "Agrostatistics" of MAF for the first six months of 2016 in the slaughterhouses of the country were produced 33 801 tons of red meat and 52 327 tons of white meat, which is about 4% over the same period last year.

Within the period, in the total red meat volume is prevailing pork meat with 29.7 thousand tons or 88%, which production increased by 2.5% on an annual basis. The white meat yield of broiler chickens formed 75% of the total 39 thousand tons, marking an increase of 6.1% compared to the same period of 2015.

In 2016 is expected decrease in the number of cattle slaughtered due to destruction of large numbers of cattle in connection with the Lumpy skin disease.

2.3.1. Cattle breeding and buffalo breeding

The process of specialization of production in cattle breeding is mainly on account of the passage of dairy cows to cows for meat direction.

As of 01.11.2015, the total number of cattle in the country has decreased slightly over the previous year by 0.5%, to 550 201. A larger drop indicates the number of dairy cows, which is 276 160 or by 6.5% below the level of 2014. For the same period, the number of cows for meat is growing significantly - by 55.6%, reaching 76 411, increasing its share to 21.6% of the total number of cows in the country.

As a result of the reduced number of dairy cows, cow's milk production in 2015 fell by 6.8% compared to the previous year, to 998 093 thousand liters.

Traditionally, the highest share in the total production of cow's milk during the year occupies the South Central region - 28.7%, followed by Southeast - 18.3% and Northeast region - 15.4%. The smallest share of the milk produced falls on the Southwestern region - 9.4%.

In 2015, MAF supports and monthly updates the register of farms producing raw cow milk, classified in the I-st, II-nd Group and III-rd group, according to the criteria set out in the Ordinance No.4 of

19.02.2008 on the specific requirements for production, storage and transportation of raw cow milk and the requirements for trading and marketing of milk and milk products.

As of 01.12.2015, the farms categorized in Group I were 3 745 with a total of 153 886 dairy cows and in Group II - 266 with a total of 4 986 dairy cows. Compared to the same period of 2014, categorized farms in Group I increased by 73 pieces, and the number of dairy cows bred in them - by 2 927 animals.

At the same time, farms categorized in Group II have decreased by 74, and bred therein dairy cows - by 2 873 animals. The reduction in farms of Group II is due to the fact that a part thereof is reclassified in the I-st Group, and the other - went out of business, because they cannot meet hygiene requirements.

In 2015 the trend of shifting more and more dairy farms in Group I continue, but the number of those who have gone out of business or switched to meat cattle increased several times.

On 31.12.2015 expires the derogation term of meeting the quality standards of raw cow's milk, which provide additional time for the modernization of farms producing raw cow's milk in order to achieve the requirements laid down in the Common Agricultural Policy of EU.

In 2016 enters the execution plan for testing the quality of raw cow's milk, which provides for measures to strengthen the system for quality control of raw cow's milk.

Table II.17. Number of categorized farms for production of unprocessed cow's milk and animals bred in them as of December 1, 2008 - 2015

Year	Number of farms		Number of cows	
	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II
2008	2 022	992	88 664	17 213
2009	2 486	903	100 004	14 971
2010	2 603	825	103 939	14 115
2011	2 752	519	131 320	10 168
2012	3 078	484	137 694	9 337
2013	3 276	432	141 539	8 190
2014	3 672	340	150 959	7 859
2015	3 745	266	153 886	4 986

Note: the number of milk cows as of the date of farm categorization.

Source: MAF, Animal Breeding Directorate

In 2015 the number of farms with milk cows decreased by 27% over the previous year and the number of animals bred there - by 6.5%. At the end of the year, the average size of farms with dairy cows increased to 8.3 animals (in 6.5 animals at the end of 2014), as about 70% of dairy cows are bred in farms with 20 or more animals.

Compared to 2014 the greatest decrease was registered in the breeding farms between 3 and 9 milk cows - by 36.4% and those with up to 2 animals - by 29.2%. The dairy cows in these farms decreased accordingly by 38.6% and 30.8%.

On the other hand, the trend of increase in farms with over 50 animals and dairy cows in them continues. In 2015 the number of farms with between 50 and 99 animals increased by 3.5% and the cows in them - by 4.5%. Substantially increase the number of farms with 100 animals and more - by 13.7% on an annual basis, in which are grown by 13.1% more dairy cows.

In 2015 the total number of cattle increased by 2.3% over the previous year to 352.6 thousand. About one third (33.6%) are grown in the South Central region.

The majority of cows for meat in the country (about 89%) are grown in Southern Bulgaria, as only in South Central region are concentrated 43.6% of them.

Table II.18. Distribution of milk cows according to the number of animals per farm as of 01.11.2015

Number of animals per farm	Farms		Diary cows	
	Thousand	Change 2015/2014	thousand	Change 2015/2014
1 – 2	22.4	-29.2%	28.3	-30.8%
3 – 9	4.2	-36.4%	18.3	-38.6%
10 -19	2.9	-19.6%	37.7	-18.8%
20 -49	2.4	2.3%	76.9	5.5%
50 – 99	0.8	3.5%	51.3	4.5%
100 and more	0.3	13.7%	63.7	13.1%
Total	33.0	-27.0%	276.2	-6.5%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Table II.19. Number of cattle by region

Regions	01.11.2014				01.11.2015			
	Cattle		Cows		Cattle		Cows	
	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share
Northwest	61.4	11.1%	39.2	11.4%	66.2	12.0%	41.4	11.7%
North Central	64.4	11.6%	38.6	11.2%	63.6	11.6%	37.7	10.7%
Northeast	76.8	13.9%	45.0	13.1%	72.9	13.3%	45.1	12.8%
Southeast	101.2	18.3%	62.5	18.1%	102.9	18.7%	65.7	18.7%
Southwest	61.7	11.2%	38.9	11.3%	67.6	12.3%	44.1	12.5%
South Central	187.3	33.9%	120.3	34.9%	177.1	32.2%	118.6	33.6%
Total for the country	552.8	100%	344.5	100%	550.2	100%	352.6	100%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

At the end of 2015 buffalo farms decreased significantly compared to a year earlier - by 33.3%, while the total number of buffaloes in them increased by 13.5%, to 10.8 thousand. In the number of farms raising female buffaloes is reported a small decline of 20% and the number of female buffaloes increased by 7.2%. Increase over the previous year notes the number of farms with 20 or more female buffaloes - by 35.7%, respectively and the animals grown there - by 21%. In 2015 about 79% of female buffaloes are grown in these farms.

Leading in buffalo breeding in the country remain the Northwest, Southeast and South Central regions.

As a result of the increased number of female buffaloes, in 2015 the production of buffalo milk increased by 6.8% compared to the previous year and reached 9 179 thousand liters.

Table II.20. Number of buffalo per region

Regions	01.11.2014				01.11.2015			
	Buffalo total		Female buffaloes		Buffalo total		Female buffaloes	
	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share	Thousand	Share
Northwest	2.5	26.0%	1.5	24.3%	3.2	29.3%	2.0	28.8%
North Central	1.2	12.2%	0.8	12.3%	1.2	11.2%	0.7	10.8%
Northeast	0.8	8.7%	0.6	9.0%	1.0	9.2%	0.6	9.4%
Southeast	2.4	25.0%	1.7	26.2%	2.6	23.8%	1.7	25.5%
Southwest	0.7	6.9%	0.4	6%	0.9	8.6%	0.5	7.9%
South Central	2.0	21.2%	1.3	21.0%	1.9	18.0%	1.2	17.6%
Total for the country	9.6	100%	6.3	100%	10.8	100%	6 796	100%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

The total production of cattle meat in the country in 2015 increased by 7.8% compared to the previous year, to 18 548 tons carcass weight (about 19% of the total production of red meat for the year) and a decrease is observed both in industrial production (10%) and the yield in the livestock farms (6.9%).

Table II.21. Production of meat in 2014 and 2015 in carcass weight, in tons

Categories of animals	Industrial production			Meat in farms		
	2014	2015	Change 2015/14	2014	2015	Change 2015/14
Calf and young cattle	472	656	39.0%	7 880	9 868	25.2%
Other cattle	4 404	4 707	6.9%	4 454	3 317	-25.5%
Total for the country	4 876	5 363	10.0%	12 334	13 185	6.9%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015, according to the scale of EU EUROP, have been classified a total of 8 872 adult cattle aged more than eight months, which is 5% less compared to 2014. The number of slaughterhouses, performing the classification during the year is seven, with two less.

The largest is the share of cows of category "D" - 62.7% (5 566 animals), followed by cattle of category "A", "E" and "B" and "Z" - respectively 21.7%, 5.9%, 5.9% and 3.8%.

The main part of the classified beef meat comes from dairy cattle, whose carcasses have a low yield and underdeveloped conformation. Due to this fact, the highest share is the share of classified cattle with conformation class P (low) - 67% and fatness class 2 (low) - 61%.

The slaughterhouses performing the grading have classified 35.5% of the total industrial production in the country for 2015.

In 2016 is expected decrease in the number of classified cattle in connection with the disease Lumpy skin disease.

2.3.2. Sheep breeding and goat breeding

Sheep breeding sector has a long tradition of development in the country, favored by the appropriate natural and climatic conditions. It is widespread in plains and in mountainous and hilly areas, providing a livelihood for the majority of the population in rural areas.

As of 01.11.2015 the total number of sheep in the country decrease insignificantly - by 0.3% compared to the previous year, up to 1 331.9 thousand. The total number of breeding ewes has slightly increased by 0.7% in an annual basis, as the increase in the meat yielding breeding ewes is by 15.6%, up to 92.4 thousand animals. At the same time the share of milk yielding breeding ewes declined by 0.4%, up

to 1 025 thousand animals. The number of other sheep (incl. lambs) and rams decreased by 7.7% and 1.6% on an annual basis.

The consolidation of sheep breeding holdings in the country has continued. As of the end of 2015, the total number of sheep breeding holdings has decreased by 19.4% compared to one year earlier, and those of ewes breeding holdings – by 19.6%. At the same time, the average size of sheep farms increased by 23.8%, to 35.3 thousand animals, and that of ewes — by 25.3%, to 29.9 thousand animals.

The sheep farming is concentrated mainly in the southern regions of the country. The largest number of sheep are farmed in South Central region (23.4% of the total), holding to the level of the previous year. Following are the Southeast (21.1%) and Southwest (18.1%), as only in these both regions is observed increase of the herd compared to 2014, respectively by 3.6% and 2.5%.

Leading from the northern areas is the Northeast region, where are farmed about 16.1% of the ewes in the country.

Table II.22. Number of sheep per region in 2014 and 2015

Regions	Sheep total, thousands			Incl. ewes, thousands		
	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/14	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/14
Northwest	139.9	158.9	13.6%	119.7	129.7	8.4%
North Central	151.8	133.4	-12.1%	123.1	108.1	-12.2%
Northeast	222.9	215.6	-3.3%	180.2	179.9	-0.2%
Southeast	269.0	273.8	1.8%	227.8	235.9	3.6%
Southwest	238.5	249	4.4%	196.8	201.8	2.5%
South Central	313.2	301.2	-3.8%	261.5	261.6	0.0%
Total for the country	1 335.3	1 331.9	-0.3%	1 109.0	1 117	0.7%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

As of 01.11.2015 the total number of goats in the country decreased by 5.4% compared to the previous year, up to 276.9 thousand animals, and the number of goats which have kidded - by 3.4% to 219.9 thousand.

At the end of 2015 goat breeding farms decreased by 21.3% compared with the previous year to 24.7 thousand, while those with goats which have kidded — by 22.4%, to 24.2 thousand animals. In comparison with 2014, the average size of herds of goats total increased from 9.3 to 11.2 animals, and this of goat farms — from 7.3 to 9.1 animals.

In 2015 there was a significant increase in farms breeding more than 100 inseminated goats - by 37.8%, as well as an increase in the number of the animals farmed in them - by 36.1%. Less is the increase

in farms with between 50 and 99 animals - 4%, but the number of bred therein goats decreased by 12%. The number of small farms with between 1-9 and 10-19 animals decreased by 25.4% and 13.4% over the previous year. However, still about 1/3 of inseminated goats grown in small farms.

Table II.23. Number of goats per region in 2014 and 2015

Regions	Goats, total, thousand animals			Including breeding female goats, thousand animals		
	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/14	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/14
Northwest	54.5	62.5	14.7%	46.9	46.5	-0.9%
North Central	26.7	27.4	2.6%	19.8	21.6	9.1%
Northeast	34.1	32	-6.2%	26.8	28.3	5.6%
Southeast	42.6	42.7	0.2%	36.0	36.2	0.6%
Southwest	98.4	77.2	-21.5%	67.8	58.2	-14.2%
South Central	36.2	35.1	-3.0%	30.3	29.1	-4.0%
Total for the country	292.6	276.9	-5.4%	227.6	219.9	-3.4%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

The Southwest region remains leading in the goat breeding, where grown 27.9% of the total number of goats in the country and 26.5% of female goats, while in 2015 there is reported a significant reduction in herd of goats (by 21.5% in total goats and 14.2% for the female goats).

The second is the Northwest region, where grown 22.6% of the total number of goats, noting an increase of 14.7% compared to the previous year. The number of female goats in this area represents 21.1% of the total in the country, marking a slight decrease (0.9%) compared to the level of 2014.

In 2015 the total production of milk from ovine and caprine animals decreased by 3.7% on an annual basis, to 111 432 liters, due to a combination of a reduction in the number of dairy animals and a decrease in their average milk yield. During the year have been yielded 71 810 thousand liters of sheep and 39 622 thousand liters - goat milk, accordingly by 0.8% and 8.4% less than in the previous year.

Traditionally, the yield of sheep's milk is concentrated in the southern regions, where the yield is about 50% of the feedstock. Southwest and Northwest regions produced, respectively 9 771 and 9 372 thousand liters, which is the highest yield of total goat milk this year.

The total production of ovine and caprine animals' meat in 2015 is 11.1% below the level of the previous year and amounted to 11 677 tons carcass weight, occupying a share of about 12% of the total production of red meat in the country. The total sheep meat produced is 9 907 tons - 7.2% less than in 2014. The total yield of meat from goats scores a larger decline - by 27.9% compared to the previous year, to 1 770 tons.

The classification of lightweight and lightweight carcasses of sheep (lambs) in 2015 is administered in two slaughterhouses. This year have been classified a total of 2 539 animals of heavyweight and lightweight carcasses of sheep (lambs), with 23% more than in 2014. Nearly 86.4% of them were lightweight (up to 13 kg), as 82.7% of them have been classified as first-class meat.

The largest is the share of lightweight carcasses weighing between 10.1 kg to 13 kg Category C - 71.6%. Following by those weighing between 7.1 kg to 10 kg category B with 28.4%. This year there were no lambs classified in category A.

Table II.24. Classified carcasses up to 13 kg – "Lightweight lamb"

Category	A		B		C	
Weight	≤ Up to 7 kg		7,1 - 10 kg		10,1 - 13 kg	
Quality	First	Second	First	Second	First	Second
2014 - animals	57	0	397	0	947	0
2015 - animals	0	0	395	220	1 419	151

Source: MAF, Animal Breeding Directorate

Table II.25. Classified carcasses over 13 kg – "Heavyweight lambs" by conformation

Conformation class	S High	E Excellent	U Very good	R Good	O Satisfactory	P Poor	Conformation class
2014	0	0	0	5	636	27	688
2015	0	0	0	0	345	0	345

Source: MAF, Animal Breeding Directorate

Classified in 2015 carcasses of sheep under 12 months and over 13 kg are 345 - 52% less than the previous year.

Table II.26. Classified carcasses over 13 kg – "Heavyweight lambs" by fat cover

Class by fat cover degree	1 Low	2 Poor	3 Satisfactory	4 High	5 Very High	Total number
2014	0	386	279	3	0	668
2015	0	211	134	0	0	345

Source: MAF, Animal Breeding Directorate

In 2015, all classified heavyweight lambs have a conformation class O (Satisfactory), and the biggest is the share of classified with fat cover degree 2 (Poor) 61%.

2.3.3. Pig breeding

Pig breeding sector is well structured and specialized, which is a prerequisite for sustainable and stable development.

The trend of concentration of pigs grown in the country in a small number (35%) aggregated holdings contributing to the greater efficiency of production, continued in 2015.

At the end of the year in the country are grown 600.1 thousand pigs - by 8.5% more compared to a year earlier. A significant decrease was registered in small farms with 1-2 animals - by 34% of both their number and the number of pigs kept in them. The rate of decrease in farms with 3 to 9 animals is greater - with about 50% of the farms and pigs bred therein. These farms produce mainly meat for their own consumption and are most severely affected by the gradual deterioration of the age structure of the population in rural areas.

Meanwhile, the number of pigs in large pig farms with 1 000 or more animals grew by 14.4% compared to 2014.

Thus, at the end of 2015 the average size of pig farms grew by 67% to 41.4 animals (at 24.8 animals in 2014), as 90% of all pigs in the country are farmed in holdings with 1 000 and more animals (at 85.6% in 2014).

In 2015, pig production is still concentrated mainly in three regions of the country - North Central, Northeast and Southeast, where grown 86.6% of the total number of pigs. In the first two of these areas, the total number of pigs grew over the previous year respectively by 6.7% and 24.6%, and in Southeast remained at the level of 2014. Substantial increase in the total number of farmed pigs is reported in the South Central region - by 21%. In the other two planning regions is reported a decrease - higher in the Northwest (by 19%) and less pronounced in the Southwest (by 4.3%).

Table II.27. Number of pigs per region in 2014 and 2015

Region	Pigs — total, thousands			Sows — total, thousands		
	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/2014	01.11.2014	01.11.2015	Change 2015/2014
Northwest	32.1	26.0	-19.0%	2.9	2.0	-31.0%
North Central	170.9	182.3	6.7%	12.5	12.5	0.0%
Northeast	144.0	179.4	24.6%	9.4	14.0	48.9%
Southeast	157.6	157.8	0.1%	11.6	12.0	3.4%
Southwest	16.1	15.4	-4.3%	1.3	0.9	-30.8%
South Central	32.4	39.2	21.0%	5.8	5.5	-5.2%
Bulgaria	553.1	600.1	8.5%	43.3	46.9	8.2%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

As of 01.11.2015, the total number of farms breeding sows decreased by 41.6% compared to the previous year, but the number of animals bred therein rose by 5.4%. Reduced mainly the number of small farms (with 1 - 2 animals) - by more than 51%, as well as the number of pigs therein (by 57.7%).

The number of sows in large farms (with 200 or more sows) grew by 10.8% on an annual basis, to 49.3 thousand animals (representing nearly 85% of sows in the country).

Table II.28. Distribution of breeding sows over 50 kg according to the number of animals reared by a holding as of 01.11.2015

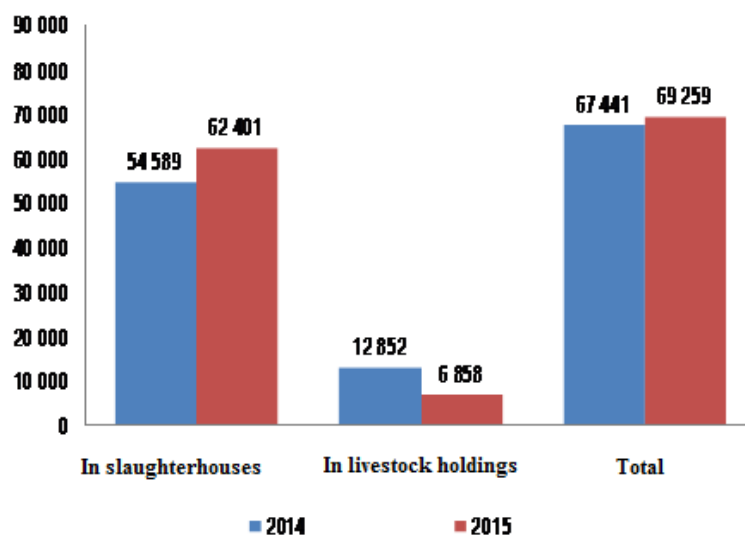
Number of animals per holding	Farms		Breeding sows over 50 kg	
	Number	Change 2015/2014	Thousand	Change 2015/2014
1-2	879	- 51.4%	1.1	-57.7%
3-9	443	- 20.8%	1.9	- 24%
10-49	89	- 15.2%	1.8	0.0%
50-199	40	0.0%	4.0	8.1%
200 and more	39	0.0%	49.3	10.8%
Total	1 490	- 41.6%	58.1	5.4%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

One of the factors, contributing to the stabilization of this sector, is the scheme, starting as of the end of 2012 for state aid, for realization of voluntarily undertaken five-year commitments for humane treatment of pigs, which continues to apply both in 2015 and 2016. The subsidies are provided on an annual basis and cover the additional expenses or the opportunity costs, related to these commitments.

In 2015 the production of pork meat was 69 259 tons, which is 2.7% more on an annual basis, taking a share of 70% of the total production of red meat in the country. Of the total harvested pork, 62 401 tons were produced in slaughterhouses and 6 858 tons - in the farms. The increased production during the year is a result of growth of 14.3%, registered in slaughterhouses, while the yield of holdings decreased significantly - by 46.6%.

Figure II.4. Production of pork meat in 2014 and 2015, tons



Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015, under the scale of classification of pig carcasses (S)EUROP, were classified a total of 80 949 animals, which is 98% more compared to 2014. The increased number during the year was mainly due to slaughterhouses, whose number of slaughtered pigs is great. The number of slaughterhouses, performing classification during the year, remains unchanged - two.

Nearly 80% of those pigs classified in 2015 were Class E, with lean meat content of 55 to 60% by the weight of the carcass.

Slaughterhouses performing classification during the year have been classified 64.5% of slaughtered and processed by steaming pigs, since this regression equation is used only for classification of steamed pigs.

Table II.29. Classified pig carcasses according to the content of lean meat

Year	S 60% and more	E from 55 to 60%	U from 50 to 55%	R from 45 to 50 %	O from 40 to 45%	P 40% less	Total (Number)
2013	434	28 281	11 761	354	7	0	40 837
2014	99	12 358	2 702	1 761	0	0	16 918
2015	1 630	64 821	14 345	141	11	1	80 949

Source: MAF, Animal Breeding Directorate

2016 is expected to maintain or decrease the number of classified pigs compared with 2015, because a new regression equation for the classification of skinned pigs is not prepared.

2.3.4. Horse breeding

At the end of 2015 the number of equine animals in the country is about 114 000 - 1.1% more than the previous year.

Table II.30. Number of equines during the period 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Number of equines	124 546	112 742	114 000	1.1%

Source: BFSa

In 2014, in order to preserve equine animals, in particular horses, was provided the first support to the sector through de minimis state aid. This aid has proved beneficial effect on the development of the sector, as a result of which was observed stabilization in the number of horses in the country for 2015. This shall contribute to the continuation of the existing centuries-old cultural and historical traditions and strengthening the country's position in this sector in other EU Member States.

During the year, the work related to preservation and development of the genetic resources in horse breeding continues.

2.3.5. Poultry raising

Poultry breeding is one of the most intensive livestock sectors, in which the process of mechanization and automation are widely spread and provide highly efficient industrial production.

Started in 2014 upward trend in the number of birds in the country continued in 2015. At the end of 2015 the total number of birds increased by 6.8% compared to the previous year, reaching 15 600 thousand, including: 14 258 thousand hens and chicks, 28 thousand turkeys, 1 245 thousand waterfowls and 69 thousand other birds. This increase is mainly due to the growth in the number of hens, while turkeys and waterfowls reduced. More significant is the increase in chickens for meat - by 18.2%, and lower in growing laying hens and young laying hens - by 2.4%. Substantially reduced the number of turkeys - by 37.8%, ducks and geese - respectively by 19% and 8.7%.

The category of other birds (quails, ostriches and guinea fowls) increased by 23.2%, but they are assessed on only 0.4% of the total number of birds in the country and bear no significant economic importance.

The launching in late 2012 scheme of State aid for the implementation of voluntary commitments for welfare of birds (both for fattening and for laying stock) for a period of five years represents a factor for the positive development of the sector. In 2015 continues the implementation of the scheme, as the support was being received by both large, highly modernized poultry objects and smaller farms, ensuring production of eggs, poultry meat and fattened liver.

Comparing to the previous year, at the end of 2015 decreased farms breeding birds from laying stock - hens and pullets, with 13.4% to 89 793 animals, while the number of birds bred in them grew by 2.4%. The decline in farms is connected mainly with the contraction of the number of small farms breeding up to 99 hens and pullets, which is 13.6% less than in the previous year, and the birds within - by 13%. A significant increase was registered in farms with between 100 and 9999 birds - with 57.3% and less in those with 100 thousand and more birds - by 15.4%, as in the last grown nearly 52% of the hens and pullets in the country.

In 2015, farms raising chickens for meat significantly decreased compared to the previous year - by 87%, while the number of birds in them grew by 18.2%. About 90% is the decline in small farms (1-199 birds) and by 29% of those with between 200 and 9999 birds, on the account of the substantial growth of big poultry farms with 100 thousand or more birds, whose number is by 53.3% more than in 2014. The increase in the number of birds in these farms with 25.2% is reported, occupying a share of 66% of the total chicken meat in the country.

Table II.31. Number of poultry at the end of the year, thousand

Bird species	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
Hens and growing egg-laying hens	6 592	6 815	6 980	2.4%
Chickens for meat	5 074	6 155	7 278	18.2%
Turkeys	43	45	28	-37.8%
Ducks	1 440	1 517	1 229	-19%
Geese	23	21	16	- 8.7%
Other poultry	42	56	69	23.2%
Total	13 213	14 609	15 600	6.8%

Source: MAF, Department "Agrostatistics"

Table II.32. Number of birds and regions in 2015, thousand

Region	Egg-laying hens and growing	Chickens for meat	Hens and chickens total	Turkeys	Ducks	Geese	Other poultry	Total number of birds	Change 2015/2014
Northwest	948	648	1 596	10	7	5	6	1 624	-0.4%
North Central	1 603	2 755	4 358	3	7	4	1	4 373	-3.1%
Northeast	1 483	3 020	4 503	4	91	6	2	4 606	50.3%
Southeast	1 124	190	1 314	5	307	0	10	1 636	-7.3%

Region	Egg-laying hens and growing	Chickens for meat	Hens and chickens total	Turkeys	Ducks	Geese	Other poultry	Total number of birds	Change 2015/2014
Southwest	c	c	932	4	2	0	49	987	3.5%
South Central	c	c	1 555	2	815	1	1	2 374	-11.5%
Total for the country	6 980	7 278	14 258	28	1 229	16	69	15 600	6.8%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics", C — Confidential data

In 2015 about 73% of the total number of hens and chickens are grown in Northern Bulgaria, including 31.6% - in the Northeast region, 30.6% - in the North Central and 11.2% - in the Northwest region. In the last region has grown over 35% of the turkeys and 91.2% of the ducks are raised in South Central (66%) and Southeast regions (25%).

Due to the increased number of birds, the total egg production during the year increased by 5.5% compared to 2014, reaching 1 285 779 thousand eggs, including 1 274 thousand from hens and 12 036 thousand - from other birds. Out of the total number of eggs from hens, 1 079 388 thousand of them are for consumption and 194 355 thousand - for hatching, rising by 2.9% and 20.9% over the previous year.

Table II.33. Egg production in 2015 by planning regions, thousand pieces

Region	Eggs from hens	Other eggs	Total eggs	Change 2015/2014
Northwest	130 145	614	130 759	6.7%
North Central	301 924	577	302 501	5.8%
Northeast	322 381	237	322 618	19.6%
Southeast	181 400	3664	185 064	0.3%
Southwest	71 551	6 726	78 277	-17.0%
South Central	266 342	218	266 560	1.8%
Total for the country	1 273 743	12 036	1 285 779	5.5%

Source: MAF, „Agrostatistics“

In 2015 leaders in egg production are Northeast, North Central and South Central regions (forming separately of about 21% - 25% of the total production). The smallest amount of eggs was produced in the Southwest region (6%), as the production decreased by 17% in an annual basis.

Table II.34. Production of poultry meat during the period 2013 - 2015

Production	Slaughtered poultry (thousand)			Total meat and subproducts (tons)		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
In slaughterhouses	50 462	51 450	53 912	94 519	97 995	101 252
In holdings	1 792	1 574	1 921	3 869	4 198	4 402
Total	52 242	53 024	55 833	98 388	102 193	105 654

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

In 2015, the total production of poultry meat and by-products increased by 3.4% on an annual basis, reaching 105 653 tons, including: 101 252 tons - obtained in slaughterhouses and 4 402 tons - directly in holdings. Industrial production of poultry meat and by-products is 3.3% above the level of the previous year, while yields in holdings - by 4.9%. Increased production is due to the increased number of birds slaughtered during the year by 4.8%.

2.3.6. Apiculture

Bulgaria has a long-term tradition in the production of honey and bee products, a prerequisite for which are varied and rich honey vegetation of the Balkan Peninsula, creating excellent conditions for apiculture. The appropriate natural, climate and ecological conditions also have beneficial influence and contribute to the gradual increase of the yield of these products through the years.

Apiculture represents alternative employment for the population of underdeveloped rural regions, which provides additional income.

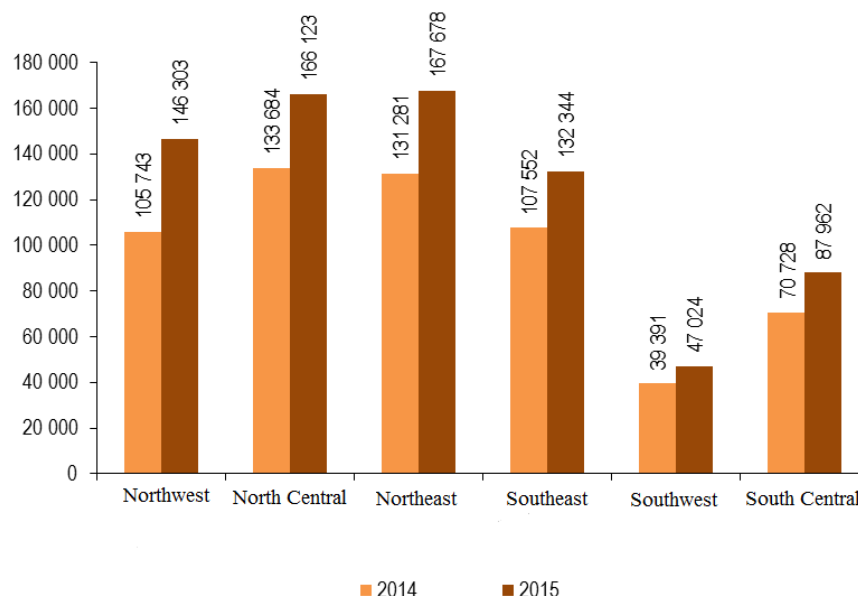
Positive influence over the development of the sector and its concentration is exerted by the National Apiculture Program 2008, which is being developed with the large-scale participation of the bee organizations in the sector.

Table II.35. Number of bee holdings and bee families as of October 1

Number of bee families by holding	Number of holdings			Number of bee families			Average number of bee families		
	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014
From 1 to 9	6 285	5 229	-16.8%	24 740	21 182	-14.4%	3.9	4.1	5.1%
From 10 to 49	6 236	7 487	20.1%	141 672	162 872	15.0%	22.7	21.8	-4.0%
From 50 to 149	2 809	4 282	52.4%	232 914	339 625	45.8%	82.9	79.3	-4.3%
150 and more	813	971	19.4%	189 053	223 754	18.4%	232.5	230.4	-0.9%
Total	16 143	17 969	11.3%	588 379	747 434	27.0%	36.4	41.6	14.3%

Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Figure II.5. Number of bee families per regions in 2014 and 2015



Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

As of October 1, 2015 was registered increase in the number of apiaries in the country with 11.3% according to previous year. Even more significant is the growth in the number of bee colonies - by 27%, to 747 434. As a result, the average size of bee colonies increased by 14.3%, reaching 41.6, at 36.4 in 2014. In comparison to the previous year, the highest increase was observed in farms with 50-149 colonies - with 52.4%, as well as on colonies grown in them - by 45.8%. In categories 10-49 and 150 and more, bee farms grew by respectively 20.1% and 19.4%, and colonies grown in them by 15% and 18.4%. Only in farms with 1-9 colonies was recorded decrease by 16.8% on an annual basis and 14.4% of available colonies grown therein.

The apiculture is widespread in North and Southeast Bulgaria, where in 2015 are located about 70% of apiaries and over 80% of bee colonies. The largest number of colonies grown are in the Northeast region (22.4% of the total number of colonies) and the North Central region (22.2%), followed by the Northwest (19.6%) and Southeast regions (17.7%).

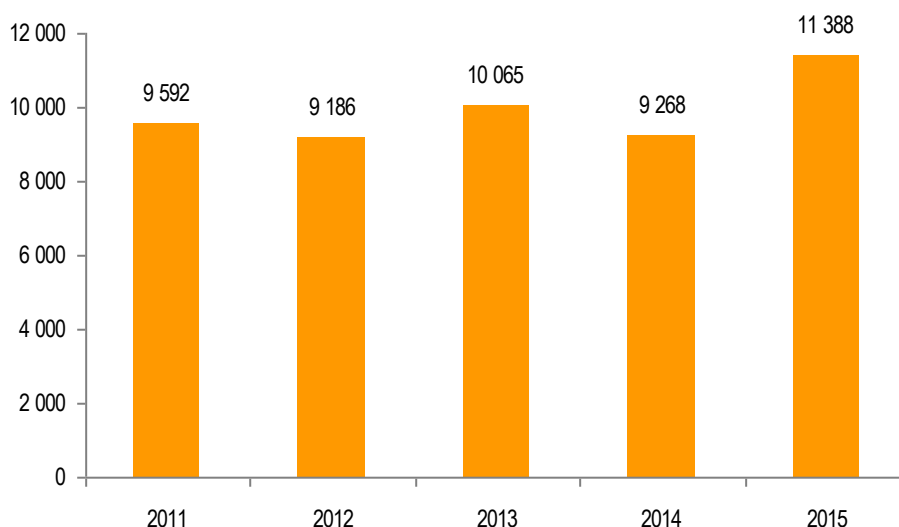
In Southwest and South Central Bulgaria, where in 28.6% of farms grown 18% of bee colonies, the beekeeping is less practiced.

The bee colonies, from which in 2015 was derived honey, rose by 15.8% on an annual basis to 592 987, with an average annual yield of a bee family - 19.2 kg - 6% more on an annual basis. The honey produced amounted to 11 388 tons, which is 22.9% more than the previous year as a result of the increased number of colonies and the average yield this year.

The realization of honey and average sales prices (excluding VAT) in 2015 are as follows:

- direct sales to end consumers – 1 713 tons - 6.83 BGN / kg;
- direct sales to retailers – 329 tons - 6.03 BGN / kg;
- sales to processing plants – 4 534 tons - 5.34 BGN / kg;
- sales to the industry – 195 tons - 5.37 BGN / kg;
- for own consumption and feeding the bees – 2 132 tons.

Figure II.6. Production of bee honey in 2011 -2015, tons



Source: MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

Despite the increased honey production in 2015, the total quantity sold decreased slightly on an annual basis - by 1.8%, to 8 903 tons (at 9 062 tons in 2014), mainly due to the higher volume, designed to meet own needs. Significant decrease was registered in the direct sales to retailers - with 20.3%, followed by direct sales to end users - by 8.2% and sales of processing enterprises - by 7.2%. The realization for own consumption and feeding of bees, as well as sales for the industry reported growth respectively by 24.7% and 6%.

According to the department "Agrostatistics" of MAF, in 2015 the total number of destroyed colonies as a result of diseases, poisoning, starvation and other reasons, is 44 908, or 1.5% less than the previous year.

As for the countries of Western Europe and for Bulgaria, the varroatosis is a common disease and its invasion affects on yields, and the treatment measures - on the quality of honey. The conducted in this connection prophylactic treatment in 2015 covered 741 467 bee families, or 99% of the total.

The feeding of bee colonies during the year includes: winter - 582 483 colonies, spring - 682 976 colonies and autumn feeding - 610 929 bee families.

In 2015, the farms practiced mobile apiculture decreased by 23.9% compared to the previous year, to 484 units, and the bee families therein - by 11.8%, to 53 734 colonies.

In the framework of the third Triennial National Apiculture Program, applicable for the period 2014 - 2016, for 2015 has been provided a budget amounting of 4 436 974 BGN, of which beekeepers have been paid around 3.6 million BGN, or 82% utilization rate of the funds.

Despite the results achieved, in general the sector continues to need implementation of state-of-the-art technologies, better control of the health status of bee families, and measures for incentivizing the realization of apiary products.

2.3.7. Rabbit breeding

According to the Food Safety Agency, at the end of 2015 the total number of registered rabbits in the country remained at the previous year level - about 52 thousand.

Despite the best natural climatic conditions and availability of tradition in growing, the development of rabbit breeding is poorly represented in the country due to a number of difficulties, such as:

- Insufficient professional preparation of rabbit breeders;
- obsolete equipment;
- high production expenses, which often exceed purchase prices;
- absence of stable strategic export markets and partners;
- strong dependency on the export of rabbit meat on the conjuncture of foreign markets;
- absence of direct subsidies for rabbit farmers;
- insufficiently developed scientific potential for securing of the sector;
- insufficient marketing and management on the Bulgarian market.

2.4. Status of organic production in Bulgaria in 2015

In recent years the organic production in the country is developing rapidly, as there is a tendency to increase both the number of operators and the areas and number of animals involved in the control system.

Bulgaria has good prerequisites for development of organic production - areas preserved from environmental point of view. Development of the sector is stimulated by opportunities for support of organic producers under Programs for rural development and the efforts of MAF, in partnership with businesses and non-governmental organizations in the sector to promote the benefits to producers and users of these products and foods.

The increasing number of producers, processors and merchants joining the system of control and certification of organic production shows that more and more people realize the benefits of this type of production. More and more farmers turn to organic farming, and more consumers seek healthy and unpolluted by artificial fertilizers and other chemicals production. Motivation of both producers and consumers is the result of caring for the ecological balance of the earth and for their own health.

Information regarding the status of organic production in Bulgaria for 2015 is based on data of the annual reports of controlling entities for organic farming, officially approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food: "Balkan Biocert" OOD, "Q Certification" AD, "CEREC – Certification of Ecological Standards" OOD, "Lakon — Private institute for quality assessment and organic certification of food" OOD, "Kiva BTSS Eco-Garanti" OOD, Company "Control Union Certifications", "SGS Bulgaria" EOOD, "Ecogrupa Italy" OOD with branch "Ecogrupa Italy – branch Bulgaria", "Bioagricert Italy Bulgaria" EOOD, "Austria Bio Garantie" GmbH via branch of a foreign trader "AUSTRIA BIO GARANTIE BRANCH BULGARIA", "Bulgarkontrola" AD and the Organic Certifying Agency EOOD.

2.4.1. Operators in the control system

Collection of the information of the organic farming control system is within the limits of the calendar year.

At the end of 2015 the total number of registered organic operators in MAF is 6 173 - by 2 081 more than in the previous year and nearly six times more than in 2011. Of them, 5 921 are producers, 161 processors of organic production and 91 traders (importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers).

Table II.36. Number operators in organic farming (including subcontractors)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of operators in organic farming	1 054	3 750	3 995	4 092	6 173

Source: MAF, according to data of the annual reports of the controlling parties of organic production

The number of subcontractors remained relatively stable over the years and is about 800.

In 2015, the number of operators in the control system for organic production represents 6.4% of the total number of registered farmers under Ordinance No.3 of January 29, 1999 for the establishment and maintenance of a register of farmers. For comparison, in the previous year this share was 5.4% and in 2011 - only 1.5%.

2.4.2. Lands in the control system

In 2015, lands included in the organic farming control system amounted to 118 571 ha (without including the certified and environmentally clean regions, where wild crops are gathered), which is about 60% more than the previous year.

In 2015 the areas in the system control occupy a share of 2.4% of the total utilized agricultural area in the country and 1.9% of the total area declared by the SAPS, at respectively 1.5% and 0.96% in 2014.

At the end of 2015, 21 543 ha or 18.2% of the total area in the control system for the year have passed transition period.

Table II.37. Areas within the control system (ha)

Types of crops (ha)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Grain and cereals, including rice	6 521	7 532	7 669	12 061	22 191
Leguminous, protein crops for the production of grain	106	48	0	404	1 257
Root crops	6	96	98	78	103
Industrial crops – total	5 846	7 909	10 924	12 878	20 873
Green cultures / Feed crops from arable land	995	2 044	2 881	5 215	8 330
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, mushrooms (greenhouse and field production)	670	1 421	1 037	1 445	1 866
Permanent plantations	6 442	10 959	16 885	18 213	25 946
Permanent pastures and meadows	4 491	7 957	15 476	21 831	31 796
Fallow land	1 513	2 315	2 905	2 205	6 209
Other crops by cultivated areas	32	96	232	22	16
Total areas within a control system	26 622	40 379	58 107	74 351	118 571
* Wild growing crops	543 655	472 700	678 025	694 251	901 617

**Wild growing crops – mushrooms, herbs and forest berries are collected in certified environmentally clean areas, but the areas are not cultivated and are not included in Total Areas within a Control System*

**Source: MAF, according to data of the annual reports of the controlling parties of organic production*

Areas with grain and cereals grown organically, in 2015 are 22 191 ha - by over 80% compared with the previous year, as the main cultivated crop there is mainly wheat, corn, barley, rye, oats and triticale.

Areas under industrial crops within the control system in 2015 are 20 873 ha (including areas with Rosa Damasceria, aromatic plants, medicinal plants and spices). In comparison with 2014 they increased by nearly 8 thousand ha, as a result of significant increase in areas occupied by sunflower and rape.

Significantly increased the area with aromatic plants, medicinal plants and herbs, which reach 11 456 ha, at 7 754 ha in 2014. The largest share of this group of crops occupies the area planted with lavender, which amounted to 3 412 ha, followed by those with coriander with 2 481 ha and fennel with 1 735 ha.

Increase in areas by nearly 30% compared to 2014 was observed in the group of fresh vegetables such as artichokes, onions, carrots, lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli, watermelons, melons, strawberries and cultivated mushrooms. The largest share of that crop group falls on artichoke - 480 ha and pumpkin - 393 ha.

Almost 50% is the increase on an annual basis of areas under permanent grassland, which at the end of 2015 are already 31 796 ha. Growth from 3 115 ha in 2014 has been marked by the areas with fodder from arable land (Green cultures), which is due to the increased interest by operators in organic farming.

Table II.38. Lands for agricultural crops, raised organically and areas in transition, hectares

Type of crops	Lands in transition period		Lands, which has undergone transition period		Total areas	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Grain and cereals, including rice	8 378	18 540	3 683	3 650	12 061	22 190
Industrial crops – total	8 918	15 881	3960	4 992	12 878	20 873
including Rosa Damasceria (Rosa damascene)	644	552	764	9 41	1 408	1 493
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (total)	752	976	693	890	1 445	1 866
Permanent plantations	12 720	19 811	5 492	6 135	18 212	25 946
Permanent pastures and meadows	16 556	28 361	5 274	3 435	21 830	31 796
Forage crops from arable lands (green crops)	4 019	7 166	1 196	1 164	5 215	8 330
Fallow land	1 945	5 233	259	976	2 204	6 209

Source: MAF, according to data of annual reports of the controlling entities of organic farming

Table II.39. Harvested organic areas in 2015, ha

Type of crops	Areas undergone a period of transition	Harvested areas
Grain and cereals, including rice	3 650	3 183
Industrial crops – total, including Rosa Damasceria (Rosa damascene)	4 992	4 633
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (total)	890	814
Permanent plantations	6 135	4 527
Permanent pastures and meadows	3 435	1 754
Forage crops from arable lands (green crops)	1 164	1 021

Source: MAF, according to data of the annual reports of the controlling parties of organic production

The areas under permanent organic crops in 2015 amounted to 25 946 ha, which is 7 734 ha more than in the previous year. The growth is mainly due to increase in areas with drupaceous fruits, pomiferous fruits, nuts and vineyards. In all types of group of perennials an increase of area in the control system is observed compared to 2014.

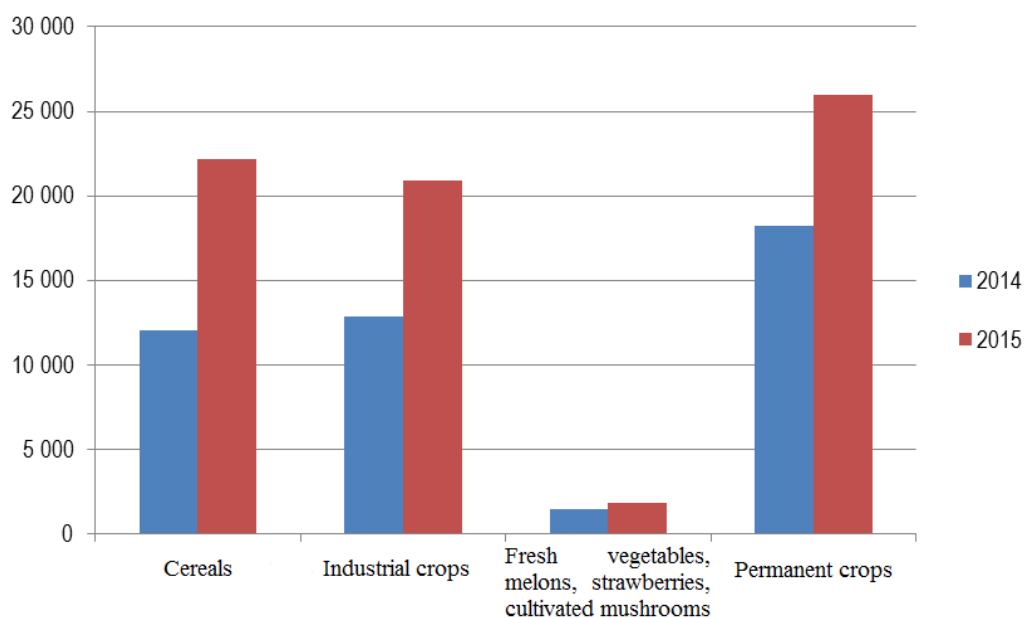
The interest toward the group of nucicultures - walnuts, hazelnuts, almonds and chestnuts continues to increase. In 2015, lands of this group of crops has reached 15 366 ha, compared with 10 257 ha for 2014 or approximately by 50%. The increase is due to the increase in the areas planted with walnuts - from 7199 ha in 2014 to 11 340 ha in 2015, while the share of other species slightly decrease.

The interest in growing organic vineyard continues to increase, as from 3 543 ha in 2014 at the end of 2015 the areas planted with them reached 4 199 ha. The increase is due to the increase in areas sown by wine grape varieties by 3 298 ha to 4 013 ha, while the table grape varieties declined by 245 ha in 2014 to 186 ha by the end of 2015.

For the second year are recorded areas with organic crops of the group of leguminous, protein crops for the production of grain (including seed and mixtures of cereals and legumes), which increased to 1 257 ha, compared to 404 ha registered in 2014. Despite the relatively small share of cultivated areas within the system of control in the group of root and bulb (potatoes and beets) also score an increase in the areas - from 78 ha in 2014 to 103 ha in 2015.

Organically raised crops, which are not traditional for our country, such as artichoke - 480 ha and kiwi - 2.9 ha, despite occupying small plots of land, indicate the efforts of organic producers to meet the market demands and to diversify their production.

Graph II.7. Areas with major groups of crops grown organically in 2014 and 2015, ha



Source: MAF, according to data of annual reports of the controlling entities of organic farming

The certified environmentally clean areas, from which wild fruits, herbs and mushrooms are collected in 2015, are 901 617 ha, which is by 200 thousand ha or almost 30% more compared to the previous year.

2.4.3. Organic livestock breeding

Organic livestock sector in Bulgaria remains less developed than organic plant production, but in recent years is observed a trend of increase for organic animals. The interest in the sector has continued to grow in 2015, due to the possibilities for support of organic farming in the framework of the new programming period. Organically in the country are grown mainly cattle, sheep, goats and bees.

In 2015, the number of cattle bred by the methods of organic production, grew more than two and a half times compared to the previous year, up to 4 209, which represents 0.8% of the total cattle bred in the country.

Organic sheep farming grown more than twice compared to 2014, reaching the number of 18 792 or 1.4% of total sheep in the country in 2015.

The goats, grown organically, also recorded a positive trend, as in 2015 they are already 5 381 animals, representing 1.9% of the total for the country.

In 2015 the organic bee colonies are 67% more on an annual basis, as their share of total cultivated colonies in the country reached 23.9%.

Table II.40. Number of organically reared animals (including animals in a period of transition)

	Number of organically reared animals					Total number of animals reared in 2015	Share of animals raised organically of the total number of animals for 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Cattle	976	1 173	1 311	1 622	4 209	550 201	0.8%
Sheep	6 648	9 175	7 894	9 029	18 792	1 331 894	1.4%
Goats	3 397	2 831	3 235	4 142	5 381	276 919	1.9%
Bee families	58 855	85 346	117 360	106 676	178 331	747 434	23.9%

Source: MAF, according to data of the annual reports of the controlling parties of organic production

According to the controlling persons the production of organic livestock in 2015 (passed the transition) was as follows: raw cow's milk - 5 468 tons, raw sheep's milk - 1 455 tons, raw goat's milk - 424 tons.

In 2015 the organic apiculture produced 1 554 tons of honey, which is 36 tons more than the previous year and equivalent to 13.6% of the total honey produced in the country during the year.

In 2014 for the first time within the control system were reared animals other than cattle, sheep and goats, as there were registered 12 573 pigs and 500 chickens. In 2015, the willingness of farmers to introduce the diversity of cultivated organic animals continues as a trend. Within the control system during the year were raised 2 841 turkeys, 200 geese, 212 equine (horses) and 20 other animals.

Table II.41. Number of organic livestock undergone a period of transition, and derived organic production in 2015

	Number of organic livestock undergone transition		Total number of animals in the country	Share of organic livestock of the total number in the country	Produced organic production (tons)	Produced total production (tons)	Organic production share
	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
Cattle	1 344	1 243	550 201	0.2%	5 468	1 028 036	0.5%
Sheep	7 250	10 681	1 331 894	0.8%	1 455	74 324	2.0%
Goats	3 201	3 173	276 919	1.1%	424	40 771	1.0%
Bee families	89 553	93 118	747 434	12.5%	1 554	11 388	13.6%

Source: MAF, according to data of the annual reports of the controlling parties of organic production

For the first time in 2015 in the control system were included two aquaculture farms, which have produced 80 tons of mussels as a production in transition during the year.

2.4.4. Market for organic products

The organic market in Bulgaria is relatively new and still too small, yet rapidly growing. Over the past few years have seen a boom in the market for organic products in the country. The number of specialized shops as well as the number of large retail chains, which are included in the distribution of organic food.

Most of the Bulgarian organic food and products are destined for foreign markets. Bulgaria is a traditional producer of various types of certified organic honey with excellent quality indicators, as much of the production is exported to the world market.

Bulgarian organic fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, jams, chutneys, dried fruits and nuts have excellent taste qualities and are highly valued on the European and world markets.

According to the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency - a competent authority responsible for the import of organic products from third countries, during 2015 in Bulgaria were made 78 imports. Our country imports mainly exotic products, which are not produced in the country and inputs that are consumed in the production of organic food, such as cocoa, cocoa butter, different kinds of seeds of quinoa, dates and paste of dates, coconut oil, coconut flour and etc. Among non-EU countries, organic products are imported mainly from Peru, China, Tunisia, India, Sri Lanka and others.

Except by creating a legal framework for the functioning of the control and certification system, which makes Bulgarian bioproducts legitimate in the European Union, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food promotes the development of the sector through information and awareness activities on the health benefits of organic farming. These efforts are directed towards the idea that the Bulgarian producers shall work on Bulgarian market, so most of the manufactured quality products to reach the Bulgarian consumers.

2.4.5. Financial support of organic production

The reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy for the program period 2014 – 2020 stipulate 30% of direct payments to be separated for the so-called “green direct payments”. Organic producers shall receive unconditionally “direct green payments” for lands in control system. The development of agriculture in European Union after 2014 and its financing is even more narrowly related to the topic of ecology and sustainable use of natural resources.

In accordance with European legislation, Bulgaria has developed a separate measure: 11 “Organic Farming” within the new programming period of the Rural Development Programme 2014 — 2020. Two sub-measures shall be implemented under this measure:

Sub-measure 11.1 Payments for transition to organic farming for hectare UAA;

Sub-measure 11.2 Payments for support of organic farming for hectare UAA.

The measure is expected to have a positive effect and contribution to the sustainable development of rural areas, by contributing to the environment and mitigation of the consequences of climate change and support of small and medium farms, most of which are family farms.

By the end of 2016 is expected preservation of the trends for increasing the number of organic operators and the size of lands in the control system, as well as the increase of the species variety of organically raised crops and agricultural animals. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food continues to operate in the direction of guaranteeing the carrying out of state policy regarding the control and supervision of organic farming and compliance with the requirements of the European and National laws in the field, opportunities for support of Biological producers in the period 2014 — 2020, as well as popularization of the uses of organically raised food and human health products and the organic method for production, as protecting the environment and preserving natural resources.

2.5. Viticulture and wine-production

2.5.1. Production of grapes

Area

In 2015 the areas of vineyard plantations in holdings decreased by 4% compared to the previous year, down to 50 705 ha, as about 9 thousand of them are abandoned mainly due to economic and social reasons.

Table II.42. Vineyards in Bulgaria in the period 2006 — 2015

Year	Areas with vineyard plantations, ha	Abandoned vineyards outside holdings, ha	Total vineyard areas, ha
2006	85 320	43 537	128 857
2007	97 387	22 954	120 341
2008	88 570	22 246	110 816
2009	74 018	27 416	101 434
2010	56 968	25 707	82 675
Year	Areas with vineyard plantations, ha	Abandoned vineyards outside holdings, ha	Total vineyard areas, ha
2011	52 567	25 901	78 468
2012	62 701	14 640	77 341
2013	58 236	4 900	63 136
2014	52 587	10 298	62 885
2015	50 705	12 086	62 791

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics

During the year were established 477 ha new vineyards, and the youth aged not fruiting vines are over 1 500 ha.

The areas of abandoned vineyards, as well as those of small and fragmented plots outside farms are 12 086 ha.

Total lands planted with vineyards in 2015 are 62 791 ha, by 0.1% less in comparison to the previous year.

Traditionally, the largest share of vineyards in the holdings (approximately 70%), are situated in the Southern part of the country, mostly in the Southeast and South Central regions.

In 2015, total of 38 712 ha of vineyards are harvested, with about 21% more than the previous year. About 1 000 ha of fruit giving vineyards during the year no production is harvested due to bad weather conditions. Compared with 2014, total harvested areas with white wine grape varieties increased by about 25% and there is a significant rise in harvested areas in almost all regions, except for Southwest region, where there is a decrease of 85%. In table grape varieties the total harvested areas are about 40% more compared to 2014, as in the Northwest and Northeast regions the increase reached two and a half times. In red wine varieties also is observed an increase in harvested areas —by 18%, most significantly in the Northwest and Southeast regions.

Table II.43. Distribution of lands with vineyards in 2015 per location of holdings

Regions	Total area (ha)	Of which harvested (ha)	Harvested, %
Northwest	5 104	3 826	75%
North Central	2 598	1 744	67%
Northeast	4 270	3 017	71%
Southeast	17 426	13 794	79%
Southwest	3 568	3 220	90%
South Central	17 739	13 111	74%
Total	50 705	38 712	76%

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics

Table II.44. Distribution of the harvested vineyards in 2015 per statistical regions

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine (ha) varieties		Table varieties (ha)		Total vineyards (ha)	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Northwest	2 297	2 930	633	785	43	111	2 973	3 826
North Central	1 085	839	796	806	89	99	1 970	1 744
Northeast	656	703	1 824	2 161	61	153	2 541	3 017
Southeast	5 373	6 847	4 897	6 306	519	641	10 789	13 794
Southwest	2 679	2 939	405	62	216	219	3 300	3 220
South Central	8 254	9 779	1 383	2 301	682	1031	10 319	13 111
Total	20 344	24 037	9 938	12 421	1 610	2 254	31 892	38 712

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics

The leading place in the structure of vine plantings in 2015 continues to be occupied by the red wine varieties, with a relative share of approximately 62%, followed by lands with white wine varieties – approximately 32%, and table varieties – approximately 6%.

Average yields

In 2015 are registered substantially higher average yields from vineyards compared to the previous year.

For the wine varieties, the average yield for the country increases approximately by 63%, up to 6 702 kg/ha, and for table varieties – approximately by 65%, up to 7 240 kg/ha. The highest average yields have been reported for both wine and table varieties in the Southeast region – respectively 8 323 kg/ha and 10 883 kg/ha.

Table II.45. Average yields of grapes from vineyards – harvest `2015

Regions	Average yields from vineyards (kg/ha)	
	Wine varieties	Table varieties
Northwest	4 772	3 946
North Central	5 958	3 242
Northeast	6 748	2 797
Southeast	8 323	10 883
Southwest	5 388	3 868
South Central	5 949	7 090
Bulgaria	6 702	7 240

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics

Production

Overall 2015 was characterized by agro-meteorological conditions conducive to the development of vineyards in the country.

Based on data of the Executive Agency on Vine and Wine, in 2015, the total production of grapes (vineyards and vine arbours) in the country amounts to 261 820 tons, which is almost two times over the level of 2014. The grape from vineyards increased by about 99% on an annual basis up to 260 677 tons, in ratio wine – 94% and table – 6%. From the other hand, the production from vine arbours decreased by 20% down to 1 143 tons.

Traditionally, the largest amount from vineyards was reported in the Southeast and the South Central regions where about 75% of the total production is concentrated. In 2015 was observed a significant increase in the production of grapes from vineyards in all regions of the country, reaching up to 2.3 times in the Southeast and Northeast regions. Around 93% (242 936 tons) of the grapes produced in 2015, have been processed to wine and other products on grape basis, and the other 7% (18 884 tons) are designated for direct fresh consumption.

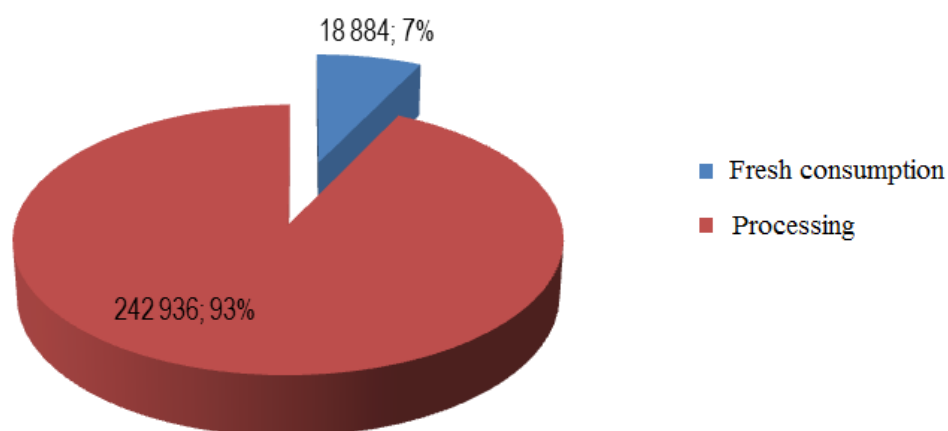
Table II.46. Grapes production – harvest `2015

Regions	Grapes from vineyards			Grapes from vine arbours (tons)	Total produced grapes (tons)
	Wine grapes (tons)	Dessert grapes (tons)	Total grapes produced by vineyards (tons)		
Northwest	17 728	438	18 166	-	-
North Central	9 801	321	10 122	-	-
Northeast	19 325	428	19 753	-	-
Southeast	109 473	6 976	116 449	-	-
Southwest	16 170	847	17 017	-	-
South Central	71 860	7 310	79 170	-	-
Total	244 357	16 320	260 677	1 143	261 820

Source: MAF, "Agrostatistics"

According to the Executive Agency on Vine and Wine, in 2015 the amount of wine grapes, bought and processed from wineries, amounted to 195 860 tons, with about 92 thousand tons or 89% more than the previous year.

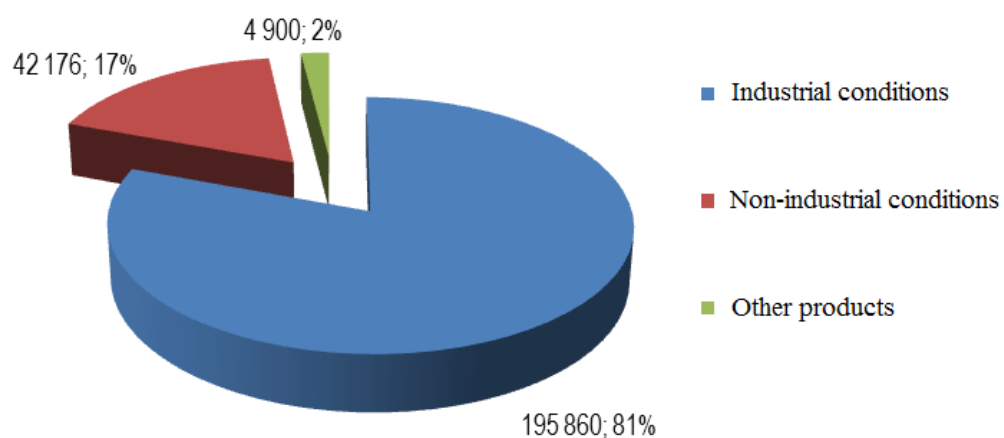
Figure II.8. Distribution of produced grapes – harvest `2015, tons and percentage



Source: MAF, „Agrostatistics“

Grapes designated for processing in non-industrial conditions during the year amount to 42 176 tons, and 4 900 tons of the processed grapes has been utilized for other products, other than wine and grape must.

Figure II.9. Distribution of grapes – harvest `2015 intended for processing, tons and percentage



Source: MAF, „Agrostatistics“

2.5.2. Wine production

The production of wine from harvest `2015, declared by the registered wine producers, has amounted to 1 310 149 ha – by 75% more compared to the previous year. Of these, 662 779 hectoliters or 51% are white wines (+73% on an annual basis) and 647 371 hectoliters — red and rosé wines (+78%). Production of grape must is 56 656 hectoliters, by 34% less compared with the previous year.

Table II.47. Quantity of wine and grape must, produced by wine production companies, harvest `2015

Region	Volume of produced wine and grape must, hectoliters								
	Wine with PDO* (quality)		Wine with PGI** (regional)		Other wines (incl. table wine)		Must	Total wine	
	White	red and rosé wine	White	red and rosé wine	White	red and rosé wine		White	red and rosé wine
Northwest Region	50	1 719	2 715	3 865	4 097	10 937	49 111	6 916	16 522
North Central Region	0	249 104	15 776	13 453	17 075	25 932	59	32 851	41 876
Northeast Region	1 607	5 260	33 277	8 989	22 203	16 080	630	57 087	25 121
Southeast Region	1 237	4 330	108 406	138 811	346 697	167 980	270	456 794	311 176
Southwest Region	0	0	2 811	12 194	26 471	45 439	6 586	29 343	57 673
South Central Region	0	5 375	36 380	127 043	43 384	62 553	0	79 789	195 003
Total	2 894	13 968	199 365	304 355	460 521	329 049	56 656	662 779	647 371

Source: Executive Agency on Vine and Wine

*PDO — Protected designation of origin; **PGI — Protected geographical indication

The highest share of the industrial production of wines - harvest `2015, are the table wines (wines without Protected designation of origin or Protected geographical indication) - over 60%, followed by regional wines (wines with Protected geographical indication) — 39%.

The leader in the production of wine is the Southeast region with 59% of the total industrial production, followed by the South Central Region, by 21%. The lowest share is the share of the wine produced in the Northwest region – 1.8%. In 2015 all regions of the country reported increase in production of both red wine and rosé, as well as white wines. In the Northeast and South Central regions, production of both groups of wines recorded an increase of more than two times compared to 2014.

In 2015 the production of wine outside industrial facilities increase over four times compared to the previous year.

Thus, the total production of wine — harvest `2015 amounted to 1 510 897 hectoliters, reporting a growth of approximately 90% compared to 2014.

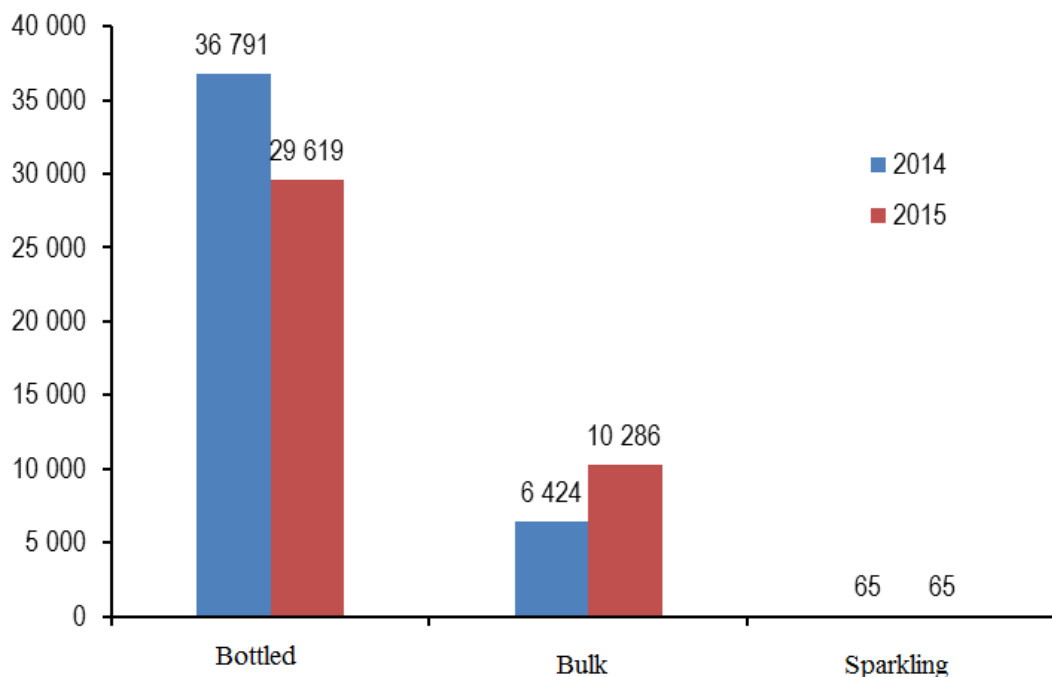
2.5.3. Export and import of wine

Export

According to preliminary data of NSI, in 2015 the export of wine amounts to 39 970 thousand liters - by 8% less than the previous year, which can be explained by lower production in the country from the harvest 2014. The total value of wine exports during the year decreased by 8.5% on an annual basis, to 37 936.6 thousand Euro, with average price of 0.95 euro / liter.

Traditionally, the most significant quantities of wine are directed to the European Union – a total of 32 743 thousand liters (82% of the whole export), out of which 18 344 thousand liters - for Poland. Exports to third countries amounted to 7 228 thousand liters, as 75% (5 436 thousand liters) are directed to Russia.

Figure II.10. Export of wine in 2014 and 2015, liters



Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

In 2015, bottled wines are 74.1% of the total export of wines. They are followed by bulk wines by 25.7% and sparkling wines by over 0.2%.

Export of bottled wines

According to preliminary NSI data, the export of bottled wines in 2015 amounts to 29 619 thousand liters, by 19.5% less in comparison to the previous year. In terms of value, the export notes a slight

decrease - by 16.6%, to 30 100 thousand Euro, due to the slightly higher (by 3.6%) average export price of 1.02 Euro/liter.

In 2015, the largest quantities of bottled wines are focused on Poland - 14 874 thousand liters or just over 50% of the total exports of bottled wines. While it shrinks half compared to the previous year, exports of bottled wines to Russia remains considerable - 5 087 thousand liters or about 17% of the total. Relatively large exports are realized to the United Kingdom (2 238 thousand liters), Romania (1 322 thousand liters) and Czech Republic (1 232 thousand liters).

Table II.48. Export of bottled wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
EU including:	23 990 140	22 913 899
Poland	13 863 224	14 873 831
United Kingdom	2 438 190	2 238 415
Romania	2 151 251	1 321 540
Czech Republic	1 617 685	1 231 794
Germany	407 907	524 956
France	1 220 529	519 239
Belgium	414 752	439 600
Lithuania	420 158	435 693
Slovakia	611 149	402 594
Sweden	186 892	222 805
Latvia	145 485	186 345
The Netherlands	138 304	120 967
Croatia	63 747	120 223
Greece	152 220	93 927
Third countries including:	12 801 035	6 704 815
Russian Federation	11 321 003	5 087 424
People's Republic of China	238 752	355 058
USA	332 035	263 949
Japan	204 203	220 443
Belarus	181 853	183 645
Canada	66 771	114 011
Iraq	26 112	65 856
Hong Kong	57 714	53 489
Switzerland	41 388	47 592

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
Israel	29 293	47 134
Vietnam	216	29 474
Kazakhstan	0	23 364
Lao People's Democratic Republic	4 599	21 145
Lebanon	29 925	20 700
TOTAL	36 791 175	29 618 714

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Export of bulk wines

Exports of bulk wine in 2015 increased significantly - by 60.1% compared with 2014, to 10 286 thousand liters. At a slightly lower average export price from the 0.74 euro / liter (0.80 euro / liter in 2014), the total value of exports increased by 48.4% to 7 642.3 thousand Euro.

The largest amount of bulk wine during the year was exported to Poland (3 440 thousand liters), Romania (3 079 thousand liters) and Sweden (2 181 thousand liters).

Table II.49. Export of bulk wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
EU including:	5 464 951	9 791 352
Poland	1 993 581	3 439 653
Romania	600 547	3 078 616
Sweden	1 859 134	2 180 859
Germany	54 453	476 590
Greece	260 633	168 978
Czech Republic	179 237	154 333
Belgium	208 883	150 920
Lithuania	73 140	62 280
Italy	25 012	57 718
Austria	25 000	0
Third countries including:	959 317	494 726
Russian Federation	782 258	348 885
Japan	147 000	96 000
Iraq	26 400	39 324
Lao People's Democratic Republic	144	8 268
TOTAL	6 424 268	10 286 078

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Export of sparkling wines

In 2015 were exported 65.5 thousand liters of sparkling wines of the total amount of 194.6 thousand Euro at the average export price of 2.97 euro / liter.

The most significant amount of sparkling wines was realized in Poland - 30 thousand liters or 81% of supply for the EU and 46.3% of the total exports of sparkling wines for the year.

Table II.50. Export of sparkling wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

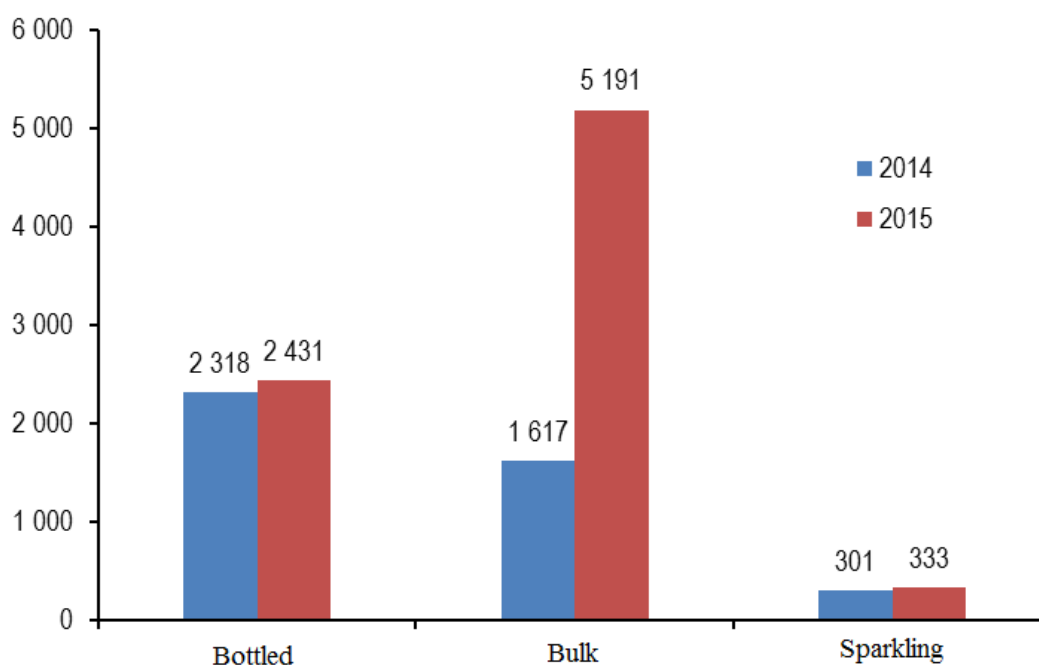
COUNTRIES	2014	2015
EU including:	37 078	37 414
Poland	23 881	30 316
Romania	1 106	2 043
United Kingdom	945	1 782
Italy	2 160	1 620
Greece	6 727	528
Cyprus	912	0
Third countries including:	27 578	28 066
Ivory Coast	4 275	13 918
Kosovo	3 514	5 832
Benin	2 025	3 600
Hong Kong	996	630
People's Republic of China	1 912	225
Russian Federation	9 462	3
TOTAL	64 656	65 480

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Import

Upon NSI preliminary data, the total import of wines in 2015 amounted to 7 955 thousand liters – by 87.7% more than the level of 2014. In value terms, imports increased more moderately - by 42.3%, to 16 532 thousand Euro, due to a decrease in the average import price by 42.3% to 2.08 euro / liter. Compared with 2014, there was a significant increase in imports of bulk wines and more moderate in bottled and sparkling wines. The largest share of total imports of wine in 2015 occupied bulk wines - 65.3%, followed by bottled with 30.6% and sparkling wines - 4.2%.

Figure II.11. Import of wine for the period 2014 – 2015, liters



Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Import of bottled wines

2 431 thousand liters of sparkling wines were imported in 2015 in the country, or by 4.9% more compared to the previous year. The total value of the import during the year was 9 660 thousand Euro, at 15.4% higher average import price compared to 2014 of 3.97 Euro / liter. Major part of the total import (72%) is occupied by the supplies from EU with a total of 1 762 thousand liters, as the most significant quantities are imported from France (517 thousand liters) and Italy (452 thousand liters). Compared to the previous year, imports of bottled wines from Czech Republic increased more than twice, up to 102 thousand liters, while that from Greece decreased by 38.2%, to 95 thousand liters. The import of bottled wines from the third countries amounts to 669 thousand liters, mainly from Chile (337 thousand liters), New Zealand (203 thousand liters) and Argentina (82 thousand liters).

Table II.51. Import of bottled wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
<i>EU including:</i>	1 659 029	1 761 856
France	497 783	517 487
Italy	386 305	451 772
Spain	166 691	191 431
Germany	168 232	171 874
Czech Republic	50 480	102 496
Greece	153 118	94 652
The Netherlands	66 732	73 509
United Kingdom	85 549	63 057
Portugal	15 904	24 036
Belgium	37 588	23 942
Romania	0	13 813
Poland	11 880	0
<i>Third countries including:</i>	658 596	669 415
Chile	357 008	337 474
New Zealand	178 276	202 968
Argentina	47 683	82 181
South Africa	32 306	29 030
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic	23 806	10 948
USA	6 184	9
TOTAL	2 317 625	2 431 271

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Import of bulk wines

In 2015 was reported an increase of more than three times in imports of bulk wines compared to the previous year, to 4 880 thousand liters. The largest share of total imports of bulk wines during the year was carried out by Romania (40.1%), followed by Italy (29.1%) and Spain (20.7%).

The imports of bulk wines from third countries also increased substantially - more than twice annually, reaching 311 thousand liters. In 2015, the most significant amount is imported from Moldova, in the absence of imports from there in the previous year.

Table II.52. Import of bulk wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
<i>EU including:</i>	1 472 049	4 879 970
Romania	0	2 081 342
Italy	1 073 372	1 510 542
Spain	189 804	1 076 774
France	64 678	75 890
Poland	0	43 220
Germany	75 035	40 483
Czech Republic	0	26 017
Austria	29 494	16 041
Slovenia	24 880	0
<i>Third countries including:</i>	145 122	311 195
Moldova	0	176 375
New Zealand	78 000	72 000
South Africa	47 720	48 020
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic	12 130	11 500
Chile	5 280	3 300
Argentina	1 992	0
TOTAL	1 617 171	5 191 165

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

Import of sparkling wines

In 2015 in Bulgaria are imported 332.9 thousand liters of sparkling wine, with about 11% more than the 2014, and the total value of imports 2 741 thousand Euro, at the average import price of 8.23 euro / liter. The largest quantities of sparkling wines this year were delivered by Italy (142 thousand liters), France (89 thousand liters) and Germany (65 thousand liters).

Table II.53. Import of sparkling wines in 2014 and 2015, liters

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
<i>EU including:</i>	287 657	322 054
Italy	107 309	141 727
France	87 638	88 965
Germany	59 473	64 870
Spain	29 056	22 816

COUNTRIES	2014	2015
Lithuania	513	1 686
Austria	2 290	0
Third countries including:	12 881	10 867
Moldova	12 654	6 120
South Africa	0	3 753
Georgia	0	526
New Zealand	0	450
USA	0	18
TOTAL	300 538	332 921

Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015.

III. TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Trade with agricultural commodities is a significant part of the foreign trade of Bulgaria, traditionally forming a positive trade balance.

According to preliminary data of the NSI, processed by the MAF, the relative share of the agrarian sector in the total export of the country in 2015 showed a slight decrease on an annual basis, up to 16.1%, whereas the share of import and trade flow reported an increase, respectively up to 10.2% and 13.0%.

Table III.1. Relative share of agrarian commodities in the foreign trade of Bulgaria in 2014 – 2015, EUR thousand.

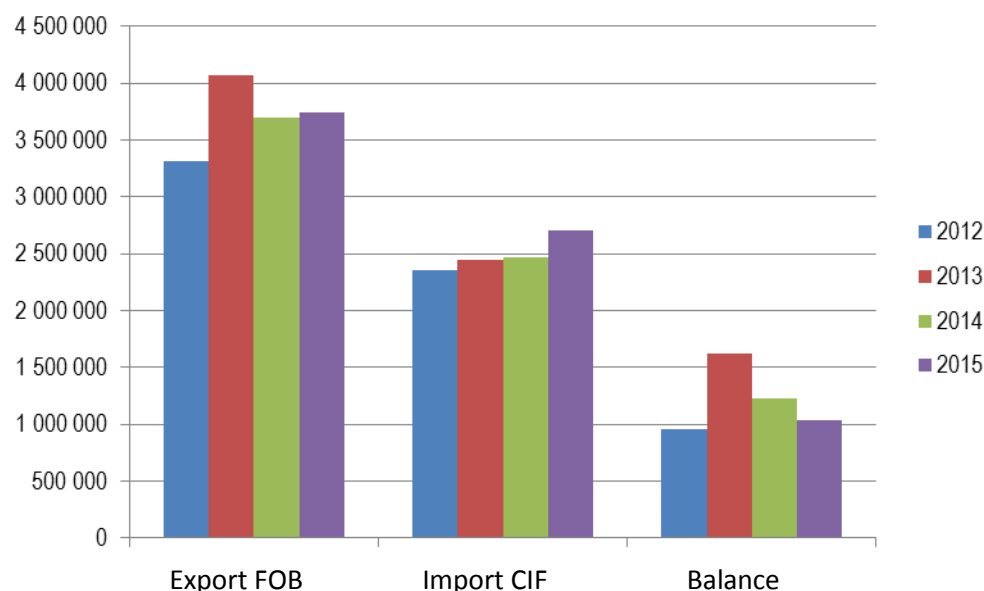
Year	2014		Share of the agrarian sector in %	2015		Share of the agrarian sector in %
	Total for the country	Agrarian sector		Total for the country	Agrarian sector	
Export, FOB	22 110 829	3 695 106	16.7	23 248 296	3 747 251	16.1
Import, CIF	26 135 486	2 467 754	9.4	26 410 550	2 705 181	10.2
Trade flow	48 246 315	6 162 859	12.8	49 658 846	6 452 432	13.0

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; Preliminary data for 2015

1. Level and dynamics of foreign trade with agrarian commodities in 2015

In 2015 the agrarian trade flow of Bulgaria increased by 4.7% compared to the previous year because of increase in both export and import of agricultural commodities – respectively by 1.4%, up to EUR 3,747 million and by 9.6%, up to EUR 2,705 million. The positive trade balance in the agrarian trade of the country for the year amounted to EUR 1,042 million, which is 15.1% less on an annual basis.

Figure III.1. Import and Export of agrarian commodities during the period 2012 – 2015, EUR thousand



Source: NSI, preliminary data for 2015

Table III. 2. Foreign trade with agrarian commodities during the period 2012 – 2015, EUR thousand

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2014	
					In value	In %
Export – FOB	3 311 564	4 069 012	3 695 105	3 747 251	52 146	1.4
Import – CIF	2 357 507	2 450 428	2 467 754	2 705 181	237 427	9.6
Balance	954 057	1 618 584	1 227 351	1 042 070	-185 281	-15.1
Trade flow	5 669 071	6 519 440	6 162 859	6 452 432	289 573	4.7

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

2. Geographical distribution of foreign trade in agricultural commodities

Main partner of Bulgaria in agricultural trade is the European Union countries, which is determined by the more favorable economic conditions for trade on the single European market. In 2015 the agrarian trade flow with EU increased by 2.6% compared to the previous year, where the share of the Union in the total agrarian export of the country was 64.5%, and the share of the agrarian import - 79.2%.

An increase by 10.2% was also observed in the agrarian trade flow with third countries compared to 2014 –most sensitive in the trade with countries from the Balkan region and OECD. Amongst the main areas of trade, a decrease in trade flow was reported only in the trade with the Arab countries and ones from the Community of Independent States.

Table III. 3. Import and export of agricultural commodities by economic communities, countries and regions in 2014 and 2015, EUR million

Trade areas	2014					2015				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR mln.	%	EUR mln	%	EUR mln	EUR mln	%	EUR mln	%	EUR mln
All countries, incl.:	3 695	100	2 468	100	1 227	3 747	100	2 705	100	1 042
European Union	2 441	66.1	2 005	81.2	436	2 417	64.5	2 143	79.2	274
EFTA*	10	0.3	4	0.2	6	11	0.3	5	0.2	6
OECD**, without the countries from the EU and EFTA	352	9.5	131	5.3	221	442	11.8	141	5.2	301
Incl. USA	64	1.7	23	0.9	41	76	2.0	17	0.6	59
Balkan region, except Turkey and EU countries***	116	3.1	63	2.6	53	128	3.4	97	3.6	31
CIS	77	2.1	14	0.6	63	68	1.8	17	0.6	51
Incl. Russia	51	1.4	5	0.2	46	44	1.2	5	0.2	39
Arab countries (League of Arab States)	517	14.0	12	0.5	505	417	11.1	16	0.6	401
Other	182	4.9	239	9.7	-57	264	7.0	286	10.6	-22

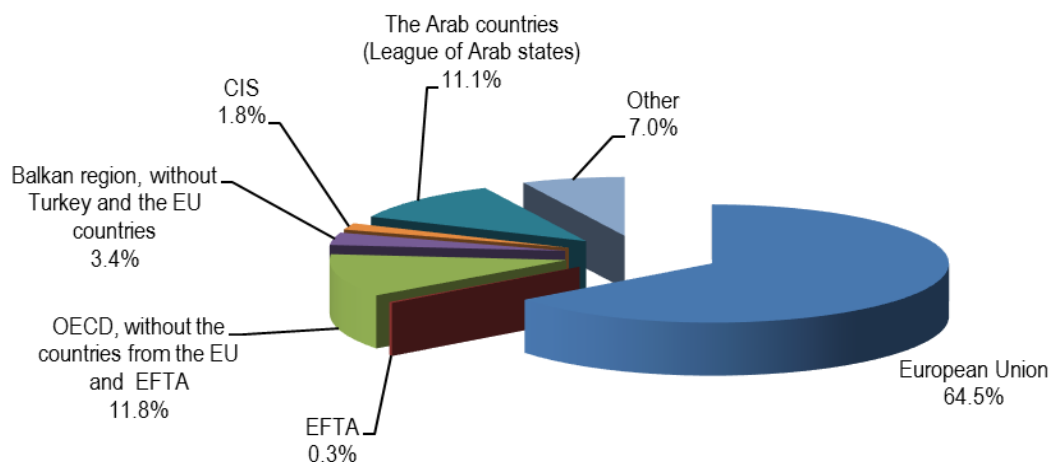
Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

*Includes: Iceland, Principality of Liechtenstein, Kingdom of Norway and Switzerland

**Includes: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Turkey, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Chile and Israel

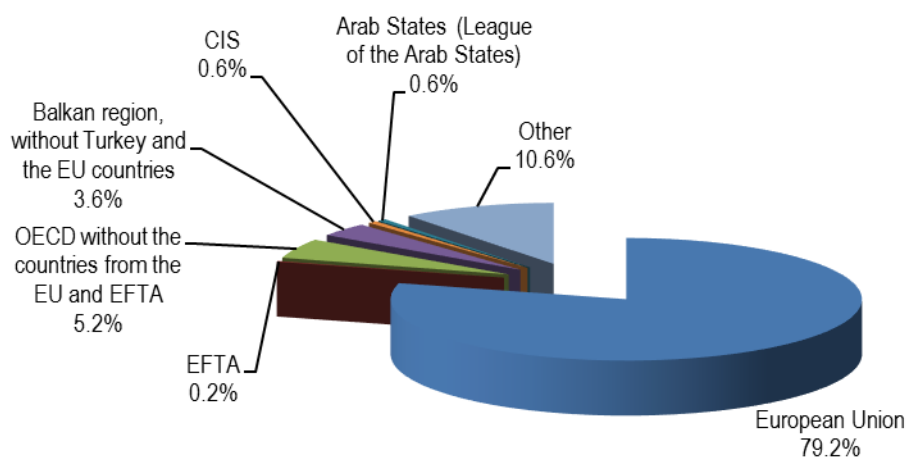
***Includes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo

Figure III. 2. Structure of Bulgaria's agrarian export by economic communities in 2015



Source: NSI preliminary data

Fig. III.3. Structure of Bulgaria's agrarian import by economic communities in 2015



Source: NSI preliminary data

Trade with the EU

In 2015 the EU remained main partner in the agrarian trade of Bulgaria, forming 70.7% of the total trade flow with agricultural commodities of the country. According to preliminary data, in 2015 the agrarian trade flow with EU countries amounted to EUR 4,560 million. This is by EUR 114 million or 2.6% above the level from the previous year, as a result of increase in deliveries from the Member States of the Union by

6.9%, whereas the Bulgarian export reported a slight decrease by 1.0%. As a result, the positive balance in agrarian trade with the EU decreased by 37.2% on an annual basis, up to EUR 274 million.

Amongst the EU countries, the most significant trade with agricultural commodities during the year was implemented with Romania, Greece, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland and Italy. The highest share in value terms was for dispatches of agrarian commodities for Greece – 20.5%, Romania – 18.8%, Spain – 9.3% and Germany – 8.7%, whereas leading suppliers of agricultural commodities from the Union were Romania – 17.3%, Greece – 14.1%, Germany – 13.7% and Poland – 10.7%. The neighboring Greece and Romania represented about 35.6% in total of the agrarian trade flow of Bulgaria with the EU, forming 39.3% of dispatches and 31.4% of deliveries of agricultural commodities from the EU.

Table III. 4. Trade of Bulgaria with agrarian commodities with the EU Member States in 2014 and 2015

Country	2014					2015				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand
Total	2 440 600	100	2 005 223	100	435 377	2 417 313	100	2 142 845	100	274 468
Austria	37 050	1.5	47 028	2.3	-9 978	33 954	1.4	53 144	2.5	-19 190
Belgium	86 947	3.6	41 710	2.1	45 237	61 469	2.5	42 496	2.0	18 973
Germany	207 840	8.5	290 896	14.5	-83 056	209 641	8.7	294 317	13.7	-84 676
Greece	494 448	20.3	294 900	14.7	199 548	496 088	20.5	302 558	14.1	193 530
Denmark	8 843	0.4	19 411	1.0	-10 568	12 038	0.5	20 886	1.0	-8 849
Estonia	1 868	0.1	2 230	0.1	-362	757	0.0	1 740	0.1	-983
Ireland	21 607	0.9	13 959	0.7	7 648	3 442	0.1	13 936	0.7	-10 494
Spain	199 092	8.2	108 513	5.4	90 579	225 358	9.3	113 727	5.3	111 631
Italy	192 033	7.9	106 053	5.3	85 980	185 378	7.7	121 762	5.7	63 615
Cyprus	40 636	1.7	11 796	0.6	28 841	36 496	1.5	7 469	0.3	29 027
Latvia	2 750	0.1	2 355	0.1	395	2 817	0.1	3 159	0.1	-342
Lithuania	8 783	0.4	9 359	0.5	-576	9 126	0.4	9 754	0.5	-629
Luxemburg	75	0.0	549	0.0	-473	72	0.0	518	0.0	-446
Malta	3 952	0.2	20	0.0	3 932	2 937	0.1	270	0.0	2 667
The Netherlands	155 343	6.4	162 032	8.1	-6 689	151 307	6.3	183 859	8.6	-32 552
United Kingdom	55 388	2.3	34 766	1.7	20 622	77 341	3.2	32 494	1.5	44 847

Country	2014					2015				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand
Poland	80 356	3.3	216 623	10.8	-136 267	94 733	3.9	229 791	10.7	-135 058
Portugal	72 510	3.0	1 606	0.1	70 904	50 714	2.1	3 970	0.2	46 744
Romania	460 079	18.9	316 641	15.8	143 438	453 909	18.8	371 428	17.3	82 480
Slovakia	17 949	0.7	22 293	1.1	-4 344	15 727	0.7	28 788	1.3	-13 060
Slovenia	3 400	0.1	3 658	0.2	-258	5 122	0.2	6 356	0.3	-1 234
Hungary	29 031	1.2	97 460	4.9	-68 429	27 882	1.2	100 119	4.7	-72 237
Finland	9 224	0.4	1 000	0.0	8 224	7 411	0.3	1 066	0.0	6 345
France	180 055	7.4	128 112	6.4	51 943	165 007	6.8	117 459	5.5	47 548
Croatia	18 925	0.8	17 872	0.9	1 054	27 047	1.1	17 016	0.8	10 032
Czech Republic	30 890	1.3	43 350	2.2	-12 460	33 008	1.4	49 718	2.3	-16 709
Sweden	21 526	0.9	11 032	0.6	10 494	28 533	1.2	15 045	0.7	13 487

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

Trade with countries- members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

According to preliminary data, in 2015 the export of agricultural commodities from Bulgaria for the countries from OECD, without the countries from the EU and EFTA represented 11.8% of the total agrarian export, and the import from them – 5.2% of the total import. The positive balance formed in the agrarian trade of Bulgaria with these countries amounted to EUR 301 million - by 36.2% above the level from 2014 due to an early rate of increase in export (by 25.6%) compared to the rate of the import (by 7.6%) of agricultural commodities from there.

Trade with Balkan countries

Countries from the Balkan region have kept their importance for the agrarian trade of Bulgaria due to their territorial proximity.

In 2015 the trade with agricultural commodities with Balkan countries (including those from the EU and Turkey) amounted to EUR 2,277 million (35.3% of the total agrarian trade flow) - by 9.2% more than in 2014, as a result of increase both in the Bulgarian export (by 5.9%) and import (by 14.8%). The positive trade balance for Bulgaria in the agrarian trade with those countries decreased by 7.5% on an annual basis, up to EUR 482.7 million.

Table III. 5. Trade with agrarian commodities with countries from the Balkan region in 2014 and 2015, EUR thousand

Country	2014			2015		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Albania	20 784	3 517	17 267	13 669	5 725	7 944
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 093	120	9 973	12 443	347	12 096
Greece	494 448	294 900	199 548	496 088	302 558	193 530
Kosovo	13 866	529	13 337	12 271	683	11 588
Macedonia	38 512	32 485	6 027	49 469	26 291	23 178
Romania	460 079	316 641	143 438	453 909	371 428	82 480
Slovenia	3 400	3 658	-258	5 122	6 356	-1 234
Serbia	29 266	25 769	3 496	32 968	65 583	-32 615
Turkey	210 538	86 011	124 526	269 361	101 306	168 055
Croatia	18 925	17 872	1 054	27 047	17 016	10 032
Montenegro	3 694	165	3 529	7 607	0	7 607
Total	1 303 604	781 667	521 938	1 379 954	897 293	482 661

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

Main partners in the agrarian trade of Bulgaria among Balkan countries in 2015 were Romania, Greece and Turkey, as towards them the export from Bulgaria significantly exceeded the import from the respective country. Negative trade balance was reported only in respect to the trade with Serbia and Slovenia.

Trade with countries from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

In 2015 the trade flow of Bulgaria with countries from the European Free Trade Association amounted to EUR 16.3 million - by 13.6% more than the previous year, as a result of increase both in the Bulgarian export (by 14,7%) and import (by 10.9%). Within the year was formed a positive trade balance for Bulgaria in the amount of EUR 6.6 million, which is by 3.9% more, compared to 2014. Main partners from the EFTA in 2015 remained Norway and Switzerland.

Table III.6. Trade with agrarian commodities with countries from the EFTA in 2014 and 2015, EUR thousand

Country	2014			2015		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Norway	5 354	1 265	4 089	6 054	1 979	4 075
Switzerland	4 483	2 613	2 613	5 320	2 575	2 745
Island	113	505	-392	52	306	-254
Lichtenstein	8	0	8	0	0	0
Total	9 958	4 383	6 318	11 426	4 860	6 566

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

Trade with countries from the Community of Independent States (CIS)

Trade with agricultural commodities with countries from the CIS in 2015 decreased by 6.6% on an annual basis, up to EUR 85 million. The reported positive balance for Bulgaria in the trade with agrarian commodities with those countries amounted to EUR 51 million, by 19% less than the balance in 2014. One of the main factors for decrease in the agrarian trade flow with countries from the CIS was the Ukrainian crisis and the continuing in 2015 prohibition for import of certain agricultural products from the EU, imposed by Russia at the beginning of August, 2014. The agrarian trade flow between Bulgaria and Russia decreased by 12.5% compared to 2014.

Trade with Arab countries (League of the Arab States)

In 2015 the agricultural trade flow between Bulgaria and the Arab countries amounted to EUR 433 million, as it has decreased by 18.1% compared to the previous year. Although it is by 20.6% less than in 2014, the positive trade balance for Bulgaria remained significant– EUR 401 million.

3. Structure of export and import by groups of commodities

Export

In 2015 the main groups of commodities that formed the structure of the agrarian export by sections of the Common Customs Tariff were:

Section I – Livestock and products of animal origin

The export of livestock and products of animal origin in 2015 represented 10.5% of the total agrarian export. The largest relative share in this section was the export of milk and dairy products – 5% and meat and offal, suitable for consumption – 4%.

The trade balance formed in trade with livestock and products of animal origin in 2015 was negative, in the amount of EUR 251.1 million.

Section II – Plants and products of plant origin

In 2015 the export of plants and products of plant origin represented the largest relative share of the total agrarian export during the year- 46.5%. Of these, the largest was the export of cereals (wheat, barley, corn), which represented 23.4% of the total agrarian export, followed by the export of oil seeds and fruits by 14.7%. The export of plants and products of plant origin decreased by 4.7% on an annual basis, up to EUR 1,743.7 million.

Under Section II was formed a positive trade balance for 2015 in the amount of EUR 1,077.2 million, by 15.2% less than in 2014.

Section III – Fats and oils from animal or plant origin

The export of fats and oils of animal and plant origin represented 6.6% of the total agrarian export in 2015. Compared to the previous year there was an increase in the export under that section by 7.4% (up to EUR 247.1 million). In 2015 the trade balance in the trade with products from the section was positive as it is reported an increase by 12.4% on an annual basis, up to EUR 133.9 million.

Section IV – Products of food industry, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes

In 2015 the export of processed products amounted to EUR 1,355.9 million (36.2% of the total agrarian export), as it increased by 8.6% compared to the previous year. The largest relative share of the total agricultural export of this section was for export of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes– 9%, followed by that of food products derived from cereals, flour, starch or milk– 5.7%; residues and waste from food industries and prepared animal fodder – 5.6%; cocoa and cocoa products – 4%; and foodstuffs from vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants – 3.2%.

The positive trade balance formed in the trade of products of Section IV in 2015 amounted to EUR 98.7 million – by 28.7% less compared to the previous year.

Import

Section I – Livestock and products of animal origin

The import of livestock and products of animal origin in 2015 represented 23.8% of the total agrarian import. The largest relative share of the import in this section was the share of meats and offal, suitable for consumption– 12.6%, followed by milk and dairy products – 7.2% and fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates– 2.6%. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease by 0.6% in value terms of the import under Section I, most significant in the products of animal origin, non-mentioned, nor included elsewhere (by 18.5%).

Section II – Plants and products of plant origin

In 2015 the import of plants and products of plant origin increased by 19% on an annual basis, up to EUR 666.5 million which represented 24.6% of the total agrarian import. The largest relative share in the structure of the agrarian import under Section II was that of oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; various grains, seeds and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder – 5.5%; fruits suitable for consumption; peel of citrus fruits or melons – 4.9%; vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, suitable for consumption – 4.7% and coffee, tea, mate and spices – also 4.7%.

Section III –Fats and oils of animal or plant origin

The value of imported fats and oils of animal origin during the year amounted to EUR 113.2 million (4.2% of the total agrarian import), as it increased by 2% compared to the previous 2014.

Section IV – Products of food industry, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes

The import of processed products under Section IV had the largest relative share in the structure of the total agrarian import of the country in 2015 – 46.5%, amounting to EUR 1,257.3 million. The largest share of import of commodities under this section had cocoa and cocoa products – 7.6%; non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar – 6.9%, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes – 6.6%.

Table III. 7. Import and export of agricultural processed goods in 2014 and 2015.

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					BALANCE	BALANCE
		2014		2015		2015/2014	2014		2015		2015/2014	2014	2015
		EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	%	EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	TOTAL:	22 110 829		23 248 296		5.1	26 135 486		26 410 550		1.1	-4 024 657	-3 162 254
	Including agrarian commodities:	3 695 106	100.0	3 747 251	100.0	1.4	2 467 754	100.0	2 705 181	100.0	9.6	1 227 352	1 042 154
	SECTION I	357 028	9.7	393 118	10.5	10.1	647 830	26.3	644 222	23.8	-0.6	-290 802	-251 103
1	Livestock	14 204	0.4	23 627	0.6	66.3	24 395	1.0	24 002	0.9	-1.6	-10 192	-375
2	Meat and offal, suitable for consumption	151 317	4.1	150 938	4.0	-0.3	368 048	14.9	341 145	12.6	-7.3	-216 731	-190 207
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	20 138	0.5	25 184	0.7	25.1	56 232	2.3	71 360	2.6	26.9	-36 095	-46 177

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					BALANCE	BALANCE
		2014		2015		2015/2014	2014		2015		2015/2014	2014	2015
		EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	%	EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
4	Milk and dairy products; birds' eggs; natural honey; products of animal origin suitable for consumption, not elsewhere specified or included	164 387	4.4	187 277	5.0	13.9	183 382	7.4	194 854	7.2	6.3	-18 996	-7 577
5	Other products of animal origin not elsewhere specified or included	6 983	0.2	6 092	0.2	-12.8	15 772	0.6	12 859	0.5	-18.5	-8 790	-6 767
	SECTION II	1 829 873	49.5	1 743 675	46.5	-4.7	560 079	22.7	666 452	24.6	19.0	1 269 795	1 077 223
6	Live plants and other plants	4 930	0.1	5 316	0.1	7.8	13 978	0.6	16 030	0.6	14.7	-9 048	-10 714
7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, suitable for consumption	68 149	1.8	70 937	1.9	4.1	113 388	4.6	127 723	4.7	12.6	-45 239	-56 786
8	Fruits suitable for consumption; peel of citrus fruit or melons	85 330	2.3	101 416	2.7	18.9	117 548	4.8	132 710	4.9	12.9	-32 217	-31 294
9	Coffee, tea, maté and spices	75 597	2.0	86 753	2.3	14.8	99 623	4.0	126 366	4.7	26.8	-24 026	-39 613
10	Cereals	922 506	25.0	877 932	23.4	-4.8	68 157	2.8	69 393	2.6	1.8	854 350	808 539
11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	71 810	1.9	46 662	1.2	-35.0	34 778	1.4	34 356	1.3	-1.2	37 033	12 306
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; various grains, seeds and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	599 147	16.2	551 101	14.7	-8.0	104 114	4.2	149 368	5.5	43.5	495 033	401 733
13	Natural lac; gums, resins and other plant saps and extracts	1 876	0.1	2 685	0.1	43.2	8 144	0.3	9 797	0.4	20.3	-6 268	-7 112

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					BALANCE	BALANCE
		2014		2015		2015/2014	2014		2015		2015/2014	2014	2015
		EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in%	%	EUR thousand.	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	EUR thousand	Share of the total export of agrarian commodities in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
14	Plaiting materials and other products of plant origin not elsewhere specified or included	528	0.0	872	0.0	65.2	350	0.0	710	0.0	103.0	178	162
	SECTION III	229 994	6.2	247 055	6.6	7.4	110 927	4.5	113 175	4.2	2.0	119 067	133 880
15	Fats and oils of animal or plant origin and their cleavage products; processed fats for nutritional purposes; waxes of animal or plant origin	229 994	6.2	247 055	6.6	7.4	110 927	4.5	113 175	4.2	2.0	119 067	133 880
	SECTION IV	1 248 792	33.8	1 355 949	36.2	8.6	1 110 378	45.0	1 257 269	46.5	13.2	138 415	98 681
16	Products of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	47 241	1.3	51 459	1.4	8.9	45 692	1.9	44 668	1.7	-2.2	1 549	6 791
17	Sugar and sugar products	78 223	2.1	80 275	2.1	2.6	102 061	4.1	130 056	4.8	27.4	-23 838	-49 781
18	Cocoa and cocoa products	102 123	2.8	151 397	4.0	48.3	153 611	6.2	205 355	7.6	33.7	-51 488	-53 957
19	Foodstuffs of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastry cooks' products	181 739	4.9	214 044	5.7	17.8	106 507	4.3	116 235	4.3	9.1	75 232	97 808
20	Foodstuffs of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants	105 369	2.9	120 620	3.2	14.5	110 743	4.5	122 366	4.5	10.5	-5 374	-1 746
21	Various foodstuffs	62 147	1.7	75 472	2.0	21.4	139 614	5.7	148 509	5.5	6.4	-77 467	-73 037
22	Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and vinegar	105 008	2.8	115 095	3.1	9.6	147 636	6.0	187 271	6.9	26.8	-42 628	-72 176
23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	207 919	5.6	210 529	5.6	1.3	121 045	4.9	125 276	4.6	3.5	86 873	85 252
24	Tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes	359 023	9.7	337 058	9.0	-6.1	183 468	7.4	177 532	6.6	-3.2	175 555	159 527

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

The following products had a leading role in the agrarian export of the country in 2015:

Table III. 8. Leading agricultural commodities in the export of Bulgaria in 2015

Name of product	Quantity (tons)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of the total agrarian export in %
Wheat and mix of wheat and rye	3 243 381	588 789 907	15.7
Sunflower seeds whether or not broken	715 486	362 954 719	9.7
Cigarettes and cigars containing tobacco	16 674	204 424 667	5.5
Sunflower-seed, safflower or cotton-seed oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	263 175	203 632 903	5.4
Maize	1 177 626	193 158 335	5.2
Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers' wares, whether or not containing cocoa	84 755	188 738 027	5.0
Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	34 735	128 738 886	3.4
Meat and offal, suitable for consumption from poultry of heading 0105, fresh, chilled or frozen	39 874	123 263 054	3.3
Rape or colza seeds, whether or not broken	253 269	96 623 053	2.6
Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	100 271	95 546 836	2.5
Chocolate and other foodstuffs containing cocoa	23 147	93 297 991	2.5
Cheese and curd	26 081	92 105 174	2.5
Barley	413 830	67 214 923	1.8
Coffee and coffee substitutes, containing coffee, regardless of the proportion in the mixture	14 037	63 521 567	1.7
Other sugars, including chemically pure lactose, maltose, glucose and fructose, in solid form; sugar syrups not containing added flavoring or coloring matter; artificial honey, whether or not mixed with natural honey and caramel	169 383	62 361 977	1.7

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015

Leading agricultural commodities in the import of Bulgaria in 2015 were:

Table III. 9. Leading agricultural commodities in the import of Bulgaria in 2015.

Name of product	Quantity (tons)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of the total agrarian import in %
Meat of animals, such as sows, fresh, chilled or frozen	109 838	172 004 836	6.4
Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee, regardless of the proportion in the mixture	34 212	105 962 430	3.9
Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	246 760	101 454 411	3.8
Chocolate and other foodstuffs containing cocoa	26 433	100 573 179	3.7
Meat and offal, suitable for consumption of poultry of heading 0105, fresh, chilled or frozen	102 708	99 069 587	3.7
Cigars (including cheroots), cigarillos and cigarettes of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	9 307	91 511 159	3.4
Ethyl alcohol, non-denatured, with alcohol content for volume under 80 % vol.; distillates, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages (except for alcohol preparations for production of beverages)	16 207	83 227 650	3.1
Foodstuffs not elsewhere specified or included	23 911	82 713 045	3.1
Raw or unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	22 606	79 913 617	3.0
Bread, paste confectionery or biscuit products, even with added cocoa, wafer, empty capsules from pastry for medicaments, pastry for sealing, dry paste leafs from flour, starch and similar products	34 946	75 036 009	2.8
Sunflower seeds whether or not broken	96 486	72 895 309	2.7
Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	57 871	62 571 975	2.3
Cheeses and curd	22 104	62 043 902	2.3
Milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweeteners	43 293	54 686 844	2.0
Water, including mineral water and aerated water, sweetened with sugar or other sweeteners or aromatized and other non-alcoholic beverages (except for fruit and vegetable juices, as well as milk)	85 745	54 040 813	2.0

Source: NSI data processed by the MAF; preliminary data for 2015.

4. Development of the foreign trade with agricultural commodities in 2016.

According to NSI preliminary data processed by the MAF, during the first half-year of 2016 the export of agricultural commodities increased by 3.7% compared to the same period of 2015, up to EUR 1,685 million. This was due mainly to the significant growth of the value of exported grains (by 14%), livestock (more than three times), vegetables (by 54%) and meat (by 17%). The leading groups of products in the structure of the agrarian export of the country during the first half-year of 2016 were grains and oilseeds, followed by tobacco and tobacco products, fats of plant or animal origin, pastry products, etc.

The import of agricultural commodities for the six months of 2016 increased by 2.4% on an annual basis, up to EUR 1,328.4 million

Thus, for the first half-year of 2016 was formed a positive trade balance for Bulgaria in the amount of EUR 356.6 million, by 8.8% more than analogical period of the previous year (EUR 327.8 million).

Main partners in the agrarian trade of the country remained the EU countries, which formed approximately 65% of the total export of agricultural commodities for the six months of 2016 and approximately 80% of the total agrarian import for the period.

IV. SUPPORTING THE AGRARIAN SECTOR

1. Implementation of the EU Common Agricultural Policy

1.1. Support under the first pillar of CAP

1.1.1. Direct payments per area, national additional payments and specific support

The financial support per area and per animal is provided by the EAGF, EAFRD and NB.

In the calendar 2015 was made an authorization of applications submitted for campaigns 2014 and 2015

Campaign 2014

Table IV.1. Authorized funds for campaign 2014 during the calendar 2015, BGN

Scheme/measure	Number of valid applications submitted	Distribution of budget in percentage (%)			Authorized payments
		EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
SPSA	94 062	100	-	-	1 046 817 761
NAAP		100	-	-	104 711 192
Disadvantaged areas (DA)1	31 848	-	82	18	7 645 331
DA2	13 020	-	82	18	2 165 227
AEP	4 768	-	82	18	5 414 787

Scheme/measure	Number of valid applications submitted	Distribution of budget in percentage (%)			Authorized payments
		EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
Natura 2000	10 255	-	82	18	3 347 059
NAPA 1	7 868	-	-	100	22 056 374
NAPA 3	7 495	-	-	100	12 895 669
NAPC	5 426	100	-	-	117 264
NAPCSCM 1	3 406	100	-	-	54 394
NAPCSCM 2	1 529	100	-	-	18 226
NAPCSCM 3	765	100	-	-	589 018
NAPA4	1 998	100	-	-	3 640
NAPA5	2 624	100	-	-	2 310
SR	41 812	-	-	100	107 509 652
SRS	92	100	-	-	201 791
SIFV	3 635	100	-	-	36 992 300
Total					1 350 541 995

Source: SFA-PA

Campaign 2015

The reform of the Common agricultural policy of the EU implemented a multi-layered structure of direct payments for the period 2015-2020 in view of the fairer and more effective direction of the direct support.

In order to support vulnerable sectors or sectors suffering difficulties as the stockbreeding, production of vegetables and perennials, Bulgaria notified the European Commission about the implementation of ten coupled schemes for support in the period 2015-2020. The financial resource for coupled support was 13% of the budget for direct payments, and for growing protein crops were envisaged 2% of the budget.

For campaign 2015 the agricultural producers were supported under the following schemes and measures for direct payments, financed by European and national funds:

- Scheme for single payment per area
- Scheme for redistributive payment
- Scheme for payment for agricultural practices, which appear favorable for the climate and the environment (green direct payment)
- Scheme for young farmers
- Scheme for small farmers
- Scheme for transitional national aid for tobacco, decoupled
- Scheme for transitional national aid for cattle, decoupled

- Scheme for transitional national aid for ewes and/or she-goats, coupled
- Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows
- Scheme for coupled support for cows bred for meat and/or young cows
- Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows and/or bred for meat cows under selection control
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control
- Scheme for coupled support for buffalos
- Scheme for coupled support for fruits
- Scheme for coupled support for vegetables
- Scheme for coupled support for vegetables – greenhouse production
- Scheme for coupled support for protein crops
- Special payment for crop – cotton
- Measure 214 Agro-ecological payments of RDP 2007-2013.
- Measure 10 Agro-ecology and climate of RDP 2014-2020.
- Measure 11 Biological agriculture of RDP 2014-2020.
- Measure 12 Payments for Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive of RDP 2014-2020.
- Measure 13 Payments for areas, facing natural or other specific constraints of RDP 2014-2020.
- Sub-measure 13.2 Compensatory payments for areas, other than mountain areas facing significant natural constraints of RDP 2014-2020.

For campaign 2015 were submitted more than 115,400 applications for support. During the period 1-st of October, 2015- 28-th of June, 2016 were authorized financial sources in the amount of BGN 1,954,029,194 under the implemented schemes and measures for direct payments.

Support scheme per hectare

In order to ensure continuity of the implemented policy and considering to maximum extent of the national specificity, Bulgaria continues to implement in the new program period the *Scheme for single payment per hectare*. A new moment in the scheme is the reduction in the minimum size of the admissible farm from 1 ha to 0.5 ha, given a minimum size of the plot of 0.1 ha, which shall allow for support of a larger number of farms. As an instrument for dealing with the structural imbalance, a reduction in payments under Single payment scheme per area (SPSA) was implemented for amounts over EUR 150,000. In order to consider the employment in the farms, costs for remunerations, related to farming activity shall be deducted prior implementing the reductions.

Applications submitted for support under SPSA for campaign 2015 were 61,145, including more than 3.6 million hectares declared areas. At the end of June 2016 were authorized more than 96% of the total budget in the amount of BGN 597,903,706. The amount of the support per area amounted to BGN 163.90/ha.

Campaign 2015 continued implementing the new scheme for direct payments introduced in the previous year, called a *Scheme for redistributive payment*, aiming at promoting economically more vulnerable small and medium farms. The scheme had a budget of BGN 109,362,469 and determined a

higher single payment per hectare for the first 30 hectares of each farm, admissible for support under SPSA. At the end of June 2016 were authorized BGN 103,950,935 under the scheme, given a rate of BGN 150.81/ha (more than 95% utilization of the budget was achieved).

The new CAP envisaged improvement of ecological parameters of agricultural lands through implementation of a mandatory component „ecologization“ of direct payments. A new *Scheme* was implemented *for payment for agricultural practices, which appear favorable for the climate and the environment (green direct payments)*. Farmers, who are entitled to receive payment under SPSA have to observe practices for diversification of crops, preservation of continuously grassed areas and maintenance of ecologically designated areas within all their hectares, depending on the structure of the farm, its size and the cultivated crops. At the end of June 2016 the budget of the scheme (BGN 464, 058, 533) was utilized more than 98%. Authorized funds amounted to BGN 455,220,271.

In order to improve the age structure of people employed in agriculture, in 2015 was implemented a *Scheme for young farmers*, with increased by 25% payment under SPSA for the first 30 ha. Eligible farmers for support appear those, who are not more than 40 years old in the year of application and have started agricultural activity in the last 5 years. The budget for campaign 2015 amounted to BGN 7,269,709 and the determined rate was BGN 40.97/ha.

In order to ease the access of small farmers to direct payments, since campaign 2015 they have been supported by an independent scheme, under eased conditions for observing the requirements for cross compliance and rate of the support between EUR 500 and EUR 1,250. The support is formed each year and individually for each particular beneficiary, depending on declared schemes. The total budget under the scheme is up to 10% from the limit for direct payments. Participation in the scheme have declared more than 9,000 farmers.

Coupled support for animals

Compared to the specific support implemented during the period 2010-2014 for animals, directed only to certain regions in the country, the new schemes included milk and bred for meat cows, young cows, buffalos, ewes and she-goats throughout the country.

In order to encourage farmers to increase the production performance and to improve the breed composition of the animals, there were implemented special schemes for animals under selection control.

Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows

The scheme with a budget of BGN 46,761,464 was aimed at supporting farms from the milk sector, for maintaining the level of produced milk. For campaign 2015 applications for support were submitted by 6,389 farmers, with declared 184,483 dairy cows. The rate determined for support amounted to BGN

257/animal. In June 2016 were authorized BGN 45,802,218 (97.9% budget utilization) under the scheme.

Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows and/or bred for meat cows under selection control

The scheme is aimed at supporting farms breeding cows under selection control. For campaign 2015 applications for support were submitted by 959 farmers having 62,226 animals. The annual budget of the scheme amounted to BGN 22,888,848 and the rate determined for support - BGN 378/animal. At the end of June 2016 the utilized budget was 98.8%.

Scheme for coupled support for bred for meat cows and/or young cows

The aim of the scheme is to support Beef meat sector to the level, required for maintaining the current production in farms, in which are bred 5 and more cows and/or young cows, designated for meat. The scheme with an annual budget of BGN 24,856,188 was a continuance of the scheme implemented till 2015 for specific support for cows with sucking calves. For campaign 2015 applications were submitted by 5,388 farmers, with declared 99,400 animals. The rate for support per animal was BGN 252. At the end of June 2016 the authorized funds under the scheme amounted to BGN 24,452,636 which was 98.4% of the budget.

Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats

Since campaign 2015 there have been supported farmers, who breed 10 to 49 ewes and/or she-goats, in view of keeping the level of production in that category of farms. The budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 9,014,583. Considering 101,657 animals declared for support, the rate per animal was BGN 90. At 30.06.2016 the budget was utilized at 95.6%.

Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control

One of the new schemes for campaign 2015 was for support of farmers, who breed 50 and more ewes and she-goats, from which at least one animal under selection control. The budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 12,829,409. Applications for support were submitted by 1,200 farmers, with declared 189,202 animals. The rate for support per animal was BGN 68. Authorized funds as of 30.06.2016 amounted to 97.5% of the determined annual budget.

Scheme for coupled support for buffalos

The support for buffalo-breeding as a vulnerable sector was implemented by individual scheme for direct payments. The support was directed to farmers, who breed 10 and more buffalos. The annual budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 5,410,878. Given 10,840 animals declared for support, a rate in the amount of BGN 509/per animal was determined. At the end of June 2016 were authorized funds in the amount of BGN 5,241,300 or 96.9% of the budget.

Coupled support for fruits and vegetables

In campaign 2015 the Fruits and vegetables sector was supported by three individual schemes for coupled support – for fruits, for vegetables and for vegetables – greenhouse production, upon significant broadening of the scope of crops, for which payment is provided. Unlike the Scheme for specific support for quality fruits and vegetables, implemented till 2015, under which the support was per ton produced and certified fruits and vegetables, payment under the new schemes is per hectare, upon proving of a minimum production, certified by documents for realization.

In order to ease the access to direct support for small farmers, the limit for farm size was reduced from 1 ha to 0.5 ha, with a minimum size of the plot of 0.1ha.

The total budget under the three schemes for fruits and vegetables is more than BGN 79 million per year, which appears a growth of five times compared to the budget of the Scheme for specific support for fruits and vegetables for 2012, when support for the sector was implemented for the first time.

Scheme for coupled support for fruits

For campaign 2015 applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 4,626 farmers, who have declared areas of 23,560 ha. The determined budget amounted to BGN 39,164,447 and the rate per hectare was BGN 1,938. At the end of June 2016 the authorized funds amounted to BGN 37,378,080 or 95.4% of the budget.

Scheme for coupled support for vegetables

Applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 3,914 farmers, who have declared areas of 16,870 ha. For the first time within the scope of the support were included the potatoes. The annual budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 34,934,214, at rate of BGN 2,328/hectare. As of 30.06.2016 were authorized BGN 33,156,135 representing 94.9% of the budget for campaign 2015.

Scheme for coupled support for vegetables –greenhouse production

Since campaign 2015 for the first time was implemented an independent scheme with a fixed budget for support for greenhouse production of vegetables. Because of the specific nature of that production, admissible for support are areas having minimum size of the farm of 0.5 ha, which could be combined with agrarian and greenhouse production. Under the scheme applied 550 farmers, who declared areas of 588 ha for support. The budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 5,182,950 and the rate per hectare - BGN 10,686. At the end of June 2016 were authorized more than 98% of the annual budget.

Scheme for coupled support for protein crops

The scheme was implemented for the first time during campaign 2015. The aim was indirect support for stock-breeders on the one hand, by supporting the production of protein crops for fodder. On the other hand, this contributed for implementation of the requirements for maintaining ecologically designated areas as a part of the green requirements. Applications for support were submitted by 11,450 farmers, who declared areas of 109,963 ha. Till 30.06.2016 from the annual budget, which amounted to BGN 30,407,633 were utilized more than 98%, at a given rate of BGN 285.14/ha.

Special payment for cotton In campaign 2015 cotton was supported for the first time by an independent scheme with a special determined budget in the amount of BGN 4,585,652. Applications for support were submitted by 60 farmers, who declared areas of 2,873 ha. The determined rate per hectare was BGN 1,380.,23.

Transitional national aid

In 2015 Bulgaria used the opportunity to continue the support for sectors Stock breeding and Tobacco with national funds, by implementation of schemes for transitional national aid for cattle, buffalos, ewes and she-goats and tobacco, under the conditions of the schemes for national additional payments, implemented in 2013.

Transitional national aid for cattle and buffalos (decoupled)

The budget of the scheme for 2015 amounted to BGN 48,096,545. For support applied 5,981 farmers. The determined rate for cattle was BGN 195, and for buffalos – BGN 340. As of 30.06.2016 authorized funds amounted to BGN 46,923,110 (97.6% of the budget).

Transitional national aid for ewes and/or she-goats (coupled)

Applications for the scheme with a budget of BGN 40,243,030 were submitted by 7,858 farmers, who have 1,056,058 animals. The rate of support per animal amounted to BGN 39.30. At the end of June 2016 was authorized a financial resource of BGN 40,102,391 (99.7% of the granted budget).

Transitional national aid for tobacco

The limit of the budget under the scheme for 2015 was BGN 118,113,768. Applications for support were submitted by 41,343 farmers for the quantities of tobacco delivered during the referent years. As of 30.06.2016 authorized funds amounted to BGN 73,420,506.79.

Table IV.2. Authorized funds for campaign 2015 during the calendar 2015.

Scheme/measure	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Distribution of the budget (%)			Authorized amount (BGN)
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
Measure 214 (AEP)	4 029	3 377	-	82	18	250 255 571
NAPA 1	5 999	5 912	-	-	100	18 530 143
NAPA 3	7 852	7 842	-	-	100	40 028 625
SPSA	6 386	6 373	100	-	-	45 673 992
SIFV	5 383	5 287	100	-	-	24 375 518
SRS	959	950	100	-	-	22 303 964
SR	4 227	4 103	100	-	-	8 609 721
NAAP	1 200	1 194	100	-	-	12 488 382
Buffalos	239	237	100	-	-	5 212 948
Total						427 478 864

Source: SFA-PA

Table IV.3. Amount of the support under schemes for direct payments and transitional national aid for campaign 2015 and utilization of the budget as of 30.06.2016.

Scheme	Budget 2015 (BGN)	Rate Campaign 2015	Authorized funds for campaign 2015 (BGN)	Utilization of budget as of 30.06.2016. (%)
Single Area Payment Scheme	597 903 706	BGN 163.89/ha	575 225 740	96.2%
Scheme for redistributive payment of aid	109 362 469	BGN 150.81/ha	103 950 935	95.1%
Green direct payments	464 058 533	BGN 127.21/ha	455 220 271	98.1%
Scheme for young farmers	25 % of the rate under SAPS	BGN 40.97/ha	927 764	-
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows	46 761 464	BGN 257.00/per animal	45 802 218	97.9%
Scheme for coupled support for bred for meat cows and/or young cows	24 856 188	BGN 252.00./per animal	24 452 636	98.4%

Scheme	Budget 2015 (BGN)	Rate Campaign 2015	Authorized funds for campaign 2015 (BGN)	Utilization of budget as of 30.06.2016. (%)
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows and/or bred for meat cows under selection control	22 888 848	BGN 378.00./per animal	22 607 569	98.8%
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goat mothers	9 014 583	BGN 90.00/per animal	8 614 771	95.6%
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control	12 829 409	BGN 68.00/ per animal	12 514 835	97.5%
Scheme for coupled support for buffalos	5 410 878	BGN 509.00/per animal	5 241 300	96.9%
Scheme for coupled support for fruits	39 164 447	BGN 1 938.00 /ha	37 378 080	95.4%
Scheme for coupled support for vegetables	34 934 214	BGN 2 328.00 /ha	33 156 135	94.9%
Scheme for coupled support for vegetables - greenhouse production	5 182 950	BGN 10 686.00/ha	5 093 693	98.3%
Scheme for coupled support for protein crops	30 924 541	BGN 285.14/ha	30 407 633	98.3%
Special payment for the cotton crop	4 585 652	BGN 1380.23/ha	3 858 600	84.1%
Scheme for small farmers		Minimum BGN 977.50	10 244 283	
		Maximum BGN 2 443.75		
Scheme for transitional national aid for cattle and/or buffalos, decoupled	48 096 545	Cattle –BGN 195/per animal	46 923 110	97.6%
		Buffalos – BGN 340/per animal		
Scheme for transitional national aid for ewes and she-goats, coupled	40 243 030	BGN 39.30/per animal	40 102 391	99.7%
Transitional national aid for tobacco	118 113 768		73 420 507	62.2%
Total	1 614 331 225		1 535 142 470	95.1%

Source: Directorate Direct Payments and Quality Schemes, MAF

Measures under axis 2 of RDP 2007-2013

For campaign 2015 under the measures under axis 2 of RDP 2007-2013 were authorized payments only under Measure 214 Agro ecological payments in the amount of BGN 250,255,571. There were submitted 4,029 applications (with no repeat) for support and payment – by approximately 15% less compared to ones submitted in 2014. This was due to expired engagements and non-approved and failed beneficiaries from those, who have submitted applications for support for the first time in 2013 and the impossibility to undertake new engagements under the measure for campaign 2014 and 2015.

Measures under RDP 2014-2020

Since campaign 2015 started the implementation of Measure 12 Payments under Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive and Measure 13 Payments for areas, facing natural or other specific constraints, including Sub-measure 13.1 Compensatory payments in mountain areas and Sub-measure 13.2 Compensatory payments for areas, facing significant natural constraints under RDP 2014-2020.

Under Measure 12 are supported farmers, who are taking care for agricultural lands, including meadows and pastures from forest territories, within the scope of protected areas, declared according to the Biological Diversity Act and for which there are issued orders for their announcement. At the end of June 2016 were authorized more than 97 % of the submitted applications, in the total amount of BGN 46,131,686.

As of 30.06.2016 under Sub-measure 13.1 was made authorization in the amount of BGN 64,639,635, and under Sub-measure 13.2 - in the amount of BGN 20,092,842. Budget utilization under both schemes was more than 99%.

Campaign 2016

Table IV.4. Declared data under schemes and measures for support per area

Scheme	Number of applications	Declared area, ha
Single payment scheme per area	61 666	3 725 837
Scheme for transitional national aid for agricultural land per hectare	45 796	3 272 513
Measure 12/Natura 2000	11 866	456 854
Measure 13.1/HP 1 – Mountain areas	24 495	367 819
Measure 10	4 195	288 125
Measure 13.2/HP 2 – Other	10 273	265 489
AEP	1 872	198 737
Scheme for coupled support for protein crops	15 604	144 827

Scheme	Number of applications	Declared area, ha
Measure 11	3 293	93 376
Scheme for coupled support for vegetables	7 778	37 211
Scheme for coupled support for fruits	8 153	35 954
Special payment for crop – cotton	122	5 114
Scheme for coupled support for vegetables - greenhouse production	748	685

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data are actual at 28.07.2016.

Table IV.5. Declared data under schemes for support per animal

Scheme	Number of applications	Number of animals
Scheme for coupled support for buffalos	292	14 015
Scheme for coupled support for bred for meat cows and young cows	6 356	122 798
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows and bred for meat cows under selection control	1 587	84 095
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows	6 367	175 576
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and she-goats	6 528	181 100
Scheme	Number of applications	Number of animals
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and she-goats under selection control	2 157	281 101
Scheme for transitional national aid for ewes and/or she-goats, linked to the production	7 526	1 090 013

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data are actual at 28.07.2016.

Table IV.6. Applications submitted for support under the Scheme for transitional national aid for tobacco

Variety	Number of applications	Reference quantity, kg
Basma	34 446	29 580 324
Burley	1 361	7 021 877
Kaba Kulak	6 192	6 425 757
Virginia	70	8 574 921

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data are actual at 28.07.2016 .

1.1.2. Mechanisms for market support by sectors

The general organization of agricultural markets in the EU appears the oldest part of the General agricultural policy. It unites a large number of various measures by nature and way of implementation, not always related in between. There are implemented both measures for market support and regulatory market measures related to quality control of agricultural products, acknowledgment of producers' organizations, issuance of import and export licenses, etc. Some of the market measures are horizontal and are implemented for all sectors of agriculture, others – only regarding one or several agricultural products.

1.1.2.1. Sector Field crops

Scheme Public intervention

Under the Scheme Purchasing of grain crops for the intervention period 01.11.2015- 31.05.2016 announcements were published for purchasing common wheat at a fixed price, until reaching 3,000,000 tons for the whole EU. The base intervention price for common wheat was equal to EUR 101.31/ton for the maximum offered quantity for the intervention period. Due to significantly higher price of wheat on international markets in comparison to its intervention price, no purchasing offers were submitted within the referred periods.

Under the Scheme Storage of cereal for the marketing year 2014/2015 no competition was held for the selection of storage facilities, due to higher levels of market prices compared to the intervention prices for grains.

1.1.2.2. Sector Meat and apiculture

Private storage of pork

On the grounds of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2015/360, in March 2015 started a scheme for private storage of pork. The admission and approval of applications was made based on the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17.12.2013 on establishing a common organization of markets in agricultural products and Commission Regulation (EC) No 826/2008 of 20.08.2008 on establishing common rules for granting aid for private storage of some agricultural products. No applications for support were submitted within the announced admission.

National Apiculture Programme for the triennial period 2014-2016

By EC Implementing Decision of 12.08.2013 was determined the amount of EU involvement in national apiculture programmes of Member States for the period 2014-2016. The available total budget for Bulgaria under the Programme amounted to BGN 13,304,651 including for 2014 – BGN 4,436,150, for 2015 – BGN 4,436,974 and for 2016 – BGN 4,431,526.

Table IV.7. Paid financial aid under NAP in 2015, under measures, BGN

Measure, sector	Budget for 2015	Paid financial aid			Funds utilized %
		Total	Incl. EAGF	Incl. NB	
Total under Measure A – Technical Aid for bee-keepers and bee-keepers associations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Total under Measure B – Combating against Varroa destructor	1 562 465	1 211 187	605 594	605 594	78%
- Activity Expenses for purchasing preparations in the fight against Varroa destructor, approved by the Veterinary Medicinal Activity Act	1 562 465	1 211 187	605 594	605 594	78%
Total under Measure C – Measures for support of the carrying out of physical and chemical analysis of bee honey	47 411	27 367	13 683	13 683	58%
- Activity Support of bee-keepers for carrying out of laboratory analysis of bee honey	47 4116	27 367	13 683	13 683	58%
Total under Measure D- Measures for support of renewing bee-hives in the EU	2 827 099	2 401 456	1 200 728	1 200 728	85%
- Activity 1 Purchase of new hives for replacing old unfit hives and/or to increase the number of bee colonies in the apiary	1 386 935	1 225 778	612 889	612 889	88%
- Activity 2 Maintenance or increasing the number of bee families	1 050 543	871 371	435 685	435 686	83%
- Activity 3 Purchase of queen bees	389 621	304 307	152 153	152 153	78%
Total under Measure E- Cooperation with specialized bodies for the practical implementation of the applied research programmes in the area of apiculture and bee products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total NAP	4 436 974	3 640 010	1 820 005	1 820 005	82%

Source: IACS, module National Apiculture Programme – admission 2015

During the financial 2015 were submitted more than 2 thousand applications for support under NAP, which was the largest number of submitted applications for all years of its implementation. There were executed 1,734 contracts for financing. Because of the high interest for application under Measure D Measures for support of renewing bee-hives in EU, it was admitted an agreement of financial aid over the determined budget under the Programme, which shall be paid upon existence of a free resource under the respective activities. Under 1,478 contracts (85% of executed contracts) the applicants have implemented investments and submitted applications for payment.

In 2015 SFA again provided opportunity for applicants under the Programme to receive low-interest credits for financing the activities under Measure B and D – costs for purchase of preparations for combating the Varroa destructor, purchasing of bee-hives, bee-families and bee-queens. With the use of credits were implemented investments under 119 contracts. The due financial aid under them amounted to BGN 775,269 or more than 21% of the paid aid under NAP for 2015. Credits were used mainly for implementation of investments under Measure D, under which the investment costs were higher.

In 2015 under *Measure A – Technical assistance* no projects for financial support were submitted.

Under *Measure B – Combating Varroa destructor, activity* Expenses for purchasing preparations in the fight against Varroa destructor were made 272,245 treatments of bee families. Costs for purchase of preparations in the amount of BGN 1,879,232 were approved, with paid financial aid for them in the amount of BGN 1,211,187 (financing of 80% of approved costs). Due to the large number of submitted applications for support, there was applied a reduction coefficient for the financial aid under all submitted applications.

During the year was reported the largest number of treated bee families, respectively the highest amount of paid financial aid, compared to all previous years of implementation of NAP.

Under *Measure C - Measures for support of the carrying out of physical and chemical analysis of bee honey, activity* Support of bee-keepers for carrying out of laboratory analysis of bee honey were made 1,338 studies of indicators for analyses of bee honey in accredited laboratories under the indicators, determined in the National Programme - hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), diastase activity, reducing sugars and sucrose, water content, indissoluble admixtures in water, electrical conductivity, free acidity and pollen. The approved costs for analyses were in the amount of BGN 34,209 and the paid financial aid was BGN 27,367 (financing of 80% of approved costs).

Despite the trend for increase in the number of studied indicators, respectively paid financial aid for physic-chemical analysis of bee honey for the period of implementation of the Programme (2008-2015), the rate of budget utilization under the Measure was still significantly less than the budget under other activities/measures of the Programme.

Under *Measure D - Measures for support of renewing bee-hives in EU*, *Activity 1 – Purchase of new bee-hives*, were bought 17,383 bee-hives. The approved costs amounted to BGN 2,042,963, for which was paid financial aid in the amount of BGN 1,225,778 (60% financing of approved costs). Under *Activity 2 – Costs for Maintenance or increasing the number of bee families* under the Measure were bought 10,560 bee families. Approved were costs in the amount of BGN 1,244,815 and the paid financial aid was BGN 871,371 (70% financing of approved costs). Under *Activity 3 – Costs for purchase and replacement of bee queens* were bought 22,554 tribal queen bees. The amount of approved investment costs was BGN 434,724 for which was paid financial aid in the amount of BGN 304,307 (70% financing of approved costs).

In July 2016 the European Commission approved by Implementing Decision the national programmes of the Member States for improvement of the production and trade with bee products for the period 2017-2019, including the Programme of the Republic of Bulgaria. The main goal of the Programme was improving the conditions for production and trade with bee honey and bee products, increasing the production performance, quality and competitiveness of the Bulgarian bee honey and bee products, preservation and sustainable development of the bee population, provision of a better employment and higher incomes for apiarists.

The three-year budget of the Programme amounted to BGN 14,275,775 including: for 2017 – BGN 4,758,590; for 2018 – BGN 4,758,595 and for 2019 – BGN 4,758,590.

1.1.2.3. Sector Milk

Scheme Milk quotas

According to the European legislation, the quota 2014/2015 year was the last for implementation of the quota regime. Pursuant to the provision of Art. 230, letter a) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council, the implementation of a system for restriction of cow milk production has been suspended since 31.03.2015. The quota system was replaced with a new, more liberal scheme, representing a registration regime of contractual relations in the milk sector.

At the beginning of April 2015 started the mandatory submission of annual declarations for implementation of individual quotas for direct sales and deliveries from producers and approved buyers for reporting the expiring quota 2014/2015 year.

In 2015, for non-submitted in time annual declarations and for found violations in on-site inspections were issued 18 penal provisions in the amount of BGN 12,973, under which were collected funds in the amount of BGN 4,373 and entered in the national budget.

For the quota 2014/2015 year the implementation of the quota for direct deliveries was 47%, and for direct sales - 28%.

Scheme Contractual relations in the milk sector

The main purpose of the scheme is a real improvement of the opportunities for milk producers for contracting with processing companies, which in turn shall lead to more fair distribution of the added value along the delivery chain. SF Agriculture exercises control for the existence in the contracts between buyers and producers of seven mandatory clauses, established by Regulation 1308/2013 of the EU.

In 2015 were submitted 712 applications from buyers for registration of approximately 8,800 contracts/annexes for buying of milk. For the period 01-06.2016 at SFA were submitted and processed more than 500 applications for registration. Till the end of the year was expected the submitted applications to reach 1,200 for registration of 15,600 contracts/annexes executed in 2016 between producers and first buyers of raw cow's, sheep, goat and buffalo milk.

In 2016 under the scheme were considered and analyzed the results of on-site inspections of 476 producers of raw milk, determined by random selection on the basis of risk-analysis and of 250 buyers, registered in the Register of the approved buyers of cow's milk. Many irregularities were found, main of which were existence of acting stock-breeders without registered stock-breeding site and work with no contracts for realized deliveries of milk, in connection with which was made a proposal for changes in the applicable regulations.

In 2017 is expected to be made on-site inspections of producers and buyers, falling within the scope of Art.10 of Ordinance No 1 of 28.01.2015. As a result of the inspections it is expected till the end of 2017 the largest part of the actually made deliveries of raw milk to be formalized and the number of registered contracts to exceed 20,000, as meanwhile establishing significantly more favorable conditions for the milk producers.

Scheme School milk

The Programme School milk is aimed at encouraging consumption of fresh milk and yoghurt, and dairy products, produced in the European Union. The granted financial aid shall support the creation of habits for healthy nutrition since earliest childhood. The Programme has been implemented in Bulgaria since the educational year of 2008/2009.

Till the educational year of 2014/2015 the interest to the scheme was extremely poor, because of the low level of support from EAGF. The amount of the European support was limited by the maximum

quantity of milk equivalent (0.25 liters), the rates for which were very low - 8-9 stotinki per child per day. On the other hand, the conditions for implementation of the scheme did not allow financing of the costs for logistics and administrative costs.

For the educational year of 2015/2016 was implemented a new approach, as for the first time it was given an opportunity for national co-financing. The scheme covered children from the kindergartens, from preparatory group and the pupils from 1 to 4 class in state, municipal and private schools. As a result the interest for participation in the scheme has significantly arisen. There were 123 applications submitted for grant of milk and dairy products in 2,115 schools. The number of covered children increased from 3,500 during the previous educational year to 302,000 children in 2015. Based on submitted applications it was expected to be utilized BGN 6.6 million, whereas in the educational year of 2014/2015 were paid only BGN 4,542. After processing of applications for payment it was expected the quantities of granted dairy products to reach 360,328 kg fresh milk; 1,373,755 kg yoghurt, 227,998 kg fruit milks, 35,256 kg cheese and 54,036 kg yellow cheese – total of 1,962,081 kg milk and 89,293 kg cheese and yellow cheese. For comparison, during the previous educational year were delivered only 3,471 kg milk and 264 kg cheese.

Temporary exceptional measures for support of producers of animal products as a result of the crisis in some sectors of the stock-breeding

Extension of the period of interventional purchase of butter and non-fat milk

At the beginning of August 2014 Russia imposed a ban on the import of some products from the EU, including milk and dairy products. This led to significant drop in prices of respective products. In June 2015 the ban was prolonged for one more year.

Apart from that in 2014 and during the first months of 2015 was reported a decrease in the world demand of milk and dairy products, also leading to decrease in prices of butter and powdered milk in the EU. In order for maximum quick use of all possible market measures and provision of protective mechanism, in case the prices go further down and the disturbances on the market go deep, the EC adopted a Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1549, by which the period of public intervention for butter and non-fat milk powder was extended to 01.01.2016. The Bulgarian operators did not get use of the support under that measure, because the country does not produce non-fat milk powder, and the produced butter does not meet the conditions for its implementation.

Temporary exceptional aid

In September 2015 the European Commission presented a broad package of measures for dealing with the crisis on the European market in the sector of stock-breeding, arisen as a result of the Russian ban for import of agricultural commodities from the EU and the constantly decreasing prices of the production.

By Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2015/1853 the Commission was given an opportunity for exceptional support for producers in sectors of stock-breeding to overcome the consequences of the crisis on the market in milk in the EU and the significant decrease in prices of pork and beef meat in some Member States. For Bulgaria the temporary exceptional aid amounted to BGN 11,742,820 (EUR 6,004,009). Since the funds, determined by the EU budget, compensated only part of the actual losses, which the stock-breeders suffered, the Member States were given an opportunity to provide additional national aid to these producers under the same conditions in the amount of 100% of the financial package.

By Ordinance No 21/12.11.2015 concerning the conditions and way for providing exceptional aid to producers of animal products, affected by the crisis in the sector, were envisaged the conditions on implementation of four schemes for distribution of the exceptional financial aid:

- Scheme for support based on deliveries and/or direct sales of cow's milk during the quota period 2014/2015 with a budget of BGN 5,447,975;
- Scheme for support per number of dairy cows in the farm, with a budget of BGN 4,470,400;
- Scheme for support per number of ewes and she-goats in the farm, with a budget of BGN 3,082,330
- Scheme for support per number of buffalo-cows in the farm, with a budget of BGN 283,280.

In December 2015 under the four schemes was paid a total amount of BGN 13,281,610 of which BGN 11,740,502 European funds and BGN 1,541,108 of the national budget for supporting ewes and she-goats.

With the purpose for efficient and effective overcoming of the disturbances on the market in milk and reducing the risk of abandoning the activity in the sector, in 2016 was taken a decision for granting the stock-breeders additional national support in the amount of 100% of the financial package from the EU, under the same conditions and proportionally to the distribution of funds from the European financing.

During the period October 2015- April 2016 the agricultural producers in sector stock-breeding were paid BGN 23,481,383 in total of which BGN 11,740,502 European funds and BGN 11,740,882 national funds. The total number of supported farmers under the four exceptional schemes was 12,642.

Despite the undertaken measures in 2015 and 2016 the dairy sector continued to suffer significant difficulties. In order for their overcoming, it was expected in the autumn of 2016 the European Commission to provide a new package of instruments for dealing with the negative trend on the market in milk, based on complete evaluation of the market situation and the effect of already implemented measures.

Exceptional measures for support of private storage of cheese

As one of the measures for mitigating the impact of restriction on imports of dairy products from the

EU introduced by Russia, with Delegated Regulation No 950/2014 the EC opened a temporary exceptional scheme for private storage of cheese with pre-determined amount of the aid. The unified scheme covered all types of cheese, except for fresh cheese, which is not suitable for storage, and frozen curds. The maximum quantity of products covered by the scheme amounted to 155,000 tons in total for all EU Member States. The aid was EUR 15.57 per ton/day for permanent storage costs and EUR 0.40 per ton/day for storage of production under the contract. The EC suspended the measure in September 2014 due to lack of interest from potential beneficiaries, and in Bulgaria the scheme was not implemented.

In relation to the prolongation of the Russian ban on import of goods from the EU and yet the strong imbalance between demand and supply of raw milk and dairy products in the Union, in October 2015 the EC opened a temporary exceptional scheme for support of private storage of some types of cheese, falling under code 0406 in the Combined nomenclature, except for fresh cheeses, and for the preliminary determination of the amount of the aid. The maximum quantity of products, subject of support amounted to 100,000 tons, being allocated between the Member States depending on the volume of their production. The individual amount of the aid was as under the previous scheme – EUR 15.57 per ton/day for permanent storage costs and EUR 0.40 per ton/day for warehouse storage of the production under the contract. For Bulgaria was determined a limit of 696 tons of cheese. An application for support was submitted and approved for a total of 247,154 tons of different types of cheese (36% of the quantity determined for the country).

1.1.2.4. Sector Fruits and vegetables

Scheme School fruit

The general aim of the EU scheme for offering fruits in the schools was continuous increase of the share of fruits and vegetables in the children's nutrition, especially in the age when their nutrition habits are formed. The support was intended for children, attending schools, legally acknowledged by the National Education Act. The scheme was implemented on the territory of the whole country and covered children from kindergartens – all children from I to IV group of municipal, state or private kindergartens – all pupils from preparatory to IVth class inclusive, from the respective school (state, municipal or private).

Educational year of 2014/2015

The budget for the educational year was in the amount of BGN 11,005,757 of which BGN 7,123,140 – from the EU and BGN 3,882,617 - national co-financing. For contractors were approved 410 applicants. Average for a child for the educational year were due BGN 27,29 with VAT excluded or 40

deliveries of BGN 0.68 per delivery of a portion of fruit/vegetable. Paid funds as of 31.12.2015 were in the amount of BGN 12,430,417 with VAT included.

Educational year of 2015/2016

For the educational year of 2015/2016 were approved 379 applications for participation under the scheme for providing fresh fruits and vegetables, covering 456,723 children from 3,449 schools. The largest share was that of trade companies - 49% (187 with 3,096 schools), followed by schools, which applied independently – 46% (174), and 5% (18 with 179 schools) were municipalities.

According to the National Strategy for implementation of the scheme for providing fruits and vegetables in schools in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 01.08.2015 – 31.07.2016 the annual budget amounted to BGN 12,463,971, including from the EU – BGN 6,268,358 and national co-financing – BGN 6,195,613 .

For the Programme period 2014-2020 the EC envisages financing of accompanying measures. For 2015/2016 for implementation of accompanying measures in Bulgaria was envisaged a budget in the amount of BGN 430,563 and for information activities - BGN 129,519 which were from the general budget of the scheme.

Till the end of June 2016 under the scheme were paid BGN 7,877,035 of which BGN 3,938,519 – from the state budget.

Scheme Temporary exceptional measures for support of producers of certain fruits and vegetables

In connection with the extension with one more year of the period of the Russian ban on imports of certain agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, the EC issued a Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1369 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1031/2014 for determining additional temporary exceptional measures for support of producers of certain types of fruits and vegetables, which governed the extension of the period of implementation of temporary exceptional measures until 30 June 2016 or until reaching the eligible quantities of products in the respective Member State. Supported were producers of tomatoes, carrots, peppers, cucumbers, apples, pears, plums, table grapes, kiwi, oranges, clementines, tangerines, lemons cabbage, cauliflower, mushrooms, soft fruit, peaches and nectarines.

By Commission Regulation No 1369 of 08.07.2015, additional 3,000 tons of fruits and vegetables (except peaches and nectarines) and 950 tons of peaches and nectarines were allocated for Bulgaria, for which withdrawal from market can be applied (for charity or food for animals).

The amount of 3,000 tons of fruits and vegetables (except peaches and nectarines) was reached yet in September 2015 and the application of the measure was discontinued. In 2015 was applied measure "non-harvesting of fruits and vegetables" for tomatoes, sweet peppers and cucumbers w. Total disbursements amounted to BGN 1,189,533 .

The scheme for peaches and nectarines was not applied in 2015, as it was launched after the harvest of these fruits. In 2016 was opened an admission of applications for support, where by the middle of June 2016 there were no requests for payment submitted.

Scheme Groups of fruit and vegetables producers

The scheme for support of producer groups as a tool to promote the establishment of stable producer organizations has been applied since 2012. Within a period of five years the producer groups must fulfill all the requirements for recognition as producer organizations.

Producer groups may use two forms of support - EU aid for administrative and organizational strengthening, defined as a percentage of the value of their marketed production and co-financing of the investments they have made in order to meet the criteria for recognition as producer organizations. Condition for obtaining temporary recognition is the producer group to present 5-year plan for recognition, which may also include investment activities. Producers of fruits and vegetables showed considerable interest in the scheme.

Opportunities to support producer groups were governed by Decree No 11 of 15.05.2007 on the conditions and procedure for recognition of producer organizations of fruits and vegetables and their associations and the terms and conditions for the approval and amendment of approved operational programmes.

In 2012 and 2013 a total of 12 producer groups of fruits and vegetables were approved, whose members were 53 producers of fruits and vegetables from the regions of Plovdiv, Haskovo, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Karnobat and Montana. Contracts for financial aid amounting to BGN 59 million were concluded, with a commitment to the implementation of five-year investment plans. At the end of the five-year period, the groups shall comprise of at least 72 producers.

During the financial 2015 a financial support in the amount of BGN 21,810,707 was disbursed under requests for payment submitted by producer groups, covering administrative and investment costs made in 2014.

At the end of June 2016 BGN 5,426,331 were paid on submitted requests. Orders for termination of contracts for financial support between SFA and two producer groups were issued due to non-fulfillment of their terms.

Scheme Producer organization

In 2015 was drafted a new Ordinance on the conditions and procedure for recognition of producer organizations of agricultural products, associations of producer organizations and interbranch organizations and producer groups. The ordinance should govern the right of manufacturers from all sectors of agriculture, except for milk and fruits and vegetables sectors to establish producer organizations, associations of producers, interbranch organizations and producer groups. Producers were given the opportunity to unite in organizations not only for joint sales (marketing organizations), but also to achieve a wide range of objectives - optimizing production costs, conducting research, using environmentally friendly practices, implementation of manufacturing standards, sustainable use of natural resources, implementation of promotional initiatives and others.

Amendments were made in Ordinance No 11/5.05.2007 on the conditions and procedure for recognition of producer organizations of fruits and vegetables and their associations and the terms and conditions for approval and amendment of approved operational programmes. The amendments provided new, easy to be applied by members conditions for recognition of organizations that could be proved with a minimum number of documents. A real opportunity was created for applying the EU rules on additional national co-financing of operational programmes for producer organizations. The recognized organizations of fruits and vegetables producers could apply for financial support by creating operational funds, financed by the Community and their members. The amount of the EU funding represented 4.6% of the market output of the organization.

Organizations that have created operational funds could receive national support for their supplement amounting to 80% of the funds raised by members.

In 2015 with Orders by the Minister of Agriculture and Food were recognized one group of fruits producers, one group of meat producers, one producer organization in Sector Seeds and seedlings, one producer organization in Sector Wine grape and one organization of mushrooms producers.

At the end of 2015 the recognized producer organizations of agricultural products were 22, of which 4 producers of fruits and vegetables, 2 producers of milk and dairy products, one producer of seeds and seedlings and one producer of wine grapes. There were 13 recognized producer groups of fruits and vegetables and one producer group of beef.

In September 2015 one of the approved producer organizations of vegetables submitted in the SFA-PA a three-year operational programme (investment program), planned to be implemented within the period 2016-2018. The Operational Programme amounting to BGN 5,418,929 was approved for implementation at the beginning of 2016.

1.1.2.5. Sector Wine

The implementation of the National Support Programme for vine and winery sector in Bulgaria 2014-2018, which includes four measures - Restructuring and conversion of vineyards, Investments in businesses, Green harvesting and Promotion of markets in third countries, continued in 2015. Based on an extensive discussion between representatives of the administration and the wine industry, the Permanent Working Group on operational solving of current issues in the wine sector decided measure Investments in businesses to be excluded from the scope of the Programme and the funds for its implementation in the amount of BGN 66,497,200 (BGN 16,624,300 per year) to be directed to the budget of measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards.

Measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards was subject of considerable interest from farmers since the beginning of the Programme implementation. Eligible for support under the measure were: changing the varietal composition of plantations; vineyards restructuring; improvement of methods and technologies for vineyard management. The maximum amount of the financial aid was up to 75% of the actual costs for implementation of each particular activity.

Measure Promotion of markets in third countries was applied in order to promote wines with PGI and PDO, with a view to increase their demand on the markets of countries outside the European Union. Financing with European funds under the measure amounted to 50%, while national co-financing - up to 30% of the total value of completed activities. Within the admission held at the end of 2015, under measure Promotion of markets in third countries were submitted 6 applications for financial support in the total amount of BGN 17,788,619, of which BGN 14,230,894 public funds. In 2016 shall be concluded contracts for financial support with applicants that meet the eligibility criteria and within the available budget under the measure in accordance with Ordinance No 2 of 04.04.2014 on the conditions and procedure for granting financial assistance under the National Support Programme for vine and winery sector in Bulgaria 2014-2018.

During the financial year of 2015 under measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards were paid BGN 38,950,773 or 77.6% of the annual budget of the Programme.

Measure Green harvesting is a safety tool that is used during crises and contributes to restoring the balance between demand and supply on the market in wine in the European Union. In 2015, the measure

was not applied in Bulgaria and its designated annual budget of BGN 1,173,480 was transferred to the budget of measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards.

In 2015 were made amendments to the national legislation regarding the implementation of the National Programme. Amendments were made in Ordinance 2/2014 on the conditions and procedure for granting financial assistance under the National Support Programme for vine and winery sector 2014-2018 concerning the implementation of measures under the Programme. A system for evaluation of projects was introduced for the first time under measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards and measure Promotion of markets in third countries based on priority criteria for project evaluation (ranking). In order to achieve a more equitable allocation of public funds and ensuring their more evenly utilization by beneficiaries, financial limits were introduced for both measures. Texts relating to the implementation of measure Investments in businesses were deleted.

During the period from the beginning of the financial year of 2016 (16.10.2015) to 06.14.2016, were submitted 198 applications for payment of financial assistance under the measure Restructuring and conversion of vineyards. 127 contracts were concluded with a total value of financial assistance of BGN 48,565,960. Payments amounted to BGN 7,597,525 were made.

1.1.2.6. Sector Sugar

Scheme Quota regime

The European Union uses a quota system for the production of sugar and isoglucose in order to regulate the production in the Union. Bulgaria has a national quota for production of isoglucose amounting to 89,198 tons expressed as dry matter.

In 2015 under the production quota approved for the marketing year of 2014/2015 were collected fees in the amount of BGN 1,046,721, 75% of which was provided to the EU budget and the remaining 25% - to the national budget. The fees collected are the same as the previous period due to the same amount of the national production quota.

During the year were provided additional funds for taxable surplus (911 kg) implemented in the marketing year of 2013/2014 in the amount of BGN 891. Part of the surplus quantities were exported outside the EU with licenses for export of out-quota isoglucose or transferred as produced in the next marketing year.

Scheme Approval of companies - producers of isoglucose and refiners

In compliance with the provisions of the European legislation applicable to sector Sugar all raw cane sugar processing companies (full-time refiners) and sugar and isoglucose producers are subject to approval.

At the beginning of 2015 there was one company in Bulgaria approved as a producer of isoglucose and six companies approved as full-time refiners of raw cane sugar. In October 2014 three refineries sold their assets under Pledges rules and procedure and ceased their functioning. At the end of 2015 approvals of four refineries were revoked and the approved refineries remained two.

For the marketing year of 2013/2014 were issued three licenses for preferential import of sugar for refining. The imported and refined quantities under these licenses were 39,192,770 kg, expressed in *tel quel* weight. Four of the licenses issued for the same marketing year for preferential import of sugar for refining, with the total quantity of 35,059,124 kg, expressed in *tel quel* weight were not fulfilled. In this regard in 2015 were initiated proceedings to establish and collect sanctions for non-fulfilment of refining obligations. The sanctions imposed were in the amount of BGN 34,284,317.

For the marketing year of 2014/2015 all licenses for preferential import of sugar for refining were fulfilled. The imported and refined quantity was 54,867,340 kg expressed in *tel quel* weight.

1.1.2.7. Sector Promotional Programmes

The promotional programmes cover activities aimed at providing information about product presentations and facilitating its marketing. The programmes may include organizing trainings, conferences with the participation of journalists and doctors, promotions in supermarkets and stores, tastings, advertising, organizing competitions, publications in specialized press and Internet, participation in exhibitions, fairs, national and international exhibitions.

The following promotional programmes were implemented in 2015:

- Cross-country programme for promotion of wines with PDO/PGI in third countries (Switzerland, USA and China) – approved with a decision of the EC in June 2012. The programme was a joint Bulgarian and Greek programme, submitted jointly by the National Vine and Winery Association and the Greek Association ENOABE, with the purpose of promotion of Bulgarian and Greek high-quality wines on the markets in Switzerland, USA and China, with a term of completion: 3 years. The budget of the programme was in the total amount of EUR 4,633,737 (BGN 9,062,801). The Bulgarian part of the programme amounted to EUR 2,043,362 (BGN 3,996,407.40);
- Cross-country programme for promotion of wine in third countries (Russia and China) was approved by the EC in November 2011. The Programme was submitted by the Regional Vine and

Winery Chamber Trakia and aimed at promoting Bulgarian wines with PDO/PGI on markets in Russia and China for a period of three years, in the total amount of EUR 1,596,890 (BGN3,123,197.46);

- Free the taste — Promotional programme for manufactured fruits and vegetables was approved by the EC in July 2011. The Programme was submitted by the Association of Manufacturers of Fruits and Vegetables in the Republic of Bulgaria and aimed at promoting manufactured fruits and vegetables on the markets in Romania, Poland and Germany for a period of three years, in the total amount of EUR 2,982,967 (BGN 5,834,086.86);
- Promotion of dairy products in third countries (Russia and Brazil) — the Programme was proposed by the National Association of Dairy Producers and aimed at promoting dairy products on the markets in Russia and Brazil for a period of three years, in the total amount of EUR 2,871,750 (BGN 5,616,568.65);
- European dairy products every day — the Programme was proposed by the Association of Dairy Manufacturers in Bulgaria and aimed at promoting dairy products on the markets in Australia and the UAE in the total amount of EUR 3,305,540 (BGN 6,461,063.53);
- Wines from Southern Europe/Mediterranean wines – approved by the European Commission in November 2012. The Programme is multi-national and was submitted by the Regional Vine and Wine Chamber Trakia, the Consortium of Greek Wine Producers and the Regional Enoteca Emilia-Romagna, Italy. Object of promotion on the markets in the UK, Italy and Germany were Bulgarian, Greek and Italian wines with PDO/PGI, with a total budget of EUR 5,200,356. The Bulgarian part of the Programme amounted to EUR 1,183,602 (BGN 2,314,924);
- Promotion of fresh cherries in third countries (Russia and Norway) was approved by the EC in November 2012, with a three-year period of implementation and a budget of EUR 1,893,060 (BGN 3,702,504). Offering Association was the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria.
- See the Egg was approved by the EC in April 2013. The Programme was for providing information regarding the marking of eggs on the markets in Greece and Romania. The Programme was submitted by the Association of Agricultural Producers in Bulgaria and in the total amount of EUR 1,893,126 (BGN 3,702,633).
- Release the European taste was approved by the EC in April 2014. It was submitted by the Association of Manufacturers of Fruits and Vegetables and aimed at markets in Russia and the United Arab Emirates. Awareness and promotional activities for manufactured fruits and vegetables

were implemented (chutney, canned tomatoes, roasted vegetables, rose jam and hip marmalade) in the total amount of BGN 7,353,256 (EUR 3,759,660).

- European sheep meat and cheese. Try the quality, taste the difference was approved by the EC in October 2014. It was submitted by the National Association for Breeding of Synthetic Population of Bulgarian Milk Sheep Breed and aimed at markets in Croatia, Germany, Greece and Bulgaria. The budget of the Programme was BGN 6,996,729 (EUR 3,577,371).
- Go, take and eat organic was approved by the EC in April 2015. It was submitted by the Bulgarian Association Bio products and aimed at markets in Germany, Austria, Sweden and Denmark. Awareness and promotional activities were implemented in relation to organic fresh and manufactured fruits and vegetables, nuts and organic wine in the total amount of BGN 8,947,044 (EUR 4,574,551).
- Quality European cheese was approved by the EC in April 2015. It was submitted by the Association of Dairy Manufacturers in Bulgaria and aimed at markets in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates. Awareness and promotional activities were implemented in relation to feta cheese and yellow cheese in the total amount of BGN 7,768,144 (EUR 3,971,789).
- Enjoy EU cherries - Multinational Programme for information and promotion of fresh cherries. Approved by the EC in April 2015. It was submitted by the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria and Group of Cooperatives for Fruits Production (Greece) and aimed at markets in Germany, Finland and Sweden. The total budget of the Programme was BGN 8,165,691 (EUR 4,175,052).
- A variety of flavors was approved by the EC in April 2015. It was submitted by the National Association for Breeding of Synthetic Population of Bulgarian Milk Sheep Breed and aimed at markets in Jordan, Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates. Awareness and promotional activities were implemented in relation to sheep meat and cheese in the total amount of BGN 8,718,026 (EUR 4,457,456).

By Commission Decision of November 2015 for European funding were approved 4 more promotional programmes with Bulgarian participation. The implementation of three of these programmes should start in 2016:

- Promotion of wines with PDO/PGI in third countries – it was submitted by the National Vine and Wine Chamber and aimed at markets in the US and China, with a budget of BGN 6,998,736 (EUR 3,578,397).
- Promotion of European spirit drinks with geographical indication (Burgas Muscat brandy, Pomorie grape brandy and tsipouro Tirnavou) was submitted by the Regional Vine and Wine Chamber

South Black Sea - Burgas and the Greek Association of Wine Producers Tirnavos. The Programme was aimed at markets in the US, Russia and Belarus, with a total budget of BGN 7,647,899 (EUR 3,910,309).

- Awareness and promotional programme for fresh cherries in third countries was submitted by the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria and aimed at markets in Belarus, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Programme had a budget of BGN 3,206,866 (EUR 1,639,645).

In 2015, under promotional programmes in progress were paid a total of BGN 10,067,058 including: by EAGF BGN 6,314,926 and national co-financing – BGN 3,752,132.

Since December 1, 2015 new rules for implementation of promotional programmes established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1831 and Regulation (EU) 1144/2014 have been in force. The new procedures for selection of promotional programmes envisaged their admission to be carried out in new agency of the EC - Chafea.

In 2016 was expected conclusion of contracts under the last 4 promotional programmes, approved by the EC in the total amount of BGN 21,589,045. Their implementation should continue until 2020. Disbursements under existing promotional programmes were expected to reach BGN 15,093,900 in 2016.

1.1.2.8. Quality policy — protected designations

In 2015 in the EC Register of traditional specialty guaranteed was entered another Bulgarian protected designation - traditional specialty guaranteed Kayserovan vrat Trakiya. The registration of the product came after an agreement between Bulgaria and Greece in connection with objection in made in October 2014 by Greece regarding the use of the term "Trakiya" in the procedure of registering "Kayserovan vrat Trakiya" as traditional specialty guaranteed.

In accordance with the procedures set regarding the entry of new producers in the databases of producers of protected designations under Ordinance No 16 of 2007, in November 2015 with an Order by the Minister of Agriculture and Food a new producer was included in the database of PGI "Gornooryahovski sausage", who will be entitled to manufacture the product in accordance with the envisaged product specification.

During meetings and consultations with stakeholders on the opportunities and competitive advantages offered by the European quality policy farmers expressed interest to registration of more Bulgarian products under quality schemes.

1.1.3. Trade mechanisms

1.1.3.1. Licensing of exports

Scheme – Mandatory export licenses for agricultural products for the calendar year of 2015

Products, which are subject to mandatory licensing in export to third countries, regardless of whether recovery is required, were of the sectors cereals, rice and sugar. Mandatory licenses should be used for statistical purposes, for monitoring the market of these sensitive products in the EU.

In 2015 were issued 290 mandatory licenses for export allocated by products and quantities as follows:

Table IV.8. Licenses for export of agricultural products issued in 2015, by products

CN Code	Description	Number of issued licenses	Quantity for which a license was issued (tons)
1001	Wheat and mix of wheat and rye	43	610 082
1005	Maize	27	207 103
1003	Barley	51	87 134
1702	Other types of sugar	9	26 800
1006	Rice	138	10 494
1101	Wheat flour or flour from mixture of wheat and rye	13	794
1002	Rye	4	200
1004	Oats	2	127
1701	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	3	70

Source: SFA

The implementation of mandatory licenses shall be secured by guarantees. In 2015 were accepted and processed 143 guarantees in the total amount of BGN 7,062,859, and released 138 guarantees in the total amount of BGN 6,529,556. 12 sanctions for non-fulfilment were imposed in the total amount of BGN 19,789.

Scheme – Export refunds for agricultural products for 2015

Export refunds for products from sector poultry other than zero were fixed until 18.07.2013, therefore in 2015 there were no licenses issued for export refunds or applications submitted for payment.

Scheme – Licenses for export of dairy products to Canada for 2015

Pursuant to the Agreement between the European Community and Canada, signed in 1995, traders can benefit from a reduced rate of duty on imports of dairy products under code 0406 of the CN (cheese and yellow cheese) in Canada under compulsory presentation of an export license issued within the quota. Quota system on importation into Canada is a mechanism for protection of local production and represents a combination of two instruments - quotas and import duties. For Bulgaria this Agreement was

entered into force immediately after the country's accession to the EU on 01.01.2007 and interest in the scheme surfaced after its launch.

In 2015 were issued 25 licenses for exports of milk and dairy products for Canada under the quota, including: 13 licenses for 37,000 kg yellow cheese and 12 licenses for 137,057 tons of cheese.

Scheme Licenses for export of cheese to USA within the quota for 2015“

As a result of negotiations between the USA and the European Union, led by the World Trade Organization, an agreement was concluded by which Bulgaria and Romania may from 2013 import European cheese in the USA within the quota at a reduced rate of duty. For 2015 Bulgarian exporters have not expressed interest in participating in the scheme.

1.1.3.2. Licensing of imports

The products subject to mandatory licensing for imports from third countries are: cereals, rice, sugar, olive oil and table olives, fresh and manufactured fruits and vegetables (garlic and canned mushrooms), beef and veal, pork, milk and dairy products, eggs and egg albumin, poultry and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin. For a part of them, licenses shall only be issued in case of import within tariff quotas and preferential regimes (beef, poultry and pork, eggs and egg albumin, milk and dairy products, sugar) and for others — with respect to the whole import.

In 2015 were submitted 347 applications for import licenses for agricultural products and licenses issued were 326.

Established in favor of the MAF performance guarantees of the obligation to import under the issued licenses in 2015 amounted to BGN 52,895,747. Importers were refunded guarantees in the total amount of BGN 56,932,196.

In 2015 were included 14 new importers of agricultural products in the Register of the MAF. As of 31.12.2015 the registered importers of agricultural products were 455.

1.2. Support under the Second pillar of CAP

1.2.1. Rural Development Programme 2007 — 2013

In 2015, a number of actions were undertaken by the RDP MA and SFA PA on optimization of the working process, including extension of the deadline for submission of applications for payments from beneficiaries and speeding up their processing by PA with the purpose for successful completion of the RDP 2007-2013. There were established conditions for improving the access to financing for beneficiaries - municipalities and private beneficiaries.

Based on evaluation of the amount of the capital required to provide commitment guarantees for implementation of projects under measures 121, 122 and 123 and on the potential to utilize the funds, a

decision was taken for decapitalization of the guarantee scheme (reduction of the budget from BGN 236,847,380 to BGN 82,260,948) which was accomplished through 14th amendment of the RDP.

For the period of its implementation 547 small and medium enterprises have benefited from the guarantee scheme for the implementation of projects worth over BGN 362 million. Guarantees of over BGN 178 million were issued and loans of over BGN 229 million were guaranteed. The support has contributed to the creation of 1,168 new jobs in the implementation of projects. To participate in the scheme were selected 14 bank partners following a public procurement and 25 guarantee agreements were signed.

In 2015 was determined a final period for admission of applications for support under Measure 121 "Modernization of farms aimed at investing in the purchase of agricultural machinery at the expense of unspent funds amounting to BGN 121,259,600. The additional admission contributed to the implementation of projects for modernization of 790 farms, mainly in the sector of grain and cereals.

1.2.1.1. Analysis of the progress achieved under the implementation of RDP 2007 — 2013 and for achieving the objectives, by axes

- **Measures under Axis 1**

Measure 111 Vocational training, information activities and dissemination of scientific knowledge

In 2015 under measure 111 a period for admission was not declared and no contracts for support were concluded. Public funds amounting to BGN 7,483,492 were paid - three times more than in the previous year.

For the entire period of its implementation (2008-2015) under the measure were submitted 236 applications for support with a total value of public expenditure BGN 74,907,140. 91 contracts for financial support were concluded in the total amount of BGN 30,685,570. Payments amounting to BGN 17,916,755 BGN were made.

By the end of 2015 the implementation of 62 projects was completed, final payments were made for the total amount of BGN 16,428,720.

Measure 112 Setting up of holdings of young farmers

Throughout the period of application of the measure there was an extremely high interest by farmers between 18- 40 years of age who were starting their agricultural activity.

By the end of 2015 under measure 112 were submitted 9,590 applications for support with a total value of public expenditure BGN 594,563,200. Approved were 5,678 contracts for financial support with the amount of public funds BGN 275,348,967.

As of 31.12.2015 the amount of disbursements under approved applications was BGN 225,914,865.

Measure 114 Use of advisory services by farmers and forest owners

Measure 114 is among the measures with little interest from potential candidates. During the implementation period of the RDP under the measure were concluded 96 contracts for support with total amount of public funds BGN 191,326.

Progress on implementation of objectives set on the basis of approved applications for support showed 42% completion for assisted farmers and 43% for assisted forest owners.

Measure 121 Modernization of agricultural holdings

The measure was subject of considerable interest from potential beneficiaries since the very beginning of RDP implementation.

In 2015 was determined an admission period with a budget of BGN 97,790,000 for investments in purchase of agricultural machinery. Subsequently, the budget was increased with an additional resource of BGN 23,469,600. The applications submitted for support were processed by November 2015 and by the end of the year were concluded contracts for financial assistance and submitted applications for payment. The completed admission of project proposals had a positive impact on budget utilization under the RDP 2007-2013.

For the entire duration of the measure (2008-2015) were concluded 4,625 contract for support with a value of public expenditure BGN 1,077,688,957. By the end of 2015 public funds amounting to BGN 1,008,497,259 were paid to the final beneficiaries.

Measure 122 Improvement of the economic value of forests

During the implementation period of the measure there was a little interest in the implementation of activities, as a large part of the applications submitted for support were rejected - 41% of all submitted. The main reasons were the small in size private property and the limited scope of eligible beneficiaries - only forest owners, but not users can apply for the assistance.

For the period 2008-2015, under measure 122 were concluded 7 contracts for financial support with value of the agreed aid of BGN 1,155,726. Total financial resources paid were in the amount of BGN 1,039,228.

In 2015 no admission of project proposals was determined.

Measure 123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products

In 2015 there was no period determined for admission of applications for support under the

measure.

For the entire duration of the measure till the end of 2015, there were conducted 474 contracts for support, with a total value of public funds amounting to BGN 425,000,488. The final beneficiaries were paid BGN 373,472,253.

From the total number of contracts signed, companies from the food industry had the largest share, with over 90% of total financial assistance under the measure. The companies dealing with processing of forest products were 94, with amount of financial assistance paid BGN 58,243,724.

Measure 141 Assistance to semi-market farms undergoing restructuring"

There was no admission of applications for support under the measure in 2015. Financial assistance amounting to BGN 15,428,184 was paid under contracts concluded in the previous year.

For the period 2008-2015, there were 4,625 contracts concluded for financial assistance with a total amount of the aid BGN 112 888 776. The public resources paid amounted to BGN 87,658,004

Progress in achieving the objectives on the basis of approved applications and applications with payments showed 96% completion of the target for number of assisted semi-marketed farmers. At the end of 2015 from all commitments (8,635) the number of completed project proposals that have received a final payment was 1,420 or 16% of the target. The final results of measure implementation should be available at a later stage, since the project completion could be implemented in the new programming period, with funds from the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Farms of less than 5 ha (90% of beneficiaries) dominated under the indicator for used area both in approved and paid applications. Farms with area between 5 and 10 ha represented 6% of approved applications and payments. The lowest proportion was of farms with used area of over 10 ha - 3% and of approved and paid applications.

Measure 142 Setting up of producer organizations

By the end of 2015 under measure 142 were approved four producer organizations with which was agreed a total amount of financial assistance of BGN 884,699. During implementation period of the measure were paid public funds amounting to BGN 233,069, of which BGN 125,013 in 2015.

The low interest in the measure was due to the difficult process of cooperation of small farms, the lack of mutual trust, insufficient skills for management of a marketing organization on their part (accounting, company/cooperative management, etc.), shortness of own financial resources to cover the minimum required expenditure for the functioning of the organization, etc.

Measure 143 Provision of advice and consultancy in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania

The National Service for Agricultural Advisory was selected as a sole beneficiary under measure

143 and it provides a full set of advisory services to persons eligible for applying for measures 112 Establishment of Young Farmers , measure 142 Setting up of producer organizations, measure 214 Agri-environmental payments under RDP 2007 – 2013.

In 2015, the activities under measure 143 were aimed at providing additional advisory services for beneficiaries approved under Measure 141 who continue to fulfill the commitments already undertaken. Provided were 10 950 consulting services, 1024 advisory services on assessment of the farm and the establishment of improvements with regard to the statutory management requirements and 1168 advisory services related to farm management and specific advice on crop and or livestock. Payments amounted to BGN 1 065 715 were made.

For the entire implementation period of the measure were paid public funds amounted to BGN 11,810,558.

The advisory services under measure 141 had the largest relative share under measure 141 - 9341 or 55% of all consultations, followed by consultations under measure 112 - 4406 (26% of all consultations).

- **Measures under Axis 2**

- Measure 211 Natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas**

The implementation of the measure is related to sustainable land management and aimed at preservation of agricultural activity in mountain areas, support in maintaining existing landscape and biodiversity and combating depopulation and land abandonment in these areas.

For the entire period of the RDP under Measure 211 a total of BGN 321 561 230 public funds were paid. Payments in 2015 amounted to BGN 1,925,603.

Qualitative analysis of implementation of the measure showed that it contributes significantly for achieving the objectives set with result indicators, supporting 135% of the farms in mountain areas envisaged under the measure. The purpose of assisted area based on authorized applications was achieved at 110%.

- Measure 212 Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas**

For the period from 2007 to 2015 under Measure 212 were paid public funds amounting to BGN 100 444 666, incl. BGN 6,800,559 in 2015. A larger number of smaller farmers were assisted under that measure, which contributed to achieving the objective of combating depopulation of these areas.

Qualitative analysis on implementation of the measure showed that the targets were achieved at high extend. For Campaign 2014 the implementation of the objective for supported farms was 231% and for assisted area - 117%.

Measure 213 Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC for agricultural lands

The last year in which beneficiaries may submit applications for support under measure 213 Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC(WFD) within RDP 2007-2013 was under the annual campaign for direct payments 2014. Since Campaign 2015 the support has been implemented under measure 12 Natura 2000 payments and Water Framework Directive under RDP 2014-2020.

For the period of its implementation (2011-2015) BGN 97,147,307 were paid under the measure of which BGN 3,201,526 in 2015. The data for the Campaign 2014 showed that the total amount of requested support area was 348,728 ha - 63% more than the previous campaign.

Measure 214 Agro-ecological payments

Under the terms of so called Transition Regulation (Regulation 1310/2013) of 2016 expenditure on commitments and implemented commitments for all eligible applications under Measure 214 made after the final permissible date for payments under the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 could be attributed to the budget under Measure 10 Agri-environment and climate and Measure 11 Organic farming of RDP 2014-2020

In 2015 public funds amounting to BGN 254 911 159 were paid under Measure 214 from the budget of the RDP 2007-2013 and BGN 905 035 732 for the entire duration of the Programme, which represented 62% of the total paid public funds under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.

The greatest interest was in the fields of Organic plant (about 35% of the applications), Implementation of crop rotation for soil and water (about 29% of applications), Conservation of endangered local breeds and Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value - HNV1 around 14% of applications.

Data analysis for declared areas showed that farmers have a strong interest in carrying out activities in the fields of Introduction of crop rotation for soil and water - about 88% of all areas declared under the measure, Restoration and maintenance of grasslands high nature value - about 5% of the area, followed by Organic plant, Maintenance of habitats of protected species in arable lands of important ornithological areas (HNV-4) and Traditional practices for seasonal grazing / pastoralism respectively 5%, 1.5% and 1% of the declared areas.

Measure 223 Initial afforestation of non-agricultural lands

In 2015 no admission was announced under the measure.

The total number of contracts for support during the period 2008-2015 was 74, with a value of

public expenditure in the amount of BGN 20,838,453. The payments made were BGN 11,919,482. Mainly public forest owners applied for support - 93% of the approved projects were of municipalities and state forest and hunting.

The analysis on the implementation of the measure objectives showed that the objectives of preserving soil quality were achieved in the highest degree - 51% based on approved ones and 49% based on projects with payment. The performance of indicators for water quality was 9% based on approved ones and 7% based on projects with payment; indicators for biodiversity and forestry with a high nature value - 9% based on approved ones and 8% for projects with payment.

Measure 226 Recovery of the forest potential and implementation of preventive actions

In 2015 no admission under the measure was held. Disbursed public funds amounted to BGN 19,917,419.

For the period 2008-2015 were concluded 128 contracts for financial support, with the value of public expenditure in the amount of BGN 34 540 928. Payments made were BGN 29 971 139 .

The analysis of progress towards achieving the objectives for 2015 showed that regarding the indicator for wooded area, the target of 170 000 hawas achieved at 196% based on projects with payment. The indicator for total volume of investments was lower - 52.8% for projects with payment. Regarding the indicator for recovery activities the target implementation was 13.7%.

Measure 311 Diversification to non-agricultural activities

During the last year of measure implementation the interest in applying under it was significantly increased. The total number of successfully completed projects at the end of 2015 was 446, with a value of public expenditure in the amount of BGN 143 740 359.

Only in 2015 under Measure 311 public funds amounting to BGN 61,733,289 were paid - actually almost half of the payments for the entire period of RDP 2007-2013.

In terms of targets on the basis of signed contracts, the indicator for the number of assisted beneficiaries was implemented at a low degree - 16% and for realized investments - 82%. For contracts with payment the implementation of these targets was respectively 15% and 75%.

Measure 312 Support for establishment of micro-enterprises

For the entire period of the RDP, 764 projects with a value of public expenditure in the amount of BGN 229 163 346 were approved under the measure. At the end of 2015, 740 projects were finally completed and the disbursed public funds amounted to BGN 210 320 769.

In 2015, 312 public funds in the amount of BGN 45,064,059 were paid under the measure.

The projects for tourism development (63%) predominated among the approved projects with a total value of investments BGN 210 248 500, followed by investment projects for energy production from renewable sources (27% of projects) and a value of investments amounting to BGN 108 351 320.

Through implementation of projects for tourist activities 1,622 jobs were provided, representing 72% of all jobs created under the measure, with an average investment cost per job over BGN 129,000.

Measure 313 Promotion of tourism activities

In 2015, BGN 14,901,818 were paid under the measure. For the period 2008-2015, 188 contracts for financial support were concluded, with a total value of public expenditure in the amount of BGN 55,174,265.

At the end of 2015 179 projects worth BGN 45,437,324 were finally completed.

Substantial progress was reported regarding the indicator for number of jobs created under projects with final payment - the objective was fulfilled at 163%.

Measure 321 Main services for the population and the economy of rural areas

In 2015, the municipalities which had signed contracts for financial support under the measure intensified significantly the activities on implementation of envisaged investment projects. The payments during the year amounted to BGN 496 187 498. During implementation of the RDP by the end of 2015, the measure was with disbursed public funds amounting to BGN 1 460 633 926.

The largest share of approved projects (37%) and public expenditure (44%) was directed towards improving the environmental infrastructure. Projects with cultural and social focus (35% of approved projects under the measure and 23% of the approved subsidy) were following. Investments related to improving mobility also had a significant share - 22% of approved projects and 32% of the eligible public expenditure.

High performance (100%) of the targets set for water supply and sewerage network was achieved. The goal regarding number of created/upgraded sports facilities was achieved by 174%.

Measure 322 Renovation and development of settlements

In 2015 under Measure 322 were made payments in the amount of BGN 108 627 184 representing 27.5% of disbursements during the period of its implementation.

543 contracts for financial support were concluded, with public expenditure in the amount of BGN 484 987 859. The number of successfully completed projects with final payment amounted to 538.

Having in mind the type of the activity supported, the largest number of projects with payments were directed towards repair of existing roads - 150 (23% of all projects), followed by lighting projects - a

total of 123 (19%), rehabilitation of existing plazas and sidewalks - 106 (16%) and for reconstruction and renovation of existing parks and green spaces - 86 (13% of projects).

Measures under Axis 4 LEADER

Applying the Leader approach within RDP 2007-2013 allowed fulfillment of planned measures and sub-measures within the country and within the established local capacity. In 2015, under the measures within Axis 4 Leader were paid a total of BGN 51,077,820 public funds and for the entire duration of the measure - total of BGN 103 368 571.

As a result of the activities of the LAGs 1,351 projects in rural areas were approved and funded. Local action groups successfully implemented the activities on management and acquiring skills, as well as achievement of public activity.

Measure 41 Implementation of strategies for local development and Measure 431-1 Management of local action groups, acquiring of skills and achieving public activity in territories of selected and approved local action groups”

The approval of the strategies of local action groups in the country took place in 2011 and 2012. Within two receptions carried out the strategies of 35 LAGs for local development, covering 1112 settlements, 25% of the territory and 28% of the rural population were approved.

In 2015, the implementation of projects approved within the strategies of the LAG was finalized.

The analysis of progress towards achieving the goals showed that the target number of assisted LAG is implemented by 70% and the indicator relating to LAGs total area of performance was 72%. The indicator regarding covered by the LAG population was achieved by 64%.

The implementation of the Leader approach in 2007-2013 programming period can be considered successful and the experience is a good basis for implementation during 2014-2020 programming period

Measure 421 Interregional and transnational cooperation

For the period of its implementation 22 contracts were concluded under the measure at the amount of financial aid BGN 2,386,076. The funds paid under commitments for 2015 amounted to BGN 373 558, but for the entire duration of the measure - amounted to BGN 598 187.

Measure 511 Technical assistance

During the implementation of RDP 2007-2013 under Measure 511 a total of BGN 74 581 808 public funds were paid, BGN 14,715,155 of them in 2015.

1.2.1.2. Financial application of RDP 2007 — 2013 under measures on the basis of paid projects

As per 31.12.2015 under the Programme for Rural Development 2007-2013 public funds in the amount of BGN 6 010 157 026 or 99% of the program budget were paid. BGN 5 927 896 076 (EAFRD and national funds) of them were paid to final beneficiaries and under the financial engineering scheme (Guarantee Fund RDP) – BGN 82 260 948.

The largest share in the utilization of funds had the measures of Axis 1 (BGN 1 808 875 964 paid or absorption of the budget 99.5%) and Axis 2 (BGN 1 466 079 556 paid or absorption of the budget 99.7%).

There was a high percentage (98%) of the funds paid under the measures of Priority Axis 3 on the basis of contracts signed, mainly on the account of payments under the so-called municipal measures - over 90% of the paid funds agreed on various measures in Axis 3.

Payments under the LEADER approach in 2015 increased significantly compared to the levels of 2014, they were paid 99% of the contracted funds.

Table IV.9. Amounts paid under RDP for the period 2008 — 2015, by measures, BGN

Measure	Grant paid (in BGN)
111 Vocational training, information activities and dissemination of scientific knowledge	17 916 755
112 Setting up of holdings of young farmers	225 914 865
114 Use of advisory services by farmers and forest owners	73 026
121 Modernization of agricultural holdings	1 051 876 387*
122 Improvement of the economic value of forests	1 039 228
123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	412 354 074*
141 Assistance to semi-market farms in the process of restructuring	87 658 004
142 Setting up of producer organizations	233 069
143 Provision of agricultural advice and consultancy in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania	11 810 558
TOTAL FOR AXIS 1	1,553,879,998
211 Payments to farmers in constrained mountain areas	321 561 230
212 Payments to farmers in constrained areas, other than mountain areas	100 444 666

Measure	Grant paid (in BGN)
213 Payments under Natura 2000	97 147 307
214 Agri-environmental payments	905 035 732
223 Initial afforestation of non-agricultural lands	11 919 482
226 Recovery of the forest potential and implementation of preventive activities	29 971 139
TOTAL FOR AXIS 2	1 466 079 556
311 Diversification to non- agricultural activities	143 740 359
312 Support for the creation and development of micro enterprises	210 320 769
313 Promotion of tourist activities	45 437 324
321 Main services for the population and the economy in rural areas	1 460 633 926
322 Renovation and development of settlements	395 422 015
TOTAL FOR AXIS 3	2 255 554 392
Measure 41 Implementation of strategies for local development and Measure 431-1 Management of local action groups, areas achieving public activity in territories for local action groups"	76 761 487
411 – under Axis 1	20 801 676
411 – under Axis 2	990 190
411 – under Axis 3	54 969 621
421 Interregional and transnational cooperation"	598 187
431 LAG management, acquisition of skills and reaching public activity of the respective territories for potential local action groups in rural areas"	26 008 897
TOTAL FOR AXIS 4	990 190
511 Technical assistance	74 581 808
611 Additional payments to the direct payments	301 696 732
TOTAL:	6 010 157 026

Source: MAF, MA of RDP

* Also includes Guarantee Fund

1.2.2. Rural Development Program 2014 — 2020

In 2015 Rural Development Program 2014 — -2020 was approved by the Commission with Decision C (2015) 3480 of 26 May 2015.

The total budget of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, amounted to BGN 5,706,727,515, including EAFRD contribution — BGN 4,628,825,042 and national co-financing — BGN 1,077,902,473. In line with the EU policy for rural development, the Programme included three objectives:

- Increasing the competitiveness and balanced development of agriculture, forestry and manufacturing;
- Ecosystem protection and sustainable management, use of natural resources in agriculture, forestry and food industry, climate change prevention and adaptation;
- Socio-economic development of rural areas, providing new jobs, poverty reduction, social inclusion and a better quality of life.

RDP is structured around five thematic and one horizontal priority and sixteen priority policy areas for rural development:

Priority 1 (horizontal, contributes to the three objectives): Stimulate knowledge transfer and innovation in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas;

Priority 2 (contributes to the first goal): Increasing the viability of farms and the competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative technologies in agriculture and sustainable forest management - allocated a budget of BGN 727, 557,600 public funds (12.7% of all funds under RDP);

Priority 3 (contributes to the first goal): Promoting the organization of the food chain, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture — allocated a budget of BGN 533,933,400 public funds (9.4% of RDP budget);

Priority 4 (contributing to the second goal): Restoration, preservation and enhancement of ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, with a budget of BGN 1,922,551,400 public funds (33.7% of the funds under RDP);

Priority 5 (contributing to the second goal): Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the conversion towards a low carbon and sustainable to the climate change economics in agriculture, the food sector and forestry — allocated budget of BGN 842,167,480 public funds (14.8% of RDP budget);

Priority 6 (contributes to the third goal): Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas — allocated budget of BGN 1,594,368,160 public funds (27.9% of all RDP funds);

Technical assistance — allocated budget of BGN 86,250,780 public funds (1.5% of total RDP funds).

1.2.3. Progress on the implementation of RDP 2014-2020 in 2015

In 2015 legislation was drafted regulating the modalities for the implementation of measures and sub-measures which were conducted during the year: Decree No 4 of 24.02.2015 on the application of measure 11 Organic agriculture; Decree No 5 of 24.02.2015 for the application of measure 12 Payments under Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive; Decree No 6 of 02.24.2015 on the conditions and procedures for implementation of measure 13 Payments to areas with natural or other specific constraints; Ordinance No 7 of 24.02.2015 on the application of measure 10 Agroecology and climate”; Ordinance No 9 of 03.21.2015 on the application of sub-measure 4.1 Investments in agricultural holdings of the measure 4 Investments in tangible assets; Decree No 13 of 19.05.2015 on the application of sub-measure 2.1. Support for providing consultancy services from measure 2 Advisory services, farm management services and farm replacement; Decree № 14 of 28.05.2015 on the application of sub-measure 6.1 Starting assistance for young agricultural producers of measure 6 Development of farm and farmers' activity”; Decree No 16 of 07.30.2015 on the conditions and procedures for implementing sub-measure 19.1 Assistance for preparatory activities from measure 19 Community-led local development; Decree No 17 of 19.08.2015 on the application of measure 20 Technical assistance; Decree No 20 of 27.10.2015 on the application of sub-measure 4.2 Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products from measure 4 Investments in tangible assets.

1.2.4. Progress on the implementation of RDP 2014-2020 in 2016

Table IV.10. Results of the implementation in 2016 of the measures of under RDP 2014-2020, received in 2015 and 2016

Name of the measure/sub-measure	Submitted applications for assistance		Contracts concluded		Public funds paid (BGN)
	number	Total public costs (BGN)	number	Total public costs (BGN)	
Measure 2 Consultancy, holding management and substitute holding services”	-	-	-	-	1 029 001
Measure 4 Investment in tangible assets”	3 959	2 055 588 188	749	291 061 162	9 127 464
Sub-measure 4.1 Investment in agricultural farms	3 362	1 232 530 413	749	291 061 162	9 127 464
Sub-measure 4.2 Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products	597	823 057 775	-	-	-
Measure 6 Development of farm and farmers'	2 664	130 256 280	1 221	59 700 795	53 515 382

Name of the measure/sub-measure	Submitted applications for assistance		Contracts concluded		Public funds paid (BGN)
	number	Total public costs (BGN)	number	Total public costs (BGN)	
activity"					
Sub-measure 6.1 Starting assistance for young agricultural producers	2 664	130 256 280	1 221	59 700 795	53 515 382
Measure 7 General services and village renovation in rural areas"	348	209 752 376	-	-	-
Sub-measure 7.6. Surveys and investments, related to maintenance, restoration and improvement of the cultural and natural heritage of settlements"	348	209 752 376	-	-	-
Measure 9 Establishment of groups and producers organizations"	-	-	-	-	50 387
Measure 10 Agroecology and climate"	3 819	-	-	-	25 799 527
Measure 11 Organic agriculture"	2 116	-	-	-	28 119 231
Measure 12 Payments under Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive	10 787	-	-	-	46 127 289
Measure 13 Payment for areas facing natural and other specific constraints"	36 232	-	-	-	84 632 138
Sub-measure 13.1 Compensating payments per hectare utilized agricultural area in mountain regions"	25 821	-	-	-	
Sub-measure 13.2 Compensating payments per hectare utilized agricultural area in other regions with essential natural limitations"	10 411	-	-	-	
Local Development led by communities (LEADER)	133	6 748 130	66	3 366 616	-
Sub-measure 19.1. Assistance for preparatory activities	133	6 748 130	66	3 366 616	-
Technical assistance	51	3 727 401	21	628 183	-
TOTAL	60 109	2 406 072 373	2 057	354 756 757	248 400 420

Source: MAF, MA of RDP

Note: Some of the amounts paid 6,9,10,11 measures are continuing implementation of commitments from the programming period 2007 to 2013, incl. amounts of M 141 and M 223 from the Rural Development Program 2007-2013

1.3. Additional state aid

In an addition to the support under the two pillars of CAP, the agricultural sector in Bulgaria received financial support with national funds under state aid schemes, short-term and long-term loans, granted by SF Agriculture”.

The state support of agricultural producers shall be completed in compliance with the laws of EU and in compliance with the options of the state budget. It is directed toward the structure defining, sensitive and priority areas in agriculture.

1.3.1 State aid

The main goal of the state aid policy in the field of agriculture was improving economic efficiency of the agricultural holdings and the living standard of the employees in the sector.

State aids in agriculture were provided in accordance with EU legislation in this area and according to the capabilities of the state budget. Having in mind that these are additional means of promoting the industry, they are directed to priority and sensitive sectors that are not covered by EU funds or in cases of emergency.

The main points in the policy of state support of agriculture in Bulgaria for the period 2015 - 2020 were

- priority support of traditional for Bulgaria, but vulnerable agricultural sectors which have considerable potential for development;
- targeting of state aid policy to reduce disparities between the different agricultural sectors;
- particular attention to small and medium farmers;
- adaptation of state support in agriculture to the new EU legislative framework for State aid in agriculture that is applied during the period 2015-2020, though pre-motivation of the approved aid from the previous period and notification of new aid.

In view of the expiry of the application of State aid in agriculture that existed during the programming period 2007-2013 (extended until the end of 2014) an assessment of the optimal targeting of limited resources for state aid to the sectors with most needs and the activities developed and notified to the European Commission aid to be applied for the period 2015-2020.

All the planned for implementation schemes of state aid were approved by the European Commission and implemented by 2015.

The directions and support schemes implemented during the period 2007-2014, were kept for the period 2015-2020.

During 2015 were applied existing in previous years state aid schemes in the sectors Crop and Livestock and two state aid schemes in the form of tax relief for the two sectors, one of which with an

investment character.

The schemes for state aid could be summarized in the following directions:

- *Investment aid*
 - State aid for investments in construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment to farmers engaged in direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuffs of animal origin. Applied investment aid aims at upgrading the material and technical base in agriculture and closing the production cycle;
 - State aid for investments in agricultural holdings through corporate tax. The tax relief amounting to 60% of corporation tax is designed to encourage investment in new buildings and new agricultural machinery in the production of unprocessed plant and animal production.
- *Compensatory aid*
 - State aid to offset losses suffered by farmers for completely damaged areas due to natural disasters or adverse weather conditions;
 - State aid for the prevention of diseases in plants and animals;
 - State aid for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production;

Compensation is particularly important for farmers, since agriculture is highly dependent and vulnerable to natural conditions, the invasion of pests, diseases of plants and animals. This type of aid enable farmers to be maximally protected from unforeseen adverse circumstances.

- *Aid promoting the use of good quality seeding material in crop husbandry and support of high level of breeding activity in livestock breeding.*
 - Aid for encouragement of the production and use of high- quality seeds.
 - State aid to keep a stud book and to identify the productivity quality of livestock

By applying the aid of this kind aims to increase the production and use of certified (quality) seeds for grain, feed, oilseeds, potatoes, tobacco, cotton and vegetable crops, as well as assisting the selection activities in the livestock sector, which in turn country tends to increase not only in the number of farms and animals under selection control, as well as change in productive indicators characterizing the type and breed.

- *Aids aimed at animal welfare, contributing to improving the quality of food and raw materials of animal origin.*
 - State aid for realization of voluntary commitments for humane treatment of pigs
 - State aid for realization of voluntary commitments for humane treatment of poultry

The existing schemes for the welfare of pigs and poultry notified during the 2007-2013 programming period will be to apply until the end of 2017.

Aid encouraging the participation in exhibitions.

Such kind of support contributes both to the promotion of Bulgarian agricultural products on the market and promotion of profitable plant varieties, animal breeds, innovative and efficient technologies and practices among Bulgarian farmers. It is used in Crop, Livestock and Processing of agricultural products sectors.

- *De minimis aid*

The *de minimis* rule applies to aid which does not threaten competition at the EU market because of its small size and may be provided by Member States without the need for approval by the European Commission. Under Regulation (EC) No 1408/2013, the maximum amount of *de minimis* aid in the sector of agricultural production is EUR 15,000 per farm for three consecutive fiscal years. This type of aid is generally aimed at a rapid effect in the presence of significant economic difficulties for farmers in the sector.

In 2015 the total support in the agriculture sector in the form of state aid amounted to BGN 199.3 million of which BGN 119.6 million for schemes of state aid and aid *deminimis*, administered by the SFA and BGN 79.7 million - 2 schemes for tax relief (assignment of corporate tax for fiscal 2015 and reduced rate of excise duty on gas oil).

During the year a total of BGN 32.8 million aid *deminimis* animals, bees, horses under selection control and vegetables were provided.

In 2015 the total support in agriculture sector in the form of state aid amounted to BGN 199.3 million of which BGN 119.6 million schemes of state aid and aid *deminimis*, administered by the SFA and BGN 79.7 million - 2 schemes for tax relief (assignment of corporate tax for fiscal 2015 and reduced rate of excise duty on gas oil).

During the year provided a total of 32.8 million. Lev aid *deminimis* animals, bees, horses under selection control and vegetables.

According to the National Revenue Agency, the amount of the declared assignment of corporate tax for 2015 on State aid for investment in agricultural holdings by assignment of corporate tax is BGN 38,1 million (BGN 43,6 million for 2014). 2 042 farmers benefited from this aid administered by the NRA during the year.

Table IV.11. State aid in agriculture in 2015

State aid	Financial resource absorbed - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
State aid for compensation of the expenses of agricultural producers, related to carrying out of measures under National Programme for Control of perennials pests during the winter period	1 834 589	1 484
State aid for compensation of the expenses of agricultural farmers, related to carrying out of measures under National Programme for Control of perennials pests during the winter period	882 128	1 427
Support for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production	1 138 225	285
State aid for compensation of material damages regarding killed livestock and destroyed beehives	285 105	18
State aid for participation of farmers in quality scheme for the production of seeds and seedlings	1 350 000	504
State aid for participation in dog exhibitions	30 000	10
State Aid Scheme for Investments for development of commercial premises and purchasing commercial equipment of agricultural equipment for agricultural producers, performing direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and foods of animal origin"	46 208	6
State aid for participation in exhibitions	499 195	194
State aid for compensation of the expenses of agricultural farmers, related to carrying out of the measures under the State Programs for control of tomato mining moth	1 990 235	214
State aid for compensation of the expenses of agricultural farmers, related to carrying out of the measures under the State Programs for control of tomato mining moth soil pests in potatoes of the family. Wire worms	441 842	125
Aid to keep a stud book and to identify the productivity and genetic quality of livestock	3 999 674	3 195
State aid for compensation of the expenses of agricultural farmers, related to carrying out of the measures under the State Prophylactic Program and Programs for control and liquidation of diseases in animals;	13 797 842	62 685
State aid to compensate the damages on crops caused by adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to natural disasters	5 525 511	807
Aid to implement voluntary commitment for welfare of pigs	27 733 135	99
Aid to implement voluntary commitment for welfare of poultry;	27 264 827	304
De minimis aid	32 772	19 227

State aid	Financial resource absorbed - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
Total state aid, provided through SFA (including de minimis)*	119 590942	
Reduced excise duty on gas oil used for primary farm production through a fuel voucher system – II stage;	41 635 189	6410
Aid for investment in agricultural farms by assignment of corporate tax for 2015	38 075 290	2 042
Total state aid, including by tax allowance and de minimis	199 301 421	

Source: SF Agriculture – National Revenue Agency, Customs Agency

* Some farmers supported with aid such de minimis, have received support and other schemes of state aid.

In terms of state aid for a reduced rate of excise duty on diesel used in primary agricultural production, during the second phase of support, 9954 farmers submitted final declarations. The final determined reduction of the excise duty was at the rate of BGN 0.37 per liter of diesel. From 09/07/2015 to 25/09/2015, the beneficiaries were given their due vouchers for the second stage of the aid. Vouchers can be used to buy oil up to 09/30/2016.

Data for the period January – June 2016

The allocated resources for State aid in agriculture in 2016 was BGN 104.7 million for schemes of State aid and de minimis ,applied by SFA. As of October 2016, by decision of the Board of the Fund nearly 100% of the budget were distributed, spending BGN 64.4 million or nearly 62% of the total budget.

1.3.2. Short-term crediting

In 2015 the State Fund Agriculture” has provided a total of just over BGN 2,8 million in the form of short-term loans to farmers at minimum BGN 3 million in 2014 The funds are provided entirely by target credit for the purchase of seeds and fertilizers and use of non-finally certified own seeds for wheat production - harvest 2016.

During the year deferred credits breeders, breeders and pig farmers received in the period 2008 — 2012, as well as credits for potato crop in 2011.

The approved funds to provide short-term loans from SFA in 2016 was BGN 30 million.

1.3.3. Investment schemes for support of SFA

In 2014, the national support for encouragement of investments in agriculture and rural areas shall be implemented with the application of schemes for loaning and state aid, as follows:

- Scheme for refinancing with funds of SF Agriculture” for providing loans to persons with approved projects and concluded agreements for granting financial aid under measures of the Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013, supported by the European Fund for Rural Development;
- Scheme for loan of funds of SF Agriculture” of persons with approved projects under National Apiculture Program for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 ”;
- Loan scheme of SF Agriculture” for investments in agriculture;
- Loan and state aid scheme Investments for development of commercial premises and purchasing of commercial equipment for agricultural producers, exercising direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food of animal origin”

Scheme for refinancing with funds of SF Agriculture” for granting loans to persons with approved projects and agreements concluded for granting financial aid under measures of RDP 2007 – 2013

With the purpose of providing financial resource for the realization of the projects under the RDP measures, for the third consecutive years, a scheme for refinancing with funds of SF Agriculture” of the commercial banks for loans under projects under measures 121, 122, 123, 223, 226, 311, 312 and 322 of RDP has been applied. In the conditions of impeded access to bank loaning, the scheme provides an option to a large circle of candidates to utilize and to realize their approved projects, which contributes to increasing the utilization rate of the funds under RDP. For realization of the scheme, Under the conditions for the scheme for refinancing, a total of 22 commercial banks participate, with which agreements have been concluded.

The loans under the scheme shall be implemented at unsuitable and accessible conditions. The amount of the annual interest rate is up to 7,0% and is fixed for the whole term of the loan. The term for paying off the loans is up to 60 months, including the term for utilization of the grace period.

In 2015, financial resource has been committed for refinancing of 67 loans to a total value of 16, 7 million BGN.

The funds provided during the reporting period are amounting to BGN 21.5 million in total, used for fully or partly refinancing of 124 bank loans, including ones approved in 2014

Table IV.12. Distribution of SFA funds for refinancing of credits under RDP measures in 2015

RDP Measure	Refinanced amount			
	Number of credits	Rel. share (%)	Refinanced amount for credit (BGN)	Rel. share (%)
121 Modernization of agricultural holdings	57	45.97%	13 789 449.23	64.02%
123 Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	-	-	-	-
311 Diversification to non-agricultural activities	15	12.10%	1 956 088.66	9.08%
312 Support for establishment and development of micro enterprises	15	12.10%	2 934 945.88	13.63%
41 Implementation of local development strategies"	37	9.83%	2 857 816.14	13.27%
Total:	124	100.00%	21 538 299.91	100.00%

Source: information system Loan register

Loan scheme for funds of SF Agriculture" of persons with approved projects under National Apiculture Program for the three-year period 2014 – 2016 " (NAP)

By that scheme, applied for third consecutive year, an option has been granted to a larger number of agricultural producers to provide their necessary financial resource for realization of their approved projects under measures B and D of NAP – for the expenses for purchasing of preparations for suppressing Varroa destructor, purchasing bee-hives, bee families and queen bees. Since the beginning of 2014 under the scheme apply a reduced rate of 5% annual interest.

In 2015, under the scheme 119 loans received funding, for total amount of BGN 551.7 thousand BGN. Under the terms of the scheme loans are repaid by offsetting the amounts due from the due subsidy. 117 loans were fully repaid 117 and for the remaining 2 ones repayment plans for their repayment were negotiated.

Loan scheme of SF Agriculture" for investments in agriculture

The loan scheme of SF Agriculture" for investments in agriculture has three main strands – Crop husbandry", Livestock breeding" and Technical security". The scheme is targeted at promoting the investment process, enhancing the competitiveness and quality of the produced agricultural production by means of facilitating access to credit resources.

The activities and facilities eligible for financial support are, as follows:

- creation, rehabilitation and cultivation of perennial plants and investments in greenhouse horticulture production;
- establishing animal husbandry farms and providing the relevant equipment and purchasing pure-bred animals, hybrid breeds and production animals;

- purchasing of machinery, facilities and inventory used in agriculture.

Loans under the scheme shall have a term of repayment from 12 to 114 months depending on the type of investments that include grace periods in relation to repayment of the principal.

The investment projects are financed under annual interest rate, equal to the reference interest rate¹, applicable as of the date of conclusion of the loan agreement, but not lower than the one determined by the Managing Body of SF Agriculture” for 2014 – 5% with direct loaning and 7% with refinancing through commercial banks. For the loans directly financed by SF Agriculture”, the processing and management fee is 0.5%.

In 2015, one project was approved under the Breeding direction through refinancing of a commercial bank for the purchase of pregnant heifers and equipment worth BGN 264 659.80.

Loan and state aid scheme Investments for development of commercial premises and purchasing of commercial equipment for agricultural producers, exercising direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food of animal origin”

In May 2015 the implementation of a new State aid scheme Investment for the construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers engaged in direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuffs from farm animals was started. The scheme is an updated version of the similar aid scheme in force until the end of 2014 scheme. To ensure financing of these projects an opportunity for lending funds to the SFA was provided again.

Within the scope of the scheme, purchasing of milk vending machines, development or adaptation of an existing building/premise for the needs of a retail trade store, purchasing refrigerators, refrigerating display cases and other specific commercial equipment.

In the new scheme some new assets were added - mobile refrigeration showcase and containers for the transport of milk or meat. The maximum eligible expenditure by type of investment increased compared to the prior application scheme.

State aid scheme allows recovery of 50% of costs incurred for the construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for the realization of direct supply of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuffs of animal origin.

In 2015 the State Fund Agriculture approved 3 projects with an investment value of BGN 54 470 and amount of state assistance BGN 25 279. During the year, investments were made in 6 projects, including contracts from the previous year (in previous similar aid scheme) BGN 46 208 aid were paid for them – provided entirely for purchase of milk dispensers.

Expected data for 2016

For 2016, SFA is expected to provide investment loans, to the amount of up to BGN 40 million. State aid will be provided until the end of the year in relation to the applied aid scheme Investment for the construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers engaged in direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuffs from farm animals” as total expected size will be up to BGN 200 000.

Spending of resources envisaged for the provision of loans and grants will be will be carried out in the following areas:

Loan scheme for investments in agriculture

The expectations are that until the end of the year, investment loans will be provided to an amount up to BGN 2 million. By June 2016 one project for the purchase of agricultural equipment worth BGN 10,600 was financed. Another project to purchase greenhouse worth BGN 1.7 million was submitted.

- **Loan scheme using funds of SF Agriculture” for persons with approved projects under the National Apiculture Program**

It is expected by the end of the year investment credits up to BGN 500 thousand to be granted under the scheme. By June 2016 76 applications for credit worth BGN 359 155 were submitted, used for financing of 68 loans worth BGN 327 117.

- **Loan and state aid scheme Investments for development of commercial premises and purchasing of commercial equipment for agricultural producers, exercising direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food of farm animals”**

State aid of up to BGN 200 thousand is envisaged to be provided in 2016 under this scheme. As of June 2016, on the commitments of 2015 one project at the amount of paid state aid at the amount of BGN 8019 was funded Commitments were undertaken to support another project at the amount of state aid BGN 8976.

V. Activities, related to agricultural production

1. Control of agricultural and forestry machinery

Through the effective control of the technical condition and safety of the technique to ensure protection life and health of workers in agricultural and forestry equipment and reduce accidents and victims of traffic accidents related to malfunctions of the technique.

1.1. Condition Situation of mechanization in agriculture and structure of machinery stock and tractor fleet

The technical and technological renovation is one of the main factors for increasing efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural production.

The data regarding the number and age of the registered machines in 2015 indicate trend to renewal of the machinery stock and tractor fleet and increase of the percent of new roller tractors, grain harvesters and other types of machines.

Table V.1. Number of registered machines by group and distribution according to their age structure in years for the period 2010 — 2015

Type	Year	Total number	Age											
			up to 2 years		3 – 4 years		5 – 6 years		7 – 8 years		9 – 10 years		over 10 years	
			Number	%	number	%	Number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Roller tractors	2011	59452	3251	5.5%	3168	5.3%	2118	3.6%	1582	2.7%	1113	1.9%	48220	81.1%
	2012	63123	2214	3.5%	2090	3.3%	3807	6.0%	2374	3.8%	2097	3.3%	50541	80.1%
	2013	66561	2285	3.4%	2631	4.0%	3370	5.1%	2882	4.3%	2387	3.6%	53006	79.6%
	2014	70327	2163	3.1%	3271	4.7%	2296	3.3%	3938	5.6%	2553	3.6%	56106	79.8%
	2015	74589	2309	3.1%	3638	4.9%	2878	3.9%	3461	4.6%	3122	4.2%	59181	79.3%
Caterpillar tractors	2011	2443	37	1.5%	46	1.9%	22	0.9%	11	0.5%	10	0.4%	2317	94.8%
	2012	2511	21	0.8%	29	1.2%	59	2.3%	29	1.2%	15	0.6%	2358	93.9%
	2013	2572	19	0.7%	29	1.1%	44	1.7%	49	1.9%	24	0.9%	2407	93.6%
	2014	2625	14	0.5%	38	1.4%	36	1.4%	66	2.5%	30	1.1%	2441	93.0%
	2015	2739	30	1.1%	52	1.9%	32	1.2%	53	1.9%	54	2.0%	2518	91.9%
Tractor trailers	2011	26252	893	3.4%	531	2.0%	194	0.7%	89	0.3%	96	0.4%	24449	93.1%
	2012	27650	881	3.2%	550	2.0%	582	2.1%	204	0.7%	133	0.5%	25300	91.5%
	2013	29060	957	3.3%	742	2.6%	731	2.5%	318	1.1%	196	0.7%	26116	89.9%
	2014	30632	987	3.2%	1106	3.6%	593	1.9%	613	2.0%	238	0.8%	27095	88.5%
	2015	32535	1149	3.5%	1217	3.7%	809	2.5%	779	2.4%	351	1.1%	28230	86.8%
Coupling, mounted and stationary machines	2011	108434	8675	8.0%	7653	7.1%	5207	4.8%	3479	3.2%	2553	2.4%	80867	74.6%
	2012	118770	6415	5.4%	8194	6.9%	9689	8.2%	6510	5.5%	5056	4.3%	82906	69.8%
	2013	124710	6760	5.4%	8497	6.8%	11181	9.0%	6655	5.3%	6163	4.9%	85454	68.5%
	2014	133343	7106	5.3%	10094	7.6%	9285	7.0%	10270	7.7%	6885	5.2%	89703	67.3%
	2015	148282	9490	6.4%	12319	8.3%	10650	7.2%	12277	8.3%	7294	4.9%	96252	64.9%
Harvesters	2011	10158	728	7.2%	500	4.9%	336	3.3%	233	2.3%	319	3.1%	8042	79.2%
	2012	10399	460	4.4%	554	5.3%	545	5.2%	349	3.4%	401	3.9%	8090	77.8%
	2013	10719	439	4.1%	479	4.5%	821	7.7%	299	2.8%	434	4.0%	8247	76.9%
	2014	11077	357	3.2%	641	5.8%	612	5.5%	595	5.4%	402	3.6%	8470	76.5%
	2015	11592	453	3.9%	600	5.2%	533	4.6%	880	7.6%	345	3.0%	8780	75.7%
Forage harvesters and other self-propelled machinery	2011	1836	22	1.2%	16	0.9%	13	0.7%	5	0.3%	11	0.6%	1769	96.4%
	2012	1856	20	1.1%	14	0.8%	22	1.2%	15	0.8%	11	0.6%	1774	95.6%
	2013	1908	26	1.4%	22	1.2%	23	1.2%	18	0.9%	10	0.5%	1809	94.8%
	2014	1970	23	1.2%	30	1.5%	23	1.2%	19	1.0%	19	1.0%	1856	94.2%
	2015	2073	45	2.2%	40	1.9%	23	1.1%	30	1.4%	22	1.1%	1913	92.3%

Source: TCI

1.2. Registration of agricultural and forestry machinery

The registration of agricultural and forestry machinery and earthworks machinery gives opportunity to follow the technical condition of each specific machine, to control its safety during operation and transport, maintain a database with all machines in the territory of the country, to observe the dynamics of renovation of machinery stock and tractor fleet, and energy security in agriculture.

In 2015, the total number of the registered agricultural and forestry machinery has reached 292 4081 – 9,2% increase compared to the previous year. The number of registered roller tractors increased by 6.1% up to 74 589 and this of grain harvesters — by 4,6% up to 11 592. The similar trend exists for the coupling, mounted and stationary machines. Trends are similar for trailed, mounted, and stationary machines. As a whole, the trend of increase of the registered machines observed in recent years still persists.

1.3. Technical examinations of machinery

In 2015, a total of 135 816 technical inspections have been completed of the agricultural, forestry equipment and machines for earthworks from the regional offices of TCI, out of which 46 573 of roller tractors and 7 904 – of grain harvesters.

With the change in 2012 of the sub-legislative statutory regulations, the regime for conducting the technical inspections has been relieved, thus only replaceable attached equipment shall be subject to seasonal (annual) technical inspection, while the other inventory shall be subject to mandatory technical inspection only in case of initial registration and change in registration.

1.4. Capacity to operate machinery and issuance of certificates

A major factor that determines the safe use of agricultural and forestry machinery is the award of authorization to work with such machinery. The knowledge, skills and professional qualities of the mechanization workers guarantee not only the good quality carrying out of agricultural operations, but also significant decrease of the risk of traffic accidents and incidents with agricultural and forestry machinery.

In 2015, a total of 5 896 certificates for legal competence for operation of agricultural and forestry machinery have been issued.

2. Hydro melioration

The state policy in the irrigation and hydro melioration sector is aimed at providing support to irrigated agriculture, protection of irrigation facilities - public property, prevention of flooding of areas outside cities and villages, investment in hydro melioration and support to the process of establishment and operation of irrigation associations.

2.1. Control of the activities related to the operation of the irrigation facilities and the service water supply for irrigation”

The state hydromeliorative fund on the territory of Bulgaria covers irrigated at a rate of 818 062 ha, of which edible irrigation amounted to 541,779 ha. In the last decade, however, the usability percentage of the existing irrigation systems is very low., varying between 4% — 8%.

According to the Irrigation Systems” EAD in 2015 flights areas amounted to 27 163 ha first irrigation and 17 596 hectares second and subsequent irrigations and water masses submitted during the year amounted to 305 158 thousand m³. Decrease is reported for the flights areas compared to the previous year, due to usual climate conditions in 2015.

The prices the service ‘supply of water for irrigation is performed by the basic supplier-” Irrigation Systems EAD are differentiated both by region and depending on the method of delivery. This allows in the regions, where more areas are irrigated with more water volume to determine the regional prices significantly lower than those in regions with less irrigated areas. At the same time, particular attention is paid to drip irrigation, which generally apply to irrigation of fruit and other perennial plants, but recently used in various types of vegetables. In order to promote the implementation of this much more effective and gentle water resource technology for irrigation, drip irrigation price is preferential — significantly lower than that of surface water supply in outdoor channels.

In November 2015, a final draft Strategy for irrigation, prepared in cooperation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was presented. The project envisages timespan 2016 – 2030 for two-step process of legal and institutional reforms enabling gradually coordinated and targeted restoration of irrigated areas through modernization and efficient management of irrigation infrastructure in Bulgaria.

The strategy encourages key stakeholders to work together to develop irrigation systems that are in favor of general economic interest of rural communities in general and agriculture in particular. Short term perspective aims to secure EU funds for investment support and revitalization of irrigation infrastructure and services.

2.2. Activities for operation and maintenance of dams and facilities for protection against harmful water impacts

MAF on an annual basis prepares a list of hydro melioration facilities, which need repairs, reconstruction or preparation of projects for this activity.

According to the Law on public procurement procedures are carried procurement and contracts for services related to:

- Dam Trakietz - detailed design for PBP in the water burst of the dam wall, spillway, water intake

tower, the main outlet, CIS and lights crown overall, Haskovo municipality, Haskovo region;

- Dam Aheloi dam and spillway - PBP to restore the overflow, power supply of water intake tower and lighting of the dam wall, Pomorie Municipality, Burgas region;

Dam Poroy - detailed design for PBP in the water burst of the dam wall, installation of slide valve drift main outlet and lights crown overall, Nesebar municipality, Burgas region.

To prevent the adverse impact of water objects state property, such as the Danube embankments, protective embankments, drainage systems and pumping stations and activities adjustments rivers that are victims of natural phenomena, it is possible to be done restoration funds from the Interdepartmental Commission for Recovery and Assistance to the Council of Ministers. In 2015 to the Interdepartmental Commission were submitted documents with a request for funding of construction work on seven sites for BGN 32 636 307 and payment of safe guard and urgent emergency and restoration in case of disaster at 5 sites for BGN 526 086.

The funds allocated are as follows:

- BGN 157 543 were paid for two sites under UERRW
 - Correction of the Iskar river. - repair and restoration works between km 8+540 and km 8 + 740 at 90 meters left embankment and 65 meters right embankment – BGN 38 626
 - Correction Maritsa river, Captain Andreevo - Border - repair and restoration work (PBPs) of the left embankment at km 2+000, K. Andreevo land, Svilengrad Municipality, Haskovo region- BGN 118 917
- Public procurement procedure was carried out for one site under the Public Procurement Act, as it is funded by stages for BGN 2 564 870
 - Correction of Jerman river - urgent repair and restoration activities in the lands of Boboshevo village, Mursalevo village, Dragodan village, Dupnitsa Municipality - by stages, technical strengthening activities in sections close to the Struma Highway.

In 2014 MAF assigned to Irrigation Systems EAD public service for protection from the harmful effects on water - operation and maintenance of water systems and facilities - public state property. In pursuance of this agreement and in accordance with the prognosis of MAF in 2015, BGN 15 million were transferred to Irrigation Systems”.

In 2016 were held regular meetings of the Commission were carried out. The reports of Irrigation Systems EAD on the performance of the public service for protection from harmful effects of waters in 2015 were reviewed during the meetings. As a result of the Commission's work a report was prepared and approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

MAF gather information on the state of the dikes of Danube river, corrected stretches of inland rivers, dams (public, state and private property), irrigation and drainage systems and facilities, including drainage pumping stations. Based on the collected data two summary reports were prepared - for spring condition of facilities (from the beginning of the year until the end of June) and their state in the fall (until the end of November 2015), and they were sent to Ministry of Interior.

3. Crop protection

Unusual agro-climatic conditions which negative effect on the development of agricultural crops were not observed in 2015 in the country. During this year the issuance and the distribution of Bulletin for appearance, distribution, density, development, degree of attack, terms, methods and funds for combating pests on agricultural crops” continues informing agricultural producers, regional and municipal services.

- **Plant protection of wheat and barley**

Controls on weeds

In 2015, a total of 1 128.65 thousand hectares of winter cereals were treated, including 969.71 thousand hectares of wheat and 158.94 thousand hectares of barley. On 667.60 thousand hectares, or 59% of the total treated areas, were applied herbicides against broadleaf weeds.

Antigrass herbicides were imported on 124.11 thousand hectares against grasses and broadleaf weeds were imported 336.95 thousand hectares.

Control of pests and diseases

Sunn pest

The total areas planted with wheat and infested by adult sunn pests are 185.92 thousand ha, and treatments have been completed over 134.73 thousand ha.

The total area planted with wheat, infested with sunn pest larvae, is 144.4 thousand ha, and treatments have been completed for 82.73 thousand ha.

Cereal flies, black flies wheat, Hessian fly, Swedish fly

During the fall of 2014 treatment against flies was conducted on 16.26 thousand hectares and in the spring of 2015 treatment was performed on an area of 6 thousand hectares.

Aphids

In 2015, the total area infested with aphids was 10.42 thousand hectares. The treatment was conducted on 8.46 thousand hectares.

Wheat trips

Total infested area is 7.5 thousand hectares wheat without economic importance. Chemical control is not applied.

Powdery mildew

In 2015, the total infested area with wheat was 322.1 thousand hectares and treatments were performed on 530.46 thousand hectares.

Septoriosiis

A total of 203.35 thousand hectares of winter crops were attacked in 2015 290.69 thousand hectares of sown areas were treated.

Brown leaf rust, Yellow rust

The total area planted with wheat, infested with sunn pest larvae, is 7.51 thousand ha, and treatments have been completed for 54.84 thousand ha, including preventing treatments.

In 2015, the total attacked areas with winter crops infested by brown rust are 130.33 thousand ha, and treatments have been completed over 175.51 thousand ha.

Fusariosiis in class

In 2015, there was a lesser degree of infestation and spread of the disease compared to the previous year. 13.23 thousand hectares of wheat were totally attacked and 19.8 thousand hectares were threated, protectively.

- **Plant protection of maize**

Controls on weeds

In 2015, on areas sown with corn imported soil herbicides 231.18 thousand ha. With vegetation herbicides against species of grass and deciduous weeds, a total of 202.19 thousand ha.

Control of pests and diseases

Spider web forming mites

In 2015, there was an attack on the lower leaves of the late crop corn - up to 100% infested plants, as well as middle floors of plants. High density of adults, nymphs and eggs was observed. Treatment was conducted on 1.5 thousand hectares.

Sunflower Plant Protection

Weed control

In 2015, soil herbicides were imported into 434,29 thousand hectares with sunflower and vegetation herbicides on 437.34 thousand hectares (59.5% of sown areas).

Control of pests and diseases

Gray spots and black spots (Foma)

During 2015 preventive treatments of 1.69 thousand hectares were carried out, mainly sunflower

seed producing crops.

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum

Signs of the disease were recorded on single plants in the regions of Varna, Vidin, Dobrich, Pleven, Haskovo and others without economic importance. Preventive treatments are performed on 10.43 thousand hectares.

▪ ***Rape Plant Protection***

Weed control

In 2015, chemical weed control in oilseed rape was conducted mainly in the autumn with soil herbicides being imported to 66.664 thousand hectares. Vegetation herbicides were applied to 66.454 thousand hectares.

Control of pests and diseases

Meligethes aeneus

Harmful activity is detected in all regions of the country, with a density of around and above the EHR. The highest density (10-15 pcs. adult/plant) was recorded in the districts of Dobrich, Montana, Pleven, Silistra, Sliven. Infested areas with densities exceeding CCPs are 129.38 thousand hectares. Treatment was conducted to 128.48 thousand hectares.

Rape stem flea (Psylliodes chrysocephalus)

The infested areas rape by the enemy during the economic 2014/2015 were 17.92 thousand hectares, the treatments were carried out on 16.25 thousand hectares. Chemical control was held on 33.776 thousand hectares.

Ceutorhynchus nap

Density over CCPs in the regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa, Razgrad and Targovishte was reported in 2015. 25.5 thousand hectares rape were attacked, treatments were conducted on 25.28 thousand hectares.

Ceutorhynchus obstructs (Ceutorhynchus assimilis)

In 2015 attacked 2.66 thousand hectares with rape were attacked in 2015, treatments were carried out on 1.16 thousand hectares.

Cabbage seed weevil

An attack by larvae on cabbage midge in pods in the regions of Veliko Tarnovo and Targovishte was found out, with finding assault 5-10% attacked pods.

Leptosphaeria macularia

First spots on the lower leaves of the plants were observed in the fall of 2014. The reported assault was from single infested plants to 1%, in the districts of Varna, Vratsa and Sliven. In the regions of Vidin

and Silistra up to 2 - 3 infested plants were reported and in Stara Zagora up to 7 - 8% infested plants. In the district of Targovishte the reported level of attack was up to 10%, and in Stara Zagora region - up to 45%. Treatments were carried out on 24.69 thousand hectares.

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum

In Bulgaria no economic damages caused by sclerotinia diseases in rape have not been observed, although the changing weather accompanied by frequent rainfall during the flowering of culture, creates favorable conditions for infection by the disease. Preventive treatments were conducted on 10.15 thousand hectares.

Plant protection of tobacco

Weed control

In 2015 an area of 4.49 thousand hectares seeded with tobacco was treated with soil herbicides and with vegetation herbicides - 1.86 thousand hectares.

Control of pests and diseases

Tobacco thrips

7.91 thousand hectares with tobacco were treated with 2 to 8 treatments. Single ill 5 - 6% infested plants by spotted wilt virus were found out in the regions of Gotze Delchev, Kurdzhali and Silistra. In the region of Plovdiv the percent was up to 10-15%.

Aphids

Unstable weather conditions and frequent rains during May and June contributed to the rapid multiplication of aphids. The degree of infestation ranged from 15% to 10 - 15% infested plants. Since mid-June, near Plovdiv, the first signs of virus infection in 8-12% of tobacco plants were registered.

7.7 thousand hectares were treated in total - 64.8% of the areas with tobacco. 1 to 8 treatments were carried out.

Tobacco flea

In 2015 tobacco flea was in regression. The enemy is observed only in the regions of Silistra Municipality.

Downy mildew of tobacco

The first spot in the field was discovered as early as possible in the region of Kardzhali. The degree of attack in the field environment was from 2 to 5% infested plants.

Prophylactic and therapeutic treatments were carried out on a total of 6.76 thousand hectares - 56.9% of the area with tobacco.

Wild fire

Degree of assault from single infested plants to 6-10% in the regions of Plovdiv and Gotse Delchev and 10-15% in the Smolyan region was recognized on the field. On separate land areas in Kardzali region the attack was mass up to 100% of the plants.

Treated are 4.35 thousand. Ha or 36,6% of the area under tobacco. Were carried out from 1 to 4 bursts.

Alternaria on tobacco

The dry weather during the summer months stopped the development of the pathogen. Preventive treatments were performed on 2.7 thousand hectares in Kardzhali and Plovdiv regions.

▪ Plant protection of potatoes

Weed control

In 2015, 7.44 thousand hectares were treated with soil herbicides and vegetation herbicides were applied to 2.38 thousand hectares.

Colorado beetle

The population density of the Colorado beetle is typically high around and above the CCP for areas with the production of potatoes in the country. 8.22 thousand hectares were treated with 2 to 5 sprays.

Potato moth

Treatment against enemy was made on 1.91 thousand hectares with 1 to 3 sprays.

Damage on the tubers were not observed after the drawing the potatoes out, except Kyustendil, where the damaged tubers accounted up to 3% .

Underground moths

In 2015 enemies have been observed in the regions of Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil in areas with potatoes. 1 to 2 sprays were carried out, treating 0.25 thousand hectares. Drawing the potatoes out damages were reported from 1 to 5% of tubers.

Mildew

Signs of mildew on the leaves of potatoes caused by infected tubers were found out at the beginning of May in the regions of Plovdiv and Stara Zagora. In the country 3 to 7 critical periods were reported. The degree of attack ranged from 5% to 50% infected leaf in limited areas in the regions of Blagoevgrad, Gabrovo and Pernik. After taking the tubers out, lesions on them are reported in the region of Pernishko 5 - 6%.

9.45 thousand hectares were treated, which represents 81.2% of the sown area. 2 to 6 pieces treatments were carried out.

Brown leaf spots

In the country 7.72 thousand hectares were treated against brown leaf spots - 66.3% of the sown area. 1 to 5 pieces treatments were carried out.

▪ Plant protection of fruit crops

Weed control

The control of weeds in orchards was performed mainly mechanized. Chemical control was fulfilled mainly with total herbicides. In young plants the soil surface was maintained as a black fallow.

Control of pests and diseases

Leaf gnawing caterpillars

Treatment against major leaf gnawing species was made on 2.54 thousand hectares pome and 6.01 thousand hectares of stone fruit.

Leaf-rollers and bud-rollers

During the year lower population density to EHR by leaf-rollers and bud-rollers in pome array of fields were observed. Treatment against enemies was made on 19.26 thousand hectares pome fruits.

Aphids

During the year, everywhere in the country there is a high population density and malicious activity by aphids. A total of 1 to 6 treatments on an area of 3.422 thousand hectares pome and 10.944 thousand hectares of stone fruit.

California Scale (Quadrastidiotus pernicious)

Assault and high density of Californian Scale was observed in apple orchards and old orchards. The degree of attack of the second generation varied from 1 to 3 the larvae per 1 m twig and from 0.5 to 4% attacked fruits. In abandoned untreated gardens, the degree of attack on fruits reached from 5% to 10%.

In 2015 2,357 thousand hectares apple trees and 0.62 thousand hectares peaches were treated against Californian Scale.

Plain plum scale

The enemy retains its high population density in plum arrays of Plovdiv and Pazardzhik regions with the highest level of attack up to 10-25 skeletal branch of 100 cm. 1.18 thousand hectares plums were treated against plain plum scale insects.

Cherry fly

In most areas of the country low degree of apple grub - by 1% was reported, resulting in timely performed chemical treatments, at an average early and late varieties the Yambol regions was from 2 - 3%

to 10 - 15%.

Black plum sawfly

In the treated gardens the percentage of damaged fruits by lying caterpillar of wasp were from 1 - 7% to

Apple sawfly

The percentage of damaged fruits in treated gardens is between 1% and 6%, while in the untreated 10-12%. 1,177 thousand hectares of apple orchards were treated against the enemy.

Cherry weevil

The density and degree of attack by morello weevil across the country is under the CCP. They were treated 1,169 thousand. Ha of the total area of cherries and sour cherries.

Fruit moths

The density and extent of the attack from the first generation of moth in the country was around and above the EHR. The reported apple grub of codling moth reached 1% - 2% to 5% - 10%.

In the gardens with regular out chemical control against two generations of plum moths, the reported apple grub at harvest maturity reached by 1-2% to 15-20%.

The reported apple grub by fruit eastern moth reached 1-2% (in the districts of Bourgas, Vidin, Dobrich, Lovech, Montana, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra) to 10% (in the districts of Blagoevgrad and Montana).

Twig peach moth

Plant protection measures performed during the vegetation have reduced the density and size of the enemy and during the summer months the number of butterflies of summer generations of the enemy was greatly reduced. Apple grub reported in May was 3-5%, while the later maturing varieties of peaches attack reached 5-7%.

4,458 thousand hectares were treated against twig peach moth.

Round mined apple moth

In 2015, in most sets in the country's the population density of the enemy was low. 0.694 thousand hectares of plantations of apples were treated.

Scab on apple and pear

During the year the apples and pears were kept with respect to scab. In all regions of the country the reported level of attack on the leaves was mild to moderate, but the fruits degree of attack was weak.

4,423 thousand hectares of plantations of apples and pears were treated.

Powdery mildew on apple

Treatments against pathogens were conducted jointly with those against scab. In 2015, against

powdery mildew 3,976 thousand hectares of apple orchards were sprayed .

Fire blight

In 2015 0.475 thousand hectares of apples and pears were treated.

Early brown blight

1 to 4 treatments, against early blight of 40.338 thousand hectares of cultivated plants stone were carried out.

Late brown blight

Precipitation during the harvest of cherries and stopping fungicide treatments favored the development of the disease in mature late varieties of cherries. Assault in the fruits of plums was reported in the regions of Gabrovo, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Silistra, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Targovishte, with a degree of attack on the fruits of a weak to moderate, and varied depending on the sensitivity of varieties. Mass country reported a slight degree assault and fruits of peaches and apricots.

Powdery mildew peach

Symptoms of the disease were found in low and moderate degree on the leaves of sensitive varieties of peaches and mass appearances on fruits were found at the end of May and the beginning of June.

During the vegetation 1 to 4 sprays were carried out, while 3,345 thousand hectares of plantations of peaches were treated.

Curl on peach

Unfavorable weather conditions in phenophase swelling and bud burst of peaches hinder timely plant protection measures. As a result of missed optimal terms for early treatments in the country an attack by the disease from moderate to severe degree was massively reported.

Held from 1 to 3 treatments of 4,226 thousand. Ha peaches.

White rust (*Cilindrosporium*) in cherry and sour cherry

1 to 3 treatments on an area of 5.01 thousand hectares of cherries and sour cherries were carried out.

▪ *Plant protection vine*

Weed control

The areas with newly planted vineyards are kept clean of weeds. Herbicides with foliar action and entrenchment in order were mainly used. In most of the old vines weed the control is mainly carried out by mechanical processing, but in this sector there is also a trend of increasing interest in the application of herbicides.

Vegetation herbicides, primarily on the basis of glyphosate of 39.12% of cultivated areas WERE applied.

Control of pests and diseases

Striped grape moth

In 2015, from total of 60.165 thousand hectares of vineyards, the treated areas against motley grape moth were 28.646 thousand hectares from 1 to 4 times.

Yellow vine mite

Treatment was conducted at 3.272 thousand hectares vines from 1 to 5 times.

Vine mana (*Plasmopara viticola*)

In 2015 the attack of mildew on the vine was significantly less than the previous year. The ascertained incubation periods during vegetation in the major growing regions were from four to eight. Drought and high temperatures in July and August limited disease.

From 4 to 8 treatments were performed on 59.21 thousand hectares.

Powdery mildew (*odium*)

The accumulated infectious background and agro-meteorological conditions during the vegetation favored the development and spread of odium. Areas treated against powdery mildew during the year were 58.838 thousand hectares with 3 to 8 treatments being held.

Gray mold (*Botrytis*)

Frequent rainfall and moderate temperatures during flowering clusters, create conditions for the development of the disease, but the combined treatment protected the vines from damages.

The areas treated against botrytis were 37.355 thousand hectares; 1 to 6 treatments were carried out, the most of them with broad-spectrum fungicides for simultaneous control of diseases of grapevines.

Excoriose Vine

2,738 thousand hectares were treated in 2015 against vine excoriose.

Multi eating enemies

Moroccan locust

The total infested areas during the year were 0.09 thousand acres with a density from f 6-8 pc. / Sq. m to 10-12 pc. / sq. m.

Wire worms (sem. Elateridae)

During the surveys in the spring of 2015 in areas provided for sowing maize and sunflower, the reported density of the enemy was under and around the threshold of economic harm. Individual areas in

the regions of Vratsa, Pleven, Plovdiv and Stara Zagora density over EHR: 4-7 number of larvae / sq. - in corn and 4-8 number of larvae / sq. m – sunflower was detected.

From the surveyed 39.093 thousand hectares envisaged for sowing of corn in 2016, density below the harmfulness was set to 28.506 thousand hectares. Average degree of assault was reported at 8.525 thousand hectares and strong - to 2,062 thousand hectares in the regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Dobrich, Lovech, Pleven and Sofia.

From the surveyed 60.207 thousand hectares areas envisaged for sowing with sunflower, density below the nuisance was reported at 47.304 thousand hectares. Moderate attack was detected to 11.247 thousand hectares, strong degree assault - at 1,656 thousand hectares in the districts of Dobrich, Lovech, Pleven and Sofia.

There was a serious problem with the wire worms in areas with potatoes, that the previous years were unworkable or meadows. The density over CCP remained increased in mountainous and hilly areas in the regions of Blagoevgrad, Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa, Kyustendil, Pernik, Smolyan, Sofia - city and Sofia region.

In 2015 aid to offset costs for farmers associated with the implementation of measures under the National Program of measures to control soil pests in potatoes of the family. Wire worms (Elateridae) was applied. The aid consisted of compensating the cost of buying plant protection products to control soil pests in potatoes of the family. Wire worms.

In RFSDs in Blagoevgrad, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Pleven, Smolyan, Sofia - city and Sofia - 153 declarations were submitted by farmers, regarding attacked 1,409 thousand hectares potatoes. The declared density above CCPs varied from 6-8 to 10-14 larvae / sq. m.

Gray corn weevil (*Tanymecus dilaticollis*)

Before and during drilling in 2015 50.334 thousand hectares of maize were observed, 0 to 0.5 pieces / sq. m of them were with low density on 29.314 thousand hectares, medium density - up to 4 pieces / sq. m - 14.72 thousand hectares, high density - up to 8 / sq. m - 6.3 thousand hectares in the regions of Veliko Tarnovo, Dobrich, Pleven, Shumen.

On 52.906 thousand hectares sunflower low density (0 - 0.5 pieces / sq. m of the weevil) was reported, medium density (up to 4 pieces / sq. m) - on 19.217 thousand hectares, high density (up to 8 / square meters) - of 5.51 thousand hectares in the areas of Veliko Tarnovo, Dobrich, Pleven.

Chemical control during vegetation against gray corn weevil was applied on 18.36 thousand hectares of corn and 15.2 thousand hectares of sunflower.

Corn borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*)

The high humidity and optimum temperatures in the spring of 2015 increased density of the enemy. The reported attack reached 70-90% infested plants with 2-3 damages on a plant, as density of caterpillars of the first generation has not been reported for years. Damages on pepper were within the annual appearances.

High temperatures and low humidity during summer months adversely affected the development of the caterpillars of the second generation and limited the density of the enemy in the CCPs.

Treatment against enemy was made on 24.6 thousand hectares with maize.

Cotton bollworm

In recent years, the cotton moth is still very serious and dangerous pest of corn and field vegetable crops. Damage observed on the ears of corn ranged from 3 to 10% infested plants and only in certain areas in the region of Vidin the attack reached 90%.

There has been timely treatment to 4.9 thousand hectares of corn in the regions of Vidin, Plovdiv and Sofia - city.

The biggest damage were caused by second and third generation in the period of active fruiting. 3 to 7% damages on tomatoes in the regions of Burgas, Kardzhali, Pleven, Silistra, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Shumen and Yambol and 8-10% infested fruit in the region of Petrich were observed. Damage on pepper were from 3 to 6%.

Treatments were carried out on 1.92 thousand hectares tomatoes and 0.52 thousand hectares pepper.

Plain vole

In October and November 2014, there was a massive development and attack by rodents crop with winter cereals, canola and alfalfa. Density above the threshold of harm was observed in 195.63 thousand hectares.

In areas with alfalfa density above 10 act. al. / ha was found out in the regions of Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Kyustendil, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Ruse, Silistra, Stara Zagora, Targovishte and Shumen.

Baits were set in the areas with highest density of voles.

Agro-meteorological situation in the month of January 2015 favors resumption of the reproductive process of the common shrew and increasing density. Assaulting over five act. al./ ha in individual areas in the regions of Varna, Kyustendil, Lovech, Montana, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Stara Zagora, Targovishte and Shumen was observed.

Harmful was 2-5 act. al. / ha.

3.1. Phytosanitary control

The priority activities for reaching the main operational goal in the field of phytosanitary control in 2015, were

- Effective control of import of plants and plant products by third countries in the territory of the country and EU, as an external border of the Union;
- Controls over the production for the purpose of timely detection and prevention of the spread of quarantine pests on plants and plant products;
- Development, updating and conducting phytosanitary monitoring programs, compliant with EU requirements;
- Providing export of plants and plant products in compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country;
- Development of the laboratory and diagnostic network.

In connection with the new Plants protection act from 2014, Ordinance № 8 of 02.27.2015 on phytosanitary control was adopted in 2015. Methodological guidance and documentation for phytosanitary control was developed and approved by order of the Executive Director of NVS. All the documents used in the activity of phytosanitary control were unified. There were workshops and training of 40 trainers inspectors on implementation of the new health legislation. The Central Laboratory performed methodological support of phytosanitary inspectors by developing monitoring programs, information materials for quarantine pests and diagnostic protocols.

3.1.1. Border phytosanitary (quarantine) control over imports of plants and plant products

Border phytosanitary control (quarantine) for import of plants and plant products for Bulgaria and member states of EU shall be carried out at the border inspection phytosanitary posts, in compliance with the European standards and Directives 2000/29, 98/22, etc.

In 2015 24 000 lots in BIP were controlled and 245 analysis in CLPQ were carried out. Infection of quarantine pests was not found out.

In 21 cases discrepancies were found and notified by the system prompt notification EUROPHYT.

3.1.2. "Control of the production of plants and plant products

In 2015, phytosanitary inspectors of NVS applied 11 national monitoring programs for monitoring of quarantine pests. Observations were conducted under calendar plan covering all other plants and plant products subject to control. Each monitoring program was updated annually according to changes in

legislation, guidelines for monitoring pest control directives and decisions on emergency measures, taking into account the experience and best practices in other Member States.

In 2015, in the official register for FSK 2994 producers, warehouses and markets were registered 5038 inspections were carried out and 4772 samples were taken for laboratory analysis.

During the year, 3727 samples were received in the Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine (CLPQ) and 9488 tests on plants, plant materials and soils to control the pitch were carried out under monitoring programs and the private sector.

91 types of quarantine pests were identified. Timely actions undertaken were to localize outbreaks of infection and eradicate them where appropriate.

Within 2015, 2 474 phytosanitary plant passports of goods produced locally for the country and EU and 89 health certificates were issued.

3.1.3. Control of export of plants and plant products

29 497 phytosanitary certificates for export and 867 for re-export were issued in 2015. 38 465 inspections the number of consignments of plants and plant products for export were carried out.

3.1.4. Testing, registration and control of plant protection products

The control of plant protection products carried out by BFSA has the purpose of guaranteeing market supply, storage, repackaging and use in agriculture only to the permitted, suitable for use, efficient, maximum safety level for human and animals' health, preserving the environment PPP, which are compliant with the statutory requirements for packaging and labelling. Furthermore, in order to provide the good practices for trade of plant protection products and the interests of users, and shall guarantee their correct use of plant protection products for primary production of plants and plant products, designated for food or forage, in compliance with the requirements of Good Plant Protection Practice (GPPP) and implementation of the principles of the integrated management of pests.

In 2015, it was completed over an Annual National Plan for market control, Annual National Plan for control over the use of Plant Protection Products, National plan for control of fertilizers and National Inspections Program.

.During the year, a total of 250 certificates were issued, incl. 246 certificates for wholesale trade of PPP and 4 for repackaging of PPP. A change has been introduced to the permit of 134 companies.

In 2015, 1244 sites were registered in the country, including 861 sites for trade of PPP in rural pharmacies, 376 in wholesale warehouses for storage and trade with PPP (own warehouses and rented sells), 14 shops for repackaging of PPP. There Were two companies producers of PPP in Bulgaria.

19 Acts for an administrative offense under the provisions of the Plants protection acts were composed and eight penal provisions under the Law on Administrative Offenses and Penalties were issued.

During the year 1799 inspections (in scheduled 1362) on the territory of the country were carried out, 1192 of them in agricultural pharmacies, 473 in stores, 23 in workshops for repackaging and 86 unregulated facilities (municipal markets, shops and more). 1789 finding records were composed, 487 prescriptions with remedies for removing inconsistencies and deadline for implementation were made, a total of 115 samples of PPP, including 107 samples for conformity with the indications approved and 8 samples for extending the life cycle of the product.

19 Acts for an administrative offense under the provisions of the Plants protection acts were composed and eight penal provisions under the Law on Administrative Offenses and Penalties were issued.

Results of inspections on the use of PPPs

Control over the use of plant protection products by farmers is directed towards verifying the appropriate use of plant protection products in the production of plants and plant products, while complying with good plant protection practice, combining the forecast methods with the principles of sustainable use of plant protection products.

In 2015, a total of 9742 inspections of the use of PPPs were carried out, incl. 7152 documentary checks and 2304 farm visits, inspection of the terrain, with the use of PPPs with ground equipment, aviation equipment, decontamination seed fumigation and others.

9584 written statement were composed, 3119 regulations were drawn up, 17 acts for administrative violations under the provisions of the Plans protection act were established.

During the control activities, a total of 190 plant samples were taken out, including 40 leaf samples for identification of used PPP, according to the National Plan to control the use of PPP for 2015, 78 plant samples for pesticide residues in plants intended for food and animal and 55 plant samples for levels of contaminants - nitrates and heavy metals.

On the basis of the Plan for risk assessment of regulated and unregulated cultivation of genetically modified higher plants in Bulgaria, for the purposes of controls on them a total of 10 plant samples were taken and analyzed in 2015.

Plant samples

Upon inspection of the farmers in 2015 the inspectors took a total of 40 leaf samples for identification of used PPPs, including cultures of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, peas, grapes, apples, cherries, peaches, plums, strawberries, raspberries, sunflowers, corn and canola.

Among the analyzed leaf samples, one sample of the apple is found to contain unauthorized active substance. The farmer was fined under the Plans protection act.

In 11 leaf samples (of the crops of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, cherries, plums, strawberries and vines) an unauthorized use of authorized active substance on the crop was found out. Prescriptions were made for the farmers with remedies for enforcement and penalties were imposed under the Plans protection act.

In a sample of organically produced raspberries use of the active substance deltamethrin was found out. Gabrovo RFSDs informed officially the certification authority of biological products for further action.

The leaf samples for identification were analyzed in an external laboratory.

In 2015, inspectors from RFSDs took 55 samples of plants and plant products under the National Program for Control of contaminants in foodstuffs (nitrates and heavy metals - lead and cadmium) for 2015.

The results of the analysis of the plant samples taken for examination of the content for nitrates and heavy metals (lead and cadmium) indicate that there is no non-compliant samples.

In connection with a mission of FVO DG (SANTE) / 2015-7457 for evaluation of official controls of the primary production of food of non-animal origin, held in Bulgaria in the period 16 - 03/27/2015, four additional samples of greenhouse cucumbers lettuce and content of microbiological contaminants were taken.

A total of 10 plant samples were taken and analyzed on the basis of the Plan for risk assessment of regulated and unregulated cultivation of genetically modified higher plants in Bulgaria for the purposes of controls on them.

3.1.5. Training of agricultural producers

4126 certificates for use of PPP by professional category of use (demand - persons with higher agronomic education and time - of persons trained in art. 84, para. 2 of the Law on Plant Protection) were issued In RFSDs.

In 2015 a study was conducted on update the knowledge of inspectors exercising control over plant protection products and fertilizers on developments in European and national legislation in order to

competently conduct of inspection activities and duties in accordance with the requirements of Art. 51 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls.

4. Fertilizers

4.1. Registration of fertilizers

In 2015, a total of 31 new products have been registered - organic, non-organic, organic and mineral, and microbial fertilizers and soil improvement agents).

4.2. Control of fertilizers in marketing

On the territory of the country in 2015, a total of 953 inspections have been performed. A total of 112 prescriptions have been written with the respective corrective measures and indicated period for compliance. A total of 96 samples from fertilizers were collected for compliance assessment in relation to the parameters, declared by the manufacturer and the requirements of Regulation (EO) № 2003/2003. 1 statement for establishing an administrative violation was drawn up.

Table V.2 Control over the fertilizers in the period 2013 - 2015

Activities	2013	2014	2015
Number registered fertilizers	17	26	31
Number of on-site inspections	773	470	953
Samples obtained from fertilizers for analyses	142	101	96
Breach statements	7	4	1

Source: BFSA

4.3. Use of fertilizers

Mineral fertilizers

According to RFSDs, in 2015, the country consumed 341 608 tons of nitrogen fertilizers, expressed as nitrogen, 63 152 tons phosphate fertilizers, expressed as phosphorus and 34 112 tons potassium fertilizers, expressed as potassium. As a whole, the year saw an increase in the total amount of fertilizers used compared to the previous 2013

Table V.3. Utilized quantities of mineral fertilizers, tons of active substance

Year	Total NPQ	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
2013	305 276	258 856	26 695	19 725
2014	418 758	322 004	64 459	32 295
2015	460 120	341 608	63 152	34 112

Source: BFSA

For crops from harvest 2015, a total of 24 576 thousand ha. have been fertilized with nitrogen fertilizers, and 13.9 kg. nitrogen is the average per dca. of fertilized area. Lands fertilized with phosphorus fertilizers are 5 263 thousand ha. – average 12 kg P₂O₅ and with potassium fertilizers – 4 548 thousand dca. – average 7.5 kg K₂O. There is increase of fertilized areas compared to 2014 and the average quantity of fertilizer decreases only in phosphate fertilizers. In almost all areas of the country use of different types of compound fertilizers is found.

Table V.4. Areas fertilized with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers, thousand dca

Year	Areas fertilized with N	Areas fertilized with P ₂ O ₅	Areas fertilized with K ₂ O
2013	24 439	7 364	4 604
2014	23 283	5 360	4 153
2015	24 576	5 263	4 548

Source: BFSA

Manure

In 2015 manure was used for the fertilizing of cultures with an area of 67 095 ha – almost twice as the previous year. Used quantity manure is 590 532 tons, an 15,4% increase on a yearly basis.

In the last years there is a trend for a gradual increase in there are, fertilized with manure, as well as the used quantities of organic fertilizer.

Table V.5. Used quantities and fertilized lands with manure

Year	Manure used in tons	Fertilized lands ha
2013	451 654	30 758
2014	511 945	34 765
2015	590 532	67 095

Source: BFSA

Use of residues in agriculture

In 2015, 45 permits for use of residues have been issued, manufactured by “Sofiyska voda” AD, v. Kubratovo, “ViK” EAD Bourgas – WWTP “Pomorie” and WWTP “Kiten” and “ViK” EOOD Blagoevgrad – WWTP “Blagoevgrad”.

From the areas where residues were used only the Burgas area is in a nitrate vulnerable zone.

The share of organic nitrogen from residues used in agriculture is insignificant in comparison to the quantity of other nitrogen containing fertilizers (mineral and organic fertilizers).

4.4. Control for compliance with the rules for good agricultural practice, program of measures for limitation of contamination with nitrates for the purposes of control over agrarian ecological measures and cross compliance

In 2015, the DFSD inspectors, together with State Fund “Agriculture” – Payment Agency, have performed a total of 983 inspections regarding compliance with the Rules for Good Agricultural Practice and the minimum requirements in relation to mineral fertilizers and plant protection products according to the application of measure “Agro Ecological Payments” of RDP 2007 — 2013. A total of 53 violations of compliance have been found in the application of the Rules

Within the year 1 218 joint inspections were made by the inspectors of BFSA and technical inspectorates of the State Fund "Agriculture" - Payment Agency for the National Plan for Control of farms that fall within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones to comply with the program of measures to limit nitrate pollution and cross-compliance schemes for direct support to farmers. 328 violations of compliance have been established.

The main omissions by agricultural producers in the performance of the National plan for control of agricultural holdings and mutual inspections for cross compliance are close to the ones allowed in compliance with the Rules for good agricultural practice, and are in the following directions:

- Absence of facility for storage of manure, corresponding to the requirements and the number of animal units;
- Built facilities do not have sufficient capacity;
- Absence of shafts for the liquid fraction and nature sites for the hard fraction of the manure;
- Absence of agreements for realization of manure;
- Use of PPPs without the required qualification;
- Absence of certificate under art. 83 of the Law for the protection of plants;

- Application of PPPs, not aligned with the phenological development of the culture;
- Logs under Ordinance No 104 are not kept;
- No records kept for chemical treatment and fertilization;
- Omissions in keeping records for conducted chemical treatment;
- Use of PPPs outside of permitted use;
- PPPs bought from a vendor without permission from BFSa;
- Absence of specialized site with controlled access for the storage of PPPs and empty containers of PPPs;
- Absence of sent notification letters for the execution of plant protection activities;
- Omissions in sending notification letters for treatment with land machinery;
- Absence of notification letters from owners of bee hives;
- Contamination of the environment in loading and unloading of manure.

5. Plant Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control

The state policy in the area of plant variety testing, the maintenance of varieties, the production, the trade, the import and the export of seeding and planting material shall be carried out through the Executive Agency on plant variety testing, field inspection and seed control with MAF.

In 2015 regulations were updated on propagating and planting material, which transposed directives amending the main EU Directives. Ordinances for amending and supplementing effective provisions have been prepared and published, specialized internal statutory documents have been developed, such as testing methods for distinction, homogeneity and stability, in compliance with the Technical Protocols of CPVO (Office of EU for preservation of plant variety) and UPOV (Union for protection of new types of plants), methods for testing biological and economic properties.

Aiming at improved service for natural and legal persons, in 2015 EAVTFISC implemented a system for quality management under the requirements of international standard ISO 9001:2008.

In 2015 in EAVTFISC were conducted trainings for specialists in the application of procedures developed from systems for quality management and training for internal auditors based on the requirements of ISO 9011:2011 "Guidelines for auditing management systems"

The implementation of ISO 9001:2008 has contributed to the perfection and improvement of the traceability of processes in the Agency, strengthened internal control in the execution of processes,

provided services have been improved to meet the requirements of citizens and the applicable regulations, increased is the competence of employees and hence the efficiency of service to citizens.

In a contract for the provision of state aid to promote the production and use of quality seeds and seedlings 2015 EAVTFISC has delivered these services bundled together in "Quality scheme":

- field inspection of seed producing crops and uterine crops; issuing labels;
- sampling of batches of seeds intended for certification;
- laboratory analysis of samples seed crop groups;
- carrying out further control of seed lots;
- qualification of certified and CAC fruit and certified and standard vine planting material.

The quality scheme introduces additional demands on the production process and final product, and ensures higher quality of the manufactured seed and propagating material of the following plants: cereal, fodder, oil crops, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, certified and CAC seedlings of fruit crops certified and standard vine material and certified and standardized vegetable seeds.

State aid is a prerequisite for the realization of significant added value resulting from the use of certified seeds related to the quantity and quality of production.

The total value of EAVTFISC services provided in 2015 amounted to 1 257 369 BGN.

In 2015 EAVTFISC constantly exchanged information with the European Commission, Member States and other international institutions regarding the names, entry and removal of varieties of plants and official variety list and on the marketing of seeds and seedlings.

The official variety list was published on the Agency's website in January and promptly updated upon the entry of new plant varieties.

During the year 850 varieties of field, vegetable, medical, aromatic and fruit trees, vines and tobacco were entered, which is 10% more than in 2014

There was an increase in the number of registered varieties of field and vegetable crops. From a total of 535 varieties of agricultural plant species, 202 varieties are protected by a certificate of legal protection in the Patent Office. Of the total 176 registered varieties of vegetable crops, 57 have a certificate of legal protection.

The number of applications for entry for varieties of fruit trees, vines and tobacco in the official catalog of the country is maintained. Of the total 33 listed tobacco varieties, 28 varieties were Bulgarian selection as 27 have a certificate of legal protection.

Under the Law the protection of new plant varieties and animal breeds the Agency carried out essential expertise to the distinctness, uniformity and stability of new varieties of plants upon which the Patent Office issues a certificate of legal protection.

In 2015, in trials for distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) a total of 891 the number of varieties, hybrids and lines were set and tested (1023 to 2014), 293 of them under contracts for variety testing and 598 - similar varieties and reference collection to demonstrate the distinctiveness of the requested new varieties and for the preparation of variety descriptions of foreign varieties recognized by other examining offices. The reference varietal collection numbers 4228 varieties of 22 kinds of crops.

The forecast expectations for the coming years are for increase in the number and extent of the services for variety testing conducted by EAVTFISC. This is due to the approval of the Agency for testing office to the Office of Community Plant Variety, and the steady expansion of the covered crops. In 2015 the range was extended with the type of field beans.

In 2015, tests were carried out for DUS with 4 candidate varieties of sunflower and 2 candidate varieties of rice contracted by CPVO and one candidate variety chickpeas, commissioned by the Czech testing office.

By type of crop variety testing for DUS is distributed as follows: 18 kinds of field crops (22 in 2014), 12 types of vegetable crops (12 in 2014), 4 types of permanent crops and silk moth (5 to 2014 years).

The total number of varieties, excluding standard varieties tested in trials to BIA (for listing in the Official Variety List and in preliminary experiments under contracts) are 1668 and two hybrids silk moth (1877 in 2014).

In preliminary test 1 477 hybrid corn, sunflower, rapeseed, common and durum wheat, triticale, and barley were set and tested, and 191 varieties and hybrids 2 silk moth are tested for BEQ.

Of the tested varieties for BEQ and preliminary tests 1616 are foreign-selection (96.77%) and 52 Bulgarian selection (3.21%).

Within the year 1507 samples were set for ground control from 36 types of crops (18 f and 18 vegetable) from which 1495 approved.

Over 2015 applications were received for certification of 43,534 hectares of seed crops of different crop groups. The total area of the inspected by EAVTFISC inspectors crop fields is 43,464 ha, the greatest share is the group of cereals - 38 392 ha (88.3%), followed by oil and fiber - 2561 ha (5.9%), feed - 2251 ha (5.2%), potatoes - 254 ha (0.5%), vegetable crops - 70 ha (0.1%), tobacco - 3 ha and beet - 3 ha. Compared to 2014 inspected crops decreased by 7.4%. After performing field inspections 91 ha (0.2%) are disqualified in a lower category than the requested certification and 158 ha (0.4%) are rejected due to lower

performance than required.

519 ha crop producing plantings of wheat, barley, sunflower, corn and forage crops by persons authorized under art. 6 Seed and Seedling Act were inspected, which is 1332 hectares more than in 2014

In 2015, there was a slight decrease of the inspected crops of winter common wheat, triticale and corn compared to the previous year, while the inspected areas of oats and rice increased by 40%.

When inspected crops of oil and fiber plants a increase in the areas by a few times is present, most in areas with soybeans. Only in sunflower a reduction of seed production is recorded, mainly due to the difficulty of providing the necessary spatial isolation of 1500 meters and the need for irrigated land.

Inspected crops of fodder and vegetable crops increased by about two and three times compared to 2014 At the same time, the inspected crops of potatoes are preserved, and these with tobacco and beet reduced.

In 2015 37 hectares of vine nurseries were inspected, 44 ha nursery vineyards and 20 ha vineyard roots.

Graded are 4,185,024 units of graft material from which 1,275,283 cultivated vine, 358,691 cuttings for grafts and 2,551,050 cutting pads.

The main reasons for the increase of the areas for the production of quality seeds and planting material is the provided state aid and for the first time in 2015 the scheme included fruit and vine planting material.

For the purposes of certification 6005 samples of homogenous batches of seeds are taken, such as 532 samples were taken from individuals (samplers) authorized by the Executive Director of EAVTFISC on the terms and conditions of Ordinance № 8 of October 31, 2013

Central Laboratory carried out 4303 analysis to determine the usefulness of the seed.

Central laboratory, accredited by the International Seed Testing Association ISTA participated successfully in three circular international tests of soy, red clover and rice.

During 2015 83 "electrophoresis" tests were carried out for examination on biochemical and genetic level to establish varietal identity and varietal purity of seeds of parental lines and hybrids of corn and sunflower.

The lab issued 25 certificates according to the requirements of the schemes of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for the export of seed to third countries.

In 2015 547 645 official labels were issued.

In connection with the implementation of measure 10 "Agri-environment and climate" of the RDP 2014 - 2020 400 certificates were issued for existing permanent crops and perennial crops confirming that the stated varieties are threatened by genetic erosion.

During the year more than 600 inspections were carried out under GMOA and Seed and Seedling Act on documents and on site. Checks under GMOA did not detect the presence of genetically modified organisms in conventional seed lots.

Effective control was administered over the preparation and trade of seeds and seedlings. Seeds that do not meet the minimum requirements for germination are halted from trading.

Under the terms and conditions of Ordinance № 8 of October 31, 2013 one permit from the Executive Director of EAVTFISC for a private laboratory was issued and to 3 individuals for sampling of seeds.

Expected results for 2016

In 2016, the activity related to accreditation of EAPVTFISC for official testing office of the Community Plant Variety Office continued, with the purpose of recognizing the tests on plant varieties for legal protection of the territory of the EU.

The Agency continues to administer the provision of state aid to farmers participating in a quality scheme for the production of seeds and seedlings under contract between the SFA and EAPVTFISC. Within the scope of the aid seedlings are also included - vine and fruit.

The stipulated maximum annual budget of the aid in 2015 amounts to 1 million BGN.

In 2016, a total of 37 675 ha were requested for field inspection, incl. 286 ha by inspectors under art. 6 of the Law on Seeds and Seedlings.

Of the stated seed production plantings of field crops, the greatest share is the group of cereals - 33 925 hectares (90%), followed by feed - 3073 ha (8.2%), oil and fiber - 513 acres (1.4 %). Also claimed were seed crops of potatoes - 110 ha (0.3%), vegetable crops - 51 ha (0.1%), beet - 2 ha and tobacco - 1 ha.

Accepting applications for certification of spring crops, and implementation of control in preparation and marketing of seeds and seedlings goes on.

6. Control and monitoring of grain and grain products

6.1. Control of public warehouses, granaries and other storage facilities

In 2015 substantive changes were made to the regulations concerning the activities associated with the storage and marketing of grain.

In issue 57 of 28.07.2015, the State Gazette published a law to close the National Grain Agency, which repealed the Law for grain storage and trading. As a result, the validity of licenses of public warehouses of certificates of registration of the granaries and the certificates of registration of grain traders is terminated. At the date of entry into force of the closing of the National Grain Agency 28 public warehouses were operating in the country with a capacity of 331 310 tons, 227 granaries with a capacity of 2 513 130 tons and 3560 of other facilities for storing grain with a capacity of 9 934 384 tons.

After the adoption of Ordinance № 23 of December 29, 2015 on the terms and conditions for monitoring of the grain market, regulating the terms and procedure for submission of declarations about the location and capacity of storage facilities, grain storage locations and available quantity grain in them and their managing, public warehouses, granaries and other facilities for storing grain are entered automatically in the database of objects for storing grain. Based on the Ordinance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food keeps and maintains database of objects for storage of grain in the country and the people who manage them. Data from the register shows that on 31.12.2015 the total number of sites for the storage of grain is 3526 with a total capacity of 12 870 248 tons.

6.2. Grading of harvest `2015

Grading of wheat harvested in `2015

During the harvesting period, a total of 1 303 samples have been taken from 1 836 026 tons of wheat from the grain production areas of the country (23 districts), which represent an excerpt of 41% of the preliminary data regarding the harvested quantity as of 30.07.2015, amounting to 4 483 265 tons

The end results from the grading of wheat harvest 2015 indicate the following distribution of wheat per groups:

- First group – 2,3%, and 2,5% for 2014;
- Second group – 8,4%, and 11,5% for 2014;
- Second B group – 24,3%, and 44,4% for 2014;
- Third group– 65%, and 41,5% for 2014

During 2015 the average values of the main quality indicators are as follows:

- hectoliter mass: 78,5 kg/100 dm³ ±4,2 kg/100 dm³, and 73,6 kg/100 dm³ ±3,6 kg/100 dm³ for 2014;

- wet gluten contents: 24,1% \pm 4,7%, and 21,4% \pm 4,2% for 2014;
- loosening of gluten: 5,6 mm \pm 2,1 mm, and 6,6 mm \pm 2,1 mm for 2014.;
- number of baking strength: 60,8 cond. un. \pm 9,cond. un. , and 54,1 cond. un. \pm 5,3 cond. un. for 2014;
- protein content: 12,2% d.m. \pm 1,5% d.m., and 11,8% d.m. \pm 1,5% d.m. for 2014
- falling number: 325,8 dec. \pm 44,4 sec., and 334 sec. \pm 68 sec. for 2014

Grading barley from harvest `2015

In 2015, 405 average samples taken from a batch of 264 663 tons or 37.2% of the produced barley from harvest 2015 were analyzed, according to preliminary data.

Relative to forecasted production, overall results show that 69,2% of barley is of brewing type, and 30,8% - feed. Compared with 2014, the proportion of malting barley marks an increase of 19 percentage points at the expense of feed.

In 2015, the average basic quality parameters of barley harvest in 2015 are as follows :

- protein content: 11,4% \pm 1,2%, and 12% \pm 1,1% for 2014;
- hectoliter mass: 64,5 kg/100 dm³ \pm 3,1 kg/100 dm³, and 62,1 kg/100 dm³ \pm 3,9 kg/100 dm³ for 2014;
- lot equality: 89,4% \pm 6,9%, and 72% \pm 32% for 2014;
- humidity: 12,6% \pm 1%, and 12,7% \pm 1% for 2014;
- crops impurities: 1% \pm 1,1%, and 1,8% \pm 2% for 2014;
- alien matter: 0,7% \pm 0,7%, and 0,8% \pm 0,9% for 2014.

Grading sunflower from harvest `2015

The results of the grading of sunflower harvest in 2015 are derived from 515 aggregate samples from a batch of 500 410 tons, which is 32,4% of the total production in the country, according to preliminary data.

Data from analyzed average samples show that the harvested sunflower has good values in the three major quality indicators moisture, fat and impurities contained in the standard and 61.28% of the analyzed samples meet the requirements of the quality standard for sunflower seed.

The average values of the main quality indicators for the sunflower from harvest `2015 are:

- moisture: 6,1% \pm 0,6%, and 6% \pm 0,8% for 2014;
- oil: 43,1% \pm 3%, and 44,4% \pm 2,4% for 2014.;
- crops impurities: 1,7% \pm 1,7%, and 0,8% \pm 1,3% for 2014 ;
- alien matter: 2,9% \pm 1,9%, and 2,4% \pm 1,4% for 2014

Grading sunflower from harvest `2015

For the grading of maize harvested in 2015 316 aggregate samples were taken from a batch amounting to 393 981 tons, representing 19.1% of total production for the country, according to preliminary data. From the analyzed quantity of maize, a total of 84.3% meets the criteria for starch content in the grain and the minimum requirements set in the standard in terms of moisture and the presence of impurities.

The average values of the main quality indicators for the corn in 2015 are the following:

- moisture: 13,1% \pm 1,4%, and 14,6% \pm 1,3% for 2014;
- crops impurities: 2,8% \pm 2%, and 2,6% \pm 2% for 2014;
- alien matter: 0,7% \pm 0,7%, and 0,9% \pm 0,8% for 2014;
- starch content: 72,9% \pm 0,7%, and 72,7% \pm 0,7% for 2014;
- hectolitre mass: 69,6 kg/100 dm³ \pm 2,5 kg/100 dm³, and 71,7 kg/100 dm³ \pm 2,1 kg/100 dm³ for 2014

7. Food safety

The main objective of the EU food safety policy is the ensuring of high level of protection of human health and consumer interests in relation to food, including traditional products, and in relation to the effective functioning of the internal market.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food leads, coordinates and controls the application of the state policy in the field of health protection of animals and food safety, through its specialized administration.

Directorate "Policy on agro chain" assists the Minister of Agriculture and Food in the development, coordination and implementation of state policy in the field of quality and safety of food and feed, animal health and welfare, animal products, plant health and plant reproductive material.

In 2015, the optimization of the statutory base continues in the fields of food and feed safety, health protection and humane treatment of animals.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency exercises the official control of foods on the principle "from the farm to the table", following the best European practices in the application of high standards of control in the area of safety and quality of foods, food supplements and drinks, veterinary medicine and humane treatment of animals, plant protection and fertilizers, phytosanitary control, feed, border control, etc.

7.1. Health and welfare of animals

Animal healthcare

Priority tasks of BFSA in this field are:

- Preservation of health of animals in the country;

- Preservation of the health of agricultural animals from the occurrence of hazardous virus infections, related to large economic loss;
- Providing yield of compliant unprocessed cow's milk, according to the European law;
- Uninterrupted movement of animals, products and raw materials, acquired from them, by and between the member states and for export to non-EU countries;
- Protection of the population from the occurrence of zoonoses (diseases, transmitted from animals to humans).

In order to achieve these priorities and on the grounds of the amended Veterinary Medicinal Activity Act (Published in SG, issue 7, dated 25.01.2013), in 2015 the application of a Scheme for support of farmers in the implementation of measures specified in the state prophylactic program and the programs for surveillance and liquidation of animal diseases, continued.

Developed and coordinated with the management of the Bulgarian Veterinary Union are samples of contracts for veterinary services to farmers, sample contract for the implementation of GMP and surveillance programs, guidance on the implementation of the aid scheme for farmers. Support scheme for farmers applied successfully also in 2015.

Ordinance on the conditions for the registration procedures for the identification of bee colonies and the Ordinance on the prevention, control and eradication of certain infectious diseases in bees was developed.

Decree № 48 of 03.06.2015 imposed fare for prices, paid for the implementation of measures under the State preventive program and programs for monitoring and eradication of animal diseases in 2015

In 2015 the mandatory measures set out for implementation of the state prevention program were met.

The activity of BFSA is directed toward minimizing risk of occurrence and distribution of acute and exotic diseases in animals, having regard to the geographical location of the country. For this purpose national programs for disease surveillance are carried out, namely:

- Program for surveillance of avian influenza in poultry and wild birds;
- Program for control and eradication of rabies;
- Program for supervision of bluetongue in ruminants;
- Program for supervision and eradication of classical swine fever;
- Program for the control of salmonella in laying hens, broilers, turkeys and breeding herds;
- Program for supervision of TSEs;

- Program for disease control foot and mouth disease in cloven-hoofed animals.

Over 2015 on the territory of the country some of the following major diseases included in the list of priority diseases EU were found

On January 26, 2015 the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for avian influenza in the country confirmed positive case of highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 in a pelican of Dalmatian pelican type (*Pelecanus cristatus*), which was found dead on 1.22.2015, at protected area Poda, m. Burgas.

On 30.01.2015, during active surveillance around the outbreak high mortality was found in birds kept in a backyard in Konstantinovo village, m. Kameno, Burgas district.

NRL for avian influenza confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1. All measures are taken as required by Directive 2005/94/EC on the control of avian influenza, as contingency plan for avian influenza was immediately introduced for implementation. 1818 birds and 34 waterfowl, raised a total of 112 backyard were destroyed. A ban was enforced on movement of poultry and products at 3 km (safety zone) and 10 km zone (surveillance zone) and all precautions laid down in Directive 2005/94/EC.

On March 24, 2015 RFSD - Silistra received a signal for high mortality in Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus cristatus*) in the nature reserve "Srebarna", Silistra region.

On March 26, 2015 NRL for avian influenza and Newcastle disease found positive results for highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 by laboratory testing conducted on two samples of Dalmatian pelicans.

All the measures provided for in Decision 2006/563/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 in wild birds and repealing Decision 2006/115/EU are implemented immediately. The disease is under control as there are no new cases.

In July 2015 an outbreak was found and declared of the disease brucellosis in small ruminants in the city Rila, municipality Rila, Kyustendil region. Humanely 15 pcs goats were terminated which tested positive for brucellosis. Disinfection of yards, premises, inventory and thorium holdings positive for brucellosis responders animals was carried out. It is forbidden the movement of bovines, small ruminants and equines from the city Rila and slaughter of sheep and goats originating in the city Rila. An inventory of all bovines, small ruminants and equines within the RFSD – Kyustendil was performed. The movement of all bovines, small ruminants and equines to and from the city Rila from early 2015 until the date of the order for declaring the disease was traced. In August 2015 outbreaks of disease were identified also in Smochevo. Rila municipality, Rila Monastery, Rila municipality. Mursalevo, Kocherinovo municipality, Kyustendil region and Rakita village. Red Beach municipality. Pleven region. Relating to the infected animals and farms measures are taken to eradicate the disease. In September brucellosis was declared in

small ruminants and in Padala village. Rila municipality. Kyustendil region. A epizootic study of the emergence and spread of brucellosis in small ruminants in the region Kyustendil was performed.

In November 2015, an outbreak was found and declared of the disease brucellosis in sheep and goats in. Kochan village. Sandanski municipality. Blagoevgrad region. 23 sheep destroyed.

By the end of 2015 the disease was eradicated in the villages of Smochevo, Padala, Mursalevo,. Town of Kocherinovo and herd raised in Rila Monastery.

Testing for bovine tuberculosis in accordance with SPP in 2015 established five outbreaks of the disease in Razgrad region.

In all livestock objects from Razgrad region bovine tuberculosis was found, remedial activities continue.

In connection with the disease Lumpy skin disease (LSD) in Greece and Turkey in order to prevent the occurrence of the disease in the territory of our country, NVS has taken a series of measures:

In September 2014 in Sofia a tripartite meeting was held between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, with the participation of more representatives from the European Commission, European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease at FAO (EuFMD) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

In February 2015 EuFMD organized training in Adana and Hatay, which was attended by three representatives of the veterinary services of Bulgaria and Greece.

Later in Bulgaria cascade training was carried out and all materials and photos from training were provided to all 28 RFSDs, official and registered veterinarians working in the field of animal health and livestock farmers.

In March 2015 in Alexandroupolis, Greece training was held for LSD, led by Eva Tupuraynen and the Director General of the veterinary service of Israel.

Printed and distributed throughout the country are 200,000 brochures on LSD, in order to familiarize farmers and the veterinary college.

Immediately after the first outbreak of LSD was announced in Turkey, by Order № RD 11-1054/22.06.2015 of the Executive Director of the Food Safety Agency RFSDs - Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo and Kardzhali were brought into a state of heightened epizootic readiness, which is expressed as follows:

- weekly clinical examinations of lumpy skin disease of large cattle in the municipalities bordering Turkey and Greece, the results of which are documented;

- a ban on the holding of markets and exhibitions of cattle in the municipalities bordering Turkey and Greece;

- conducting an inventory of cattle on the territory of RFSDs and update the data in the integrated information system of NVS - VetIS;
- sampling of whole blood from cattle showing clinical signs of LSD and sending for virological examination to NDRVMI accompanied by sample letter ZHOZH - 180 - electronic form, issued by VetIS and sample letter ZHOZH 28;
- immediate convening of regional and municipal epizootic commissions to identify concrete measures to prevent the entry and spread of disease within the respective districts and municipalities;
- informing the mayors in municipalities bordering Turkey and Greece, as well as those raising cattle for clinic LSD, adherence to biosecurity measures at the sites of cattle and their duty under suspicion of disease and/or mortality promptly notify the official veterinarian;
- familiarizing farmers in settlements in the municipalities bordering Turkey and Greece by way of making disinfection and with the appropriate insecticides;
- strengthened control on the movement of animals and biosecurity measures at the sites of cattle;
- preparing the available disinfection equipment in the regions of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo and Kardzhali;
- weekly presentation (every Friday until 15.00.) by Directorate ZHOZHKF at the HQ of BFSA reports on the implementation of the measures set out in the order;
- providing diagnostic readiness in the test lab "Exotic and especially dangerous infections" for LSD disease.

After the first outbreak of LSD was announced in Greece by Order № RD 11-1388/20.08.2015 of the Executive Director it was ordered measures in order № RD 11-1054/22.06.2015, to be in effect for Smolyan and Blagoevgrad regions. In addition a ban was imposed to conduct markets and exhibitions for large and small ruminants in the regions of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Smolyan, Blagoevgrad, Kardzhali and strengtheninf of the measures for biosecurity on cattle sites. Movement of large and small ruminants in the regions of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Smolyan, Blagoevgrad, Kardzhali was banned, except where animals are targeted for slaughter in a slaughterhouse, after previously conducted clinical examinations. Subsequently the opportunity was given to move such animals, to and from these regions but only after permission from the HQ of BFSA.

By Order № RD 11-1390 / 21.08.2015 of the Executive Director of the Food Safety Agency Directors of RFSDs Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Smolyan and Blagoevgrad were ordered to designate by order official veterinarians to carry out inspections on weekends at farms for compliance with order № RD 11-1388/20.08.2015 in the municipalities along the southern border.

At this time in Bulgaria 17 suspected LSD cases were found, each of which was rejected after laboratory tests in the test laboratory "Exotic and especially dangerous infections" to NDRVMI, Sofia.

In October 2015, organized by MAF and NVS meetings were held with registered breeders and veterinarians in all 28 districts of the country, where participants were introduced to the spread of LSD and other animal diseases and prevention measures, prevention and their control.

In the month of November 2015 in Alexandroupolis, Greece training for LSD was held organized by BTSF, which was attended by 10 official veterinarians from the municipalities of Bulgaria bordering Turkey and Greece. The materials of this training were distributed later in Bulgaria.

In 2015 cases of FMD were not found in cloven-hoofed, ruminant bluetongue, African and classical swine fever, African swine fever on horses, lumpy skin disease, Newcastle disease and others.

In 2015 inspections were carried out on 623 veterinary hospitals (VH) across the country, are 12 administrative offense notices were written

Measures set out in the action plan for the disposal of animal by-products of the two rendering plants in the country are being carried out.

As regards the registration of livestock objects and identification of animals, the directors of regional food safety offices examine and enter the data for the same period and legitimately reflect the correct data in the integrated system of NVS VetIS.

Mandatory events set for the implementation of DPP in 2015 were performed by registered veterinarians concluded contracts with RFSDs.

Expenditure on measures for the diseases mentioned in the list of communicable diseases of art. 118, Paragraph 1 of the Law on Veterinary activities that are included in surveillance and eradication programs, but not co-financed by the European Commission are provided as assistance to farmers from the State Fund "Agriculture".

Welfare and protection of animals

Animal welfare (AW) is directly related to the production of safe food. Animal welfare is a topic that excites the broad public.

The creation of a common European platform for animal welfare will serve as a common forum used by the Commission, Member States, organizations of animal protection, agriculture organizations, veterinary associations, consumers, etc.

The practice in Bulgaria shows that farmers often do not comply with standards laid down in legislation in order to increase profits from their activities. In most cases they have no possibility of

comparing their practice and new scientific justifications of animal rearing. This requires the intervention of veterinary specialists in the country to ensure animal welfare.

In 2015 the issuance of licenses for the transport of live animals continues in order to meet the requirements of national and European legislation on animal welfare during transport. 70 licenses for short trips were issued and 25 - for long journeys.

In connection with the requirements for animal welfare during transport a register of licenses issued for the transport of live animals is maintained and updated information on approved vehicles is introduced in the information system of NVS.

In 2015, in connection with violations of animal welfare during transport 9 signals from other contact points to NVS were submitted, and 78 signals from NVS to other contact points.

In the area of animal welfare Republic of Bulgaria meets the requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. In 2015 experts from the department participated in working groups on Directive 2008/120, as well as training on this topic.

In relation to the welfare of experimental animals under Directive 2010/63/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes a register of permits for the use of animals in experiments is maintained.

Decision 12637 of 25/11/2015 - vol. 100 of 12.18.2015, Decree № 41 was amended on the requirements to facilities where they are kept, bred and/or offer animals for sale, to animal shelters, with which in a working group at the Ministry of Agriculture and food relaxed requirements were introduced for shelters for dogs in compliance with the minimum requirements for welfare, which enable municipalities to fulfill the requirements for the protection of animals in order to control the population of stray dogs in the territory of country.

Updated register of registered shelters for stray animals.

Identification (chipping) of dogs in the country continued during the past year, and the data for the latter were reflected in VetIS, the system largely adapted for these animals.

For the period answers were prepared to more than 200 complaints, warning letters, inquiries and correspondence from other state institutions.

7.2. Information system for identification and tracking of animal movement

In 2015, proposals were discussed to introduce new functionalities, modules and reports in the information system of NVS – VetIS

In 2015, the active work on identification of small ruminants continues, as well as the work on equine animals in the country.

On the basis of the updated Guidelines for cross compliance for 2015 (Guideline for application of statutory requirements for management, specified in article 4 and 5, and listed in Annex II, item A of Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 of the Council as of January 19, 2009), inspections have been completed on the cross compliance by officials of the District directorates on food safety and SF "Agriculture".

In 2015, the identification of dogs in the country continues, and the data for it is reflected in the VetIS, and the system to a significant degree has been adapted for these animals.

7.3. Control activities

7.3.1. Food safety

Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety methodically manages and coordinates the activities of the regional directorates of Food Safety in the control of safety and quality: raw food materials and articles intended for contact with food; intermediate storage companies and enterprises processing animal by-products; animal welfare at slaughter.

The competent authorities in the "Food control" in 2015. implement activities aimed at: protect the health of consumers in food consumption, reinforce the confidence of consumers to commercially available foods, which is ensured by maintaining a system for control of compliance with legislation by producers and traders of raw foods. The main priority during the year and ensure optimal performance of the system of official controls, thus ensuring safety during production, storage and supply of raw materials and food; maintaining control system throughout the food chain that protects the health and interests of consumers.

In 2015, significant progress has been achieved in the completion of the strategic and specific goals in the control system over foods has been achieved, through:

- Exercising efficient control over sites for trade and production of food, nutritional supplements and materials, as well as items in contact with foods, with the purpose of health protection of the consumers and conducting efficient control over the sites for production and trade with foods, for evaluation of the compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 regarding the hygiene of foods, and Regulation (EU) No. 853/2004, determining specific requirements for hygiene of nutritional products of animal origin, by application of the official control activities, specified in Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 and the Food Act;
- implementation of the approach for risk evaluation in exercising official control over foods and facilities for production and trade with food;

- Compliance with the specific requirements of foods, according to the European and domestic legislation;
- Exercising official control for compliance of the eligible values in relation to the criteria for chemical and microbiological food safety, their composition and labelling;
- Exercising thematic inspections in the sites for production and trade of foods and inspections on the grounds of orders by the Executive Director of BFSA;
- performance of evaluation of efficiency in the application of systems for self-control in facilities for production of food and trade food facilities, as well as the systems for traceability – conducting audits of the HACCP systems;
- not allowing the occurrence and distribution of food explosions, including study and elimination of the reasons for the illnesses which have occurred;
- undertaking administrative penal measures, adequate to the established absences of compliance;
- raising consumers' confidence, providing independent and transparent control activity, improvement of the forms and the methods for providing information to the public for deliverables of conducting control through conducting systematic media policy
- exercising effective control with the purpose of providing the safe catering of children in children dairy kitchens, nurseries, kindergartens, schools, children and school camps, green schools, et. al.

In 2015, a total of 184 753 official control inspections were made based on risk assessment in production, wholesale and retail food and catering, thematic inspections, unscheduled inspections and checks on signals and complaints.

Scheduled inspections are carried out on the basis of risk assessment and unscheduled regarding specific subjects and objects set, as well as complaints and signals. In 2015, among the main priorities of official control, the emphasis was on safe nutrition for children and students - nurseries, dairy kitchens, kindergartens, schools, kindergartens and camps. The procedure for constant information about upcoming exported training, sports camps, green schools, trips and camps for children from kindergartens and schools in force since 2013 is underway in 2015. Both in 2014 and in 2015 it was emphasized on the increased control during the active summer and winter tourist season, and religious holidays.

In 2015 there was a significant reduction in the number of types of control activities performed in comparison to 2014, i.e. there is a trend towards an overall reduction in the incidence of control. This change requires a change of instructions for the implementation of the multiannual plan for official control

consisting in optimizing the frequency. On the other hand, the control more effective as reducing regulations, tickets for administrative violations and orders for the destruction of food drastically decrease. This shows that in this case the increased frequency of official controls could not ensure compliance by operators, as in a well-conducted a thorough inspection. There is a tendency to reduce the number of checks on complaints and signals indicating receipt of fewer complaints from citizens aimed at business operators.

Table V.6. Exercised current official control in 2014 - 2015

Indicator	2014	2015
Total number of inspections (including thematically)	226 457	184 753
Audits in food enterprises (number)	2 526	1 343
Planned inspections (number)	40 777	23 297
Inspections under Regulation 852/2004 (number)	21 573	10 266
Inspections under Regulation 853/2004 (number)	23 132	18 309
Inspection regarding the labeling (number)	13 152	6 107
Inspections of GPP and HACCP (number)	24 489	11 617
Inspections under appeals and signals (number)	393	165
Prescriptions issued (number)	15 201	13 932
Issued AEAB /Acts for Establishing Administrative Breach (number)	3 324	2 496
Discarded production (kg)	260 869	94 594
Closed-down sites (number)	185	298

Source: BFSA

The results of the official inspections have shown that the approach based on risk assessment, planning and implementation of official controls is appropriate, regarding the discovery of discrepancies and ensuring food safety as effectively as possible.

The official food control in Bulgaria is carried out properly, in full compliance with European and national legislation and in accordance with art. 10 Regulation (EC) № 882/2004. The main priority to achieve a high level of protection of consumer health is met.

In 2015, in the "Control of Food" directorate at the HQ of NVS received 29 notifications of suspected food outbreaks in Bulgaria, for which there are detailed reports of relevant RFSDs.

From the performed epidemiological studies and the results obtained from conducted microbiological tests on fluids from diseased and food samples six confirmed cases have been reported of received notifications with conclusions of the regional health inspection that two or more persons suffer from the same disease as a result of consumption of the same food and epidemiological data showing the food as the cause (factor) of the disease. Data for the 6 food blasts were submitted to the Center for Risk Assessment, which provides information on such cases in EFSA.

The measures taken by the official control for the discrepancies in the year are as follows: prescriptions issued - 13 932 pcs.; issued acts for establishment of administrative violation - 2496 units; discarded production - 94,594 kg/l; closed sites - 298.

Audits

In 2015 were carried out:

- Audit by DG SANTE with ref. № 2015-7457, Assessment of official control on primary production of food of non-animal origin.
- Audit by DG SANTE with ref. № 2015-7597, Assessment of official control on the safety of food of animal origin and in particular - the transitional measures for the production of non-compliant milk in certain establishments in Bulgaria, according to Decision 2009/861/EU and its amendments.

During the audits it was confirmed that milk and milk products marketed in the Union meet the requirements laid out in European legislation. To correct the discrepancies an action plan was drafted for Bulgaria to strengthen the scheme for testing the quality of raw cow's milk.

- Audit by DG SANTE with ref. № 2015-7357 assessment of the control of organic production and labeling of organic products in Bulgaria, held between 16 - 27 November 2015.
- National Audit Office audit relating to the implementation of "Effectiveness and efficiency of controls on food safety"

A statement was made on the recommendations to various departments in BFSA included in the draft audit report of the National Audit Office № 0700100514/09.2015. For most of the recommendations necessary measures are taken to ensure their implementation.

In order to improve the quality and effectiveness of official control trainings have been conducted at regional and national level, and participation in international training program BTSF on various topics related to food safety.

A range of procedures, instructions, checklists for checking and more were developed.

In 2015, with an amendment to the Rules of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, functions were attributed to directorate "Policies agro-food chain" (PAC) to audit and verify the official control carried out by the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety and audits the contact points on the rapid alert system for food and feed, located in BFSA.

In 2015 a program was developed for audits of competent authorities at MAF carrying out official control in accordance with art. 4, par. 6 of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official control performed to ensure the verification of compliance with the food, feed law, animal health and welfare.

For 2015 6 audits were scheduled covering the various activities of official control to assess compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004, of which 5 were carried out (83,3% implementation of the program). In relation to the objective circumstances arising from the audited entity execution of one planned audit was suspended.

Audits covering four RFSDs and one in the Headquarters of BFSA.

The following areas of activity were audited:

- Feed control - 1 audit;
- Food control;
- Border control - 1 audit;
- rapid alert system for food and feed - 1 audit;
- plant protection - 1 audit.

The unexecuted planned audit from 2015 in the area of laboratory activity is planned to be carried out in 2016.

The goal of the audits is to:

- To establish the principle of compliance that the activities of the competent state body, the Central Office of Food Safety Agency and regional level RFSDs to meet the requirements of legislation in the performance of official controls to implement the safety systems of food of animal origin in accordance with Regulation the EU's "Hygiene package" and the applicable national legislation are achieved
- To establish that the official activities related to legislation are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve the objectives of the legislation.

To audited organizations 18 recommendations have been made, for which evidence for their implementation has been provided

Expected data for the current year

According to the prepared Audit Program in 2016, directorate "Policies agro-food chain", MAF will carry out six audits of competent authorities performing official control, to the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

7.3.2. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) was established by the European Commission to provide the control authorities of the Member States with an effective tool for the notification of risks to human health, as article 29 of Regulation (EC) № 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 January 2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, the scope of the RASFF system expands to include serious risks to animal health and the environment.

Therefore, the term "risk" should be understood as a direct or indirect risk to human health in relation to food, materials that come into contact with food or feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) № 1831/2003.

In conjunction with article 10 of Regulation (EC) № 1831/2003 requires public authorities to inform the public about the risks to human health. The Commission should provide summary information on notifications submitted through the system RASFF, and annual reports, which outline the trends in reporting via RASFF problems related to food safety.

The rapid alert system for food and feed in the Republic of Bulgaria is established and functions on the basis of acts of directly applicable EU law and national legislation - Regulation (EC) № 1831/2003, Regulation (EC) № 1831/2003 and art. 30b of the Law on Food

The functioning of the RASFF system is implemented through a network of contact points each Member - State shall designate one contact point, which is in constant touch with the contact point of the European Commission.

RASFF system operates in Bulgaria since 1 January 2007 with the accession to the EU. Contact points for efficient operation of the RASFF system has established in Bulgaria as follows:

- National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria, situated in the specialized administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- Contact Unit in the Ministry of Health;
- Contact Unit Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

In connection with the operation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, for the period from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015 in the National Contact Point in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food a total of 3 003 notifications were obtained from the contact point of the European Union which were verified and

analyzed. By sector: a total of 2646 notifications for sector "Food", 206 notifications for sector "Feed" and for sector "Materials in Contact with Food" 151 notifications in total for the EU were received.

By type disseminated through the RASFF system notifications to the EU in 2014 are as follows:

- Notifications warning — 743 (134 more on a yearly basis), incl. for food — 702, for feed — 19, for materials in contact with food — 22;
- Notifications of focus — 474 (132 notifications less on a yearly basis) incl. for food — 425, for feed — 26, for materials in contact with food — 23;
- Notifications for tracking — 379 (22 notifications less on a yearly basis), incl. for food – 258, for feed — 99, for materials in contact with food — 22;
- Notifications for consignments rejected at the border – 1 368 (11 more on a yearly basis), incl. for food – 1 224, for feed – 61, for materials in contact with food – 83 ;
- Notifications of information — n/a,
- Notification “News” - 39 (2 notifications less on a yearly basis), incl. for food – 37, for feed – 1, for materials in contact with food – 1.

In 2015 notifications prepared and sent by Bulgaria to the European Commission were 99, broken down by types as:

- Warnings — none;
- Attention notifications – 3, incl. for food – 3,
- Notifications for tracking - 2 incl. for feed – 2;
- Notifications for consignments rejected at the border - 94 incl. for food - 94;
- Notifications of information – n/a;
- Notification “News” – n/a.

Notifications in which Bulgaria is a concerned party , notifications from other members of the RASF system, and notified by the European Commission to take the necessary measures and actions are 118, as follows:

- Warnings: 102 pieces incl. for food – 100 for materials in contact with food - 2;
- Attention notifications – n/a;
- Notifications for tracking – 16, incl. for food – 7, for feed – 6, for materials in contact with food – 3;
- Notifications of information – n/a;
- Notification “News” – n/a.

All notifications (notifications) are sent to the contact points in the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety and the contact point of the Ministry of Health to take the necessary measures and actions.

7.3.3. Control of veterinary medical activities, veterinary products and feed

7.3.3.1. Control of veterinary medical activities

Directorate General "Verification of the official control" with HQ of BFSA exercises control over the activity of the 28 Regional Food Safety Directorates, coordinates the activity of its territorial units, specialized structures and directorates.

Experts from DG "VOC" organize and participate in complex inspections of the activities of RFSDs to assess the effectiveness of official control carried out in accordance with art. 8, paragraph 3 of the Regulation (EC) № 882/2004, organize and carry out audits of official control in accordance with art. 4, pt. 6 of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004, carry out thematic inspections of units of BFSA and surprise inspections after signals or suspected illegal actions of employees of the agency.

The Directorate handles all received at the HQ of BFSA complaints, warnings, inquiries, requests, correspondence with citizens, companies, NGOs, structural and regional offices of the agency. The inspections are organized and implemented in a standard operating procedure (SOP) "Procedure for inspection in letters, reports and complaints against wrongful acts or omissions of employees RFSDs" approved by order of the Executive Director of BFSA

In 2015 GD "VOC" received, verified and processed in time 427 complaints, warnings, inquiries, requests, correspondence with institutions, companies, citizens, NGOs, structural and territorial divisions of the agency and in the first ten months of 2016 – 375.

Complex inspections of RFSDs to assess the effectiveness of performing official controls are carried out by approved by order of the Executive Director of BFSA SOP "Procedure for conducting due diligence activities of RFSDs and evaluate the effectiveness of official controls carried out in accordance with article . 8, paragraph 3 of the Regulation (EC) № 882/2004 ".

After performing the complex inspections, DG 'VOC' prepares and sends a report with findings and recommendations to the head of the department. A time limit is set for removal of the established irregularities or violations and documentary evidence of the actions taken is required.

In pursuance of an order approved by the Executive Director of BSFA Plan - schedule in 2015 a total of seven complex inspections of the Regional Directorate for Food Safety in Plovdiv, Lovech, Burgas, Kardzhali, Razgrad, Gabrovo and Veliko Tarnovo were carried out .

For the period January-October 2016, a total of 9 complex inspections of RFSDs - Sofia region, Pernik, Stara Zagora, Kyustendil, Lovech, Targovishte, Pleven, Pazardzhik and Smolyan were carried out. By the end of the year it is planned to carry out three more complex inspections.

Upon finding of wrongful acts or omissions by employees of the respective division of BFSA, DG "VOC" prepares proposals for disciplinary sanctions under the Civil Servants Act.

Audits of official control is carried out in compliance with SOP and according to an annual program approved by orders of the Executive Director of BFSA. Under the program, up to October 2016 14 audits of RFSDs were carried out - Montana, Razgrad, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Vratsa, Blagoevgrad, Rousse, Varna, Pazardzhik, Pleven, Dobrich, Yambol, Gabrovo Municipality. By the end of the year 5 audits of RFSDs are planned - Lovech, Vidin, Silistra, Sliven. Preparation of an annual report on the implementation of the five-year program with the findings and conclusions of the audits from previous years and analysis of achieving its objectives.

Experts from DG 'VOC' are in constant interaction with the police, the media, citizens, coordination networks and other non-governmental organizations that have committed to observing the provisions of the Law on Animal Protection and regulations governing the rights and attitudes towards pets agricultural and stray animals.

DG 'VOC' collects, analyzes, summarizes and sends to the Permanent Crisis Staff of MAF weekly information on recorded increased mortality in animals as a result of natural disasters (floods, fires, hail, drought, snow or frost) arising epidemics, calamities, epiphytotic diseases as well as open fires of animal diseases or quarantine pests in the country under the Law on disaster protection.

Implementation of the National Programme for Control of contaminants in food

The program covers research on food samples taken from commercial and field content of pollutants.

The following discrepant results in plant foods were established: 2 samples child puree of vegetable-based content with nitrates; 1 sample spices found to contain mycotoxins; 1 sample berries and small fruits with found content of heavy metals (lead and cadmium); 1 sample beverages and 7 samples boza with content of additives.

In the studied products of animal origin and materials and objects intended for food contact no discrepancies have been identified. With these results the trend from 2013 and 2014 for the absence of inconsistencies in samples of non-animal origin continues.

Implementation of the National Programme for Control of genetically modified foods (NPCGMF)

According to NPCGMF in 2015 all 80 planned number of samples were taken and tested for the presence of GMOs, i.e. it has a 100% implementation. Of these, with the presence of GMOs are 10 samples or 12,5%. Two samples or 1.6% were non-compliant. 2015 registered a growth of samples

unauthorized GMO content in comparison with the results obtained in 2014 during which no samples with GMO content above 0.9 percent were found. The number of samples with presence of GMO is also larger: 2015 10 or 12.5% against 8 or 10.1% in 2014. The reason is that test reports from accredited laboratory proving the absence of GMOs are not required and what is declared in the accompanying documents has to be trusted. Upon sampling at random and research program it was found that in some products there is a contradiction and discrepancy with the data in the declarations.

Completion of the National Monitoring Program for 2014 for control of the residues from veterinary medicinal products and environmental pollutants in animals, food and products of animal origin (NMPCR)

In the annual plan for 2015, under NMPCR are planned a total of 2 338 samples for testing the residues of veterinary and medicinal projects and environmental pollutants. In the carrying out of the plan by DFSD, a total of 1 847 samples have been obtained. By species samples are distributed as follows: 105 cattle, 37 of the equine, 371 pigs, 115 small ruminants, 391 of birds, 17 rabbits, 162 of eggs, 77 aquaculture, 245 of milk, 107 of honey and 190 wild animals.

Of the total number of analysed samples taken from live animals and raw materials of animal origin non-compliant are 0,13%.

Reasons for discrepancies include:

- insufficient competence and awareness of the owners/staff involved in animal breeding, which prevents proper and effective execution of self-control;
- deficiencies, irregular keeping the records or lack of such in holdings of treated/treated animals;
- unauthorized use of veterinary medicinal and unregulated therapy/treatment of animals in productive period – non-compliance with rules for the application of VMP
- Treatment was found with medication, banned for use in lactating animals (Noromek plus), and the treatment is performed without veterinary supervision by persons without necessary qualification, i.e. art. 132, para. 1, p. 1 LVA is not met

Completion of the National Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in and over foods of natural origin (NPRCRP)

In relation to the completion of the laboratory control tests, a National Program for Control of Pesticides Residues in and over food of natural and animal origin for 2015 (NPRCRP) has been prepared.

BFSa hosts the official contact point for pesticides in Bulgaria. The deliverables from the analyses, carried out under NPRCRP, shall be sent on an annual basis to the European Food Safety Association (EFSA).

In 2015 tested samples of food containing pesticide residues revealed the following discrepancies: oranges (Imazalil); Hulled wheat (Chlorpyrifos); lettuce (Carbendazim, benomyl dithiocarbamates); apples (propargite); broccoli (Dithiocarbamates); lettuce (Permethrin).

In vegetable samples under the Program taken from the field, discrepancies were found in samples of carrots, potatoes and greenhouse cucumbers.

From analyzed leaf samples, one sample of apple was found to contain unauthorized active substance. In 11 leaf samples (from cultures: tomato, pepper, cucumber, cherries, plums, strawberries, vines) an unauthorized for the crop use of an authorized active substance was established. In a sample of organically produced raspberries use of the active substance deltamethrin was established, for which the certifying authority of organic produce raspberries is formally notified, for further actions.

A programme for the collection of samples from the market envisaged for analysis of products manufactured under national standards, standards developed by industrial associations and approved by the competent authority was developed, aimed at assessment of quality characteristics

- Approved Standard "Stara Planina" - 41 samples;
- Approved Standard "Bulgaria" - 20 samples;
- Industry standard "Lutenitsa" - 10 samples;
- BS 15: 2010 "Bulgarian white cheese" - 18 samples;
- BS 14: 2010 "Bulgarian cheese" - 20 samples;
- BS 12: 2010 "Bulgarian yoghurt" - 46 samples.

The analysis of the survey results have identified a total of 71 of discrepancies: BSS — 58; of "Stara Planina" — 10; by BS "Lutenitsa" — none. AS "Bulgaria" - 3

For all identified discrepancies corrective actions were taken by RFSDs on which territories the manufacturing plants are located.

Prepared and approved are 4 programs to verify the effectiveness of official control pursuant to art. 8, §3 of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004:

- Assessment of the effectiveness of the official control relating to laboratory testing of samples.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of the official control on genetically modified foods exercised by employees at RFSDs.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of official control exercised by employees at RFSDs in compliance with the requirements for compliance of the quality characteristics of the food requirements of national and industry standards.

- Assessment of the effectiveness of official control exercised by employees at RFSDs in compliance with the requirements for compliance control of residues of veterinary drugs and environmental contaminants in animals and products of animal origin.

Under the program an assessment has been made on the territory of 9 RFSDs.

One SOP for taking samples from raw milk has been developed and approved by the Executive Director of BFSA.

Analysis of the results of research on official controls on food made by regional laboratories RFSDs - Blagoevgrad, Varna, Vratsa, Gabrovo, Plovdiv, Sofia-city, Sliven, Haskovo and Shumen in 2015

In 2015 testing laboratories to RFSDs have made 1753 tests on orders and signals of which 994 are research sample foods of animal origin and 759 are research samples of non-animal foods.

For the whole country, a total of 44,038 tests of samples were taken from food and raw materials of animal origin, of which 43,236 are research on microbiological indicators and 802 studies on physical and chemical indicators.

In the conducted during 2015 43 236 studies on microbiological indicators of food and raw materials of animal origin 428 discrepancies were identified, which represents 1,0% of the tested samples. For comparison, in 2014 non-compliant results were 507, representing 1,4% and in 2013 - 484 i.e. 1.8%.

The above data show steady downward trend in the proportion of non-compliant results in 2015 to those in 2014 and 2013, so the number of planned studies is also reduced.

19,910 tests on samples were carried out taken from food and raw materials from non-animal origin, of which 19 821 are microbiological indicators and 89 physicochemical parameters.

During 2015 19,910 tests were carried out on samples of foodstuffs and raw materials from non-animal origin, of which 19,821 are studies on microbiological indicators and 89 research in physicochemical parameters.

In research on microbiological parameters 179 discrepancies were found, i.e. 0.9% of the studies carried out.

For comparison, in 2014 167 discrepancies were established on microbiological indicators, representing 1.3% of the total number of tests performed, and in 2013 – 179, i.e. 0.8% of the tests carried out.

In 2014, in the Central Laboratory for Veterinary and Sanitary Expertise and Ecology (CLVSEE), a total of 4 449 samples have been accepted. In comparison with 2014 there is an insignificant reduction of samples with less than 1%. The distribution of samples under programs is as follows:

- NMPCR – 2 240;
- NMPCR – import from third countries – 236;
- POSPP – 30;
- Framework plan for control of feed – 144;
- Official control – 293;
- Own information – 1 506.

CLVSEE does not conduct all necessary analyses, required for the complete implementation of NMPCR due to insufficient capacity.

In 2014 CLVSEE took part in 12 interlaboratory tests (Proficiency tests).

The proceeds from testing in 2015 were 154 017,37 BGN.

In 2015 in the Central Laboratory for Chemical Studies and Control (CLCSC) a total of 1 756 samples were accepted with 22 947 analyses under control programs and client samples= 49 non-compliant samples were established (2,8%).

- POSPP – 149 samples for 15 506 analyses, 6 discrepancies;
- NMPCR (Regulation (EU) №400/2014) – 13 samples;
- Control tests of BFSA – 21 samples for 1507 analyses, 3 discrepancies;
- Mycotoxins (Regulation (EU) №669/2006 and №884/2014) - 530 samples for 2642 analyses, 19 discrepancies;
- NSR - Mycotoxins – 67 samples for 171 analyses, 1 discrepancy;
- NSR – Nitrates– 81 samples for 81 analyses, 2 samples with excess content;
- NSR - lead, cadmium and tin – 245 samples for 460 analyses, 1 discrepancy;
- Control program for PPP compliance – 111 samples for 207 analyses, , 1 discrepancy;
- Control program for fertilizer compliance – 91 samples for 524 analyses, 4 discrepancies;
- Customers – 649 samples for 2506 analyses, 16 discrepancies.

The financial proceeds in CLCSC for 2015 are 104 271 BGN.

National Diagnostic Veterinary Research Institute (NDRVMI) is a major specialized structure in the BFSA for scientific, diagnostic reference, methodical and arbitration activity for monitoring and official control of animal health, food safety and animal feed.

According to the scientific research plan of BFSA in NDRVMI approved by order of the Executive Director of the Food Safety Agency in 2015, it worked on a total of 20 scientific tasks included in five scientific problems.

In 2015 NDRVMI has worked on several international research projects and a significant part in many inter institute projects funded by the Ministry of Education and companies and national programs.

Serious participation of NDRVMI in the implementation of monitoring programs for supervision of exotic and extremely dangerous animal diseases and fish: Monitoring surveillance program for the disease "Bluetongue" National surveillance programs for disease Avian Influenza A, control and eradication of the disease Classical swine fever control and eradication of FMD disease in southeastern Bulgaria.

In connection with the implementation of SPP and programs for disease surveillance and control of food safety, feed and VMP in NDRVMI a total of 134 194 tests were carried out, and on self-control - 1424.

7.3.3.2. Control of veterinary products

The official control of veterinary and medicinal products, performed by BFSA is directly related to the efficient application of prophylactics and treatment of animals, and it has relevance to the base, on which monitoring of residues of veterinary and medicinal products and/or food of animal origin, designated for human consumption have been developed.

The activities on control of veterinary medicinal products are related to licensing for use of immunologic and medicinal veterinary and medicinal products, renewing licensing for the use of immunologic and medicinal veterinary products, renewal of licenses for use, issuance of supplements, in relation to changes in circumstances, in which the products have been licenses, work on procedures for mutual recognition of VMP, decentralized procedure, transfer of rights over licenses for use of VMP, etc.

In 2015, an evaluation of VMP records has been performed, which the applicants have attached to declarations under the procedures quoted. An evaluation has been completed on the periodically submitted reports for safety within the so-called "pharmacological vigilance" – a system, which has relation not only to the quantity and the safety of VMP, but through which adverse reactions by animals and reactions by people applying VMP to animals are being observed.

The register of VMP licensed to use shall be updated periodically, and the purpose shall be to support the market control of VMP, and providing the information stipulated by law to the veterinary and medical experts and outside users.

With regard to the supervision of antimicrobial resistance BFSA annually collects and summarizes data on quantities sold and used VMP with antimicrobial action of holders of licenses for the use of VMP. The information is provided to the European Medicines Agency and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), as approved by the ESVAC/European system of supervision of the use of veterinary antimicrobials and OIE formats. Delivered in 2015, data from the BFSA are included in the Annual Report of ESVAC and the OIE on the use of antimicrobials in animals.

BFSA controls the use, production, marketing, storage and advertising of VMP. Controls on trade with VMP, and the use of VMP on farms is carried out according to the Annual inspection program of BFSA for official control of VMP that determines the frequency and procedures for conducting checks based on risk assessment.

Objects of control of veterinary medicinal products are: VMP manufacturers, wholesalers of medicinal products and / or active substances, retailers of VMP / veterinary pharmacies / holdings and veterinary practices.

Checks carried out by RFSDs exceed the minimum provided under the annual plan for the official control of VMP for 2015, due to additional checks awarded in connection with complaints and signals and on the basis of risk assessment for each individual object, after which additional checks were planned.

In individual objects serious discrepancies are found with the regulations, which regulate the marketing and use of VMP. This requires measures to increase the efficiency of performing RFSDs official control objects trading UNITS veterinary establishments and sites.

Most frequently absences of compliance with the requirements of the Veterinary Medicinal Activity Act and the sub-legislative statutory acts, in relation to the trade and the use of VMP are verified in case of inspections of animal breeding sites and veterinary medicinal establishments.

The established discrepancies directly increase the risk of:

- Treatment of animals with unlicensed for use VMP;
- Inability for complete traceability of the purchased/administered product and identification of treated animals;
- Unauthorized application of VMP on animals which produce food for human consumption by persons without the necessary qualifications;
- Breach of quarantine after using VMP when such is required;
- Use of expired VMP or deviations in quality;
- Storage of VMP in violation of the requirements prescribed by the manufacturer.

As a result of discrepancies found during the inspections of the sites for trade and use of VMP in 2015 602 prescriptions were issued and 57 acts for establishment of administrative violation were drawn up.

7.3.3.3. Control of feed

In 2015, the strategic goals assigned in the Uniform Multi-Annual National Control Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria for foods, feed, animal health protection, humane treatment of animals and plant

protection (January 2015 – December 2017) were completed for reaching the strategic goal “Efficient functioning of the control system over feed”.

In order to reach high degree of human health and animal health protection, environmental protection and protection from misleading, regular, oriented toward risk control of each of the stages of production, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, including feeding using feed was carried out through the year. The control includes sites from the feed sector and livestock breeding sites, which produce or only provide food for feed of animals

Control of feed during the year shall follow the following priorities:

- Reaching high degree of protection of people’s health, the health of animals and the environment;
- Protection of users from fraud, misleads and illegal practices with feed;
- Efficient functioning of the system for control of feed;
- Performance of scheduled and risk-oriented control of processes in the operators of the feed sector – at each stage of production, processing, storage and distribution of feed, including feeding animals;
- Exercising of control of feed, regarding the content of unwanted and forbidden substances, as well as control of their compliance with the information, provided to clients;
- Efficient control over the genetically modified feed, control of market launch, observation and labeling of feed, which contain or have been produced out of GMO;
- Control on compliance with the forage ban, related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Registration and approval of establishments in the feed sector

In compliance with the requirements of the Feed Act and Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 regarding hygiene of feed, the activities performed in sector “Feed” are performed only in sites, which have been approved or registered by BFSA.

Table V.7. Number of registered and approved facilities in sector “Feed” in compliance with the requirements of art. 9 and 10 of Regulation (EC) № 183/2005 as of 31.12.2015

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
I. Registered objects under art. 9 of Regulation (EO) № 183/2005	3	
1. Manufacturers of supplements	2	
2. Manufacturers of premixtures of the supplements	258	
3. Manufacturers of compound feed	51	

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
4. Operators carrying out the activities cutting, packaging, repackaging and sale of compound feed and feed materials	8	
5. Packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feed	4	
6. Grinding, packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feed	414	
7. Manufacturers of feed materials	2 078	
8. Merchants of feed	489	
9. Operators transporting feed	37	
10. Operators offering warehouses for rent	3 344	
Total registered objects under art. 9, exercising activities under art. 5, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) №183/2005	9 790	
II. Registered objects at the level of primary production of agricultural crops intended for animal feed under art. 9 operating under art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 [1]	6 559	
1. Registered objects of farmers producing primary feed upon location of the property	591	
2. Registered objects of farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	2341	
3. Registered objects of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixes using complementary feed	299	
4 Registered objects of farmers, feed mixing and producing silage, intended only for their own farm		
III. Approved objects under art. 10, operating under art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005		5
1. Manufacturers of feed additives		5
2. Manufacturers of premixes, based on feed additives from additives		44
3. Manufacturers of compound feed		79
4. Merchants of feed additives and premixes		1
5. Operators of decontamination of feed		1
6. Operators mixing fat		3
7. Operators operating processing crude vegetable oil except for objects that are registered under the food production of fatty acids by processing vegetable oils and animal fats, biodiesel production and mixing fat		138

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
Total approved objects under art. 10, operating under art. 5, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005		
IV. Approved objects under art. 55 of the Law on feed		10
1. Manufacturers of medicated feed		10
Total approved objects under art. 55 of the Law on feed		148
Total approved objects under art. 10, operating under art. 5, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 and under art. 55 of the Law on feed		13 272

Source: BFSA

¹ The information is provided by DG "Agriculture and Regional Policy", Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Under article 3 para. 2 and under article 8, paragraph 4 of the Decree № 3 on the establishment and maintenance of a register of farmers, those who operate under article 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) № 183/2005 (the level of primary production of feed) , declare their operations by completing general application form for registration of farmer and Appendix № 3 statement for activities with primary feed. The list of registered farmers at the level of primary production of feed under art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) №183/2005 is published on the website of the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety.

The national registers of the approved and registered facilities in the feed sector for the activities, specified in articles 9 and 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 are published on the web site of BFSA.

According to bilateral agreements between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Bulgaria, department "Control of feed" maintains 2 registries::

- Register of approved enterprises for export of maize to PRC;
- Register of approved enterprises for export of alfalfa to PRC.

They are public and available to users on the website of BFSA.

Operators in the "Feed:" sector shall be registered and/or approved for all facilities under their control, for each activity they carry out.

As of 31.12.2015, there is an increase in the total number of registered sites in the feed sector by 2.84% and an increase in the number of approved sites with 2.22% compared to December 31, 2014 (3 242 registered operators) total for the sector.

Table V.8. Number of registered and approved sites in sector "Feed"

Activity declared by the operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2014	Number of sites as of 31.12.2015	Change in %
Producers of raw materials for feed, other than primary production of feed	420	414	-1,4%
Registered feed traders	2 055	2 078	1,1%
Registered manufacturers of feed additives, premixes, compound feed	305	263	-13,8%

Activity declared by the operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2014	Number of sites as of 31.12.2015	Change in %
Approved manufacturers of feed additives, premixes, compound feed	56	54	-3,6%
Approved operators for detoxification of feed	1	1	0,0%
Approved operators for mixing fats	1	1	0,0%
Approved traders	77	79	2,6%
Approved producers and/or traders of medicinal feed	11	10	-9,1%
Operators at the level of primary production of feed (farmers)	8 575	9 790	14,2%
Other kinds of business operators, including establishments transporting feed and operators lending warehouses	462	582	26,0%
Total registered and approved facilities	11 963	13 272	10,9%

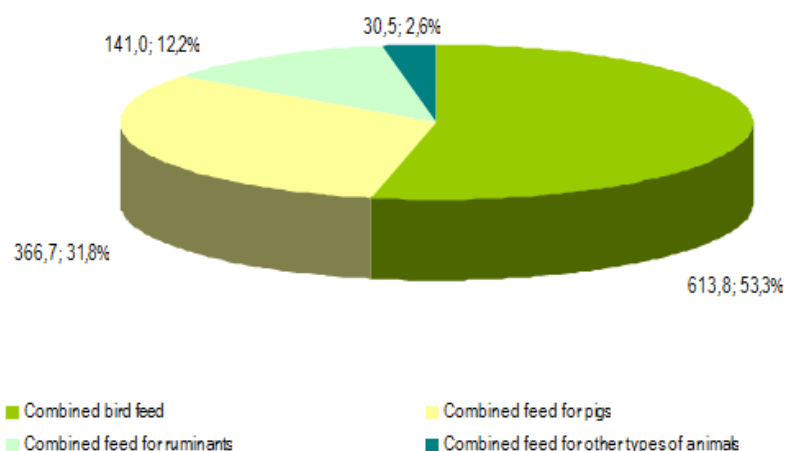
Source: BFSA

Production of combined feed

For 2015, in pursuance of art. 14b of the Law on feed, provided data indicates a produce of a total of 1 151 987,7 tons compound feed (CF) incl. 191 497,3 tons containing coccidiostats. Compared to 2014, production of compound feed in 2015 increased by 21.1%.

he share of the production of compound feed for 2015 for the needs of own farms is 36.1% of total production, while for the market - 63.9%. Compared to 2014, this is an increase of production of compound feed for the market by 19.2% and 24.4% of the production of compound feed for own farms.

Figure V.1. Production of combined feed in 2015 by type of animal, in thousand tons



Source: BFSA

Structuring of the producers of combined and medicated feed

Enterprises are structured depending on the volume of produced quantities of compound feed in 2015

The provided in the reference data shows that the largest share of the producers are 1st category, with production up to 500 tones compound feed. They constitute 49,7% of the total number of enterprises - producers of compound feed.

Table V.9. Production of combined feed in 2014 according to the volume of the production of enterprises

Categories of enterprises according to the volume of the production in tons	Number of enterprises	Share in the total number of enterprises, %	Produced quantities, tons	Share in the total production of compound feed in 2015, %
Enterprises with production up to 5 000 tons — total, including:	240	83,9	188 026	16,3
I. up to 500	142	49,7	16 895,8	1,5
II. from 500 to 1 000	37	12,9	26 997,6	2,3
III. from 1 000 to 2 000	32	11,2	46 308,9	4,0
IV. from 2 000 to 3 000	9	3,2	21 625,4	1,9
V. from 3 000 to 4 000	13	4,5	45 624,9	4,0
VI. from 4 000 to 5 000	7	2,4	30 573,4	2,6
Enterprises with production exceeding 5 000 tons — total, including:	46	16,1	963 961,7	83,7
I. from 5 000 to 10 000	21	7,3	163 744	14,2
II. from 10 000 to 20 000	11	3,9	173 432,6	15,1
III. from 20 000 to 40 000	10	3,5	277 055,3	24
IV. over 40 000	4	1,4	349 729,8	30,4

Source: BFSa

In 2014, a total of 28 333 tons of medication feed have been produced, entirely for pigs. The share of the production of medication feed for the needs of own animal breeding holdings, is 79% of the total quantity produced during the year, and the production for the market – 21%. Compared to 2014 (28,333 tons), production figures in 2015 show an increase of 2%.

Table V.10. Production of medication feed in 2014 by district

District	Medication feed for pigs (in tons)		
	for the market	For own farms	Total
Varna	1 263,0	13 342,0	14 605,0
Razgrad	0,0	1 664,5	1 664,5
Ruse	820,0	5 214,8	6 034,8
Stara Zagora	0,0	335,5	335,5
Shumen	3 846,5	2 270,0	6 116,5
Yambol	141,5	0,0	141,5
Total	6 071,0	22 826,8	28 897,8

Source: BFSA

In 2015, control of feed follows the set specific basic (operational) targets that are associated with the strategic objectives set out in SMNCP of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015 - 2017, namely:

- ensure that feed comply with the safety requirements;;
- verification of compliance with the legislation on the marketing and use of feed (labeling).

Control of feed in 2015 follows the following priorities:

- Reaching high degree of protection of people's health, the health of animals and the environment by conducting effective control at all stages of production, processing, storage, import, transportation, distribution, including feeding of animals;
- Protection of users from fraud, misleads and illegal practices with feed;
- Efficient functioning of the system for control of feed, by monitoring the implementation and enforcement of European law and national legislation on feed.
- Performance of scheduled and risk-oriented control of processes in the operators of the feed sector – at each stage of production, processing, storage and distribution of feed, including feeding animals;
- Exercising of control of feed, regarding the content of unwanted and forbidden substances, as well as control of their compliance with the information, provided to clients;
- Efficient control over the genetically modified feed, control of market launch, observation and labeling of feed, which contain or have been produced out of GMO. The purpose of the control is to ensure informed consumer choice;
- Control on compliance with the feed ban, related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

In order to improve and unify the work of inspectors and experts carrying out official control for feed

in regional directorates for food safety document templates, standard operating procedures and work instructions are developed and updated.

Official control on feed is planned and ongoing. The current control includes post checks upon suspicion and investigation (alerts, notifications in RASFF system, etc.).

The planned control is based on the basis of criteria for risk assessment. In 2015, "Framework Plan for Feed Control for 2015" and "Operating Instructions" on its implementation, which are made pursuant designed controls in SMNCP - 2015 – 2017 were implemented

Results of the control activity for 2015

The framework plan for control of feed includes three control systems: "Feed and feeding of animals", "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and side animal products", and "Veterinary and Medical Products and Residues of Veterinary and Medical Products".

- **Results of the control activity under the control system "Feed and feeding of animals "**

Overall progress in achieving the strategic goals and specific objectives in the control system "Feed and animal nutrition" is considered as positive. The number of inspections assigned in the Framework Control Plan for 2015 as of 31.12.2015 has been completed at a rate of 110%. There were 4 390 planned inspections - 307 or 7.5% more than in the previous 2014. A high percentage of planned inspections carried out in 2015 due to the checks on cross compliance.

Table V.11. Number of planned and completed inspections for 2014 of all stages of the production (including primary production of feed), processing, distribution and feeding through feed

Number of inspections planned	Number of inspections carried out				
	Scheduled/not scheduled	ex post	investigation	upon alert	total
3 982	4 390	775	176	14	5 355

Source: BFSA

As of 31.12.2015, a total of 5355 checks were carried out. For each check a written statement was made.

With regard to the analyzed feed, no serious absences of compliance were observed, which would result in hazard for animal health.

The cases, in which the plans for self-control by the operators of the feed sector and the farmers are not exercised, are frequent.

The type and location where the inconsistencies were detected do not pose a potential risk to animals.

The absences of compliance established and the types of operators, in which they were found are taken into consideration in the risk evaluation in the planning process of the framework plan for control in 2016

The reasons that lead to disparities are unawareness of the responsibility of operators in accordance with Regulation (EC) №178/2002, insufficient knowledge of the requirements of legislation and insufficient financial resources by the feed business operators to invest in new equipment, which affects compliance with hygiene requirements.

In 2015, during the inspections of sites in the feed sector, samples have been taken for analyses according to indicators, which have been declared by the producer for compliance, as well as compliance with the eligible values, designated in the law.

The total number of analyses from samples obtained for official control during the year is 3 780, out of which 763 samples for nutrition composition (19 of the samples are non-compliant), 429 samples for feed supplements, with fixed maximum content, including the permitted coccidiostatics (absences of compliance are established in 24 samples - 5,59% of the samples), 2 170 samples – for unwanted substances (61 non-compliant results – 2,81%), 104 samples – for forbidden to use medicinal substances, and feed supplements and contamination of non-target feed (5 samples absence of compliance – 4,81%), 282 samples for micro-biological studies – salmonella (7 non-compliant results – 2,48%), and a total of 29 samples regarding presence of GMO.

When carrying out official control on feed by sampling to verify compliance with directly applicable EU law as regards the maximum levels for pesticide residues 213 samples of feed were taken.

In the analysis carried out on the results obtained increase was found in cases where a laboratory confirmed content of pesticide residues in feed is over the values of 0.01 mg/kg.

In 2015 Bulgaria has seen a significant increase in the number of samples of feed laboratory confirmed for ochratoxin and zearalenone to 2014 that does not exceed the permissible levels. These mycotoxins are most common in the southern and southeastern part of the continent, along with aflatoxins. Factors favoring their development are high temperatures for long periods of the year, combined with high humidity

As regards the other samples analyzed slight discrepancies were observed.

In the analyses of supplements of functional group “micro-element compositions”, most absences of compliance refer to the value declared by the producers and misleading the clients.

The found absences of compliance of samples for analysis of the content of forbidden for use medicinal substances, such as feed additives, are the result of insufficient cleaning after production of medicinal feed or contamination of the production line with supplementing feed, contaminated after the production of medicinal feed.

- **Control of feed under the control system “Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and side animal products“**

BFSA controls the compliance by the operators of the feed sector of the total feed prohibition (article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001) and the age restriction (article 11 of Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009) regarding the processed animal proteins.

Control with regard to compliance with the feed ban is laboratory, documentary and physical, in the entire chain of production and distribution of feed, in order to verify compliance with directly applicable EU law and national legislation.

In the carried out documental and physical inspections in 2015, no breaches have been found regarding article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 and article 11 of Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 on feed bans.

Samples of feed for the presence of ingredients of animal origin for 2015 total 465, including 42 samples in connection with the implementation of enhanced control of operators with discrepancies in 2014 and 2015 and 28 samples taken during the period under investigation.

The animal origin proteins are risk-related regarding to pollution with micro-organisms, due to which samples of feed have been obtained regarding the availability of micro-biological contamination of salmonella and enterobacteries.

In 2014, a total of 39 samples of feed have been studied regarding the availability of salmonella, and for enterobacteries – 22 samples. There were no positive cases of salmonella in feed and Enterobacteriaceae. Two (2) cases were confirmed of positive salmonella and enterobacteriaceae in feed (1 sample is positive for the presence of Salmonella and 1 - for Enterobacteriaceae).

In 2015 it was established that seven operators have violated the requirements of art. 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) № 999/2001) and produced or fed animals on of their farm with feed containing particles of terrestrial animals.

All operators with proven laboratory tested positive for the presence of ingredients of animal origin in 2015 have been given statements for administrative violation of the requirements of art. 274, par. 1 of the Veterinary Law and sanctions were imposed pursuant to art. 449 par. 2 of the Act. The relevant penal provisions entered into force.

Operators, which have laboratory tested positive for the presence of ingredients of animal origin in the first and second quarter of 2015 are subject to increased monitoring throughout the year.

- **Control of feed under the control system “Veterinary and medical products and residues from veterinary and medicinal products”**

In exercising of the control over the production and trade with medicinal feed by BFSA, the compliance with the requirements of Ordinance No.1 of 11.03.2014 regarding the conditions for production and/or trade of medicinal feed shall be observed (Publ. SG. is. 26 of 21.03.2014).

As of 31.12.2015 a total of 10 sites for production and/or trade with medicinal feed under article 55c, paragraph 1 of the Feed Act, have been approved in the country.

During 2015, a total of 15 inspections were carried out of approved operators operating manufacture of medicated feed, of which 10 planned inspections, 3 additional and 2 investigative. Prescriptions were given with regard to the identified discrepancies are given prescriptions

Audits of operators in the feed sector

Pursuant to the requirements of art. 6 and art. 7 of Regulation (EC) № 183/2005 and in conjunction with art. 26, par. 2 of the Law on feed, feed operators carrying out activities other than those at the level of primary production of feed (referred to in article 5, paragraph 1) are required to have designed, implemented and to apply procedures based on HACCP principles.

In 2015, there were 265 audits of feed sector operators (88,6% of the planned 221). Out of the audits carried out during the year, a conclusion could be drawn that the operators have developed, introduced and are applying procedures based on the principles of HACCP, with which the requirements of articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 have been fulfilled. For some of the operators it has been found that the introduced procedures are not up-to-date as of this time. For any and all absences of compliance established, recommendations have been provided, under which the operators have undertaken corrective actions. They have been inspected for their completion, and have been closed.

7.3.3.4.Verification of efficiency of the official control of feed

In accordance with art. 8, paragraph 3 of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004, the effectiveness of official control on feed, operated by regional directorates for food safety, is subject to review by a competent unit within the HQ of BFSA - "Control feed" to Directorate "Health and welfare, and controls for food." In 2015, inspections are carried out under the "Program for verification of effectiveness of official controls on feed exercised by employees RFSDs in 2015", approved by order of the Executive Director of the Food Safety Agency, which is published on the website of the Agency.

In the period from 02.01.2015 until 31.12.2015 all 24 planned inspections are carried out to assess the effectiveness of official control of feed, according to art. 8, paragraph 3 of Regulation (EC) № 882/2004, under a control system "Feed and Animal Nutrition" control system "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products" (TSE and ABP) and control system "medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products."

During the inspections completed progress has been established in the exercised official control of feed in relation to tracking and the measures undertaken in case of absence of compliance, but omissions have been established in the compliance with some of the applicable requirements. On the grounds of the findings made during the inspections, recommendations are made to RFSDs, having the purpose of improving the organization for planning and exercising official control of feed, which shall be efficient and in compliance with the goals assigned.

7.3.4. Risk assessment centre

The risk evaluation center has been established in 2011 and performs independent scientific evaluation of risk in relation to the safety of food by direct award by the European Food Safety Authority, BFSA or other state bodies, natural persons and legal entities.

During 2015 31 scientific opinions in various fields have been prepared. On animal health are prepared: an analysis of the causes of the increased mortality of bees in Bulgaria; assessment of the risk of bioterrorism and agroterror attacks on the territory of Bulgaria and readiness of BFSA countermeasures; comparative analysis of the prevalence of certain particularly dangerous infectious diseases in Turkey in 2013 and 2014; analysis of the risks that should be considered before use of unauthorized vaccines for emergency vaccination; systematization of species of ruminant animals to be vaccinated and the types of vaccines used for control and eradication of bluetongue; assessment of the effect of oral vaccination of foxes and wild carnivores in Europe; chronology of outbreaks caused by HPAI, H5N1 strain in Bulgaria and neighboring countries; profitability analysis of the functioning of the rest points of the animals on the territory of Vidin and Ruse – 13.

During the year were made observations about the content of pesticides; mycotoxins; chemical contaminant, etc.

During 2015 162 scientific informations have been prepared related to animal health, pesticides, dietetic products, nutrition and allergies, plant health, materials in contact with food, GMOs and biological hazards. Periodically carried out analysis of data from RASFF system.

In October 2015 Center for Risk Assessment organized the VIII National Conference of the Bulgarian Focal Point, which provides information on various topics related to viral diseases - Bluetongue,

West Nile fever, lumpy skin. 10 presentations were made including current issues with zoonoses - anthrax, brucellosis in sheep and goats, tularemia and the new disease on cattle - lumpy skin. Presented were some problems in animal health since the creation of BFSA and transboundary animal diseases relevant to Bulgaria.

7.3.5. Legislative changes in the field of food safety

• Food Safety

- A draft of a new Food Act - the project is in the process of interagency coordination.
- A draft law on management of the food chain - the project is in the process of interagency coordination.
- Developed and published in the State Gazette issue 44 of June 10, 2016 Law on the Center for risk assessment in the food chain.
- A draft Law amending the Law on the professional organization of veterinarians in the Republic of Bulgaria in the part concerning the introduction of mandatory minimum prices for services provided by veterinarians practicing veterinary practice, so that the law does not conflict or is incompatible with European legislation. The amendment was published in the State Gazette. issue 37 of May 22, 2015;
- A draft amendment to the Law on protection of animals in connection with the need for a national program to control the population of stray dogs. The amendment is published in State Gazette issue 34 of May 3, 2016;
- A draft Law amending the Law on Veterinary activities in order to enable planning activities for the prevention of animal diseases and timely provision of necessary resources for the diagnosis and prevention of animal diseases and timely implementation of measures included in the program for prevention, surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses, restriction of illegal imports, trade and movement of unidentified animals without clear origin and unclear health status and other changes related to ensuring the health of the animals, the safety of products derived from them and consumers. The amendment is published in State Gazette issue 14 of 2016.

In terms of plant health are developed:

- National Program of control measures in calamity of Moroccan locust (*Dociostaurus maroccanus* Thunbg.) and Italian locust (*Calliptamus italicus* L.);
- National Program of control measures in calamity of gipsy moth (*Lymantria dispar* L.)

Activities in 2016

Directorate "Policies on agro chain" prepares an Annual report on the implementation of the Single multi-annual national control plan for food, feed, animal health, welfare and protection of plants for 2015 (observing the requirements of Commission Decision 2008/654/EU) and Summary/Resume of the report, following a certain structure control systems.

Bringing national legislation on food and feed, animal health and welfare, plant health and plant reproductive material and plant protection products in accordance with the newly adopted principles for safe agro chain at EU level.

As a point of contact in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in conjunction with Directive (EC) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015, establishing a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and rules on services of the information society Directorate "Policies on agro chain" fulfills its obligations under Decree № 165 of the Council of Ministers in 2004 and is responsible for notification to the Ministry of Economy. In this regard, the Directorate prepares notifications of draft regulations within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which contains provisions concerning the functioning of the EU internal market and organizes and coordinates the exchange of information on technical regulations notified by other Member States.

8. Selection and reproduction in livestock breeding

8.1. Management of national genetic resources in livestock breeding

The management of genetic resources in livestock breeding is aimed at conservation of threatened indigenous local breeds in danger of being lost to farming that represent national wealth of the country, as well as at maintaining and developing commercial breeds that form national genetic resources.

The Executive Agency for selection and reproduction in livestock breeding performs monitoring of the status of national genetic resources, as well as coordination of activities, related to their management.

EASRLB takes part in the Management of national genetic resources in livestock breeding through organizing, management and participation in the activity of the National Council of Management and Preservation of Genetic Resources. In 2015, 28 meetings of the Council were held, broken down per departments of the different sectors in livestock farming, where the problems of the industry were discussed and many suggestions to improve breeding were made.

The Genetic Resources Council periodically discusses the condition of the genetic breeds and undertakes adequate measures for not allowing the extinction of national animal breeds. EASRLB annually

exercises monitoring of the breeds in relation to maintaining and periodical updating of the Register of the breeding herds of the National Genetic Fund.

At the beginning of 2015 detailed breed characteristics have been prepared of breeding of animals in the country - cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats. Their characteristic differences, major exterior measurements and acceptable deviations are described.

In 2015, the Agency has determined breeding herd status, risk status of the breeds and the trend of change. During the year, breeding organizations in the country controlling 26 indigenous breeds which are subject of support under Measure 214 "Agri-environmental payments" from the Program for Rural Development for the period 2007 - 2013, and measure 10 "Agri-environment and climate" of RDP the period 2014-2020

During the period 2009 - 2015, there are breeds with a decreased status as endangered breeds, but no breeds, which have become extinct. Only the breed "Pleven horse" could be defined as an extinction breed. Troubling is the state of Stara Zagora sheep, white sheep Maritsa, the Koprivshtitsa sheep, Local Karnobat sheep and sheep Breznishki and of commercial breeds - of Karnobat and Thracian fine fleece, the Danube horse and the Danube white pig. Conservation will require the development of more specific measures.

EASRLB has maintained an information database regarding the status of genetic resources according to sample form of the base EFABIS of the European Regional Focal point. The national system is related to EFABIS, and the latter – with the information system DAD-IS of the Food and Agricultural Organization /FAO/. This integration provides an opportunity for transfer of data from the national to the European and the global information systems, and the information has been updated in 2015

In relation to the need of protection of the rare indigenous breeds, with the assistance of the Bulgarian and Swiss project "Let's related environmental preservation with sustainable development of rural areas", an information system regarding indigenous breeds of agricultural animals has been developed and commissioned in 2013, the main objective of which is integration of information regarding indigenous breeds in Bulgaria. In 2015 EASRLB together with the breeding organizations carried out an data update in the system, and by the end of 2015, a total of 112 405 animals from 33 breeds have been registered.

EASRLB manages and maintains a national genetic bank with two repositories (Sofia and Sliven), which store cryopreserved sperm from different species and breeds. In the National Gene Bank as of the end of 2015, a total of 3 054 639 doses of deeply frozen semen is stored. It supports a wide variety of conserved genetic material from 263 cattle, 17 buffaloes and 4 rams. Thus the Genbank contributes to the enrichment of European and global genetic diversity, meets the needs of breeding organizations, farmers

and breeders. The greatest diversity is of bulls of the following dairy breeds: Holstein Bulgarian, Bulgarian brown, Bulgarian Rhodope and Brown cattle and meat breeds Limousin, Sarolta, Blonay D'akiten and Aberdeen Angus.

The Agency supports national genetic reserve as a separate part of the National Genetic Bank. Reserve guarantee the national sovereignty of the country in terms of genetic resources and the conservation of genetic diversity as a key to sustainable farming.

In order to guarantee higher bio-security, the reserve is divided into two cryo-storage facilities – in Sofia and in Sliven. As of 31.12.2015, in the National genetic reserve, a total of 378 084 doses deeply frozen seed material are stored from 469 broods, including 391 bovine, 26 buffalo broods, 48 rams and 4 stallions. The doses are of 26 breeds of cattle (14 milk and 12 meat), 4 breeds of buffalo, 16 breeds of sheep and 4 horse breeds

Thus at the end 2015 the National Genetic bank and the National genetic reserve stored total 3 422 556 doses of deep frozen semen. Of these, 364 842 doses are of threatened or endangered Indigenous breeds incl. 306 514 doses of five breeds of cattle, 56 123 doses of 1 breed bulls, 1183 doses of three breeds of sheep and 1 022 doses of two breeds of horses

EASRLB operates and maintains two government stations for artificial insemination (GSAI) in Sofia and in Sliven, providing breeding, management and conservation of genetic resources in the country. In the stations, breeding material is produced and stored long-term of valuable high-yield breeds of indigenous autochthon breeds of animals.

In 2015 both state-owned stations for artificial insemination grew male bovine breeding stock of breeds Bulgarian brown cattle Limousin, Sarolta, Rhodope Shorthorn cattle Brown cattle, Bulgarian Rhodopes cattle, Dzhersey, Simmental, Holstein Frisian cattle, Holstein Holstein. From the available breeding stock during the year a total of 17,440 doses were produced of deep-frozen semen in the form of sequins, 16 530 doses less than the previous year as a result of restrictive measures related to the reduction and eradication of bluetongue in ruminant animals.

DSIO Sliven supported depot for breeding boars to produce fresh sperm for artificial insemination of pigs and has produced 1 390 doses of fresh sperm of boars and 937 sows are inseminated.

DSIO Sofia in 2015 supported breeder depot of 14 breeding animals of breeds: Haflinger, Purebred Arabian, Pleven, Anglo-Arabian, East Bulgarian, Bulgarian heavy horse.

In 2015, a Unified national register of the Republic of Bulgaria was created for brood of type horses.

The agency assists the breeding organizations by enabling: Study Performance of controlled signs in its laboratories; breeding males and production and storage of seeds; proof of origin of breeding animals in its laboratory.

For this purpose, EASRLB manages and maintains a laboratory to control milk production and laboratory control of wool providing productivity.

In 2015, the laboratory for determination of physical and chemical composition of milk (Sliven) analysed a total of 39 672 samples (incl. 183 samples from sheep's milk), 110 377 samples less than the previous year.

Laboratory testing of rams' own productivity (Shumen), servicing the selection of the fine fleece sheep breeding provides the opportunity to determine the magnitude of certain selection samples and the quality of wool in relation to the physical and mechanical properties, the yield and the quantity of pure fibre. In 2015, a total of 1 005 samples of wool have been tested in it, 220 more compared to the previous year.

The realization of insemination material of breeding facilities of the national gene pool shall be implemented by 16 licensed centres for storage of sperm. After reduction the centres are reduced to 9 and moving lines are increased to 20. In this way, the farmers receive good quality of storage of sperm in direct proximity to the farms services by them.

In 2015, 65 460 doses of sperm have been realized, which is 8 163 doses less than in comparison to the previous year. From doses realized during the year, 43% were of Bulgarian cattle and buffaloes. Steadily increasing demand for seeds from Bulgarian Rhodopes cattle, growth in sales of Bulgarian gray, Rhodope Shorthorn cattle and Bulgarian murra.

For effective management and long-term conservation of genetic diversity in livestock was developed ten years of conservation programs for ex situ management of genetic resources in Bulgaria. In 2015, the program has been updated and amended. It provides for state stations for artificial insemination to accept brood of commercial and native breeds of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and horses of which will be preserved genetic material. The selection of male broods for entry into the stations is implemented jointly with breeding organizations for a particular breed, with farmers raising purebred herds, using the methods of cooperation and public-private partnership.

In order to prevent the disappearance of breeds Danube and Pleven horse created a team that developed and perfected technology for cryopreservation of semen from horses and technology to perform embryo transfer and participate in cryopreservation of semen and embryo transfer in both breeds. In this regard, in 2015 the horse breeding depot of EASRLB received a stallion of Pleven breed (to freeze the semen) and two mares of Pleven and East Bulgarian horse as a recipient.

During the year EASRLB held many meetings and provided consulting services and professional advice to breeding organizations, NGOs and farmers on issues related to breeding; problems of selection and reproduction in the country; subsidizing tribal animals; conducting exhibitions; changes in legislation on breeding, feeding, breeding and rearing of animals.

In 2015, EASRLB has continued to represent Bulgaria in international bodies and organizations related to the use and storage of European and global genetic resources in livestock breeding and to take part in different projects.

8.2. Control and coordination in breeding activities

In 2015, the EASRLB carried out planned inspections of activities of 28 breeding organizations.

During the year, EASRLB has exercised control of the activity of the breeding organizations by organizing inspections of under the state aid scheme: "Assistance for keeping hereditary record and defining the productivity and genetic properties of the animals". The inspections completed include breeding activity with farms and animals as follows: 59,050 cattle, 6141 buffalo, 210 892 sheep, 14 189 goats, 37 240 pigs, 735 759 birds, 3634 horses and 12,377 bee colonies.

As of 30.11.2015, also checks were carried out to determine the origin of the breed herds and animals as follows: cattle - 1112 herds with 71 172 animals, Buffalo - 203 herds with 7548 buffaloes, sheep - 1169 herds with 210 892 sheep and horse breeding - 7 herds of 86 horses.

Within the year a spring and autumn review was held of breeder flock in the State Enterprise "Kabiuk" breeder flock and the Institute of Animal Science Institute in Kostinbrod.

Control was exercised over the production and marketing of elite and breeding queen bees and swarms by checking the apiaries in Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse and Haskovo.

EASRLB has controlled the activities of breeding organizations on organizing and conducting 21 exhibitions during the year under state aid schemes of SF "Agriculture". National Exhibition of sheep in Tsarevets; National convention for the protection of local agricultural, Kalofer; National Exhibition of local sheep breeds in the Rhodope, Smolyan; National Exhibition in sheep, Plovdiv; Exhibition of horse breed East Bulgarian, Shumen; National Exhibition of horse breed Bulgarian sport horse, Zhitnitsa; Exhibition of horse breed Haflinger, Konyavo; National Exhibition of horses breed Trakener BG - Sofia; Exhibition of horse breed Bulgarian heavy horse; Exhibition of horses "Day of Bulgarian manufacturer", Balchik; Seven international and four national dog shows.

The agency realizes also breeding of species and breeds for which there are no breeding organizations in the country. Due to lack of approved breeding organizations in 2015 EASRLB renders methodical assistance for breeding cattle in 2918 animals distributed in breeds as follows: Hereford - 1996

animals, Aberdeen Angus - 714 animals, Galloway - 81 animals, Aubrac - 65 animals, Sarolta - 59 animals, Bulgarian red bull - 3 animals.

Selection activity in sheep breeds for which there are no breeding organizations in the country covers 5409 animals distributed in breeds as follows: Asaph – 2899 animals, Avas - 659 animals, Chios - 289 animals, Local Karnobat - 813 animals, Kotlenska -706 animals, Romanowska - 43 animals.

This activity of EASRLB enables farmers breeding those breeds, for which there is no established breeding organizations, to apply for the schemes for conditional support for animals under selection control.

In connection with the implementation of schemes for production related support in the "Animal Breeding" sector for animals under selection control, checks were carried out to determine the animals under selection control and reporting of approved animals in the VetIS system of BFSA. As of 31.12.2015 in the system VetIS are reflected: 67 437 cattle, 197 572 sheep and 9468 goats.

The quality of the breeding stock produced, received and distributed throughout the country, is controlled by EASRLB by maintaining a national registry of male breeding animals and a Register of breeding flocks of national gene pool.

As of 31.12.2015 the register of male breeders includes: 5165 beef bulls, 189 buffalo bulls, 11 227 rams, 780 goats, 1387 stallions, 500 boars and 112 dogs. The register of breeding herds included 3308 herds, distributed as follows: Cattle - 1 206, Buffalo – 203, Sheep - 1 169, goat – 221, pig - 68, horse - 435, birds - 6. Registers included also 57 apiary and 10 dog owners.

In 2015 in the register of importers of organic products registered 1 importer of seeds. During the year 46,223 doses of semen were imported, incl.: 45 923 doses of 80 bovine brood Holstein Frisian cattle, Brown cattle, Ayrshire and Dzhhersey, Simmental, Hereford, Limousin, Sarolta, Aberdeen Angus, Blonde d'Akitten and Belgian blue cattle) and 300 doses of 5 brood from goat breeds Saanska and Alpin.

9. Agricultural science, training and advisory activities

The activity of the Agricultural Academy (AA) in 2015 was aimed at increasing the efficiency of research and development activities, improving interaction with MAF and agricultural business with the purpose of realization of the state agrarian policy priorities.

9.1. Scientific research activities and scientific services to agriculture provided by the Agricultural academy

In 2015, the permanent structural departments of the Academy developed 131 research projects in the following research areas: plant - 37; soil, general agriculture and meliorations - 47; livestock - 31; food technology and agricultural economics – 16.

9.1.1. Scientific products created and introduced to production

In the Official List of Plant Varieties in the country, issued annually by EAPVTFISC, in 2015 a total of 247 AA plant varieties have been registered. Of these, 198 were included in list A (grain, fodder, oil and fiber plants, beets, potatoes and fruit plants), and 49 - in List B (vegetable, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants and vine).

In 2014, the total number of published and submitted declarations, filed in the Patent Office, is 11.

The scientific products, having received legal protection, protection according to the statutory base during the year, are 21, ready for conclusion of licensing agreements. This includes 13 varieties of cereals; leguminous - 3; forage crops - 3 and vegetable crops - 2 varieties.

AA owns 85% of all issued and maintained certificates for plants varieties and animal breeds in the Patent Office.

The AA system has significant and diverse intellectual property assets, which provides the option of realizing economic benefit.

9.1.2. Transfer of knowledge and scientific products and vocational training

In 2015 67 demonstration fields were created, where open days and meetings of scientific units with Bulgarian and foreign farmers were conducted. There everyone can get acquainted with the latest plant varieties, animal breeds and innovation in the technological aspects of farming

Scientists from AA actively participated in 92 short-term courses to improve skills of agricultural professionals and farmers from agricultural cooperatives in the production of basic seed and pedigree breeds, design of private farms and developing technologies. 94 scientific-practical conference, seminars, symposia, round tables were organized, where problematic issues of modern agriculture, economics and marketing, and financing of agricultural science were discussed.

9.1.3. Qualification Structure of researchers

The total number of scientists in AA as of the end of 2014 is 563, which according to academic positions and scientific degrees are distributed as follows: professors — 70, associated professors — 229, senior assistants — 108, assistants — 156, holders of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 408 scientists, and holders of doctorates in science — 19 scientists. The ratio of scientists qualified to teach and others in the Agricultural Academy is 1,1.

The tendency in recent years to reduce the number of scientists is preserved. In 2015 the total number of scientists in the SAA decreased by 6.5% compared to the previous year, and total for the period 2000 - 2015 - by 49.2%.

In 2015 38 scientists were habilitated, 15 of which have gained academic degree "professor" and 23 - "associate professor". During the year, nine assistants have acquired academic position "assistant professor", 31 assistants and assistant professors - educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and three associate professors - academic degree "Doctor of Science".

In 2015, research institutes AA trained 132 PhD students. During the year 33 PhD students have successfully defended their dissertation work and received their diplomas for educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Eight institutes received 18 accreditation sheets for training in ESD "Doctor", while seven have prepared materials for the renewal of the program accreditation in 19 doctoral programs.

9.1.4. International cooperation

In 2014, research institutes and experimental stations of AA carried out international cooperation in joint research projects, participation in international seminars, conferences, consultative meetings, studying abroad, on topics of mutual interest and more.

A total of 175 projects were performed, of which 132 for scientific and technological cooperation bilaterally and licensing, distribution and commercial contracts.

The institutes have executed 43 projects funded and supported by the EU, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Bioversity International - Italy, the International Atomic Energy Agency, International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat (SIMMIT), the International center for agricultural research in the dry areas (ICARDA) and others.

The participation of institutes of the Academy completed in 6 projects from the 7th Framework Program of the EU, mainly in three specific areas of the program: Priority 2 "Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology"; Priority 6 "Environment, including Climate Change"; Priority 8 "The socio-economic sciences and humanities."

During the year economic and scientific-technical cooperation was achieved with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Iraq, Kazakhstan, China, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Uzbekistan, Hungary, France, Japan and others.

9.2. Advisory activity

Essential part of the state policy for providing advisory services for providing appropriate level of technical and economy knowledge and skills in agricultural and forestry sector with the purpose of implementation of CAP and increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian producers is realized through the National Agricultural Advice Service (NAAS)

NAAS offers a comprehensive “package of consulting services”, including counselling from the establishment of the farm to its full servicing in the agricultural, livestock and agro-economic aspects, organises and implements trainings for farmers.

NAAS supports the transfer and application of scientific and practical achievements in the field of agriculture and thus assists in improving the link "research - agricultural advisory - agricultural business."

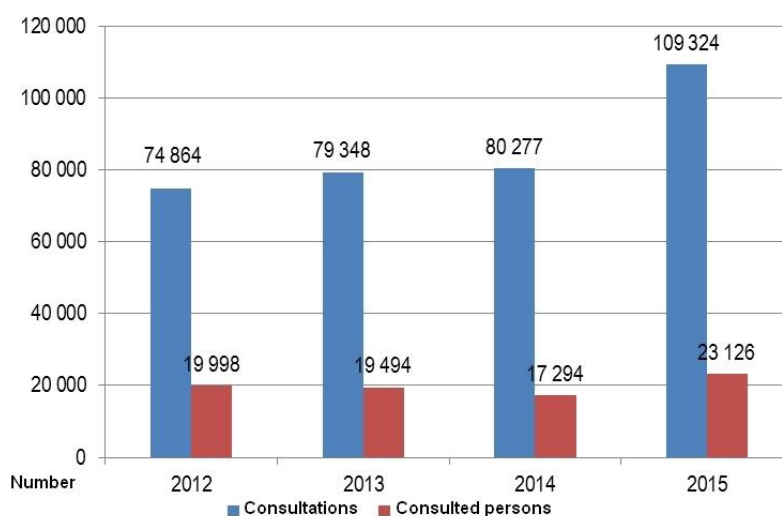
NAAS organizes and conducts exported reception (consulting days) in different locations that are remote from regional centers to facilitate farmers' access to advisory services of the Office.

NAAS distributed among farmers useful information and promoted best practices in the application and implementation of projects under the RDP through the newly created so called "Farming circles", increasing the efficiency of services provided by the Office consultations and reach a greater number of farmers.

Consultations provided by NAAS are free to farmers. The office performs consulting and advisory activity mainly by experts from the territorial district offices (TDO).

In 2015 a total of 23,126 persons received 109 324 consultations from experts of NAAS. On average, a person has received about 5 consultations. The number of persons consulted during the year is 34% more than in 2014

Figure V.2. Total number of consultations provided by NAAS and consulted individuals, for the period 2013 - 2015

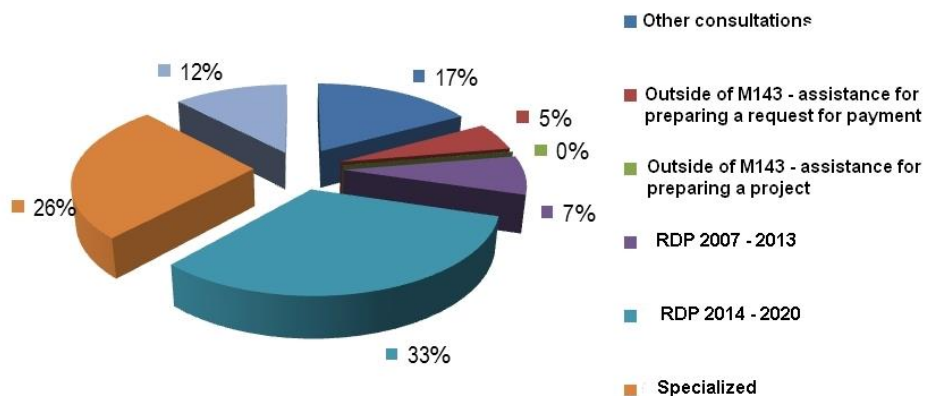


Source: NAAS

NAAS advice provided in the office and on site on farms grew by 36% compared to 2014, to 109 324 units. The majority of subjects who received counseling, benefit from the proposed comprehensive package of advisory services.

The target groups targeted activities are: farmers who have already started their agricultural activity (this group is dominated by small farms); individuals who want to start agricultural activity; persons living in rural areas, including forest owners.

Figure V.3. Provided consultations by type in 2015



Source: NAAS

In 2015 3037 farms were visited by NAAS, which is 1% less than the previous 2014. During the visits farmers received specific advice from experts to assess the conditions in which agricultural crops and animals are grown. All this contributes to increasing the quantity and quality of production in line with European norms and standards.

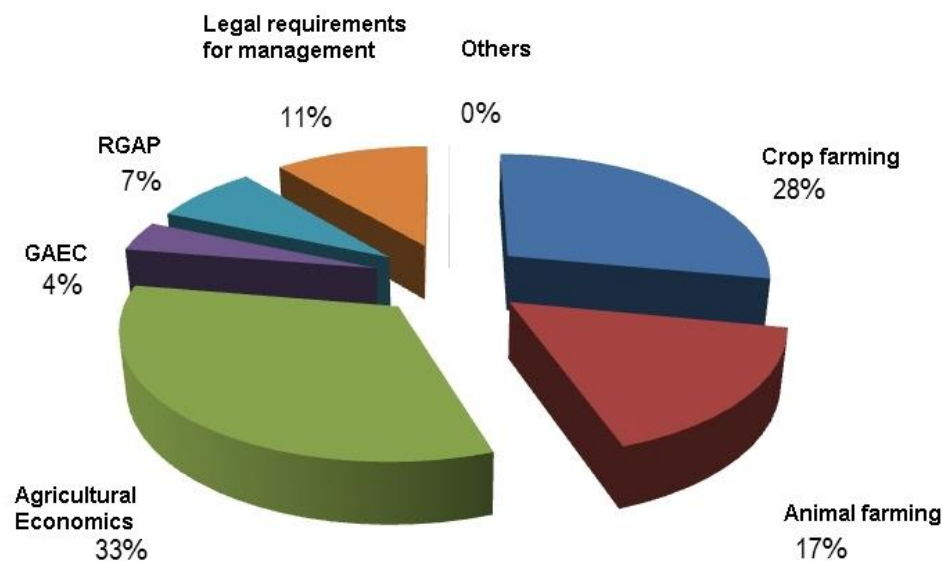
In 2015 the following types of consultations are leading:

- Consultation on RDP 2014 - 2020, incl. Under the Thematic subprogram for development of small farms (TSPDSF) - 35 070;
- Specialized consultations - 28 641 or 26% of total consultations, increase by 20% compared to 2014. They can be summarized in the following areas:
 - Plant growing incl. organic plants;
 - Livestock incl. organic livestock;
 - Agricultural Economics - consultations relating to issues of taxes and contributions in the field of agriculture, as well as annual tax returns;
 - Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) which have become mandatory for farmers receiving direct payments;
 - Rules for Good Agricultural Practices (RGAP);
 - Requirement to keep land in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC). These consultations are sought because of their growing importance to increase the

competitiveness of farms, compliance with the statutory requirements and access to funding under the first pillar of the CAP;

- Other consultations - are given 18 598 consultations, which represents 17% of all consultations. Compared to 2014 increased by about 1%. Here are assigned:
 - consultations on registration of farmers under Decree № 3 of 1999;
 - consultations on contracts for use of agricultural land;
- Consultation on direct payments - 13 214 (12%). The greatest interest is towards:
 - consultations under the single area payment scheme;
 - consultations on the scheme for small farmers;
 - consultations on schemes for production-related support for fruit and vegetables;
 - consultations on schemes for payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (green direct payments);
- Consultation on RDP 2007 - 2013 laying down the conditions and requirements for the implementation of various measures approved by the Program projects and applications for support. In 2015 7996 consultations were provided;
- Consultation on third National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) for the period 2013 - 2020 - 6630 consultations provided.

Figure V.4. Specialized consultations by type in 2015



Source: NAAS

9.3. Trainings

In the vocational training centers (VTC) to NAAS farmers acquire knowledge and skills for running their business and establishing contacts with colleagues, teachers, researchers, businesses, national units of MAF necessary for their business work.

In 2015 VTC trained 33 students, 25 of whom are farmers.

9.4.Improvement of the link “scientific research – advice in agriculture – agricultural business”

During 2015 128 joint information meetings, seminars and events were conducted with scientists and experts from NAAS, AA, Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Trakia University - Stara Zagora, Forestry University - Sofia, Ruse University "Angel Kanchev", Shoumen University "E. Konstantin Preslavski", regional directorates of the Food Safety Agency, Agency for Regional Development of Rila, National Union of Cattle Breeders in Bulgaria, Association plant protection industry Bulgaria, National Association of small family farms and processors. These joint activities and events are in nature specialized trainings, entirely oriented towards the needs of farmers.

During the seminars topics were discussed in the field of horticulture and animal husbandry offered by farmers, as well as issues related to the implementation of the RDP.

9.5. Provision of Information

In 2015 NAAS experts participated in 264 information events (information meetings - 133, seminars - 125 and other events - 6, excluding exported reception). 137 information materials were prepared - a calendar of the farmer, educational brochures, leaflets and brochures (31% less compared to 2014).

Based on inquiries received on the website of NAAS (over 130 written requests for 2015) advice to farmers in the outermost regions was provided, thus saving them time and money.

Exported receptions aim to expand and facilitate the access of farmers from remote regional centers of settlements to consultancy from NAAS. In 2015, experts at the regional district offices of NAAS conducted 1038 receptions (consulting days) in 230 municipalities, having consulted 5021 people.

In 2015 NAAS start creating the so called "farming circles" (27 total) and 316 farmers have joined. Farming circles cover 165 municipalities (out of 265 or 62% of all municipalities). Their aim is dissemination of useful information and promotion of best practices in the application and implementation of projects under the RDP 2014 - 2020, other national and European schemes, upcoming seminars, information events, agricultural exhibitions, meetings with experts from MAF, Food Safety Agency, open receptions of NAAS, sending information about upcoming, starting or ending important deadlines.

9.6. Agrochemical analyses

The analytical laboratory assist NAAS within the supplementary advisory services to farmers who have received financial assistance under measure 141 "Support for semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring." It is in aid also to young farmers in the provision of consultancy packages A2B.

In 2015, laboratory analyzes were conducted for 2300 soil samples for 12 082 definitions (analyses), which have led to the drawing up of 1351 recommendations for fertilizing. Manufactured samples came from 975 customers of the service.

For farmers receiving financial assistance under measure 141, advisory services in the field of farm management and specific advisory services in crop and/or livestock during the year 561 samples were made.

When visiting the farms of agricultural land 1318 soil samples were taken from 669 crop and mixed farms.

9.7. Activity of NAAS under measure 143 of RDP 2007 – 2013

NAAS is the sole beneficiary under the measure 143 "Provision of advisory and extension services in agriculture in Bulgaria and Romania" the RDP 2007-2013

NAAS provided advisory services measure 143 (with approved by the EC in m. In December 2011 proposed changes to measure 143 RDP) are complemented by additional advisory services to farmers receiving financial assistance measure 141 as follows:

- Advisory services relating to the assessment of the economy and the establishment of improvements with regard to the statutory management requirements and conditions for maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental condition under article 5 of Regulation (EC) № 73/2009 and Annex II thereto;
- Advisory services for applicants and/or authorized users of assistance under Measure 214 "Agri-environmental payments";
- Farm management consulting services and specific advice on crop and/or livestock.

For the whole period of implementation of activities under measure 143 NAAS has granted a total of 16,799 sets of free advisory services (FAS) for application.

In 2015 NAAS has provided 5390 FAS on assessment of the farm and the establishment of improvements in relation to the statutory management requirements and advice on EU standards on occupational safety and 5560 FAS in farm management and specific advice in of plant and/or animal husbandry.

9.8. Activity of NAAS activity in measure 2 "Advisory services, farm management services and farm replacement services" of RDP 2014 - 2020

NAAS is the beneficiary of the financial assistance and provides farmers - applicants to submeasure 6.1. "Launch aid for young farmers" RDP 2014 - 2020 years (according to Decree № 13 of May 19, 2015 for the implementation of submeasure 2.1. "Help for providing consultancy services" under measure 2 "Consulting services, management farm and replacement services in the economy "of the RDP 2014 - 2020) a consulting package A2B until the conclusion of contracts with the selected beneficiaries of financial assistance.

Within the consulting package A2B the office provides information and advice on:

- The creation and development of farms of young farmers including preparation of business plans and applications for assistance under submeasure 6.1. "Launch aid for young farmers" RDP 2014 - 2020;
- Duties on the farm level resulting from the statutory management requirements and/or standards for good agricultural and environmental condition under Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) № 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing regulation (EEC) № 352/78, (EC) № 165/94, (EC) № 2799/98, (EC) № 814/2000, (EC) № 1290/2005 and (EC) № 485/2008 of the Council;
- Agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment under Title III, Chapter 3 of Regulation (EC) № 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under schemes for assistance under the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) № 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) № 73/2009 of the Council;
- The requirements laid down by national legislation to implement art. 11 paragraph 3 of Directive 2000/60 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy;
- The requirements laid down by national legislation to implement art. 55 of Regulation (EC) № 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Directives 97/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC;
- Safety standards of labor and safety standards at farms.

For the period of acceptance of applications from young farmers NAAS received 1329 applications

for consulting package A2B (23.06. - 07.23.2015).

Of the 1317 submitted to SFA-PA applications and business plans under submeasure 6.1., 669 are for crop farms, 550 - for livestock farms and 98 - for mixed farms.

Crop farms, applicants under submeasure 6.1, most are perennials and vegetables, and livestock are farms that keep poultry, rabbits and bees. Six farms mainly engaged in farming snails.

10. Prevention of hail

The geographical location and the orography of the country predetermine Bulgaria to be one of the countries in Europe with high frequency and power of hail processes.

The protected by the Executive Agency "Hail Suppression" territory is 1 720 226 ha in highly hail-risk areas in the districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Pazardjik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Sliven.

In 2015 the active season to work on anti-hail protection in the country was opened on 3 May and was closed on September 7. Out of 60 days in which powerful convective rain showers developed, in 43 impacts were conducted. In 24 days (55.8%) hail processes are developed under the influence of cold weather fronts passing over the country and formed convergent lines.

During the year 142 impacts were carried out on 552 clouds, whose total area is approximately 3.5 million ha. Exceeding the protected area is an indicator of repeated crossing of the hail processes over the same areas.

The frequency of processes in Southern Bulgaria is significantly higher compared to Northern Bulgaria. In southern Bulgaria 96 impacts were carried out on 407 hail cloud cells with a total processing time of 4498 minutes, and in Northern Bulgaria - 46 impacts on 145 cells with a total processing time of 2094 minutes.

Throughout the season of active treatments hail with damage to crops was only from 10 cloud cells (1.8%). Damage to crops in the protected territory of EAHC registered in 8 of all 43 days with impacts. Causes of damage are:

- cloud cells with high hail parameters and hailstones formed, making it impossible realization of competition;
- hurricane winds of up to 40 m/sec, leading to a reduction in the concentration of the reagent in the area of seeding;
- a reduced concentration of the artificial competitive ice-forming nuclei in fast growing cells because of insufficient growth of the ice-forming nuclei of the reagent to competitive dimensions;
- a reduced concentration of the artificial competitive ice-forming nuclei due to limitation of shooting

over settlements (prohibited azimuths (directions) for shooting);

- insufficient seeding and discontinuation of treatment due to running out of anti-hail missiles.

Season 2015 is classified a "high degree of hail intensity" for South Bulgaria and "moderate hail intensity" for Northern Bulgaria.

As a result of conducted by EAHC active impacts during the year output with value of 77 764 031 BGN was protected from hail.

In arable area of 10,06 million ha, passed over by hail processes, damage to agricultural production was of 137.3 hectares at an average rate of striking 24.45%.

The active season to work on anti-hail protection in 2016 was opened on April 25, 2016. The period to 30 June 2016 is characterized by high frequency and intensity and to this date 774 impacts have been conducted on 157 clouds with total area of 5 4 million ha, 7298 rockets were fired.

VI. FORESTRY

1. Characteristics of forest areas

The total surface of forest areas in the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31.12.2015 is 4 222 874 ha, out of which: 3 092 386 ha – state forest areas, 2 906 508 ha - forest areas, managed by state enterprises under art. 163 of the Forestry Act; 174 463 ha — forest areas maintained by the MOEW, 11 415 ha - forest areas under management of Educational experimental forestries, 551 334 ha – municipal forest areas, 427 573 ha – forest areas owned by private individuals, 42 849 ha – forest areas owned by private legal entities and 20 345 ha – forest areas owned by religious communities and 88 387 ha – agricultural areas that have acquired the nature of a forest pursuant to art. 2, paragraph 1 of the Forestry Act.

In comparison to 2015 the total forest area is increased by 20 859 ha, due to the inventory in 2014 – 2015 of forests not organized so far (on the territories of 19 forest and hunting enterprises), as well as of forested and self-afforested agricultural areas which became forests.

The forested area increases from 3 835 905 ha in 2014 to 3 857 658 ha in 2015 as a result of forests not organized so far, arisen as self-afforested non-afforested woodlands or desolate lands outside forest areas, established between the last two inventories of the individual forest and hunting enterprises, as well as of the revaluation of forest areas not suitable for afforestation having the nature of plantations (as well as the included forest areas, which have been reported as agricultural lands so far, temporarily administered by municipalities, and which following the expiration of the term under art. 19, paragraph 2 of the Law on administration and use of agricultural lands become municipal property).

Non-afforested area increased by 894 ha to 365 216 ha, while non-afforested areas subject to afforestation (burnt-out areas, barrens - clearings precisely separated from plantations with small canopy and uneven construction) decrease by 1 462 ha, while non-wood producing forest areas decrease by 568 ha.

The forested area of coniferous forests increased by 1127 hectares. This increase is due to the observed in recent years muting of part of the mixed coniferous-deciduous plantations, obtained after creation of coniferous species, decreases due to entry of the created coniferous plantations in adulthood and continued self-afforesting of adjoining treeless forest and agricultural areas on which agricultural activity is limited. This is established with the inventory of forest and hunting farms in the last year. Deciduous woods is increased by 10 189 hectares, which is a consequence of the inventory of not organized so far forests, conversion of coppices into high and revaluation of conifer cultures in which there have been processes of natural replacement of the species, i.e., predominance of deciduous trees caused by natural plant environment. Coppice forests for conversion increased by 14 793 hectares, both due to the inclusion of forest areas of crops attributable to the category of "not organized so far forests" and also due to reassessment of compromised coniferous plants (reassessment of their composition with predominant involvement of sprout deciduous tree species).

The realized annual use of all forest areas amounted to 8,389,273 m³ standing pulp, which is equivalent to 99.17% of the planned in the forest plan (forest management project) 8 459 437 m³ of standing mass. Of the total annual use 4 015 561 m³ standing mass are clearcuts (47.87% of the total use and 85.45% of the planned in the forestry plan) and 4,373,712 m³ from thinnings (52.13% of total use and 116.33% of the planned in the forestry plan).

Documentation was prepared for the open procedures for inventory of forest areas and development of forestry plans, forest maps, hunting plans and plans for the protection of forest areas from fires during the period 2015 - 2016 and the first forest management meetings were held. Provided is the digital orthophoto map of companies engaged in inventory of forest areas and manufacturing forestry plans, forest maps, hunting plans and plans for the protection of forest areas from fires in 2015 - 2016.

The total forested area (along with the dwarf pine) of forest areas managed by state forest enterprises decreased by 500 hectares in 2015 to 2 641 687 hectares.

Un-afforested area for afforestation - state property, provided for management to SE decreased by 372 hectares compared with 2014, to 49 482 ha and non-wood forest areas - with 1779 ha.

The forested area of coniferous forests of SE decreased by 4 919 ha compared to the previous year. This is due to the continued suppression of part of the mixed coniferous-broad-leaved trees obtained

after creation of coniferous species found in the inventory of forest and hunting. The total area of deciduous woods in forest areas of the SE is increased by 3664 ha, which is a consequence of the inventory of not organized so far forests, conversion of coppices into high, revaluation of coniferous plants and crops with low productivity. Coppice forests for conversion into forest areas managed by SE are with 975 hectares more than in 2014, due to assignment to the forest areas of plantations attributable to date to the category of "not organized so far ", revaluation of mixed coniferous cultures with sprout deciduous trees and coppices with low productivity.

The area of the low-stem forests is 220 ha less than in the previous 2014. 2 orders were issued under art. 82 of the FA for the change of use of agricultural forest areas with a total area of 1.29 ha

2. Changes in forest areas

Within 2015 in the forest areas of the country, the following changes have occurred:

- 58 administrative acts were issued to change the use of land in forest areas under art. 14 of the Forest Act (Repealed) with a total area of 54,19 hectares, with a price for the change 1 077 863,72 BGN. Funds are allocated for compensatory afforestation in the amount of 364 066,39 BGN. In six administrative acts no payments have been made within the statutory deadline and rights are revoked. Areas whose purpose has not changed are 153.55 ha;
- 25 administrative acts were issued to change the use of land in forest areas under art. 77 of the Law on Forest area with area of 272,81 hectares and price of change 5 987 481,00 BGN. Funds are allocated for compensatory afforestation in the amount of 2 420 299,61 BGN;
- Free of charge changed the designation under art. 73, par. 5 of the Law on Forest 66.782 ha of forest areas for construction of national and municipal sites of paramount importance, and issued 17 administrative acts, which establish already existing rights and obligations;
- 81 administrative acts were issued to acquire ownership of 38.75 hectares of forest areas - private state property, representing actual and legally defined adjoining area of buildings, structures, networks and facilities under § 123 par. 3 of TFP to the Amendments to the Law on Forests, with a total selling price of land 1 358 056,60 BGN and overhead expenses amounting to 27 189,20 BGN;
- Forest areas with an area of 43,17 hectares within the boundaries of urbanized areas - settlements and settlement formations defined by a surrounding polygon according to § 13 par. 3 of the Regulations under the Law for planned building of settlements, reflected in large-scale topographic

maps or graphic materials to the appropriate cadastral plan until June 1, 1973, or determined by construction and regulation plan approved by June 1, 1973, shall be deemed with modified use and procedures are not performed on them to change the designation under the Law on Forests, pursuant to § 6 par. 1 of TFP of the Forest Act. Released is an administrative act which establishes already existing rights and obligations to the municipality of Primorsko;

- 2 orders were issued under art. 82 of the FA for the change of use of agricultural forest areas with a total area of 1.29 ha.
- 60 administrative acts were issued establishing the right to build under art. 56 FA on forest areas with an area of 2,61 hectares with a total price 328 535,30 BGN and 6 570.69 BGN overheads entering the account of EFA. The accrued value of timber in the present age of the evaluated plantations amounted to 5 408,78 BGN. Certain funds are for compensatory afforestation to 17 583.09 BGN;
- Issued 39 administrative acts for establishment of servitude under art. 63 FA on forest areas with an area of 36.78 hectares with a total price 947 881,70 BGN and 17 697,64 BGN overheads. The accrued value of timber in the present age of the evaluated plantations amounted to 136 458,25 BGN. Certain funds are allocated for compensatory afforestation of 194 993,99 BGN
- 8 administrative acts were issued establishing the servitude of energy facility under art. 64 FA on forest areas with an area of 4,29 hectares with a total value 111 882 BGN and 2 237,64 BGN overheads. The accrued value of timber in the present age of the evaluated plantations amounted to 5 354.58 BGN. Certain funds are allocated for compensatory afforestation of 28 796.18 BGN;
- 12 administrative acts were issued establishing the right of use pursuant to art. 70 FA on forest areas with an area of 92.15 hectares with a total value 185 079 BGN and 3 701,55 BGN overheads. The accrued value of timber in the present age of the evaluated plantations amounted to 60 043,19 BGN. Certain funds are allocated for compensatory afforestation of 796 676,98 BGN;
- 29 administrative acts were issued establishing the right of use and easements under art. 16 FA on forest areas with an area of 2,14 hectares with a total price 86 216.20 BGN and 1 724.33 BGN. overheads. Certain funds are for compensatory afforestation to 11 836.50 BGN.

3. Management of forest areas

3.1. Afforestation and protection against erosion

In 2015, the main activity of EFA in this area is focused in the following aspects:

- Implementation of the goals and targets set out in the program and budget of the EFA;
- Implementation of Bulgaria's obligations stemming from membership in the European Union in the field of forest reproductive material;
- Approval and registration of basic material for forest reproductive material (FRM), the registration of the FRM, testing and grading of seeds and improving the forestry seed basis;
- Preparation and approval of a list of seminal collections for long-term storage by the GSC;
- Keeping a register of forest nurseries in the country;
- Perform control activities;
- Coordination of projects for biological reclamation in forest areas, investigating complaints, preparation of answers and statements;
- Development of draft legal documents;
- Implementation and coordination of projects and programs financed by the EU.

Table VI.1. Implementation of silvicultural activities in forest areas in 2015

No	Types of activities	Measure	Execution for 2015
1.	Collected and harvested seeds from TP SFH/SHH	kg	47 303
2.	Produced saplings in state forest nurseries	Thousand	9 942
3.	Afforested areas, including by:	decares	26 382
	State enterprises	decares	15 918
	Municipalities	decares	10 345
	Private	decares	119
4.	Growing crops in state forest areas	decares	2 976
5.	Average percentage of deduction of the crops: (a) state property — annual — biennial — triennial (b) municipal property — annual — biennial	decares	85 738

No	Types of activities	Measure	Execution for 2015
	— triennial (c) private property — annual — biennial — triennial		
6.	Growing crops in state forest areas	%	80,00 84,83 85,94 79,43 58,79 66,34 59,04 85,11 94,32

Source: EFA

For afforestation activities in state forest areas during the year were spent 12,77 million. BGN.

In 2015 454.44 ha afforestation was carried out to protect forest areas from erosion and floods.

To protect forest areas from erosion and floods were carried out anti-forestation on 454.4 hectares of forest areas - state property managed by SE, reduction of the area by 58.2 ha to 2014

With funding from the European and international programs a total area of 98.1 hectares is planted, of which 83.8 hectares are planted in the implementation of projects under Measures 223 and 226 of the Rural Development Program 2007 - 2013

The total quantity of seedlings produced in the state forest nurseries in data reporting form " 1 FE" is 9,9 million.

In 2016 it is planned for the planting of 2000 hectares of State forest areas under management of SE or 408,2 ha more than the afforestation reported in the previous year. Envisaged production of 13.6 million trees in the state forest nurseries.

Spending by SE for the implementation of afforestation and protection against erosion and floods in 2015 amounted to 12 868 thousand BGN, an increase of 28% compared to costs incurred in 2014. For implementation of these activities in 2016 there are plans for a total amount of 15 553 thousand BGN, 21% more than in 2015

In 2015, in pursuance of the objectives and tasks these activities have been carried out:

- Prepared a National list of approved and registered sources for FRM;

- Approved and registered are 31 new basic sources of the "selected" category to produce FRM that meet the minimum requirements of Directive 1999/105/EU;
- To identify the origin of the FRM RFD and FSCS issued 237 certificates;
- In the seed control laboratories FSCS Sofia and Plovdiv graded and issued seed control certificates of 357 batches of seeds from deciduous and coniferous species;
- The experts of EFA and FSCS have made 835 inspections of the condition and the work carried out registered basic material for FRM;
- Concerted are 10 projects for reclamation of damaged land in forest areas;
- Prepared statement with a database of held inventory of forest plantations in the country and recommendations are given for removal of omissions and errors;
- Determined the cost of compensatory afforestation and orders issued by the Minister of MAF and the Executive Director of the EFA;
- In the seed bank for long-term storage in the GSC Plovdiv are stored 700,16 kg seeds from 164 batches of coniferous and 157 kg of 12 batches of deciduous species;
- Monthly update of the public register of forest nurseries in the country.

3.2. Felling in forests

In 2015 in state forests to regulate tree composition and improving the growing conditions were conducted thinning of an area of 42 955,1 hectares, which represents 59.6% of the forecasts of FEP/FMP . Of all thinnings 47.8% are coniferous forests, 34.4% in deciduous woods and 17.8% in the coppice forests for conversion into seed. Execution of thinning without material extraction in an area of 51 46.7 ha is 94.7% of the projections of the FEP/FMP . By types of thinnings the implementation of FEP/FMP is 85% for lightnings, 47.2 percent for clearing, 50.5 percent for thinning and 68.2% for preparatory cuttings

In 2015 in state forests selection felling was performed on an area of 894.5 hectares, which represents 75.1% of the forecasts of FEP/FMP . In private forests thinning was conducted in an area of 11 262.8 ha, of which 6 012.2 ha in municipal forests, 4612 ha in forests owned by individuals, 517.4 ha in forests owned by legal entities and 121,2 ha in forests owned by religious organizations.

Held in 2015 felling in state property forests covers a total area of 141 292 ha or 106.6% than foreseen in the FEP/FMP and have 9699 hectares more than in 2014 due to the large amount sanitary and compulsory felling in areas affected by drying stem pests, heavy snow and other abiotic factors forests with a total area of 38 094 ha.

Clearcuts were conducted over an area of 49 333 hectares within the provisions of the FEP/FMP. The tendency continued to increase the size of clearcuts conducted with natural regeneration, which in 2015 reached 98.3% of the total restoration felling.

To improve sustainability, health and productivity of forest stands in 2015 in state forest areas was conducted thinning in an area of 53 865 ha, with 1024 ha more than in 2014

In 2015, in the forests under the age of 40 years thinning was carried out over a total area of 23,696 hectares, or 436.8 ha more than in 2014. The area of the grown young saplings without material extraction during the year amounted to 5156.7 ha, of which 543.7 ha area of plants, in which thinnings were carried out for the production of high-quality wood.

There has been assisting of natural regeneration by planting or sowing under canopy and clearing of undergrowth in an area of 5 867,6 hectares. In 2016 there are plans to support natural regeneration on 5 118.9 hectares of state forest areas.

To implement the activities related to the management of state property forest areas in 2015 SE have spent a total of 4 531 thousand BGN or 537 thousand BGN more than the 2014. Total allocations to conduct management activities in 2016 was 5716 thousand BGN.

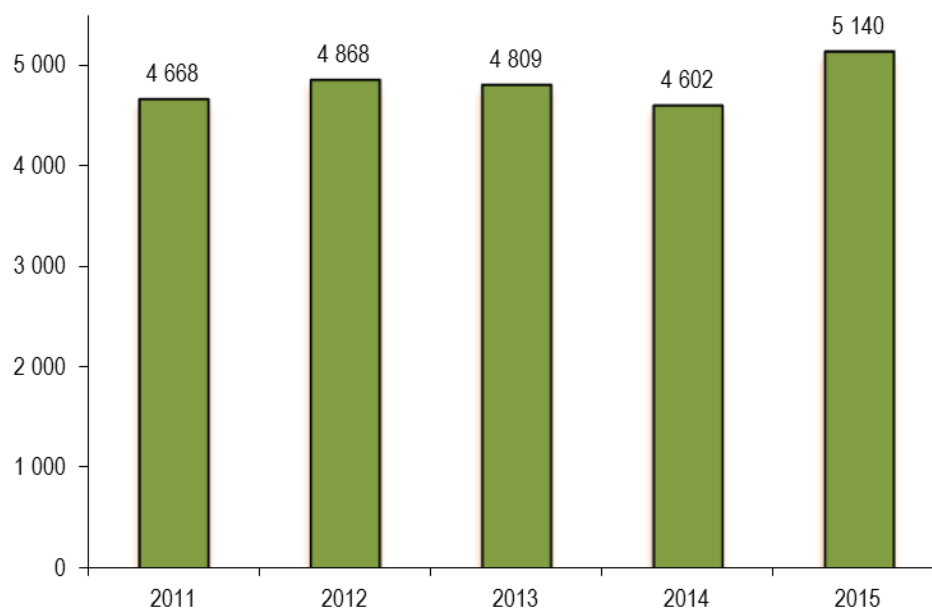
4. Use of timber and non-timber forest products

4.1. Use of timber

In 2015, SE have sold a total of 5,140,343 cu. m wood from state property forest areas or 105.8% compared to the planned annual amount of 4,857,596 cu. m. The sold wood is 538 thousand cu. m (11.7%) more than in 2014. The larger volume of sales is due to the absorption of a significant amount damaged by abiotic and biotic factors wood in the amount of 1237 thousand cu. m.

Total revenues from the sale of wood in 2015 are 266 548 thousand BGN, 102% more than in 2014. Reported overall costs when using wood amounted to 95 117 thousand BGN, 110% compared to those reported in 2014, they include deductions and the selling price of wood to fund "Investments in Forestry" of 31 849 thousand BGN.

Figure VI.1. Realized volume of timber from forest areas – state ownership within the period 2011 – 2015, thousand cubic meters



Source: MAF

In 2015, through the sale of timber from storage 50.9% of the total timber volume was realized. The remaining 49.1% were realized through the sale of standing timber - to individuals for personal use, to legal entities after auction and sale of timber to forest authorities employees. To meet the needs of individuals total 618 thousand cu. meters of wood were sold by pricelist, mainly firewood, which is 136 thousand cu. meters more than in 2014

The greatest demand and consumption is recorded at wood assortments for technological processing and firewood, from which 75.5% of sales of standing timber were realized and 63.8% from sales of timber from storage, 292 thousand cu. m more than in 2014

The weighted average selling price recorded, from forest storage, of harvested timber from state property forest areas for 2015 is 69.23 BGN/cu. m - slightly higher (0.25 BGN/cu. m) from the records at the end of 2014. The weighted average selling price of standing timber was 35.20 BGN/cu. m or 0.34 BGN/cu. m higher than in 2014

The reported average cost per timber for 2015 amounted to 22,86 BGN/cu. m, 0.30 BGN/cu. m higher than in 2014

Under the approved financial plans of SE for 2016 the general use of wood is to be 4 725,482 cu. m.

Table VI.2. Use of wood from forest areas provided for management to SE and revenue from the sales in 2015

Method of use and sale	Report 2013		Report 2014			
	Quantity (cubic meters)	Value (BGN thousand)	Quantity (cubic meters)		Value (BGN thousand)	
			Cubic meter	Change, %	Thousand BGN.	Change, %
I. Income from timber sales (1+2+3+4):	4 602 476	236 124	5 140 343	112%	266 548	113%
1. Sale of standing timber	2 288 599	79 771	2 515 675	110%	88 464	111%
1.1. including according to a price list of individuals for personal use	200 651	3 621	274 584	137%	4 248	117%
2. Sale of harvested wood	2 244 783	154 925	2 552 708	114%	172 211	111%
2.1. including according to a price list of individuals for personal use	281 097	17 556	377 887	134%	19 233	110%
3. Use of timber according to art. 116b of the FA	7 961	x	6 329	80%	x	x
4. Use of timber according to art. 193 of FA	61 133	1 428	65 631	107%	1 547	108%
II. Total expenses, quantity (I.1.+ II.1.), value (1+2+3):	4 548 772	86 365	5 138 742	113%	95 117	110%
1. Expenses for yielded timber – total	2 260 173	50 982	2 623 067	116%	60 394	118%
2. Expenses for making hauling roads and on-going repair of forest vehicle roads	x	1 291	x	x	2 874	223%
3. Deductions for fund “Investments in forests”	x	34 093	x	x	31 849	93%

Source: MAF

General use of wood from the forest areas in 2015 amounted to 7 040 293 cu. m, which is 88.2% of the planned use for the year. The increased use over the previous year is due to the deterioration of large forest areas due to heavy snow, snow falls, winds and massive attacks of pathogens. For these reasons, sanitary felling was conducted on a total area of 18 698 ha.

In the forests owned by municipalities use was made of 820,082 cu. m wood (86.5% of the planned use).

In forest areas owned by individuals and legal entities in 2015 970 852 cu. m were used, which exceeds the annual planning with 50.6 percent. Nearly 20% of this amount is obtained in carrying out sanitary felling.

4.2. Use of forest products other than wood

In 2015, SE reported revenues from non-timber forest products and other activities for total of 12 237 thousand BGN, an increase of 27% compared to 2014. Of total revenues, those from the use of non-timber forest products from forest areas managed by SE are 496 thousand BGN, which is 104 thousand BGN more compared to 2014.

For 2016 SE foresee 11 129 thousand BGN income from non-timber forest products and related costs amounting to 8 062 thousand BGN.

5. Protection of forest areas

5.1. Events conducted by EFA on protection of forest areas against diseases, pests and other damages

In 2015, the general health of forests in the country is assessed as good. There have been investigations in the pathology for 471 stationary objects of forest protection stations and at 100 forest nurseries. 1747 laboratory analysis were carried out of the obtained material from audits of forests. Forecast was made by forest protection stations for expected attacks by pests, diseases and other damages in forests. Provided areas for combating pests, diseases and other damage in recent years steadily decrease.

During the year, was held air protection was carried out in the coniferous forests of a total area of 26 116 ha against the insect pest pine processionary with plant protection products based on the active substances Spinosad and Diflubenzuron. The measured effect of air protection expressed in mortality of the pests, is from 74% to 98%. Total in 2015 106 640 BGN were spent on air protection.

Terrestrial chemical and biological control was carried out on a total area of 6075 acres for 53 924 BGN.

Mechanical protection was carried out on an area of 2420 acres worth 5349 BGN and sanitary felling an area of 186 983 acres.

Table VI.3. Forest protection events held in 2015

Event	Annual projection for 2015 (dca)	Report 2015(dca)	Funds spent (BGN)
Air protection	26 448	26 116	106 640
Incl. aviochemical	21 716	21 716	82 513
Aviobiological	4 732	4 400	24 127
Land chemical and biological protection	5 367	6 075	53 924
Mechanical protection	5 743	2 420	5 349
Integrated protection	24	22	0
TOTAL:	37 582	34 633	165 913
Sanitary felling	71 280	186 983	0

Source: EFA

Protection of forests against fires

In 2015 429 forest fires occurred in the country. Affected areas have a size of 4 312,8 hectares, of which only 166,7 hectares were burned by peak fire. Comparing with the previous 2014, which registered only 151 fires on an area of 916 hectares, there is a substantial increase, but it should be borne in mind that the year is not indicative because of extreme rainfall in the summer.

The largest number of fires and affected areas are on the territory of RFD Sofia - 82 with area of 872.3 ha, RFD Kardzhali - 48 with area of 268.7 ha, RFD Lovech - 35 fires, but largest area - 1 470.5 ha and RFD Burgas - 37 fires with area of 259.6 ha. The least wildfires were registered in RFD Ruse - 5 area of 8.8 ha, RFD Shumen - 9 on 11 ha area and RFD Stara Zagora - 15 with an area of 13.9 ha. Direct damages from forest fires so far are estimated at 736 801 BGN, which is much below the average 5 million BGN for the last 15 years.

The biggest share of burned areas in 2015 are state-owned - 59%, followed by municipal property - 18%, private property - 17%, church property - 6% and property of legal entities - 1 %.

The main causes of forest fires in 2015 are:

- human negligence - 293 - 68%;
- unknown - 82 - 19%;
- deliberate - 42 - 10%;
- caused naturally by lightings - 12 - 3%.

From total burned area 3 705,2 ha are planted, and 14% or 607,6 ha were not planted areas.

Thanks to the quick and adequate response of forest officers, firefighters, soldiers, volunteers and others, only 4% of fires during the year were peak. The remaining 96% were on the ground and covered the lower part of trees, grasses, bushes and forest floor around them. For that the created exported center for tel. 112 of the EFA helped. The received signals for fires in forest areas or near them are instantly forwarded to specialist groups in SFE and RFD, who carry out inspection.

In 2015, there were a large number of fires outside the designated in most areas fire season. During the months of November and December 107 fires occurred and burned more than 2410 hectares of forest areas.

During the year, the EFA and DG FSPP implement the recommendations given in the audit report of the National Audit Office of the Republic of Bulgaria after the performance of audit "Prevention and response in the event of forest fires" for the period 01.01.2011 - 31.12.2013 Following recommendations a number of activities were taken, the most important of which are:

- A joint protocol was developed, signed after each wildfire;
- MAF has concluded a contract with "Agrolesproect" EOOD to develop a scheme for the deployment of monitoring and detection of fires in forest areas of the country, in order to build a unified system for monitoring and automatic detection of fires;
- a contract was signed to develop a methodology for determining the risk of forest fires. By the end of the year assessing and mapping the risk of forest fires on the territory of the country should follow;
- EFA has signed a contract with BNT, with main activity "Broadcasting of specialized information segment, presenting activity in the forestry sector on the air". Numerous publications and interviews were made in national and local media on the topic of conservation and protection of forests against fires;
- during the active summer fire season almost daily a TV spot was broadcast on BNT, calling for the protection of forests against fires. Program "Horizont" of BNR also broadcast a daily radio spot with the same call

Improved interaction with SE under art. 163 of FA in preparation of the annual plans to protect forest areas from fires.

For the implementation of actions to protect forest areas from fires in 2015 5 584 thousand BGN were spent, 4 084 thousand BGN more than 2014. Of the total cost for fire events during the year 71% were for construction of 9 fire watching towers in implementing the project on the southwest SE under Measure 226 'Restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions' of the RDP, of which 3 877

thousand. BGN were provided to the state enterprise as a grant. To make 2,191,910 meters mineralized strips 585 thousand BGN were spent.

5.2. Events conducted by the state forest enterprises for protection of the forest areas against diseases, pests and other damages and fires

Report data from SE suggest that as of 31.12.2015 for protection from pests, diseases and other damages from fires a total of 5 782 thousand BGN were spent, 4 074 thousand BGN more than 2014. Of these, 198 thousand BGN were spent on forest protection activities in the forests, 10 thousand BGN less compared to 2014

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6. Protected areas

Under the Law on protected areas, in the country there are six categories of protected areas, the responsibility for whose management is shared between MAF - EFA and MEW.

MEW supervises the management of all protected areas and direct management of national parks and reserves.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Executive Forest Agency, as well as natural and legal persons and municipalities - owners of forests, land and water areas in protected areas other than those that are exclusive state property, take care of their management, protection and security, under the provisions of this and other special laws.

EFA is responsible for the management of natural parks, protected areas and natural sites located in forest areas owned by the state. For the management of natural parks 11 departments were created - specialized territorial units to EFA: NP "Belasitza", NP "Bulgarka", NP "Vitosha", NP "Vratsa Balkan", NP "Golden Sands", NP "Park", NP "Blue Stones", NP "Strandja", NP "Ruse Lom", NP "Rila Monastery" and NP "Shumen plateau". The total area of natural parks amounted to 276 868 ha, of which 197 933.5 ha forest areas.

The activities for the management of protected areas and natural landmarks in forest areas are carried out by state forestry and hunting enterprises, depending on under whose territorial range the

territory falls. Regardless of the status of the protected area and property, all forest resources in protected areas are managed by MAF, by state enterprises and the relevant state forest and hunting enterprises.

In 2015 the development of management plans (MP) of Nature Park (NP) Belasitza and NP Bulgarka was completed. The plans were approved by the Supreme Environmental Expert Council, pending approval by the Council of Ministers.

Within the project "Management and Planning of Vitosha Nature Park" has finished updating the MP for the park. The draft Management Plan was submitted in time for consideration and adoption at the MEW.

In 2015, the nature parks directorates continue the implementation of 22 projects with external funding, totaling 42 157 170 BGN. Of these, 19 are under OP "Environment 2007-2013", and three were funded under other programs, such as the Operational Program "Administrative Capacity", Life + and others. As of 31.12.2015 all activities on 18 projects have been completed, in 2016 it remains to be verified and reimbursed in 4 of them.

Within the projects implemented in 2015 a number of activities were carried out. Reintroduction was carried out of endangered and rare species - mountain quail, ground squirrel, diurnal birds of prey, wild goat and others. Fish thresholds were constructed for the creation of better conditions for breeding and shelter the fish, stocking trout and brook crab. Built aviary adaptation of waterfowl and reproductive base for artificial cultivation of rare and protected species of flora. Fortified are hiking trails within the parks. There has been a refreshing of existing markings and boards on tourist and thematic trails, repairs to existing and building of new tourism infrastructure along the routes (arbors, benches, fountains, tables, recreation sites), developed new thematic trails, visitor centers, information points, tourist shelters and checkpoints. Supply and installation was carried out of audio - guide devices with information in different languages for visitors of the parks, educational modules are constructed and installed, mobile exhibitions and more. On the territory of NP Bulgarka were conducted trainings with children from local schools as part of the "eco - schools" program. Under the direction "Interpretation and education programs" were created educational books, brochures, puzzles for kids, stickers, audio - guides and more. Park Directorates are actively working to support local initiatives in relation to the dates of the conservation calendar, activities were realized with eco-clubs and schools in the settlements close to the parks, educational trips with students from different classes.

Part of the project activities are aimed at human resource development for sustainable tourism. In Nature Park Shumen Plateau the construction was completed of an administrative building for the needs of the department, and the building of Summer Information Center, which will house the new astronomical

center in Shumen. In both domes two new telescopes will be located, which Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" bought back in 2009. In NP Vrachanski Balkan a youth camp was built and opened. In the village of Ochindol. The center will be used year-round for green schools, open classes, camps, workshops and other initiatives for young people and students. In NP Golden Sands an old decaying, neglected building and foundations of bungalows were removed, a partial repair and maintenance of seven tourist routes was made and reconstruction of the route for people with disabilities, restored were architectural elements in three areas in the park, crumbling buildings were demolished and construction waste was transported from in the area "Kaleto", Balchik municipality, Dobrich, then land reclamation was carried out.

NPD continued fulfillment of its obligations relating to the monitoring of the species as part of a national monitoring system of biodiversity.

In the month of June 2015 NPD, together with the Regional Forest Directorate organized and conducted the first training for children "Forest inspector for one day."

"Festival of Periwinkle", "Festival of the chestnut", "Green Suns", International Symposium of Contemporary Art "Lomea" and others were organized.

NPD jointly with EFA participated in the now traditional tourist exhibition "Green Days" in May in the city. Sofia.

In 2015, EFA was involved in the reclassification procedures, deletion, reducing the size and coordination of draft management plans for protected areas under the Protected Areas Act and the Regulation on the development of management plans for protected areas.

In the month of October 2015 the first in Bulgaria training "Forest pedagogy" - training to work with children was held, with the participation of officials from the regional structures of EFA and state enterprises.

7. Forest certification

Certificate for sustainable forest management FSC has been awarded to 109 organizations and companies. The total area of FSC certified forest area is 807 834 hectares and the number of certified forest management units is 19 or about 19% of the total forest area in the country, state certified forest area is about 25%.

In 2015 under the FSC standard were certified new 104,000 hectares of forest areas managed by SE.

8. Non-state forests

In 2015 a number of activities aimed at helping owners of private forests and foresters in private practice were completed:

- conducted over 630 consultations with owners, private foresters and other stakeholders by phone, e-mail, reception of MAF and field inspections;
- organized four workshops, which discussed changes in legislation involving regional forestry directorates, SE and their regional offices, municipal forest structures, foresters registered under art. 235 of FA and other stakeholders;
- has taken part in four regional meetings on marking where over 230 foresters were trained, incl. foresters in private practice;
- has taken part in organized by the Association "Municipal Forests" workshops related to sustainable forest management - municipal property;
- promoting good practices for sustainable management.

9. Hunting sector

In 2015 the following activities were carried out related to the management and use of the game:

- 4 meetings of the Hunting council were held, which adopted taxation of the game and plan to use for 2015, discussed the health status of the game in the country, the safe conduct of hunting trips and the draft Amendment of the HGCA;
- Participation of experts from RFD and EFA in training in assessment of hunting trophies in Bansko;
- Jointly with BFSA organized actions against the spread of rabies in foxes in northern Bulgaria;
- 2 public hearings were held on the Action Plan for the wolf, and a National Meeting together with the heads of hunting associations of NHFU;
- Held a meeting with experts on hunting at RFD in SHE "Vitoshko-Studena";
- Organized participation of experts from the Directorate in a roundtable discussion regarding the management of wild boar in Eastern Europe, held in Varazdin - Croatia;
- Organized participation in four hunting exhibitions - Dortmund, Salzburg, Madrid and Athens, as a result of which achieved a number of arrangements for hunting this season;
- Participation in supervision of the implementation of the contracts, which provide management and use of the game to hunting associations, as well as thematic and specialized checks on the implementation of hunting events;

- Participation in inspections in the implementation of the joint venture agreement between state hunting enterprises and legal persons;
- Courses and exams were held in 60 hunting associations to acquire the right to hunt;
- Exams were conducted for acquiring the right of hunting guide in SHE "Vodin - Iri Hisar";
- Courses and exams were held for acquiring the right to selective hunting in 10 hunting associations;
- Orders were prepared for the separation of 14 breeding areas in SFE;
- Courses and exams were held for acquiring right of 54 trained persons in accordance with BFSA requirements;
- 104 tickets for hunting were issued to foreign citizens;
- Participating in the categorization of 17 hunting lodges in SHE and SFE;
- Participation in 15 first and 14 second forest management;
- Responses have been prepared to complaints incl. from "hotline".

In 2015 hunting activities in forest areas - state property were in the following areas:

- creation and maintenance of fodder base;
- feeding of wildlife;
- construction and maintenance of biotechnical facilities – waiting sites, feeders, traps, mires, construction and repair of bases for intensive management of the game

Total revenues from hunting activities in state property forest areas in 2015 amounted to 8 031 thousand BGN, which is by 123% more than in 2014. Of them, the proceeds of organized hunting tourism amounted to 5 188 thousand BGN. For the execution of planned hunting and fishery activities during the year were spent 9 484 thousand BGN, 3.3% more than in 2014

Reported revenue for 2015 from contracts entered into by HGCA in the form of annual payments for management of the game in the game breeding sections (GBS) of SFE and annual rental prices of bases for hunting to GBS of SFE amounted to 2 896 thousand BGN, an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.

In 2016, planned SE revenues from hunting economic activity amount to 8 822 thousand BGN.

10. Protection of forest areas and control

During the reporting 2015 EFA has carried out complex, thematic checks of RFA, checks on signals and field inspections of forest and hunting, municipal forest structures and private owners.

Permanent control was exercised over issued permits for logging and drawing up protocols for certification of clearings through the information system of the EFA - system.iag.bg. In 2015 were issued permits for logging for 9 285 thousand cu. m. of lying wood, and as of 09.02.2016 protocols were drawn up for certification of clearings for produced 7 029 thousand cu. m. of lying wood. Checks were performed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 995/2010. Control was exercised over protocols submitted complex inspections of the regional forestry directorates.

In 2015, 498 148 inspections were carried out of vehicles, persons and objects related to the use, processing and marketing of forest, game and fish resources. The main violations continue to be associated with the logging of unmarked trees, transporting the timber without placing of control forest mark and unaccompanied by a transport ticket, as well as storage and processing of wood of illegal origin. After analysis it was found that the effectiveness of the permanent forest control points is low - 273 847 BGN were spent for maintenance, 13 acts were drawn up and one cub. m. timber was detained. Vehicles transporting illegal timber have closed chassis and do not stop at check points. For these reasons, in 2016 the permanent forest control points are closed and their staff have been reorganized into mobile teams.

Direct control in the country is carried out by 432 forest inspectors. For the protection of forest areas by types of property the following persons are appointed: state property - a total of 2484 employees, municipal property - 302 employees, private and other property - 32 employees

In 2015, there were a total of 23 137 violations of forest law. 16 810 acts for establishment of administrative violations were drawn up, 2481 more than 2014. For 3166 breaches the perpetrator was not found and 3161 violations were established by written statement with known offenders, for which acts are drawn up.

Within the year 16 810 acts were drawn up, incl. 5759 by officers of the RFD, 9692 by officials of the SFE/SHE, 1202 by employees at municipalities, 62 by persons on private forestry practice and 95 by employees of the Interior Ministry.

Under FA 16 139 acts were drawn up, under HGPA – 254, under FAA – 157, under MPA - 21, under LAOS - 16 and other laws - 223.

Employees of the RFA have issued 152 acts for violations committed by members of the TD of SFE/SHE, 534 to foresters practicing private forestry practice and 48 acts to persons involved in the management and conservation of municipal property forest areas.

58 coercive administrative measures were imposed under art. 253 of the Forest Act.

In 2015, the development of new software began for keeping files of acts as now statistics on file movement reports only acts, issued by employees of RFA and TD of SFE/SHE. In the information system "Elitsa" a total of 13 963 cases were introduced - 2847 less than the actually issued acts. 1202 missing files are located in the municipalities, as well as statements drawn up in 2015, but not yet introduced in the program. Of the registered 13 963 acts were issued 11 478 punitive warrants, 147 cases were withdrawn by the directors of RFA. 2 474 cases were sent to the prosecutor's office, of which 804 are without decision, 1583 were returned for administrative proceedings, and 87 were turned into criminal proceedings. 733 acts were appealed, court has amended 87, 121 were canceled and 43 confirmed. Enacted a total of 8417 criminal warrants, 51 verdicts were issued.

Imposed penalties and fines were a total of 1 845 663 BGN. Collected were 155 636 BGN by the enforced penalties, which represents 14.34%. NRA collected 7058 BGN.

In 2015 established cut illegal timber through acts and observation protocols amounted to 30 473 solid cub. m.

During the year disciplinary sanctions were imposed on 44 forest inspectors from the RFA, as three were dismissed under the Labor Code, 11 were given a "warning for dismissal", 30 were "notified", and under the Civil Servants Act three were "reprimanded". Disciplinary sanctions were imposed on 452 employees of TD of SFE/SHE. Five employees related to conservation and forest management in municipalities had disciplinary sanctions imposed.

In 2015, forest inspectors of RFA made 238 571 inspections of 19 777 sites for processing and trade of wood, 14 992 sites for wood production, 117 255 motor vehicles, 45 633 hunters, 10 314 fishers and 30 600 individuals. 5795 acts were drawn up.

According to data submitted by the RFA in 2015 retained timber under acts and observation protocols (incl. unsolved violations) is 7 033 solid cu. m. 1 139 solid cu. m. roundwood was detained, 59 cu. m squared wood and 5 045 cu. m firewood, 296 vehicles, 58 horses, 141 chain saws, 23 weapons, 28 nets, 477 kilograms of game meat and fish, 598 kg non-timber products and others.

During 2015 two meetings were held of the Working Group of EFA under Regulation (EU) № 995/2010, which examined issues related to verification of compliance with the requirements and results of the inspections.

Experts from EFA took part in the three of the held in Brussels meetings of the Expert Group and the Committee FLEGT/EUTR on issues relating to the implementation of Regulation №995/2010.

In 2015 RFA have made more than 300 inspections of operators and vendors on the implementation of Regulation № 995/2010.

Decisive action was taken for organizing joint actions of FI at RFA with officials from TD SFE/SHE and Ministry of Interior, as well as sending of forest inspectors from neighboring RFA in order to stop infringements and keeping off of potential perpetrators. Specialized actions continue, where forest inspectors from a regional forestry directorate inspected territories of other regional forestry directorates, these measures aim to further eliminate factors of possible local "links".

Subsequent checks were carried out on vehicles after constant control forest points.

In connection to improving the level of prevention activities and protection of forest areas joint field inspections are organized and conducted by teams of forest inspectors to the regional directorates of forestry and the newly formed mobile teams for protection of forest areas at respective state forest and hunting enterprises.

In November 2015 trainings of forest inspectors were conducted, a total of 424 employees were trained on issues related to conservation, control and management of forest areas.

Launched is the implementation of a system for issuing an electronic transport ticket. Software for electronic journal of objects under art. 206 of FA was developed, which is to be introduced in 2016

Orders were issued concerning the construction of CCTV systems at entering, processing or shipping sites for timber and devices for positioning and tracking the movement of lorries transporting timber and non-timber forest products (GPS).

On 06.06.2015 office "Center 112" at RFA - Sofia was officially opened. Since the establishment of the Center until 31.12.2015 5173 signals were taken in for illegal mining, transportation and storage of timber, hunting and fishing, forest fires. Most signals are received in August and November, respectively 947 and 988.

11. Strategic planning, legislation improvement and international activities

In 2015 EFA implemented measures from the Government program for sustainable development of Republic of Bulgaria (2014 - 2018).

During the year a draft law was prepared amending and supplementing the Forest Act and Law on amendment and supplement of HGCA (submitted for consideration in the NA).

Amendments were adopted to Decree № 8 for felling in the forests, which have advanced rules and requirements for planning and conducting felling. Developed and adopted was Decree № 18 for inventory and planning in forest areas.

Draft amendments to Ordinance № 1 of 30.01.2012 were also prepared on the control and protection of forest areas and Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance for construction in forest areas without a change of use.

Under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (2009-2014), BG 03 Biodiversity and ecosystems, in 2015 the following projects have been approved and launched:

- „Improving the information system of the National System for Biodiversity Monitoring (IBBIS)". The project envisages improvement of the public interface of the National System for Biodiversity Monitoring to enable and collect volunteer data and construction of specialized modules for invasive species and ecosystem services, development of a module for collecting, mapping and analysis of the ecosystems and the services provided by them, the impact of invasive species on native species, module to assess the condition of selected types of natural habitats and presentation of indicators for biodiversity;
- Methodological support for the assessment of ecosystem services and biophysical assessment, MetEcoSMap, redefined project 2;
- Forests and woodlands - mapping and assessing ecosystem services outside Natura 2000 - FOR OUR FUTURE.

Continuously also the following projects were implemented:

- „Protection of key forest habitat of the small spotted eagle in Bulgaria " under the EU's LIFE + program;
- „Testing of poplar clones of EU member states for biomass production (fast growing species)" in order to implement a voluntary partnership with the possibility of partial financing of activities by the lead partner Bavarian Seed Control Station - Teisendorf, Germany;
- „Restoration and Conservation of alluvial forests of habitat *91E0 in protected areas under Natura 2000 and model areas in Bulgaria“;

In 2015 the following projects completed successfully:

- Strengthening research in Mediterranean forests by improving coordination and integration - FORESTERRA" under the Seventh Framework Program;
- 6 projects under sub-priority 2.2. "Competent and effective state administration" of the OPAC for training of RFD and STU staff;
- 1 project under sub-priority 3.1. „Improving service delivery to citizens and businesses, incl. through the development of e-governance" of the OPAC for the introduction of electronic administrative services;

- „Updating the curricula of the majors in faculty "Business Management" of the FU in accordance with the requirements of the labor market – EDUCOMP" under OP "Human Resources Development";
- LIFE10NAT/BG/146 „Preservation of genetic fund and restoration of priority forest habitats in Natura 2000" under program LIFE+ of the EU;

In 2015, experts from the EFA participated in the project of the World Bank for national inventory of forest areas as well as in a number of meetings of the working bodies of the EU and international activities in the field of forestry.

12. Financing and investments in forest areas

12.1. Executive Forest Agency

In 2014 EFA reported revenues for total of 9 970 096 BGN.

In 2015, by Decree №8/2015 and Decree №340/2015 of CoM expenses of EFA for the implementation of budget program "Specialized activities in forest areas" and budget program "Planning, protection from harm, fires and forest protection" were determined, amounting to 23 600 000 BGN.

The expenditure on cash accounts as of 31.12.2015 amounted to 18 822 316 BGN.

Maintenance costs under the program "Planning, protection from harm, fires and forest protection" for the period amount to 3 023 434 BGN. The expenses are carried out through the approved budget accounts of RFA amounts for inventory of forest areas.

For the period 2012 - 2015 20 contracts were concluded and executed for projects financed under OP "Environment 2007 - 2013" and "Administrative Capacity" under Priority Axis - 3 "Biodiversity" and funds were disbursed amounting to 44 631 981 BGN. The main beneficiaries of the contracts are Directorates of the Nature Parks and Regional Forest Directorate - Berkovitsa.

In fiscal 2015 19 362 892 BGN were spent, of which verified under requests brought forward by the MA OP "Environment" for the year are 14 399 574 BGN. The final financing activities under this program ended on 31.12.2015

During the year expenses were made for acquisition of infrastructure objects through external supplies worth 1 175 815 BGN and expenses for repair of movable assets in the amount of 1 624 667 BGN.

Program expenses in the form of budgetary funds in the "Other EU funds" in 2015 amounted to 50 670 BGN, which will be reimbursed in 2016.

In reporting group "Other International Programs" in fiscal 2015 advances were received amounting to 334 762 BGN, under projects implemented by the Central Office - EFA under the European Economic Area program at MEW, launched in 2015 and to be completed in 2016.

12.2. State forest enterprises

Reported revenue of the overall activity of state enterprises in 2015 amounted to 309 908 thousand BGN and total expenses - 297 705 thousand BGN. Compared to 2014, revenues of enterprises increased by 14.1 percent, while expenditures - by 10.5%.

The overall financial result of enterprises from their operating activities in 2015 was positive at 12 203 thousand BGN, and is 5.3 times higher than that reported in 2014

In 2015, the six SE have spent from the fund "Investments in forests" for the design, construction of forest roads (FR) third degree, technical fortifications (TF) and afforestation 16 765 thousand BGN as follows:

- For the design of FR, for construction and repair of existing FR of 177 km FR third degree - 12 053 thousand BGN;
- For afforestation – 4 285 thousand BGN;
- For design and construction of technical fortifications - 111 thousand BGN.

For the purchase of movable assets, construction and repair of existing movable assets were spent 5 470 thousand BGN, 30% less than in 2014.

13. Administrative Services

13.1. Register of persons carrying out forestry work

During 2015 numerous consultations were conducted with individuals and traders related to procedures for listing and delisting in the public register of EFA for forestry practice. There were two exams for persons who, under art. 236a of the Forestry Act are subject to examination prior to entry in the register - persons with secondary education, and those who have been removed from the register pursuant to art. 239, par. 1, p. 4-9 and wish be listed again. The Commission for examining applications for registration of activities in forest areas in the public register of EFA has held 16 regular and extraordinary meetings during the year.

During 2015 were registered and issued certificates to 1097 individuals to exercise forestry practice. Registered and issued certificates to 541 merchants for activities in forest areas. Delisted are 53 merchants from the public register under art. 241 of the FA and 33 individuals under art. 235 of the FA. As of 31.12.2015 the total number of registered persons for the exercise of forestry practice is 10 163, registered traders – 3265.

13.2. Information services

An information system was implemented in stages for electronic transport ticket for transporting wood in the forest and hunting. A software solution was developed for the introduction of electronic journal/diary certification of the quantities of the received, processed and shipped wood into objects under art. 206 of the FA.

The following new modules were created in www.system.iag.bg:

Module, designed to provide visualization official website of the EFA brought into the database ZEM files of all state forest and hunting

- Module, designed to provide visualization in the official website of the EFA of ZEM files entered into the database from all state forest and hunting enterprises;
- Registry of the control forest markings;
- Module, related to the activity of telephone 112 in EFA.

Software for contactless inventory INVENT was implemented and also software for the service center of telephone 112 in EFA for signals related to illegal logging and corruption in the forest.

As a result of a successfully completed project an electronic system of registration of individuals and merchants to exercise forestry practice and for activities in forest areas was introduced. Also a software development for electronic certificate of registration of control and production forest markings was launched.

Organized access of EFA and RFA officials to realize the data exchange with information systems in the Customs Agency.

In implementation of the tripartite agreement signed for increasing the efficiency of control of timber production sites, access of the NRA and the General Labor Inspectorate to the database of the information system for forests was provided.

VII. FISHERY

1. Catch and production of fish and other aquatic organisms

Production of fish and other aquatic organisms

According to data of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Agriculture, in 2015, the total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing within the country marks growth of 1,8% compared to 2014. The total amount is 8 842,12 tonnes, of which 8 745,16 tonnes – in the Black Sea, and 96,96 tonnes in the Danube. Compared to 2014, the catch in Black Sea has increased, while that in the Danube has declined.

The catch of marine fish species for 2015 has increased with about 21% on annual basis, reaching 4 490,2 tonnes. The greatest amount is the catch of the fish from the species sprat/sprat/sprat (*Sprattus sprattus sulinus*) - 3 301,1 tonnes (74% of the total catch of marine fish species for 2015), which is 44% more compared to 2014.

Compared to last year, the catch of fish of species stripped mullet has increased significantly – twice in 2014, reaching 631 tonnes.

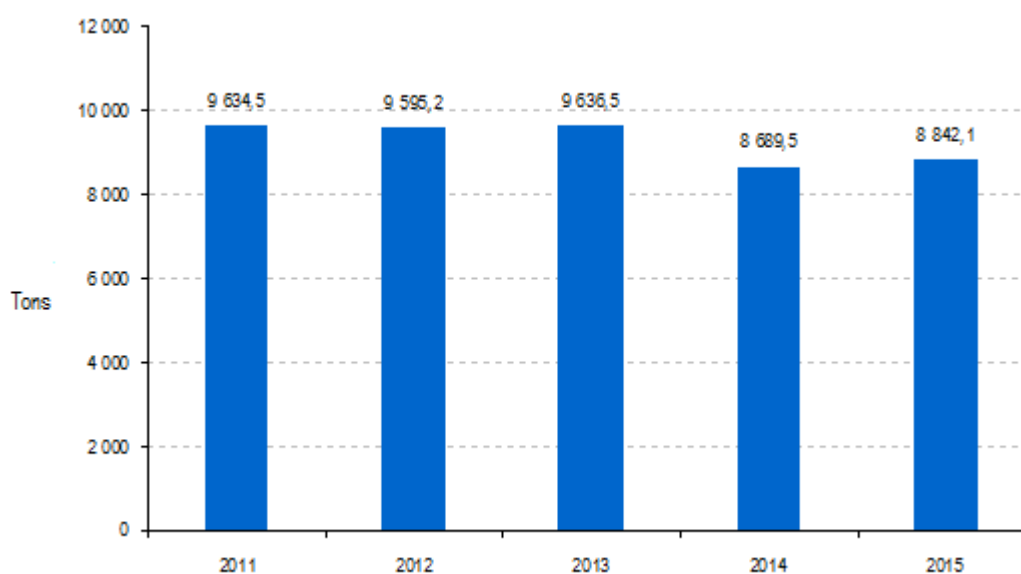
From the rest of the Black Sea fish species, the most significant is the catch of blue fish – 138, 6 tonnes (- 54,5%) spiny dogfish – 132,9 tonnes (nearly four times more on an annual basis), horse mackerel 87,2 tonnes (-23%) and European anchovy – 12,4 tonnes (-97%).

In the catch of veined rapa welk, traditionally taking the basic share of marine animals catch in the Black Sea (98% in 2015), there is a decline of 13,5% on annual basis, to 4 092 tonnes.

At the same time, the catch of soft shell clam has increased twice compared to 2014, reaching 124 tonnes, while that of blue mussel – with nearly 12%, to 18,1 tonnes.

The reported amount of the catch of diadromous species of fish (shad) in the Black Sea in 2015 is 17,7 tonnes, with about 14% less than the catch of the previous year.

Figure VII.1. Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in the country, tonnes



Source: EAFA

Table VII.1. Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in water bodies of the country, tonnes

	2013	2014	2015	Amendment 2015/2014
Catch in the Black Sea—overall, including:	9 507,6	8 546,7	8 745,2	2,3%
- marine species	4 640,4	3 713,7	4 490,2	20,9%
- diadromous fishes shad	24,5	20,5	17,7	-13,9%
- Veined rapa whelk, mussels and shrimps	4 842,5	4 812,5	4 237,3	-12,0%
Catch in the Danube – overall, including:	128,9	142,8	96,96	-32,1%
- freshwater fish	127,2	140,4	85,6	-39,1%
- Danube crayfish and others	0	0	10,7	-
- diadromous fishes shad	1,7	1,6	0,6	-60,9%
Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms	9 636,5	8 689,5	8 842,1	1,8%

Source: EAFA

In 2015 the reported catch of fish in the Danube has declined with 32,1% compared to the previous year. The total amount is 96,96 tonnes, including freshwater fish – 85,56 tonnes, diadromous fish (shad) – 0,64 and aquatic species – 10,7 tonnes.

Table VII.2. Catch of fish and other aquatic organisms for commercial fisheries in 2015

No. by line	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity (tonnes)	
		Black Sea	Danube
A. Freshwater fish			
	Sturgeon species / <i>Acipenseridae</i> /		
1	Sterlet / <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> /		
	Trout species / <i>Salmonidae</i> /		
2	River /Balkan/ trout / <i>Salmo trutta fario</i> /		
	Rainbow trout / <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> /		
3	Brook trout / <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> /		
	Hunchen (Danube salmon) / <i>Hucho hucho</i> /		
4	Family Coregonidae / <i>Coregonidae</i> /		
0	European whitefish / <i>Coregonus lavaretus</i> /		
	Peled / <i>Coregonus peled</i> /		
5	Family Esocidas / <i>Esocidas</i> /		
6	Northern Pike / <i>Esox lucius</i> /		
	Carp species / <i>Cyprinidae</i> /		

No. by line	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity (tonnes)	
		Black Sea	Danube
7	Common Roach / <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> /		1,33
	European Chub / <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> /		
8	Orfe / <i>Leuciscus idus</i> /		0,05
9	Common rudd / <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> /		0,18
10	Asp / <i>Aspius aspius</i> /		0,05
11	Tench / <i>Tinca tinca</i> /		0,18
12	Danube bleak / <i>Chalcalburnus chalcoides</i> /		1,55
13	Common bleak / <i>Alburnus alburnus</i> /		
14	Common bream / <i>Abramis brama</i> /		0,74
15	Oriental bream / <i>Abramis sp.</i> /		2,50
16	Great sturgeon / <i>Vimba vimba</i> /		6,09
17	Ziege (sabre carp) / <i>Pelecus cultratus</i> /		0,14
18	Common nase / <i>Chondrostoma nasus</i> /		3,31
19	Common barbel / <i>Barbus barbus</i> /		
20	Balkan barbus / <i>Barbus meridionalis petenyi</i> /		1,82
21	Strumica barbel / <i>Barbus cyclolepis</i> /		9,19
22	Common carp / <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> /		
23	Crucian carp / <i>Carassius sp.</i> /		0,01
24	Silver carp / <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> /		12,74
25	Bighead carp / <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> /		10,18
26	Grass carp / <i>Ctenopharingodon idella</i> /		9,95
27	Black carp / <i>Mylopharingodon piceus</i> /		11,54
28	Crucian carp / <i>Carassius carassius</i> /		4,29
29	Macedonian great sturgeon (Macedonian vimba) / <i>Vimba melanops</i> /		
	Family Siluridae / <i>Siluridae</i> /		
	Wels catfish / <i>Sillurus glanis</i> /		
	Family Ictaluridae / <i>Ictaluridae</i> /		
30	Sturgeon species / <i>Acipenseridae</i> /		5,91
	Sterlet / <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> /		
31	Sturgeon species / <i>Acipenseridae</i> /		
	Sterlet / <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> /		
32	Trout species / <i>Salmonidae</i> /		0,06
	River /Balkan/ trout / <i>Salmo trutta fario</i> /		
33	Rainbow trout / <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> /		3,61

No. by line	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity (tonnes)	
		Black Sea	Danube
34	Brook trout / <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> /		0,16
35	Hunchen (Danube salmon) / <i>Hucho hucho</i> /		0,00
	Family Coregonidae / <i>Coregonidae</i> /		
36	European whitefish / <i>Coregonus lavaretus</i> /		
B. Diadromous fishes			
	Family Esocidae / <i>Esocidae</i> /		
37	Northern Pike / <i>Esox lucius</i> /		
38	Carp species / <i>Cyprinidae</i> /		
39	Common Roach / <i>Rutilus rutilus</i> /		
0	European Chub / <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> /		
	Orfe / <i>Leuciscus idus</i> /		
40	Common rudd / <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> /		
	Asp / <i>Aspius aspius</i> /		
41	Tench / <i>Tinca tinca</i> /	17,65	0,64
C. Marine fishes			
	Common bleak / <i>Alburnus alburnus</i> /		
42	Common bream / <i>Abramis brama</i> /	132,88	
	Oriental bream / <i>Abramis sp.</i> /		
43	Great sturgeon / <i>Vimba vimba</i> /	1,43	
44	Ziege (sabre carp) / <i>Pelecus cultratus</i> /	3 301,09	
	Common nase / <i>Chondrostoma nasus</i> /		
45	Common barbel / <i>Barbus barbus</i> /	12,42	
	Balkan barbus / <i>Barbus meridionalis petenyi</i> /		
46	Strumica barbel / <i>Barbus cyclolepis</i> /	4,81	
	Common carp / <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> /		
47	Crucian carp / <i>Carassius sp.</i> /		
48	Silver carp / <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> /	3,15	
	Bighead carp / <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> /		
49	Grass carp / <i>Ctenopharingodon idella</i> /	10,21	
50	Black carp / <i>Mylopharingodon piceus</i> /	0,11	
51	Crucian carp / <i>Carassius carassius</i> /	0,87	
52	Macedonian great sturgeon (Macedonian vimba) / <i>Vimba melanops</i> /	6,53	
	Family Siluridae / <i>Siluridae</i> /		
53	Wels catfish / <i>Sillurus glanis</i> /	9,20	

No. by line	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity (tonnes)	
		Black Sea	Danube
	<i>Family Ictaluridae /Ictaluridae/</i>		
54	Sturgeon species / <i>Acipenseridae</i> /	0,01	
	Sterlet / <i>Acipenser ruthenus</i> /		
55	Trout species / <i>Salmonidae</i> /	138,59	
	River /Balkan/ trout / <i>Salmo trutta fario</i> /		
56	Rainbow trout / <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> /	87,21	
	Brook trout / <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> /		
57	Huchen (Danube salmon) / <i>Hucho hucho</i> /	0,01	
	Family Coregonidae / <i>Coregonidae</i> /		
58	European whitefish / <i>Coregonus lavaretus</i> /	630,96	
59	Red mullet / <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> /	3,35	
	Family Scombridae / <i>Scombridae</i> /		
60	Black-sea mackerel / <i>Scomber scombrus</i> /		
61	Belted bonito / <i>Sarda sarda</i> /	7,73	
62	Family Gobiidae / <i>Gobiidae</i> /	47,68	
	Family Scopthalmidae / <i>Scophthalmidae</i> /		
63	Turbot / <i>Psetta maxima</i> /	42,85	
	Family Pleuronectidae / <i>Pleuronectidae</i> /		
64	European flounder / <i>Platichthys flesus luscus</i> /	0,01	
65	Sole / <i>Solea nasuta</i> /	0,01	
	Family Rajidae / <i>Rajidae</i> /		
66	Thornback ray / <i>Raja clavata</i> /	43,06	
	Family lophiidae / <i>lophiidae</i> /		
67	Anglerfish / <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> /	0,04	
	Family dasyatidae / <i>dasyatidae</i> /		
68	Common stingray / <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> /	5,98	
D. Aquatic animals			
	Class Amphibia / <i>Amphibia</i> /		
69	Marsh frog / <i>Rana ridibunda</i> /		
	Class Crustaceous / <i>Crustacea</i> /		
70	Common shrimps / <i>Leander spp.</i> /	1,72	
71	European brown shrimp / <i>Crangon sp.</i> /	0,69	
72	Freshwater crayfish / <i>Astacidae , Cambaridae</i> /		
73	Danube crayfish / <i>Astacus leptodactylus</i> /		10,44

No. by line	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity (tonnes)	
		Black Sea	Danube
74	European crayfish / <i>Astacus astacus</i> /		
75	Warty crab / <i>Eriphia verrucosa</i> /	0,25	
	Class Mussels / <i>Bivalvia</i> /		
76	Soft-shell clam / <i>Mya arenaria</i> /	124,60	
77	Blue mussel / <i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i> /	18,14	
78	Veined rapa whelk / <i>Rapana spp.</i> /	4 091,92	
79	Others:		0,30
TOTAL:		8 745,16	96,96

Source: EAFA

The largest amount of catch is reported with fishes of the common carp species – 12,74 tonnes, big head carp – 11,54 tonnes, Prussian carp – 10,18 tonnes, silver carp – 9,55 tonnes, common barbell 9,19 tones and common bream – 6,09 tonnes.

Within the year, in most of the commercially significant species of freshwater fish, there is a decline in the catch compared to 2014. The most significant is the decline of the catch of the bighead carp – 70% on an annual basis, carp – 39%, common bream – 35%, common barbell – 25,16%, followed by silver carp – 5%.

Compared to the previous year, the caught quantities of Prussian carp increase with 7,3%.

The catch of diadromous fishes (shad, Danube shad) in the Danube significantly decreases – with 61% in annual basis, to 0,64 tonnes.

With the purpose to protect and recover the Danube sturgeon species, an order of the Minister of Agriculture and Foods in 2012 was issued, which banned the catch, the transfer and the sale of sturgeon species and their products, caught in the Bulgarian aquatorium of the Danube and the Black Sea for a four-year period. Since the beginning of 2016, this ban has been prolonged for 5 more years. The order does not refer to the fishing, transfer, transport and sale of these species and their products, raised in specialized farms for aquatic species. In case of incidental catch, the sturgeon species must be returned immediately to the respective water basin where they were caught.

In 2015, a Law for the amendment of the Law for Fishery and the Aquatic species (LA of the LFAS) – the State Gazette, issue 102 from 29.12.2015 was issued. It introduces a lightening of the administrative burden on the captains of fishing vessels with total length below 10 m., which introduces a waiver of the obligation for them to be registered as legal persons or sole proprietors in the sense of the Commercial Code.

According to the data of EAFA, to 31.05.2016 the reported commercial catch of fish and other aquatic species amount to 2 849 tonnes – 7 % more than the first five months of 2015. In the reported period, the catch in the Black Sea is to the amount of 2 825,6 tonnes, marking an increase of 7,2%, while that in the Danube – 23,3 tonnes, 12% more compared to the same period of the previous year.

Scientific research will be conducted to define the situation of the fish reserves in important water sites for recreational fishing. The planned research will contribute to the assessment of the state of the fish fauna of the water dams, and identification of the basic factors, which influence the fish fauna and the preparation of recommendations and offers for specific actions, aimed at the protection of the fish populations in the targeted water sites and their sustainable use. Depending on the results, concrete measures may be taken to manage and protect the fish resources.

Production of fish and other aquatic organisms

According to data of EAFA, the total number of the active fish farms to the end of 2015 is 611, while a year earlier it was 552. Of them, 577 are for freshwater aquacultures, while 34 – for marine aquacultures.

With regard to the ban of commercial fishing in the internal water basins of the country, which came in effect in the month of August 2012, and the connected with it re-registering, the number of the actively registered producers of aquacultures marks an increase.

According to data of EAFA, in 2015 the total production of aquacultures (aquaculture stock, fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption) in the specialized fishing farms amounts to 13 560, 6 tonnes. This is an increase of 21 % compared to the previous year, while an increase is reported in the production of aquaculture stock, as well as fish for consumption

In 2015, the reported production of aquaculture stock in the fishing farms is 2 687,1 tonnes, which marks an increase of 28,3% compared to the previous year. This is mainly due to the increased production of aquaculture stock of two of the basic species of fish, raised in the fishing farms – carp (up to 532,8 tonnes) and silver carp (up to 45,4 tonnes). Among the basic species of fish, the production of aquaculture stock of silver carp, rainbow trout and grass carp, as well as of Northern pike, Wels catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, and sturgeon.

The produced amount of fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption in 2015 amounts to 10 873,5 tonnes – 19,3% tones more than the previous year.

The production for consumption of fishes of the species is the most significant – rainbow trout, carp and grass carp. With all of them, there is an increase in the production compared to the previous year, the most significant with the grass carp (23,8%), followed by the carp (13,6%) and the rainbow trout (3,7%).

A significant increase is marked in the production of black carp (nine times more), *Ictalurus punctatus* (five times more), silver carp (two times more), Northern pike (61%), brown trout (40%) and grass carp (27%).

Among the more significant commercial fish species, there is a decline compared to 2014, in the consumption of the starry sturgeon (of 72%), the Beluga sturgeon (of 40%) and the Russian sturgeon (of 6,6%).

Table VII.3. Production of aquaculture stock, fish and aquatic organisms in the fish farms, tonnes

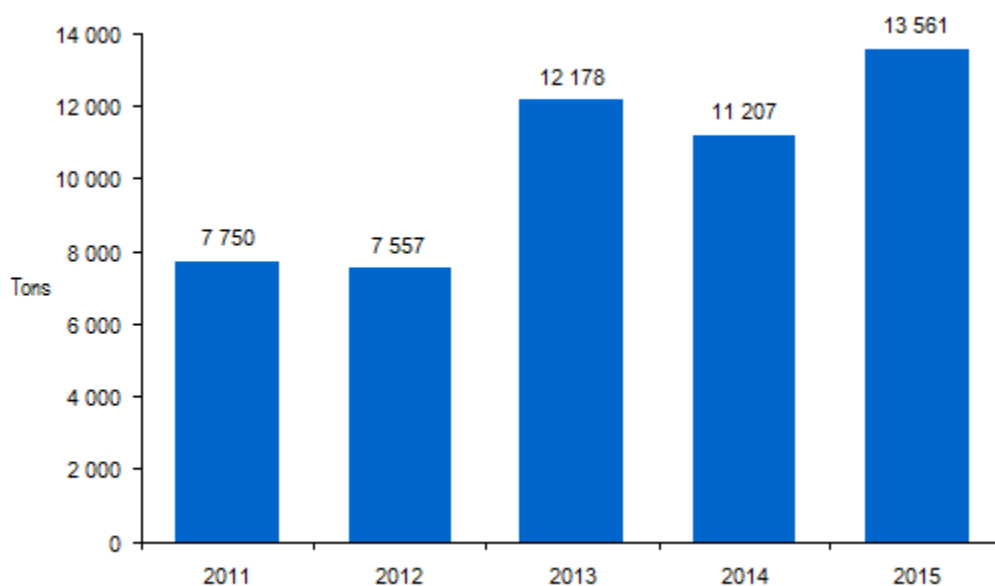
Common and local names	Aquaculture stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
<i>Brown trout</i>	4,8	5,6	5,7	7,9	10,4	13,5
<i>Rainbow trout</i>	1 073,6	1 027,5	2 238,2	2 321,8	3 311,8	3 349,3
<i>Brook trout</i>	0,6	0,0	5,0	8,2	5,6	8,2
<i>Pike</i>	8,0	21,5	18,3	29,4	26,3	50,9
<i>European Chub</i>	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
<i>Tench</i>	1,2	1,7	2,3	3,7	3,5	5,4
<i>Bleak</i>	0,0	1,0	2,7	11,7	2,7	12,7
<i>Danube bleak /Chalcalburnus chalcoides/</i>	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,2	0,4	0,2
<i>Bream</i>	0,2	0,2	9,5	10,9	9,7	11,1
<i>Carp</i>	551,4	531,8	1 885,1	2 142,3	2 436,5	2 674,2
<i>Crucian carp</i>	4,5	4,4	153,9	210,5	158,4	214,9
<i>Silver carp</i>	31,3	450,4	110,9	226,5	142,2	677,0
<i>Bighead carp</i>	236,1	210,0	1 272,8	1 576,0	1 508,9	1 786,0
<i>Grass carp</i>	72,2	56,0	207,9	264,3	280,1	320,2
<i>Black carp</i>	0,0	3,6	1,4	13,5	1,4	17,1
<i>Catfish</i>	26,3	49,4	96,2	109,3	122,5	158,7
<i>Channel /American/ catfish</i>	0,0	30,1	12,9	63,8	12,9	93,9
<i>White fish (zander)</i>	21,1	7,7	124,0	69,8	145,0	77,4
<i>European perch</i>	0,7	0,4	3,0	37,8	3,7	38,2
<i>Sterlet</i>	2,6	3,6	0,4	0,4	3,0	4,0
<i>Great sturgeon</i>	0,8	0,0	14,3	8,5	15,0	8,5
<i>Star sturgeon</i>	0,0	0,0	4,7	1,3	4,7	1,3
<i>Russian sturgeon</i>	2,1	4,1	232,3	217,0	234,4	221,1
<i>Freshwater crayfish</i>	0,0	0,0	0,2	2,0	0,2	2,0

Common and local names	Aquaculture stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
<i>Danube crayfish</i>	2,3	1,8	14,8	12,0	17,1	13,9
<i>Blue mussel</i>	45,6	259,1	2 474,6	3 113,5	2 520,2	3 372,6
- Other	0,0		0,1		0,1	
- <i>Lake salmon</i>	0,0	1,3	0,0	0,2	0,0	1,5
- <i>Paddlefish</i>	1,9	1,9	2,2	3,6	4,1	5,5
<i>Common rudd</i>	0,0	0,0	4,9	6,4	4,9	6,4
<i>Barramundi</i>	0,0		5,1		5,1	
<i>Siberian sturgeon</i>	6,2	12,8	13,4	96,2	19,6	109,0
<i>African catfish</i>	0,0	0,0	164,4	285,7	164,4	285,7
<i>Other hybrids from the sturgeon family</i>		0,3		12,6		13,0
Total	2 093,3	2 687,1	9 113,3	10 873,5	11 206,6	13 560,6

Source: EAFA

The basic species of sea aquaculture raised in the sea aquatories of the country is the black mussel. In 2015, its production increased with 26% on an annual basis, reaching 3 113,5 tonnes. The production of the Danube crayfish declined with 18,8%.

Figure VII.2. Production of fish and other organisms in specialized fish farms for the period 2011 – 2015, tonnes



Source: EAFA

In 2016, an increase of the number of fish farms is expected, and respectively, the production of aquacultures, for which contribute the construction of new, the modernization and increase of production capacities, with funding by Operational Program Fisheries Sector Development.

2. Import and export of fish and fish products

Import

According to prognosis data of NSI, in 2015, totally 35019 tonnes of fish and fish products have been imported, including 31 125 tonnes of fish, fillets, crab and Mollusks (alive, fresh, cooled, frozen or dried and etc.) and 3 894 tonnes of processed fish products. Compared to the previous year, the total import of fish and fish products marks an increase of about 15%, while an increase of the import not only of fish, fillets, crabs and Mollusks is reported, but also of the processed products.

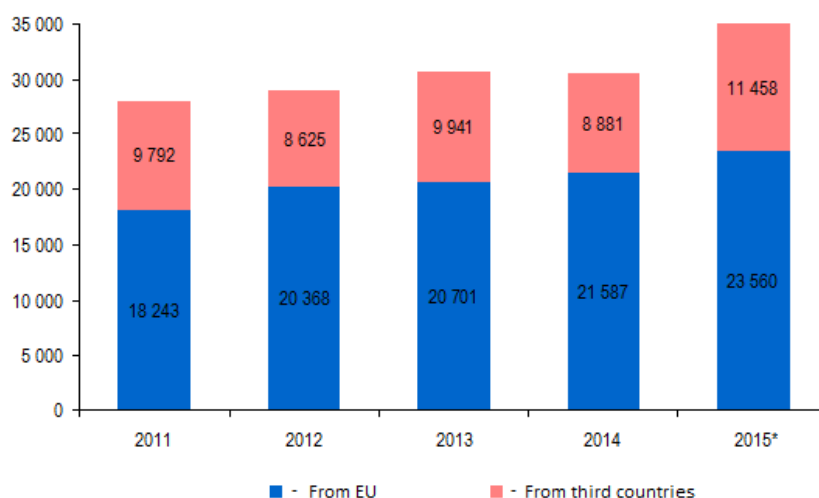
More than 67% of the total imported quantities of fish and fish products in 2014 are from the EU member states. The supplied quantities of the EU mark an increase of about 9% compared to the previous year, up to 23 560 tonnes. Within the framework of the year, the most significant is the import from the Netherlands (4,6 thousand tonnes), Spain (4,3 thousand tonnes), Romania (2,1 thousand tonnes, Poland (1,7 thousand tonnes), the Czech Republic (1,3 thousand tonnes) and etc.

The import of fish and fish products from third parties marks an essential increase of 29% on an annual basis, reaching 11 458 tonnes. Basic importers are Vietnam (1,4 thousand tonnes), Canada (1,1 thousand tonnes), and China (1 thousand tonnes), followed by Morocco (0,6 thousand tonnes), Argentina (0,5 thousand tonnes), the Faroe Islands (0,4 thousand tonnes).

The total import of fish, fillets, crustaceans and Mollusks (alive, fresh, cooled, frozen or dried and etc.) in 2015 amounts to 31 125 tonnes, which is an increase of 15,2% on an annual basis.

Nearly 60 % of the total import of fish fillets, crustaceans and Mollusks is the one of the frozen fish. In 2015, 18 630 tonnes of frozen fish have been imported, with the exception of fillets, which is 15,5% more than the previous year. The import of frozen Atlantic mackerel remains the most significant, marking an increase of about 10% compared to 2014.

Figure VII.3. Imports of fish and fish products from the EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI, * preliminary data

In 2015, comparatively large quantities of fish have been imported from the following species: salmon – 1 003 tonnes, European pilchard, sprat, sprat, sprat – totally 365 tonnes; herring – 1 379 tonnes; Merluccius – 724 tonnes; sharks – 224 tonnes; trout – 158 tonnes; Jack mackerels – 191 tonnes.

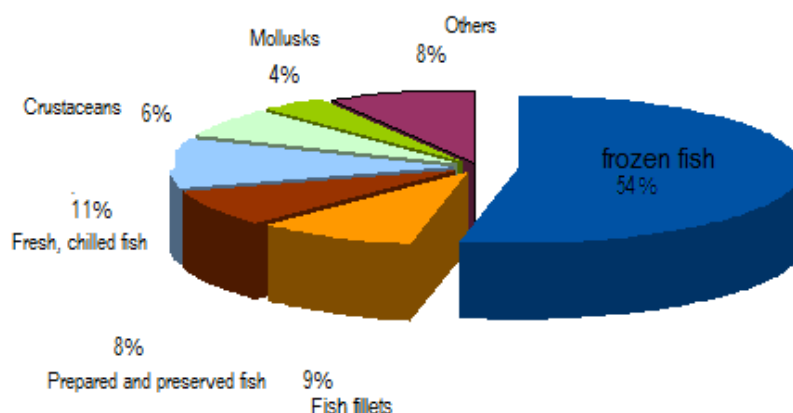
During the year, totally 3 894 tonnes of processed fish products have been imported, which is 13% more than the previous year. This increase is as a result of the increase of the imported canned quantities of crustaceans and Mollusks – more than twice compared to 2014, while the import of food preparations and cans of fish and caviar marks a decline of 4,8%.

Table VII.4. Import of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products

Products	2014	2015*	Change 2015/2014
Fish, fillets, crustaceans, mollusks, including:	27 023	31 125	15,2%
Live fish – freshwater and sea	43	275	547,5%
Fish – fresh or cooled, with the exception of fillets	3 844	3 818	-0,7%
Fish — frozen, without fillets	16 128	18 630	15,5%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	4 026	3 243	-19,4%
Fish — dried, salted, smoked	379	401	5,6%
Crustaceans	1 529	2 255	47,4%
Mollusks	984	1 114	13,2%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and mollusks	91	1 390	1 422,1%
Processed fish products, including:	3 445	3 894	13,0%
Prepared and preserved fish, caviar	2 934	2 793	-4,8%
Crustaceans and molluscs, canned	511	1 101	115,2%
Total fish and other aquatic organisms and fish products	30 468	35 019	14,9%

*Source: data of NSI, processed by MAF, * preliminary data*

Figure VII.4. Structure of the imports of fish and fish products in 2015



Source: NSI, preliminary data

According to preliminary data of NSI, in the period January – June 201, the import of fish and fish products remains on the level of the same period of 2015 (+0,1%), and amounts to totally 15 889 tonnes, including 13 723 tonnes of fish, fillets, crustaceans and Mollusks and 2 167 tonnes of processed fish products.

Compared to the first six months of 2015, there is a decrease of the import of fish, fillets, crustaceans and Mollusks of 4,2% compensated with an increase of the one of processed fish products with nearly 40%.

In view of the data for the first six months, the import of fish and fish products for all of 2016 may be expected to be about or less than the level of the previous year. Significant quantities of non-typical for the country fish species and aquatic organism will continue to be imported to diversify the assortment of the market and to provide resources for the processing farms.

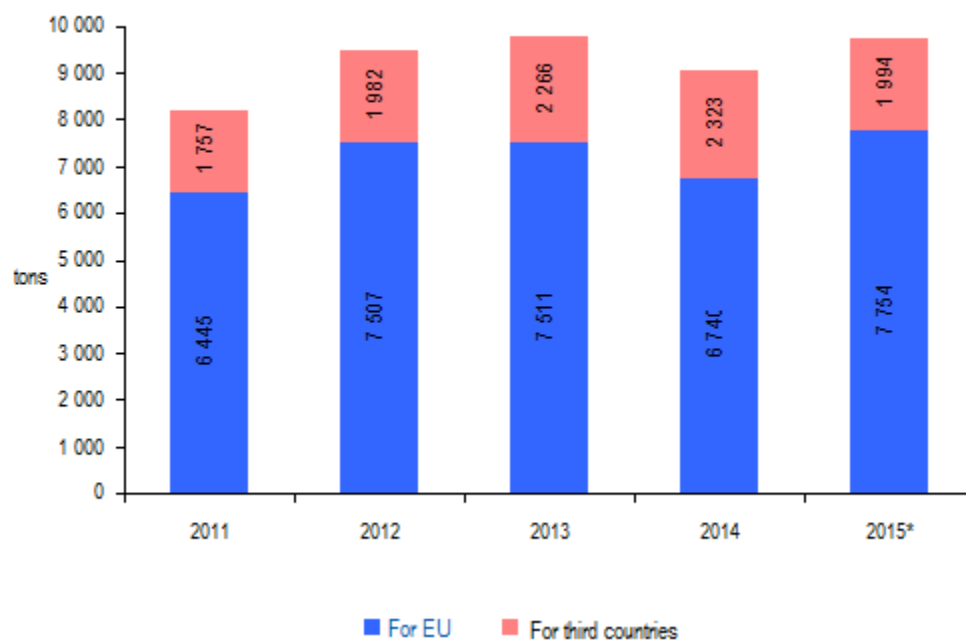
Export

According to preliminary data of NSI, the total export of fish, aquatic organisms and fish products in 2015 amount to 9 748 tonnes – 7,6% above the level of the previous year, as a result of the growth of the catch and the aquaculture production during the year.

Nearly 80% of the total export of fish and fish products during the year is for the EU. The export to EU member states marks a growth of 15% compared to 2014, reaching 7 754 tonnes. The most considerable quantities are directed to Romania (4 thousand tonnes), Sweden (1,6 tonnes), Greece (0,9 thousand tonnes), Spain (0,3 thousand tonnes) and Hungary (0,2 thousand tonnes).

On the other hand, the export of fish and fish products to third countries marks a decline of about 14% on an annual basis, to 1 994 tonnes, realized mostly for the Republic of Korea, Japan and Serbia.

Figure VII.5. Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products for EU and third countries, tons



Source: NSI, *preliminary data

According to types of products, the structure of the export for 2015 includes: 6 102 tonnes of fish, crustaceans and Mollusks – live, fresh, chilled, frozen, smoked or salted and 3 646 tonnes processed fish products (prepared and canned fish, including caviar, canned crustaceans and Mollusks).

Compared to the previous year, there is a significant increase of the export of fresh, chilled fishes (of about 61,4%), and of dried, salted and smoked fishes (of 58,5%). The export of live fishes has increased with 48,1%, followed by that of the crustaceans – with 17,6%.

At the same time, a decline is reported in the export of fillets (29,1%), of Mollusks (26,6%) and of frozen fishes (with the exception of fillets) (10,6 %).

In 2015, the export of frozen fish (with the exception of the fillets) takes about 32% of the total export of fishes, fillets, crustaceans, Mollusks, it amounts to 1 933 tonnes (which includes the re-export of imported fish, mainly mackerel).

More than 45% of the exported frozen fish is of frozen sprouts, sprouts or sprouts – 875 tonnes, which marks an increase of about 27% on an annual basis, because of the higher catch. The export of mackerel is comparatively big – 549 tonnes, with about 46% less than the previous year. Traditionally, the largest quantities of frozen fish are directed to Romania (1,5 thousand tonnes).

In 2015, the export of Mollusks marks a decline of 26,6 %, up to 1 169 tonnes. The quantities are directed mainly to the Republic of Korea (0,4 thousand tonnes), Japan (0,4 thousand tonnes) and Greece (0,2 thousand tonnes).

The total export of processed fish products in 2015 is to the amount of 3 646 tonnes – 15,7 % more than 2014, while a growth of the export not only of the canned crustaceans and Mollusks (with about 15,8% is reported), but also of the prepared food and cans of fishes, caviar and etc. (with 15,5%). Basic destinations for the processed fish products during the year are Sweden with 1,4 thousand tonnes, followed by Romania (0,8 thousand tonnes, Japan (0,4 thousand tonnes) and the Republic of Korea (0,3 thousand tonnes), Greece (0.3 thousand tonnes).

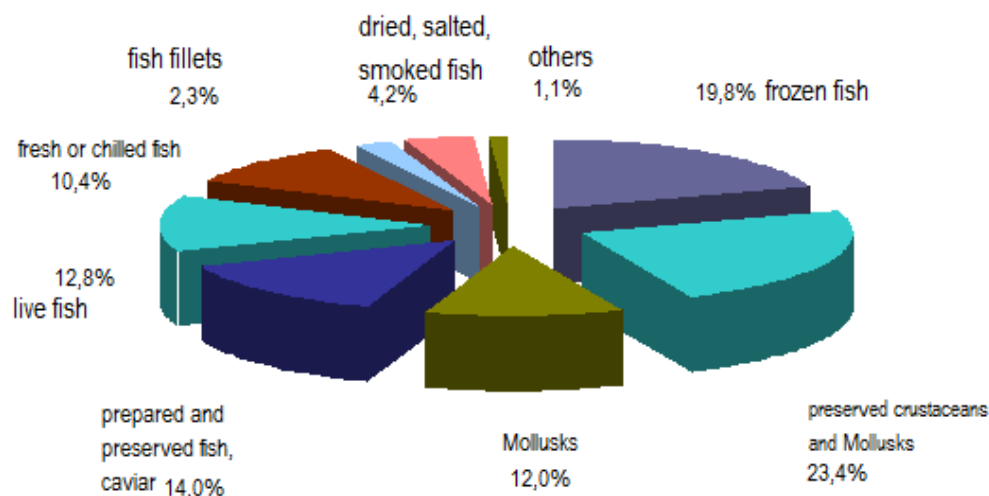
Table VII.5. Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes

Products	2014	2015*	Change 2015/2014
Fish, fillets, crustaceans, mollusks, including:	5 912	6 102	3,2%
Live fish – freshwater and sea	839,4	1 243	48,1%
Fish – fresh or cooled, with the exception of fillets	628,0	1 014	61,4%
Fish — frozen, without fillets	2 163,4	1 933	-10,6%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	320,2	227	-29,1%
Fish — dried, salted, smoked	255,6	405	58,5%
Crustaceans	43,3	51	17,6%
Mollusks	1 592,1	1 169	-26,6%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	69,6	60	-13,2%
Processed fish products, including:	3 152	3 646	15,7%
Prepared and preserved fish, caviar	1 179	1 361	15,5%
Crustaceans and mollusks, canned	1 973	2 285	15,8%
Total fish and other aquatic organisms and fish products	9 063	9 748	7,6%

*Source: data of NSI, processed by MAF, * preliminary data*

According to preliminary data of the NSI, during the first half of 2016, totally 5 543 tonnes of fish and fish products have been exported– with about 32% more than the same period of the previous year. Within the period, the structure of the export includes 3 355 tonnes of fish, fillets, crustaceans and Mollusks and other aquatic organism, and 2 188 tonnes of processed fish products, marking an increase on an annual basis, respectively with 18,3% and 58,5%. With regards to the data for the first six months, the export of fish and fish products for all of 2016, is expected to surmount the level of the previous year.

Figure VII.6. Structure of the exports of fish and fish products in 2015



Source: NSI, preliminary data

3. Operational Programme “Fisheries Sector Development” (OPFSD) funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

The strategic goal of the PPFS 2007 – 2013 is to turn fishery into a competitive, modern and dynamic sector, based on the sustainable development of fishery and aquaculture, as well as the improvement of the quality of life in the fishing areas. The financial resource of the Programme is 163,72 million BGN, of which 122,79 million BGN funding of the European Fisheries Fund and 40,93 million BGN national co-funding. The Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture is the Managing Authority of Operational Programme Development “Fisheries 2007-2013”.

Overall progress on the OPFSD by December 2015

The accumulated physical progress in the implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2015 may be summarized as follows:

- Total number of registered projects: 609;
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 320;
- Total number of annulled agreements: 72;
- Total agreed funds: 183 360 799,54 BGN (111,99% from the Program's budget)
- Total disbursed funds to beneficiaries: 150 526 949,59 BGN (91,94%);

- Advance payments – 122 for total of BGN 38 072 467,04.
- Interim payments – 136 for total of BGN 30 751 475,22.
- Final payments – 465 for total of BGN 81 703 007,33.

Table VII.6. Financial implementation of OPFSD for the period 2007 - 2013 .

Axis/Measure	Agreed funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid projects		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
Measure 1.1 "Public aid for permanent termination of fishing activities"	95	8 957 035,50	87,95%	95	8 955 085,51	87,93%	95	8 955 085,51	87,93%
Measure 1.3 "Investments on board of fishing boats and selectivity"	7	106 507,87	112,86%	7	94 371,16	100,00%	7	94 371,16	100,00%
AXIS 1	102	9 063 543,37	88,18%	102	9 049 456,67	88,04%	102	9 049 456,67	88,04%
Measure 2.1 "Production investments in aquaculture"	59	60 542 637,51	130,79%	100	42 459 878,54	91,73%	48	38 185 226,81	82,49%
Measure 2.2 "Aquatic ecological measures"	1	76 281,43	100,00%	3	41 357,49	54,22%	1	41 357,49	54,22%
Measure 2.6. "Investments in processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products"	17	16 428 372,05	107,78%	32	15 737 285,46	103,25%	17	15 307 194,89	100,42%
Measure 2.7 "Financial engineering"	4	12 167 850,00	103,17%	3	11 896 850,00	100,88%	3	11 896 850,00	100,88%
AXIS 2	81	89 215 140,99	121,54%	138	70 135 371,49	95,55%	69	65 430 629,19	89,14%
Measure 3.1	2	871 188,53	101,59%	4	857 561,47	100,00%	2	857 561,47	100,00%

Axis/Measure	Agreed funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid projects		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
"Collective activities"									
Measure 3.3 "Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters"	3	28 154 850,27	100,52%	8	27 834 479,36	99,37%	2	18 311 287,37	65,37%
Measure 3.4 "Development of new markets and promotional campaigns"	19	4 869 277,27	110,58%	39	4 486 729,83	101,90%	19	4 486 729,83	101,90%
Measure 3.5 "Pilot projects"	1	938 012,38	100,00%	3	938 012,38	100,00%	1	938 012,38	100,00%
AXIS 3	25	34 833 328,45	101,82%	54	34 116 783,04	99,73%	24	24 593 591,05	71,89%
Measure 4.1.A "Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development and coverage of operative expenses of Fishers groups"	6	41 434 169,59	108,78%	269	29 861 293,36	78,40%	179	26 602 773,38	69,84%
AXIS 4	6	41 434 169,59	108,78%	269	29 861 293,36	78,40%	179	26 602 773,38	69,84%
Measure 5.1 "Technical assistance"	106	8 814 617,14	113,82%	160	7 364 045,03	95,09%	94	6 947 129,90	89,70%
AXIS 5	106	8 814 617,14	113,82%	160	7 364 045,03	95,09%	94	6 947 129,90	89,70%
TOTAL	320	183 360 799,54	111,99%	723	150 526 949,59	91,94%	468	132 623 580,19	81,00%

Source: EAFA

Note: From the paid funds no recovery orders or irrecoverable debts have been reduced from beneficiaries under OPFSD

Progress in the implementation of OPFSD in 2015

In 2015, two amendments of the Operational Program have been implemented. The first was realized in August 2015 and concerns the change of the financial plan of the Programme as a result of the implementation of the rule N+2 for 2011 and 2012 and the necessity to derecognize funds. In this way, the total budget of OPFSD declined from 197 869 354,70 BGN to 63 724 271,28 BGN.

The second change was implemented in December 2015, again with a modification of the financial plan of OPFSD. After the loss of the programme was covered (34 145 083,42 BGN grant financial assistance), a deficiency of funds was identified for the funding of the contracted projects. In this direction, the MA took a number of actions, providing and transferring the financial resource for the funding of these projects by means of the use of identified remains under measures of OPFSD. The remains have been formed as a result of released amounts after the payment of expenses under submitted proposal for payment of the projects, after verifications had been performed, contracts cancelled and financial corrections were applied, which had not been included in the expenses reports, and which accompany the proposals for interim payments to the EC, issued by CA of Bulgaria.

Both of the amendments of OPFSD were approved, respectively with a Decision for implementation No. C(2015)8338 from 20.11.2015 with a Decision for implementation final from 7.03.2016. of the Commission.

In 2015, the successful implementation of the programme continued, and a significant decline of the levels of the contracted and increase of the share of the paid funds was available, compared to those in 2014. The share of the submitted project proposals in 2015 was significantly lower, compared to 2014. This was due to the fact that during the reported period, project proposals were accepted only under Measure 1.1 "Public aid for permanent termination of fishing activities", Measure 4.11A "Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development and coverage of operative expenses of Fishers groups" and Measure 5.1. "Technical assistance"

In 2015, 45 project proposals were submitted to the value of the declared grant financial assistance (GFA) of 3 204 178,47 BGN, while 26 of them to the total value of 2 000 528,57 BGN, were under the Local Development Strategies (LDS) of the Local Initiative Fishery Groups (LIFG)

During the reported period 42 contracts were signed, to the amount of the approved GFA 2 758 728,24 BGN, while 26 of them with approved value of 1 545 420,87 BGN were under LDS.

In 2015, the contracting of the funds under OPFSD declined with almost 13% compared to 2014. Meanwhile, the share of the implemented payments increased with 4.11% compared to 2014.

It must be mentioned that in 2015 the investment of funds was directed basically under priority axis 4 for the assistance of the projects implementation under the LDS of the LIFG – 26 signed contracts with LIFG beneficiaries, from total 42 of the whole programme.

The budget of the Programme was approved in 2015, and it was the lowest under Axis 1 – 2,32%. The high percent of approval under Axis 4 concerned the signed contracts with LIFG for the assistance of their local strategies. The actually signed agreements under LDS were 4,05% of the contracted funds with LIFG. Under priority axis 5, 12,62% were approved.

For the reported period, 777 744,42 BGN were paid totally, which is 31,01% of the Programme's budget.

At the end of 2015, 111,99% have been contracted from the budget of OPFSD.

The total payments under the Programme are with a value of 150 526 949,59 BGN, which is 91,94% of the Programme's budget.

Taking into consideration the remaining open measures in 2015, the level of the contracting under the programme declined to 0.74%. The share of the implemented payments, however, increased and reached 31.01%.

In 2015, under priority axis I, only measure 1.1 "Public aid for permanent termination of fishing activities" was temporarily open for project proposals submission. As a result of that, 5 contracts were signed, to the average value of approximately 47 219 BGN.

In 2015, a decline of the capacity under segments had been achieved, as follows:

- power KW- minus 9,19%

With the financial assistance of OPFSD, from the beginning of the implementation of the measure, totally 95 ships were taken out of the fishing fleet.

The implementation of the parameters totally to 31.12.2015, there was a decline of power KW - minus 88% and tonnage GT - minus 30%.

During the reported period, payments had been performed under priority axis 1, to the total amount of 236 093,71 BGN, or 2,32 % of the contracted funding.

In 2015, under priority axis 2 "Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products" there were no new contracts signed, because all of the measures had cancelled submission of project proposals.

During the reported period, the performed payments are under Measure 2.1 "Production investments in aquaculture", Measure 2.2 "Aquatic ecological measures" and amount to totally 15 673 192,51 BGN or 22,35% of the contracted funding.

In 2015, the annual production of aquacultures in the Fishery Sector was to the amount of 10 728,75 tonnes, of which 9 082,87 tonnes for fish consumption. The declared turnover of the aquacultures production for the Fishery Sector for 2015 was 7 494 337,62 euro, of which more than 3,8 million euro were realized under the funded projects under Measure 2.1. "Production investments in aquaculture" of OPFSD. The produced quantity of fish in 2015 under projects funded under OPFSD was to the amount of 5 422,388 tonnes, of which 51% was of the declared quantities in the sector. The increase of the production in 2015 compared to the baseline included in OPFSD was to the amount of 172,5%, while in 2014 was achieved an increase of 112,2%.

More than 3 000 tonnes of the production were realized within the framework of Sector 2 "Expansion and/or modernization of existing farms" under Measure 2.1.

Of the aquaculture quantities produced by the projects' beneficiaries, assisted under OPFSD, the production of back mussel prevails– more than 2 900 tonnes for 2015, which is 80% of the production of black mussel for all of the Fishery sector.

During the reported period under Measure 2.1. "Production investments in aquaculture", the payments made under beneficiaries' projects are to the total amount of 6 341 358,89 BGN, or 13,70% of the contracted funding.

In 2015, the production from fish processing of the approved under Measure 2.6 "Investments in processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products' farms amounts to 4 932 tonnes, which is an increase of the baseline, included in OPFSD, to the amount of 68,6% and 20% growth, compared to the realized in 2014 quantities.

The greatest share in fish processing take the frozen and the deeply frozen products, whose production surmounts 2 500 tones and the canned products – more than 1600 tonnes for 2015.

A relatively small part of the fish processing take the chilled products – with a production in 2015 amounting to 368 tonnes and prepared meals, smoked, salted, dried products – with a total production of 376 tonnes.

During the reported period under Measure 2.6 "Investments in processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products', the performed payments under beneficiaries' projects were to the total amount of 9 316 715,02 BGN, or 61,12% of the contracted funding.

In 2015, under priority axis 3 "Measures of common interest", there were no signed contracts, because all of the measures were with cancelled submission of project proposals.

During the reported period, the performed payments are under Measure 3.3 "Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters", Measure 3.4

“Development of new markets and promotional campaigns” and Measure 3.5 “Pilot projects” and are to the total amount of 15 971 631,33 BGN or 46,69% of the contracted funding.

To the end of 2015, under Measure 3.3 “Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters”, were implemented all of the three projects for reconstruction and modernization of the fish ports Pomorie, Sarafovo, and Chernomorets.

All of the three ports have available cold stores and cold cameras with a total volume of 127 m². The each of the ports of Sarafovo and Chernomorets are equipped with one machine for ice, while Pomorie with two. The modernized port facilities have available electricity, water supply, security guard, video monitoring, and lighting. The Sarafovo port has a warehouse for corpuses repairs, a site with all measures provided for the mounting of a fuel station and a future availability for fuel charging, slip. All of the three structures have constructed sites for first sale with a total area of 642 sq.m. All of the three ports have fish markets. Totally on the three ports were reconstructed 3 800 linear meters marinas. The capacity of the three ports was increased to 310 places for boats.

During the reported period, under Measure 3.3. “Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters”, payments have been performed to the total amount of 14 308 061,60 BGN, or 51,08% of the contracted funding.

In 2015, under Measure 4.1.A “Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development” were submitted 26 project proposals totally. In the course of the year, 26 contracts were signed, to the total amount of 1 545 420,87 BGN, which is 4,05% of the contracted funding with LIFG.

The paid amounts under projects under the Local Development Strategies amount to 17 380 561,90 BGN, or 45,63% of the Measure’s budget.

In the implementation of the local development strategies to 30.12.2015, the greatest rate compared to the one of the previous year is observed in the newly established and supported in and out of the sector “Jobs in Fishery” –totally 247, or with 72 more. For a year, the newly established tourist products increased with 16 (out of 30 for 2014).

The conducted market research and analyses are 5 times more, with one in 2014. In 2015, the cultivated areas around fish facilities have increased from 4 to 9. During the reported period, the established or recovered areas for recreation, parks and gardens had increased with 19, with 8 more compared to 2014. In 2015, were established two fish markets, as well as the sites for fish sale had increased with one more compared to 2014.

Table VII.7. Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 30.06.2016

Axis/measure	Agreed funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid projects		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
Measure 1.1 "Public aid for permanent termination of fishing activities"	95	8 957 035,50	87,95%	95	8 954 144,43	87,92%	95	8 954 144,43	87,92%
Measure 1.3 "Investments on board of fishing boats and selectivity"	7	106 507,87	112,86%	7	94 371,16	100,00%	7	94 371,16	100,00%
AXIS 1	102	9 063 543,37	88,18%	102	9 048 515,59	88,04%	102	9 048 515,59	88,04%
Measure 2.1 "Production investments in aquaculture"	58	54 252 173,92	116,87%	105	47 948 139,27	103,29%	53	46 109 444,12	99,33%
Measure 2.2 "Aquatic ecological measures"	1	76 281,43	184,44%	3	41 357,49	100,00%	1	41 357,49	100,00%
Measure 2.6. "Investments in processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products"	17	16 428 372,05	107,78%	32	15 672 733,86	102,82%'	17	15 242 643,29	100,00%
Measure 2.7 "Financial engineering"	4	12 167 850,00	104,03%	3	11 793 477,65	100,83 %'	3	11 793 477,65	100,83%
AXIS 2	80	82 924 677,40	112,97%	143	75 455 708,27	102,80%	74	73 186 922,55	99,71%
Measure 3.1 "Collective actions"	2	871 188,53	101,59%	4	857 561,47	100,00%	2	857 561,47	100,00%
Measure 3.3	3	28 154 850,27	100,52%	8	27 834 479,36	99,37%	2	18 311 287,37	65,37%

Axis/measure	Agreed funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid projects		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
"Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters"									
Measure 3.4 "Development of new markets and promotional campaigns"	19	4 869 277,27	110,58%	39	4 486 729,83	101,90%'	19	4 486 729,83	101,90%
Measure 3.5 "Pilot projects"	1	938 012,38	100,00%	3	938 012,38	100,00%	1	938 012,38	100,00%
AXIS 3	25	34 833 328,45	101,82%	54	34 116 783,04	99,73%	24	24 593 591,05	71,89%
Measure 4.1.A "Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development and coverage of operative expenses of Fishers groups"	6	41 434 169,59	108,78%	326	35 915 324,20	94,29%	235	35 644 275,28	93,58%
AXIS 4	6	41 434 169,59	108,78%	326	35 915 324,20	94,29%	235	35 644 275,28	93,58%
Measure 5.1 "Technical assistance"	106	8 689 744,34	112,21%	171	7 591 000,60	98,02%	105	7 556 100,60	97,57%
AXIS 5	106	8 689 744,34	112,21%	171	7 591 000,60	98,02%	105	7 556 100,60	97,57%
TOTAL	319	176 945 463,15	108,08%	796	162 127 331,70	99,02%	540	150 029 405,07	91,64%

Source: EAFA

Note: From the paid funds no recovery orders or irrecoverable debts have been reduced from beneficiaries under OPFSD

Cumulative progress in the implementation of OPFSD as of 30.06.2015

- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects 319
- Total agreed funds: 176 945 463,15 BGN (108,08%);
- Total disbursed funds to beneficiaries: 162 127 331,70 BGN (99,02%);
- The amounts of 150 029 405,07 BGN (91,64%) have been finally disbursed.

After the reduction of the financial resource, as a result of the derecognition of funds from the budget of OPFSD for 2011 and 2012, and taking into consideration the last approved project of the Programme, the MA has identified a lack of financial resource for payment of the signed contracts under priority axis 2 "Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products" to the total amount of 3 625 489,02 BGN.

In the derecognition of funds from the OPFSD budget in 2011 and 2012 during the implementation of the rule N=2, the deficiency of funds impacted mainly the funding under Measure 2.1, which reached almost 28 million BGN.

To 30.06.2016 the real deficiency is to the amount of 3 625 489,02 BGN GFA (according to inquiries for payment of the beneficiaries under OPFSD).

The amount of 28 million BGN has been reduced as a result of the taken actions by the MA, including: change of the financial plan of OPFSD, as well as connected with the relocation of funding under priority axis, taking into consideration the identified remains under measures of OPFSD, and at the same time available deficiency of financial resource under Measure 2.1; annulled contracts; use of released amounts after the payment for expenses under submitted inquiries for payment under projects; use of amounts for financial corrections, which are not included in the expenses reports that accompany the inquiries for interim payments to the EC, submitted by CA of Bulgaria.

4. Agenda for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014 – 2020

In 2015, the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 (MAFP) has been approved with a Decision of the European Commission from November 13, 2015. The total financial resource of MAFP is to the amount of 222 071 249,18 BGN, of which 172 243 341,31 BGN of the European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and 49 827 907,87 BGN of the budget of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Department of the MAF has been defined to implement the functions of a Managing Authority of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program, funded by the European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, while the function of the intermediate body for MAFP is performed by the State Fund "Agriculture" – Paying Agency.

The approval of MAFP 2014-2020 will assist in the implementation of the basic goals and priorities of the EU for the period 2014-2020, aiming at economic viability, competitiveness and ecological sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and promotion of the social cohesion and new job openings dependable on the fisheries communities. In this way, it will support the achievement of the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The approval of MAFP guarantees the contribution of the European Fund for the EU's Maritime and Fisheries Policies for the achievement of the goals in the common policy in the Fisheries Sector, of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and the Europa 2020 Strategy and the basic priorities, connected with the promotion of ecologically sustainable, and based on knowledge fishery and aquaculture, in which the application of the Fishery Common Policy is promoted, the increase of employment and the territorial inclusion, the promotion of the marketing and the processing, as well as the application of the IMP.

The common goal for the support, offered by the MAFP is the achievement of a dynamic, sustainable and competitive development of the fisheries and aquaculture in the period 2014-2020.

The Program contributes to the achievement of the six priorities for the fishery and aquaculture of the EFMD:

- Priority 1: Promotion of sustainable in ecological terms, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fishery, characterized by effective use of the resources;
- Priority 2: Promotion of sustainable in ecological terms, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, characterized by effective use of the resources;
- Priority 3: Promotion of the implementation of the Common policy in the Fisheries Sector;
- Priority 4: Growth of the employment and the territorial proximity;
- Priority 5: Promotion of the demand on the market and the processing;
- Priority 6. Promotion of the implementation of the integrated maritime policy;

In compliance with these priorities a distribution has been made of the total 23 (twenty-three) measures, including Measure "Technical Assistance", which will be funded for the period 2014-2020.

In terms of the fishery, a significant financial resource will be directed for the improvement of the infrastructure of fishery ports, unloading sites, fish markets and boat shelters. Besides, a measure for adding to the value and increasing of the quality of the products is provided. Another important emphasis is the support of the innovation and the diversification of the activities outside the commercial fishery.

Totally, for the implementation of the measures under this priority, the expected financial resource is to the amount of 25 514 500 euro.

In terms of the aquacultures, the basic financial resource is directed to the measures connected with the modernization of the farms, the diversification of the production as well as for adding value and

diversification of the activities. Separately, a measure for the investments for the promotion of the development of biological or effective from the point of view of the consumption of energy aquacultures is approved. Furthermore, investments for the development of technical innovations or knowledge in the aquaculture area will be assisted.

Totally, for the implementation of the measures under this priority, the secured financial resource is to the amount of 36 215 000 euro.

For the implementation of the priority for the increase of the employment and the territorial proximity will be supported measures, concerning the Community-led local development (CLLD) (BOMP), through local initiative fishing groups.

The total budget under this priority is 17 858 823,53 euro.

The expected activities for the promotion of the market demand and the processing emphasize the supply of investments for the products processing from fishing and aquaculture. MAFP will promote and support the establishment of organizations of the producers, of associations of producers' organizations or inter-branch organizations in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Totally, for this priority, the provided financial resource is 12 706 991 euro.

In terms of the implementation of the Common Policy in the Fisheries Sector (CPFS) two measures are provided – control and legislation implementation and data collection. The total budget for these activities amounts to 12 414 578, 89 euro.

An important priority for the program period 2014-2020 is the promotion of the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy. The budget for the implementation of this measure is to the amount of 3 333 333,33 euro.

Funds are provided for means for technical assistance under the initiative of the member states to the amount of 5 500 000 euro.

The budget for the measures of MAFP is as follows:

Table VII.8. Budget of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 under measures:

	Measure	Grant financial assistance (BGN)
1.1	Diversification and new forms of income	3 520 494,00
1.2	Health and Safety	486 512,71
1.3	Permanent termination of fishing activities	1 681 035,89
1.4	Limiting the impact of the fishery on the maritime environment and fishery adaptation for the species protection	540 298,04
1.5	Innovations, connected with the preservation of the maritime biological resources	2 004 725,75

	Measure	Grant financial assistance (BGN)
1.6	Protection and recovery of the marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensational modes within the framework of the sustainable fishing activities	7 295 245,90
1.7	Added value, products' quality and use of the unwanted catches	9 925 837,25
1.8	Fish ports, unloading sites , fish markets and boat shelters	24 447 875,00
2.1	Aquaculture innovations	3 227 119,50
2.2	Productive investments in aquaculture	38 872 121,25
2.3	Promotion of new producers of aquaculture, developing sustainable aquaculture	16 624 555,00
2.4	Transition to schemes for environmental management and auditing and to biological aquaculture	1 105 043,95
2.5	Aquaculture, providing ecological services	11 001 543,75
3.1	Control and implementation	14 542 923,84
3.2	Data collection	9 737 881,99
4.1	Support of the strategies for Community-led local development	3 175 347,53
4.2	Implementation of the CLLD strategies	31 753 475,29
5.1	Plans for production and supply on the market	189 715,51
5.2	Preservation assistance	1 349 505,10
5.3	Supply on the market	1 897 155,10
5.4	Processing of the products of fishing and aquaculture	21 416 338,50
6.1	Promotion of the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6 519 433,33
7.	Technical assistance	10 757 065,00

Source: MAF, Maritime and Fishery Department

In April 2016, during a session of the Monitoring Committee of MAFP, Indicative Annual Working Program has been approved to provide grant financial assistance under MAFP for 2016, which included 11 measures under the Program.

The forecasted amount for payments under the Program for 2017, submitted by the MA of MAFP of the State Fund "Agriculture" and the Ministry of finance is to the amount 23 225 000 BGN, of which 16 998 991 BGN EU funding and 6 226 409 BGN of the national budget.

5. Common policy in the fishery area

In 2015, a Fishery Consultative Committee (FCC) was established to the minister of agriculture and food, whose basic task is the identification of the existing problems in the sector, the preparation of recommendations and proposals for timely and scientifically grounded decisions. In the course of the year, two regular sessions of FCC were held.

SECTION B

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR, MEASURES AND ACTIONS FOR THEIR CARRYING OUT IN 2017

The state policy in the agrarian sector is aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture and improving working conditions and quality of life in rural areas, accelerated absorption of EU funds, sustainable management of natural resources and high standards for food safety . The priorities and policy objectives in the agricultural sector, measures and actions for their achievement in 2016 set out in this section are in accordance with the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 and the Government program for sustainable development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2014 - 2018.

PRIORITY 1

DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR FOR PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY AND FOR PRODUCTION OF PRODUCTS WITH HIGH ADDED VALUE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TARGET 1 BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTORS IN THE AGRARIAN SECTORS FIR PRODUCTION OF PRODUCTS WITH HIGH ADDED VALUE

MEASURE:

Overcoming the structural imbalance in the “Agriculture” and its sub - prioritizing intensive sectors in agriculture - livestock, vegetables and perennials organic production, biological production

ACTIONS:

- Maximum utilization of opportunities of First Pillar of the CAP for priority support to sectors „Livestock”, „Fruits and Vegetables”, „Protein crops“;
- Targeted investment support RDP 2014-2020, for holdings and producers of fruits and vegetables.
- Using the possibilities of state aid to promote humanitarian attitude to animals.
- Implementation of National program for support of the vine and winery sector in Bulgaria 2014 - 2018;
- Implementation of the National program for apiculture 2017 - 2019

- Promotion of the biological production by granting assistance under the Program Fisheries Sector Development (PFSD) 2014-2020

Measure:

Optimization of land relations, ensuring the effectiveness of land use and increase farm incomes

ACTIONS:

- Promoting voluntary land consolidation for the purpose of agricultural production.
- Effective management of state land fund

MEASURE:

Recovery and modernization of hydro melioration infrastructure

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of proposals for changes in the institutional and regulatory framework;
- Preparation of integrated investment plans, programs and projects at river basin level;
- Providing of assistance by PFSD 2014-2020 (under submeasure 4.1. Investment in agricultural farms) for investment expenses, connected with watering within the framework of the agrarian farms.

TARGET 2 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENSURING STABLE AND FAIR INCOME TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN IT

MEASURE:

Increasing incomes from agricultural activities

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the multi-layered structure of direct payments.
- Support for young farmers under the first and second pillar of the CAP.
- Supporting small farms under the first and second pillar of the CAP.
- Supporting small farms having the potential to increase production and to enter the market through Thematic sub-programme for small farms to RDP 2014-2020,

MEASURE:

Better risk management in agriculture

ACTIONS:

- Application of a State Aid scheme to co-finance insurance premiums to insure agricultural production.
- Application of a State Aid scheme for compensation of loss due to adverse climatic conditions.
- Application of a State Aid scheme for compensation of material damage to deceased livestock and destroyed beehives as a result of natural disasters.
- Application of a State Aid scheme for compensation of loss due to diseases of plants and animals.
- Upgrade and improvement of the efficiency of the systems for combating hailstorms.

TARGET 3 UPGRADED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY UPDATED FARMS AND ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATED INTRODUCTION OF INNOVATIONS IN FARMING PRACTICES

MEASURE:

Promotion of investment and commercialization of innovations in farms and enterprises for processing of agricultural products

ACTIONS:

- Application of measures under Rural Development Program 2014-2020 to support investments in tangible and intangible assets;
- Application of RDP measures for financial support of innovative solutions and practices in agricultural production;
- Conducting awareness information events including seminars and meetings and consultations with farmers to explain the advantages and opportunities for farm upgrading and introduction of innovations; incl. small and medium farms.

TARGET 4

SUSTAINABLE MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

MEASURE:

Stabilization of market positions of agricultural producers

ACTIONS:

- Support for the activities of producer organizations and producer groups through European and national funding;
- Promotion of direct supplies of raw materials and food.
- Encouraging the creation of short supply chains.
- Implementation of European schemes for ensuring milk and fruits in schools;
- Flexible implementation of regular market measures to prevent and manage crises on the markets of agricultural products.

MEASURE:**Regulation and protection of the production of traditional Bulgarian agricultural products****ACTIONS:**

- Conducting campaigns for the clarification of the quality policy advantages
- Organization, conducting and provision of effective administration of the approval procedures and the registration of traditional specific character foods.

TARGET 5**INCREASING EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND STRENGTHENING THEIR POSITIONS AT FOREIGN MARKETS****MEASURE:****Conducting targeted marketing and advertising policy for the promotion of Bulgarian agricultural products on foreign markets****ACTIONS:**

- Promotion of the opportunities for promotional programs funding, which the European policy provides.
- Implementing programs to promote agricultural and food products on the markets of the EU and third countries.
- Application of State aid schemes to encourage farmers' participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

TARGET 6 INCREASING THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND AWARENESS OF FARMERS STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE AGRICULTURE

MEASURE:

Improving the effectiveness of the Agricultural Advisory system

ACTIONS:

- Effective control and constant monitoring of the quality of the provided advisory services of the participants in the Advisory System under art.12-art.15 of the Regulation of the Council No. 1306/2013.
- Development of partnerships, including public and private transfer for the purpose of transfer of scientific knowledge, implementation of good practices and innovations in Bulgarian agriculture;
- Facilitation of the access to consultations in agriculture for agricultural producers, especially by the settlements remote from the district centers, through increasing the capacity of the national office for consultations in agriculture, including at a municipal level;
- Actively functioning regional advisory councils for agricultural advice with the participation of representatives of NAAS, universities, research institutes, NGOs and farmers
- Creation and development of “farming circles” to the regional offices of NAAS involving active farmers to disseminate useful information in the field of agriculture and promotion of best practices in the application and implementation of projects under the RDP.
- Construction of advisory network, including participants from non-governmental sector.

MEASURE:

INCREASING THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF FARMERS

ACTIONS:

- Organizing and conducting trainings for farmers including through long-term and short-term courses and information activities;
- Providing access of agricultural producers to an important agricultural information, through organizing on a local level (municipal and per settlements) of seminars and awareness events, as well as through media events;

- Providing specialized advice to farmers in crop and livestock production, as well as tips for making the right decisions for farm management.
- Provision of advisory services to farmers in various areas (farm assessment and identification of improvements in connection with the EU standards concerning safety; the correct use of products for plant protection according to the principles of the good plant protection practice; agricultural practices in favour of climate change and the environment, specialized advice in the area of plant growing and animal breeding, as well as advice for taking correct decisions to manage the farms.

MEASURE:

INCREASING THE INNOVATIVENESS OF RESEARCH IN THE AGRICULTURAL AREA

ACTIONS:

- Selection of new varieties of plant cultures and animal breeds;
- Development of traditional and new technologies for plant growing and animal raising;
- Patenting and certification of the created scientific products;
- Transfer of scientific products into the production – conclusion of license agreements;
- Supporting the transfer of innovations in agricultural practice by disseminating the results of research projects in the field of agriculture and information about developed new products and techniques.
- Dissemination of best practices for technology adoption by farmers by organizing discussion groups involving farmers, consultants and researchers.

TARGET 7 SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MEASURE:

Encouraging the introduction of production practices that contribute to adaptation to climate change and compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of “green direct payments.”

- Implementation of the measure “Agri-environment and climate” of the RDP 2014-2020,
- Providing financial incentives for farmers to actively participate in activities for conservation and improvement of genetic resources:
 - Implementation of schemes for connected with the production support for animals under selection control.
 - Application of State aid scheme to maintain a herd book and for the defining of the productivity and the genetic qualities of the animals.
 - Application of State aid scheme for promotion of the production and the use of high quality seeds.

MEASURE:

Maintenance of agricultural activities in areas with natural or other specific constraints

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the measure “Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints” of the RDP 2014-2020

TARGET 8 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

MEASURE:

Promoting the development of sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry

ACTIONS:

- Development of secondary legal framework for the implementation and promotion of the measures of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014 - 2020, related to the support for investments and for development and commercialization of innovations in fisheries and aquaculture in the processing and marketing of sector products
- Implementation of measures under the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program 2014 — 2020

MEASURE:

Granting and managing reliable biological, ecological, technical and socio-economic data for the sector “Fisheries”

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the National Programme for the collection, management and use of data for “Fisheries sector” in accordance with the multiannual program of the European Union.

MEASURE:

Implementation of measures for the management and protection of the fish resources

ACTIONS:

- Conducting research to define the situation of the fish resources, with the purpose to receive reliable information for the condition of the fish resources in water basins, used mainly for recreational fishing.

MEASURE:

Performing stocking events in the sites used mainly for recreational fishing, as a measure to recover and support the sustainability of the fish populations in them

ACTIONS:

- Performing stocking with fish of important sites for recreational fishing, after the conducting of scientific research.

MEASURE:

Identification of the issues in the fishing area and taking well-grounded decisions

ACTIONS:

- Conducting of sessions of the Consultative Council for Fishery and Aquaculture to the minister of agriculture and food, active participation in branch and scientific organizations for the defining and conducting the national policy for the development of the Fishery Sector.

MEASURE:

Changes in the national legislation

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of program documents, legislative and secondary normative regulations in the area of fishery and aquaculture.

TARGET 9 HIGH LEVEL OF PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND CONSUMER INTERESTS IN RELATION TO FOODS BY APPLYING INTEGRATED CONTROL APPROACH THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE FOOD CHAIN

MEASURE:

Conducting single official control for food safety and quality, covering all units and stages of the food chain

ACTIONS:

- Application of high standards as regards the control in the field of safety and quality of foods, food additives and drinks, veterinary medicine and humane treatment of animals, crop protection and fertilizers, phytosanitary control, fodders, border control, etc.;
- Continuous cooperation with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), with all structures of the European Union involved in food safety activities, vegetation health activities, animal health care activities and humane treatment of animals activities, and with the food safety authorities across the EU Member States and third countries.

TARGET 10 MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

MEASURE:

Preparation, adopting and monitoring the implementation of strategic and normative documents on management of forest resources, with the effective participation of civil society

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of regional plans for development of forest areas.
- Development and adoption of strategic documents (the program) for the development of hunting in Bulgaria.
- Development of a new strategy for the protection of forest areas from fires.
- Implementation of monitoring and reporting the results of the implementation of the National Strategy for development of the forestry sector in Bulgaria 2013 - 2020 years (NSRGSRB) and the Strategic Plan for Forest Development 2014-2023 years (SPFD)
 - resumption of the National Forestry Board (NFB);
 - Forest Dialogue project implementation

MEASURE:

Creation of a predictable and stable environment for development of small and medium businesses in the field of extraction and sale of timber and transparency in the conduct of procedures

ACTIONS:

- Long-term contracts for the extraction and sale of timber through transparent procedures.
- Update Ordinance on terms and conditions for awarding the implementation of activities in forest areas
 - state and municipal property, and use of timber and non-timber forest products.

MEASURE:

Increasing the share of green economy based on forests:

ACTIONS:

- Creation of incentives for the development of the green economy based on market principles - studying, analyzing and assessing the Bulgarian forest for production of biomass for energy purposes.
- Development of Regulation for Public ecosystem benefits.

MEASURE:

Creation of new forests and implementing sustainable practices for managing of existing ones

ACTIONS:

- Change of designation of unfit for agricultural use lands.
- Development of plans for forestation.
- Forestation.
- Increasing the total area of forest areas with protective functions.
- Keeping forests healthy and priority utilization of timber damaged by biotic and abiotic factors and recovery of affected areas.
- Financing the creation of new forests by 8 measure "Investments in forest areas, developing and preserving the viability of forests" RDP 2014-2020.

TARGET 11

PRESERVATION OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

MEASURE:

Reduction of illegal felling

ACTIONS:

- Development and implementation of new software for keeping a register of acts files and protocols of findings of violations of law related to the use, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products.
- Development and implementation of software for issuing, reporting and control of electronic documents for use, transportation, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products.
- Continuation and expansion of cooperation between the institutions to improve collaboration in the prevention and detection of offences, incl .:
 - interaction with government institutions in the protection and control of the use and trade in timber and non-timber forest products;

- legislative changes to the current forest legislation relevant to the protection of forest areas, as well as the Criminal Code;
 - real criminal liability of officials gross and repeated violations of the law;
 - finding a lasting solution to the problems with the collection of amounts under effective penal provisions.
- Increasing the efficiency of operation of mobile monitoring teams DP SFE and SGP

MEASURE:

Prevention of fire risk in forest lands

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of a single scheme for the deployment of systems to monitor and detect fires in forest areas.

TARGET 12

DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AS A FACTOR FOR SUCCESS OF POLICY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

MEASURES:

- Expanding the circle of the provided by electronic means administrative service, provided by the administrative structures in the system of MAF;
- Improving access to information collection and aggregation system MAF.
- Publication of information and collected data in the Open data portal.

PRIORITY 2

MOBILIZATION OF THE POTENTIAL OF RURAL AREAS FOR ACHIEVING BALANCED SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 1 DIVERSIFICATION OF THE RURAL ECONOMY AND HIGH LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION

MEASURES:

- Encouraging the start-up and the development of economic activities in the form of new holdings, new enterprises, new investments in non-agricultural activities
- Promoting local development by implementing a 'Community-led local development / Leader. "

TARGET 2 IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS

MEASURES:

- Encouragement of the development of the local infrastructure, including broadband infrastructure and renovation of villages;
- Encouragement the supply of local basic services;
- Encouragement of the protection of the local cultural and natural heritage.

To implement the measures and the objectives of the agrarian policy in 2017 will apply comprehensive range of instruments for financial support to European and national funds.

This includes mainly direct payments and market support under the first pillar of the CAP, financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the Programme for Rural Development for 2014-2020 (second pillar of the CAP), funded by the European Agricultural Fund for rural development. The development of sustainable fishery and production of aquacultures will be supported by the Maritime and Fishery Program for the period 2014-2020, funded by the European Fund for Maritime and Fishery. Besides the limitations of the state budget, the sustainable development of the agriculture will be supported with national funding, too. – by means of schemes for transitory state aid, supporting the assistance of European funds under the first pillar of CAP and state aid.

Total for the new programming period 2014-2020 is expected to absorb about 7.5 billion EUR in the agricultural sector. Over 2.2 billion EUR of these funds will be allocated for rural development and investments in agriculture under the Programme for Rural Development 2014-2020 for supporting farm incomes in the new programming period will be provided and over 5 billion EUR in European funds in the form of direct payments.

Under EU law, the national ceilings for direct payments set of Bulgaria for 2017 is 793 226 thousand euro.

Helping vulnerable and priority sectors will be achieved through the implementation of schemes coupled support. Bulgaria notified the maximum allowable amount of coupled support for the period 2015 - 2020 years - 15% of the financial ceiling for direct payments, including 13% of the sectors "Livestock" and "Fruits and Vegetables" and 2% for protein crops. In August 2016 before the EC have been notified the

following schemes for coupled assistance, which will be applied for the period 2017-2020:

- Scheme 1 for coupled support for dairy cows - Assist farmers who cultivated 10 (inclusive) or more dairy cows that are intended to produce milk in the Integrated Information System BFSA;
- Scheme 2 for coupled support for cows for meat and / or heifers - Assist farmers who grow 5 (inclusive) or more cows for meat and / or heifers are destined for meat production in the Integrated Information System of BFSA;
- Scheme 3 for coupled support for dairy cows and / or cows for meat under selection control - Assist farmers who cultivated 20 (inclusive) or cows for meat (design for manufacturing meat), of under selection control of one breed;
- Scheme 4 for coupled support for ewes and goats in mountain areas – assistance to farmers growing from 10 (inclusive) to 49 (inclusive) ewes and / or goats, whose animal breeding site is situated in a mountainous area;
- Scheme 5 for coupled support for ewes and goats under selection control - Assist farmers who cultivated 50 (inclusive) and more ewes and / or goats 20 (inclusive) from which one animal is under selection control;
- Scheme 6 for coupled support for buffalo - Assist farmers who cultivated 10 (inclusive) and more female buffaloes at the age of 18 months and more;
- Scheme 7 for coupled support for fruit (basic group) - the right to have support farmers throughout the country that operate at least 0.5 hectares eligible areas with fruits of the following crops: strawberries, raspberries, apples, pears, apricots, peaches and nectarines, cherries, sour cherries;
- Scheme 8 for coupled support for vegetables (basic group) — the right to have support farmers throughout the country that operate at least 0.5 hectares of eligible land with vegetables of the following crops: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, cabbage, onion (mature), eggplant, carrots, garlic, potatoes and/or vegetables, which are from greenhouse production: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers;
- Scheme 9 for coupled support for vegetables (greenhouse production) — the right of support for farmers throughout the country that operate at least 0.5 hectares eligible areas with vegetables in greenhouses crop: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and or vegetables (field production): tomatoes, pepper, cucumbers, gherkins, cabbage, onion (mature), eggplant, carrots, garlic (mature), potatoes;
- Scheme 10 for coupled support for protein crops — the right to support manufacturers throughout the country who raise a minimum of 0.5 hectares eligible areas of these protein: beans (grain),

lentils, chickpeas, peas (feed grain), peanuts, soy, beans, alfalfa, sainfoin, vetch, clover, vigna, burchak, lupine and trefoil.

- Scheme 11 for coupled support of milk cows under selection control – supported farmers, who cultivate 20 (inclusive) and more milk cows (designed for milk production) under selection control from one breed;
- Scheme 12 for coupled support of milk cows in mountainous areas – supported farmers, who breed from 5 (inclusive) to 9 (inclusive) milk cows design for milk production, whose breeding site is situated in a mountainous area;
- Scheme 13 for coupled support for fruits (plums and table grapes) – the right to support have farmers with eligible area of minimum 0,5 hectares (together and separately) with plums (*Prunus domestica*) and/or table grapes;
- Scheme 14 for coupled support for vegetables (cabbage, melons and water melons) – the right to support have farmers with eligible areas minimum of 0,5 hectares (together or separately) from the following vegetables, which are field production: cabbage, water melons and/or melons.

The ceilings of schemes for the transitional national aid that Bulgaria has the right to apply in 2017 are to the amount of:

- Payment for area, not connected with production – 22 million BGN;
- Payment for tobacco, not connected with production – 100 BGN;
- Payment for cattle – 77 million BGN

The proposed by the State Fund “Agriculture” budget for State aid in agriculture for 2017 amounts to about 150 million BGN

ANNEXES

ANNEX 6

END PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE (UNDER CURRENT BASELINE PRICES) - 2014 - 2015
VALUE AND INDEXES OF CHANGE - 2015 COMPARED TO 2014

No.		Current value for 2014 (million BGN)	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Price index (previous year =100)	Combined index	Current value for 2015 (million BGN)
1	Grain crops (=lines 2 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10)	2 602,8	84.00	103.60	87.00	2 264,1
2	Wheat and spelt (= lines 3 + 4)	1 524,0	85.50	99.80	85.30	1 300,1
3	Common wheat	1 503,5	85.60	99.70	85.30	1 281,9
4	Durum wheat	20.50	78.50	113.00	88.80	18.20
5	Rye	6.30	92.10	108.60	100.00	6.30
6	Barley	226.00	89.80	101.20	90.90	205.40
7	Oats and grains	9.10	92.30	91.70	84.60	7.70
8	Grain maize	777.50	76.40	113.40	86.60	673.30
9	Rice	39.00	126.90	96.60	122.60	47.80
10	Other grains	20.90	109.10	103.10	112.40	23.50
11	Technical crops (= lines 12 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 20)	1 890,1	79.80	115.80	92.40	1 747,0
12	Oilseeds (= lines 13 + 14 + 15 + 16)	1 534,4	79.10	114.20	90.30	1 386,0
13	Rapeseed and colza	332.10	76.90	120.00	92.40	306.70
14	Sunflower	1 200,6	79.70	112.70	89.80	1 078,4
15	Soy	0.70	85.70	50.00	42.90	0.30
16	Other oilseeds	1.00	60.00	100.00	60.00	0.60
17	Protein crops	9.00	143.30	291.50	417.80	37.60
18	Tobacco	270.00	68.80	108.20	74.40	201.00
19	Sugar beet	,	,	,	,	,
20	Other industrial crops (= lines 21 + 22 + 23)	76.70	125.20	127.50	159.60	122.40
21	Fibre crops	0.30	66.70	100.00	66.70	0.20
22	Hops	0.40	225.00	77.80	175.00	0.70
23	Other	76.00	124.90	128.00	159.90	121.50
24	Feed crops (= lines 25 + 26 + 27)	253.20	96.90	102.00	98.90	250.30
25	Maize for silage	61.00	70.00	114.10	79.80	48.70
26	Root crops for fodder	0.40	250.00	40.00	100.00	0.40
27	Other fodder crops	191.80	105.10	99.80	104.90	201.20
28	Vegetables (= lines 29 + 32)	278.80	112.50	88.90	100.00	278.80
29	Fresh vegetables (= lines 30 + 31)	254.20	118.70	88.40	105.00	266.90
30	Tomatoes	111.40	118.40	63.30	75.00	83.50
31	Other fresh vegetables	142.80	119.00	107.90	128.40	183.40
32	Flowers and plant nurseries (= lines 33 + 34 + 35)	24.60	48.40	100.00	48.40	11.90
33	Plant nurseries	16.50	26.70	100.00	26.70	4.40
34	Ornamental plants	8.10	92.60	100.00	92.60	7.50
35	Creation and cultivation	,	,	,	,	,
36	Potatoes	47.20	147.20	109.40	161.00	76.00
37	Fruits (= lines 38 + 43)	247.40	145.70	88.20	128.50	318.00
38	Fresh fruits (= line 39 + 40 + 41 + 42)	171.80	121.90	77.80	94.80	162.90
39	Apples	36.20	81.80	70.90	58.00	21.00
40	Pears	2.30	191.30	75.00	143.50	3.30
41	Peaches	19.40	105.70	84.40	89.20	17.30
42	Other fresh fruits	113.90	136.10	78.30	106.50	121.30
43	Grapes all - (= lines 44 +45)	75.60	199.70	102.70	205.20	155.10
44	Table grapes	9.20	144.60	93.20	134.80	12.40
45	Other grapes	66.40	207.40	103.60	214.90	142.70
46	Wine	,	,	,	,	,
47	Table wine	,	,	,	,	,
48	Other plant crops (= lines 49 +50)	66.00	144.10	26.20	37.70	24.90
49	Seeds	58.40	145.40	18.50	26.90	15.70
50	Other plant crops	7.60	134.20	90.20	121.10	9.20
51	Plant production (= lines 1 + 11 + 24 + 28 + 36 + 37 + 46 + 48)	5 385,5	88.70	103.80	92.10	4 959,1
52	Livestock (= lines 53 + 54 + 55 + 56 + 57 + 58)	1 108,4	95.40	96.30	91.90	1 018,3
53	Bovine animals	247.50	96.50	90.30	87.20	215.80
54	Pigs	301.20	97.90	92.30	90.40	272.20
55	Horses	0.30	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.30
56	Sheep and goats	209.20	98.40	107.10	105.40	220.50
57	Poultry	340.10	91.00	98.90	90.00	306.10
58	Other animals	10.10	83.20	40.50	33.70	3.40

No.		Current value for 2014 (million BGN)	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Price index (previous year =100)	Combined index	Current value for 2015 (million BGN)
59	Livestock products (= lines 60 + 61 + 62)	1 086,8	90.80	94.10	85.40	928.10
60	Milk	872.50	88.20	91.20	80.50	702.20
61	Egs	153.90	101.90	103.50	105.50	162.30
62	Other products from livestock (= lines 63 + 64 + 65)	60.40	98.70	106.70	105.30	63.60
63	Greasy wool	3.00	90.00	111.10	100.00	3.00
64	Silk cocoons	,	,	,	,	,
65	Other products from livestock	57.40	99.10	106.50	105.60	60.60
66	Production of livestock (= lines 53 + 59)	2 195,2	93.10	95.20	88.70	1 946,4
67	Production of agricultural products (= p. 51 + 66)	7 580,7	90.00	101.20	91.10	6 905,5
68	Production of agricultural sevicees	512.40	92.80	99.80	92.60	474.70
69	Agricultural production (= Lines 67 + 68)	8 093,1	90.20	101.10	91.20	7 380,2
70	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities (= lines 71 + 80)	320.80	81.70	93.70	76.60	245.80
71	Agricultural products processing (=lines 72 + 73 + 74 + 75 + 76 + 77 + 79)					
72	Crops	60.40	83.10	103.60	86.10	52.00
73	Vegetables	21.40	142.50	75.10	107.00	22.90
74	Frutis	12.20	113.10	88.40	100.00	12.20
75	Wine	30.30	96.70	103.40	100.00	30.30
76	Cattle	42.90	133.80	92.30	123.50	53.00
77	Cattle products(> = line 78)	147.20	50.70	92.40	46.90	69.00
78	Milk	147.20	50.70	92.40	46.90	69.00
79	Other	6.40	98.40	101.60	100.00	6.40
80	Other inseparable secondary activities	,	,	,	,	,
81	Production of Branch "Agriculture" (= lines 69 + 70)	8 413,9	89.80	100.90	90.60	7 626,0
82	Interim consumption (= lines 83 + 86 + 91 + 94 + 95 + 96 + 100 + 101 + 102 + 103 + 104)	5 027,1	94.00	97.00	91.20	4 586,9
83	Seeds and propagating material (= lines 84 + 85)	160.60	93.50	100.10	93.60	150.30
84	Seeds and propagating material supplied by other agricultural farms	20.90	132.10	100.40	132.50	27.70
85	Seeds and propagating material bought out of the sector	139.70	87.70	100.10	87.80	122.60
86	Fuels and oils (= lines 87 + 88 + 89 + 90)	1 134,2	107.90	89.90	97.00	1 100,0
87	Electricity	90.70	107.80	90.00	97.00	88.00
88	Gas	28.70	108.00	89.70	96.90	27.80
89	Other fuels	1 010,9	107.90	89.90	97.00	980.40
90	other	3.90	107.70	90.50	97.40	3.80
91	Fertilisers and soil conditioners (= lines 92 + 93)	417.20	81.80	107.20	87.70	366.00
92	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	8.40	82.10	107.20	88.10	7.40
93	purchased outside the industry	408.80	81.80	107.20	87.70	358.60
94	Plant protection products	248.50	89.60	97.90	87.70	217.90
95	Veterinary expenses	287.20	86.50	101.40	87.70	251.90
96	Feed additives	1 271,2	91.90	96.90	89.00	1 131,7
97	Feed additives supplied from other farms	321.50	85.80	96.90	83.10	267.20
98	Feed additives bought out of the sector	407.10	96.60	96.90	93.60	381.10
99	Feed additives produced and used within the farm	542.60	91.90	96.90	89.10	483.40
100	Maintenance and repair of machines and small size inventory	362.40	88.20	99.40	87.70	317.90
101	Building maintenance	177.70	87.70	100.00	87.70	155.90
102	Agricultural services	512.40	92.80	99.80	92.60	474.70
103	FIZIM	85.20	112.40	99.80	112.20	95.60
104	Other goods and services	370.50	87.90	99.80	87.70	325.00
105	Gross added value under baseline prices (= lines 81 - 82)	3 386,8	83.60	107.30	89.70	3 039,1

Source: NSI

* Data for 2015 are forecasted.