



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND FORESTRY

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE STATE AND DEVELOPMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
2018



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

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

(AGRARIAN REPORT 2018)

AGRARIAN REPORT 2018

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List of abbreviations

AEP	Agri-environment Payments
AACS	Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System
BFSA	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
BSMAEC	Bulgarian Survey for Monitoring the Agricultural and Economic Conjunction
GDP	Gross domestic product
GVA	Gross value added
GVA	Bulgarian State Standard
Buffaloes	Coupled Support Scheme for Buffaloes
BNB	Bulgarian National Bank
BEP	Biological and economic properties
BRC	Bulgarian Red Cross
RES	Renewable energy sources
VMP	Veterinary medicinal products
VOC	Directorate general „Verification of the Official Control“
CLLD	Community-led local development
HNV	Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value
BCP	Border check points
BCRP	Border crossing points
GMO	Genetically modified organism
PG	Producer groups
FRM	Forest reproductive materials
FEPP	Forest economic plans and programmes
SEGA	State e-Government Agency
SG	State Gazette

SF	State forestries
VAT	Value added tax
CSSSESGSC	Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and She-goats under Selection Control
SFS	Small Farmer Scheme
SHA	State hunting area
SE	State enterprise
ESG-MA	Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats in Mountain Areas
SLF	State Land Fund
SFA	State Fund Agriculture
SFA-PA	State Fund Agriculture – Paying Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
MILK SCHEME	Coupled support scheme for dairy cows under selection control
MEAT SCHEME	Coupled support scheme for meat cows under selection control
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
UMANCP	Unified Multi-annual National Control Plan for Foods, Animal Feed, Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Protection
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EERP	European Economic Recovery Plan
EU	European Union
ESF	European Social Fund
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GMOA	Genetically Modified Organisms Act
AFM	Agricultural and forestry machinery

PGI	Protected geographical indication
DGP	Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environmentally friendly (Direct Green Payment)
ILSD	Infectious Lumpy Skin Disease
PDO	Protected designation of origin
SPMA	Seed and Propagating Material Act
ALOUA	Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act
EFA	Executive Forest Agency
EVWA	Executive Vine and Wine Agency
EAFA	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture
EAPVTFISC	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
IIS	Integrated Information System of the BFSA
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
ISMM	Information System for Managing and Monitoring of EU Funds
RTC	Road Transport Control
Mol	Ministry of Interior
YFS	Young Farmer Scheme
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
LAG	Local Action Groups
LAGF	Local Action Fishing Groups
MEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
NRA	National Revenue Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
NB	National Budget

NGF	National Guarantee Fund
NSA1	Transitional National Decoupled Support for Cattle
NSA3	Transitional National Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats
NDRVMI	National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Medical Institute
NDT	Transitional National Decoupled Tobacco Support Scheme
NMP	National Monitoring Programme for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods of Plant Origin
NMPCRC	National Monitoring Programme for Residue Control
NPCGMF	National Programme for Control of Genetically Modified Foods
NPCPR	National Programme for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods
NBP	National Bee-keeping Programme
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NGS	National Grain Service
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NAAS	National Agricultural Advisory Service
DDA	Regional departments of agriculture
RDFS	Regional Directorate for Food Safety
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMO	Common Market Organisation
PO	Producer organisations
OPIC	Operational Programme „Innovations and Competitiveness“
OPSESG	Operational Programme „Science and Education for Smart Growth“
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
OPE	Operational Programme „Environment“
OPRD	Operational Programme „Regional Development“
OPDFS	Operational Programme for Development of the Fisheries Sector

OPHRD	Operational Programme „Human Resources Development“
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
Cotton	Specific Support for Cotton
MFP	Maritime and Fisheries Programme
IRALOUA	Implementing Regulations for the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act
PPP	Plant protection products
RDP	Rural Development Programme
DFI	Direct foreign investment
RDF	Regional Directorate of Forest
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DHS	Distinctness, homogeneity and stability
SAPS	Single Area Payment Scheme
SV-other	Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Cabbage, Watermelons And Melons)
SV-main	Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Main Group)
SVg	Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables - Greenhouse Production
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
SMLK	Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows
SMLK-MR	Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas
SMKH	Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers
LDS	Local development strategies
IA	Irrigation associations
SF-other	Coupled Support Scheme for Fruit (Plums and Table Grapes)
SS-main	Coupled Support Scheme for Fruit (Main Group)
SPC	Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops
SRP	Scheme for redistributive payment
AA	Agricultural Academy

LDS	Local development strategies
TSP	Thematic sub-programme for small farms
FBI	Food and beverage industry
FTST	Food of traditional and specific taste
CLVSEE	Central Laboratory for Veterinary Sanitary Expertise and Ecology
CLPQ	Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine
CLCTQ	Central Laboratory for Chemical Testing and Control
CRAFC	Centre for Risk Assessment along the Food Chain
DOP	Digital orthophoto
PTC	Professional Training Centre
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office
ESVAC	European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PPPAMS	Plant Protection Products Authorisation Management System
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed



SECTION A

I. STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK. THE PLACE OF THE AGRARIAN SECTOR IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

According to NSI (National Statistical Institute) data, in 2017, gross domestic product produced in the country registered an increase of 3.8% compared to the previous year in real terms.

The nominal value of GDP for the year amounted to BGN 101,043 million (EUR 51,662 million).

By the end of 2017, inflation increased by 2.8% on an annual basis and the average annual inflation rate was 2.1%.

According to data provided by the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB), in 2017 exports amounted to BGN 52,710 million (EUR 26,950 million), which represents 52.2% of GDP. Imports for the year amounted to BGN 54,208 million (EUR 27,716 million) or 53.6% of the country's GDP. As a result of the faster growth of exports than that of imports, the negative trade balance for the year decreased by 22.2% compared to the previous year, to 1,498 million BGN (-766 million EUR).

In 2017, foreign direct investment in Bulgaria amounted to BGN 2,718 million (EUR 1,390 million), which represents 2.7% of GDP.

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

Indicator	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
GDP at current prices, million BGN	81,866	83,756	88,575	94,130	101,043
GDP at current prices, million EUR	41,857	42,824	45,288	48,128	51,662
Annual real GDP growth rate, %	0.5	1.8	3.5	3.9	3.8
Average annual inflation, %	0.9	-1.4	-0.1	-0.8	2.1
Inflation at the end of the year, %	-1.6	-0.9	-0.4	0.1	2.8
Trade balance, million BGN	-5,736	-5,431	-5,129	-1,925	-1,498
Trade balance, million EUR	-2,933	-2,777	-2,622	-984	-766
FDI, million BGN	2,706	679	4,692	1,962	2,718
FDI, million EUR	1,384	347	2,399	1,003	1,390

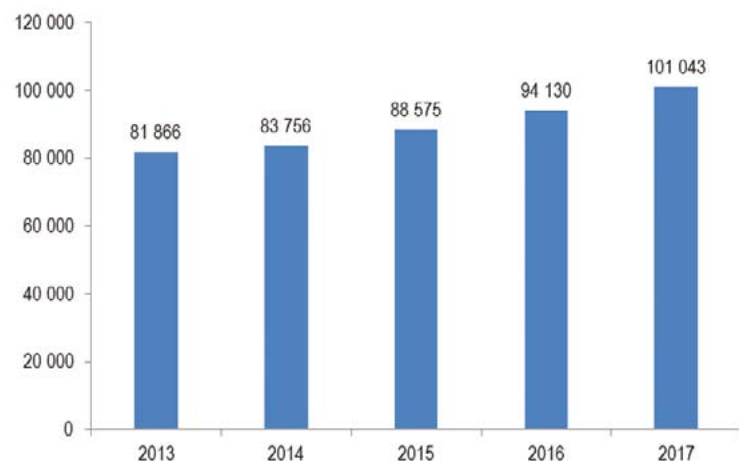
Source: NSI – GDP and inflation; BNB – data on trade balance and FDI, compiled in accordance with the sixth edition of the Balance of payments and international investment position manual of the IMF, 2008 (preliminary data for 2017)

¹ The real rate of change has been calculated at comparative prices for 2010.

Gross Domestic Product

In 2017, GDP grew by 3.8% in real terms compared to the previous year. In nominal terms it amounted to BGN 101,043 million (EUR 51,662 million).

Figure I.1. Amount of GDP for the period 2013 – 2017, million BGN



Source: NSI

Gross Value Added

The gross value added created by the sectors of the national economy in 2017 amounted to BGN 87,634 million (EUR 44,807 million) at current prices, marking a real growth of 4.2% compared to the previous year. The value added of the subjects of the agrarian sector in 2017 amounted to BGN 4,114 million at current prices. In real terms, it grew by 8.9% on an annual basis.

Figure I.2. GVA by economic sectors for the period 2013 – 2017, %



Source: NSI

■ Services ■ Industry ■ Agrarian

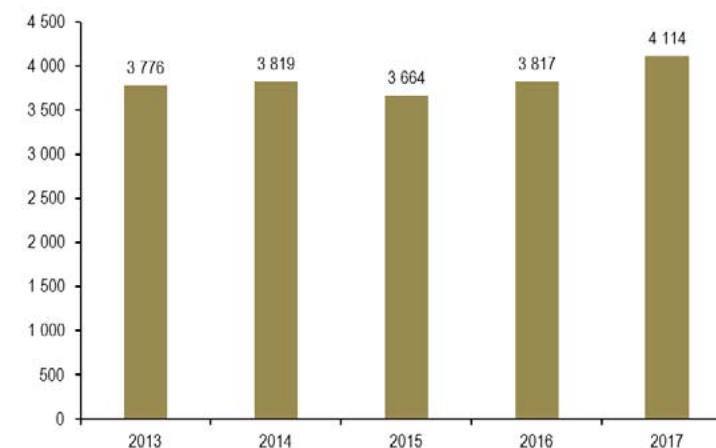
By economic sectors, GVA for 2017 is allocated as follows:

- Industry (including construction) – 28.4%;
- Services – 66.9%;
- Agriculture (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) – 4.7%.

The agrarian sector share in total GVA remained at the level of the previous year.

According to preliminary NSI data, which was seasonally adjusted, in the first and second quarter of 2018, total GVA for the country's economy grew by 3.1% and 3.0%, respectively, compared to the respective period in 2017 in real terms. With regard to the GVA attributed to the agrarian sector, preliminary data indicate an annual increase by 0.4% in real terms in the first quarter of 2018 and a decrease by 0.9% in the second quarter.

Figure I.3. GVA for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the period 2013 – 2017, million BGN

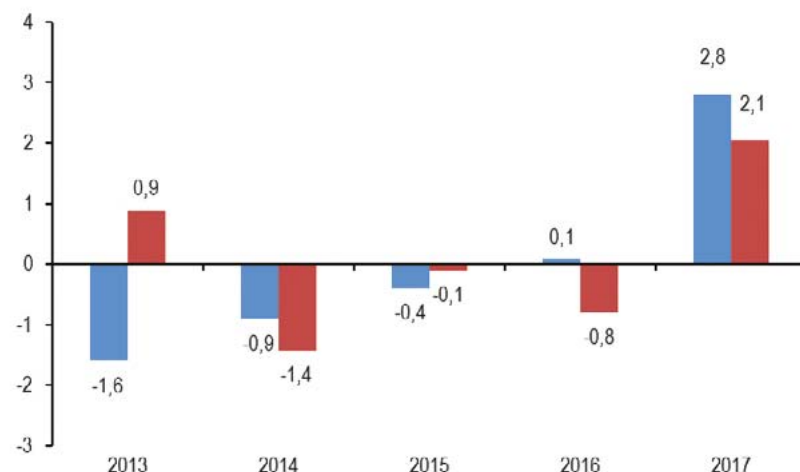


Source: NSI

Inflation

Inflation accumulated at the end of 2017 was 2.8%, and the annual average inflation for the year was 2.1%. As of December 2017, food prices increased by 3.6% on an annual basis, catering prices – by 3.0%, prices of non-food products – by 2.0% and those of services – by 2.7% .

Figure I.4. Inflation, 2013 – 2017, %



Source: NSI

Employment and Unemployment

According to NSI data, the average annual number of employed persons aged 15 and over in 2017 was 3,150.3 thousand – an increase by 133.5 thousand or 4.4% than in the previous year. In the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector, an increase in the number of employed persons by 8.5% to 221.0 thousand was registered, which led to an increase of the sector's share in the structure of employment by economic activities to 7% (6.8% in 2016).

The unemployment rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points compared to 2016, to 6.2%. The average annual number of unemployed persons was 206.9 thousand, which is 40.3 thousand or 16.3% less than in 2016.

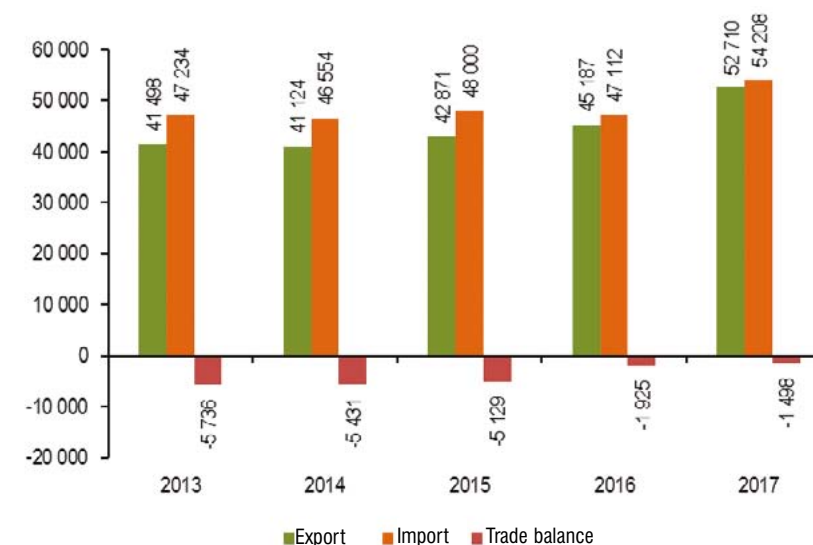
According to preliminary data of the NSI, in 2017 the average annual salary of persons in employment contracts was BGN 12,725, which represents an increase of BGN 1,346 or 11.8% above the level of the previous year. In the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector, the annual increase was by 11.1%, to an average of BGN 10,287 for 2017.

Export and import

According to the preliminary data of the BNB in respect of the balance of payments, in 2017 Bulgaria's exports amounted to BGN 52,710 million (EUR 26,950 million) – 16.6% above the level of the previous year, accounting for 52.2% of the country's GDP. Imports also registered an increase by 15.1% to BGN 54,208 million (EUR 27,716 million) or 53.6% of GDP.

Thus, in 2017, the negative trade balance decreased to BGN -1,498 million (EUR 766 million), from -1,925 million BGN (-984 million EUR) in 2016

Figure I.5. Export, Import and Trade Balance for the Period 2013 – 2017, million BGN

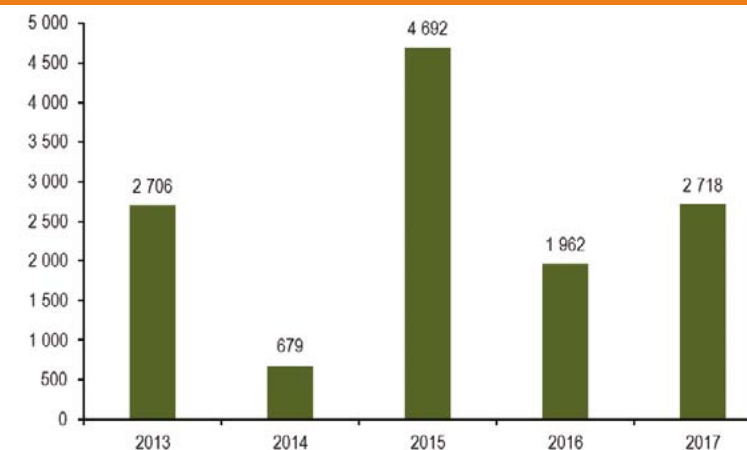


Source: BNB; preliminary data for 2017

Foreign Direct Investment

According to preliminary data of the BNB, foreign direct investment in the country for 2017 amounted to BGN 2,718 million (EUR 1,390 million), 38.5% above the level of the previous year. Foreign direct investment during the year accounted for 2.7% of GDP, compared to 2.1% in the previous year 2016.

Figure I.6. Foreign direct investment, 2013 – 2017, million BGN



Source: BNB (data compiled in accordance with the sixth edition of the Balance of payments and international investment position manual of the IMF); preliminary data for 2017

Within 2017, most investments were attracted to the following sectors: „Processing industry“ (EUR 831.9 million), „Financial and insurance activities“ (EUR 247.1 million), „Trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles“ (EUR 215.1 million) and „Real estate operations“ (EUR 211.3 million). Net foreign investments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries during the year were negative (-1 million EUR).





II. DEVELOPMENT OF AGRARIAN SECTOR IN 2017 AND FORECASTS FOR 2018

1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture

1.1. Use of lands designated for agriculture

The land designated for agriculture in 2017 was 5,224,402 ha, which represented about 47% of the country's territory.

Table II.1. Arable land, utilised agricultural area and land designated for agriculture for the period 2013 – 2017, ha

EMPLOYMENT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
wheat	1,328,062	1,305,733	1,151,225	1,215,684	1,197,768
barley	182,457	218,612	191,433	168,244	138,122
rye and triticale	31,506	37,020	24,190	30,909	30,639
oat	20,835	21,732	13,329	15,675	19,730
corn	518,471	480,929	524,121	468,762	461,085
other cereals	22,938	19,768	31,479	21,304	19,600
sunflower	928,781	877,538	851,245	887,845	934,715
tobacco	19,265	19,072	17,443	13,930	10,506
industrial oil-bearing crops	123,544	208,212	225,847	196,958	181,067
other industrial crops	29,795	47,676	53,755	55,144	58,848
potatoes	10,634	10,224	9,449	10,109	12,909
peas, beans, broad beans, lentils and other legumes	8,263	4,877	24,617	33,928	78,389
Fresh vegetables	26,846	29,394	37,538	46,527	33,312
nurseries	///	///	///	///	///
annual feed crops	4,685	7,206	6,871	14,223	17,705
Meadows sown with legumes and grain grasses	83,237	87,715	94,682	108,793	117,951
fallow	121,289	92,268	235,150	191,537	159,959
greenhouses	1,509	1,412	1,314	1,419	1,520
ARABLE LAND:	3,462,117	3,469,388	3,493,688	3,480,991	3,473,825
Family gardens	16,757	17,072	15,664	15,367	15,258
Orchards	66,824	66,057	68,543	77,625	84,320
axenic culture	60,474	53,521	54,210	52,517	53,251

EMPLOYMENT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mixed perennials	5,998	4,791	8,522	8,222	8,220
nurseries	1,892	2,002	2,202	2,602	2,304
Total perennials:	135,188	126,371	133,477	140,966	148,094
greenhouses	///	///	///	///	///
Permanent grasslands and meadows with orchards	1,381,049	1,363,984	1,368,665	1,384,088	1,392,352
UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREA:	4,995,111	4,976,815	5,011,494	5,021,412	5,029,529
Uncultivated land	263,698	216,125	191,258	193,228	194,873
ПЛОЩ СЪС СЕЛСКОСТОПАНСКО ПРЕДНАЗНАЧЕНИЕ:	5,258,809	5,192,940	5,202,752	5,214,640	5,224,402

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) encompasses arable land, permanent crops, plant nurseries, permanent grassland and family gardens. In 2017, it amounted to 5,029,529 ha or 45.3% of the country's territory, which represented an increase by 0.2% compared to the previous year.

Arable land encompasses the areas included in crop rotation, temporary meadows with wheat grasses and legumes, fallow and greenhouses. In 2017, it shrank insignificantly (by 0.2%) compared to the previous year to 3,473,825 ha, which represents 69.1% of the utilised agricultural area.

The orchards in 2017 accounted for 1.1% of the country's UAA and the areas occupied by them increased by 8.6% compared to the previous year.

Vineyards – axenic culture – in 2017 they were present on 53,111 ha, which is an increase of 1.4% compared to 2016. The share of vineyards in the country's UAA was 1.7%.

Non-cultivated lands encompass both abandoned permanent crops and arable land. These lands have not been used for agricultural production for more than five years and their recovery for exploitation purposes is possible with minimal resources. In 2017, the non-cultivated lands occupied about 1.8% of the country's area, which represented an increase by 0.9% compared to the previous year.

1.2. Use of land parcels

1.2.1. Land Parcel Identification System

The Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is a main subsystem of the Integrated Administration and Control System, on the basis of which applications for area-related

support and eligibility control for payment of the claimed areas are made. Therefore, the data included therein must be as current and reliable as possible.

In 2017 and 2018, maintaining data in the Land Parcel Identification System covered the following activities:

- Update of the digital orthophoto (DOP) of the country by use of a new method of airplane capture – 26.32% (29,217.1 sq. km) in 2017 and 26.55% (29,471 sq. km) in 2018. A contract has been concluded in accordance with the procedure of the Public Procurement Act with reg. No RD 51-52 of 03.08.2016 for the capture and elaboration of DOP in the period 2016-2019 with the consortium Georeal - Geoconsult as contractor.
- Update of the physical blocks in accordance with the new DOP – in terms of borders, long-term land use, layer „Areas eligible for support“, according to changes that occurred in the use of agricultural lands and their condition;
- Performing field inspections using GPS devices to measure and capture the blocks inspected of:
 - physical blocks whose borders and other features cannot be clearly determined by the new DOP;
 - a random sample of physical blocks and a layer „Areas eligible for support“ updated in accordance with the new DOP, to control decoding (907 physical block with an area of 6,617 ha for 2017);
 - physical blocks in which areas outside the borders of the block or outside the layer „Areas eligible for support“ have been claimed for support (32,160 physical blocks with a total area of 991,407 ha for 2017);
- Recording the findings and measurements from these field inspections in the LPIS databases;
- Recording the findings from the on-site inspections carried out by the Technical Inspectorate of the Paying Agency in the LPIS databases;
- Performing quality control of the data in the LPIS and preparing the annual report on the state of the LPIS to the European Commission;
- The updated physical blocks and the layer „Areas eligible for support“ are used for determining the area-related payments;
- Updating specialised layer „Permanent grassland“ by issuing orders in respect of individual applications.

1.3. Registration of farmers

The Register of Farmers under Regulation No 3 of 1999 is used for collecting information on farmers and their activities in order to support agriculture and rural

development.

The activity related to maintaining the Register of Farmers includes: registration of new farmers, re-registration and updating the information for already registered farmers and de-registration of farmers upon termination of their activity.

During the 2016/2017 business year the total number of farmers registered in the register under Regulation No 3 of 1999 was 96,476; during the 2017/18 business year – 93,021.

Table II.2. Farmers registered in accordance with the procedure laid down in Regulation No 3 of 1999

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Total number of registered farmers	70,776	76,340	76,408	97,266	98,303	96,476	93,021

Source: MAFF, Direct Payments and Land Parcel Identification (DPLPI)

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

1.4.1. Provision of properties by the SLF for lease or rental

Agricultural lands which are part of the SLF are provided for lease or rental following bidding procedures conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (ALOUA) and the Rules for Implementation of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act. By 2017, the total area of the leased or rented agricultural properties by the SLF to individuals and legal entities amounted to 106,747 ha.

In 2017, on the grounds of Article 24a(1) of the ALOUA and Article 47b(1) of the RIALOUA, bidding procedures were conducted for the leasing and renting of free agricultural lands, part of the SLF, in the country for the 2017/2018 business year. Of the 520,779 decares of open agricultural lands announced, 217,584 decares were contracted, with a total of 1,011 lease/rental contracts.

1.4.2. Distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows, part of a state or municipal land fund, in accordance with the procedure of Article 37 and the ALOUA

The pastures, grasslands and meadows part of the state or municipal land fund are leased or rented to owners or users of livestock establishments having pastoral farm animals registered in the Integrated Information System of the BFSa, according to the number and type of the registered animals, at prices determined by a market mechanism.

Table II.3. Information on a campaign for the distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows in accordance with the procedure of Article 37i ALOUA

Business year	Areas determined by decision of the municipal council	Applications submitted for the MLF	Areas allocated by a municipal commission	Contracts concluded by the MLF		Areas declared by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	Applications submitted for the SLF	Areas allocated by the SLF	Contracts concluded by the SLD		Total value of the concluded contracts for pastures, grasslands and meadows by the SLD under Article 37i(12) of the ALOUA
	For individual use		For individual use								
	decares		decares	pcs.	decares		pcs.	decares	pcs.	decares	BGN
2017/2018	3,052,040	4,413	897,288	2,727	464,943	357,439	317	74,231	184	44,288	368,204

Источник: МЗХГ, ПОК

1.4.3. Establishment of restricted rights in rem over land, which is part of the SLF

In 2017, 75 applications of legal persons and individuals were reviewed in connection with investment intentions involving construction or extension of site development and/or linear development projects affecting land owned by the SLF. Pursuant to Article 24c of the ALOUA, 29 preliminary consents have been prepared for the assignment of the elaboration of a detailed plan for the design of sites and routes in connection with the construction of water supply and sewerage networks, routes of power lines and elements of the technical infrastructure.

7 contracts have been concluded for the establishment of restricted rights in rem over lands which are part of the State Land Fund, on the grounds of Article 24(1) of the ALOUA, Article 47(20) and (21) of the RIALOUA.

1.5. Activities and contracts related to maintaining the Map of restituted property and records

The technical activities for maintaining the Map of restituted property (MRP) are organised and assigned by judicial areas. The existing contracts are 110 and in 2017, as a result of a procedure conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 8 new contracts have been concluded due to the expiry of the previous ones.

The lands within five of the judicial areas – Nessebar, Troyan, Balchik, Kavarna and Targovishte – have cadastral maps and cadastral registers (CCRC) that have entered into force and are maintained by the Agency for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre. As of December 2017, pursuant to the provisions of the Cadastre and Property Register Act on the accelerated transformation of MRP into CCRC, 3,360 lands out of a total of 4,647 are maintained by structures of the MAFF, and 1,287 were transferred to the Agency for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre and its regional subdivisions for maintenance.

Services have been provided to citizens under Regulation No 49 of 2004 in respect of their applications for the issuing of sketches, registering a change in ownership, as a result of disposition deals, issuing of decisions on restitution rights, certificates, etc. The collected state fees have been transferred to the state budget. Parcel plans and plans of newly-formed properties of the farmyards of the properties which are part of the state land fund have been officially registered in the MRP.

Digital information from the MRP is provided to municipalities and investors for the elaboration of General Development Plans (GDP) and Detailed Development Plans (DDP). A total of 403 administrative services were performed. 3,544 checks and inquiries were performed in the database for lands with approved MRP, regarding debtors indicated by the National Revenue Agency (NRA) – legal persons and individuals possessing agricultural lands, lands and forests which are part of the forest fund.

1.6. Land relations

Guidelines, methodologies for implementing legislative acts, document templates were elaborated in 2017, including:

- Guidelines on the application of Article 37b and Article 37c of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act and Chapter Seven „Agricultural Land Use“ of the Rules for Implementation of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (RIALOUA) for the business 2017 – 2018 year approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests.
- Instructions for payment by the Regional Directorates of Agriculture of the amounts received in accordance with the procedure of Article 37g(12) of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (ALOUA) for the properties referred to in Article 37g(5) of the ALOUA and a template of the application referred to in Article 37g(12) of the ALOUA approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests.

1.6.1. Consolidation of agricultural lands

For the 2017/2018 business year, 3,541 agreements have been executed for the creation of consolidated land plots for consolidated use of agricultural lands or distribution of the consolidated land plots for use, for plots with long-terms land use of the „meadow“ type, covering an area of 26,156,173 decares; for plots with long-term land use of the „pastures, grasslands and meadows“ type 589 agreements covering 260,671 decares.

1.7. Preservation of agricultural lands

In 2017, the Agricultural Land Commission examined a total of 777 proposals for changing agricultural land use and issued decisions covering an area of 725 ha.

The commissions in the Regional Directorates of Agriculture examined a total of 803 proposals for changing agricultural land use and issued decisions covering an area 285 ha.

During the year commissions were created to determine disturbed terrains in need of revegetation amounting to 71.65 ha.

2. Economic and production results for 2017 and forecast data for 2018

2.1. Economic accounts for agriculture for 2017

Table II.4. Key economic agriculture indicators for the period 2015 – 2017*, million BGN

	Indicators	2015	Change 2016/2015 (%)	2016	Change 2017/2016 (%)	2017*
1	Value of production from plant growing and livestock breeding (at producer price**), incl.:	7,015.7	-1.6%	6,901.9	6.3%	7,337.5
1.1	Production of plant growing	5,058.1	1.1%	5,115.2	7.2%	5,482.9
1.2	Production of livestock breeding	1,957.6	-8.7%	1,786.7	3.8%	1,854.6
2	Agricultural services	485.2	-9.4%	439.8	5.8%	465.3
3	Non-agricultural supplementary secondary activities	230.9	-5.2%	218.8	4.5%	228.7
4	Value of gross production in the agriculture sector (at producer prices **) (p4 = p 1.1 + p 1.2 + p 2 + p 3)	7,731.8	-2.2%	7,560.5	6.2%	8,031.5
5	Value of final production of the agriculture sector (at basic prices ***)	7,888.1	-0.7%	7,830.3	5.2%	8,239.8

	Indicators	2015	Change 2016/2015 (%)	2016	Change 2017/2016 (%)	2017*
6	Intermediate consumption (without internal turnover)	4,718.3	-7.7%	4,355.7	2.8%	4,479.5
7	Gross value added at basic prices	3,169.8	9.6%	3,474.6	8.2%	3,760.3

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

* 2017 data are preliminary.

** Producer prices – prices excluding subsidies by product

*** Basic prices – prices including subsidies by product

2.1.1. Gross value of agricultural production

The gross value of agricultural production for 2017 at current producer prices (according to preliminary data) amounted to BGN 8,031.5 million, registering an increase of 6.2% compared to the previous year. It is formed by the value of:

- Plant production – BGN 5,482.9 million (with a share of 68.3%);
- Livestock production – BGN 1,854.6 million (with a share of 23.1%);
- Agricultural services – BGN 465.3 million (with a share of 5.8%);
- Production from complementary secondary activities – BGN 228.7 million (with a share of 2.8%).
- Plant production and livestock breeding as sub-sectors both contribute to the increase of the gross production value from agriculture.

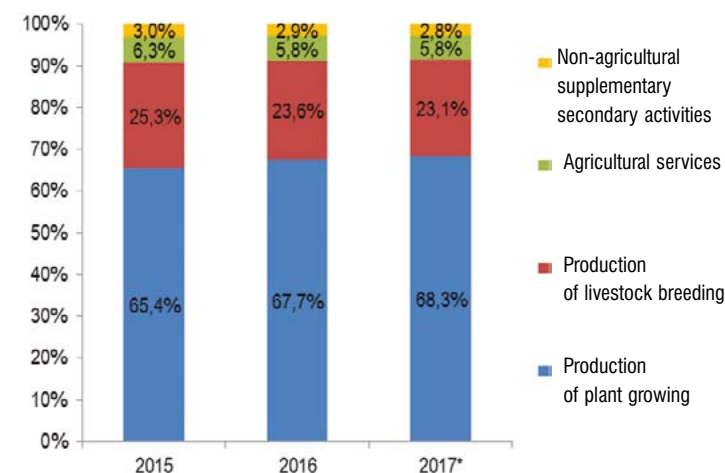
The plant production sub-sector grew by 7.2% (BGN 367.7 million) on an annual basis, mainly affected by the better production results for 2017 compared to the previous year. There was an increase in the physical volume in all major directions of the sub-sector, as well as in producer prices for most cereal crops, fodder crops and vegetables (Annexes 2 and 3 and sub-section 2.2 of the Report).

In 2017, the gross production of the livestock breeding sub-sector increased by 3.8% (BGN 67.9 million) on an annual basis. This increase is mainly due to the higher producer prices and respectively the increase in the value of the production in sub-sectors Milk Production – by BGN 35.2 million, and Eggs Production – by BGN 21.5 million (despite the decrease in production in both sub-sectors). (Annexes 2 and 3 and sub-section 2.3 of the Report).

The other components of the gross production of the sector – agricultural services and non-agricultural complementary secondary activities – also increased compared to 2016 – respectively by 5.8% and 4.5%

Total sales of agricultural goods (plant and livestock products) in 2017 amounted to BGN 6,296.5 million or 78.4% of gross agricultural production (Annex 1). Plant production sold during the year amounted to BGN 4,859.4 million (60.5% of gross production) and livestock production sold amounted to BGN 1,437.1 million (17.9% of gross production). Outside the sector, plant and livestock production for BGN 5,920.3 million was realised (including exports), and as regards sales between agricultural enterprises – BGN 376.2 million.

Figure II.1. Structure of the gross value of agricultural production for the period 2015 – 2017 *, %



Source: calculations of MAFF by use of NSI data

*2017 data are preliminary.

The agricultural units used for production purposes agricultural products (seeds, propagating material, feed, etc.) produced during the year, amounting to BGN 516.3 million (6.4% of gross production).

Agricultural production amounting to BGN 457.3 million (5.7% of gross production) was used by agricultural holdings for own needs.

The production of goods – fixed capital (production of food-producing animals) for own account amounted to 42.2 million BGN.

2.1.2. Value of final production

According to preliminary data, the value of agricultural final production (value of products after deduction of internal turnover) at basic prices (prices including subsidies for the respective product) for 2017 amounted to BGN 8,239.8 million. Following the trend of changing the components of gross production value, it grew by 5.2% (BGN 409.5 million) compared to the previous year (Annexes 5 and 6).

The structure of agricultural final production for 2017 kept the ratios between the sectors of the industry outlined for the gross production value. In respect of finished products, plant production has the largest relative share – 67.6%. For 2017, the relative share of livestock production is 24.0%, of agricultural services – 5.6% ,and of complementary non-agricultural secondary activities – 2.8%.

Grain and oilseed crops have the largest relative share in the final production value in the sector. The two crop groups together (respectively, grain crops – amounting to BGN 2,437.8 million and oilseed crops – amounting to BGN 1,489.9 million) account for about half (47.7%) of the value of agricultural production in 2017.

The largest share in the sector's final production for 2017 belongs to the following plant products:

- Common wheat – a share of 18.7% or BGN 1,538.2 million.

The production value increased by 7.3% compared to the previous year, as a result of an increase in both production and prices.

- Sunflower – a share of 14.1% or BGN 1,161.7 million.

In respect of sunflower, an increase in the physical volume by 14.1% and at the same time a decrease of 16.2% in the prices were realised, which determined a decrease in the value of production by 4.4% compared to the previous year.

- Corn for grain – a share of 8.2% or BGN 672.0 million.

As regards corn for grain, there was an increase in the value of the final production by 6.4% compared to the previous year due to the significant increase in production (by 13.6%), at prices decreased by 6.4%.

- Rapeseed and colza – a share of 3.8% or BGN 315.5 million (3.2% less than the previous year).

Considering the slight decrease in prices by 0.2%, the change in the value of the final rapeseed and colza production in 2017 followed the rate of decrease (by 2.9%) in the physical volume.

- Tobacco – a share of 1.8% or BGN 151.3 million (a decrease by 3.9%)

As regards tobacco, in 2017 the downward trend in the value of the final production persisted, influenced by the continuing decline in production in recent years. On an annual basis, the physical volume slimmed down by 9.3%, which to a certain extent was offset by the rise in prices and the aid received under the Transitional National Tobacco Assistance Scheme.

In 2017, the Fruit and Vegetables Sector (including potato production and vineyards) generated production amounting to BGN 889.7 million, which represents an increase of 18.1% from the previous year. The sector has a share of 10.8% in the value of the final production. The production of vegetables amounted to BGN 463.0 million (a share of 5.6% in the final production value) and the production of fruit amounted to BGN 426.7 million (a share of 5.2%). In the case of vegetables, there was an increase in the physical volume of the production, accompanied by an increase in prices (excluding potato prices), resulting in a 17.2% increase in production value compared to the previous year. The final production of the Fruit sub-sector increased by 19.1% in value terms, primarily as a result of the increased production (with lower prices registered for almost all fruits with the exception of the wine grapes).

The final production of the Livestock Breeding sub-sector for 2017 amounted to BGN 1,978.7 million. There was an increase by 2.2% in value terms compared to the previous year, with a decrease in the production volume by 1.8% and an increase in prices by 4% for the sub-sector in general.

The subdivisions of the livestock sub-sector, which had the greatest contribution to the total value of the final agricultural production in 2017, were:

- Milk production – a share of 8.3% or BGN 681.6 million;
- Milk production witnessed an annual increase by 4.1%, which was influenced by a price increase by 11.3%, with a decrease in production volume by 6.5%.
- Cattle breeding – a share of 3.1% or BGN 257.2 million (a 5.9% decrease);
- Pig breeding – a share of 3.6% or BGN 293.5 million (a 0.6% increase);
- Poultry – a share of 3.6% or BGN 297.8 million (a 3.4% increase);
- Sheep breeding and goat breeding – a share of 2.4% or BGN 200.4 million (a 3.8% decrease);
- Production of eggs – a share of 2.1% or BGN 172.1 million (a 12.0% increase).

2.1.3. Intermediate consumption

Intermediate consumption, used for the creation of the final production in the sector in 2017, amounted to BGN 4,479.5 million, which represented an increase by BGN 123.8 million or 2.8% on an annual basis (Annexes 4, 5 and 6).

There was an increase in energy consumption (by 4.2%), in feed consumption (by 3.9%), in the consumption of fertilisers and soil improvers (by 2.1%), in the consumption of seeds and propagating material (by 0.7%). A decrease was observed in the use of plant protection products and pesticides (by 5.2%), in veterinary expenditure (by 1.3%), in the maintenance and repair of buildings and machinery (also by 1.3%).

In 2017, intermediate consumption accounted for 54.4% of production value; or 54.4 units of intermediate consumption were used to create 100 units of final production.

The biggest share in its structure belongs to fuel and oil expenses – 24.5% (BGN 1,096.0 million), followed by feed expenses – 21.2% (BGN 948.8 million), agricultural services – 10.4% (BGN 465.3 million), expenses for fertilisers and soil improvers – 8.8% (BGN 394.9 million), cost of maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment – 6.7% (BGN 298.2 million).

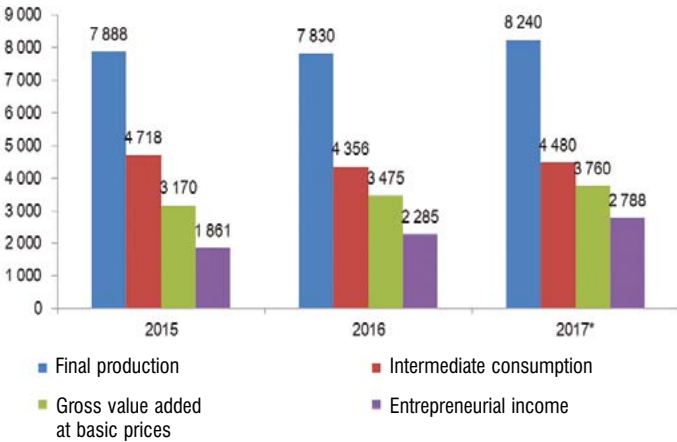
2.1.4. Gross Value Added

Gross value added by agriculture in 2017 amounted to BGN 3,760.3 million (at basic prices). Following the upward trend in final production, it grew by 8.2% (BGN 285.7 million) on an annual basis.

2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income

For 2017, the entrepreneurial income in the sector amounted to BGN 2,788.2 million – 22.0% above the level of the previous year, as a result of an increase in both gross value added and subsidies (by 21.3%).

Figure II.2. Main economic indicators for the agriculture sector for the period 2015 – 2017*, million BGN



Source: NSI
* 2017 data are preliminary.

2.2. Production results in plant production

In agro-climatic terms, 2017 was characterised by spells of cold weather and over-wetting of the soil as a result of snow-melting and torrential rains during the winter months, followed by extreme heat conditions.

The reported damages to agricultural crops were caused by frost/drought and ground frost (due to the drought in the autumn of 2016 or the low temperatures in the winter and spring of 2017), storm, torrential rains accompanied by hurricane winds, floods, hailstorm and drought.

Grain production

All major grain crops in 2017 accounted for higher average yields compared to 2016, resulting in an increase in production for most of them. Only barley and rice production decreased on an annual basis due to the smaller number of areas sown and harvested.

Table II.5. Production of grain crops, 2016 and 2017 harvests

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Wheat	1,192,589	1,144,519	-4.0%	4.75	5.36	12.8%	5,662,721	6,132,671	8.3%
Rye	7,468	8,237	10.3%	2.03	2.10	3.4%	15,178	17,304	14.0%
Triticale	16,096	18,660	15.9%	3.06	3.17	3.5%	49,265	59,140	20.0%
Barley	159,830	128,365	-19.7%	4.32	4.64	7.4%	689,850	595,237	-13.7%
Oats	15,323	13,266	-13.4%	2.05	2.40	17.3%	31,372	31,849	1.5%
Corn for grain	406,942	398,152	-2.2%	5.47	6.44	17.7%	2,226,094	2,562,569	15.1%
Rice	11,988	10,434	-13.0%	5.40	5.61	3.8%	64,773	58,523	-9.6%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department, poll „Yields from agricultural crops“

Wheat

The production of wheat in 2017 amounted to 6,132.7 thousand tonnes. This was 8.3% above the level of the previous year, as the slight decrease in harvested areas was offset by an increase in the average yield by 12.8%, due to favourable climatic conditions in the crop development process.

The wheat-sown area for 2017 was 1,147,208 ha, of which 1,144,519 ha were harvested – 4% less than in 2016.

The relative share of wheat in the total harvested areas of grain crops in 2017 was 64%. The North-Eastern region had the largest share of harvested areas of wheat – 24%, followed by the North-Western region – 21,4% and the South-Eastern – 21,2%.

According to data from the BSMAEC survey of the Agrostistics Department, in 2017 wheat was grown following wheat crop on 7,2% of the areas, compared to 8% in the previous year. 69.5% of the areas were sown following row crops, compared to 66.1% in the previous year. In the wheat crop rotation in 2017, 3% fallow land was included. Good crop rotation took place on 91.6% of wheat areas.

Rye and triticale

The rye grain produced in harvest 2017 witnessed a 14% annual increase to 17.3 thousand tonnes and that of triticale – a 20% to 59.1 thousand tonnes. Both crops registered a significant increase in harvested areas (10.3% and 15.9% respectively), coupled with a slight increase in average yields.

The most harvested areas with rye and triticale are located in the South Central Region – 3,305 ha and 10,529 ha respectively.

Barley

Barley production in 2017 amounted to 595.2 thousand tonnes – by 13.7% less than in 2016, as a result of a decrease in harvested areas by 19.7%, which is partly offset by an increase in the average yield by 7.4%.

Areas of sown and harvested barley decreased by nearly 20% compared to the previous year, which is related to re-directing farmers to other crops, primarily sunflower.

Most barley areas in 2017 were located in the South-Eastern region – 35,794 ha, or 27.9% of the total harvested areas in the country. The second largest are the areas in the North-Western region – 28,373 ha or 22.1%.

As regards preceding crops, good crop rotation was achieved on 77.1% of the areas of barley. The highest share was that of sunflower – 37.6%. Fallow lands included in barley crop rotation in 2017 were 4.9%, while 47.5% of barley areas were planted following row crops.

Oats

In 2017, 31.8 thousand tonnes of oats were produced in the country – 1.5% more than in 2016 due to the 17.3% higher yields per unit area, while the areas with oats

harvested decreased by 13.4%.

Most areas with oats were harvested in the North-Western region – 4,059 ha or 30.9% of the total harvested areas in the country.

Corn for grain

The corn grain yield in 2017 increased by 15.1% compared to the previous year to 2,226.1 thousand tonnes, which was due to an increase in the average yield by 17.7%.

The areas with corn for grain sown in 2017 were 400,886 ha, of which 398,152 ha were harvested – 2,2% less than in 2016.

The North-Western region had the largest share of harvested areas with corn – 39.3% (156,512 ha). The North-Eastern region followed with 120,310 ha or 30,2% and the North Central region with 94,730 ha or 23,8%.

As regards preceding crops, wheat had the greatest share for corn – 49.4%. The barley involved in corn crop rotation is 4.3%.

Rice

In 2017, rice paddy production declined by 9.6% annually to 58.8 thousand tonnes. The average yield for harvest 2017 increased by 3.8% compared to 2016, to 5.61 tonnes/ha, while harvested rice areas decreased by 13% to 10,434 ha.

Oil-bearing crops

The main oil-bearing crops grown in the country are sunflower and winter oilseed rape.

Table II.6. Production of oil-bearing crops from the 2016 and 2017 harvests

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Sunflower	817,511	898,844	9.9%	2.25	2.29	1.8%	1,837,677	2,056,987	11.9%
Rapeseed	171,511	160,650	-6.3%	2.97	2.98	0.4%	509,251	478,987	-5.9%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Sunflower

Sunflower production in 2017 marked an increase of 11.9% compared to 2016, reaching 2,057 thousand tonnes. There was an increase of both the harvested areas

– by 9.9%, to 898,844 ha, and the average yield – by 1.8% to 2.29 tonnes/ha.

The areas planted with sunflower in 2017 amounted to 910,918 ha, by 11.1% more than the previous year.

Most areas with sunflower in 2017 were located in the North-Western region – 226,445 ha or 25.2% of the harvested areas in the country. The North-Eastern region is next with 204,450 ha (22.7%). The North Central Region is third with 179,880 ha (20.0%).

Once again, sunflower areas had the largest share of wheat as preceding crop – 65.1%. No crop rotation was made on 4% of the area.

Rapeseed

Rapeseed production harvested in 2017 was 479 thousand tonnes – 5.9% less compared to 2016

The areas planted with rapeseed in 2017 were 165,216 ha, 160,650 ha of which were harvested – 6,3% less than in 2016. The average yield was close to the level of the previous year – 2,98 tonnes / ha (+ 0.4%).

Most of the areas harvested with rape in 2017 were accounted for in the North-Eastern region – 39,696 ha or 24.7% of the harvested areas in the country, followed by the South-Eastern region – 38,909 (24.2%) and the North-Western region with 38,814 ha (24.2%).

Industrial crops

Cotton

In 2017, cotton production increased by 3.1% compared to the previous year, to 4,383 tonnes. The harvested areas amounted to 4,805 ha – 7% more than in 2016, while the average yield decreased by 4.2% to 0.91 t/ha.

Tobacco

Tobacco production in 2017 amounted to 13.4 thousand tonnes, which was 14.3% less on an annual basis as a result of a decrease in the areas. Tobacco areas shrank by 22.8% compared to the previous year (up to 7,756 ha), the harvested ones – by 22.5%.

Medicinal and aromatic crops

In 2017, the areas planted with basic medicinal, aromatic and essential oil crops (oil-bearing rose, lavender, lemon balm, coriander, fennel, milk thistle (Silybum),

etc.) amounted to 49,927 ha, representing 7 % less than in the previous year. The harvested areas planted with these crops amounted to 44,866 ha, 11% less compared to 2016.

Table II.7. Production of essential oil crops from 2016 and 2017 harvests

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Lavender	6,266	8,038	28.3%	3.11	3.44	10.5%	19,504	27,659	41.8%
Oil-bearing rose	3,580	4,189	17.0%	2.49	3.04	22.1%	8,915	12,756	43.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The production of lavender flower registered an increase by 41.8% compared to the previous year to 27,659 tonnes, due to an increase in both the harvested areas – 28.3%, and in the average yield – 10.5%.

As regards the oil-bearing rose, the increase in harvested areas in 2017 was 17% , and that in the average yield – 22.1%. As a result, production increased by 43.1% to 12,756 tonnes.

The areas planted with lemon balm increased two times and a half – from 1,096 ha in 2016 to 2,740 ha in 2017.

Fruits

In 2017, the production of fruit on farms amounted to 219,847 tonnes, or 10.5% more compared to the previous year. Most fruits account for an increase in yields of up to 45.4% for apricots and Briançon apricots. Only the yields of raspberries, almonds and walnuts decreased, within the range 11% – 28.4%. The South-Eastern region has a leading position in fruit production – 27.4% of the total production for the year, followed by the South Central region with 22.4% and the North Central region with 19.9%. Production of peaches (49.5%) and cherries (42.0%) is concentrated in the South-Eastern region, the production of pears (39.4%), apples (34.6%), plums and greengages (29.7%) – in the South Central region, and 86.2% of the apricots of the country were produced in the North Central Region.

The largest relative share of total fruit production in 2017 is occupied by plums and greengages – 22.4%, followed by cherries – 22%, apples – 20.4% and peaches and nectarines – 15.7%.

Total areas planted with fruit and berry crops in 2017 were 61,628 ha. Of these, 36,962 ha (60%) were harvested, which is only slightly – 0.6% – below the level of the previous year. Cherries had the largest share in harvested areas – 24.3%, followed by that of plums and greengages – 18.4%, and of walnuts – 13.7%. Most fruit tree crops witnessed an increase in harvested areas compared to 2016 – from 1.6% in raspberries and plums to 13.5% in apricots and Briançon apricots. Decreases were registered for apples, almonds, sour cherries and walnuts by between 3.4% and 19.6%. The areas which were not harvested in 2017, from which no production was harvested, due to climatic and agrotechnical reasons, amounted to 8,387 ha.

Table II.8. Production of fruits, harvests 2016 and 2017

Fruit crops	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (kg/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Apples	4,111	3,973	-3.4%	10,887	11,308	3.9%	44,755	44,927	0.4%
Pears	410	449	9.5%	4,859	6,325	30.2%	1,992	2,840	42.6%
Apricots and Briançon apricots	2,554	2,898	13.5%	6,070	7,778	28.1%	15,503	22,542	45.4%
Peaches and nectarines	3,816	3,893	2.0%	7,975	8,881	11.4%	30,432	34,572	13.6%
Plums and greengage	6,705	6,815	1.6%	7,253	7,218	-0.5%	48,630	49,194	1.2%
Cherries	8,463	8,989	6.2%	4,549	5,383	18.3%	38,496	48,391	25.7%
Sour cherries	1,137	1,074	-5.5%	3,119	3,823	22.6%	3,546	4,106	15.8%
Walnuts	6,280	5,047	-19.6%	790	703	-11.0%	4,959	3,549	-28.4%
Almonds	987	944	-4.4%	852	755	-11.4%	841	713	-15.2%
Hazelnuts	544	590	8.5%	410	531	29.5%	223	313	40.4%
Raspberries	1,833	1,863	1.6%	4,582	4,013	-12.4%	8,398	7,476	-11.0%
Others	351	427	21.7%	-	-	-	1,207	1,224	1.4%
Total:	37,191	36,962	-0.6%	-	-	-	198,982	219,847	10.5%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Fruit Production

Areas with young fruit trees, not yet having reached fruit bearing stage, on farms in 2017 were 16,279 ha. The largest relative share of areas of fruit trees not yet having reached fruit bearing stage were occupied by walnuts – 49.6%, followed by hazelnuts – 15%, plums and greengages – 12.6% and cherries – 7.3%. Of the new planted crops in the 2016/2017 business year, 50% were drupaceous varieties, 41% – shell varieties and 8% – pome varieties.

In 2017, the average yields of apples, peaches and nectarines, cherries, sour cherries, apricots and Briançon apricots, and pears increased by between 3.9% and 30.2% compared to the previous year, whereas for plums and greengages, walnuts, almonds and raspberries there was a decrease, within the range of 0.5% – 12.4%.

99% of the fruit harvested in 2017 were realised. 46% were offered for sale, 30.5% were offered to the processing industry, and 3.3% were used for own consumption.

Vegetables

In 2017, the areas used for production of vegetables on agricultural holdings were 74,763 ha, which was 24.1% more than in 2016. Of these, the open fields on which vegetables were planted increased by 24.5% to 73,797 ha, while greenhouses decreased by 3.6% to 966 ha. The harvested open fields amounted to 71,442 ha – 23% above the level of the previous year.

Total production of vegetables from harvest 2017 was 831.1 thousand tonnes, including 728.9 thousand tonnes of open fields and 102.2 thousand tonnes of greenhouse production. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the total vegetable production in the country by 2.3%, as open field production increased by 4.2%, while that of greenhouses decreased by 9.6%.

In 2017, potatoes had the largest share in production – 227.8 thousand tonnes (27.4% of the total vegetable production), tomatoes – 158.8 thousand tonnes (19.1%), watermelons – 108.1 thousand tonnes (13%) and pepper (sweet and hot) – 54.8 thousand tonnes (6.6%).

The production of cultivated mushrooms was 1,150 tonnes.

Harvested areas of vegetables during the year increased by 23% compared to 2016. By groups of crops, dried leguminous crops witnessed the most significant increase – nearly three times for tuber and onion vegetables – by 70.4%, and potatoes – by 52.9 %. At the same time, in respect of the remaining groups of vegetable crops, there was a decrease in harvested areas reaching 62% in the case of fresh leguminous crops.

Chickpeas had the largest relative share in the total harvested areas of vegetables in 2017 – 31.6%, followed by potatoes – 17.9%, watermelons – 6.7%, lentils – 6.3%, tomatoes – 6.1%, etc.

Table II.9. Main areas used for the production of vegetables – harvests 2016 and 2017, ha

Open field areas	Harvest 2016	Harvest 2017	Change 2017/2016
Open field areas	59,265	73,797	24.5%
Total greenhouse area	1,002	966	-3.6%
Total area	60,267	74,763	24.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department, Survey „Vegetables Production“

By type of vegetable crops, in 2017, there was a serious increase on an annual basis in harvested areas of chickpeas, leafy greens and lettuce, okra and carrots (about three to five times). There was also an increase in the harvested areas of seed onions (by 70.6 %), gherkins (by 58.8%), eggplants (by 54.7%), melons (by 53.2%) and tomatoes (by 21.1%). On the other hand, a serious decrease was witnessed in areas harvested with spinach, cabbage, zucchini, green peas, green beans, pumpkins and pumpkins for seeds – by between 31.3% and 89.9%.

Table II.10. Areas, production and average yields of vegetables – harvest 2017

Crops	Open field harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open field areas (kg/ha)	
			From open field areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017
Fruit vegetables, incl.:	28,543	19,232	430,308	344,543	110,390	97,976	540,698	442,519	-18.2%	-	-
Tomatoes	3,613	4,376	92,330	102,548	49,037	56,214	141,367	158,762	12.3%	25,555	23,434
Cucumbers	247	282	2,635	4,574	56,987	37,980	59,622	42,554	-28.6%	10,668	16,220
Gherkins	296	470	6,722	10,667	309	1,177	7,031	11,844	68.5%	22,709	22,696
Aubergines	311	481	7,801	11,908	104	c	7,905	c	-	25,084	24,757
Zucchini	184	105	4,951	1,914	33	16	4,984	1,930	-61.3%	26,908	18,229
Pumpkins	11,761	1,869	132,937	20,342	c	c	c	c	-	11,303	10,884
Pumpkins for seed	1,411	143	7,183	95	-	-	7,183	95	-98.7%	5,091	664

Crops	Open field harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open field areas (kg/ha)	
			From open field areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017
Melons	1,746	2,674	16,687	26,489	c	c	c	c	-	9,557	9,906
Watermelons	4,738	4,820	85,651	108,141	-	-	85,651	108,141	26.3%	18,077	22,436
Pepper (sweet and chilly)	3,577	3,272	68,143	52,455	3,887	2,367	72,030	54,822	-23.9%	19,050	16,031
Sweet corn	574	491	4,875	4,156	-	-	4,875	4,156	-14.7%	8,493	8,464
Okra	85	249	393	1,254	-	-	393	1,254	219.1%	4,624	5,036
Fresh leguminous crops, incl.:	2,582	982	12,062	6,756	4	6	12,066	6,762	-44.0%	-	-
Garden peas - green	1,874	766	7,395	5,518	-	-	7,395	5,518	-25.4%	3,946	7,204
Garden beans - green	708	216	4,667	1,238	4	6	4,671	1,244	-73.4%	6,592	5,731
Dried leguminous crops, incl.:	11,477	31,444	15,677	43,005	-	-	15,677	43,005	174.3%	-	-
Mature beans	2,410	2,749	2,614	2,502	-	-	2,614	2,502	-4.3%	1,085	910
Lentil	3,853	4,471	6,074	5,920	-	-	6,074	5,920	-2.5%	1,576	1,324
Chickpeas	4,722	22,564	6,065	32,383	-	-	6,065	32,383	433.9%	1,284	1,435
Other dried leguminous vegetables (peas and beans)	492	1,660	924	2,200	-	-	924	2,200	138.1%	-	-
Vegetables of the Brassica variety, incl.:	3,020	1,848	77,637	43,871	138	96	77,775	43,967	-43.5%	-	-
Headed cabbage	2,875	1,692	75,512	41,817	138	c	75,650	c	-	26,265	24,715
Cauliflower	45	63	844	1,178	-	-	844	1,178	39.6%	18,756	18,698
Broccoli	100	75	1,281	802	-	-	1,281	802	-37.4%	12,810	10,693
Other vegetables of the Brassica variety	-	18	-	74	-	c	c	c	-	-	-

Crops	Open field har- vested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open field areas (kg/ha)	
			From open field areas		Greenhouse pro- duction		TOTAL				
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017
Leafy or stem vegetables (excluding vegetables of the Bras- sica variety), incl.:	1,131	606	5,885	6,065	2,031	3,034	7,916	9,099	14.9%	-	-
Leafy greens and lettuce	25	116	487	2,221	1,938	2,958	2,425	5,179	113.6%	19,480	19,147
Dill	69	85	64	426	1	-	65	426	555.4%	928	5,012
Spinach	96	66	1,039	359	21	15	1,060	374	-64.7%	10,823	5,439
Leeks	68	49	1,912	1,069	-	-	1,912	1,069	-44.1%	28,118	21,816
Onion - green	59	45	841	801	51	55	892	856	-4.0%	14,254	17,800
Parsley	40	35	189	513	4	-	193	513	165.8%	4,725	14,657
Savory	165	27	289	62	-	-	289	62	-78.5%	1,752	2,296
Other leafy or stem vegetables (artichokes, garlic – green, etc.)	609	183	1,064	614	16	6	1,080	620	-42.6%	-	-
Tubers and onions	2,270	3,869	25,616	51,578	183	980	25,799	52,558	103.7%	-	-
Onion	1,365	2,080	14,921	23,499	-	c	14,921	c	-	10,931	11,298
Carrots	411	1,150	7,409	23,539	c	-	c	23,539	-	18,027	20,469
Garlic - mature	305	387	1,799	1,444	c	-	c	1,444	-	5,898	3,731
Salad beet	114	99	763	1,128	-	-	763	1,128	47.8%	6,693	11,394
Seed onions	51	87	315	800	-	-	315	800	154.0%	6,176	9,195

Crops	Open field harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open field areas (kg/ha)	
			From open field areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017
Other tubers and onions (turnips, radishes, celery, etc.)	24	66	409	1,168	167	c	576	c	-	-	-
Potatoes	8,376	12,806	126,897	227,713	285	102	127,182	227,815	79.1%	15,150	17,782
Strawberries	670	655	5,069	5,319	81	40	5,150	5,359	4.1%	7,566	8,121
Total	58,069	71,442	699,151	728,850	113,112	102,234	812,263	831,084	2.3%	-	-

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Survey „Vegetables Production“, with confidential data

Total production of vegetables from **open fields** in 2017 amounted to 728.9 thousand tonnes, which was 4.2% above the level of the previous year. Among the more significant crops, a significant increase in production was seen for cucumbers – by 73.6%, gherkins – by 58.7%, watermelons – by 26.2%, melons by 58.7%, onions – by 52.4%, aubergines – by 52.6% and tomatoes – by 11.1% , etc. At the same time, a significant decrease was observed in the production of pumpkins for seeds – by 98.7%, pumpkins – by 84.7%, zucchini – by 61.3%, headed cabbage – by 44.6%, pepper (sweet and hot) – by 23%, etc.

The total production of dried leguminous crops (ripe beans, lentils and chickpeas) from open fields in 2017 was 43 thousand tonnes, rising almost three times compared to 2016. This was due to the fact that chickpea production has grown five times, while in the case of mature beans and lentils there was a decrease of 4.3% and 2.5%, respectively.

The production of vegetables of the Brassica genus (mainly headed cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli) from open fields was 43.9 thousand tonnes or 5.3% of the total production of vegetables from open fields in the country for 2017. Compared to 2016, cauliflower production increased by 39.6%, whereas that of headed cabbage and broccoli decreased by 44.6% and 37.4%, respectively.

Significant annual increase was demonstrated in the production of potatoes from open fields – from 126.9 thousand tonnes in 2016 to 227.7 thousand tonnes in 2017, or by 79.1%.

In 2017, in the main vegetable crops there were mixed changes in the average yield per hectare compared to 2016. Increase in the average yield was witnessed for onions – 3.4%, melons – by 3.7%, strawberries – 7.3%, carrots – 13.5%, potatoes – 17.4%, watermelons – 24.1% and cucumbers – 52%, while decrease was witnessed for pumpkins, headed cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, lentils and mature beans – between 3.7% and 16.1%.

Beside the main vegetable crops, a more significant increase in the average yield per hectare compared to the previous year was observed in salad beet (by 70.2%), green peas (by 82.6%), parsley (over three times) and dill (more than five times), while a decrease by 22.4% to 87% was observed for leeks, zucchini, garlic, spinach and pumpkins for seeds.

The higher average yield of some of the main vegetable crops was the result of farmers using quality, certified seed and adhering to the technology of growing vegetables.

Table II.11. Total production of basic vegetables from 2016 and 2017 harvests

Types of vegetables	Harvest 2016	Harvest 2017	Change 2017/2016
Tomatoes	141,367	158,762	12.3%
Pepper (sweet and chilly)	72,030	54,822	-23.9%
Cucumbers and gherkins	66,653	54,398	-18.4%
Watermelons	85,651	108,141	26.3%
Potatoes	127,182	227,815	79.1%
Strawberries	5,150	5,359	4.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Survey „Vegetables Production“

Greenhouse production in the country is defined by several main vegetable crops – tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins, peppers, leafy greens and lettuce. It is developed in accordance with the needs of the market, as part of the production is realised outside the country.

The total production of greenhouse vegetables in 2017 amounted to 102.2 thousand tonnes, which was 9.6% less compared to 2016.

Among the main greenhouse vegetables, an increase in production compared to the previous year was observed for tomatoes, leafy greens and lettuce, and gherkins – from 14.6% to almost four times, while a decrease was observed in respect of cucumbers and peppers – 33.4% and 39.1% respectively.

Table II.12. Greenhouse production of main vegetables from 2016 and 2017 harvests, tonnes

Types of vegetables	Harvest 2016	Harvest 2017	Change 2017/2016
Tomatoes	49,037	56,214	14.6%
Pepper	3,887	2,367	-39.1%
Cucumbers	56,987	37,980	-33.4%
Gherkins	309	1,177	280.9%

Types of vegetables	Harvest 2016	Harvest 2017	Change 2017/2016
Leafy greens and lettuce	1,938	2,958	52.6%
Other vegetables (excl. mushroom)	954	1,538	61.2%
Total	113,112	102,234	-9.6%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Survey „Vegetables Production“

The tendency for modernisation of existing greenhouses and use of new, more advanced technologies for quality production of early vegetables continued.

Diversification of the types of vegetable crops grown in greenhouses was observed. In addition to the main greenhouse crops, potatoes, green onions, zucchini, spinach, strawberries, etc. were produced.

Forecast data for the production of basic grain and oil-bearing crops from harvest 2018

According to operational data from the Regional Directorates of Agriculture of the MAFF (of non-statistical nature), the harvest of the main autumn crops in 2018 ended in the middle of September 2018, yielding 5,401.4 thousand tonnes of wheat, 501.2 thousand tonnes of barley, 456.2 thousand tonnes of oilseed rape, 13.7 thousand tonnes of rye and 54 thousand tonnes of triticale.

Compared to the same period in 2017 (when also 100% of the areas were harvested), a decrease in production is observed for most autumn crops, as follows: wheat – by 6.3%, barley – by 19.2%, rapeseed – by 0.6% and rye – by 5.8%. This is mainly due to the lower average yields in 2018, and as regards barley – to the fewer harvested areas. Only the production of triticale exceeded the level of the previous year by 5%.

The decrease in the average yields of the autumn crops is due to the insufficient soil moisture combined with high temperatures (in some regions of the country) during the time of forming of ears and grain-filling. The torrential rains during the period of ripening of the grain and the harvesting, in places accompanied by hailstorms, which damaged the autumn crops and hindered the normal course of the harvest, also had a negative effect.

Operational data of the MAFF at the end of October 2018 indicate some decrease in the areas for harvesting corn and sunflower in 2018, respectively by about 2% and 9% on an annual basis. On the other hand, due to the favourable climatic conditions, both crops demonstrate a significant increase in the average yields compared to the previous year.

The heavy and frequent rainfall in the summer of 2018 had a favourable effect on the growth of corn and sunflower crops, increasing soil moisture during flowering and early filling of the grain. The average yields of oilseed sunflower and corn accounted

for at the end of October 2018 were about 13% and 30%, respectively, higher compared to the previous year. This contributes to an increase in production on an annual basis of about 3% for sunflower and 33% for corn.

2.3. Production results in livestock breeding

Livestock breeding, as one of the sensitive sectors of agriculture, remained a priority in 2017. The state's livestock policy continued to be directed at protecting the interests of farmers by using various financial instruments for support and administrative relief, ensuring sustainable development of the sector, enhanced productivity and competitiveness, enhanced market orientation, raising farmers' incomes, ensuring food security. During the year an update of the current legislation was made, the scope of the coupled support schemes was extended, the rates of animal support under selective control were increased, which aimed to increase the number of highly productive animals and at the same time to produce food that is of high quality and safe for consumers.

The application of the EU scales for classification of carcasses of swine, pigs and sheep (lambs) continued. The classification is used for both registering and reporting prices to the European Commission, and for the needs in interventions and private storage. In addition, the classification aims to improve market transparency and the competitiveness of meat products on the European market.

In 2017, the trend of a decrease in the number of farms breeding livestock was maintained, mainly due to the dropping out of small farms. The consolidation of the sector contributed to greater sustainability of farms, to more efficient and profitable production.

Compared to 2016, livestock farms in which bovine animals were bred shrank by 15.1%, and those with buffaloes – by 6.1%. At regards farms breeding sheep and goats, the decline was respectively 14.6% and 22.3%, and for those with swine – 26.4%.

In 2017, the total number of bovine animals and sheep decreased by 3.2% on an annual basis, and that of swine – by 3.8%. At the same time, the number of goats bred increased by 8.2% and that of buffaloes – by 4.4%.

The trend towards increasing the number of large and smaller ruminants bred for meat continued, encouraged by the coupled support schemes for livestock farming (including schemes for meat cows and animals under selective control). In 2017, the number of meat cows increased by 12.5% and that of meat ewes – by 1.6%.

As of 31 December 2017, 14,756 thousand poultry were grown in the country - by 7.7% more than the previous year, mainly as a result of the significant increase in the number of ducks (by 47.7%) and the chicken for meat (by 12.8%).

Table II.13. Number of animals in 2016 and 2017 and forecast for 2018

Type of animal	01.11.2016	01.11.2017	Change 2017/2016	01.11.2018 forecast
Bovine animals - total, incl.:	557,866	540,115	-3.2%	550,000
cows - total	357,199	348,691	-2.4%	351,000
- meat cows	85,870	96,635	12.5%	98,000
Buffaloes -total, incl.:	12,273	12,809	4.4%	13,000
buffaloes	7,589	8,720	14.9%	8,800
Sheep - total, incl.:	1,360,087	1,316,784	-3.2%	1,340,000
ewes - total	1,128,876	1,096,393	-2.9%	1,110,000
- meat sheep	102,655	104,324	1.6%	105,000
Goats -total, incl.:	237,543	256,967	8.2%	260,000
she-goats	199,438	220,866	10.7%	222,000
Swine - total, incl.:	616,426	593,154	-3.8%	600,000
total breeding female pigs over 50 kg	64,509	62,156	-3.6%	64,000
Birds - total*, thousand pcs., incl.:	13,700	14,756	7.7%	14,900
hens and pre-laying hens	7,158	6,898	-3.6%	6,900
meat chicken	5,290	5,966	12.8%	6,100
waterfowl	1,145	1,712	45.5%	1,720
other birds	107	180	140.0%	180
Bee colonies**	754,105	765,772	1.5%	770,000

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

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2017, consolidation of farms was observed for all types of livestock. The most significant increase was registered in the average number of goats bred on farms – by 39.3% to 17.6 pcs, and of she-goats – by 40.4% to 15.1 pcs. Compared to the previous year, the average number of swine in a farm increased by 30.7% to 73.2 pcs, and the number of sows – by 26.3% to 49.7 pcs. The average number of animals on farms breeding bovine animals and buffaloes increased by 14% and 14.1% respectively. The reported increase in the average number of cows on a farm was 14.7%, to 11.5 cows, and of buffaloes – by 52.6% to 29. The average number of sheep on farms increased by 13.3% on an annual basis and that of the ewes – by 13.8%.

In 2017, a decrease in the number of dairy cows and dairy ewes, respectively by 7.1% and by 3.3% compared to the previous year, was observed. At the same time, the number of buffaloes increased by 14.9% and the number of she-goats – by 10.7%.

Table II.14. Milk production in the period 01.11.2016 – 31.10.2017 by planning regions, in thousands of litres

Regions	Total milk	Cow's milk	Buffalo's milk	Sheep's milk	Goat's milk
North-Western	158,151	134,401	2,854	10,644	10,252
North-Central	153,829	138,035	693	8,950	6,151
North-Eastern	174,112	160,428	1,023	7,984	4,677
South-Eastern	206,555	182,922	2,103	15,300	6,230
South-Western	88,158	67,700	872	10,047	9,539
South-Central	278,571	256,492	2,508	14,104	5,467
Total for the country	1,059,376	939,978	10,053	67,029	42,316
Change 2017/2016	-5.0%	-4.9%	9.5%	-12.9%	6.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The production of dairy raw material in 2017 amounted to 1,059,376 thousand litres – 5% less than the previous year, mainly due to a decrease in the production of cow's milk by 4.9%, which represents 88.7% of the total milk yield for the year. There was also a decrease in the production of sheep's milk – by 12.9% to 67,029 thousand litres (6.3% in the total yield). On the other hand, the yield of buffalo and goat's milk increased by 9.5% and 6.4%, respectively.

In 2017, the South Central region remained a leader in the production of milk with a share of 26.3%, followed by the South-Eastern region with 19.5% and the North-Eastern region with 16.4%.

Table II.15. Animal production in the period 2016 – 2017 and a forecast for 2018

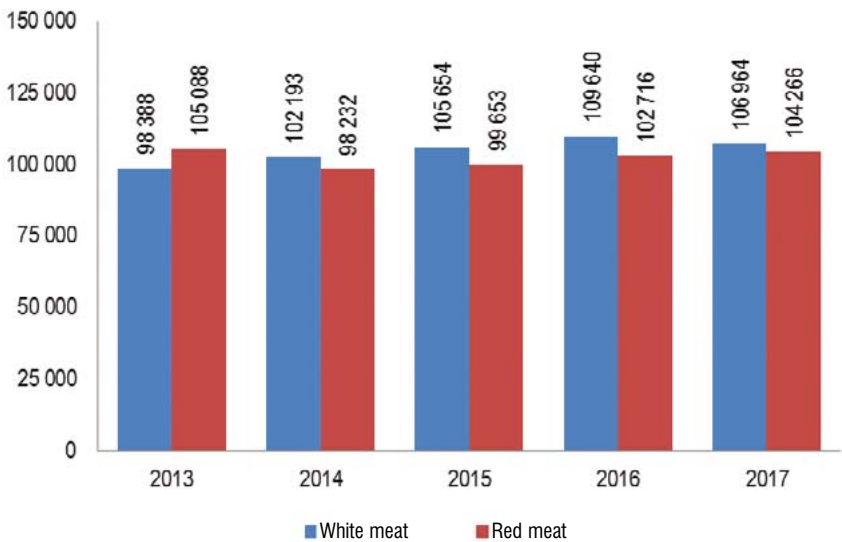
Product	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2018 forecast
1. Milk -total (thousand litres), incl.:	1,114,846	1,059,376	-5.0%	1,079,200
Cow's milk	988,900	939,978	-4.9%	950,000
Buffalo's milk	9,184	10,053	9.5%	10,200
Sheep's milk	76,986	67,029	-12.9%	75,000

Product	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2018 forecast
Goat's milk	39,776	42,316	6.4%	44,000
2. Месо – общо в кланично тегло (тона), в м.ч.:	212,356	211,230	-0.5%	215,000
Red meat	102,716	104,266	1.5%	106,000
White meat	109,640	106,964	-2.4%	109,000
3. Eggs (thousand pieces)	1,331,273	1,325,853	-0.4%	1,328,000
4. Bee honey (tonnes)	10,218	11,807	15.6%	12,000

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Total meat production in the country decreased slightly in 2017 compared to the previous year – by 0.5% to 211,230 tonnes, incl. red meat – 104,266 tonnes and white meat – 106,964 tonnes. Red meat yield was 1.5% above the 2016 level as a result of the increase in meat production in slaughterhouses by 5.1%, while farm yields decreased by 9.5%. White meat production declined by 2.4% on an annual basis due to shrinkage in industrial production by 2.7% (to 103,960 tonnes), while farm yields increased by 7.7% (to 3,004 tonnes).

Figure II.3. Meat production in the period 2013 – 2017, in tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2017, honey production reached 11,807 tonnes – 15.6% more than the previous year.

The eggs produced during the year are 1,325,853 thousand pieces – by 0.4% less on an annual basis.

Expected data for 2018

A slight increase in the total number of all categories of livestock is expected in 2018.

The total number of bovine animals, including cows, is expected to grow by about 1% – 2% compared to 2017. The total number of sheep is expected to increase by about 2% to 1,360 thousand pieces, with dairy ewes increasing by 1.6% and the meat sheep – by 0.6%. The total number of goats is expected to increase by about 1% compared to 2017, reaching about 257 thousand pieces. The total number of swine is expected to increase by 1.2% compared to the previous year, and that of female breeding pigs – by 3%. The total number of poultry is expected to increase by 1%, with higher growth rates forecast for meat chicken – increase by 2.2%. A slight increase is also expected in the number of bee colonies – by 0.6%.

For 2018, the total production of dairy raw material in the country is expected to be about 1,079.2 million – slightly above the level of the previous year, as a result of the predicted, albeit slight, increase in the number of dairy animals combined with higher average milk productivity.

The cows' milk yield is expected to be around 950 million litres, 1.1% more than in 2017. The production of sheep's and goat's milk is expected to reach 75 thousand litres (+12% on an annual basis) and 44 thousand litres (+4%) respectively.

Total meat production is expected to be slightly above the 2017 level and to be around 215 thousand tonnes, including 106 thousand tonnes of red meat and 109 thousand tonnes of poultry meat.

Egg production is expected to grow by 0.2% on an annual basis and honey production – by 1.6%.

According to preliminary data of the Agrostatistics Department of the MAFF, 41,195 tonnes of red meat and 56,416 tonnes of white meat were produced in slaughterhouses in the country in the period January – June 2018. Industrial production of red meat increased by 7.1% compared to the same period of the previous year, while that of white meat increased much more – by about 20%.

Nearly 88% of the total red meat production for the period is formed from the production of pig meat, which marked an increase of about 8% compared to the first half of 2017, to 38.5 thousand tonnes.

In the case of white meat, the yield of broiler chickens accounted for 78% of the total quantity with 42.2 thousand tonnes, marking an increase of 11.5% compared to the same period in 2017. After the reported decrease in 2017 as a result of the damages from bird flu disease, in the first half of 2018 duck meat production increased almost twice on an annual basis, amounting to nearly 12 thousand tonnes.

In the first six months of 2018, a total of 355,233 thousand litres of milk was processed in milk processing plants, including 331,803 thousand litres cow's milk, respectively 13.5% and 14.2% more on an annual basis.

2.3.1. Говедовъвгство и биволовъвгство

In 2017, the process of specialisation of the production in cattle breeding, characterised by a transition from milk to meat direction, continued.

As of 01.11.2017 the total number of bovine animals in the country decreased by 3.2% compared to the previous year, to 540,115. The number of dairy cows declined by 7.1%, to 252,056, which is offset by the growing number of meat cows – by 12.5% to 96,635. Thus, the share of meat cows in the total number of cows reached 27.7%, compared to 24% in 2016.

As a result of the reduced number of dairy cows, cow's milk production in 2017 decreased by 4.9% in comparison with the previous year, amounting to 939,978 thousand litres.

Traditionally, the South Central region has the largest share in the total cow's milk yield – 27.3%, followed by the South-Eastern – 19.5% and the North-Eastern – 17%. The South-Western region has the smallest share in cow's milk yield – 7.2%.

In 2017, the number of dairy farms decreased by 15.8% compared to the previous year. By the end of the year the average size of dairy farms increased to 10.4 animals (9.5 animals a year earlier).

Compared to 2016, the largest decline was registered in farms raising between 10 and 49 dairy cows – by 28.9%, followed by farms in the group up to 2 animals – by 16.5% and those with 3 to 9 animals – by 15.9%. The dairy cows in these farms decreased by between 13.1% and 28.1%.

The upward trend in the number of farms having between 50 and 99 animals continued, as their number increased by 4% and the number of cows in them – by 1.3%.

In 2017, about 29% of the dairy cows in the country are bred in farms having 100 or more cows.

Table II.16. Distribution of dairy cows according to the number of animals bred on a farm as of 01.11.2017

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Milk cows	
	Thousand pcs.	Change 2017/2016	Thousand pcs.	Change 2017/2016
1 - 2	16.1	-16.5%	20.2	-18.2%
3 - 9	3.0	-15.9%	13.9	-13.1%
10 -19	1.7	-28.9%	23.5	-28.1%
20 -49	2.1	-5.1%	67.8	-5.3%
50 - 99	0.8	4.0%	54.4	1.3%
100 и повече	0.4	-2.4%	72.2	-0.6%
Total	24.1	-15.8%	252.0	-7.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Table II.17. Number of bovine animals by region

Regions	01.11.2016				01.11.2017			
	Bovine animals		Cows		Bovine animals		Cows	
	Thousand pcs.	share	Thousand pcs.	share	хил. броя	share	Thousand pcs.	share
North-Western	67.6	12.1%	43.1	12.1%	63.6	11.8%	42.1	12.1%
North-Central	62.0	11.1%	38.3	10.7%	59.2	11.0%	36.5	10.0%
North-Eastern	76.1	13.6%	43.8	12.3%	75.1	13.9%	43.8	12.0%
South-Eastern	106.6	19.1%	68.3	19.1%	101.0	18.7%	65.6	18.0%
South-Western	66.1	11.9%	43.3	12.1%	67.5	12.5%	44.2	12.0%
South-Central	179.5	32.2%	120.4	33.7%	173.7	32.2%	116.4	33.0%
Total for the country	557.9	100%	357.2	100%	540.1	100%	348.6	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2017, the total number of cows decreased by 2.4% compared to the previous year to 348.6 thousand. Over one third of them (116.4 thousand) are bred in the South Central region, including: 74.9 thousand – dairy cows (30% of the dairy cows in the country) and 41.6 thousand – meat cows (43% of the meat cows in the country).

At the end of 2017, the buffalo farms were 367, 6.1% less on an annual basis, with the total number of buffaloes in them increasing by 4.4% to 12.8 thousand. The number of buffalo-breeding farms decreased by 6.6% compared to the previous year, while the number of buffaloes in them increased by 14.9%. A significant increase on an annual basis was observed in the number of farms having between 10 and 19 buffaloes – by 82.4%, as well as of the number of animals bred in them – by 89.9%.

Farms having 100 or more animals also increased substantially – by 36.4%, and the reported increase in the number of buffaloes in them was 52.2%. During the year, there was a significant increase in the average number of buffaloes bred on farms – 52.6% to 29 (19 in 2016).

The North-Western, South-Eastern and South Central regions remain the leading regions in buffalo breeding.

The produced buffalo milk in 2017 reached 10,053 thousand litres – an increase of 9.5% compared to the previous year, as a result of the increased number of buffaloes during the year.

Table II.18. Number of buffaloes by region

Regions	01.11.2016				01.11.2017			
	Buffaloes total		Female buffaloes		Buffaloes total		Female buffaloes	
	Thousand pcs.	share	Thousand pcs.	share	Thousand pcs.	share	Thousand pcs.	share
North-Western	3.7	29.9%	2.2	29.7%	3.6	28.5%	2.5	29.0%
North-Central	1.3	10.5%	0.7	9.5%	1.2	9.1%	0.7	8.0%
North-Eastern	1.1	8.6%	0.6	7.9%	1.1	8.6%	0.7	8.2%
South-Eastern	2.6	20.7%	1.8	23.7%	3.1	24.5%	2.0	22.7%
South-Western	1.1	8.8%	0.7	8.6%	1.1	8.6%	0.8	8.5%
South-Central	2.5	20.8%	1.6	20.6%	2.7	20.7%	2.0	23.6%
Total for the country	12.3	100%	7.6	100%	12.8	100%	8.7	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The total beef production in the country in 2017 grew slightly (by 0.3%) from the previous year to 17,520 tonnes of carcass weight, which represents 17% of the total red meat production for the year. Compared to 2016, industrial beef production grew by 9.0%, while production in livestock farms fell by 5.3%.

Table II.19. Meat production in 2016 and 2017 in carcass weight, in tonnes

Animal category	Industrial production			Meat in farms			Total production		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Calves and young bovine animals	760	752	-1.0%	7,620	7,275	-4.5%	8,379	8,027	-4.2%
Other bovine animals	6,100	6,724	10.2%	2,983	2,769	-7.2%	9,083	9,493	4.5%
Total for the country	6,860	7,476	9.0%	10,603	10,044	-5.3%	17,463	17,520	0.3%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2017, according to the EU EUROP scale, a total of 10,261 bovine animals over 8 months of age were classified, which is 9% less than in 2016. There were eight slaughterhouses carrying out the classification of bovine carcasses during the year.

Category D cows had the largest share – 62.1%, followed by bovine animals in category A, E and B, and Z – respectively 20.2%, 8.1%, 5.2% and 4.5%.

A major part of the classified beef was produced from dairy animals whose carcasses had low yield and poorly developed conformation. Therefore, the largest share was held by bovine animals classified having conformation class P (low) – 71.3% and fatness class 2 (low) – 56.2%.

2.3.2. Sheep breeding and goat breeding

Sheep breeding is a sector with well-established traditions in the country, with the appropriate natural and climatic conditions contributing to its development. It is widely spread in both plains and mountainous and semi-mountainous areas, providing livelihood for a large part of the population in rural areas.

As of 01.11.2017, the total number of sheep was 1,316,784 – 3.2% less compared to the previous year. The total number of ewes decreased by 2.9%, to 1,096.4 thousand, while in the case of dairy ewes, the decrease was 3.3% to 992.1 thousand. At the same time, meat ewes increased by 1.6% to 104.3 thousand. The number of animals in the category of other sheep (including lambs) decreased by 14.3%, while the number of rams increased by 5.3% compared to a year earlier.

The process of consolidation of sheep breeding farms continued in 2017, and by the end of the year the total number of farms breeding sheep and ewes decreased by 14.6% compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, the average size of sheep farms grew by 13.3%, to 47.7 animals on a single farm and that of ewes – by 13.8% to 40 on a farm.

Sheep breeding was concentrated primarily in Southern Bulgaria, where about 64% of the whole population was bred. The largest number of ewes was bred on the territory of the South Central region – 23.4%, followed by the South-Eastern – 22.6%, and the South-Western – 19%. Of the northern regions of the country, the North-Eastern remained the leading, where 14.5% of the ewes in the country are grown.

Table II.20. Number of sheep by regions in 2016 and 2017

Regions	Total sheep, thousand pcs.			Including ewes, thousand pcs.		
	01.11.2016	01.11.2017	Share	01.11.2016	01.11.2017	Share
North-Western	154.7	144.2	11.0%	123.8	113.8	10.4%
North-Central	132.9	131.2	10.0%	106.5	110.5	10.1%
North-Eastern	202.9	197.1	15.0%	165.7	159.3	14.5%
South-Eastern	292.4	295.2	22.4%	236.1	247.3	22.6%
South-Western	261.3	250.7	19.0%	236.3	208.8	19.0%
South-Central	315.9	298.3	22.7%	260.4	256.7	23.4%
Total for the country	1,360.1	1,316.7	100%	1,128.8	1,096.4	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2017, there was a 2.7% increase in the number of farms breeding 300 and more ewes, and the number of animals in them increased by 5.6%. Farms breeding between 10 and 19 ewes increased by 4.3% compared to 2016, and their livestock increased by 3.7%. The number of small farms (with up to 9 animals) shrank significantly – by 21.8%, as did the number of animals bred in them – by 22.5%. Farms breeding 20 to 49 ewes decreased by 20.9%, and the number of ewes in them decreased by 18%.

As of 01.11.2017, the total number of goats in the country registered an increase of 8.2% compared to a year earlier, to 256.9 thousand, and the number of she-goats increased by 10.7%, to 220.9 thousand.

At the end of 2017, the number of farms breeding goats and she-goats decreased by 22.3% and 21.1%, respectively, compared to the previous year. Compared to 2016, the average size of goat herds experienced a significant increase – 39.3%, to 17.6, and that of she-goat farms increased by 40.4% to 15.1.

In 2017, only large farms breeding 100 and more pregnant goats experienced an increase – 43.7%, as the number of animals on them increased by 59.1% compared to 2016. In the other categories of farms there was a decrease of between 5% and 25%, and the animals in them decreased between 2% and 20%.

Goat breeding is concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, and in 2017 more than 60% of all goats were bred there. The South-Western region is the leading one with a 35.7% share of the animals. Of the northern regions, the largest number of goats is bred in the North-Western region, where 18.1% of the country's goat population is bred.

Table II.21. Number of goats by region in 2016 and 2017

Regions	Goats, total, thousand pcs.			Including she-goats, thousand pcs.		
	01.11.2016	01.11.2017	Share	01.11.2016	01.11.2017	Share
North-Western	53.2	46.4	18.1%	42.8	39.4	17.9%
North-Central	25.9	22.5	8.7%	20.2	18.8	8.5%
North-Eastern	28.3	23.9	9.3%	24.8	20.0	9.1%
South-Eastern	42.9	38.8	15.1%	36.6	33.1	15.0%
South-Western	49.3	91.6	35.7%	42.3	79.4	36.0%
South-Central	37.9	33.7	13.1%	32.7	30.1	13.6%
Total for the country	237.5	256.9	100%	199.4	220.8	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2017, a total of 109,345 thousand litres of milk from ovine and caprine animals was produced in the country, including sheep's milk – 67,029 thousand litres and goat's milk – 42,316 thousand litres. The relative share of sheep's milk in the total yield of dairy raw material during the year was 6.3%, and that of goat's milk – 4%. Sheep's milk yield decreased by 12.9% compared to the previous year, while goat's milk production grew by 6.4%.

About 59% of sheep's milk and 50% of goat's milk were produced on the territory of southern Bulgaria, where most of the ewes and she-goats were bred.

Total meat production from cattle decreased by 4.1% compared to the previous year to 11,306 tonnes of carcass weight, accounting for 10.8% of the total red meat production during the year. The production of mutton amounted to 9,524.3 tonnes and goat meat – 1,781.3 tonnes, decreasing respectively by 3.2% and 8.6% from the levels of 2016.

The classification of light and heavy sheep (lamb) carcasses in 2017 was applied in two slaughterhouses. A total of 2,651 light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lamb) were classified, which was 12.7% less than in 2016. Nearly 86% of these were light carcasses (up to 13 kg), with about 73% classified as first quality.

Light carcasses weighing from 10.1 kg to 13 kg category C had the largest share – 57.3%. The ones weighing from 7.1 kg to 10 kg category B followed with 42.7%. As in the previous year, in 2017 no lambs were classified in category A.

391 carcasses of sheep up to 12 months old and over 13 kg were classified in 2017 – an increase of 30% compared to the previous year.

In 2017, all classified heavy lambs had a conformation class O (Satisfactory), and

those classified under fatness class 2 (low) had the highest share – 69.6%.

For 2018, it is expected that the number of classified sheep would remain at the level of 2017; the number of slaughterhouses performing classification was not changed.

2.3.3. Pig breeding

The pig-breeding sector in the country is well structured and specialised, which is a prerequisite for sustainable and stable development.

At the end of 2017, the total number of pigs in the country decreased by 3.8% on an annual basis to 593.2 thousand. Pig-breeding farms were 26.4% less than in the previous year. At the same time, the consolidation of pig farms continued, and the average number of animals bred on them increased by 30.7% to 73.2. The farms with leading sows decreased by 25% on an annual basis and the average number of animals in them increased by 26.3%, to 49.7 sows (compared to 39.3 in 2016).

In 2017, around 86% of the pig population were bred in three regions – North-Eastern (33.1%), North Central (32.8%) and Southeast (20.1%). Compared to the previous year, most planning regions accounted for an increase in the pigs by between 2% and 33%, most significant in the North-Western region. Only two regions witnessed a decrease – more serious in the South-eastern (by 30.5%) and more slight in the South-western region (by 4.5%).

Table II.22. Number of pigs by region in 2016 and 2017

Район	Свине-общо, хил. броя			Основни свине-майки, хил. броя		
	01.11.2016 г.	01.11.2017 г.	Изменение 2017/2016	01.11.2016 г.	01.11.2017 г.	Изменение 2017/2016
Северозападен	26,4	35,1	33,0%	2,7	2,1	-22,2%
Северен централен	190,9	194,7	2,0%	13,0	12,3	-5,4%
Североизточен	181,3	196,2	8,2%	12,6	12,1	-4,0%
Югоизточен	171,1	118,9	-30,5%	12,2	11,1	-9,0%
Югозападен	11	10,5	-4,5%	1,0	1,1	7,1%
Южен централен	35,7	37,8	5,9%	5,7	6,0	5,5%
Общо за страната	616,4	593,2	-3,8%	47,2	44,7	-5,3%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The sows bred in the North-Eastern, North Central and South-Eastern regions had the following shares: 27.1%, 27.4% and 24.8% of the total number in the country. Most regions witnessed a decrease in the number of leading sows –by between 4% and

22.2% compared to the previous year. The South-Western and South-Central regions were the exception because numbers there marked increases by 7.1% and 5.5%, respectively.

As of 01.11.2017, the total number of farms raising female swine for breeding purposes (over 50 kg) decreased by 29.5% compared to a year earlier and the number of animals on them decreased by 3.7%. Compared to 2016, there was a decrease in the number of almost all categories of farms. The number of farms having 10 to 49 animals decreased most significantly – by 42.8%, as did the number of swine in them – by 31.1%. Only the number of large pig farms breeding 200 and more female swine for breeding purposes increased – by 11.1%. 89.2% of the female breeding swine in the country were bred in them.

Table II.23. Distribution of female breeding swine over 50 kg according to the number of animals bred on a farm as of 01.11.2017

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Female breeding pigs over 50 kg	
	Pieces	Change 2017/2016	thousand pieces	Change 2017/2016
1-2	543	-27.2%	0.8	- 11.1%
3-9	232	-35.7%	1.2	-20.0%
10-49	48	-42.8%	1.1	-31.3%
50-199	35	-23.9%	3.6	-23.4%
200 и повече	40	11.1%	55.4	-0.7%
Total	898	-29.5%	62.1	-3.7%

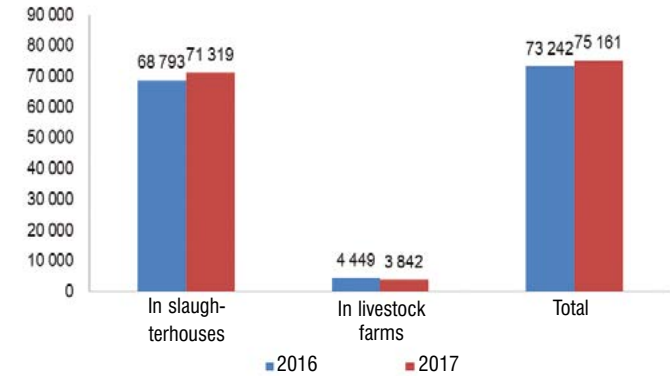
Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The stable development of the sector was supported by the financial aid provided under the state aid scheme for the implementation of voluntary five-year commitments related to swine welfare launched in 2012, which continued in 2017. Subsidies are granted annually and cover additional costs or loss of income associated with these commitments.

Pork production in 2017 amounted to 75,161 tonnes, of which: 71,319 tonnes produced in slaughterhouses and 3,842 tonnes – in the livestock farms. Total pork production increased by 2.6% compared to 2016, as a result of the increased industrial production by 3.8%, while the production on the farms decreased by 13.6%.

Traditionally, pork production has the largest share in total red meat production in the country – 72%.

Figure II.4. Pork production in 2016 and 2017, in tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2017, a total of 97 831 pig carcasses were classified in accordance with the classification scale for pig carcasses (S) EUROP, i.e. an increase of 13.9% compared to 2016. The number of slaughterhouses performing classification during the year remained unchanged – two.

Table II.24. Pig carcasses classified according to lean meat content

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 (pcs.)
2015	1,630	64,821	14,345	141	11	1	80,949
2016	383	69,511	14,373	62	2	0	84,334
2017	240	7,525	20,967	82	17	0	97,831

Source: MAFF, Animal Breeding Directorate

More than 78% of pigs classified in 2017 were of class E with lean meat content of 55% to 60% of carcass weight, and 21.4% of the other classified pigs had conformation class U – of 50% to 55% lean meat content.

Slaughterhouses performing classification during the year classified 69% of slaughtered and steamed pigs, as only the steamed pigs or 9% of the total industrial production in the country are classified under the current regression equation.

For 2018, the number of classified pigs is expected to be around the level of 2017 as no new regression equation for classification of skinned pigs has been prepared.

2.3.4. Horse breeding

According to expert judgement, the number of equidae in 2017 in Bulgaria was about 116 thousand, remaining at the level of the previous year.

For the purpose of preserving equine population, including horses, support for horse breeding was granted for the first time in 2014 through de minimis state aid which had a beneficial effect on the development of the sector. This contributes to the continuation of the existing centuries-old cultural and historical traditions and the strengthening of the country's position in this sector among the other EU Member States.

The work related to the conservation and development of genetic resources in horse breeding continued in 2017.

2.3.5. Poultry farming

Poultry farming is one of the most intensive sectors in animal husbandry, characterised by extensive mechanisation and automation of production processes, which provides highly efficient industrial production.

As of December 31, 2017, a total of 14,756 thousand birds were raised in the country – by 7.7% more than at the end of the previous year, including: 6,898 thousand hens chicken and growing laying hens, 5,966 thousand meat chicken, 30 thousand turkeys, 1,666 thousand ducks, 16 thousand geese, and 180 thousand other birds.

Table II.25. Number of birds at the end of the year, thousand

Type of poultry	2015	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
Laying hens and growing laying hens	6,980	7,158	6,898	-3.6%
Meat chicken	7,278	,90	5,966	12.8%
Turkeys	28	32	30	-6.3%
Ducks	1,229	1,128	1,666	47.7%
Geese	16	17	16	-5.9%
Other birds	69	75	180	140.0%
Total	15,600	13,700	14,756	7.7%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The reported annual growth is mainly related to an increase in the number of ducks – by 47.7%, and the number of meat chicken – by 12.8%. The number of birds included in the other species category (quails, ostriches and guinea) has also increased significantly on an annual basis – more than twice, but these species account for only 1% of the total number of birds in the country and have no tangible

economic impact. At the same time, the number of turkeys decreased by 6.3%, the number of geese – by 5.9%, and that of hens and growing paying hens – by 3.6%.

The state aid scheme launched at the end of 2012, aimed at the realisation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of birds (used for fattening and egg-laying) for a period of five years, is a factor contributing to the favourable development of the sector. The implementation of the scheme continued in 2017 as support for both large, highly modernised poultry farms and smaller farms producing egg, poultry and fatty liver.

By the end of 2017, the farms raising birds for laying eggs – laying hens and growing laying hens – decreased by 15.6% on an annual basis to 67,857 and the number of birds kept in them decreased by 3.6%. A more significant decrease was reported for small farms having up to 99 and those having between 100 and 9,999 hens and pre-laying hens – by 15.9% and 25.9% respectively, and not so significant for farms having between 10,000 to 99,999 birds – by 8%. An increase compared to the preceding year was observed only for farms having 100 thousand or more birds – by 5.3%; more than 63% of hens and pre-laying hens grown in the country were raised in them.

By the end of 2017 a decrease was observed in farms raising meat chicken – by 45.5% compared to the previous year, while the number of poultry in them increased by 12.8%. The decrease in farms was due to a decrease of 54% in small farms having up to 199 broilers (there was also a decrease in the number of birds on these farms by 7.7%), while the number of other categories of farms increased by between 9.1% and 32% on an annual basis, most tangible for those having between 200 and 9,999 birds.

About 55% of the total number of meat chickens in the country were raised in large poultry farms having 100,000 or more birds.

Table II.26. Number of birds by species and areas in 2017, in thousands

Region	Laying hens and growing laying hens	Meat chicken	Hens and chicken total	Turkeys	Ducks	Geese	Other poultry	Poultry total	Change 2017/2016
North-Western	785	214	999	10	232	3	5	1,249	7.6%
North-Central	1,602	3,347	4,949	1	100	0	6	5,056	9.9%
North-Eastern	1,616	1,177	2,793	4	169	11	2	2,979	3.1%
South-Eastern	1,100	394	1,494	5	291	0	33	1,823	12.6%
South-Western	c	c	804	5	3	1	111	924	-14.0%
South-Central	c	c	1,825	5	871	1	23	2,725	15.6%
Total for the country	6,898	5,966	12,864	30	1,666	16	180	14,756	7.7%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, confidential data

By the end of 2017, about 60% of the laying hens and 80% of the meat chicken were raised in the northern regions of the country. The largest share of turkeys was raised in the North-Western region – 33% of all. Nearly 70% of the geese were raised in the North-Eastern region, over 50% of the ducks – in the South Central region.

The total production of eggs in 2017 amounted to 1,325,853 thousand – 0.4% below the level of the previous year, including 1,296,030 thousand from hens and 29,823 thousand – from other birds. Of the total number of eggs from hens produced, 1,116,457 thousand were for consumption, which represented an increase of 2.1% on an annual basis. The hatching eggs of the hen species produced decreased by 19.5% compared to the previous year to 179,573 thousand.

The North-Eastern, North Central and South Central regions are leading in egg production for 2017 (each accounting for about 23% to 25% of the total production). The least eggs were produced in the South-Western region – 5.4%.

Table II.27. Egg production in 2017 by planning regions, in thousand pieces

Region	Eggs from hen	Other eggs	Total eggs	Change 2017/2016
North-Western	123,020	1,963	124,983	6.5%
North-Central	306,309	2,472	308,781	-3.2%
North-Eastern	325,745	1,285	327,030	1.5%
South-Eastern	178,067	6,425	184,492	-12.9%
South-Western	60,881	10,944	71,825	-6.9%
South-Central	302,008	6,734	308,742	8.8%
Total for the country	1,296,030	29,823	1,325,853	-0.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The total production of poultry meat and by-products in 2017 amounted to 106,964 tonnes, which was 2.4% less than in 2016. The industrially produced poultry meat in slaughterhouses amounted to 103,960 tonnes – 2.7% less than the previous year due to a reduction in duck meat by 14.4% (to 19,542 tonnes), while meat from hens and chicken broilers increased by 0.5% (reaching 84,361 tonnes). At the same time, poultry meat production on farms increased by 7.7% to 3,004 tonnes as a result of the higher number of hens and chicken slaughtered.

Table II.28. Poultry meat production in the 2016 – 2017 period

Production	Slaughtered birds (thousand pcs.)			Total meat and by-products (tonnes)		
	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016
In slaughterhouses	55,058	54,371	-1.2%	106,852	103,960	-2.7%
On farms	1,301	1,362	4.7%	2,788	3,004	7.7%
Total	56,359	55,733	-1.1%	109,640	106,964	-2.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

2.3.6. Bee-keeping

The rich and varied flora of the Balkan Peninsula, as well as the appropriate natural, climatic and ecological conditions in Bulgaria, create excellent conditions for bee-keeping in the country. The development of the sector is also supported by the long-standing traditions in the production of honey and bee products and by the strong demand from consumers, related to the unique healing properties of these products.

Bee-keeping is an alternative form of employment for the poorly developed rural regions, providing additional income.

The National Bee-keeping Programme, applied since 2008 and developed with the broad participation of the bee-keeping organisations, has had a positive impact on the sector.

As of 1 October 2017, the number of farms having bee colonies in the country decreased by 12.2% on an annual basis to 13,431, while bee colonies increased by 1.5% to 765,772. Thus, the average number of bee colonies on a single farm reached 57, compared to 49.3 in 2016. A growing interest in bee-keeping is observed, and the number of professional farms keeping 150 and more bee colonies increased by 11.1% on an annual basis while the number of small farms with up to 9 and between 10 and 49 bee colonies shrank by 27.3% and 15.4%, respectively.

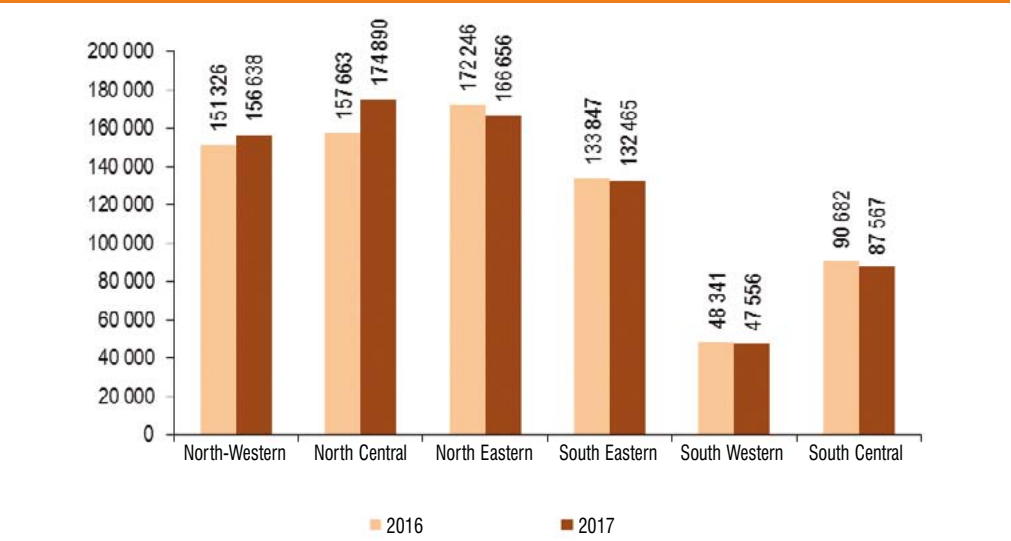
Table II.29. Number of bee farms and bee colonies as of 1 October

Number of bee colonies on a farm	Number of farms			Number of bee colonies			Average number of bee colonies		
	2016	2017	change 2017/2016	2016	2017	change 2017/2016	2016	2017	change 2017/2016
from 1 to 9	3,858	2,804	-27.3%	17,353	13,041	-24.8%	4.5	4.6	2.2%
from 10 to 49	6,196	5,239	-15.4%	139,601	118,679	-15.0%	22.5	22.7	0.9%

Number of bee colonies on a farm	Number of farms			Number of bee colonies			Average number of bee colonies		
	2016	2017	change 2017/2016	2016	2017	change 2017/2016	2016	2017	change 2017/2016
from 50 to 149	4,172	4,188	0.4%	341,681	354,771	3.8%	81.9	84.7	3.4%
150 and more	1,080	1,200	11.1%	255,470	279,281	9.3%	236.5	232.7	-1.6%
Total	15,306	13,431	-12.2%	754,105	765,772	1.5%	49.3	57.0	15.6%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Figure II.5. Number of bee colonies by region in 2016 and 2017



Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

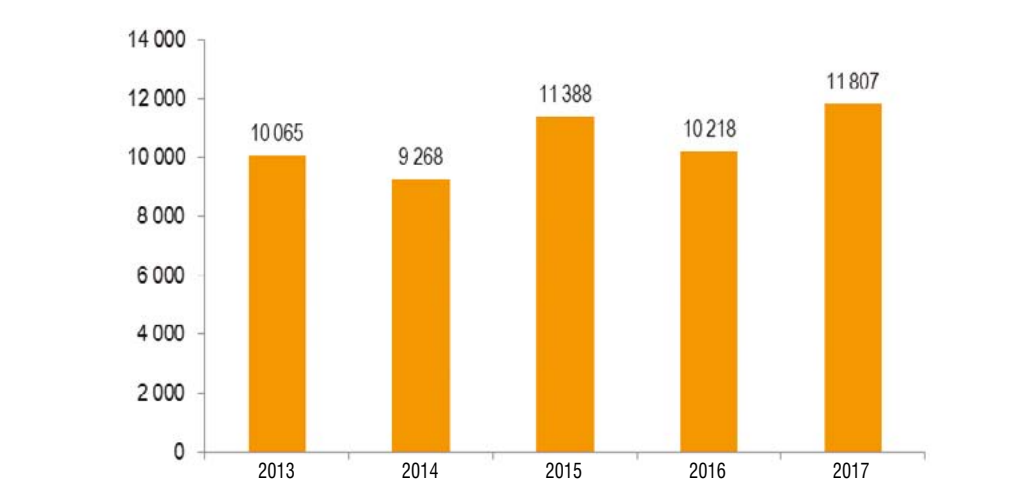
Traditionally, bee-keeping is more widespread in Northern and South-Eastern Bulgaria, where over 82% of bee colonies were grown in 2017. The North Central and the North-Eastern regions had the largest number of bee colonies – 22.8% and 21.8% of the total number of bee colonies respectively, followed by the North-Western (20.5%) and the South-Eastern (17.3%). Bee-keeping is not so well developed in the South-Western and South Central regions, with 17.6% of bee colonies in the country.

In 2017, the number of honey-producing bee colonies declined by 2.9% compared to the previous year to 592,958. However, honey produced during the year grew by 15.6%, to 11,807 tonnes, as a result of the higher average yield of 19.9 kg per bee colony – an increase by 19% compared to 2016.

Honey realisation and the average sales prices (excluding VAT) in 2017 were as follows:

- Direct sales to end-user – 1,941 tonnes – 7.30 BGN / kg;
- Direct sales to retailers – 862 tonnes – 5.45 BGN / kg;
- Sales to processing plants – 5,766 tonnes – 5.05 BGN / kg;
- Sales for industry – 658 tonnes – 4.46 BGN / kg;
- For own consumption and nourishment of bees – 1,680 tonnes.

Figure II.6. Honey production in the period 2013 – 2017, in tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Total honey production in 2017 reached 10,907 tonnes, which represents an increase of 27.5% on an annual basis. Serious increase was accounted for in the direct sales to retailers – by 61.1%, and in the sales to processing plants – by 53.3%. The increase in direct sales to end-users was more moderate – by 11.8%, as was that for the industry – by 5.6%. At the same time, the amount of bee honey for own consumption and nourishment of bees decreased by 11.5%.

As a result of illness, poisoning, starvation and other causes, 66,552 bee colonies were destroyed in 2017, almost twice compared to the previous year.

For the countries in Western Europe and for Bulgaria, varroaosis is a common disease and its invasion has a significant effect on yields, while measures to treat it have a significant effect on the quality of honey. In 2017, 754,080 bee colonies were

treated (98% of the total number), at an average price of one treatment of BGN 5.29, which is an increase of 1.7% compared to the previous year.

The nourishment of bee colonies during the year involved: winter – 608,119 bee colonies, spring – 602,878 bee colonies and autumn – 613,864 bee colonies.

In 2017, farms practising mobile bee-keeping decreased by 24.6% on an annual basis to 482 and the bee colonies in them – by 21.5%, to 34,659.

Under the fourth three-year National Bee-keeping Programme, applicable for the 2017–2019 period, a budget of BGN 4,758,590 was provided for 2017, of which BGN 3,253,260 were paid out to bee-keepers or 68% of the total resource was utilised.

2.3.7. Rabbit Farming

According to an expert estimate, the total number of rabbits in the country in 2017 was 115 thousand, which represents an increase of 1.5% compared to the previous year. The number of dams was estimated at about 54 thousand.

In spite of the good natural and climatic conditions and the traditions in breeding, the development of rabbit farming is poorly represented in the country, due to the presence of a number of difficulties, such as:

- Poor professional training of rabbit-farmers;
- Obsolete equipment;
- High production costs, often exceeding purchase prices;
- Shortage of stable strategic export markets and partners;
- Strong dependence of rabbit meat exports on external markets;
- Absence of direct subsidies for rabbit farmers;
- Underdeveloped scientific potential for securing the sector;
- Insufficient marketing and management on the Bulgarian market.

2.4. Състояние на биологичното производство в България през 2017 г.

There are very good conditions for the development of organic production in Bulgaria, i.e. terrains preserved from an ecological perspective. The benefits for the environment and the rural areas, as well as the growing consumer demand for healthy foods are factors that motivate producers to focus on organic production.

The information on the state of the organic production in Bulgaria for 2017 is based on data from the annual reports of the individuals/entities approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to control organic production.

Operators in a control system

The collection of information from the organic production control system occurs within the calendar year.

At the end of 2017, the total number of biological operators registered in MAFF was 6,822 – 440 less than a year earlier. Of these, 6,472 were producers, 181 were processors of organic production and 169 were traders (importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers). The number of subcontractors was 974, compared to 1,068 in 2016.

In 2017, the number of operators in the organic production control system represented 7.1% of the total of 96,476 farmers registered in accordance with the procedure of Regulation No 3 of 1999 for establishing and maintaining a Register of Farmers. By comparison, in the preceding year this share was 7.4%.

Table II.30. Operators in a control system (including subcontractors)

	2016	2017
Number of operators in a control system – total, incl.:	7,262	6,822
- operators	6,194	5,848
- subcontractors	1,068	974

Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

2.4.1. Areas in a control system. Groups of crops grown organically

In 2017, a reduction was observed in the areas on which organic farming methods were applied (transitional areas and organic areas), as well as in the certified ecologically clean areas from which the wild growing crops are harvested – mushrooms, herbs and forest fruits.

Table II.31. Areas in a control system, ha

	2016	2017
Cereal crops, incl. rice	30,940	16,602
Grain-legumes, protein crops for grain production	523	1,238

	2016	2017
Root crops	86	342
Industrial crops – total	30,512	22,998
Crops for green / Forage crops from arable land	14,911	14,366
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (green-house and open field production)	3,678	2,894
Perennials	33,174	30,485
Permanent meadows and pastures	38,736	39,921
Fallow	8,075	7,782
Total areas in a control system	160,635	136,629
* Wild growing crops	307,995	272,819

Wild crops – mushrooms, herbs and forest fruits are harvested from certified ecologically clean areas but the areas are not cultivated and are included in the column "Total areas in a control system"

*Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

In 2017, the areas in a control system occupied 2.72% of the total utilised agricultural area in the country. Of all the areas declared under the SAPS scheme during the year, 2.73% were areas under a control system.

Table II.32. Areas of organic crops and areas under transition (ha)

Type of crop	Areas in transition		Areas that have passed the transition period		Total area	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Cereal crops, incl. rice	22,102	10,409	8,838	6,192	30,940	16,602
Industrial crops	24,332	14,481	6,180	8,517	30,512	22,998
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (total)	2,525	1,338	1,153	1,556	3,678	2,894
Perennials	21,802	19,165	11,372	11,320	33,174	30,485
Permanent meadows and pastures	32,910	26,498	5,826	13,423	38,736	39,921
Forage crops from arable land (Green crops)	13,170	9,766	1,741	4,601	14,911	14,366
Fallow	7,120	5,455	954	2,328	8,075	7,782

Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

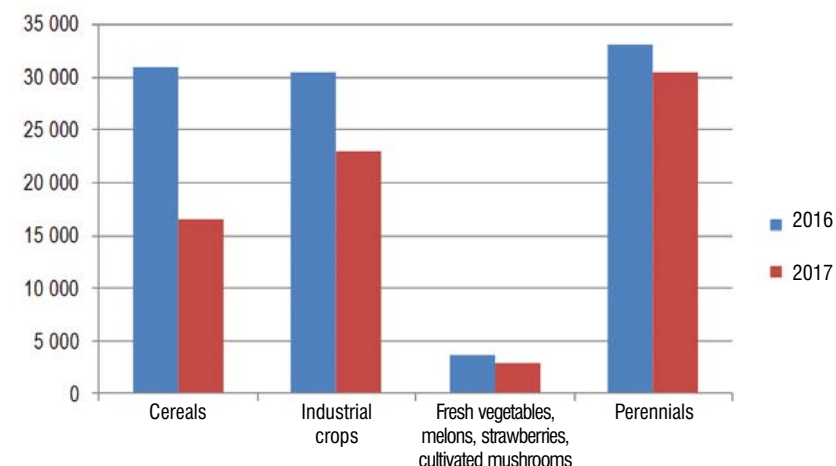
Areas with grain and wheat crops shrank almost double compared to the previous year, to 16,602 ha, as mainly wheat, corn, barley and oats were grown.

Table II.33. Organic areas harvested in 2017, ha

	Areas that have passed the transition period	Harvested areas
Cereal crops, incl. rice	6,192	6,192
Industrial crops	8,517	8,036
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (total)	1,556	1,297
Perennials	11,319	7,067
Permanent meadows and pastures	13,423	8,825
Forage crops from arable land (Green crops)	4,600	4,120

Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

Figure II.7. Areas with main groups of crops grown organically in 2016 and 2017 (ha)



Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

The areas occupied by industrial crops in a control system in 2017 were 22,998 ha (including areas with oil-bearing rose, aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices). Compared to 2016, a decrease of 7,514 ha or nearly 25% was observed. In the areas with aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices, a decrease of 1,230 ha on an annual basis to 16,859 ha was observed. Areas with lavender, amounting to 4,346 ha had the largest share in this group of crops, followed by those with coriander with 3,906 ha and fennel with 3,438 ha.

By the end of 2017 the areas with permanent meadows and pastures reached 39,921 ha, which represented an increase of 3.1% compared to a year earlier.

Certified ecologically clean areas from which wild fruits, herbs and mushrooms are harvested in 2017 amounted to 272,819 ha, 11.4% less compared to the previous year.

2.4.2. Organic livestock breeding

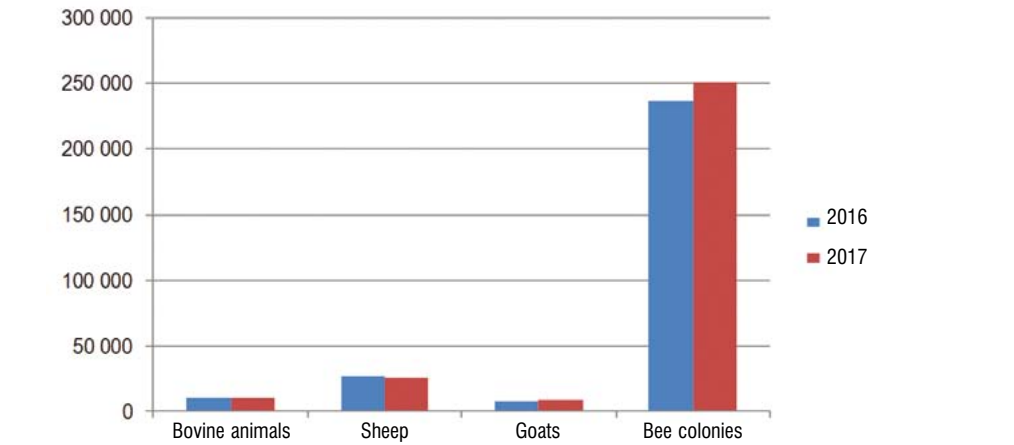
The organic livestock breeding sector in Bulgaria remains more poorly developed than that of organic plant breeding, but the analysis of data from recent years demonstrates an upward trend in the number of livestock bred organically. Overall, this positive trend remained in 2017, supported by the possibilities for support of organic livestock breeding in the new programming period. Primarily bovine animals, sheep, goats and bees are bred organically in the country.

Table II.34. Livestock animals in a control system (including animals in transition)

	Number of animals bred organically		Total number of animals bred in 2017	Share of organically reared animals of total number of animals 2017
	2016	2017		
Bovine animals	9,718	10,400	540,115	1.9%
Sheep	26,809	25,959	1,316,784	2.0%
Goats	8,242	9,023	256,967	3.5%
Bee colonies	236,462	250,434	760,000	33.0%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, and data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

Figure II.8. Number of organic breeding animals in 2017 (includes animals in transition)



Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

For the last 5 years, an annual increase has been observed in the number of organically bred bovine animals. In 2017, they grew by 7% to 10,400, representing 1.9% of the total bovine animals bred in Bulgaria.

In 2017, the number of organically bred goats increased by 781 or 9.5% compared to the previous year to 9,023, representing 3.5% of the total number of goats in the country.

The number of organic bee colonies increased by 5.9% in 2017 on an annual basis, reaching up to 250,434 or about a third of the bee colonies in the country.

Only sheep grown organically marked a slight decrease in 2017 compared to 2016 (by 3.2%), to 25,959, which represented 2% of the total number of sheep in the country.

Table II.35. Number of organic animals that have undergone a transitional period, from which organic production was obtained by the end of 2016 and 2017

	2016	2017
Bovine animals	9,718	10,400
Sheep	26,809	25,959
Goats	8,242	9,023
Bee colonies	236,462	250,434

Source: MAFF, according to data from the annual reports of the organic production controllers

In 2017, organic production of animal origin increased as a result of the increased number of organic animals. 8,531 tonnes of raw milk, 5,9 tonnes of cream, 15,1 tonnes of butter, 202 tonnes of cheese were produced during the year from organic farming. In 2017, organic bee-keeping produced 6,440 tonnes of honey, compared to 1,901 tonnes in 2016, with an increased supply of this product on both domestic and foreign markets.

In 2017, 2,000 tonnes of organic clams were produced, which was an increase of 600 tonnes compared to 2016.

2.4.3. Organic products market

The organic products market in Bulgaria is relatively new and still too small but at the same time it is growing fast. Over the last few years the organic products market in Bulgaria has dramatically grown. The number of specialised stores has increased, as has the number of retail chains involved in the distribution of organic foods.

Most of the Bulgarian organic foods and products are intended for external markets. Bulgaria is a traditional producer of various types of certified organic honey of excellent quality, with a large part of the production exported to the global markets.

Bulgarian organic fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and dairy products, jams, pepper relish, dried fruits and nuts have excellent qualities and are highly valued on the European and global markets.

In addition to creating the legal framework for the functioning of the control and certification system, which makes Bulgarian organic products acceptable in the European Union, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry encourages the development of the sector through information and explanatory activities related to the benefits and advantages of organic farming. These efforts also aim to make Bulgarian producers work for the Bulgarian market so that more of the high quality products produced reach the Bulgarian consumers.

2.5. Vine-growing and wine production

2.5.1. Grape production

Areas

In 2017, the areas planted with vines on the farms amounted to 51,272 ha, which represents an increase of 0.7% compared to the previous year. About 3% of the areas on the farms are young, not yet having reached fruit bearing stage.

In 2017, more than 14,000 ha of vineyards were not cared for, for economic and social reasons. Neglected vineyards, as well as vineyards on small and fragmented parcels outside the farms, were 12,680 ha.

Table II.36. Vineyards in Bulgaria for the period 2008 – 2017

Year	Areas planted with vines on farms, ha	Vines outside farms, ha	Total areas with vines, ha
2008	88,570	22,246	110,816
2009	74,018	27,416	101,434
2010	56,968	25,707	82,675
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

Year	Areas planted with vines on farms, ha	Vines outside farms, ha	Total areas with vines, ha
2016	50,892	12,024	62,916
2017	51,272	12,680	63,952

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total areas with vineyards in 2017 amounted to 63,952 ha, 1.6% more than the previous year.

Nearly 70% of the vineyards on farms are located in the southern part of the country, primarily in the South-Eastern and South Central regions.

Table II.37. Distribution of areas with vineyards in 2017 by location of farms

Region	Total area (ha)	Harvested out of them (ha)	Harvested, %
North-Western	5,136	2,785	54%
North-Central	2,961	1,376	46%
North-Eastern	4,262	2,324	55%
South-Eastern	18,278	13,512	74%
South-Western	3,950	3,520	89%
South-Central	16,685	10,594	63%
Total for the country	51,272	34,111	67%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2017, there was a decrease of 7% in harvested areas with vineyards compared to the previous year. This was due to a reduction in red wine varieties – by about 12%, whereas the harvested areas with white wine varieties increased by about 2%. In the case of dessert varieties, an increase in the harvested areas was also observed – a total of 6%, due to the almost triple increase in the South-Western region.

Due to bad climatic conditions, over 1,389 ha of fruit-bearing vineyards were not harvested during the year.

Table II.38. Distribution of harvested vineyards in 2017 by statistical regions

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine (ha) varieties		Dessert varieties (ha)		Total vines (ha)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
North-Western	2,413	2,048	727	690	56	47	3,196	2,785
North-Central	862	731	700	572	85	73	1,647	1,376
North-Eastern	683	652	1,890	1,581	131	91	2,704	2,324

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine (ha) varieties		Dessert varieties (ha)		Total vines (ha)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
South-Eastern	6,261	5,948	6,394	7,032	551	532	13,206	13,512
South-Western	3,140	3,039	231	163	121	318	3,492	3,520
South-Central	9,552	7,741	1,689	1,788	1,065	1,065	12,306	10,594
Total	22,911	20,159	11,631	11,826	2,009	2,126	36,551	34,111

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Red wine varieties occupy the leading position in the structure of areas planted with vines in 2017, with a relative share of about 59%, followed by white wine varieties by about 35% and dessert varieties by about 6%.

Average yields

The average yield of wine grape varieties in 2017 was 5,819 kg/ha, representing an increase of 0.7% compared to the previous year. For dessert varieties, a more significant increase was observed – by 34.2%, to 6,725 ha/decare.

The highest average yields of wine varieties were reported in the South-Eastern and North-Eastern regions (6,547 kg/ha and 6,520 kg/ha respectively), and of dessert varieties – in the South-Eastern region (10,727 kg/ha).

Table II.39. Average yields of grapes from vineyards – harvest 2017

Regions	Average yields from vineyards (kg/ha)	
	Wine varieties	Dessert varieties
North-Western	5,224	3,915
North-Central	5,071	4,616
North-Eastern	6,520	3,857
South-Eastern	6,547	10,727
South-Western	6,056	5,182
South-Central	4,857	5,700
Bulgaria	5,819	6,725

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Production

In 2017, total production of grapes (vineyards and trellis vines) in the country amounted to 201,529 tonnes, which represented a decrease by 4.5% compared to 2016. Grape from vineyards amounted to a total of 200,428 (4.4% less on an annual basis), in the following proportion: wine varieties – 93%, dessert varieties – 7%. Trellis

vines production decreased by 25.1% to 1,101 tonnes.

Traditionally, the largest vineyard production was reported in the South-Eastern and South Central regions, accounting for respectively 45% and 26% of total production for the year.

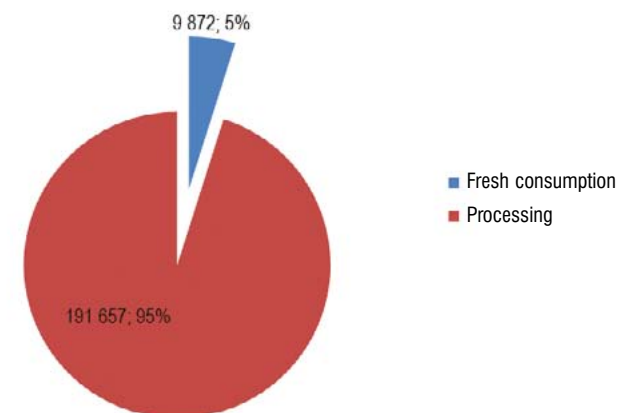
Table II.40. Grape production – harvest 2017

Regions	Grape from vines			Grapes from trellis vine (tonnes)	Total grapes produced (tonnes)
	Wine (tonnes)	Dessert (tonnes)	Total grapes produced from vines (tonnes)		
North-Western	14,302	184	14,486	-	-
North-Central	6,607	337	6,944	-	-
North-Eastern	14,559	351	14,910	-	-
South-Eastern	84,985	5,707	90,692	-	-
South-Western	19,392	1,648	21,040	-	-
South-Central	46,286	6,070	52,356	-	-
Total	186,131	14,297	200,428	1,101	201,529

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Of the total grapes produced in 2017, 191,657 tonnes (95%) were processed into wine and other grape-based products, and 9,872 tonnes (5%) were intended for direct fresh consumption.

Figure II.9. Distribution of the grapes produced – harvest 2017, tonnes and percentage share

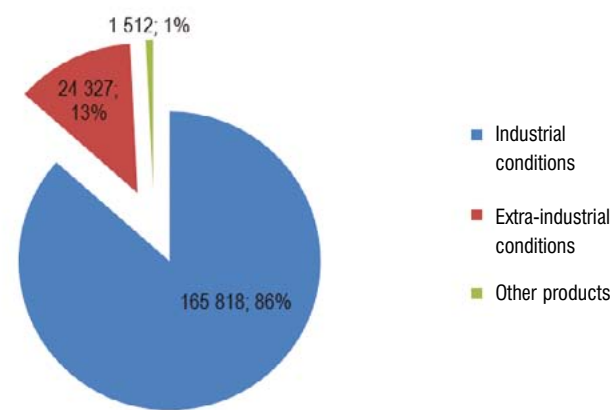


Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

According to the Executive Vine and Wine Agency, in 2017 the registered wine producers bought and processed 165,818 tonnes of grapes, which represents a decrease of 7,685 tonnes compared to the previous year.

The grapes intended for processing in extra-industrial conditions amounted to 24,327 tonnes, and 1,512 tonnes of the processed grapes were consumed for products other than wine and grape must.

Figure II.10. Distribution of grapes – harvest 2017, intended for processing, tonnes and percentage share



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

2.5.2. Wine production

Wine production from the 2017 harvest, as declared by registered wine producers, amounted to 1,079,896 hectolitres – 10.6% less than the previous year. The production of red wines and rosl decreased by 14.2% on an annual basis, to 514,133 hectolitres, while that of white wines decreased by 7% to 565,763 hectolitres. At the same time, grape must production increased more than twice, to 77,068 hectolitres.

Table wines have the largest share in industrial wine production from the 2017 harvest (wines without protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication) – about 65%, followed by regional wines (wines with protected geographical indication) – about 33%.

The South-Eastern region is the leading producer of wine with about 59% of the total industrial production, followed by the South Central region with 22%. The North-Western region has the lowest share in wine production – 1.3%.

In extra- industrial conditions, 113,197 hectolitres of wine were produced in 2017, at 126,196 hectolitres in the previous year.

Thus, the total wine production from harvest 2017 amounted to 1,193,091 hectolitres, about 11% less than the 2016 harvest.

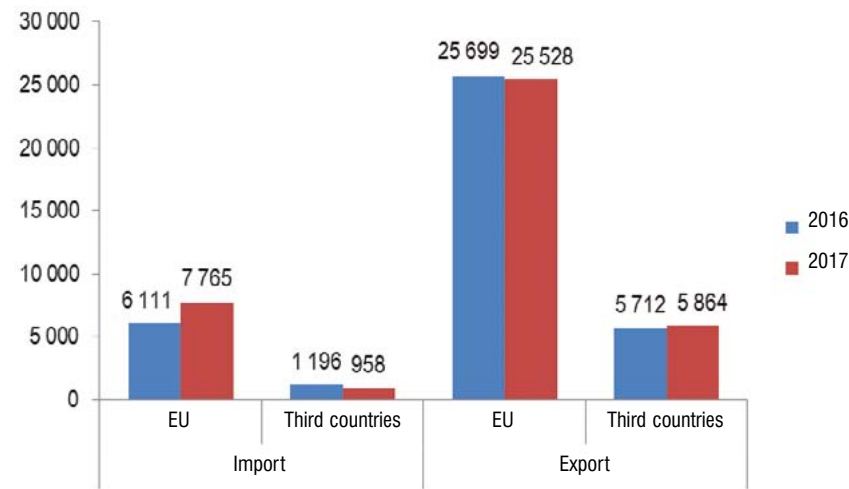
Table II.41. Quantity of wine and grape must produced by wine-making establishments, harvest 2017

Region	Amount of wine produced and grape must, hectolitre								
	Wines with PDO* (quality)		Wines with PGI** (regional)		Other wines (including table)		Must	Total wines	
	white	red and rose	white	red and rose	white	red and rose		white	red and rose
North-Western	348	1,962	2,273	4,066	1,699	3,085	37,879	4,320	9,113
North-Central	0	1,156	15,622	9,185	11,050	9,772	67	26,672	20,113
North-Eastern	330	40	27,574	6,800	13,226	15,662	338	41,130	22,502
South-Eastern	1,110	999	92,035	101,268	292,857	150,096	8,612	386,002	252,363
South-Western	0	0	2,231	7,396	22,585	45,422	4,397	24,816	52,818
South-Central	0	1,465	22,200	84,574	60,623	71,185	25,775	82,823	157,224
Total	1,788	5,622	161,935	213,289	402,040	295,222	77,068	565,763	514,133

Source: Executive Vine and Wine Agency
 *PDO – Protected designation of origin; **PGI – Protected Geographical Indication

2.5.3. Export and import of wine

Figure II.11. External trade in wine in the period 2016 – 2017, in thousand litres



Source: NSI

Export

According to NSI data, in the year 2017, 31,392 thousand litres of wine were exported from the country, which was only 0.1% less than the previous year level. In terms of value, exports grew by 6.7%, to EUR 35,391 thousand, due to an increase in the average export price by 6.8% to EUR 1.13/litre.

The European Union continued to be the main market for Bulgarian wines in 2017, where a total of 25,528 thousand litres or about 81% of all exports were realised. Traditionally, the largest share was for Poland – 16,881 thousand litres (66% of shipments for the EU). Exports to third countries amounted to 5,864 thousand litres, incl. for Russia – 3,238 thousand litres (55% of third country exports).

Of the EU countries, a more significant increase in exported quantities was reported for Sweden (19.6%), the Netherlands (22.6%), France (65.7%) and Croatia (more than four times) (52.2%), while a significant decrease was accounted for Germany (52.2%), Italy (82.1%) and Cyprus (93.1%).

As regards trade in third countries, a significant increase was witnessed in exports to the Asian market, in particular to Japan (by 56.2%) and China (by 93.4%), while exports to Russia shrank by 11.3%.

Table II.42. Export of wines in 2016 and 2017, litres

Countries	2016	2017
EU, including:	25,698,908	25,528,348
Poland	16,566,205	16,881,469
Sweden	2,503,606	2,994,207
United Kingdom	1,555,533	1,259,563
Czech Republic	1,164,182	1,237,887
Romania	764,475	648,596
Belgium	589,051	516,571
Slovakia	426,102	396,079
Germany	818,150	390,691
Lithuania	403,993	350,189
Croatia	58,950	257,968
France	94,132	155,957
The Netherlands	92,416	113,264
Greece	109,832	103,572

Countries	2016	2017
Italy	204,238	36,496
Cyprus	148,759	10,277
Third countries, incl.:	5,712,099	5,863,988
Russian Federation	3,651,243	3,237,830
China	529,574	1,024,295
Japan	313,037	488,882
United States	375,178	424,961
Canada	123,825	127,350
Iraq	118,521	53,226
Belarus	116,937	31,239
Switzerland	94,153	19,232
Total	31,411,007	31,392,336

Source: NSI.

Import

Total wine imports in 2017 amounted to 8,724 thousand litres, marking an increase of 19.4% compared to 2016. Due to the slightly lower average import price of 2.15 EUR/litre (-0.5%), the total value of imports increased only slightly – by 18.8% to EUR 18,767 thousand.

Table II.43. Import of wines in 2016 and 2017, litres

Countries	2016	2017
EU, including:	6,111,124	7,765,204
Italy	2,063,833	2,758,595
Spain	2,147,365	2,557,906
France	832,106	892,573
Germany	608,369	781,293
Romania	120	219,237
Czech Republic	96,426	209,733
Hungary	6,084	117,873
United Kingdom	76,055	56,496
Greece	56,674	51,195
The Netherlands	72,363	40,984
Portugal	27,416	30,937

Countries	2016	2017
Belgium	58,075	19,929
Third countries, incl.:	1,195,910	958,331
New Zealand	325,064	393,487
Chile	273,836	251,799
Macedonia	54,911	93,972
South Africa	88,558	88,965
Argentina	81,430	51,381
Moldova	349,010	13,174
Georgia	9,688	12,522
Switzerland	0	9,876
United States	6,407	9,555
Australia	1,228	8,416
Total	7,307,034	8,723,535

Source: NSI.

Wine deliveries from the EU increased by 27.1% on an annual basis to 7,765 thousand litres, representing 89% of total imports for the year. Traditionally, most quantities were imported from Italy and Spain, marking a significant increase compared to 2016 for both countries – by 33.7% and 19.1%, respectively. The substantial increases of imports from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania during the year were rather noticeable. At the same time, in 2017 imports from Greece, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium decreased by between 9.7% and 65.7% on an annual basis.

Wine imports from third countries amounted to 958 thousand litres, with over two thirds of the quantities imported from New Zealand and Chile. Total wine imports decreased by 20% compared to the previous year, mainly as a result of a drop in deliveries from Moldova by 96.2%. On the other hand, imports from New Zealand and Macedonia increased by 21% and 71.1%, respectively. Imports from Australia increased even more significantly – nearly seven times, but remain relatively small.





III. TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL GOODS

Trade in agricultural goods occupied a significant share in Bulgaria’s foreign trade, traditionally forming a positive trade balance.

According to NSI data processed by the MAFF, in 2017 the relative share of the agricultural sector in total exports, imports and commodity trade in the country registered a slight decrease compared to the previous year by respectively 14.9%, 10.4% and 12.6% .

Table III.1. Relative share of agricultural commodities in Bulgarian foreign trade in the period 2016 – 2017, in thousand EUR

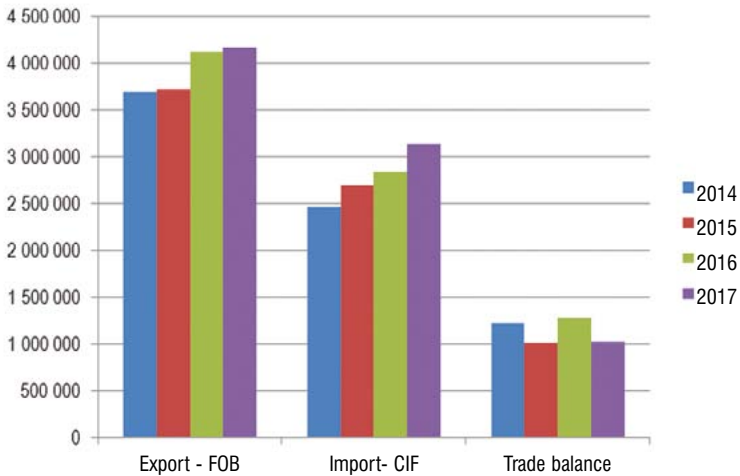
Year	2016		Share of the agrarian sector in %	2017		Share of the agrarian sector in %
	Total for the country	Agrarian sector		Total for the country	Agrarian sector	
Export, FOB	24,126,042	4,127,540	17.1	27,915,852	4,171,765	14.9
Import, CIF	26,181,432	2,843,484	10.9	30,285,679	3,143,167	10.4
Commodity exchange	50,307,474	6,971,024	13.9	58,201,531	7,314,932	12.6

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

1. Level and dynamics of foreign trade in agrarian goods in 2017

In 2017, Bulgarian agrarian trade amounted to EUR 7,315 million, which represented an increase by 4.9% on an annual basis. Exports of agricultural goods increased by 1.1% compared to the previous year, amounting to EUR 4,172 million, and imports increased by 10.5% to EUR 3,143 million. Due to the faster rate of increase in imports, the positive trade balance in the country's agrarian trade shrank by 19.9% compared to 2016, to EUR 1,029 million.

Figure III.1. Import and export of agricultural goods during the 2014 – 2017 period, in thousand EUR



Source: NSI

Table III.2. External trade in agrarian goods during the 2014 – 2017 period, in thousand EUR

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 2017/2016	
					In value	in %
Export - FOB	3,694,886	3,730,852	4,127,540	4,171,765	44,225	1.1
Import - CIF	2,468,024	2,707,598	2,843,484	3,143,167	299,682	10.5
Trade balance	1,226,862	1,023,254	1,284,055	1,028,598	-255,457	-19.9
Commodity exchange	6,162,910	6,438,451	6,971,024	7,314,932	343,908	4.9

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF; preliminary data for 2017

2. Geographical distribution of foreign trade in agricultural goods

European Union countries are Bulgaria's main partner in the trade with agricultural trade, which is due to the more favourable trade conditions within the single European market. In 2017, the trade with the EU in agricultural goods increased by 8.5% compared to 2016; trade with the European Union accounted for 71.5% of the total agricultural exports and 79.9% of the total agricultural imports of the country.

A decrease of 4.5% on an annual basis was reported in the exchange of agricultural goods with third countries as a whole.

Table III.3. Imports and exports of agricultural goods by economic communities, countries and regions in 2016 and 2017, in million EUR

Trade Areas	2016					2017				
	Export		Import		Trade balance	Износ		Внос		Trade balance
	Million EUR	%	Million EUR	%		Million EUR	%	Million EUR	%	
All countries, incl.:	4,128	100	2,843	100	1,284	4,172	100	3,143	100	1,029
European Union	2,809	68.1	2,249	79.1	560	2,982	71.5	2,505	79.7	478
EFTA *	13	0.3	5	0.2	8	16	0.4	5	0.2	11
OECD **, excl. EU and EFTA countries	457	11.1	155	5.4	303	417	10.0	161	5.1	255
Incl. the United States	73	1.8	21	0.7	52	73	1.7	23	0.7	50
Balkan region, excluding Turkey and EU countries ***	129	3.1	120	4.2	9	135	3.2	141	4.5	-6
CIS	59	1.4	53	1.9	7	60	1.4	51	1.6	9
Including Russia	44	1.1	10	0.4	34	40	1.0	9	0.3	31
Arab Countries (League of Arab States)	381	9.2	10	0.4	371	373	8.9	21	0.7	352
Others	278	6.7	251	8.8	27	189	4.5	259	8.2	-69

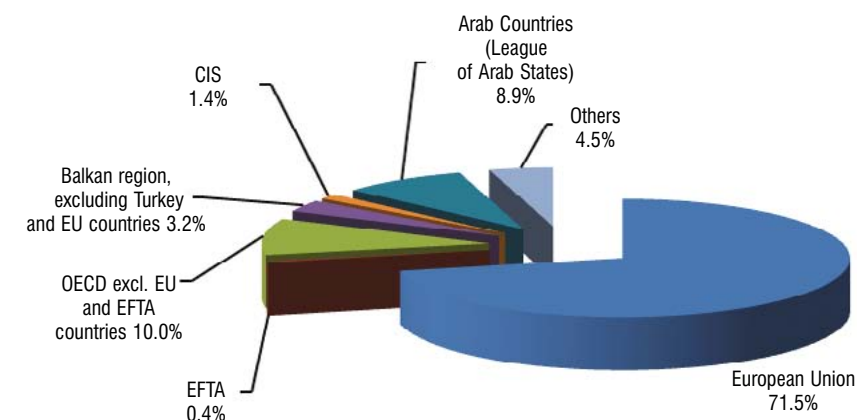
Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

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

**Includes: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America, Turkey, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Chile and Israel

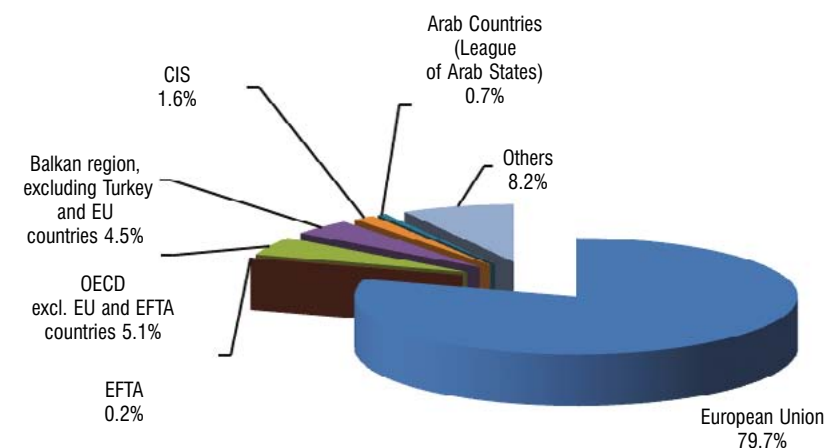
***Includes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo

Figure III.2. Structure of Bulgaria's agrarian exports by economic communities in 2017



Source: NSI

Figure III. 3. Structure of Bulgaria's agrarian imports by economic communities in 2017



Source: NSI

Trade with the EU

According to preliminary data, in 2017 trade in agricultural goods with EU countries amounted to EUR 5,487 million, forming 75% of the country's total agricultural trade turnover. This represented an increase of EUR 430 million or 8.5% compared to 2016. Deliveries of agricultural goods from the EU increased by 11.4% on an annual basis

and shipments from Bulgaria to other EU Member States increased by 6, 2%. As a result of the overtaking growth rate of imports, the positive balance in agrarian trade with the EU decreased by 14.7% compared to 2016, to EUR 478 million.

Table III.4. Bulgarian trade in agricultural goods with EU Member States in 2016 and 2017

Country	2016					2017				
	Export		Import		Trade balance	Export		Import		Trade balance
	Thousand EUR	%	Thousand EUR	%	Thousand EUR	Thousand EUR	%	Thousand EUR	%	Thousand EUR
Total EU, including:	2,809,007	100	2,248,856	100	560,151	2,982,497	100	2,504,850	100	477,647
Austria	44,764	1.6	59,746	2.7	-14,982	40,615	1.4	62,286	2.5	-21,671
Belgium	158,553	5.6	52,452	2.3	106,101	151,200	5.1	53,198	2.1	98,002
Germany	272,475	9.7	301,801	13.4	-29,326	252,937	8.5	340,861	13.6	-87,924
Greece	565,004	20.1	327,847	14.6	237,157	592,705	19.9	341,919	13.7	250,786
Denmark	11,704	0.4	27,430	1.2	-15,726	10,855	0.4	35,037	1.4	-24,182
Estonia	822	0.0	1,263	0.1	-441	1,423	0.0	3,310	0.1	-1,887
Ireland	5,095	0.2	14,750	0.7	-9,655	6,765	0.2	17,679	0.7	-10,914
Spain	260,325	9.3	129,011	5.7	131,314	400,392	13.4	149,963	6.0	250,429
Italy	242,916	8.6	144,918	6.4	97,998	187,235	6.3	168,231	6.7	19,004
Cyprus	37,400	1.3	4,929	0.2	32,471	34,749	1.2	3,231	0.1	31,518
Latvia	2,279	0.1	6,272	0.3	-3,993	3,835	0.1	6,202	0.2	-2,367
Lithuania	8,703	0.3	12,967	0.6	-4,264	9,501	0.3	11,731	0.5	-2,230
Luxembourg	447	0.0	556	0.0	-109	697	0.0	509	0.0	188
Malta	1,502	0.1	1,393	0.1	109	1,976	0.1	1,100	0.0	876
The Netherlands	153,323	5.5	178,172	7.9	-24,849	199,071	6.7	203,732	8.1	-4,661
United Kingdom	76,059	2.7	52,941	2.4	23,118	99,111	3.3	55,412	2.2	43,699
Poland	89,463	3.2	235,173	10.5	-145,710	107,474	3.6	262,515	10.5	-155,041
Portugal	48,172	1.7	3,886	0.2	44,286	59,803	2.0	4,986	0.2	54,817
Romania	459,872	16.4	352,936	15.7	106,936	440,807	14.8	389,179	15.5	51,628
Slovakia	17,652	0.6	27,440	1.2	-9,788	18,490	0.6	24,370	1.0	-5,880
Slovenia	7,092	0.3	6,853	0.3	239	7 822	0.3	10,973	0.4	-3,151
Hungary	28,500	1.0	103,089	4.6	-74,589	40,948	1.4	123,050	4.9	-82,102
Finland	7,505	0.3	1,300	0.1	6,205	6,658	0.2	946	0.0	5,712
France	205,178	7.3	117,846	5.2	87,332	186,227	6.2	136,070	5.4	50,157
Croatia	30,007	1.1	14,689	0.7	15,318	28,172	0.9	18,982	0.8	9,190
Czech Republic	35,229	1.3	53,677	2.4	-18,448	42,421	1.4	64,963	2.6	-22,542
Sweden	38,967	1.4	15,516	0.7	23,451	50,610	1.7	14,414	0.6	36,196

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

Bulgaria’s main partners in respect of trade in agricultural goods among EU countries in 2017 are Greece, Romania, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy and France. The biggest share in value terms had the shipments of agricultural goods to Greece – 19.9%, Romania – 14.8% and Spain – 13.4%. Leading suppliers of agricultural goods from among the EU Member States are as follows: Romania – 15.5%, Greece – 13.7%, Germany – 13.6% and Poland – 10.5%. Neighbouring Greece and Romania accounted for 34.7% of the shipments of agricultural goods to the EU during the year and for 29.2% of deliveries from the EU.

Trade with the countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Trade with the OECD, excluding the EU and EFTA countries, represented 10% of the total agricultural exports and 5.1% of the total agricultural imports of Bulgaria in 2017. The positive balance in the agricultural trade of Bulgaria with these countries decreased by 15.7% on an annual basis, up to EUR 255 million, as a result of a combination of 9% decrease in exports and 4.4% increase in imports.

Trade with Balkan countries

In 2017, the exchange of agricultural goods with the Balkan countries (including those from the EU and Turkey) amounted to EUR 2,484 million (34% of the total agricultural trade turnover). This represented an increase of 4.6% compared to 2016, with a slight increase in Bulgarian exports – by 1.9%, and more significant increase in imports – by 8.6%. The positive trade balance for Bulgaria in the agrarian trade with these countries decreased by 10.4% on an annual basis to EUR 458 million.

Table III.5. Trade in agricultural goods with the Balkan region countries in 2016 and 2017, thousand EUR

Српана	2016			2017		
	Export	Import	Trade balance	Export	Import	Trade balance
Albania	14,943	5,766	9,177	18,610	5,801	12,809
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11,471	1,370	10,101	15,226	1,258	13,968
Greece	565,004	327,847	237,157	592,705	341,919	250,786
Kosovo	9,810	900	8,910	12,303	1,424	10,879
Macedonia, former Yugoslav republic	56,454	28,738	27,716	43,533	36,489	7,044
Romania	459,872	352,936	106,936	440,807	389,179	51,628
Slovenia	7,092	6,853	239	7,822	10,973	-3,151
Serbia	29,883	83,332	-53,449	38,572	95,778	-57,206
Turkey	252,207	109,968	142,239	266,841	111,268	155,573
Croatia	30,007	14,689	15,318	28,172	18,982	9,190
Montenegro	6,561	166	6,395	6,366	51	6,315
Total	1,443,305	932,565	510,740	1,470,956	1 013 124	457,832

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

Bulgaria's main partners in respect of agrarian trade among the Balkan countries are neighbouring Greece, Turkey and Romania; for all three, Bulgarian exports substantially exceed the imports from the respective country. A negative trade balance was reported only in the trade with Serbia and Slovenia.

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

Trade in agricultural goods between Bulgaria and the countries of the European Free Trade Association in 2017 amounted to EUR 21 million – an increase of 15.7% compared to the previous year, mainly as a result of the increase of Bulgarian exports by 21%. Imports from these countries also increased, but only by 2.2%. During the year, a positive trade balance for Bulgaria amounting to EUR 10.6 million was formed, which represented an increase by 33.1% compared to 2016. In 2017, Norway and Switzerland remained the main partners from EFTA.

Table III.6. Trade in agricultural goods with the EFTA countries in 2016 and 2017, in thousand EUR

Country	2016			2017		
	Export	Import	Trade balance	Export	Import	Trade balance
Iceland	68	1,007	-939	11	1,174	-1,163
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	8	0	8
Norway	6,979	1,550	5,429	8,927	1,746	7,181
Switzerland	6,042	2,592	3,450	6,887	2,343	4,544
Total	13,089	5,149	7,940	15,833	5,263	10,570

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF.

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

The exchange of agricultural goods with CIS countries in 2017 decreased by 1.3% on an annual basis to EUR 110.8 million. Agricultural exports to the CIS witnessed a slight increase compared to the previous year by 0.4%, while imports shrank by 3.3%. This led to a positive growth for Bulgaria of 30.1% to EUR 8.6 million. Specifically, a positive balance for Bulgaria of EUR 31 million was formed in trade with Russia, compared to EUR 34 million in 2016.

Trade with the Arab countries (League of Arab States)

Trade in agricultural goods between Bulgaria and the Arab countries consisted mainly of exports from Bulgaria. In 2017, the agricultural trade with these countries

amounted to EUR 395 million – an increase of 0.8% compared to 2016, with Bulgarian exports to the Arab countries shrinking by 2.1%, while imports from there grew more than twice, but remained limited. Thus, the traditionally positive trade balance for Bulgaria declined by 5.1% compared to 2016, to EUR 352 million.

3. Agricultural trading by groups of commodities

Export

In 2017, the export of agricultural commodities by sections of the Common Customs Tariff was as follows:

Section I – live animals and products of animal origin

Exports of live animals and products of animal origin represented 12.2% of the total agricultural exports in 2017. Under this section, the largest relative share of the total agricultural exports was held by the groups of milk and dairy products, poultry eggs and natural honey – 4.8%, and meat and edible meat offal – 4.5%.

The balance of trade in live animals and products of animal origin in 2017 was negative, amounting to minus 259 million EUR, compared to minus 222 million EUR in 2016.

Section II – plants and products of plant origin

Exports of plants and products of plant origin decreased by 5.2% in 2017 compared to the previous year to EUR 1,926 million, accounting for 46.6% of total agricultural exports for the year. The largest export is that of cereals (mainly wheat, corn and barley), representing 22.4% of total agricultural exports, followed by that of oilseeds and fruit (mainly sunflower and oilseed rape) – 14.6%.

Under Section II, a positive trade balance of EUR 1,067 million was formed in 2017, 19.2% less than in 2016.

Section III – Fats and oils of animal and plant origin

Exports of fats and oils of animal and plant origin represented 7.4% of the total agricultural exports in 2017. An increase in exports under this section of 21.5% to EUR 308 million was reported compared to 2016 The positive trade balance in this section increased by 31.8% on an annual basis to EUR 190 million.

Section IV – Products of the food industry, soft and alcoholic beverages and vinegar, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes

In 2017, exports of processed products under Section IV amounted to EUR 1,429 million (34.2% of total agricultural exports), increasing by 1.3% compared to the previous year. Among the product groups included in this section, exports of tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes had the largest share in total agricultural exports – 6.4%, followed by exports of food products prepared from cereals – 6.1%; residues and wastes from the food industry and prepared foodstuffs – 5.2%, etc.

Regarding the trade in products from Section IV in 2017, a positive trade balance of EUR 31 million was formed, compared to EUR 41.3 million in 2016.

Import

Section I – live animals and products of animal origin

Imports of live animals and products of animal origin represented 24.4% of the total agricultural imports in 2017. Under this section, meat and edible offal had the largest share in total imports of agricultural products – 12%, followed of milk and dairy products, poultry eggs, natural honey – 7.7%, fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates – 2.9%, etc. Compared to the previous year, an increase of 17.6% in the value of the imports under Section I was accounted for, with the most significant increase witnessed in livestock (65.8%).

Section II – plants and products of plant origin

Imports of plants and products of plant origin in 2017 amounted to EUR 860 million – 27.3% above the level of the previous year, representing 27.3% of the total agricultural imports. The largest share in the structure of agrarian imports among the products of Section II was held by the group of oilseeds and fruits; various kinds of seeds, seeds and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and feed – 6.2%; followed by edible fruits – 5.5%, vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, edible – 4.9%, etc.

Section III – Fats and oils of animal and plant origin

In 2017, imports of fats and oils of animal and plant origin increased by 7.9% compared to the previous year to EUR 118 million, representing 3.7% of total agricultural imports.

Section IV – Products of the food industry, soft and alcoholic beverages and vinegar, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes

In 2017, the imports of processed products under Section IV amounted to EUR 1,398 million – an increase of 2.1% on an annual basis, forming 44.5% of the total agricultural imports of the country. Among the product groups included in this section, the largest share of the total agricultural imports was held by soft and alcoholic beverages and varieties of vinegar – 7.5%, cocoa and cocoa products – 6.3%, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes – 6% and various types of food products – 5.9%.

Table III.7. Import and export of agricultural and processed goods in 2016 and 2017

Code	Headings and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					TRADE BALANCE	TRADE BALANCE
		2016		2017		2017/2016	2016		2017		2017/2016	2016	2017
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	для от общей износ на аграрни стоки в %	%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
	a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	TOTAL:	24,126,042		27,915,852		15.7	26,181,432		30,285,679		15.7	-2,055,390	-2,369,826
	including agrarian goods:	4,127,540	100.0	4,171,765	100.0	1.1	2,843,484	100.0	3,143,167	100.0	10.5	1,284,055	1,028,598
	HEADING I	431,358	10.5	509,204	12.2	18.0	652,962	23.0	767,778	24.4	17.6	-221,605	-258,574
1	Live animals	40,555	1.0	64,074	1.5	58.0	23,577	0.8	39,099	1.2	65.8	16,978	24,975
2	Meat and edible offal	180,769	4.4	188,706	4.5	4.4	339,405	11.9	377,436	12.0	11.2	-158,636	-188,730
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	28,870	0.7	41,793	1.0	44.8	75,086	2.6	91,377	2.9	21.7	-46,217	-49,584
4	Milk and milk products; bird eggs; natural honey; products of animal origin, edible, not specified or included elsewhere	174,143	4.2	200,379	4.8	15.1	201,659	7.1	242,782	7.7	20.4	-27,515	-42,403

Code	Headings and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					TRADE BALANCE 2016	TRADE BALANCE 2017
		2016		2017		2017/2016	2016		2017		2017/2016		
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	для от общия износ на аграрни стоки в %	%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
	a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5	Other products of animal origin, not specified or included elsewhere	7,020	0.2	14,252	0.3	103.0	13,236	0.5	17,084	0.5	29.1	-6,215	-2,831
	HEADING II	2,032,675	49.2	1,926,085	46.2	-5.2	712,515	25.1	859,533	27.3	20.6	1,320,160	1,066,552
6	Live plants and floricultural products	9,930	0.2	9,858	0.2	-0.7	24,682	0.9	30,606	1.0	24.0	-14,753	-20,748
7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, edible	85,990	2.1	120,019	2.9	39.6	133,798	4.7	154,235	4.9	15.3	-47,808	-34,217
8	Fruit, edible; citrus or melon peels	102,414	2.5	106,687	2.6	4.2	156,604	5.5	173,042	5.5	10.5	-54,190	-66,355
9	Coffee, tea, mate and spices	95,285	2.3	94,721	2.3	-0.6	126,361	4.4	137,905	4.4	9.1	-31,076	-43,185
10	Wheat plants	1,031,237	25.0	932,972	22.4	-9.5	62,684	2.2	119,709	3.8	91.0	968,553	813,263
11	Mill products; malt; starch and farina; inulin; wheat gluten	42,782	1.0	50,386	1.2	17.8	34,293	1.2	32,670	1.0	-4.7	8,489	17,716
12	Oilseeds and fruits; various kinds of seeds, seeds and fruits; industrial or medical plants; straw and feed	662,163	16.0	608,083	14.6	-8.2	164,944	5.8	194,956	6.2	18.2	497,220	413,127

Code	Headings and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					TRADE BALANCE 2016	TRADE BALANCE 2017
		2016		2017		2017/2016	2016		2017		2017/2016		
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	для от общия износ на аграрни стоки в %	%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
13	Natural varnishes, gums, resins and other plant juices and extracts	2,292	0.1	2,813	0.1	22.7	8,413	0.3	16,131	0.5	91.8	-6,120	-13,318
14	Strands and other products of plant origin, not specified or included elsewhere	583	0.0	546	0.0	-6.4	738	0.0	278	0.0	-62.3	-154	268
	HEADING III	253,386	6.1	307,788	7.4	21.5	109,223	3.8	117,849	3.7	7.9	144,163	189,940
15	Fats and oils of animal or plant origin; products from their decomposition; processed fats for food; waxes of animal or plant origin	253,386	6.1	307,788	7.4	21.5	109,223	3.8	117,849	3.7	7.9	144,163	189,940
	HEADING IV	1,410,121	34.2	1,428,687	34.2	1.3	1,368,784	48.1	1,398,007	44.5	2.1	41,337	30,680
16	Products of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	68,091	1.6	78,217	1.9	14.9	47,696	1.7	51,495	1.6	8.0	20,395	26,722
17	Sugar and confectionery	86,616	2.1	96,971	2.3	12.0	148,379	5.2	140,343	4.5	-5.4	-61,763	-43,371
18	Cocoa and cocoa products	157,933	3.8	148,240	3.6	-6.1	206,971	7.3	197,707	6.3	-4.5	-49,038	-49,467

Code	Headings and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					TRADE BALANCE	TRADE BALANCE
		2016		2017		2017/2016	2016		2017		2017/2016	2016	2017
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	для от общия износ на аграрни стоки в %	%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural commodities in %	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
	a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19	Food prepared from cereals, flours, starch, farina or milk; pastry confectionery	229,156	5.6	253,788	6.1	10.7	130,247	4.6	145,717	4.6	11.9	98,909	108,072
20	Food made of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants	126,149	3.1	134,855	3.2	6.9	120,872	4.3	127,003	4.0	5.1	5,277	7,853
21	Various types of food products	84,446	2.0	95,040	2.3	12.5	175,344	6.2	185,841	5.9	6.0	-90,897	-90,802
22	Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar	128,191	3.1	136,864	3.3	6.8	228,446	8.0	234,538	7.5	2.7	-100,256	-97,674
23	Residues and waste from the food industry; prepared animal feed	211,621	5.1	218,293	5.2	3.2	127,154	4.5	127,568	4.1	0.3	84,467	90,725
24	Tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes	317,918	7.7	266,419	6.4	-16.2	183,675	6.5	187,797	6.0	2.2	134,243	78,622

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF.

The following products had a leading position in the structure of the agricultural export of the country in 2017:

Table III.8. Leading agricultural goods in Bulgarian export for 2017

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural exports in %
Wheat and a mixture of wheat and rye	4,187,160	688,262	16.5
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	789,782	390,222	9.4
Sunflower oil, cottonseed oil or safflower oil	330,742	247,210	5.9
Bakery, pastry or biscuit products	93,175	221,903	5.3
Corn	990,274	163,057	3.9
Meat and edible offal of poultry	44,034	160,865	3.9
Rape or colza seeds, even crushed	414,516	157,105	3.8
Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	12,234	133,240	3.2
Raw or unprocessed tobaccos; tobacco waste	29,816	127,609	3.1
Chocolate and other foods containing cocoa	33,024	123,572	3.0
Preparations of the kinds used in animal feeding	75,420	94,954	2.3
Cheese and curd	24,663	84,441	2.0
Coffee, even roasted or decaffeinated; coffee shells and flakes; coffee substitutes containing coffee, regardless of the ratio in the mixture	15,334	77,070	1.8
Food products not specified or included elsewhere	25,054	76,573	1.8
Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved, even containing added sugar or other sweetener or spirit	37,323	71,798	1.7

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

Leading agricultural goods in Bulgarian import for 2017:

Table III 9. Leading agricultural goods in Bulgarian import for 2017

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share in total agrarian imports in %
Meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen	111,387	207,669	6.6

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share in total agrarian imports in %
Chocolate and other foods containing cocoa	32,298	127,095	4.0
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	178,258	123,218	3.9
Coffee, even roasted or decaffeinated; coffee shells and flakes; coffee substitutes containing coffee, regardless of the ratio in the mixture	36,572	116,373	3.7
Meat and edible offal of poultry from position 0105, fresh, chilled or frozen	110,827	107,229	3.4
Sugar of cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	196,342	103,494	3.3
Foods not specified or included elsewhere	25,200	101,217	3.2
Bread, pastry or biscuit products, even containing cocoa, wafers, empty dough capsules suitable for pharmaceutical use, dough for sealing, dried pastry flour sheets, starch or similar products	41,466	93,959	3.0
Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	10,061	93,184	3.0
Corn	355,355	89,601	2.9
Raw or unprocessed tobaccos; tobacco waste	23,489	87,447	2.8
Ethyl alcohol, undenatured, of an alcoholic volume under 80% vol; distillates, liqueurs and other spirit beverages (with the exception of alcoholic beverages)	17,078	86,119	2.7
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweeteners or flavoured, and other non-alcoholic beverages (excl. fruit and vegetable juices and milk)	136,519	81,688	2.6
Cheese and curd	22,814	76,243	2.4
Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	67,821	64,445	2.1

Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF

4. Development of foreign trade in agricultural goods in 2018

According to NSI preliminary data, in the period January - June 2018, the value of the exported agricultural goods from Bulgaria increased by 13.5% on an annual basis to almost EUR 1,870 million. The registered increase in cereal exports – 49% for wheat and more than 2 times for corn, had the biggest contribution to this increase.

The leading product groups in the structure of the agrarian export in the first half of 2018 were cereals and oil-bearing plants, followed by fats of vegetable or animal origin, bakery and pastry, poultry, tobacco and tobacco products, etc.

Imports of agricultural goods during the period January – June 2018 did not change substantially on an annual basis (+ 0.3%), amounting to EUR 1,560 million.

Thus, in the first half of 2018, the positive trade balance for Bulgaria increased by more than three times compared to the same period in 2017, reaching EUR 309.5 million.

The European Union countries remained Bulgaria's main partners in trade in agricultural goods. During the first six months of 2018, the agricultural trade with the EU increased by 14.7% on an annual basis, forming 73.3% of the total agricultural exports and 78.8% of the total agricultural imports.

5. Activities supporting the export of agricultural production

One of the main export support mechanisms was the gathering and provision of information on potential markets for agricultural production originating from the country. In this regard, the following market analyses on the state of foreign trade in agriculture, export support opportunities and information on the application requirements for operators and suppliers of agricultural products were prepared and published on the MAFF website in 2017:

- Analysis of the tobacco market in Japan, specific and general export conditions;
- State of the foreign trade for agriculture and export support opportunities in MAFF;
- State and opportunities for foreign trade for Bulgarian sheep and goat breeding;
- Information on the requirements for application and registration as barley supplier in the Grain Organisation in Saudi Arabia;
- Information on the requirements for application and registration as a durum wheat supplier in the Grain Organisation in Saudi Arabia.
- State and trends of honey production in Bulgaria;
- State and trends in milk and dairy production in Bulgaria.

The following agricultural product dossiers, prepared and published on the MAFF

website during the year, targeting a specific third country market, containing market analyses and surveys at the request of operators in the given sector on the specifics of exports (laboratory tests, certificates, licenses, transport, storage, customs barriers), sanitary and phytosanitary control requirements, tariff and non-tariff access restrictions, reliefs:

- Possibilities for honey export to Japan;
- Export opportunities for milk and dairy products to the United Arab Emirates;
- Export opportunities for natural honey to the United Arab Emirates;
- Possibilities for natural honey export to Saudi Arabia.





IV. SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1. Support under the First Pillar of the EU Common Agricultural Policy

1.1. Area-based direct payments, national complements to direct payments and specific support

Area-based and per animal head financial support was provided by the EAGF, the EAFRD and the NB. In the calendar 2017, authorisation was granted in respect of applications for area-based and per animal head payments for the 2016 and 2017 campaigns.

2016 Campaign

Table IV.1. Authorised funds for the 2016 campaign in the calendar 2017, BGN

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Budget allocation by source of funding (%)			Authorised payments
		EAFRD	EAGF	NB	
SAPS	61,666	-	100	-	211,695,951
DGP	61,666	-	100	-	453,474,615
SRP	61,646	-	100	-	105,443,776
YFS	4,111	-	100	-	1,612,958
CMK	6,367	-	100	-	194,523
SMK	6,356	-	100	-	145,826
MILK SCHEME	1,587	-	100	-	222,280
ESG	6,528	-	100	-	10,905
CSSSESGSC	2,157	-	100	-	76,547
Buffaloes	292	-	100	-	8,312
SF	8,153	-	100	-	37,630,934
SV	7,778	-	100	-	33,617,241
SVg	748	-	100	-	4,996,428
SPC	15,604	-	100	-	30,025,969
Cotton	122	-	100	-	4,393,611
SFS		-	100	-	6,839,523
TMSA1	5,752	-	-	100	20,743,885
TMSA3	7,526	-	-	100	680,185

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Budget allocation by source of funding (%)			Authorised payments
		EAFRD	EAGF	NB	
TNT	41,427	-	-	100	89,091,629
Measure 10	5,348	75	-	25	47,086,100
Measure 11	4,227	75	-	25	59,497,032
Measure 12		75	-	25	43,451,897
Measure 13.1		75	-	25	67,775,302
Measure 13.2		75	-	25	21,023,586
Measure 214	2,544	75	-	25	43,869,806
Total					1,283,608,823

Source: SFA-PA

2017 Campaign

As a result of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020, many changes have been introduced in the 2015 campaign regarding the implementation of direct payment schemes and measures, which continued in 2017.

More than 113,600 applications for support under the following schemes and measures for direct payments financed by European and national funds were received in the 2017 campaign:

Direct payment schemes

- Single area payment scheme
- Scheme for redistributive payment
- Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environmentally friendly (Direct Green Payment)

- Young Farmer Scheme
- Small Farmer Scheme

Coupled support schemes:

- Coupled support scheme for dairy cows
- Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows under Selection Control
- Coupled support scheme for dairy cows in mountain areas
- Coupled support scheme for cows for meat and/or heifers

- Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows under Selection Control
- Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-Goats in Mountain Areas
- Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and She-Goats under Selection Control
- Coupled Support Scheme for Buffaloes
- Coupled support scheme for fruit (main group)
- Coupled support scheme for fruit (plums and table grapes)
- Coupled support scheme for vegetables (main group)
- Coupled support scheme for greenhouse vegetables
- Coupled support scheme for vegetables (cabbage, watermelons and melons)
- Coupled support scheme for protein crops
- Specific support for cotton

Transitional national aid schemes:

- Transitional national decoupled tobacco support scheme
- Transitional national decoupled support for cattle
- Transitional national coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats

RDP 2014-2020 measures

- Measure 10 „Agroecology and Climate“
 - 10.1. „Payments for agroecology and climate commitments“:
 - Direction 10.1.1. Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value
 - Direction 10.1.2. Maintenance of habitats of protected species of ornithological importance in arable lands
 - Direction 10.1.3. Soil erosion control
 - Direction 10.1.4. Traditional practices for seasonal pasture (pastoralism)
 - Direction 10.1.5. Preservation of local breeds in danger of extinction which are important for agriculture
 - Direction 10.1.6. Preservation of local varieties in danger of extinction which are important for agriculture
- Measure 11 „Organic Farming“

- 11.1. Payments for converting to organic farming practices and methods – converting the farm from conventional to organic production (plant growing, bee-keeping and organic livestock farming)
- 11.2. Payments for the maintenance of organic farming practices and methods – the farm has passed the transition period to organic production (organic plant growing, organic livestock breeding and organic bee-keeping)
- Measure 12 „Natura 2000 payments and the Water Framework Directive“
- Measure 13 „Payments for areas facing natural or other specific constraints“
 - 13.1 Compensatory payments in mountain areas
 - 13.2 Compensatory payments for areas other than mountain areas facing significant natural constraints

In October 2017, the authorisation of payments for the 2017 campaign was launched under the Livestock Support Schemes financed by the NB. Until the end of 2017, the approved subsidies under the EAGF-funded animal support schemes and the SAPS schemes were paid.

Table IV.2. Authorised funds for the 2017 campaign in the calendar year of 2017

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Budget allocation by source of funding (%)		Authorised payments
		EAGF	NB	
SAPS	63,308	100	-	636,164,167
SMLK (ma)	185	100	-	276,768
SMKH	6,568	100	-	14,752,815
SMLK	5,588	100	-	22,770,279
MILK SCHEME	834	100	-	33,239,645
MEAT SCHEME	271	100	-	2,957,972
ESG (ma)	3,086	100	-	4,052,911
ESG SC	2,081	100	-	22,042,310
Buffaloes	266	100	-	3,684,201
TMSA1	5,382	-	100	21,322,851
TMSA3	8,209	-	100	23,888,925
Total				785,152,843

Source: SFA-PA

Table IV.3. Total authorised funds for campaign 2017

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorised payments	Budget allocation by source of funding (%)			Authorised payments *
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
SAPS	63,308	57,527	100	-	-	636,164,167
DGP	63,242	57,907	100	-	-	452,987,432
SRP	2,894		100	-	-	104,976,330
YFS	5,588	5,583	100	-	-	
SMLK	6,568	6,505	100	-	-	29,290,310
SMKH	271	271	100	-	-	18,264,800
MEAT SCHEME	3,086	3,026	100	-	-	3,165,760
ESG-MA	2,081	2,078	100	-	-	4,052,911
ESG-SC	266	265	100	-	-	23,403,604
Buffaloes	834	834	100	-	-	4,222,120
MILKS SCHEME	185	183	100	-	-	35,851,087
SMLK-MR	5,983	5,287	100	-	-	276,768
SF (main)	5,469	4,418	100	-	-	29,295,675
SV (main)	790	750	100	-	-	25,663,655
SVg	2,787	2,212	100	-	-	5,843,890
SF (other)	2,635	1,951	100	-	-	6,260,403
SV (other)	17,376	16,953	100	-	-	4,355,523
SPC	153	-	100	-	-	29,903,692
Cotton	5,274	-	100	-	-	
SFS	5,382	5,370	100	-	-	
TMSA1	8,209	8,206	-	-	100	41,418,490
TMSA3	41,345	41,323	-	-	100	34,019,693
TNT	5,536	5,181	-	-	100	84,471,116
Measure 10	4,251	3,617	-	75	25	53,135,624
Measure 11	11,550	11,505	-	75	25	46,865,716
Measure 12	24,417	24,334	-	75	25	44,605,378
Measure 13.1	10,508	10,445	-	75	25	68,975,673
Measure 13.2	1,878	1,682	-	75	25	22,194,974
Measure 214	1 878	1 682		75	25	35,141,974
Total						1,709,663,449

*For the period 1 October 2017 – 20 June 2018.

** The number of valid applications was noted

Area-based support schemes

For the 2017 campaign, more than 3.8 million ha were declared under the area-based payment schemes. The largest number of beneficiaries applied for SAPS – 63,308 and under two of the measures of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – under Measure 13.1 „Compensatory payments in mountain areas“ – 24,417, and Measure 13.2 „Compensatory payments for areas other than mountain areas facing significant natural constraints“ – 10,508.

The Single Area Payment Scheme provides basic support for farmers' incomes. In order to ensure policy consistency, it was still applied during the current programming period, with a minimum eligible farm size of 0.5 ha and a minimum parcel size of 0.1 ha. As of 30 June 2018, the total amount of authorised funds was BGN 713,301,499 – 96.2% of the allocated budget. The amount of the support per unit area was 196.58 BGN/ha.

The implementation of the *Redistributive Payment Scheme* supported economically more vulnerable small and medium-sized farms by providing a higher payment for the first 30 hectares of each farm which was eligible for the SAPS support. Under the scheme, having BGN 109,373,925 budget, 63,242 farmers applied for the 2017 campaign. As of 30.06.2018, the funds authorised under it amounted to BGN 104,976,329 at a rate of BGN 139.72 per hectare and a budget utilisation of nearly 96%.

The Common Agricultural Policy for the 2014-2020 period provides for the improvement of the environmental parameters of agricultural land by introducing a mandatory greening component of direct payments. To this end, a *Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environmentally friendly (Direct Green Payments)* is implemented. Farmers eligible for support under the SAPS scheme must follow practices to diversify crops, maintain permanent grassland and maintain ecological areas. For the 2017 campaign, the scheme has a budget of BGN 465,424,953. As of 30 June 2018, payments amounting to BGN 452,987,432 were authorised – over 97.3% of the budget. The payment per unit area was 124.01 BGN/ha.

During the 2017 campaign, the *Small Farmers Scheme* continued to apply to provide additional income and increase the competitiveness of small farms, exempting them from the requirement for green direct payments and cross-compliance. For the 2017 campaign, 5,274 farms submitted applications for support under the scheme.

Farmers who are up to 40 years old in 2017 and have started activities in farming in the last 5 years receive a 25% payment in addition to the SAPS payment for the first 30 ha under the *Young Farmers Scheme*. For the 2017 campaign, 3,542 young farmers applied under the scheme. As of 30 June 2018, payments amounting to BGN 1,420,922 were authorised.

Coupled support schemes

With a view to a fairer and more effectively directed direct support to vulnerable and experiencing hardships sectors, the maximum eligible amount for coupled support in the country was set at BGN 232 million (13% + 2% for protein crops) for the period 2015-2020.

In 2017, the support for livestock farmers was realised through eight coupled support schemes – for cows for milk or meat, ewes, mothers, she-goats and buffalo. Farmers breeding animals under selective control were supported by separate schemes for dairy and meat cows, ewes and she-goats.

From the 2017 campaign, the Fruit and Vegetables sector was supported by five separate coupled support schemes – two for fruit, two for vegetables – open field production, and one for vegetables – greenhouse production. Support was provided to farmers managing 0.5 ha of agricultural land as a minimum and growing one or more eligible crops, with a minimum parcel size of 0.1 ha. The payment under the schemes was per hectare, upon the provision of proof of minimum yield, certified by documents proving the realisation of the production.

Separate cultivation schemes for protein crops and cotton were applied.

Coupled support scheme for dairy cows

The scheme, having a budget of BGN 30,094,000, aimed to support farms in the dairy sector in order to maintain the level of milk yielded. 5,588 farmers, raising 166,184 animals, submitted applications for support in the 2017 campaign. As of 30 June 2018, BGN 29,290,310 or 97.3% of the budget were authorised under the scheme.

Coupled support scheme for cows for meat and/or heifers

The scheme had an annual budget of BGN 18,750,000. In the 2017 campaign, 6,568 farmers applied for it, requesting support for 138,938 animals. As of 30 June 2018, the authorised funds under the scheme amounted to BGN 18,264,800, which represented 97.4% of the budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows under Selection Control

In the period 2015-2017, dairy and meat cows under selective control were supported by a common scheme. Since the 2017 campaign, the financial support of the two production directions is being realised by separate schemes. The budget for the scheme supporting meat cows under the selective control for 2017 was BGN 3,250,000. For the campaign, 271 applications for support were submitted, declaring 12,417 animals. Authorised funds at the end of June 2018 amounted to BGN 3,165,759 or 97.4% of the budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-Goats in Mountain Areas

Since the 2017 campaign, farmers raising between 10 and 49 ewes and/or she-goats in mountain areas are being supported in order to maintain the level of production in this farm category. The scheme budget amounted to BGN 4,195,484. 3,086 farmers have requested support under the scheme. The rate for one animal amounted to BGN 50.74. As of 30 June 2018, funds amounting to BGN 4,043,863 were authorised, and 96.4% of the budget was utilised.

Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows under Selection Control

The annual budget of the scheme amounted to BGN 36,807,599. A total of 834 farmers applied for support, declaring 68,581 dairy cows under selective control, for the 2017 campaign. At the end of June 2018, the authorised funds amounted to BGN 35,851,086, representing 97.4% of the allocated budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-Goats under Selective Control

Under the scheme, having a budget of BGN 24,004,599, support was provided to farmers raising 50 and more ewes of one breed under the selective control and/or 20 or more she-goats of one breed under the selective control. 2,081 farmers, raising 189,202 animals, submitted an application for support in the 2017 campaign. As of 30.06.2018, funds amounting to BGN 23,403,604 were authorised, representing 97.5% of the annual budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Buffaloes

The support for buffalo farming as a vulnerable sector was implemented

through a separate direct payment scheme. Support was directed to farmers raising 10 or more buffaloes. 266 farmers who declared 11,068 animals applied under the scheme in the 2017 campaign. At the end of June 2018, 95.4% of the annual budget, amounting to BGN 4,424,509, was utilised.

Coupled support scheme for dairy cows in mountain areas

The scheme, which was launched in the 2017 campaign, aimed to increase the resilience of small dairy farms with bovine animals in mountain areas that had not been supported by that moment. 185 farmers, declaring 1,489 animals, submitted applications for support. At the end of June 2018, payments amounting of BGN 276,280, or 95.4% of the allocated budget of BGN 289,515, were authorised.

Coupled support scheme for fruit

The coupled support scheme for fruit applied in 2015 and 2016 has been divided into two schemes since 2017. The main scheme, having a budget of BGN 31,997,044, supported strawberries, raspberries, apples, pears, apricots and Bri-ançon apricots, cherries, sour cherries, peaches and nectarines. 5,983 farmers, declaring 22,752 ha of land, submitted applications for support for the 2017 campaign. As of 30 June 2018, the authorised funds amounted to BGN 30,583,996 or 95.6% of the budget.

The second scheme supports the production of plums and table grapes. The budget allocated to it for the 2017 campaign amounted to BGN 7,167,401 and the funds utilised at the end of June 2018 were 6,749,200 (94.2% of the budget). Under the scheme, 2,787 applications were received, in respect of land amounting to 8,519 ha.

Coupled support schemes for vegetables – open field production

Open field production of vegetables is being supported by two schemes since the 2017 campaign. The main scheme provided support for the cultivation of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, onions, eggplants, carrots, garlic (mature) and potatoes. 5,496 applications for support, containing 20,869 ha declared, were submitted for the campaign. As of 30.06.2018, funds amounting to BGN 26,872,229, and representing 95.4% of the annual budget, were authorised.

Farmers growing cabbage, watermelons and melons were supported under a separate scheme, whose budget for the 2017 campaign amounted to BGN 4,667,429. 2,637 farmers who declared an area of 8,759 ha applied under this

scheme. Authorised funds at the end of June 2018 amounted to BGN 4,493,533. – 96.3% of the annual budget.

Coupled support scheme for greenhouse vegetables

Greenhouse production of vegetables (tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers) was supported by a separate scheme, whose budget was BGN 7,878,016. 790 farmers who declared 699 ha of land submitted applications for the 2017 campaign. As of 30 June 2018, authorised funds amounted to BG 6,844,002 or 86.9% of the budget allocated to the campaign.

Coupled support scheme for protein crops

The scheme was first implemented during the 2015 campaign. The aim was, on the one hand, to indirectly support livestock farmers by supporting the production of protein crops used for fodder. On the other hand, it contributed to meeting the requirements for maintaining environmentally friendly areas as part of the greening requirements. Regarding the 2017 campaign, applications for support were submitted by 17,376 farmers. By 30 June 2018, funds amounting to BGN 29,903,691 or 96.4% of the annual budget were authorised.

Specific support for cotton

During the 2017 campaign, cotton was assisted through a separate scheme with a specific budget. Support applications were submitted by 153 farmers, who utilised BGN 4,817,154.

Transitional national support

In 2017, being consistent in the policy supporting the Livestock and Tobacco sectors with national funds, Bulgaria took the opportunity to continue the support through the implementation of transitional national support schemes for bovine animals, buffaloes, ewes and she-goats, and tobacco, subject to the national complementary payment schemes applicable in 2013.

Transitional national tobacco support

Under the transitional national decoupled tobacco support scheme, the amount authorised for the 2017 campaign was BGN 84,471,116, on 41,323 support applications. The payment entirely covered the applications for the Virginia, Kaba Kulak, Burley and Basmi varieties.

Transitional national support for bovine animals and buffaloes (decoupled support)

The scheme supported bovine animals and buffaloes that were present on the farm as of 28.02.2009. For the 2017 campaign, 5,370 applications were authorised, with a total authorised amount of BGN 41,418,490 (99,4% of the annual budget).

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

For the 2017 campaign, 8,209 farmers submitted applications for support. At the end of June 2018, funds amounting to BGN 34,019,693 were authorised, representing more than 97% of the budget.

Table IV.4. Amount of the support under direct payment and transitional national support schemes for the 2017 campaign and utilisation of the budget as of 30.06.2018, in BGN

Scheme	Budget 2017 campaign	Rate 2017 campaign (BGN/ha)/ (BGN/head)		Authorised funds for 2017 campaign	Budget utilisation* (%)
Single area payment scheme	741,341,715	196.58		713,301,499	96.2%
Green direct payments	465,424,953	124.01		452,987,432	97.3%
Scheme for redistributive payment	109,373,925	139.72		104,976,330	96.0%
Young Farmer Scheme	2,562,137	-		1,420,923	55.5%
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows	30,094,000	up to 250 animals	323.15	29,290,310	97.3%
		over 250 animals	0		
Coupled support scheme for meat cows and/or heifers	18,750,000	up to 250 animals	173.18	18,264,800	97.4%
		over 250 animals	0		
Coupled support scheme for meat cows under selection control	3,250,001	up to 250 animals	280.19	3,165,760	97.4%
		over 250 animals	224.15		
Coupled support scheme for ewes and she-goats in mountain areas	4,195,484	50.74		4,043,864	96.4%
Coupled support scheme for ewes and she-goats under selection control	24,004,600	up to 300 animals	83.52	23,403,604	97.5%
		over 300 animals	66.82		

Схема	Бюджет кампания `2017	Ставка кампания `2017 (лева/ха)/ (лева/глава)		Оторизирани средства за кампания `2017	Усвояване на бюджета* (%)
Buffaloes	4,424,510	up to 250 animals	625.69	4,222,120	95.4%
		over 250 animals	500.55		
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows under selection control	36,807,600	up to 250 animals	632.45	35,851,087	97.4%
		over 250 animals	505.96		
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows in mountain areas	289,516	250	276,281	95.4%	
Coupled support scheme for fruit (main group)	31,997,044	up to 30 ha	2,296.00	30 583 997	95.6%
		over 30 ha	1,684.00		
Coupled support scheme for vegetables (main group)	28,158,374	up to 30 ha	2,004.00	26 872 230	95.4%
		over 30 ha	1,490.00		
Coupled support scheme for greenhouse vegetables	7,878,017	18,141.80	6,844,002		86.9%
Coupled support scheme for fruit (plums and table grapes)	7,167,401	up to 30 ha	1,139.13	6,749,200	94.2%
		over 30 ha	759.42		
Coupled support scheme for vegetables (cabbage, watermelons and melons)	4,667,430	up to 30 ha	655.68	4 493 534	96.3%
		over 30 ha	437.12		
Coupled support scheme for protein crops	31,028,304	157,53	29,903,692	96.4%	
Specific support for cotton		33 452,45	4,817,155		
Small farmer scheme			5,256,937		
Scheme for transitional national support for bovine animals	41,683,672	cattle	183	41,418,490	99.4%
		buffaloes	320		
Scheme for transitional national support for ewes and she-goats	34,877,292	40.3		34,019,693	97.5%
Transitional national tobacco support scheme	102,407,155			84,471,116	82.5%

Source: Directorate „Direct Payments and Land Parcel Identification“, MAFF

*Data as of 30.06.2018

RDP measures for area-based payments

Measure 214 „Agri-Environment Payments“ from the RDP 2007-2013

In 2017, 1,937 applications were submitted (without recurrence) for support and payment under Measure 214. This is about 25% less compared to 2015, primarily due to expired commitments and the impossibility of undertaking new commitments under the measure during the 2014-2017 campaigns.

The largest number of applications for support were submitted under the „Organic plant growing“ direction – 41.7% of all applications under the measure, „Preservation of local breeds in danger of extinction“ – 18.9%, and „Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value“ – 13.7%.

As of 20 June 2018, a total of BGN 35,141,974 were authorised for the 2017 campaign, which was the last of the commitments undertaken.

Measures of the RDP 2014-2020

Measure 10 „Agroecology and Climate“

The measure started in 2015, covering the following areas: restoration and maintenance of permanent grasslands of high nature value; maintenance of habitats of protected species in arable land of ornithological importance; control of soil erosion; traditional practices for seasonal pasture (pastoralism); preservation of local breeds in danger of extinction which are important for agriculture, and preservation of local varieties in danger of extinction which are important for agriculture.

In 2017, under Measure 10 „Agro-ecology and Climate“, 6,112 applications for support were received, the largest number of which in the areas „Soil erosion control“ – 30.9% and „Protection of endangered local breeds“ – 26.6%. As of June 20, the authorised funds for the campaign 2017 amounted to BGN 53,135,624.

Measure 11 „Organic Farming“

The measure covered the implementation of two sub-measures – „Payments for transition to organic farming“ and „Payment for support of organic farming“. Support was provided in three areas – organic plant growing, organic bee-keeping and organic livestock breeding.

In 2017, on the basis of the results of the implementation of the measure, new applications for support of organic producers for the activities and directions under the sub-measure „Payment for support of organic farming“ were accepted. Requesting permanent grassland in these applications was only allowed for farmers who requested support for livestock for activities under the „Organic livestock breeding“ direction.

For the 2017 campaign, 4,401 applications for support were submitted under measure 11, the largest share of which – under the „Organic plant growing“ direction (73.4% of the applications). The authorised funds on 20.06.2018 amounted to BGN 46,865,716.

Measure 12 „Natura 2000 payments and the Water Framework Directive“

The utilisation of the funds under the measure was evenly distributed, with a similar number of beneficiaries participating annually – about 11,500.

On 20.06.2018, BGN 44,605,378 were authorised under the measure for commitments declared in 2017.

Measure 13 „Payments for areas facing natural or other specific constraints“

In 2017, applications were admitted under the two sub-measures of measure 13 – sub-measure 13.1 „Compensation payments in mountain areas“ and sub-measure 13.2 „Compensation payments for other areas affected by significant natural constraints“. The budget for sub-measures utilised almost entirely – over 99%.

As of 20.06.2018, BGN 68,975,673 were authorised under sub-measure 13.1, and under sub-measure 13.2 – BGN 22,194,974, for commitments declared in 2017.

2018 Campaign

Tables IV.5. Declared data under schemes and measures for area-based support

Scheme/measure	Applications submitted (number)	Area declared (ha)
Single area payment scheme	62,464	3,843,748
Measure 12 „Natura 2000 payments and the Water Framework Directive“	11,594	404,937
Measure 13.1/NF „Compensatory payments in mountain areas“	23,804	403,875
Measure 13.2/NF „Compensatory payments for areas other than mountain areas facing significant natural constraints“	10,424	288,059
Measure 10 „Agro-ecology and Climate“	5,576	260,292
Coupled support scheme for protein crops	18,260	232,785
Measure 11 „Organic Farming“	3,848	87,993
Coupled support scheme for vegetables (main group)	5,543	25,645
Coupled support scheme for fruit (main group)	6,323	23,296
Coupled support scheme for fruit (other)	3,263	10,050
Coupled support scheme for vegetables (other)	2,252	7,853
Specific support for cotton	109	4,330
Coupled support scheme for greenhouse vegetables	856	726

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data as of 20.06.2017

Table IV.6. Declared data by support schemes per animal head

Scheme	Applications submitted (number)	Area declared (ha)
Transitional national coupled support scheme for ewes and/or she-goats	7,623	818,895
Coupled support scheme for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control	2,207	363,153
Coupled support scheme for cows for meat and/or heifers	6,054	139,961
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows	4,447	137,960
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows under selection control	908	76,879
Coupled support scheme for ewes and/or she-goats in mountain areas	2,673	73,239
Coupled support scheme for meat cows under selection control	367	17,288
Coupled support scheme for buffaloes	279	12,579
Coupled support scheme for dairy cows in mountain areas	282	2,240
Transitional national support (bovine animals)	75	3,340
Transitional national support (buffaloes)	4,831	209,420

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data as of 20.06.2017

Table IV.7. Applications for support submitted under the transitional national tobacco support scheme

Variety	Applications submitted (number)	Reference quantity (kg)
Basmi	34,322	29,604,766
Burley	70	8,574,921
Kaba Kulak	1,340	7,005,966
Virginia	6,157	6,476,960

Source: SFA-PA

Note: Data as of 20.06.2017

As of 20 June 2018, a total of 4,222 applications for support were submitted under the Young Farmers Scheme and 4,210 beneficiaries applied under the Small Farmers Scheme.

1.2. Market support mechanisms

The common organisation of EU agricultural markets aims to stabilise them, to ensure a better standard of living for the population employed in the agricultural sector and to offer quality and safe foods at affordable prices. It includes market support

measures, regulatory measures related to quality control of agricultural products, recognition of producer organisations, issuing of import and export licenses, etc.

Market measures are a major instrument of the CAP and act as a „safety net“ in the context of market instability. Some of them are horizontal and apply to all sectors of agriculture, others to only one or more agricultural products.

1.2.1 Milk Sector

Exceptional adjustment aid to milk producers and farmers in other livestock sectors according to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1613 of 08.09.2016

In 2017, additional payments were made under the three exceptional adjustment aid schemes for milk producers and farmers in other livestock sectors. The funds amounting to BGN 10,968,954 were paid as follows:

- Support for small-size farms scheme – BGN 1,854,182 provided to 8,283 farmers;
- Support for environmentally and climate-friendly production methods scheme – BGN 6,559,870, allocated to 7,012 farmers;
- Extensive methods scheme – BGN 2,554,902 were paid to 3,280 farmers.

Scheme providing aid for milk production reduction in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1612 of 8 September 2016

During the period 12.09. – 12.10.2016 State Fund „Agriculture“ accepted support applications under the measure for the first two reduction periods according to Article 2(2) of the Regulation. A total of 331 applications for planned reduction in cow's milk production, amounting to 5,618 tonnes, were approved in the process as follows:

- During the first production reduction period covering October, November and December 2016, 304 applications for a planned reduction of 5,368.6 tonnes were accepted;
- During the second period – November and December 2016 and January 2017, 27 applications for planned reduction of 249.5 tonnes were accepted.

On 17.10.2016, the EC was notified that the maximum total amount of support under the measure was reached (12,198 tonnes). In this regard, and in line with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1845 of 18 October 2016 fixing the allocation coefficient to be applied to applications for milk production reduction pursuant to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1612, as of 20 October 2016, the admission of candidates under the measure was suspended for the remainder of the current third period and for the forthcoming fourth period and accordingly:

- Aid applications relating to the third production reduction period (December 2016, January and February 2017) accepted in the period from 13.10.2016 to 19.10.2016 were rejected;
- As regards the reduction quantities indicated in the applications accepted by 12.10.2016 relating to the second production reduction period covering the months of November and December 2016 and January 2017, an allocation coefficient of 0.12462762 was applied.

In 2017, 234 payment applications were submitted for the two cow's milk production reduction periods. The applications submitted received financial aid amounting to BGN 1,205,207 for 4,650 tonnes of actual production decrease.

Contractual relations in the milk sector

Regulation No 1 of 28 January 2015 on the contractual relations in the milk sector and the terms and procedure for recognition of producer organisations, their associations and interbranch organisations in the milk and dairy products sector regulates the terms and procedure for the conclusion and registration of contracts for the supply of raw milk, as well as the procedure for controlling the conclusion and registration of contracts for the supply of raw milk.

The regime aims to ensure the sustainable development of the production of raw milk of all kinds, to improve the possibilities of milk producers to contract with purchasers and to equitably allocate the value added along the supply chain.

The legal framework allows milk producer organisations or their associations to negotiate with a purchaser of raw milk on the terms of the contracts, including the price for part or all of the raw milk of their members.

In 2017, 1,346 applications from purchasers were received for the registration of nearly 12,000 contracts concluded between producers and first purchasers of raw cow's, sheep's, goat's and buffalo's milk.

As of 31.12.2017, the results of on-the-spot checks of 507 raw milk producers, randomly selected based on risk analysis, and of 100 purchasers registered in the Register of Approved Cow's Milk Purchasers were reviewed and analysed. A number of irregularities were identified, the most common of which were the many contracts for the supply of raw milk that had not been registered by the first purchasers and supplying of milk without contracts.

1.2.2. Fruit and Vegetables sector

Fruit and vegetables producer groups scheme

In 2012, two financial aid contracts were signed with recognised fruit and vegetables producer groups amounting to BGN 31 million (European and national funding), having a five-year performance period of the investment plans. In 2013, 10 more producer groups were approved, with a total financial support amounting to BGN 28,537,821 allocated for a period of 5 years.

In 2017, BGN 12,277,952 were paid under the measure, including BGN 11,732,805 for investment and BGN 545,147 for administrative expenses. About 66% of the funds (BGN 8,063,082) were provided by the national budget, and the rest – by the EAGF.

For the first six months of 2018, payments amounting to BGN 7,127,016 were made to four producer groups, of which BGN 6,161,384 from the national budget and BGN 965,632 from the EAGF.

Temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruits

Having regard to the extension of the period of the Russian ban on imports of certain agricultural products, including fruits and vegetables, the European Commission issued Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1165 laying down temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruits. The measures had to be applied by 30 June 2018 or until the quantities of products eligible for support in the Member State concerned were reached. Producers of apples, pears, plums, sweet oranges, clementines, mandarins, lemons, peaches and nectarines, sweet cherries and persimmons were supported. No support was provided for producers of vegetables and certain types of fruits which were not permanent crops and their production was more easily adapted to market conditions.

For Bulgaria, a maximum quantity of 2,000 tonnes was set for the application of the exceptional measures in respect of: apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums and sweet cherries.

The provisions of the Regulation were transferred in Regulation No 5 of 08.09.2017 on the terms and procedure for the implementation of a temporary

exceptional market support measure in the fruit sector.

In September 2017, admission for financial support applications under the „Market Withdrawal“ measure was launched. In 2018, four support applications were submitted under the measure and were subsequently withdrawn.

„Producers organisation“ scheme

Fruit and vegetable producer organisations

The „Fruit and Vegetables Producer Organisations“ scheme aims to bring together producer groups in marketing organisations, which leads to a concentration of supply, lower production costs and shortening of retail chains, and benefits to producers.

The projects submitted by applicants under the scheme have a minimum duration of 3 years and a maximum duration of 5 years. The measure is of an investment nature; administrative expenses, incl. appointment of staff are eligible expenses. The value of marketed production is also taken into account when forming the financial support for investments. The annual ceiling of the scheme is BGN 1,328,395.14 (EC 15%, NB 85%).

By the end of 2017, there is one operating producer organisation implementing an operational programme with a total approved operating fund for the three years amounting to BGN 5,318,019. No payments were made to the organisation during the year.

In 2017, four fruit and vegetable producer organisations submitted operational financial assistance programmes. One of the programmes has a 5-year implementation period, and the rest will be completed over a three-year period. At the beginning of 2018, contracts were signed with the four organisations and their total operational fund for the whole implementation period amounted to BGN 10,555,147.

In the first half of 2018, three other fruit and vegetable producer organisations were approved; they were expected to submit operational financial assistance programmes by the end of 2018.

Producer organisations (PO) and groups (PG) in other sectors

In 2017, 27 POs and PGs were recognised, of which: 3 PGs in the „fruit and vegetables sector, 2 PGs in the „Cereals“ sector, 1 PG in the „Grain-legumes“ sector, 1 PG in the sector of „Medicinal and essential oil crops“; 1 PG in the „Industrial crops“ sector, 1 PG in the „Meat“ sector, 1 OP and 10 PGs in the „Milk and dairy products“ sector, 1 PO in the „honey and bee products“ sector and 1 PG in the „Potatoes“ sector.

As of 31.12.2017, the recognised organisations and groups of producers of agricultural products in the country were 83, having more than 515 farmers as members.

Scheme for supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products in kindergartens and schools in Bulgaria (School Fruit Scheme and School Milk Scheme)

Since school year 2017/2018, the School Fruit and School Milk Schemes are being applied as a single scheme offering fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products to kindergartens and schools. Its main goal is to educate children about healthy eating habits.

The aid is intended for children attending on a regular basis kindergarten and school, representing the most appropriate environment for influencing their eating habits. The schemes apply throughout the country and cover the children from the 1st to the 4th group of the respective kindergarten (municipal, state or private) and all pupils from the preparatory class up to the fourth grade incl. of the respective school (municipal, state or private). Children and pupils can benefit from the aid only during school days.

The estimated budget for supply of fruit and vegetables for the 2017/2018 school year amounted to BGN 9,767,109, of which BGN 5,235,970 were provided by the EU and BGN 4,531,139 – by the national budget. 255 applicants were approved for the scheme, and the funds paid by the end of June 2018 amounted to BGN 10,573,606 excluding VAT.

For the supply of milk and dairy products, the budget for the school year amounted to BGN 9,875,754, of which BGN 2,283,171 European and BGN 7,592,583 – national funds. 184 applicants, with 3,512 educational establishments and 470,142 children (85% of the target group), were approved for the scheme. At the end of June 2018, BGN 8,679,482 excluding VAT were paid for delivery of milk and dairy products.

In the period 01.05.2018 – 15.06.2018 the application for participation in the scheme for the 2018/2019 school year was started. 165 applicants, with 3,349 educational establishments and 448,389 children, were approved. The provided funds for the supply of fruits and vegetables for the school year amounted to BGN 10,739,460, and for the supply of milk and dairy products – BGN 10,091,698.

1.2.3. Bee-keeping sector

The support in the bee-keeping sector is carried out within the framework of the National Bee-keeping Programme, prepared in cooperation with the bee-keeping organisations in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1308/2013 of the European

Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

The main objectives of the NBKP are to ensure better employment and higher incomes for bee-keepers, to improve the conditions for production and trade in honey and bee products, to increase the effectiveness of production, the quality and competitiveness of Bulgarian honey and bee products, to preserve the bee population and to achieve its sustainable development.

The total financial resource for the programme for the 2017-2019 period amounts to BGN 14,275,774 (50% from EAGF and 50% from the NB), including: for 2017 – BGN 4,758,590, for 2018 – BGN 4,758,594, and for 2019 – BGN 4,758,590.

Table IV.8. Budget and financial aid paid up under the NBKP for 2017, in BGN

Measure, activity	Budget	Financial aid paid			Budget utilisation (%)
		Total	Incl. EAGF	Including NB	
1. Measure A – Technical Assistance for Bee-keepers and Bee-keepers' Associations	427,715	340,550	170,275	170,275	80%
2. Measure B – Combating varroaosis	1,013,388	709,836	354,918	354,918	70%
3. Measure C - Rationalisation of mobile bee-keeping	15,550	7,500	3,750	3,750	48%
4. Measure D – Measures to support the conduct of physico-chemical analysis of honey	59,574	32,796	16,398	16,398	55%
5. Total under Measure E - Measures to support the renewal of bee hives in the EU	3,242,363	2,162,579	1,081,289	1,081,289	67%
Action 1 "Purchase of new hives for replacement of old unfit hives and/or for increasing the number of bee colonies in the apiary"	1,302,030	993,973	496,986	496,986	76%
Action 2 "Keeping or increasing the number of bee colonies"	1,354,420	768,338	384,169	384,169	57%
Action 3 "Buying Queen Bees"	585,913	400,268	200,134	200,134	68%
6. Total under Measure F- Collaboration with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of bee-keeping and bee products	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	4,758,590	3,253,261	1,626,630	1,626,630	68%

Source: SFA-PA

For the financial 2017, more than 2,200 applications for support were submitted under the NBKP – the largest annual figure for the whole period of its implementation since 2008. After all checks were carried out according to the requirements of Regulation No 15 of 31.10.2016 on the conditions and the procedure of implementation of the measures of the NBKP for the 2017-2019 period, 1,882 contracts for financial aid were concluded. For 87% of the contracts (1,628), the investments were completed and payment applications were submitted.

The highest rate of utilisation of the budget in 2017 was achieved for Measure A – Technical Assistance for Bee-keepers and Bee-keepers' Associations (80%), followed by Measure B – Combating varroaosis (70%) and Measure E – Measures to support the renewal of bee hives in the EU (67%). Again this year, the budget of Measure F was transferred to the other measures / activities under the NBKP as no application for support for the realisation of a scientific project in the field of bee-keeping was submitted under the measure.

In the period 10.06.2018 – 15.08.2018, admission of applications for payment under the signed contracts was started. The deadline for payment of the financial support under the NBKP was 15.10.2018.

1.2.4. Wine sector

The National Programme for Support of the Wine Sector 2014-2018 includes measures that are essential for the development of the sector in the country.

In 2017, two measures under the Programme were applied – „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“ and „Promotion on third country markets“, with budgets for the financial 2016/2017 year amounting to BGN 50,254,415 and BGN 2,086,705 respectively.

Under the measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“ (financing was entirely provided by the EAGF and amounted to up to 75% of the planned investment), in 2017 one admission was opened for applications for financial aid. There were 148 applications, for which 123 contracts were signed, with a total financial support amounting to BGN 48,993,134. Funds amounting to BGN 43,571,474 were paid, which represented 86.7% of the budget for the measure for the financial year. In the calendar 2017, the funds paid amounted to BGN 47,767,176.

In the period from the beginning of the financial 2018 (16.10.2017) to 15.06.2018, 83 applications for financial assistance were received under the measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“. Payments as of 20 June 2018 amounted to BGN 17,055,267.

The measure „Promotion on third country markets“ provided financial support for promotion of wines with protected designation of origin, with protected geographical indication and a variety of wines without PDO and PGI. Funding under the measure included EAGF funds (up to 50%), national funding (up to 30%) and the applicant's own investment (up to 20%). In 2015, applications for financial support under the measure were received, as a result of which four contracts for financial assistance amounting to BGN 5,749,617 were concluded, with expected completion in 2018. For 2017 the funds paid under the measure amounted to BGN 2,427,373, of which BGN 1,517,108 originated from the EAGF and BGN 910,265 – from the national budget.

1.2.5. Public intervention and private storage

In the event of the occurrence of the market conditions determined by law, public intervention for durum wheat, barley, corn and paddy rice, beef and veal, and private storage of cheese and meat may be opened by means of implementing acts of the European Commission.

In 2017, there were no conditions for opening public intervention and private storage of products.

1.2.6. Sugar sector

Quota Regime

Till the end of September 2017 European Union used the quota systems for production of sugar and isoglucose in order to regulate the production in the Union. The national quota of Bulgaria for production of isoglucose amounted to 89,198 tonnes expressed in dry matter.

In 2017, a fee amounting to BGN 1,046,721 was collected over the approved production quota for isoglucose for production year 2016/2017. Amounts are established and paid in BGN as 80% are transferred through the Ministry of Finance to the EU budget and 20% remain in the national budget as debt collection costs. The fee collected is the same as for the previous period due to the unchanged amount of the national production quota.

During year 2017, there were not ascertained additional amounts for taxable overproduction for the 2015/2016 marketing year. Some of the overproduced quantities were exported outside EU with export licenses of out-of-quota isoglucose or were transferred as produced in the next market year, therefore sanction was not charged.

The quota regime in the sugar sector was closed on 30 September 2017.

Approval of isoglucose companies-producers and refiners

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

At the beginning of 2017 Bulgaria there was one enterprise approved for an isoglucose producer - Amilum Bulgaria EAD, and two enterprises approved as permanent refiners - Zahar EAD and ZK Plovdiv AD.

For the marketing year of 2016/2017 three licenses for preferential import of sugar for refining were issued and realised. Four licenses for a total of 53,372,674 kg expressed in tel quel weight were issued to Bulgarian refineries. The quantity imported and refined in Bulgaria is 28,837,550 kg expressed in tel quel weight, and the import and refining rights of the remaining quantities are transferred to other refineries in EU Member States.

From 1 October 2017, EU sugar production was liberalised and is not subject to a quota regime. Thus, from the 2017/2018 marketing year, there are no longer any restrictions on the production of sugar from sugar beet, isoglucose and inulin syrup.

According to Regulation 2017/1185 of 20 April 2017, Member States should continue to report data in the sugar sector on production, stocks and prices. In 2018, the necessary checks and reporting were performed as required.

1.2.7. Promotional Programmes

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

The implementation of the promotional programmes leads to the increase of the market share and the demand of the products in the target countries, the image of the products is improved compared to other similar products, and at the same time the consumption of the promoted products is increased.

In 2017, the following programmes were in process of implementation:

- Enjoy EU Cherries, a multinational programme for information and promotion of fresh cherries. It was submitted by the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria and Group of Cooperatives for Fruit Production (Greece) and aimed at markets in Germany, Finland and Sweden. The total budget of the programme was EUR 1,768,956 (BGN 3,459,724).
- „Promotion of wines with PDO/PGI in third countries“ was submitted by the National Vine and Wine Chamber and aimed at markets in the US and China, with a budget of EUR 3,578,397 (BGN 6,998,629).
- „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 EUR 1,767,033 (BGN 3,455,963);
- „Information 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 budget of the programme was EUR 1,639,645 (BGN 3,206,818).

In 2017, under effective promotional programmes, BGN 3,348,534 have been paid (from EAGF - BGN 2,092,834 and with national co-financing - BGN 1,255,700).

According to the amendments made in the rules for applying promotional programmes with Regulation (EU) 2015/1831 and Regulation (EU) 1144/2014, the procedures for choice of programmes for which financial support is provided are made by a specially created agency at the EU level – Chafea, as of April 2017. By the end of 2017 there were no Bulgarian multinational promotional programmes approved.

1.2.8. Quality Policy: Protected Designations

Further to a submitted application and following the national approval procedure, a controlling official of traditionally specific food – „Pastarma Govezhda“ and „Strandzhanski manov med“ / „Manov med ot Strandzha“ – was approved in 2017, applying for registration as a protected designation of origin.

In accordance with the envisaged procedures for registration of new producers in the data bases of the producers of protected designations under Ordinance 16 of 2007, in 2017 to the data bases of the producers of PGI „Bulgarsko rozovo maslo“ (Bulgarian rose oil) a new producer was registered.

In 2017, the requests for minor amendments to the specifications of the TSG (traditional specialties guaranteed) „File Elena“, TSG „Role Trapezitsa“, TSG „Lukanka Panagyurska“ and TSG „Kayserovan vrat Trakia“, submitted by the association „Traditional Raw-dried Meat Products“, were evaluated under the national procedure.

In April 2017 a unified document of the product „Strandzhanski manov med“/ „Manov med ot Strandzha,, applying for protected designation of origin, was sent to the EC together with evidence for connection with the geographical environment and its recognised reputation. The application of „Strandzhanski manov med“, submitted by the group of producers, successfully passed the national procedure and the procedure at EC level. The relevant comments have been taken into account and the unified document is due to be published in the OJ of the EU to grant a right of objection at EU and third country level.

The application-specification for Protected designation of origin „Iztochnobalkanska svinia,, has been evaluated within the framework of the national procedure.

An Ordinance on the terms and conditions for the use of the optional term for quality „mountain product“ and for the official control of its use will be published in 2018. After the Ordinance is adopted, the farmers in the mountain areas will be entitled to put the designation „Mountain Product“ on their labels.

1.3. Trade Mechanisms

1.3.1. Export Licensing

Scheme: Mandatory Export Licenses for Agricultural Products

Products which are subject to mandatory licensing for export to third countries, regardless of whether recovery is required, were of the sectors cereals, rice and sugar. From 01.10.2017 the issue of the export licenses for third countries in the sugar sector was deleted as a requirement. Mandatory licenses should be used for statistical purposes, for monitoring the market of these sensitive products in the EU.

For the calendar year 2017, 254 mandatory export licenses were issued as follows:

Table IV.9. Export Licenses Issued for Agrarian Products in 2017, by products

Combined nomenclature code	Description	Issued licenses (number)	Quantity, for which licenses were issued (tons)
1006	Rice	247	25,633,000

Combined nomenclature code	Description	Issued licenses (number)	Quantity, for which licenses were issued (tons)
1701	Sugar from sugar cane or from sugar beet and chemically pure sucrose in a solid form	2	5,910
1702	Other types of sugar	5	2,600,000

Source: SFA-PA

The implementation of mandatory licenses is secured by guarantees. In 2017, 97 guarantees to the total amount of BGN 295,308 were admitted and processed, and 112 guarantees to the amount of BGN 1,490,100 have been released. 3 penalties to the total amount of BGN 1,734 in favour of national budget have been imposed. Two new beneficiaries were registered.

For the period 01.01. – 01.06.2018, 61 mandatory licenses for export of rice were issued. 14 guarantees under mandatory licenses amounting to BGN 16,316 were established. 27 guarantees under licenses, amounting to BGN 52,331, were realised.

Scheme: Export Licenses for Dairy Products to Canada

According to the Agreement between the European Community and Canada, signed in 1995, in order for the traders to benefit from reduced duties when importing cheeses and yellow cheese to Canada, an export license is required, and it will be issued within a quota. The import quota system in Canada is a mechanism to protect domestic production and is a combination of two instruments - quotas and import duties. Bulgaria applies the agreement after its accession to the EU on 1 January 2007. The export license for Canada gives a right to a reduced customs duty on imports of dairy products under the code 0406 produced in a Member State of the European Union.

Within a quota, 31 licenses for export of milk and dairy products for Canada were issued, including 16 licenses for export of 47,912 kg of yellow cheese and 15 licenses for export of 166,899 kg of cheese.

Within the period 01.01.2018 - 01.06.2018, 12 licenses in total were issued for export of dairy products for Canada, including 6 licenses for 22,412 kg of yellow cheese and 6 licenses for 63,307 kg of cheese.

Scheme: Export Licenses of cheese to the USA within a quota

As a result of the negotiations between the USA and the European union led within the World Trade Organization, an agreement was signed by which since 2013 Bulgaria and Romania become part the quota for import of European cheese to the USA under code 0406 of the Combined nomenclature, with reduced import duty. For 2017, there was no interest shown by Bulgarian exporters for participation in the scheme.

1.3.2. Import licensing of the agricultural products from third countries

In 2017, the administration of the system for import licensing of agricultural products was implemented based on the provisions of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237 of the Commission and Regulation for implementation (EU) 2016/2039 of the Commission, effective as from 6 November 2016.

According to the specified regulations, mandatory licensing of the import from third countries applies for the following products: rice, garlic and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

The implementation of the license regime in case of import within the frameworks of the tariff quotas and preferential regimes comprises cereals, rice, sugar, olive oil and table olives, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables (garlic and preserved mushrooms), beef and veal, pork, milk and dairy products, eggs and egg albumin, poultry.

In 2017, 281 applications for issuance of licenses for import of agricultural products were submitted and the issued licenses were 246, from which 121 were under tariff quotas and preferential regimes.

The established guarantees for performance of the obligation for import under the licenses issued in 2017 amounted to BGN 67,285,239. Guarantees to the total amount of BGN 68,429,330 were reimbursed to the importers.

In 2017, 6 new importers of agricultural products were included in the register of MAFF. By 31.12.2017, the registered importers of agricultural products were 479.

2. Support under Second pillar of CAP

Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020

The rural development programme for the program period 2014 - 2020 was approved by Decision for implementation of the Commission C (2015) 3480 of 26.05.2015. Its total budget amounts to BGN 5,706,727,515 (EUR 2,917,848,203) of public funds, allocated between 17 measures and a thematic sub-programme for small farms development.

By 1 June 2018, four amendments to the programme were approved.

The subsidies paid up until 31.12.2017 under the RDP 2014-2020 amounted to BGN 852,644,336 (EUR 435,956,814) and represented 14.9% of its total budget. The agreed public funds amounted to BGN 2,102,075,850 (EUR 1,074,790,802) or 36.8% of the budget.

In the calendar year of 2017, payments under the Program amounted to BGN 487,867,142 (EUR 249,446,335).

Measure 2 „Consultancy, farm management and farm substitution services“

Sub-measure 2.1. Aid for Consultancy services

The funds paid under sub-measure 2.1. in 2017 amounted to BGN 28,656. At the end of the year, the cumulative payments since the beginning of the programming period amounted to BGN 1,845,196.

Under sub-measure 2.1.2 „Small Farm Consultancy Services“, which is implemented under the Thematic sub-programme for small farms development, the NAAS has provided consulting packages to 1,715 farmers. Farmers have shown the greatest interest in implementing climate- and environment-friendly farming practices, the water policy, information and advice on measures for mitigation of the consequences of climate change and adaptation to it, biodiversity and water and nature protection, and the characteristics of the cross-compliance system.

The funds paid under sub-measure 2.1.2. in 2017 amounted to BGN 4,412,095

Measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“

Sub-measure 4.1 Investments in farms

Following the launch of sub-measure 4.1 in 2015 and the second admission held at the end of 2016, its application continued in 2017 with the conclusion of contracts for support applications submitted by farmers within both application campaigns.

A total of 6,288 project proposals were received in both application campaigns, with a total amount of public funds of BGN 2,636,105,472. 1,471 contracts for financial assistance amounting to BGN 740,371,832 were concluded. By 31.12.2017, 439 projects have been executed under the sub-measure and a total of BGN 154,813,147 has been paid. In 2017, the payments made amounted to BGN 90,230,298.

The analysis of the contracts under the sub-measure shows a strong support for „sensitive sectors“ („Fruit and vegetables“, „Livestock breeding“, „Essential oil crops“), which, besides the priority for support under sub-measure 4.1, are also defined as a horizontal priority for the entire RDP by interpreting them in many of the measures related to agriculture.

Most contracts were concluded in the Fruit and vegetables sector - 602 (43% of all contracts), with an approved financial aid amounting to BGN 291,300,000. In the Livestock sector, 565 contracts (40% of the contracts) have been concluded, with

approved financial support amounting to BGN 333,500,000. Contracts in the Essential oil and medical crops sector are 10% of the concluded ones, with financial aid amounting to BGN 49,500,000.

Sub-measure 4.1.2. Investments in farms under Thematic sub-programme for small farms development

The sub-measure aims to improve the economic sustainability and the results of small farms by restructuring and developing the available capacities, encouraging the introduction of new processes and technologies for enhancing the quality of production, protecting environmental components and complying with EU standards.

In 2017, the legal framework was elaborated for the procedure for the implementation of the sub-measure (Ordinance No. 6 of 29 September 2017 for the implementation of the sub-measure 4.1.2. Investments in farms under Thematic sub-programme for small farms development under Measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ under the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, prom. SG issue 82 of 13 October 2017).

Sub-measure 4.2. Investments in Processing/Marketing of Agricultural Products

Sub-measure 4.2. aims to improve the whole activity, economic effectiveness and competitiveness of enterprises from the food-processing industry. The implementation of the sub-measure started at the end of 2015. During the acceptance held, there were submitted 597 applications for support, with financial aid declared by the applicants amounting to BGN 823,059,314.

A reception period was not set in 2017 and efforts were directed at processing the applications received in 2015 and preparing guidelines for the application of the sub-measure in connection with an amendment to the Law on support to farmers, and in accordance with the Law on management of the European structural and investment funds.

Till 31.12.2017, under the measure were signed 193 support contracts with an agreed subsidy amounting to BGN 285,540,039. The average amount of the approved financial aid for one project under the concluded contracts amounted to BGN 1,479,482. The total amount of funds paid was BGN 45,262,682.

In 136 of the contracts signed (70% of all contracts) for provision of financial aid, investment costs related to the energy efficiency improvement of the farm or the enterprise are foreseen. 64 farmers (33%) have signed contracts for investments related to the processing of their own raw material produced on their farms. A total of 35 (18%) are contracts under which the processing of organic raw materials and the production of organic end products were foreseen.

According to the deadline for the sub-measure contracts implementation, 29 projects will be implemented by the end of 2018, 134 projects will be finalised in 2019 and 30 projects - by year 2020.

In 2018, a second conducting of acceptance of project proposals under sub-measure 4.2 is foreseen. It will be entirely by electronic means through UMIS 2020, applying both the new project evaluation criteria and the new financial conditions related to the reduction of the maximum cost of a project proposal - from BGN 5,867,400 (3,000,000) to BGN 3,911,600 (EUR 2,000,000). The indicative budget for the respective acceptance period amounts to about BGN 166 million.

Sub-measure 4.3 Investments in infrastructure

At the ninth meeting of the RDP Monitoring Committee held in late 2017, it was decided to open sub-measure 4.3 in 2018, which was not foreseen in the annual indicative work program. Opening of acceptance procedure outside the work program was determined by the assessment that the launch of the sub-measure at a later stage may hamper the implementation of approved projects which are of a specific nature and are connected with heavy construction and assembly works within the programming period. It is expected that by the end of 2018, based on good communication with the EC and with the branch, the legal framework for the terms and conditions for the application of the sub-measure 4.3 will be prepared.

The sub-measure will provide financial aid for the implementation of projects for the rehabilitation and modernisation of the irrigation infrastructure, a large part of which is in poor condition and works ineffectively due to significant water losses. Since the necessary investments for rehabilitation and modernisation are more than the planned budget allocations under the RDP, there will be necessary a framework for prioritisation that will enable the economic benefits to be maximised, taking into account the environmental challenges.

Measure 6 Farms and enterprises development

Sub-measure 6.1. Starting Aid for Young Farmers

Sub-measure 6.1. Starting Aid for Young Farmers aims to facilitate and support the process of creating viable and sustainable farms or taking existing farms by young people as well as promoting employment. In order to facilitate farmers and to reduce the administrative burden, the sub-measure is implemented decentralised in the 28 regional departments of the Paying Agency.

In 2015, an acceptance procedure was conducted, under which 2,664 applications for aid were received. Till 31.12.2017, the contracts signed were 1,362 and an approved financial aid amounting to BGN 66,600,000. By the end of 2017, from the budget of the RDP 2014-2020 payments have also been made to young farmers, fulfilling commitments under measure 112 of the RDP 2007-2013, as the total funds paid under sub-measure 6.1 amounted to BGN 10,155,914 and the funds paid from the launch of the program period amounted to BGN 65,954,700.

In 2017, 7 contracts were concluded with approved financial aid amounting to BGN 352,044. As of 31.12.2017 there are no contracts completed.

Sub-measure 6.3. Starting Aid for Small Farms Development

Implementation of the sub-measure started in 2016, and by that the implementation of the specially developed Thematic Sub-Programme for Small Farms started in practice. The sub-measure is implemented decentralised in the 28 regional departments of the Paying Agency.

Within the deadline for application submission, 3,815 applications for aid were received. There have been concluded 1,531 contracts, with amount of the financial aid approved BGN 44,925,000.

From the budget of sub-measure 6.3, financial assistance and commitments under measure 141 of the RDP 2007-2013 have also been paid, as the sums paid in 2017 amounted to BGN 34,440,284 and the funds paid as of the launch of the program period amounted to BGN 45,001,382.

Measure 7: Main Services and Renovation of the Villages in the Rural Regions

Sub-measure 7.2. Investments in Creation, Improvement or Expansion of All Types of Small-Scale Infrastructure

During the first application submission under the sub-measure in 2016, 938 applications for aid were received, with a total amount of the requested financial aid BGN 2,131,175,602.

Within the implementation period of sub-measure 7.2, 166 contracts for financial aid amounting to BGN 306,653,204 were concluded. The largest number of contracts - 55 (33%) were concluded for the activity „Construction, reconstruction, repair works, restoration, purchase of equipment and/or equipping of objects, related to the cultural life, including mobile ones, including also activities under the vertical layout and improvement of the pertaining areas“.

By the end of 2017, advance payments amounting to BGN 1,590,280 were made.

The acceptance procedure under sub-measure 7.2 „Investment in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small-scale infrastructure“, foreseen in the RDP indicative program for 2017, was not implemented. The main reason for the delay is the legislative and administrative reform in the RDP implementing rules that has begun during the year, which is to ensure more publicity and transparency. The reform is widely supported by stakeholders in the sector, but its implementation is linked to legislative changes, and that has slowed down the acceptance procedures under the sub-measure. Conducting of an acceptance procedure is scheduled for till the end of 2018.

Further to the heavy traffic accident in 2016 in the village of Hitrino, Shumen District, which caused significant damage to housing and municipal infrastructure, at the end of the year a targeted procedure for acceptance of applications for financial aid was announced, including the possibility to support investments in public infrastructure on the territory of the construction boundaries of the village. There have been received 13 proposals, with financial assistance declared amounting to BGN 19,549,613. Most projects are focused on the activity „Construction, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of new and existing streets, sidewalks and the facilities and appurtenances to them“ - 5 projects amounting to BGN 7,604,889.

Sub-measure 7.3. Support for broadband infrastructure including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and measures to access solutions through broadband infrastructure and e-government

On the seventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of RDP in July 2017 were adopted selection criteria for project proposals under sub-measure 7.3. Support for broadband infrastructure including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and measures to access solutions through broadband infrastructure and e-government.

Sub-measure 7.3 contributes not only to the fulfilment of the objectives set out in the RDP but also to the inclusion in the National e-Government Development Plan (National e-Government Development Plan). It is also consistent with the National Strategy for the Development of Broadband Access in Bulgaria. The objectives of the sub-measure also comply with those of Digital Agenda Europe - by 2020, 100% of the rural population should be able to the next generation access with a capacity of at least 30 megabits per second, which requires optical connectivity to all municipal

centres.

The sole beneficiary of the sub-measure is the State Agency for Electronic Governance.

Sub-measure 7.6. Surveys and Investments for Maintenance, Restoration and Improvement of Villages' Cultural and Natural Heritage

In 2016, during the procedure for project proposals submission under the sub-measure, a total of 348 applications for financial assistance were received, with a total amount of the investment of BGN 209,752,376.

Till 31 December 2017, 76 contracts for aid were signed, amounting to more than BGN 39 million, and the total public funds amounted to BGN 6,443,890.

Measure 9. Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations

The measure aims to promote the establishment of producer groups and organisations in the agricultural sector, support of the production and the supply of high quality agricultural products and access to the market for small and medium-sized farms.

Projects must contribute to protecting the environment, enhancing resource efficiency and mitigating and adapting to the climate change impacts. Via the opportunities offered by the measure, groups and producer organisations can gain knowledge in the fields of environment, innovation and climate through visits, exchange of experiences and training.

Acceptance procedure under the measure is planned in 2018, with an indicative budget of BGN 14,793,043. The grant shall be paid in the form of flat-rate aid in annual instalments, based on a submitted business plan for not more than five years from the date on which the group or producer organisation is recognised. The maximum amount of the financial aid per year cannot exceed the BGN equivalent of EUR 100,000 (BGN 195,833), at a decreasing amount of the support.

In the first year, financial aid may be paid to the group or producer organisation, calculated on the basis of average annual sales of its members in the three years prior to their inclusion in the group or organisation.

The delayed launch of the measure is partly compensated by the prioritisation of eligible applicants for this measure when participating in sub-measures 4.1 and 4.2, thus providing a source of funding under the program.

Measure 14. Animal Welfare

In 2017, the first procedure for submitting applications for financial aid was implemented, with a budget of BGN 111,205,831.

The measure is implemented in two sub-measures: 14.1. Animal welfare payments in the large ruminant sector and 14.2. Animal welfare payments in the small ruminant sector.

14.1. Animal welfare payments in the large ruminant sector

Eligible for support under the sub-measure are farmers breeding cattle and buffaloes.

The aid is granted to cover additional costs or income foregone associated with the implementation of voluntary welfare commitments for eligible animals and covers only those obligations that go beyond the mandatory standards and other mandatory requirements imposed by the national legislation.

Commitments under the sub-measure should be implemented for a minimum of five years. Compliance with the commitments requirements is subject to annual checks.

In 2017, within the deadline for application submission, 392 applications for aid were received.

Sub-measure 14.2. Animal welfare payments in the small ruminant sector

Beneficiaries under the sub-measure are farmers breeding sheep and goats. The rules for granting support are analogous to those of sub-measure 14.1.

In 2017, 260 applications for financial aid were submitted by farmers who made voluntary commitments to comply with the welfare requirements for sheep and goats.

Measure 19. Community-led local development

Sub-measure 19.1. Assistance for Preparatory Activities

In 2017, within the implementation period of the sub-measure, 101 contracts for financial aid amounting to BGN 5,085,080 were concluded. In the activities under this sub-measure are involved 180 municipalities, comprising a population of 2.3 million inhabitants and a territory of 74,433 sq. km, representing 78% of the country's rural territory.

Through the activities carried out by the beneficiaries, about 1,200 public events (conferences, seminars, meetings, trainings, etc.) were organised and held.

Till the end of 2017 the total funds paid under the sub-measure amounted to BGN 3,609,507. In 2017, the payments made amounted to BGN 3,155,454.

Sub-measure 19.2. Implementation of Operations within the Frameworks of Strategies for Community-Led Local Development

In 2017, a second acceptance procedure was conducted under the sub-measure, with a total budget of BGN 358,447,375, which is formed from funds provided under the RDP 2014-2020 and several operational programs as follows:

- RDP - BGN 69,774,488;
- OPE - BGN 17,849,876.78;
- OPHRD - BGN 17,849,876.78;
- OPIC - BGN 92,936,806;
- OPSESG - BGN 80,000,000;
- MFP - BGN 586,740

The procedure for aid applications submission was carried out in the UMIS. There were submitted 70 applications for financial aid from the LAG in the territory of 120 municipalities, with a total budget for projects under the strategies amounting to BGN 415,821,178, of which BGN 351,546,757 for implementation of projects to the strategies of the CLLD.

Between September and December 2017 an assessment of the submitted strategies for CLLD was made, as 25 LAG were approved on the territory of 43 municipalities with a territory of 22,203 sq. km and a population of 619,026 inhabitants.

The funds under the approved strategies amount to a total of BGN 164,132,905, including by funding sources:

RDP - BGN 92,558,875 (including: under Sub-measure 19.2. Implementation of Operations within the Frameworks of Strategies for Community-Led Local Development - BGN 69,419,156 for projects under the Strategies for CLLD and the sub-measure 19.4. Running Costs and Popularisation for CLLD - BGN 23,139,719 of the LAG and the promotion of the strategies for CLLD);

- OPE - BGN 10,326,415;
- OPHRD - BGN 23,581,367;
- OPIC - BGN 27,512,614;
- OPSESG - BGN 10,153,635.

Sub-measure 19.3. Preparation and Implementation of LAG Cooperation Activities

The first procedure for applications submission under the sub-measure is scheduled for August 2018, with a budget of BGN 2 million.

Sub-measure 19.4. Running Costs and Popularisation for strategy for Community-led local development

The requested budget for the second procedure for applications submission for financial aid under the measure amounts to BGN 64,274,420. By the end of 2017, under the sub-measure have been paid BGN 3,493,923.

Measure 20. Technical Assistance

By the end of 2017, 132 applications have been received under the measure amounting to BGN 40,680,640. There have been concluded 102 contracts with a total cost of BGN 23,274,020, for which a financial aid of BGN 14,814,758 was paid.

As both in the previous programming period and the RDP 2014-2020, the measure has a key role in the RDP implementing. Activities aimed at providing information and publicity to the Program are carried out, analyses, surveys, studies and evaluations are carried out, as well as technical remunerations for the MA and PA.

Table IV.10. Paid Funds under measures and sub-measures under RDP in 2017, in BGN

No of the measure/sub-measure	Name of the measure/sub-measure	Funds Paid
2.1.1	Advisory services for agricultural and forest farmers	28,657
2.1.2	Advisory services for small farmers	4,412,095
4.1	Support for investments in farms	90,230,298
4.2	Support for investments in the development of agricultural products	45,262,682
6.1	Assistance upon starting of young farmers	10,155,914
6.3	Assistance upon starting for the development of small farms	34,440,284
7.6	Surveys and Investments for Maintenance, Restoration and Improvement of Villages' Cultural and Natural Heritage	6,443,890
8.1	Afforestation and maintenance	432,989
9	Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations	32,929
19.1	Community-led local development	3,155,454
19.4	Running Costs and Popularisation for strategy for Community-led local development	3,493,923
20	Technical Assistance	7,662,190
	Total	205,751,307

Source: SFA-PA

3. Supplementary State Aid

In 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“.

3.1. State Aids

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. As 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.

State aids in agriculture are planned, developed and directed according to the priority needs of Bulgarian agriculture, taking into account the European legislation.

The main points in the policy of state support of agriculture in Bulgaria are:

- priority support for traditional for Bulgaria, but vulnerable agricultural sectors which have considerable potential for development;
- targeting the state aid policy to reduce disparities between the different agricultural sectors;
- particular attention to the small and medium farmers.

In 2017, state aid schemes from previous years were applied in the sector of Plant-growing and in the sector of Stock-breeding, as well as two schemes for state aid in the form of tax relief for the both sectors, one of which is of investment nature.

The schemes for state aids may be summarised in the following directions:

- *Investment Aids*
 - 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 assigning of a corporate tax. The tax relief is designated to encourage investment in new buildings and new agricultural machinery in the production of unprocessed plant and animal production
- *Compensatory Aids*
 - State aid for offsetting losses suffered by farmers for damage to crops caused by adverse climate events that can be assimilated to natural disasters;
 - State aid to offset material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives;
 - State aid for prevention of diseases in plants and animals;
 - State aid for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production;
 - State aid for compensating costs for removing and disposal of fallen stock.

The compensatory aids are particularly important for farmers, as agriculture is highly dependent and vulnerable to natural conditions, the invasion of pests, diseases of plants and animals. This type of aid enables farmers to be maximally protected from unforeseen adverse circumstances.

- *Aid encouraging the use of a quality seeding material in crop husbandry and support of high level of breeding activity in livestock breeding.*
 - State aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of high-quality seeds and seedlings.
 - State aid to keep a stud book and to identify the productivity quality of livestock.

Applying the aids 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 tends to increase not only the number of farms and animals under selection control, but also keeping the positive tendency of increase of the average number of animals in a farm as well as a change in productive indicators characterising the type and breed.

- *Aids aimed to improving the quality of food and raw materials of animal origin by giving special attention to the animals welfare*
- State aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs;
- State aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of poultry.
- *Aids for participation in exhibitions*

This type of support contributes both to the promotion of Bulgarian agricultural production on the market and to the promotion of profitable plant varieties, breeds of animals, innovative and effective technologies and practices among Bulgarian farmers. It is applied in the sectors "Crop Production", "Livestock" and "Processing of Agricultural Products".

- *De Minimis Aid*

De minimis aids are granted upon observance of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 1408/2013. De minimis rule applies on aids, which, due to their small amount, do not threaten the competition and may be granted by the member-states without the necessity of approval by the European commission. 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 usually aimed at a rapid effect on the presence of significant difficulties of a various in a particular agricultural sector.

The total value of state aid in the agricultural sector in 2017 amounts to BGN 250,8 million, of which:

- BGN 121,3 million under the State aid and de minimis aid schemes administered by the SFA, and
- BGN 129,5 million under 2 tax relief schemes (corporate tax reduction for tax year 2017 and reduced rate of excise duty on gas oil).

In 2017, under de minimis schemes, assistance amounting to a total of BGN 8,8 million was granted in the following directions: for animals; for bee colonies and cherry growers.

According to data from the National Revenue Agency, the state aid granted for investment through the corporate tax reduction for the tax year 2017 amounts to BGN 45,5 million. Under this aid, administered by the NRA, 2,352 farmers benefited during the year.

In 2017, under state aid in the form of a discount on the amount of excise duty on gas oil used in primary agricultural production, nearly BGN 84 million were paid to 8,605 farmers.

Table IV.11. State Aids in Agriculture in 2017

State Aid	Utilised financial resource - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
Aid to compensate farmers for costs related to implementation of measures under the State Prophylactic Program and the Programs for the Surveillance and Eradication of Animal Diseases	23,643,127	88,727
Aid for creation and maintenance of a herd book and for determination of the productivity and the genetic properties of the animals	6,495,570	5,084
Aid to offset material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives	12,550	2
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	26,321	3
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs	27,788,515	87
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of poultry	33,844,239	344
Aid for compensating costs for removing and disposal of fallen stock	2,300,000	4,591
State aid for offsetting losses suffered by farmers for damage to crops caused by adverse climate events that can be assimilated to natural disasters	5,859,521	529
Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Program for Pest Control in Perennials during the winter period	4,610,840	4,559
Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Program for Control of tomato mining moth	994,315	149
Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Program for Control of soil pests in potatoes of the family Wireworms	1,016,633	267
Aid for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production	1,197,165	354
Aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of seeds and seedlings.	1,191,574	470

State Aid	Utilised financial resource - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
Individual State Aid to Greenhouse Gimel II EOOD to compensate for lost income due to adverse climate event	298,775	1
Aid for participation in exhibitions	3,245,595	331
De Minimis Aids	8,769,713	
Total state aids and de minimis aids, administered from SFA	121,294,453	
Aid in the form of reduced excise duty on gas oil used for primary farm production	83,991,849	8,605
Aid for investments in agricultural holdings through a corporate tax reduction - for 2017	45,521,913	2,352
Total under schemes for state aid (including through tax relief) and de minimis	250,808,215	

Source: SF „Agriculture“, National revenue agency, Customs agency

Data for 2018

For 2018, the allocated resource for state aid schemes and de minimis aids in agriculture, applied by the SFA, is BGN 134,6 million. As of 18.06.2018 with decisions of the Managing Board of SFA were allocated BGN 116,9 million from the budget, of which BGN 48,3 million or over 41% were utilised.

3.2. Short-Term Crediting

In 2017, SF Agriculture provided a total amount of BGN 2,446,314 in the form of short-term loans to farmers comparing to BGN 2,460,601 in 2016. The funds were provided entirely under assigned credit for the purchase of mineral fertilisers and/or seeds and the use of not-finally certified seed for the production of wheat.

During the year there were deferred credits for livestock breeders, poultry breeders and pig farmers, obtained during the period 2008 - 2012, as well as loans for growing potatoes, harvest 2011.

3.3. Investment Credit Schemes of SFA

In 2017, the SFA applied the following schemes for crediting the investment intentions of farmers:

- Scheme for crediting with funds from SF Agriculture to persons with approved projects under the National Apiculture Programme for the three-year period 2017-2019;
- Credit scheme of SF Agriculture for investments in agriculture;

- Scheme for crediting projects under State Aid „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“.

Scheme for crediting with funds from SF Agriculture to persons with approved projects under the National Apiculture Programme for the three-year period 2017 - 2019 (NAP)

This credit scheme is applied for the sixth consecutive year, which contributes to a significant increase in the funds utilising under the National Apiculture Programme.

Under the terms of the scheme, a larger number of farmers is given the opportunity to provide, by using credit, the necessary financial resources for the implementation of approved projects under Measures A, B, C and E of the NAP - purchase of new beehives, swarms, nucleus colonies, queen bees, veterinary medicines, as for the new scheme the scope is supplemented with the option for purchasing beekeeping equipment and towed implements for mobile beekeeping.

The maximum amount of the loan is up to 80% of the amount of the actually negotiated costs for concluded purchase contracts, but not more than 80% of the approved costs under a contract for financial aid under the NPP, and the interest rate is 4% annual interest.

Within the deadline of acceptance procedure under the scheme, 110 credit applications were submitted, all of which were processed and financed. The amount of funds allocated is BGN 506,897.25.

The repayment of the credit, the due interest and the service fee are made by offsetting from the approved financial aid under the NPP.

Credit scheme of SF Agriculture for investments in agriculture

Credit scheme of SF Agriculture for investments in agriculture there are three main directions - Plant Growing, Livestock Breeding and Technical Support. The scheme aims to encourage the investment process, to increase the competitiveness and quality of the produced agricultural production by facilitating the access to a credit resource.

The activities and sites provided for financial support are:

- creation, rehabilitation and cultivation of perennials and investments in greenhouse production;

- establishing and equipping livestock farms and purchasing pure-bred, hybrid and production animals
- purchasing of machinery, facilities and inventory used in agriculture.

Credits under the scheme have a repayment term 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 rate, applicable as of the date of conclusion of the credit agreement, but not lower than the one determined by the Managing Body of SF Agriculture for 2017 – 4% upon direct crediting and up to 7% upon refinancing through commercial banks. The processing and management fee for the credits directly financed by SF Agriculture, is 0.5%.

In 2017, 3 projects were approved with a total amount of the requested resource BGN 2,174,656 incl. 1 project under Technical Support Strand – direct crediting by SFA to the amount of BGN 15,000 and 2 projects under Plant Growing Strand by refinancing of commercial bank for purchase of perennials to the amount of BGN 2,159,656. During the year, the project under Technical Support Strand was financed in the amount of BGN 15,000.

Scheme for crediting projects under State Aid „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“

In 2017, for the sixth consecutive year the Scheme for crediting projects under State Aid „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,, was applied.

The scheme provides option for 50% reimbursement of the costs incurred for the construction of commercial premises and the purchase of commercial equipment for the direct supply of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuffs of animal origin. Its scope comprises the purchase of milk vending machines, building or adjustment of existing building/premises for the needs of an site for retail trade, purchase of refrigerators, refrigerator glass-cases and other specific commercial equipment. For provision of the financing under these projects the applicants have the opportunity also to use crediting with funds of SFA.

Expected Data for 2018

In 2018, the SFA continued to implement the above stated three investment credit schemes to farmers.

The expectations are that by the end of 2018, investment credits up to BGN 1 million shall be provided under the credit scheme to persons with approved projects under NPP. As of June 2018, 107 applications for credit amounting to BGN 586,292 were submitted under the scheme, of which 100 loans at the amount of BGN 546,467 were financed.



V. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. Control of Agricultural and forestry machinery

1.1. Registration of Agricultural and forestry machinery

The registration of agricultural and forestry equipment allows to monitor the technical condition of each machine, to control its safety at work and transport, to maintain a data base of all machines on the territory of the country, to track the dynamics of renewal of the machine-tractor park and the energy security of agriculture.

Table V.1. Registered agricultural and forestry machinery:

Machine type	Total	incl. new machines
Caterpillar tractors	170	19
Wheeled tractors	7,443	1,340
Self-propelled chassis	120	4
Other self-propelled machinery	3,126	773
Tractor trailers	2,134	494
Combine harvesters	919	158
Self-propelled forage harvesters	32	3
Other self-propelled machinery	113	31
Machinery for seeding and planting	1,034	533
Machinery for fertilising and plant protection	1,141	657
Machinery for forage-collection and forage-processing	2,508	1,267
Soil-processing machinery	3,518	1,752
Dryers and other	17	12
Grain- and seed-cleaning machines	24	7
Irrigation machines	67	34
Forestry machinery	1,100	448
Total	23,466	7,532

Source: MAFF

1.2. Technical inspection of the machinery

Effective control of the technical status and safety of the machinery ensures the protection of the life and health of workers with agricultural and forestry machinery

and reduces accidents at work and victims of road accidents related to technical faults.

The technical inspections of agricultural and forestry equipment carried out by the Regional Directorates for Agriculture in 2017 are 124,640.

1.3. Qualification for Work with Machinery and Issuance of Certificates

- In 2017, were issued as follows:
- 80 permits for 37 forms of training for obtaining legal capacity for working with agricultural and forestry machinery;
 - 7,231 licenses for working with agricultural and forestry machinery.

1.4. Testing and Certification of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery

In 2017, at the centres for testing and certification in Ruse and Plovdiv were made 1,250 tests of used agricultural and forestry machinery and earth-moving machinery.

2. Hydromeliorations

Control of the Activities Related to the Hydromeliorative Fund Operation and to the Irrigation Water Supply Service

According to data from Irrigation Systems EAD, in 2017 the irrigated areas were 732,829.7 ha in total.

Areas eligible for reimbursement with minimum cost and redemption period of up to 5 years amount to 20,724.1 ha. Requiring average costs, with an average redemption period of up to 10 years, are 56,617 ha and those with high costs, with a redemption period of more than 10 years - 70,868.6 ha.

The land areas with first irrigation by Irrigation Systems EAD in 2017 were 25,087.1 ha, representing 3% less than the previous year.

Table V.2. Areas with first irrigation by „Irrigation Systems“ EAD:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Irrigated areas	26,193.7	24,952.2	20,595.6	26,134.5	25,855.5	25,087.1

Source: „Irrigation Systems“ EAD

In 2017, „Irrigation Systems“ EAD submitted 274,411 million m³ of water for irrigation, of which 252,238 million m³ for rice and 22,172 million m³ for arable crops and perennials.

According to data from the irrigation associations, in 2017 they irrigated with the first and subsequent irrigation 5,141.8 ha in total, as 2,981 thousand m³ of water distributed in total, as follows by crops:

- Corn - 994 ha with 1,111 thousand m³ of water;
- Tobacco - 11,2 ha with 7 thousand m³ of water;
- Vegetables - 730 ha with 330 thousand m³ of water;
- Perennials - 2,607.4 ha with 897 thousand m³ of water;
- Other crops - 799.1 ha with 636 thousand m³ of water.

The prices under which the Irrigation Water Supply Service is provided by the irrigation associations in 2018 was determined in accordance with a Methodology adopted by Decree No 16 of 20 January 2017 of the Council of Ministers.

The prices for Irrigation Water Supply Water Service provided by „Irrigation Systems“ EAD for the irrigation season in 2018 were determined in accordance with the Methodology adopted by the Board of Directors of „Irrigation Systems“ EAD and approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry by letter dated 4 May 2018. Prices and Methodology are published on the website of „Irrigation Systems“ EAD.

Methodologies for determining the prices for Irrigation Water Supply Water Service by „Irrigation Systems“ EAD and the irrigation associations contain two components - for irrigated area and for delivered volume of water. The price for irrigated area is paid once - only at first irrigating and no price is paid per hectare for each subsequent irrigation, which is in accordance with the Ex Ante Conditionality 5.2. „Water Sector“ of Annex V to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

3. Plant Protection and Phyto-Sanitary Control

3.1. Plant Protection

- Cereal Crops Protection

In 2017, the general phyto-sanitary condition of the grain-cereal cultures was good

Weed Control

Throughout the year, herbicides were treated to a total of 1,152.049 thousand ha with winter crops, including 1,040.986 thousand ha of wheat and 111.063 thousand ha

of barley. Treatment against broadleaf weeds was held on 581.849 thousand ha. Cereal herbicides were treated to 154.60 thousand ha, and cereal and broadleaf weeds herbicides - to 304.541 thousand ha.

Maize planted areas were treated with soil herbicides to 265.241 thousand ha. Vegetative herbicides were treated to a total of 218.691 thousand ha against cereal and broadleaf weeds.

Pests and Diseases Control

Sunn pest Eurygaster integriceps

The total areas affected by the adult sunn pests was 124.377 thousand ha and treatment was made on 85.93 thousand ha.

Treatment against the larvae of the pest was made on 34.050 thousand ha of affected 85.927 thousand ha.

Cereal Leaf Beetle (Oulema melanopa (L.))

In 2017, were treated against the larvae of a cereal leaf beetle 44.921 thousand ha of 46.391 thousand ha affected.

Powdery Mildew

The total areas with wheat affected by the powdery mildew was 297.184 thousand ha and treatment was made on 430.677 thousand ha. Very early chemical treatments were applied, and on most of the treated areas the fungicides used were combined with the vegetative herbicides treatment.

Septoriosi

Onset of the disease was reported at 230.062 thousand ha, and treatment was applied to 297.492 thousand ha.

• Technical Crops Protection

Weed Control

In 2017, soil herbicides were applied to 540.422 thousand ha of sunflower and 470.978 thousand ha were treated vegetationally.

In the autumn, chemical control on the weeds was carried out, in the case of rapeseed mainly with soil herbicides as there were treated to 75.322 thousand ha. Vegetative herbicides were applied to 64.155 thousand ha.

Throughout the year, soil herbicides were applied to 3.230 thousand ha of tobacco, and 1.688 thousand ha were treated with vegetative herbicides.

The chemical control on weeds in potatoes was carried out by applying of soil and vegetative herbicides. Soil herbicides were applied to 6.927 thousand ha., and the vegetative herbicides were applied to 1.157 thousand ha.

Control of diseases and pests

Black Stem (Phoma) and Stem Canker (Phomopsis) on Sunflower

In 2017, treatment was applied to 12.308 thousand ha against Phoma and to 14.041 thousand ha against phomopsis.

Mildew on Sunflower

The disease-infested areas are 0.18 thousand ha in total.

Meligethes aeneus

During the months April 2017 to May 2017 spraying treatment against Meligethes aeneus was applied to 123.486 thousand ha of rapeseed.

Ceutorhynchus napi

In 2017, treatment against the pests was applied to 28.261 thousand ha of rapeseed.

• Vegetables Protection

Pest Control

Tuta Absoluta

In 2017, at most of the country's greenhouses was reported good preservation of tomatoes. There were applied 2 to 4 spraying treatments with insecticides to 0.164 thousand ha.

Under field conditions, 2 to 10 treatments against the Tuta absoluta were applied to an area of 2.322 thousand ha.

In 2017, was initiated again an acceptance procedure for State Aid under National Programme of measures to control Tuta Absoluta. Beneficiaries of the aid were farmers, growing tomatoes on areas larger than 1 decare. The supporting document to the application for aid was an Instruction for taking action under the National Programme by the Regional Food Safety Directorates. In 2017, 176 instructions for plant protection actions were issued. There are a total of 1.664 thousand ha of vegetables infested by the pest, including: 1.555 thousand ha of tomatoes field production and 0.109 thousand ha tomatoes greenhouse production.

• Fruit Trees Protection

Pests and Diseases Control

Leaf-feeding Caterpillars

The most common type on fruit trees are as follows: Lymantria dispar L., Euproc-

tis chrisorrhoea L., Geometridae, Hyphantria cunea Drury, as in 2017 they are in low population density and degree of infestation. Treating against other pests has limited the harmful activity and spread of the leaf-feeding caterpillars. Throughout the year, 9.035 thousand ha of fruit trees, including 2.155 thousand ha of pome fruits and 6.880 thousand ha of drupes, were treated against the main leaf-feeding species, combined with spraying treatments.

Tortricidae and Temetocera ocellana F. and Hedya nubiferana Haw.

Treatment against the pests was applied on 1.697 thousand ha pome fruits.

Aphididae

In 2017, the Aphididae infest was observed widespread on all fruit trees. Mass harmful activity and high population density were reported. Treatment to 3.338 thousand ha of pome fruits and to 12.273 thousand ha of drupes was applied 2 to 5 times.

Quadraspidiotus perniciosus Comst.

Fruit trees treated against Quadraspidiotus perniciosus Comst. were 5.114 thousand ha in total.

Parthenolecanium corni Bouche

Throughout the year, 1.655 thousand ha of plums of a total of 6.774 thousand ha of plum trees were treated, as the treatment mainly was combined spraying for Laspeyresia funebrana Tr.

Rhagoletis cerasi L.

In most areas of the country, a degree of worm infestation of up to 1% has been reported, as 6.5 thousand ha were treated.

Hoplocampa minuta Christ.

The plum trees treated during the year were 3.487 thousand ha of 6.774 thousand ha in total.

Fruit worms (Laspeyresia)

In 2017, were treated as follows: 4.098 thousand ha of apple orchards against Laspeyresia pomonella L., 5.606 thousand ha of plum trees against Laspeyresia funebrana Tr. and 5.062 thousand ha of peaches and apricots against Laspeyresia molesta L.

Peach-twig borer (Anarsia lineatella Zell.)

Throughout the year were treated 5.153 thousand ha of peach and apricot trees.

Leucotera (Cemiostoma) scitella Zell. on apple trees

Against Leucotera (Cemiostoma) scitella Zell. were treated 0.519 thousand ha of 5.114 thousand ha of apple orchards in total.

Apple scab and pear scab

In 2017, was reached a good protection of the apple and pear trees year against scabbing. In all districts of the country the reported range of leaves infest was low to medium and the range of fruits infest was low. Higher range of infest was observed in the sensitive varieties. Against apple and pear scab were treated 4.334 thousand ha.

Apple Powdery Mildew

Throughout the year, 3.423 thousand ha of apple and pear orchards were treated against powdery mildew.

Early Brown Rot

In the districts of Plovdiv, Razgrad and Silistra, in the peach and apricot orchards were observed damages on the shoots due to the disease.

Late Brown Rot

In cases of peach and apricot trees the late brown rot is limited to a low range of infest and for the sensitive varieties the infests were of medium range.

Peach Powdery Mildew

During the vegetation period, 1 to 4 spraying treatment were carried out, as 3.452 thousand ha of peach orchards were treated.

Peach Leaf Curl

There were applied 1 to 3 treatments to 4.025 thousand ha of peach trees

Cherry Leaf Spot

In 2017, there were applied 1 to 3 treatments to 5.465 thousand ha of cherry and sour cherry trees.

Vineyards Protection

Weeds Control

Throughout the year, to the vineyards were applied as follows: soil herbicides - to 0.63 thousand ha and vegetative herbicides - to 24.74 thousand ha.

Pests and Diseases Control

European Grapevine Moth (Lobesia botrana Schiff.)

In 2017, 26.113 thousand ha of 55.27 thousand ha in total were treated against

European grapevine moth.

***Schizotetranychus viticola* Reck.**

Throughout the year, treatment was applied 1 to 5 times to 5.64 thousand ha of vine plants.

Grapevine Downy Mildew (Plasmopara viticola)

To a total area of 53.831 thousand ha of vineyards, 2 to 8 treatments were applied against the mildew.

Powdery Mildew (Oidium)

In 2017, 2 to 8 treatments were applied to 53.251 thousand ha of vineyards.

Gray Mold Rot (Botrytis)

To 33.220 thousand ha, 1 to 5 treatments were applied against the gray mold rot.

• **Plant Protection against Omnivorous Pests**

Common Vole (Microtus arvalis)

In the spring of 2017, the total number of winter crops infested by common vole were 65.50 thousand ha, chemical control was applied to 56.04 thousand ha.

Wireworms

In 2017, at the district directorates on food safety were submitted 270 declarations by farmers for infested 2,765.263 thousand ha of potatoes. Chemical treatment was applied to 3.232 thousand ha of 3.626 thousand ha infested in total.

Maize Leaf Weevil (Tanymecus dilaticollis Gyll.)

In the spring of 2017, there was an increase in the number of infested areas compared to the previous year. Chemical control against maize leaf weevil was applied to 29.93 thousand ha of maize and to 19.16 thousand ha of sunflower.

3.2. Phyto-Sanitary Control

The priority actions to achieve the main operational objective in the field of phyto-sanitary control in 2017 were:

- Legislation harmonised with the EU's plant health regime;
- Effective control on import of plants and plant products from third countries on the territory of the country and the EU, as an external border of the Union;
- Ensuring the export of plants and plant products according to the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country and the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention);

- Production control with a view to timely detection and prevention of the spread of quarantine pests on plants and plant products;
- Carrying out phytosanitary monitoring programs for quarantine pests, in compliance with EU legislation;
- Laboratory Diagnostic Network.

3.2.1. Production control of the territory of Bulgaria and movement of plants, plant products and other objects within the EU

Phyto-sanitary control in the production and movement of plants, plant products and other objects and the observations on the territory of the country regarding the regulated quarantine pests shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act and Ordinance No 8 on Phytosanitary Control, introducing the relevant EU legislation in the national phyto-sanitary legislation and Commission Implementing Decisions on emergency measures to prevent the introduction into the EU and the spread of quarantine and new pests within the EU.

In 2017, registered producers, warehouses and markets in the official PC (Phytosanitary Control) register were 3,168.

Main priority in this area is to ensure the production of healthy plants and plant products, their movement across the EU through the plant passport system and seamless export to third countries, respecting the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. For this purpose, monitoring programmes for quarantine crops pests and harmful organisms were developed and implemented.

In 2017, the BFSA Plant Protection Inspectors carried out phytosanitary control under the following national monitoring programmes:

- Monitoring for quarantine pests to potatoes;
- Monitoring for quarantine fruit pests;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests to vineyards;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests to vegetable species in greenhouses and open areas;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests in greenhouses, nurseries and garden centres for flowers and ornamental plants;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests to strawberries and raspberries;
- Monitoring for *Xylella fastidiosa*;

- Monitoring for *Phytophthora ramorum* Werres, De Cock&Man;
- Monitoring for bacterial canker of kiwifruit, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*;
- Monitoring for *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests for forestry;
- Calendar plan for monitoring plants and plant products not included in the monitoring programmes but subject to control.

In the production of plants and plant products 5,199 inspections were carried out.

In 2017, at the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine (CLPQ), a total of 5,110 samples were received and 12,451 analyses were performed.

At the six regional plant health diagnostic laboratories (RPHDL) of RFSD (regional food safety directorates) 2,972 samples were analysed.

Timely detection of pests had enabled phytosanitary inspectors to take timely actions to locate outbreaks and eradicate them wherever possible. The following pests have been identified:

- Quarantined pests in plant samples: *Bemisia tabaci*, *Aceria kuko*, *Drosophila suzukii*, *Globodera* sp., *Erwinia amylovora*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *michiganensis*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* spp. *sepedonicus*, *Scirrhia acicola* (Dearn.) Siggers (= *Lecanosticta acicola* (Thumen) H. Sydow, *Synchytrium endobioticum*, TSWV, PPV, PD, ESFY, SMYeV;

- In the soil samples (411 pcs.) - *Globodera pallida*, *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Synchytrium endobioticum*.

In 2017, for the first time in the country a new quarantine pest - *Scirrhia acicola* was found in a sample of Scots pine, in an official survey of quarantine pests in forestry in the region of RFSD Kardzhali. Phytosanitary measures have been taken in order to prevent further spread of the pest.

- Non-quarantine pests: *Oligonychus* sp, *Tetranychus* sp. – in a sample of *Thuja*, imported from Serbia; *Tetranychus* sp., *Frankliniella intonsa* – in a sample of cut flower of carnation, imported from Turkey; *Lasioptera rubi*, *Aphididae*, *Pseuococcus* sp. – in a sample of raspberries, imported from Serbia and other pests.

Specialised potato laboratory in the town of Samokov carries out testing of potato varieties for resistance to potato canker and potato cyst nematodes and determination of the pathotype of the canker found in the potatoes from the regions of the town of Samokov and Smolyan district.

In 2017, 2,616 plant passports of domestic products for the country and the EU were issued and 75 health certificates.

3.2.2. Export Phytosanitary Control

In 2017, 12,639 inspections of parcels of plants and plant products were made, designated for export, for compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. There were issued 25,158 phytosanitary certificates for export and 240 phytosanitary certificates for re-export.

The main export goods are: timber, coriander, grain, tobacco, and others. Timber exports are mainly for Turkey, Macedonia, Jordan, Serbia, Israel, Qatar, Korea, China, UAE and Sudan. In order to issue a total of 7,843 phytosanitary certificates for timber exports, 5,084 inspections were carried out. Control on timber export is extremely difficult due to the stringent requirements of importers and the difficulty of checking loaded vehicles.

3.3. Control on Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency carries out control on plant protection products and fertilisers under Law on plant protection.

The main aim of the control is to be guaranteed supply on the market of PPP and fertilisers, storage, pre-packing and production of permitted, fit for use, efficient, safe for the health of the people and animals, environmental friendly PPP and fertilisers, which meet the legal requirements for packing and labelling. Within the scope of control is the companies for trade, repackaging and production of PPP and fertilisers, as well as unregulated trading points and border checkpoints.

The main purpose of controlling the use of PPPs and fertilisers is to ensure the correct and sustainable use of plant protection products in compliance with the Good Plant Protection Practice (GPPP) and the implementation of prognostic methods to the principles of integrated pest management of safe plant production. Scope of control involves farmers who apply plant protection products and fertilisers in the production of crop products for food or forage.

In 2017, were permitted 163 products for plant protection to be released on the market and use according to the requirements of the Plant protection act and Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 concerning release on the market of products for plant protection.

There were withdrawn 28 permissions for products for plant protection and were

issued totally 2 rejections under applications for parallel trade, limited and controlled use and alteration of the permissions.

3.3.1. Results of Control Activities on PPP Supply

In 2017, on the territory of the country there were registered 1,327 objects, including 900 for agricultural pharmacy trade, 411 wholesale warehouses (own warehouses and cell rentals), 14 repackaging sites and 2 companies for production.

In 2017, on the territory of the country were held 1,915 inspections, from which 1,079 in agrarian pharmacies, 656 in warehouses, 25 in workshops for re-packing, 4 in sites for PPP production and 151 at non-regulated sites (municipal markets, stores etc.). There were issued 1,915 protocols for findings, 313 instructions were issued, incl 214 in agrarian pharmacies, 68 in warehouses, 2 in sites for PPP production and 4 in non-regulated sites. There were issued 11 acts for administrative violation.

A total of 295 certificates were issued in 2017, including 228 for trade in PPPs, 2 for repackaging and 65 certificates for change of circumstances.

During the year, on the territory of the country, 32 samples were taken to extend the shelf life of the product, and 32 certificates were issued after established physical and chemical indices.

In the course of 2017, 96 compliance tests and 14 samples were reported (complaints) but no inconsistencies were found.

During the year a total of 1,396 kg and 5,944 l of PPPs were seized or confiscated.

The import of the PPPs in the country through the border checkpoints in total is 5,379,257 kg and 2,759,386 l.

3.3.2. Results of Control Activities on the use of PPP

Within 2017, on the territory of the country were made a total number of 6,093 inspections on the use of PPP incl. 5,714 inspections of agricultural producers with land machinery, 5 inspections upon aviation treatment, 10 upon implementation of fumigation, 195 upon decontamination of seeds and 169 upon ground-based treatment. The issued protocols during the year were: 575 for findings, 66 in ground-based treatment and 8 in decontamination of seeds. There were issued 6 acts for administrative violation.

On the territory of the country, 57 inspections upon signals or complaints concerning the use of PPP were carried out and 3 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up.

The persons carrying out specialised plant protection services were a total of 44, 33 of them practicing fumigation and 11 – seed decontamination.

Samples for pesticide residues in implementation of the National Control Program for Pesticide Residues in and on Foodstuffs of Plant and Animal Origin (NCPPR) and leaf samples for identification of PPP

Within 2017, 62 samples of harvested production destined for the market were collected for pesticide residues. The analyses were carried out at CLCAC (Central Laboratory for Chemical Analyses and Control) in Sofia and Primoris EOOD in Plovdiv (external laboratory). An excess of dimethoate in pears (0.39 mg / kg) was found in one sample, instructions given to the farmer.

For identification of the used PPPs, 53 leaf samples were taken and analysed in an external laboratory (Primoris EOOD, Plovdiv); 7 acts and 2 prescriptions being made for unauthorised use of PPP.

Samples of plants and plant products under the National Program for Control of Food Pollutants (nitrates and heavy metals - lead and cadmium)

For nitrate content, 5 samples were taken and analysed and 20 for heavy metals.

Plant samples for analysis of GMO content

No genetically modified DNA was detected from the taken and analysed 11 samples of soybean, maize and rapeseed, no genetically modified plants were found.

Samples of plants and plant products taken outside the National Control Plan on the use of PPPs in 2017 (orders, letters, signals, complaints, etc.)

Signals or complaints induced 16 inspections, 3 discrepancies were found and 3 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up.

Permits issued for application of PPPs by aerial spraying, according to Art. 109 of the Plant Protection Act

The permits issued for aerial spraying are 130, including 115 on agricultural land, 12 on forest areas and 2 on other areas. The treated areas are 108,006 ha - agricultural land, 2,302 ha - forest area and 650 ha - other areas.

Statements issued to farmers applying for support under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020.

In 2017, 318 opinions on support measures were issued.

Checks on farms for compliance with Good Agricultural Practice - Nitrates (Agroecology)

During the year 618 inspections were performed and 46 prescriptions were drawn.

Cross compliance checks carried out to comply with the program of measures to limit and prevent nitrate pollution, agricultural holdings that fall into nitrate vulnerable zones (SMR 1) and use of PPPs

The total number of controls related to compliance monitoring of the Program of Measures in Nitrate Vulnerable Areas is 756, with 174 prescriptions being drawn.

4. Fertilisers

4.1. Registration of fertilisers

In 2017, a total of 88 new products have been registered - organic, non-organic and organic and mineral, microbial fertilisers and soil improvement agents.

4.2. Control of fertilisers in marketing

On the territory of the country in 2017, a total of 960 inspections have been conducted regarding the control of fertilisers. 50 prescriptions have been prepared with respective corrective measures and indicated period for compliance. There were issued 2 acts for administrative violation. A total of 97 samples from fertilisers were taken and analysed, in compliance with the National Plan for Control of Fertilisers, Soil Improvers, Biologically Active Substances and Food Substrates. The prescriptions that have been issued are 3.

Table V.3. Fertilisers control over the period 2015 - 2017

Activities	2015	2016	2017
Number of registered fertilisers	31	48	88
Number of on-site inspections	953	1 258	960
Samples taken from fertilisers for analyses	96	106	97
Acts of infringement	1	7	2

Source: BFSA

Information on the import of fertilisers in Republic of Bulgaria in 2017

In 2017, a total of 39,994,521 kg and 198,053 l of fertilisers were imported through the BCP (border crossing points) in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Use of sludge in agriculture

In 2017, 116 permits were issued for the recovery of sludge from waste water treatment for agricultural use, on fields with a total area of 10,861 decares, in accordance with the Ordinance on the Utilisation of Sludge by Their Use in Agriculture. The maximum amount of sludge that can be utilised per unit area per year is 0.323 tonnes (expressed as dry matter) according to the permits issued.

5. Plant Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control

State policy in the field of plant variety testing, maintenance of varieties, production, trade, import and export of seeding and planting material is carried out through the Executive Agency on plant variety testing, field inspection and seed control with MAFF.

EAVTFISC controls production, preparation, distribution, trade and storage of seed and seedlings; its certification in accordance with accepted methods, schemes and technological quality characteristics; supervise the procedure for testing, recognition and zoning of varieties of cultivated plants; annually issues official variety list Republic of Bulgaria for the varieties of field, vegetable, fruit and vine varieties; lists the newly registered varieties in the EU European Catalogues and is responsible for the full harmonisation of the national legislation on seeds and seedlings with that of the Community.

In the year 2017, secondary legislation on seeds and propagating material was transposed, transposing directives for amendments to main EU directives. Acting regulations have been amended and specialised internal normative documents such as Recognition, homogeneity and stability (RHC) testing methodologies have been developed according to the technical protocols of the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) , Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD).

During the year, were prepared amendments and supplements to Ordinance 7 / 28.10.2013 on the conditions and procedure for variety testing, recognition, registration and delisting of plant varieties in and from the official varieties list of the Republic

of Bulgaria, Ordinance No. 21 / 30.06.2009 for the marketing of cereal seed on the European Union market. Amendments to Ordinance 29 / 22.06.2004 on the production and trade of tobacco seeds.

The Agency is a national body for the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) seed schemes.

In order to meet the clients' expectations for the provision of administrative services, according to the highest professional standards, the Executive Agency for Plant Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control (EAPVTASC) is accredited and has real quality ISO 9001: 2008 quality systems, according to the International Association of Seed Testing Laboratory (ISTA) and by the European Plant Variety Office.

State Aid Administration

Pursuant to a contract for granting state aid to promote production and use of quality seeds and seedlings, in 2017 EAPVTASC performed services to farmers related to:

- field inspection of seed crops and common balm plantations; issuing of labels;
- sampling of seed lots intended for certification;
- laboratory analysis of seed samples by crop groups;
- carrying out of follow-up control of seed lots;
- grading of certified and CAC Fruit and certified and standard vine seedling.

The quality scheme introduces additional and some higher requirements to the production process and the final product and ensures higher quality of the produced seeds and seedlings from the following crop groups: cereal, fodder, oil crops, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, certified and CAC fruit planting material, certified and standard vine seedlings and certified and standard vegetable crops. 90% of EAPVTASC customers have benefited by state aid to promote production and use of quality seeds and seedlings.

State aid is a prerequisite for achieving significant added value as a result of the use of certified seed related to quantity and quality of production.

The total value of the services provided by EAPVTASC for 2017 amounts to BGN 1,191,593.

Publishing of an official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2017, EAVTFISC constantly exchanged information with the European Commission Member States and other international institutions regarding names, entry and removal of varieties of plants and official variety list and on the marketing of seeds and seedlings.

The official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria is a part of the European catalogues of varieties of field and vegetable crops, which allows varieties of Bulgarian selection to be present on the EU free market. The official variety list was published on the Agency's website and promptly updated upon the entry of new plant varieties.

During 2017, 915 varieties of field, vegetable, medical, aromatic and fruit trees, vines and tobacco were registered, which is 2% more than in 2016.

There was an increase in the number of registered varieties of field and vegetable crops. From a total of 560 varieties of agricultural plant species, 209 varieties are protected by a certificate of legal protection in the Patent Office. Of the total 158 registered varieties of vegetable crops, 51 have a certificate of legal protection.

The number of applications for entry of varieties of fruit trees, vines is maintained at the level of the previous year.

The official catalogue of the country enlists 32 tobacco varieties, 29 of them having legal protection certificate.

Under the Law for protection of new plant varieties and animal breeds, the Agency carried out essential expertise for distinctness, uniformity and stability of new varieties of plants upon which the Patent Office issues a certificate of legal protection.

Testing distinctness, uniformity and stability and biological and economic qualities of new plant varieties

In 2017, a total of 1,004 varieties (970 for 2016), hybrids and lines were surveyed and tested, of which 282 were under variety testing contracts, and 772 – similar varieties and a comparative collection to prove the distinctness of the new varieties and for the preparation of Bulgarian variety descriptions of foreign varieties recognised by other testing offices. The comparative variety collection (seed, material of vegetative propagating species and official variety descriptions) maintained by EAPVTASC has 7,702 varieties (8,972 in 2016) of 117 crops. For the purpose of the comparative collection for DUS, seeds of 1,169 varieties of 22 crop species were requested. Seeds of 400 varieties of 18 crops were obtained.

At the request of the European Plant Variety Office, 12 final reports on DUS and 15 final reports of variety testing offices from Austria, Romania, Russia and Turkey were provided.

For the purpose of obtaining legal protection on the territory of the country, a total of 26 publications, final reports and official variety descriptions have been prepared and sent to the Patent Office.

In 2017, for DUS were tested 5 sunflower and 1 rice varieties, commissioned by UPOV.

By type of crop variety testing for DUS is distributed as follows:

- 16 species of crops (15 in 2016);
- 8 species of fruit trees and vine (9 in 2016);
- 9 types of vegetable crops (7 in 2016);

The total number of varieties, excluding standard varieties tested in trials to BEAD (for inclusion in List A of the Official Variety List and in preliminary experiments under contracts) is 1,426, which is 77 less than 2016.

From the total number of varieties, 1,225 hybrids of maize, sunflower, rapeseed, common and durum wheat, and barley (as opposed to 1,298 for 2016) were subjected to preliminary testing, and 201 varieties in total were tested for BEQ (205 in 2016). The standard varieties for BEQ were 60.

Of the tested varieties for BEQ and preliminary tests, 1,372 are foreign-selection (96.2%) and 59 Bulgarian selection (3.8%), which preserves the ratio of varieties of Bulgarian and foreign selection.

837 assessments for varieties were performed for tests for BEQ: 108 phytopathological, 76 for cold resistance and 653 chemico-technological and tasting. From the preliminary tests, 1,430 average samples for chemico-technological assessments were prepared and submitted to the applicants.

A total of 195 final DUS reports and BEQ reports have been prepared with final results from 2 - 3 year variety test conducted by expert committees.

In 2017, 14 expert committee meetings were held to discuss the results of the testing of new varieties by group of crops (3 for DUS and 11 for BEQ) and decisions

were made for listing of A and B of the Official Variety lists. In the course of the year, a newsletter was produced and published with all recognised and approved for listing "A" of the official varieties of the country varieties of plant species of the official.

During the year, 1,263 samples were taken for ground control of 32 crops, of which 1,253 were approved.

The contracted Variety Test increased by 18% compared to 2016.

There have been issued 58 authorisations, according to Art. 39a, para. 1 and para. 4 of the Law on Seeds and Seedlings (LSS) and in accordance with Decision 2004/842 / EC, which assists the agriculture sector in the production and trade of seeds.

Registration and maintenance of databases for producers, traders and sellers of seed and seedling, under Art. 28 of LSS

In order to regulate the activities under production, preparation and marketing of seeds and seedlings, EAPVTASC maintains a public register, which allows quick orientation of the consumers and other administrative units for the persons registered for activities and groups of crops.

In 2017, 290 certificates of production, preparation and trade were issued, which is by 3 less compared to 2016, and 100 authorisations.

Certification of seeds and seedlings

Certification of seeds and seedlings in 2017 was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the quality management system procedures and the „Quality Scheme for the Production of Quality Seeds and Seedling“.

During the year, certification applications for 35,649 ha seed crops from different crop groups were received. The total area of arable crops inspected by EAPVTASC inspectors is 34,884 ha, with the largest share of the cereal group being 30,528 ha (87.5%), followed by fodder – 3,131 ha (9%), oil and fibre - 938 ha (2.7%), potatoes - 197 ha (0.6%), vegetables - 80 ha (0.2%), tobacco - 8 ha and beet - 2 ha. The inspected crops decreased by 11.1% compared to 2016. After conducting of field inspections, 234 ha (0.7%) were declassified in a lower category than the one applied for certification, 36 ha (0.9%) were discarded due to lower indicators from those required. For field inspections were issued 2,278 acts.

Areas of 731 ha of seed crops of wheat were surveyed, by 203 ha more than in 2016.

In 2017, less crops of winter common wheat, barley, maize and oats were inspected. Growth compared to the previous year is registered at the inspected seed crops of triticale (by 59.1%), and barley (by 20.4%). Chickpea of 137 ha was inspected.

In the case of inspected crops from the group of oil and fibre crops, there has been a multiple increase in the areas of sunflower seed production as compared to 2016. The areas of seed production of peanuts are also increased, while soybeans and cottonseed areas are decreasing.

The inspected forage crops during the year are by 7.8% less than in 2016.

An increase of the crops inspected compared to the previous year is recorded for potato and tobacco species as well as for vegetable species, while those with beets are decreasing.

In 2017, 52 ha of vine nurseries, 42 ha of nursery vineyards and 17 ha of root vines were inspected. A number of 702 acts of field inspection have been issued.

There were evaluated 4,325,439 vine seedlings (5,350,702 in 2016), of which 921,358 have engraved vines, 420,481 cuttings for cuttings and 2,983,600 cuttings for rootstocks.

For the purposes of certification, 5,743 samples of homogeneous batches of seeds were taken. By individuals (samplers) authorised by the Executive Director of EAPVTASC under the terms and procedure of Ordinance No 8 of 31 October 2016, 620 samples were taken.

Central Laboratory carried out 3,840 analyses to determine the properties of the seeds, including 1,193 for analytical purity, 1,574 for germination, 1,073 for humidity of seeds.

The Central laboratory, accredited by the International Seed Testing Association ISTA, successfully participated in a circular international white clover test.

During the year, 92 „electrophoresis“ tests were carried out to establish the variety authenticity and varietal purity of seeds from parental lines and maize and sunflower hybrids.

By the laboratory, 35 certificates were issued according to the requirements of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Schemes for export of seed to third countries.

In 2017, 377,635 official labels were issued.

In connection with the requirement of Art. 25, para. 4, item 2 of Ordinance No 7 of 24 February 2015 for the implementation of Measure 10 „Agroecology and Climate“ of the RDP for the period 2014 - 2020, certificates for already existing perennial crops have been issued confirming that the declared varieties are threatened by genetic erosion.

Control activities on GMOA and LSS, including the import and export of seeds and propagating material from and to third countries

In 2017, more than 800 inspections of the GMOA and the LSS were carried out on paper and on site. In the GMOA inspections, no presence of genetically modified organisms in conventional seed lots was detected. The inter-institutional cooperation between the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) and EAPVTASC has been developed, which has significantly improved border control.

Effective control has been achieved in the preparation and marketing of seeds and seedlings. In the checks carried out, the inspectors took 510 samples for control analysis. Non-compliant seed germination requirements were suspended from trade.

For the results of the inspections, 977 checklists and protocols were issued and 15 acts for establishing an administrative violation were drawn up.

According to Art. 6, para. 17 of the GMOA the inspectors from EAPVTASC have carried out an inspection of over 20% of the inspected areas of the persons under Art. 6 of GMOA. No inconsistencies were found.

Providing business operators with the ability to carry out certification activities under official control

Under the terms and procedure of Ordinance No 8 of October 31, 2013, 1 authorisation was issued for a private laboratory and 3 individuals for sampling of seeds.

Expected data for 2018

In connection with the amendment to the Law on Seeds and Seedlings, prom. State Gazette, no. 17 of 23.02.2018, eliminated is the requirement for registration in EAPVTASC of producers and preparators of seed and seedling material and the validity period of the certificate issued by EAPVTASC for seed and seedling material, which significantly alleviates the business and the citizens.

Production of seed and seedling material may be carried out by persons registered as farmers under the order of § 4 of the transitional and final provisions of the Law

on Support of Agricultural Producers. In this regard amendments and supplements to Ordinance No 13 of 31.03.2004 on the procedure for issuing permits for producers and preparators of seeds and seedlings and for registration of traders of seeds and seedlings have been prepared.

In June 2018, internal audits and an external audit by an independent certification organisation of the implemented quality management system as an official part of the certification process were carried out at EAPVTASC in order to certify the management system according to the requirements of the new international standard ISO 9001:2015, after which the Agency is certified according to the international standard ISO 9001: 2015.

In 2018 the Agency continued to provide services related to the application of state aid for the participation of farmers in a quality scheme for the production of seeds and seedlings, under a contract concluded with the State Fund „Agriculture“. Within the scope of the aid, vineyard and fruit seedling material are also included.

The envisaged maximum annual budget for the aid for 2018 amounts to BGN 1.2 million.

Applications for certification of seed and planting material from spring and perennial crops shall be registered in time.

In 2018, a total of 29,792.2 ha were declared for field inspections, including 647 ha by inspectors under Art. 6 of the Low on Seeds and Seedlings. Of the seed producing crops declared, the largest is the number of cereals – 27,897 ha, forage – 1,158 ha and oil and fibre - 653 ha (2,6%). Declared were seedling producing potato crops - 39 ha, vegetable crops - 41 ha, tobacco - 4 ha and beet 0,2 ha. Acceptance of applications for spring crop certification continues. Declared for certification / approval were 43 ha of vine plantations.

In 2018, EAPVTASC continued to control the preparation and marketing of seeds and seedlings. Failure to meet the minimum seed germination requirements is suspended from trading.

For violation of the provisions of the Low on Seeds and Seedlings and the requirements of the respective ordinances, 13 acts for establishing administrative violations were drawn up by May 2018.

Agreements for variety testing and spring crops in the 2018 harvest year are 8% more than those in 2017. This shows that the variety is sustainable and in line with best practices.

In 2018, there was an increase in the number of varieties claimed to be tested for DUS to 322 (282 in 2017) and the percentage of the varieties tested for DUS at the expense of similar varieties of comparative collection resulting from the active activity of increasing the varieties in the comparative collection and specifying the methods of selection of similar varieties. During the year, a 6-assay DUS was carried out by the European Plant Variety Office under contract 83/2008 and 3 varieties of the Instance Nationale des Obtentions Vegetales (I.N.O.V.) – GEVES, France.

The variety test for BEQ for A listing in the Official Plant Variety List of the country is also sustainable and in 2018 the number of BEQ varieties declared and included in the trial is 232 (201 for 2017).

The number of varieties in pre-test was increased by 13.6% compared to 2017, due to the fact that the applicants want to test a larger number of varieties, with fewer repetitions in the trial. The areas of the experimental fields of EAPVTASC are levelled, the quality of the service offered is very good and satisfies the applicants.

In 2018, of the tested varieties for BEQ and pre-testing, 1,546 (95.2%) were foreign selection and 78 (4.8%) - Bulgarian selection. Compared to 2017, there is an increase in the number of Bulgarian selection varieties due to the increase of the requests from private breeders.

6. Control of grains and cereal products

6.1. Control of public warehouses, grain storage facilities and other storage facilities for grain

In 2017, the trend of an increase in both the number of grain storage facilities and the total storage capacity continued. Within the year, in the database maintained for this purpose, 104 new grain storage sites were entered and a change in the circumstances of 123 of the registered sites was made. The total number of grain storage facilities in the country as of 31.12.2017 is 3,683, with a capacity of 14,778,153 tonnes. The data on the location and capacity of grain storage sites on 30 June and 31 December 2017 has been uploaded to the Open Data Portal of the Council of Ministers.

A total of 1,756 inspections were carried out in 2017, grain storage facilities - 628 units, grain producers - 901 units and new storage facilities for grain - 227 units. For established violations of the inspections, 446 statements of findings and 12 acts of administrative violations were drawn up.

6.2. Qualification of harvest year 2017

A total of 2,957 samples of 3,998,089 tonnes were collected and analysed for the representative evaluation of the harvested 2017 barley, wheat, maize, sunflower and rice blade, which is over 35% of the harvested quantity and meets the criteria for representativeness of the evaluation.

Qualification of wheat harvest year 2017

The final results of the evaluation show that the wheat produced in 2017 with millet and bakery qualities, meeting the requirements of traders and processors, accounted for 83.1% of the total production.

The grain distribution by group is as follows:

- First group - 3.6%, 0.7% in 2016;
- Second group - 10.3%, 4.2% in 2016;
- Second B Group - 34.6%, 36.3% in 2016;
- Third group - 52%, compared to 58.8% in 2016

The average values of the main indicators determining the quality characteristics of the harvest 2017 for the country are:

- moisture content: $11.5\% \pm 0.8\%$;
- hectolitre mass: $76.6 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 1.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$;
- wet gluten yield: $24.0\% \pm 2.5\%$;
- gluten release: $8.5 \text{ mm} \pm 1.2 \text{ mm}$;
- baking strength: $52.0 \text{ tonnes.} \pm 5.4 \text{ mm. one}$;
- protein content: $12.1\% \text{ v.c.} \pm 0.6\% \text{ c.}$
- falling number: $345.2 \text{ sec.} \pm 61.2 \text{ sec.}$

Qualification of barley harvest year 2017

The final results show that 69.8% of the barley is brewed and 30.3% is fodder. Compared to 2016, the proportion of brewing barley increased by 8.4 percentage points.

The average values of the main quality indicators of the 2017 harvested barley are as follows:

- protein content: $11.9\% \pm 1.2\%$;
- hectolitre mass: $72.5 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 3.6 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$;

- batch alignment: $88.4\% \pm 10.6\%$;
- moisture: $11.6\% \pm 0.9\%$;
- crop impurities: $1.8\% \pm 1.6\%$;
- foreign impurities: $1.1\% \pm 1.1\%$.

Qualification of black oleaginous sunflower from harvest 2017

The final results of the qualification have shown that 78% of the samples analysed meet the quality standards of sunflower seed, which were 79.2% in the previous year. In 2017, a higher proportion of sunflower batch with high technological qualities was recorded - 96.1% of the sunflower analysed complied with the requirements of the fat standard, compared to 94.3% in 2016

The average values of the main qualitative indicators of the sunflower from harvest 2017 are:

- moisture content: $5.8\% \pm 0.7\%$
- Fat: $44.9\% \pm 1.8\%$
- crop impurities: $0.9\% \pm 1.1\%$
- foreign impurities: $3.0\% \pm 1.2\%$

Qualification of maize from harvest 2017

The final results show that 79.5% of the produced maize grains meet the starch content criteria and the minimum limits laid down in the standard with regard to moisture content and presence of impurities, as compared to 76.4% in 2016.

The average values of the main quality indicators of the 2017 harvest maize are:

- moisture: $12.1\% \pm 0.8\%$
- crop impurities: $3.9\% \pm 2.1\%$
- foreign impurities: $0.7\% \pm 0.4\%$
- starch content: $72.4\% \pm 0.9\%$
- hectolitre mass: $72.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.0 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$

Qualification of rice harvest from harvest 2017

The results of the analysed samples show that 90.6% of the analysed rice birch meets the first quality requirements, as compared to 76.4% in 2016.

The average values of the main quality indicators of the rice harvested 2017 are:

- moisture: 12.8% ± 0.5%
- crop impurities: 0.4% ± 0.2%
- foreign impurities: 0.4% ± 0.3%
- red grains: 0.4% ± 0.4%
- yellowed grains: not found
- bone grains: 1.5% ± 0.6%
- hectolitre mass: 58.4 kg / 100 dm³ ± 2.1 kg / 100 dm³

7. Foodchain safety

The main objective of the EU food safety policy is ensuring of high level of protection of human health and consumer interests in relation to food, as well as the effective functioning of the internal market.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry leads, coordinates and controls the state policy implementation and EU policy in the field of animal health and food safety, through its specialised administration.

The Policies on Agriculture Chain directorate assists the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in the development, coordination and implementation of the state policy in the field of quality and safety of food and fodder, animal health, plant health and plant reproductive material.

Directorate "Farming" assists the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in the development, coordination and implementation of the state policy in animal welfare. It prepares and participates in the development and coordination of draft legislation in the field of farming, animal welfare and disposal of animal by-products.

In 2017, the optimisation of the statutory base continues in the fields of food and fodder safety, health protection and welfare of animals, plant health, plant reproductive material and plant protection products.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) exercises the official control of foods on the principle "from the farm to the table", following the best European practices in implementation of high standards of control in the area of safety and quality of foods, food supplements and drinks, veterinary medicine and welfare of animals, plant protection and fertilisers, phytosanitary control, fodder control, border control, etc.

7.1. Livestock healthcare and welfare.

Animal healthcare

- Priority tasks of BFSA in this field are:
- Preservation of health of animals in the country;
- Preservation of health of farm animals from the occurrence of hazardous virus infections, related to large economic loss;
- Providing production of compliant raw cow milk, according to the European legislation
- Free movement of animals, products and raw materials, yielded from them, by and between the member states and for export to non-EU countries;
- Protection of the population from the occurrence of zoonosis (diseases, transmitted from animals to humans).

In order to achieve these priorities, in 2017 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 eradication of animal diseases and zoозones in the Republic of Bulgaria continued for the period of 2016-2018.

In 2017, the obligatory measures laid down for the implementation of the National Program for Prophylactics, Survey, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses are fulfilled.

The work of BFSA is aimed at reducing the risk of the emergence and spread of acute and exotic contagious animal diseases, taking into account the geographical location of our country. To this end, national disease surveillance programs are implemented, 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, breeding flocks and turkeys;
- Program for supervision of TSE;

- Program for the precautionary measures against certain transboundary animal diseases involving contagious nodular dermatitis of large ruminants, foot-and-mouth disease, smallpox and sheep and goat pox.

All the aforementioned programs are co-financed by the European Commission.

The following standard operating procedures (SOP) were developed and approved in 2017:

- SOP on the minimum time limits for animals entering farms in which animals have been killed due to the occurrence of a contagious disease;
- SOP for surveillance, control and eradication of equine infectious anaemia;
- SOP for surveillance, control and eradication of equine viral arteritis;
- SOP for the implementation of intradermal tuberculinisation, reporting and identification of bovine animals for diagnostic slaughter and coverage of the result in the IIS (Integrated Information System) of BFSA – VetIS.
- SOP for work in the TRACES system and preparation of certificates for intra-Community trade in large ruminants and pigs;
- SOP for the actions that need to be taken by the veterinarians responsible for animal health in the BFSA for the prevention and in the event of an outbreak of classical and African swine fever;
- SOP for control of disposal sites for animal by-products.

In February 2017, the official evaluation of the second group of dairy farm with 10 to 49 dairy cows was completed, in line with the action plan to strengthen the quality testing scheme for raw cow's milk. According to the results of the official assessment, the total number of farms is 5,806 of which 3,148 are not meeting health, structural and hygiene requirements. The remaining 2,658 farms meet the above requirements and are included in official sampling, 131 farms discarded during sampling, and 2,527 have completed the sampling process, of which 1,069 comply with Regulation 853/2004 of EU.

In 2017, a public procurement was launched for the development and implementation of the „Milk module“ - a software product that upgrades the information system of

BFSA and aims to provide electronic services for the whole process of taking, sending, testing and reporting the results of the milk samples taken. In field conditions, milk samples are taken with mobile devices that have a mobile sample application installed for transparency and unable to compromise their results.

Starting in July 2017, training of samplers of raw cow milk started by specialised organisations with the participation of BFSA, a total of 1,102 were trained. Trainees are those who have the right to sampling for self-control purposes.

In 2017, 1,090 contracts were signed between the RFSD and the registered veterinarians, and they contracted 88,727 service contracts for livestock farmers.

The official veterinarians carried out 14,193 inspections in respect to the Program for the Prophylactics, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses, etc., with issued 878 prescriptions, 101 acts for established administrative violations and 62 penalties decrees.

In 2017, on the territory of the country were registered the following major diseases included in the list of priority diseases from the Animal Health Act, issued by the European Commission: highly pathogenic avian influenza; anthrax in cattle; bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in small ruminants.

In view of the outbreaks of bluetongue in 2014 and infectious nodular dermatitis in 2016, in order to protect animals susceptible to these diseases and to protect livestock farming in the country, BFSA purchased a bluetongue vaccine, serotype 4 and a vaccine against infectious nodular dermatitis that were applied in 2017

For 2017, 12 outbreaks of influenza in wild birds were found.

The BFSA has taken immediate measures to eradicate all infected and contagious ducks in the outbreaks, as required by Directive 2005/94 / EC.

Registered diseases dangerous to humans (zoonoses) in 2017

On 23.11.2017 in the town of Lukovit, Lovech region, an outbreak of anthrax in cattle was found. Until 2017 in the territory of Lovech region no vaccination of the susceptible species against the anthrax disease has been carried out since it has not been established in the territory of the district until then. In relation to the identified outbreak, immediate action was taken by the BFSA as follows:

- Convening a municipal epizootic commission to identify specific measures to prevent the spread of the disease on the territory of the municipality;
- Foreclosure in sites with established disease;
- Immediate destruction of the carcasses of anthrax dead animals, raw milk, feed and contaminated material at sites by burial or disposal in an establishment for the disposal of animal by-products under official supervision in a non-proliferation manner, in accordance with the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009;
- Performing mechanical cleaning and disinfection of buildings and premises where animals are kept and equipment, including vehicles, entering and leaving the premises in a way that ensures the destruction of the causative agent of the disease;
- Imposition of a ban on the movement of large ruminants, small ruminants and equidae to and from the territory of the infected settlement;
- Monitoring of health status, inventory of all susceptible to anthrax animals kept on the territory of the municipality and reporting of the inventory in the information system of NVS;
- In case of doubt, sampling from the sites, green mass and soil from the pasture where the animals grazed;
- Vaccination of all ruminants, small ruminants and equidae on the territory of the affected settlement.

In 2017, 15 outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis were registered, 5 of which were discontinued.

During the year the outbreaks of brucellosis from the small ruminants, which occurred on the territory of Sliven and Blagoevgrad districts, were eliminated. Thus, the country is free of brucellosis and rubella brucellosis and will apply for the official brucellosis-free status in the European Commission in 2018.

In connection with the complicated epizootic situation with regard to African swine fever (ASF) in Europe and the outbreak of the disease in Romania on 2nd August 2017, the following measures were taken by the Commission:

The Bulgarian competent authority monitors daily the current epizootic situation in Europe in relation to ASF through the European Commission's Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS), participates in meetings of the European Commission's Food Chain and Animal Health Committee, meetings of international organisations, the reports of the European Food Safety Authority to the European Commission and the reports of the Centre for Risk Assessment of the Food Chain of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Bulgaria has an approved program for prevention and control of ASF, which is performed on a daily basis according to an approved preliminary plan, by carrying out constant clinical examinations and laboratory supervision for early detection of ASF with documentation of the results on the pig farms situated in the districts located in the border regions with a high risk of disease penetration and in herds of East-Balkan pigs. Annually, according to the approved program, around 6,000 samples of wild swine fever are analysed for the early detection of the disease and proving free status of the population. For the purpose of prevention, in 2017 in all Northern Bulgaria regions all slaughtered, found sick and dead wild boars were sampled and sent for ASF testing.

In 2017, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry approved the Strategy for Fighting the ASF in Bulgaria, which was developed on the basis of the strategy of the European Commission and the experience of all the countries affected so far. The strategy details the measures to prevent the penetration of ASF in Bulgaria and the early detection of the disease, as well as measures for the detection of ASF in Bulgaria.

Bulgarian experts are permanently involved in meetings, expert groups and forums related to the discussion of measures and actions with regard to the ASF, the EC, the FAO and the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

There is ongoing cooperation between Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in the fight against ASF.

The Bulgarian veterinary authorities are in constant cooperation with the State Agency for National Security and the Border Police General Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior with regard to the control of people and goods from countries with established ASF case and disposal of confiscated food waste and foodstuffs coming from third countries, as well as kitchen waste from transport (air, sea, land) operating on international routes. Control of passengers' personal luggage and disposal of food

waste from port catering, border crossings with Romania and Sofia, Varna and Burgas airports to vessels coming from countries with established ASF. By order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests, intra-Community trade and imports from third countries of wild boar in the Republic of Bulgaria are prohibited.

In 2017, all costs of implementing the measures under the National Program for Prevention, Control, Surveillance and Eradication of Diseases and Zoonoses in Bulgaria, which are included in oversight and eradication programs but not co-financed by the European Commission, are provided as assistance to farmers from the State Fund "Agriculture".

Animal welfare

The BFSA coordinates and methodically guides the work of 28 Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSD) on animal welfare, which is directly related to the production of safe food. This is a subject that is widespread in public circles.

The creation of a common European platform for animal welfare will serve as a common forum used by the Commission, the Member States, animal welfare organisations, agriculture organisations, veterinary associations, consumers, etc.

The practice in Bulgaria shows that farmers often do not comply with the norms provided by the legislation in order to increase profits from their activities. In most cases, they do not have the opportunity to compare their practices and new scientific rationale for animal welfare. This requires the intervention of veterinary specialists in the country to ensure the comfort of the animals.

By Order No RD 11-907 dated 02.05.2017, the Executive Director of BFSA has approved an updated version of the Standard Operational Procedure for carrying out official controls for compliance with animal welfare rules during long transportations.

In 2017, the issue of licenses for the transport of live animals continued in order to comply with the requirements of national and European animal welfare legislation during transport. The register of the issued licenses for transport of live animals according to Art. 166 of the LVA (Law on Veterinary Activity) and the introduction of up-to-date information on the approved vehicles in the integrated information system of BFSA – VetIS.

Within 2017, 4 signals from other contact points to BFSA were received and 652 signals and from BFSA were submitted to other contact points, most of which were found by the official veterinarians at the „Kapitan Andreevo“ Border Inspection Post.

In the field of animal welfare, Bulgaria fulfils the requirements of Council Directive 2008/120 / EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.

Concerning the welfare of experimental animals under Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, a register of the authorisations for the use of animals in experiments is maintained.

A proposal has been made to update Ordinance No 4 of 08.08.2017 on the implementation of Measure 14 Animal Welfare from the Rural Development Program for the period 2014-2020 regarding the category of bovine and buffalo calves from 6 to 24 months of age.

Models 208 A and B, 209 A and B and 210 A and B of requests for statement of assurance by RFSD on compliance of a farm with the requirements on animal hygiene and animal welfare and veterinary requirements were updated.

A database of registered kennel for stray animals were updated.

The identification (microchipping) of dogs in the country continued in 2017 and the data about them were reflected in VetIS, and the system was also adapted to these animals as well.

7.2. Integrated information system of BFSA for identification, registration and traceability the movement of animals

In 2017, the work on the improvement of the information system for animal identification and registration of livestock farms continued in order to meet the requirements of the EC legislation in the field of animal health and to support the activity of State Fund „Agriculture“ - Paying Agency and support for livestock farmers. Progress has been made in increasing the degree of centralisation and integration of the systems, balancing the workload of ICT systems, functioning in real mode of operation, security, protection and availability of information datasets, provision of notification services, increased number of users and used information services.

7.3. Control activities
7.3.1. Food safety

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency methodically guides and co-ordinates the work of the RFSD on the safety and quality control of: raw materials, food, including those

with protected geographical names, bioproducts, as well as materials and articles intended for contact with foodstuffs, food additives, enzymes and flavourings; intermediate storage and processing plants for animal by-products; the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter.

In 2017, national and monitoring programs for laboratory control were implemented as follows:

- National Program for the Control of Pesticide Residues in or on Foodstuffs of Plant and Animal Origin (NPCPFAO);
- National Program for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF);
- National food control programs for the content of pollutants, additives, materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs and foodstuffs treated with ionising radiation;
- Program for monitoring and reporting the antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and cometary bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- National Monitoring Program for the Control of Residues of Veterinary Products and Environmental Pollutants (NMPCRPEP).

Official food controls in Bulgaria are carried out adequately, in full compliance with the requirements of European and national legislation and in accordance with Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

BFSA maintains national electronic registers and lists of sites under control. The introduction of a web-based registers system in 2016 will make it easier for users, business operators and institutions to access up-to-date information on registered sites throughout the country. The total number of registered sites for 2017 is 156,248.

Risk-based analysis, effective official controls on food safety in establishments for the production, wholesale and retail of food and catering establishments are carried out. Additional thematic checks are carried out (winter and summer tourist season, official and religious holidays, etc.) and checks upon signals.

Administrative penal and administrative enforcement measures are undertaken, adequate to the discrepancies found.

A total of 182,092 official control checks were carried out in 2017 on sites for production, wholesale and retail of food and catering establishments, thematic inspections, unscheduled inspections and alerts on complaints and signals.

Table V.4. Official control carried out in 2017	
Inspections	2017
1. Sites for production and wholesale of foods	33,705
1.1 Audits	1,907
1.2 Inspection	31,798
1.2.1 Inspections traceability (Regulation 178/2002)	13,148
1.2.2 General Hygiene Requirements Inspection (Regulation 852/2004)	20,390
1.2.3 Inspections specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (Regulation 853/2004)	7,365
1.2.4 Animal by-products inspections (Regulation 1069/2009)	5,276
2. Retail and catering establishments	148,387
Total number of inspections (scheduled, thematic, by signal)	182,092
3. Measures taken by the official controls	
3.1 Issued NEAO/notice establishing administrative offence (number)	2,454
3.2 Instructions (number)	11,044
3.3 Foreclosed and discarded foods (kg/l)	351,606 kg /336 l/1,745 pcs./2,847,959 pcs. eggs
3.4 Closed sites (number)	159

Source: BFSA

The results of the official inspections show that the approach based on risk assessment for the planning and implementation of official controls is appropriate in terms of detecting inconsistencies and ensuring food safety as effectively as possible.

The discrepancies found concern:

- structural mismatches concerning the building stock and equipment in the sites;
- operational inconsistencies with regard to the implementation of the activities related to ensuring the safety of the product;
- discrepancies related to self-control systems of business operators;
- labelling;
- traceability;
- foods that do not meet statutory safety requirements.

The analysis of the average performance of official controls in 2017 shows that: on average, every 16th check ends with a prescription (every 15th in 2016); on average, every 74th check ends with an act establishing an administrative violation (every 70th for 2016).

In 2017, the procedure for obtaining information on forthcoming excursions, sports camps, green schools, trips and camps of children from kindergartens and schools, introduced in 2013, continues to operate. This ensures safe feeding of children in kindergartens, schools and in the case of exported events, by carrying out checks for observance of the requirements of Ordinance No 9 of 16 September 2011 on the specific requirements for food safety and quality offered in kindergartens and schools.

- The control is carried out by inspections of the production sites and by sampling of foodstuffs from a commercial network.
- The number of enterprises that produce food by standards in 2017 is as follows:
- Approved standard "Stara Planina" - 100 pieces;
- Bulgaria approved 114 standards;
- Branch standard "Lutenitsa" - 12 pieces;
- Branch Standard for "Refined Sunflower Oil" - 6 pieces;
- Bulgarian State Standard for Dairy Products - 54 pieces.

According to the Annual Plan for Analysis of Products Taken from Commercial Network and Produced according to National and Branch Standards for 2017, 267 samples were analysed as follows:

- Approved standard "Stara Planina" - 89 samples;
- Bulgaria approved standard - 67 samples;
- Branch Standard "Lyutenitsa" - 18 samples;
- Branch Standard "Refined Sunflower Oil" - 6 samples;
- BDS 15: 2010 "Bulgarian white brined cheese" - 25 samples;
- BDS 14: 2010 "Bulgarian Yellow Cheese" - 24 samples;
- BDS 12: 2010 "Bulgarian Yoghurt" - 38 samples.

Of these, 53 are inconsistent. In connection with established violations, administrative measures have been taken, which consist in issuing copies and drafting acts with specified deadlines.

Implementation of official laboratory control programs

National Program for the Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foodstuffs (NPCPFPAO) 2017

A total of 363 food samples were taken in 2017, of which 154 were under Regulation (EC) 2016/662, 120 of which were non-animal foods, 24 were foodstuffs of animal origin, and 10 were infant formulas. Of all the matrices, one sample of organic food was taken. Non-compliant results were found in 5 of them (3 lemons, 1 cauliflower and 1 number of lettuce) for which corrective action was taken.

National program for control of raw materials and foodstuffs for content of chemical pollutants, food additives, materials and articles for contact with foods, foods treated with ionising radiation (2017).

By 2017, a total of 371 food samples were taken under the program. Of these, 4 non-conforming results were found in 4 samples and corrective action was taken.

Program for Monitoring and Reporting of Antimicrobial Resistance of Zoonotic and Combinatorial Bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria (AMI) 2017

The control of antimicrobial resistance is one of the defined priorities of the European Commission in the field of food safety, animal health and the use of veterinary medicinal products. Assessing the significance of the problem, the EC specifically adopted Decision No 2013/652/EU of 12 November 2013 on the implementation of the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commodity bacteria for the period 2014-2020 and specifies the type and number of the samples that Bulgaria has to implement.

For the purposes of AMI monitoring in 2017, 150 samples of asbestos-sampled portion of 300 samples of pre-packaged, chilled pig meat and commercially available ruminant meat were taken.

National Program for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF)

In 2017, 80 samples were taken for laboratory testing, including 31 items - from raw materials, 45 - from ready-to-eat foods, 2 from infant formulas and infant formulas of soy and / or corn base, formulated milk for infants and 2 pieces of rice and rice products.

All samples are tested in laboratories external to the BFSA.

By detection method, the presence of GMOs in four samples was detected and therefore the GMO content was quantified. All samples showed a GMO of less than 0.9%.

National Monitoring Program for Residue Control (NMPRC)

The official control of residues of VMPs and pollutants in live animals and food-stuffs of animal origin is carried out through the NMPRC, which runs from April 2017 to March 2018. Under the NMPRC for 2017, 5 cases of non-conformity in samples, as follows: 1 sample containing cadmium found in a test sample of a liver from a horse taken from a slaughterhouse; 2 samples containing chlortetracycline over MDAK in duck muscle and duck liver taken from a slaughterhouse; 1 sample containing chlor-tetracycline over MDAK in muscle and duck liver, taken in a slaughterhouse, 1 sample of copper with tetracycline.

Audits of official controls

In 2017, there was a participation in the preparation and conduct of DG SANTE audits as follows:

- Audit organised by DG (SANTE) of the EC in Bulgaria from 24 January to 1 February 2017 for the Evaluation of the Monitoring and Reporting of Antimicrobial Resistance in Infectious and Combinatorial Bacteria in Certain Foods and Farm Animals.

During the audit, the following findings were made concerning the work of the Food Safety Directorate of the BSAF which are reflected in the audit report:

- There is a delay in the implementation of the AMR programs, thus excluding half the year or individual months of the year;
- Repeated sampling of the same epizootic unit is allowed due to the fact that the samples specified in the program do not correspond to the number of suppliers in the relevant meat production site or there is no reliable sampling accountability;
- The program foresees a limitation of samples of fresh meat to be taken at retail level from Bulgaria or the EU which is not in conformity with Decision 2013/652 / EU and does not cover meat originating from third countries;
- There is no system for collecting and sending in the NRL information on isolates from private laboratories obtained from testing the hygiene samples of the process of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 to be sent for confirmation in the NRL;

- There is no system for submitting information to the NRL for recurrent samples from the same holding and there is no mechanism to exclude the isolates from the same epizootic unit

When preparing the program for the monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in infectious and cometary bacteria in certain food and livestock 2017, all remarks were removed and closed by the Commission, with the exception of the first one. The late launch note for the program was removed by developing and validating the 2018 program, which began in January.

- DG SANTE audit with DG (SANTE)/2017-6117 for evaluating the implementation of veterinary health measures to control and combat contagious nodular dermatitis conducted in the period 06.02.2017 - 10.02.2017;
- DG SANTE 2017 - 6113 - MR for classical swine fever audit;
- Audit of DG SANTE 2017-6180 for the assessment of national Salmonella control programs, in particular poultry populations (breeders, laying hens, broilers and turkeys), carried out between 28 November and 06 December 2017. During the audit there are presented the control actions to prevent the market of eggs and meat from salmonella reacted positively. The inconsistencies raised were corrected by making adjustments to the instructions that assigned specific responsibilities to the different units of the BSAF.

7.3.2. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) has been set up by the European Commission to provide Member States' control bodies with a well-functioning tool for notifying the risks to human health deriving from food or feed through the maintenance of a rapid exchange of information and on the measures taken or to be taken to address these risks. The operation of the RASFF system is carried out through a network of contact points, each MS designating a contact point that is in constant contact with the European Commission contact point. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 16/2011 sets out the measures to implement the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

RASFF has been operating in Bulgaria since 1 January 2007 with the country's accession to the EU. For the effective operation of the RASFF system in Bulgaria, contact points have been created as follows:

- National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria, located in a specialised administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests;

- Contact Point in the Ministry of Health;
- Contact point of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

In connection with the functioning of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, for the period from 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016 the National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests was received by the contact point of the European Union a total of 3,768 notifications that have been verified, analysed and taken.

By sector, the notifications received are distributed as follows: 3,410 notifications for the Food sector, 239 notifications for the feed sector and 119 notifications for the Food contact materials sector.

By species, RASFF notifications distributed to the EU are as follows:

- Warning notifications - 923 (with 106 more on an annual basis), including: 859 for foodstuffs - 30 for food contact materials - 34;
- Notifications of attention - 678 (with 105 more on an annual basis), including: for food - 626, for feed - 38, for food contact materials - 14;
- Tracking notifications - 583 items (by 211 more on an annual basis); including for food - 437 pieces, for feed - 121 pieces, for food contact materials - 25 pieces;
- Notifications for consignments rejected at the border – 1,565 items (406 more per year), including: for foodstuffs – 1,470 pieces, for feeds - 50 for food contact materials - 45 pieces;
- Notifications for information - none;
- Notification "News" - 19 items (with 1 number less on an annual basis), including: for foodstuffs - 18 items, for food contact materials - 1 item.

In 2017, the notifications prepared and sent by Bulgaria to the European Commission are 109, broken down by type, as follows:

- Notifications for warning - 1 item for food;
- Attention notifications - 3 items, including: for food - 1 item, for feeds - 2 pieces;
- Trace notifications - 2 for food;
- Notifications for rejected items at the border 103 pieces, including for foodstuffs - 102 pieces; for feed - 1 item;

- Notifications for information - none;
- Notification News - no.

The notifications, in which Bulgaria is a party concerned, on notifications prepared by the other members of the RASFF system and notified by the European Commission for taking the necessary measures and actions on them are a total of 115 and their distribution in groups is as follows:

- Notifications of warning: for food - 110 pieces, for feed - 1 number, for food contact materials - 2 pieces;
- Attention notifications: for food - 2 items;
- Tracking notifications - 13 for food;
- Notifications for information - none;
- Notification "News" - 2 items for food.

All notifications (notifications) have been sent to the contact points in the Bulgarian Society of Health and the Ministry of Health to take the necessary measures and actions.

For the year 2017, 51 notifications of incoming notifications, including 33 alerts, 15 pieces of information and tracking, and 3 notifications of notifications, have been taken by the contact point of the BSAF regarding materials and articles in contact with food.

Four outgoing notifications were prepared in which Bulgaria reported inconsistencies. Of these, 1 notification is for a warning, 2 are for information and tracking, and 1 number is for attention.

Through the BFSA site, consumers are informed in good time about the presence of foods on the market, which are subject to notification and are distributed on the Bulgarian market.

In 2017, a total of 113 original RASFF notifications for border rejects and 7 notifications for tracking were produced in the Border Control Directorate.

In recent years, there has been a decline in recorded inconsistencies associated with imports of food and feed of animal origin. Compared to the established breaches in 2016, in 2017 there is an increase in the number of non-compliant consignments of fresh fruit and vegetables originating from third countries. The reasons for abandoned, destroyed or returned consignments are lack of binding documents, prohibited import of plant species and lack of mandatory marking.

7.3.3. System for administrative support and cooperation

The Commission's administrative assistance and cooperation system was established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1918 of 22 October 2015 establishing the system of administrative assistance and cooperation ('the APS system') under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. Decision (EU) 2015/1918 lays down the rules for the establishment and use of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System ("the APS system"), to support the exchange of information between the competent authorities of the Member States and between them and the Commission, in accordance with Title IV of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

The exchange of information through the APS system is carried out using the format provided by the Commission.

In 2017, the dossier received under the European Union system is 13 in number.

7.3.4. System for administrative support and cooperation – Food fraud network

The fight against food fraud is a priority of the EU aimed at meeting the highest food safety standards. The EU food fraud network was set up in response to the horseradish crisis in order to enable EU countries to work in accordance with the rules laid down in Articles 36-40 of the Regulation on official controls (Regulation 882/2004, rules on administrative cooperation and assistance) and on issues where national authorities are faced with possible intentional breaches of the food chain law with cross-border implications. The EU's Food Fraud Network consists of 28 national contact points in the Member States, Sweden, Norway and Iceland and the European Commission.

In the year 2017, a total of 11 dossiers were received.

During the year, the BSAF again participated in OPSON's international operation, organised by Europol and Interpol, against the proliferation of falsified and non-compliant food and beverages. From food production sites, food wholesalers, logistics centres and commercial establishments, over 69 tonnes of meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, ice cream, fish products and others have been seized, destroyed or

targeted for re-labelling. More than 6,700 packages of chocolate desserts and candies are stopped. The inconsistencies found during the operation concern the storage and marketing of shelf-life foods, the replacement of shelf-life of foodstuffs, the offering of meat without health mark, the inability to trace raw materials and foods.

In connection with the established inconsistencies of the business operators, a total of 25 acts for establishing an administrative violation were handed over.

7.3.5. Plant Protection Products Authorisation Management System (PPPAMS)

A Zone Licensing System operates in the EU, allowing for a harmonised and efficient system. The EU is divided into 3 zones for authorisation of plant protection products (PPPs): northern, central and southern zone. Member States evaluate applications on behalf of other countries in their area and / or sometimes on behalf of all areas.

Regulation (EU) 1107/2009 lays down the requirements, procedure and time limits for the authorisation of plant protection products, candidates, Member States, the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) being able to participate in the authorisation process.

The authorisation management system for plant protection products has been developed by the European Commission in order to enable industry users to submit applications for plant protection products and to submit them to the Member States for evaluation. Upon receipt of the applications, Member States manage these applications within the system by approving the authorisation for a PPP or rejecting the application. The objectives of the PPPAMS System are:

- Harmonise the formal requirements for the application of PPPs between Member States;
- Streamline the mutual recognition of PPP authorisations between Member States in order to speed up the time for placing on the market;
- Improving the management of the assessment process for PPP authorisation;
- Provide stakeholders with accurate and timely information on authorised or withdrawn plant protection products.

7.3.6. Control of veterinary activity, veterinary medicinal products and feed, border control

7.3.6.1. Control of veterinary activity

The Directorate-General for Verification of Official Control (VOC) at the Head of the Bulgarian Labour Office (BLO) supervises the activities of the 28 Regional Food Safety Directorates on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and coordinates the actions of the territorial units.

The experts from DG VOC in the BFSA organise and participate in inspections of the activities of the RDP for the assessment of the effectiveness of the performed official controls, in accordance with Art. 8 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, plan, organise and carry out audits of official controls in accordance with the requirements of Art. 4, p. (6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, carry out thematic inspections of the BFSA divisions and unannounced inspections of alerts or suspected unlawful actions by Agency staff.

By Order No RD 11-2462 / 09.12.2016 of the NVS Executive Director is an established Program of DG VOC for conducting audits on the effectiveness of official controls carried out by the RFSD in accordance with Art. Article 8 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 for 2017

According to the plan, a total of 12 inspections of the activities of the RFSD in Shumen, Plovdiv, Montana, Blagoevgrad, Vidin, Ruse, Yambol, Vratsa, Silistra, Varna, Sliven and Sofia city were carried out by the end of 2017.

According to the approved by Order No RD 11-2681 / 11.12.2017 of the NVS Executive Director "DG OAC Program for Checks on the Effectiveness of Official Control, Performed by the State Audit Office, in accordance with Art. 8 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004", 12 inspections of the RDP are planned to be carried out in 2018, 8 of them being committed by September 2018 - RFSD-Haskovo, RFSD-Razgrad, RFSD-Shumen, RFSD-Smoljan, RFSD-Montana and RFSD-Vidin.

In the event of unlawful actions or omissions by employees of the relevant BFSA unit, DG VOC shall prepare opinions and suggestions for disciplinary action under the Civil Service Act.

For 2018, 15 audits of official controls are planned, with two of the planned animal health audits postponed for implementation in the next calendar year. The audits carried out are in the fields of animal health and welfare and official food control. The

audits carried out cover 13 district structures.

In 2018, the approval, implementation and implementation of documented procedures, instructions, instructions at the central level which set out the rules for carrying out official inspections of the inspectors in the regional structures, which leads to an improvement of the quality of the official control, is reported as a positive trend .

In the year 2017, in the Headquarter of BFSA 430 complaints, signals, inquiries, requests, correspondence with agencies, companies, citizens, non-governmental organisations, structural and territorial units of the Agency were received, verified and processed from 1.01.2018 to 30.09.2018 - 566 items.

The experts of BFSA are in constant interaction with the police, the media, the citizens, the coordination networks and other non-governmental organisations committed to observing the provisions of the Animal Protection Law and the secondary legislation regulating the rights and treatment of pets, animals.

7.3.6.2. Control of veterinary medical products

Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) is carried out in accordance with the Law on Veterinary Medicine. It is related to licensing for the use of immunological and medicinal VMPs, renewal of licenses for use, additions in connection with changes in circumstances in which the products have been licensed, work on VMP mutual recognition procedures, decentralised procedure, transfer of rights to licenses for the use of VMP and others.

In 2017, a dossier of VMPs was evaluated, which the applicants applied to applications under the cited procedures. An evaluation of the periodic safety reports received within the so-called "pharmacovigilance" - a system that is relevant not only to the quality and safety of the VMP but which monitors adverse reactions in animals as well as reactions in humans , which administer the animal implants.

The register of licensed VMPs is updated periodically to help control the market of VMPs and to provide the information provided by law to veterinarians and external users.

With regard to the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, annually, from the holders of VMP licenses, data on quantities of antimicrobial-active VMPs are collected and aggregated. The data are provided by the European Medicines Agency and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), as endorsed by the ESVAC and OIE formats. The BFSA data provided in 2016 are included in the ESVAC and OIE annual reports on the use of antimicrobials in the EEA.

BFSA controls the use, production, marketing, storage, advertising of VMPs under

the Annual Inspection Program. According to this program, the inspectors from the WFD carry out at least one inspection per year of livestock farms to control the use of VMPs, wholesale and retail establishments of VMPs and veterinary establishments.

By Order No RD 11- 875 / 27.04.2017 of the Executive Director of the Bulgarian Society for Surgery and Pharmacology, the Program for quality control of commercially available VMPs has been approved and implemented.

The purpose of the program is to ensure that the commercially available VMPs, after the marketing authorisation is granted, are of the required quality according to the specifications in the registration dossier and the requirements of the VMP license.

The program provides:

- verifying the quality of the VMP at each stage of the distribution chain over the shelf life of the product;
- ensuring that the control methods are satisfactory;
- investigation of suspected variations in the quality of the VMP;
- verification of Falsifying VMPs.

The program applies to VMPs licensed for use under a national procedure under a mutual recognition procedure and a decentralised procedure. Surveillance of quality of VMPs through a centralised procedure (sampling and laboratory analysis) is carried out under a program of the European Medicines Agency.

The program does not refer to laboratory quality assurance of VMPs during the VMP licensing procedure.

An annual sampling plan is prepared for the implementation of the program, based on a sample of the wholesale and retail stores of VMPs. In case of inconsistencies with the quality requirements of the VMP under the conditions under which the VMP is licensed, the BFSa Executive Director or a person authorised by him shall notify in writing the holder of the marketing authorisation and, on a proposal from the VMP Control Directorate (VMPCD), take the regulatory actions foreseen in the veterinary law.

Every year, an Annual GMP Inspectorate (GMP) Inspection Plan (GMP) is being prepared and implemented by manufacturers/importers of VMPs. Checks monitor compliance with GMP requirements under European and national legislation in the field of VMP production. The data on the production licenses issued, the approved changes to them and the GMP certificates issued are entered into the European data exchange database for registered manufacturers of medicinal and immunological products for human and veterinary use (EudraGMP).

Control facilities for veterinary medicinal products are: manufacturers of VMPs, wholesalers of VMPs and / or active substances, retailers of veterinary medicines, livestock and veterinary practices.

The number of controls for control over the use and marketing of VMPs carried out in 2017 exceeds the minimum laid down in the NVS Inspection Program. This is due to additional checks for the execution of issued prescriptions, checks carried out in connection with alerts and complaints and on the basis of the risk assessment for each site on the basis of which further checks were planned as well as the NVS management's instructions.

The most frequent inconsistencies with the requirements of the Veterinary Law and the secondary legislation regarding the trade and use of VMPs are established during inspections of livestock and veterinary establishments. Discrepancies concern mainly: the lack of good practices in keeping and storing documentation and information about the medical-preventive measures carried out; information needed to track traceability between the available quantities of VMPs in the sites and those described in the documents.

Discrepancies found directly increase the risk of:

- Applying unlicensed VMPs to animals;
- Inability to fully trace the origin of the purchased / applied VMPs and identify the treated animals;
- Application of VMP by non-qualified persons to animals from which products intended for human consumption are obtained;
- Non-compliance with withdrawal periods after use of the VMP required;

- Use of an expired or postponed VMP.
- Storage of VMPs in violation of the manufacturer's prescriptions.

As a result of detected inconsistencies in the inspections carried out at the premises for marketing and use of VMP in 2017 321 prescriptions were issued and 28 acts for establishing an administrative violation

The audits carried out by the ODS exceed the minimum laid down in the Annual Plan for Official Control of VMP for 2017, due to additional inspections of complaints and signals received and data on marketing and use of VMPs in breach of the statutory requirements.

In 2017, the practice of communicating, if necessary, with representatives of the Association of Manufacturers and Traders with VMPs to discuss issues related to the trade and use of VMP, and considering options for amending the regulatory framework.

When performing controls to control the use of the VMP, the sequence set out in the approved instruction for performing checks on holdings to control the use of VMPs and medicated feeds is respected. At the end of each inspection, inspectors and experts present their findings and propose corrective actions to address the identified discrepancies.

The inspections carried out in connection with official controls on the trade, storage and use of VMPs in 2017 show a tendency to increase the number of unannounced inspections carried out at sites subject to control, with a larger number of inspections being carried out on livestock holdings and veterinary establishments.

There is a trend towards a serious increase in the quantities of antimicrobial products used in certain classes in livestock holdings. In this connection, action is taken on the risks with regard to the control of residues of antimicrobial VMPs in raw materials and food of animal origin, the risks of antimicrobial resistance increase due to unjustified use of such VMPs.

7.3.6.3. Border control

The border control carried out includes border veterinary control, border phytosanitary control and border health control.

Border veterinary control is carried out in compliance with the requirements of the European and national legislation concerning the import, export and transit of: products of animal origin; live animals and feed; products of animal origin intended for personal consumption by travellers under Regulation (EC) 206/2009; of domestic animals accompanying travellers from third countries under Regulation (EC) 576/2013.

Official control of commercial consignments of products of animal origin, feed and live animals is carried out in accordance with Commission Decision 2007/275 / EC. The control is carried out by border veterinary inspectors - official veterinarians (OVL) of 8 (eight) EC-approved border inspection posts: Port Varna-West; Port-Burgas; Kapitan Andreevo; Zlatarevo-road; Gyueshevo-shosse; Kalotina-road; Sofia Airport; Bregovo-road. Besides the approved LIP, control of the personal luggage of the passengers and the pets is carried out at the entry points: Malko Tarnovo, Lesovo, Logodaj, Stresimirovtsi, Varna Airport, Burgas Airport.

Phytosanitary border control / quarantine / import of plants, plant products and other objects for Bulgaria and EU Member States in accordance with European standards and Directives 2000/29, 98/22, etc. The official control is carried out at the border inspectorate phytosanitary stations (BIPS) approved by Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Border health control on imports of "high risk" food of non-animal origin, as required by European legislation, which takes place at certain points of import, first entry points and control points designated by the competent authority and notified to the EC. The designated border checkpoints for official controls on imports of non-animal origin are: Kapitan Andreevo, Port of Burgas, Port of Varna, Port of Varna - West, Sofia Airport.

Kapitan Andreevo has been aligned to carry out both veterinary, phytosanitary and health border controls.

Official border controls include the carrying out of documentary, identification and physical checks, including sampling and corrective action in case of non-compliance with the requirements of the legislation.

Official controls on imports of food of animal and non-animal origin, feed, live animals, plants and plant products, materials and articles in contact with food, GMOs and imports of organic food and products originating in third countries shall be carried

out in strict compliance with the requirements of EU regulations and directives, and in compliance with national applicable legislation in the field.

The results of the control work on imports of plants and plant products, food and feed of animal origin, live animals, food and feed of non-animal origin, organic products and food from third countries from monitoring of imports of fresh fruit and vegetables with third country origin and final destination Bulgaria are reflected in the report on the implementation of the Single Multiannual National Control Plan for food, feed, animal health, animal welfare and plant protection (EMNP) for 2016, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Art. 44 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

7.3.6.4. Feed control

In 2017, the strategic objectives set out in the United Nations Multi-Annual National Control Plan for Food, Feed, Animal Health, Welfare and Plant Protection (2015-2017) were met to achieve the strategic goal of "Effective functioning of the feed control system".

In order to achieve a high level of protection of human and animal health, protection of the environment and protection of consumers against misleading during the year, a regular, risk-oriented control of each of the stages of production, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, including feed with feed. The control covers both feed businesses and livestock establishments that produce feed or feed only animals with purchased feeds.

Feed control in 2017 follows the following priorities:

- Achieving a high level of protection of human health, animal health and the environment;
- Protect consumers from fraud, misconduct and illegal practices with feed;
- Effective functioning of the feed control system;
- Performing a regular and risk-oriented process control for feed business operators at every stage of the production, processing, storage and distribution of feed, including animal feed;
- Control of feed, content of unwanted and prohibited substances, as well as control over their compliance with the information provided to customers;

- Effective control of genetically modified feed, control of the placing on the market, traceability and labelling of feed containing or produced from GMOs;
- Control of compliance with the feed ban on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Registration and approval of establishments in the feed sector

In accordance with the requirements of the Feeds Act and in connection with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, the activities performed in the "Feed" sector are carried out at sites and by operators that are approved or registered by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

As of 31 December 2017, the total number of registered and approved sites in the territory of the State is 10,443, broken down by activity as follows:

Table V. 5. Number of registered and approved facilities in Feed Sector in compliance with the requirements of Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 (as of 31.12.2017)

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
I. Registered sites under art. 9 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005	3,587	
1. Manufacturers of supplements	4	
2. Manufacturers of premixtures of the supplements	2	
3. Manufacturers of compound feed	267	
4. Operators carrying out the activities cutting, packaging, repackaging and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	63	
5. Packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	8	
6. Grinding, packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	9	
7. Manufacturers of feed materials	407	
8. Feed dealers	2,244	
9. Operators transporting feeds	542	
10. Operators offering warehouses for rent	41	
II. Registered sites at the level of primary production of agricultural crops intended for feed under Art. 9 operating under Art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 [1]	6,703	
1. Registered sites of farmers producing primary feed at the location of the property	4,550	
2. Registered sites of farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	382	

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
3. Registered sites of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixes, using supplementary feed	1,741	
4. Registered sites of farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for their own farm	30	
III. Approved sites under art. 10, operating under art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) No183/2005		143
1. Manufacturers of feed supplements		6
2. Manufacturers of premixes, based on feed supplements		4
3. Manufacturers of compound feed		45
4. Dealers of feed supplements and premixes		82
5. Operators carrying out decontamination of feeds		1
6. Operators carrying out fat blending		2
7. Operator manufacturing products obtained from the production of biodiesel		1
8. Operators, processing raw vegetable oil, except for sites registered under the Food Act, production of fatty acids through the processing of vegetable oils and animal fats, biodiesel production and fat blending		2
IV. Approved sites of art. 55 of the Feed Act		10
1. Manufacturers of medicated feed		10
Total registered and approved objects in which activities under Art. 9 and Art. 10, Art. of Regulation (EC) 183/2005	10,443	

Source: BFSA

¹ Information is provided by the Direct Payments and Identification of Agricultural Plots Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Pursuant to Article 3 para. 2 and according to Article 8, para. 4 of the Decree 3 on the establishment and maintenance of a register of farmers, those who operate under Art. 5, para. 1 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (primary level of feed production), 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 primary level of feed production under Art.5, para. 1 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 is published on the website of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency maintains 7 national Registers of approved and registered sites/ operators in the feed sector for the activities defined in Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 These are public and are available to users on the BFSA website.

According to signed bilateral agreements between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Bulgaria, the Feed Control Department also maintains 2 lists:

- List of the establishments approved for export of maize to PRC;
- List of the establishments approved for export of lucerne to PRC.

Feed operators are registered and/or approved for all sites under their control for each activity they carry out. Registration and approval of the site in Feed Sector is a dynamic process.

Table V.6. Number of registered and approved sites in Feed Sector in 2016 and 2017

Activity declared by the operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2016	Number of sites as of 31.12.2017	Variation in %
Producers of raw materials for feed, other than primary feed production	416	407	-2.7
Registered feed dealers	2,080	2,244	7.9
Registered manufacturers of additives, premixes and combine feeds	272	273	0.4
Approved manufacturers of additives, premixes and combine feeds	59	55	-6.8
Approved operators of fat blending activities	2	2	0.00
Approved dealers	85	82	-3.5
Approved manufacturers and/or dealers of medicated feed	10	10	0.00
Operators on primary level of feed production (farmers)	5,917	6,703	13.3
Other operators, including establishments transporting feed and operators lending warehouses	613	667	8.8
Total	9,454	10,443	10.5

Source: BFSA

Combined and medicated feeds production

In 2017, pursuant to Art. 14b of the Feed Act, a total of 1,152,130.57 tonnes of compound feed was produced according to data provided by manufacturers of compound feed, which is 37,861.4 tonnes or 3.2% less than the previous year. Data analysis is incomplete because two regional food safety directorates have not provided information on the quantities of compound feed produced in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Medicated feed production

Throughout 2017, in the country, 35,291.8 tonnes of medicated feeds were produced for pigs only. Compared to 2016, an increase in production was reported by 4,320.8 tonnes or by 13.6%. The share of the production of medicated feeds for the needs of their own farms is 57.9% of the total quantity produced in 2017 and that of the produced for the market - 42.1%.

Table V.7. Medicated feed production in 2017 by districts				
Regional area	Medicated feeds for pigs/tons			
	For the market	For own farms	Intermediate products for own farms/tons	Total
Varna	9,690.30	10,179	0	19,869.30
Razgrad	0	2,183	0	2,183
Ruse	255	6,732	0	6,987
Stara Zagora	0	365.5	0	365.5
Shumen	4,304	977	221	5,502
Yambol	385	0	0	385
Total	14,634.30	20,436.50	221	35,291.80

Source: BFSA

In 2017, the operational objectives set out in the 2017 Framework Control Plan for Fodder to meet the strategic objective „Effective Functioning of the Feed Control System“ were implemented.

In 2017, feed control followed the main specific (operational) objectives related to the strategic objectives set out in the SMNCP (single multi-annual national control plan) of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015-2017, namely:

- to ensure that the feed complies with the safety requirements;
- verifying compliance with the requirements of the legislation on the placing on the market and use of feed (labelling).

In accordance with Art. 17 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and recital (6) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, feed operators are responsible for the safety of the feed produced, animal health and risk prevention for the environment.

Official feed control is planned and ongoing. Ongoing control includes follow-up checks, upon suspicion and investigation (alerts, RASFF notifications, etc.).

Planning control is based on risk assessment criteria, which are the same throughout the country. In 2017, „Frame plan on feed control for 2017“ was implemented and guidelines for its implementation were applied. It covered the control of feed at all levels, including feed on farms.

Results from the control activity for 2017

Framework plan on feed control included three control systems: „Fodder and feeding of animals“, „Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products“, and „Veterinary and Medical Products and Residues of Veterinary and Medical Products“. The inspections planned throughout the year and the samples of feed for analysis were evenly distributed over the period and covered all groups of operators.

- Results of the control activity under the control system „Fodder and feeding of animals“

The overall progress in achieving the strategic and specific objectives of the feed and feed control system is assessed as positive. The controls set in the Control Plan 2017, as at 31 December 2017, were met at 101.3% (plan 100.0%). Compared to 2016, in 2017 the number of planned checks increased by 3.1% to 4,248. The greater number of planned checks carried out in the reporting period was based on the risk assessment of the feed sector operators.

By 31.12.2017, a total of 4,896 checks were recorded, documented with a statement of findings.

In the inspections carried out, 1,346 discrepancies were established with the requirements of the legislation applicable in the sector. For the inconsistencies found, prescriptions are given, with specific deadlines for their removal. The classification of the non-conformities is based on the applicable requirements of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, the fulfilment of the requirements of Art. (EC) No 183/2005 laying down procedures based on the principles of HACCP, the applicable labelling requirements and the general traceability requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005, 2003 on feed supplements, Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on the marketing of compound feeding stuffs, feed and sub-legislation.

Concerning the feed checked, there are no serious non-conformities which could result in animal or public health hazards. The largest number is the number of inconsistencies found in holdings feeding the farmed animals with purchased feed or mixed feed only for own needs without the use of additives and premixes except for silage - 904 or 30.7% of all detected inconsistencies.

The discrepancies found and the type of operators in which they were established were taken into account in the risk assessment when planning the 2018 framework control plan.

The most frequent reasons for the inconsistencies found are: unreported responsibility of operators in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002; insufficient knowledge of the requirements of the legislation; insufficient financial resources on the part of feed business operators for investments in new equipment which has an impact on compliance with hygiene requirements.

In 2017, were taken samples from feed facilities for analysis by indicators declared by the manufacturer for compliance as well as compliance with the safety levels set in the legislation.

The total number of analyses of samples taken for official control in 2017 was 3,976, of which 848 were dietary intakes (6 non-compliant results were obtained - 0.7%, which is a reduction of 20 compared to the number of inconsistent analyses in 2016, 326 feed supplements with a fixed maximum content, including authorised coccidiostats (inconsistencies were found in 28 analyses - 8.6%, which was a decrease of 15.2% compared to 2016), 2,512 of undesirable substances, including mycotoxin content analyses (4 non-conforming results and - 0.2%, a decrease of 14.8% compared to inconsistent results in 2016), 53 analyses of prohibited drug substances as feed supplements and for inevitable transfer to non-target feeds (2 non-conforming results representing 3.8% of the total number of analyses performed, which is a decrease in the number of discrepancies by 22.2% compared to 2016), 195 for microbiological contamination - presence of salmonella (three non-compliant analyses were found - 1.5% of the samples analysed, with non-compliant analyses increased by 1 in comparison with 2016).

42 feed samples for GMO were also taken. The analyses of the samples of feed samples for the presence of GMOs in 2017 did not reveal the presence of genetically modified feeds and inconsistencies with the provisions of the legislation.

In total, 317 feed samples were analysed for mycotoxin content in 2017, including 208 samples under the Framework Plan and 109 samples of feed for export to third countries.

A total of 58 feed samples were taken in 2017 for the content of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls. The analyses performed for all samples were found to be in compliance with the legislation. However, even if the maximum levels laid down in Directive 2002/32/EC are not exceeded, dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls were detected in samples analysed.

- **Feed control under the control system „Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products“**

The enforcement of the total feed ban (Article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) and the intra-species feed ban (Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009) on the feed ban treatment of processed animal proteins.

During the documentary and physical checks carried out in 2017 no breaches of the requirements of Art. 7 and Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 on feed ban.

Feed samples taken in 2017 for the presence of constituents of animal origin in the implementation of the fodder control plan were 317 and 5 samples were taken in the investigations carried out during the reporting period in relation to suspected scrapie.

Animal proteins are at risk with regard to contamination by micro-organisms (salmonella and other bacteria of the Enterobacteriaceae), so feed samples are taken for the presence of microbiological contamination. In 2017, under the approved framework plan, 36 samples of feed for Salmonella were collected, and 22 for enterobacteriaceae. Two positive samples for presence of enterobacteria in feed were found in the laboratory control. Both samples were analysed in the framework of the fodder control plan. They are taken from a complete compound feed for pigs produced by one producer of compound feed produced for the needs of their own livestock holding. In connection with the identified non-compliance, a study has been carried out at the producer and on the two holdings to which the contaminated feed was delivered.

- **Feed control under the control system „Veterinary medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products“**

As of 31.12.2017, 10 establishments for production of medicated feed and / or intermediates under Art. 55 c, para. 1 of the Feed Act.

In 2017, a total of 15 inspections were carried out on approved operators carrying out the activity „Production of medicated feedingstuffs“, of which 11 planned inspections, 3 follow-up inspections and 1 investigative check. In connection with the established inconsistencies, prescriptions were given. The ex-post controls have shown that non-compliances with the requirements laid down in the feed legislation have been removed.

7.3.6.5. Verification of the effectiveness of official feed control

The analysis carried out shows that the cases where non-compliance of the feed with the requirements of the applicable legislation has been established have been reduced. This is proof of the effectiveness of official feed control over the years.

In 2017, 26 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up. During this reporting period, there were also no punitive decrees on the established SAO. This violates the mandatory term in the Administrative Penalties and Violations Act. The most frequent breaches by operators in the Feed sector for which AWAS is compiled are non-compliance with the requirements of Art. 15 and Art. 48, para. 1 of the Feed Act.

According to the requirements of Art. 6 and Art. 7 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and in conjunction with Art. 26, para. (2) of the Feed Act, feed business operators carrying out activities other than at the primary production of feed (referred to in Article 5 (1)) are obliged to have procedures based on the HACCP principles developed, implemented and applied.

In 2017, 237 audits of feed business operators and 42 ex-post inspections were carried out to implement audit recommendations. It can be concluded that the operators have developed, implemented and implemented procedures based on the HACCP principles, fulfilling the requirements of Art. 6 and Art. (7) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005. It has been established with some operators that procedures based on the HACCP principles are not up to date at the time of the audit. For all identified inconsistencies, recommendations have been given on which operators have taken corrective action. They are checked for their execution and closed down.

7.4. Risk analysis of the food chain

The Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre (FCRAC) is a competent authority within the meaning of Art. 22 (7) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and

requirements of food law.

FCRAC is a scientific structure for risk assessment in the field of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare, plant health and plant health, observing the principles of transparency, accessibility, objectivity and impartiality as an independent, responsive and trusted partner competent authorities - MAFF, BFSA, etc., and actively contribute to a high level of consumer protection.

The main objective of the FCRAC is to carry out independent scientific assessment of animal and plant health and food safety by directly awarding the EFSA, BFSA or other public bodies, natural and legal persons, contributing to the high level consumer protection.

The EFSA National Contact Point (EFSA) is the focal point of EFSA, which liaises between EFSA, FCRAC and the national scientific risk assessment bodies of the Member States.

By crossing the assessment of the PPP to the FCRAC, the requirement of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 to "carry out an independent, objective and transparent assessment" was met by separating the evaluation of plant protection products from their control.

The main activity of the Centre is to draw up scientific opinions (at the request of MAF, BSA, IB and other organisations), with 33 scientific opinions being prepared in 2017.

With regard to animal health and food safety, the following opinions were drafted: a preliminary assessment of the risk of African swine fever virus (ASF) penetration in Bulgaria in connection with the detection of the first cases of the disease in the Czech Republic; an interim assessment of the risk of penetration of the ASF virus in Bulgaria in connection with the detection of the first cases of the disease in the Czech Republic and Romania; for risk assessment by analysing information related to the cultivation of American mink for valuable fur in livestock sites on the territory of Bulgaria; an assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Newcastle Disease Surveillance Programs for 2015-2017; for the necessary additional measures, beyond the BFSA, for the prevention and control of avian influenza; for the necessary additional measures, beyond the BFSA, to prevent and control the anthrax; as well as an analysis of the results obtained from the testing of the official samples of raw cows' milk from dairy farms with 50 or more dairy cows taken in accordance with Bulgaria's Action Plan for Strengthening the Quality Test Scheme for Cow's Milk for

the Period 2016-2017; the safety of ethoxyquin - an antioxidant for use in feed for all animal species; for hygienic assessment of products (egg and egg powder) containing the substance fipronil; a mathematical model for quantification of the risk of migration of pollutants from feed in food; opinion on the allegations made in the media about the presence of oleamide in lutenitsa, Bulgarian production; Summary of EFSA Scientific Opinion on Product Safety 1-Methylnicotinamide Chloride (1-MNA) as a novel food in the context of Regulation (EC) No 258/97, SCVO opinion on the analysis of scientific information regarding the safety of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and its specific strain nV Ep 317/402 „Narini“ used in milk-based foods, risk assessment and possibilities for reduction of *Cryphonectria parasitica* within the EU and others.

The following have also been performed:

- Risk assessment and possibilities for reducing the pest of *Ceratocystis platani* pest within the EU;
- Evaluation of genetically modified maize 1507x59122xMON810xNK603 and sub-combinations for use as food and feed under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-92 application);
- Risk assessment for the Bt11x1507xGA21 sub-combination as part of the evaluation of genetically modified maize Bt11 x 59122 x MIR604 x 1507 x GA21;
- Risk assessment and opinion on the presence of many pesticides above the maximum permitted levels - 6 records, 13 assessments made;
- Assessing the risk and drawing up an opinion on the presence of the dimethicate pesticide above the maximum admissible levels in lettuce;
- Risk assessment and opinion on the availability of pesticide biphenyl above the maximum limits for lemons;
- Risk assessment and opinion on the presence of elevated levels of benzalkonium chloride in powdered cocoa;
- Drawing up an opinion on the problems encountered in the beekeeping sector and proposals for legislative changes - at the request of the MAFF;
- Drawing up an opinion from the FCRAC on the existence of a tolerance for imports of third-country products in respect of pesticide residues;
- Consumer risk assessment and opinion on the presence of the fluazifop P pesticide in cauliflower;
- Draft instructions for carrying out autumn crop surveys and issuing verifiable / plain records for areas affected by adverse climatic events;
- Drawing up an opinion, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, regarding the position of the company Syngenta regarding the ban on the pesticide thiamethoxam;

- Risk assessment and opinion on "Phytosanitary and economic condition of the plant breeding sector in the Republic of Bulgaria, discontinuation of use of neonicotinoids and identification of alternative pathways for plant health protection", at the request of the MAFF - started in December, 2017 ;
- Risk assessment for the *Radopholus similis* pest for the territory of the European Union;
- Categorisation of the fungal pathogen *Botryosphaeria kuwatsukai* for the territory of the European Union;
- Categorisation of the harmful organism *Oligonychus perditus* for the territory of the European Union;
- Categorisation of the fungal pathogen *Puccinia pittieriana*, which causes ordinary potato rust in the European Union;
- Reconsidering the risk assessment of the potential of the glyphosate pesticide as an endocrine disrupter.

In addition to the opinions, 60 scientific information has been prepared in all areas of food safety, animal and plant health (animal health and welfare, antimicrobial resistance, biological hazards, contaminants in food and feed, nutrition, allergens, dietary foods, zoonoses, plant health, pesticides, fertilisers and soil improvers, chemical contaminants and food contact materials, GMOs).

A monthly analysis of RASFF notifications, the ECN Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS), the EUROPHYT system of the EC, information generated by the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC), the International Convention on Disease Control and Prevention plant protection (IPPC) and the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FAO) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the WAHIS of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Monitoring of information on emerging and health risks to consumers related to food safety, such as food contaminants, food additives, GMOs, novel foods, health claims, enzymes, veterinary medicinal products, plant preparations protection, antimicrobial resistance, endocrine disruptors, and the like.

Continuous monitoring was carried out in 2017 on emerging and emerging consumer health risks related to food safety, animal health and public health. In this regard, rapid risk assessments, scientific information and scientific opinions have been drawn up in relation to certain animal diseases such as Visceropathogenic Avian Influenza, Anthrax, etc .; food toxic infections caused by *Salmonella enteritidis* etc.;

establishment of fipronil in eggs; economic impact and possible alternatives following the ban on the use of neonicotinoids in the EU and others.

An analysis of data on zoonoses and zoonotic agents for 2016 was carried out on the basis of the EFSA and ECDC annual report for 2016.

Data on zoonoses and zoonotic agents in Bulgaria in 2017 for the DCF platform of EFSA is summarised and reported.

Evaluation of plant protection products

Pursuant to the FCRAC Act, the Centre is the competent authority in Bulgaria within the meaning of Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, as part of a network of organisations operating in areas falling under the competence of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the competent authority under Art. 75 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and the procedures for the approval, renewal and review of the approval of active substances, safener and synergists.

In 2017, 108 dossiers were evaluated and submitted to the BSAW, contracts with external evaluators were concluded for 5 evaluation areas. All completed files are archived.

Risk communication

Effective communication and dialogue is organised through stakeholder meetings on a food safety issue based on the principles of transparency and mutual co-operation, in order to increase confidence in the FCRAC.

In 2017, meetings and discussions with stakeholder organisations on priority issues were organised as follows: „Bee Health, Policies and Business Aspects“, „Current Issues Related to High Pathogenic Influenza in Birds H5N8“, „Side Effects of Vaccination against Infectious Nodular Dermatitis in Cattle (LSD) in Bulgaria“ and request to draw up a scientific opinion on the topic of WBC, discussion of the epizootic situation of African swine fever and preventive measures for the risk of its penetration into the territory of Bulgaria, the crucial „round table“ on issues related to the cultivation of American mink for fur in holdings on the territory of Bulgaria, organised by FCRAC and others.

The FCRAC prepares and brings to the attention of consumers, manufacturers and other stakeholders brief, accurate and timely information on possible risks associated with the food chain and identifies the attitudes of these groups in the perceived risks.

In 2017, scientific information produced by Centre staff on priority themes was sent electronically to interested parties (scientific organisations, government administrations, associations, etc.) each week.

Dissemination of scientific information from the EFSA to the national scientific organisations involved in the FCRAC network as well as to all stakeholders;

EFSA's Bulgarian Contact Centre to the FCRAC performs day-to-day communication electronically with the national scientific organisations involved in the FCRAC network as well as other stakeholders (organisations involved with official controls, state and private organisations, associations, etc.) to disseminate scientific information and promotion of EFSA's activities and initiatives.

The FCRAC sends electronically information to existing regulators and other stakeholders (organisations involved in official controls, public and private organisations, associations, etc.) on existing or emerging risks through the dissemination of scientific information, assessments and opinions. EFSA's Bulgarian Contact Centre to the FCRAC performs day-to-day electronic communication as well as on-site visits to the national scientific organisations involved in the FCRAC network to disseminate scientific information and to popularise EFSA's activities and initiatives.

Conduct continuous communication with the representative of Bulgaria in the EFSA Consultative Council and with the representative of Bulgaria in the Consultative Council's Working Group on Communication (since 2017 functioning as a new scientific network called the Expert Network on Communication).

The Bulgarian Contact Point of EFSA coordinates the exchange of information by electronic means, official correspondence and organising and holding stakeholder meetings to discuss topical issues and issues. The FCRAC periodically updates the network of scientific organisations and experts working in the field of activity of the FCRAC.

7.5. Legislative changes in the field of food safety

Regarding food safety

- A Draft of a new Food Act approved by Decision No 543 of 26 September 2017 was prepared by the Council of Ministers;
- A Draft of the Food Chain Management Act was prepared;
- A Draft supplement to Ordinance No. 1 on food hygiene has been prepared, the Ordinance has been promulgated in SG. issue 51 of June 19, 2018;
- A Draft amendment to the Ordinance on Specific Requirements for Dairy Products has been prepared.

Regarding animal health and plant health have been developed as follows:

- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 52 of 28 April 2006 on the health requirements for ovine and caprine animals when moving or transporting them between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Member States of the European Union for determining the health status of the establishments from which they originate , and the additional guarantees for the health status of these facilities (Official Gazette, No. 52 of 27 June 2006), the Ordinance was promulgated in State Gazette No.59 of 21.07.2017;

- Ordinance No 3 of 31 July 2017 on the conditions and procedure for the production, placing on the market, trade, repackaging, transportation and storage of plant protection products, notified under the provisions of Directive (EC) 2015/1535 and promulgated in SG. 64 of 2017

In 2017, in relation to the complicated epizootic situation and the outbreak of contagious animal diseases (Newcastle disease in birds and anthrax), there are analyses of surveillance programs and the need for additional measures to ensure a high level of animal health and reduction of economic losses to business.

In connection with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2017, intensive preparations were made for working groups at the Council of the EU: Working Groups of the Committees of the Codex Alimentarius (WG F.23); WG F.17 (b) Animal Feeding (draft of the Medicines Feed Regulation); WG F.21 (b) Animal Health (draft Veterinary Regulation); and WG F.21 f), Potsdam Group.

Activities in 2018

The Policies on Agriculture Chain directorate prepares the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Unified Multi-Annual National Control Plan for Food, Feed, Ani-

mal Health, Welfare and Plant Protection for 2017 (complying with the requirements of Commission Decision 2008/654 / EU) as well as a summary/resume of the report, following a certain control system structure.

The priority in the first half of 2018 are the activities, initiatives and working groups of the Council of the EU, which are held within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU. It has been actively involved in organising, preparing and holding technical meetings, 3 working groups and two sessions of Codex Alimentarius Committees. Uniform EU positions have been reached, which have been successfully protected by other Codex Aliennaparus members during their sessions. Four meetings of the Potsdam WG have been held, with significant progress being made on strategic documents relating to negotiations with third countries on trade in animals and products and animal origin.

Significant success has been achieved with the draft Veterinary Medicines Regulation and the Draft Medicines Feed Regulation, during which the Bulgarian Presidency successfully negotiated with the European Parliament and reached compromise texts with the European Commission and the Council, unanimously agreeing on both dossiers.

During the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU, a dossier with interinstitutional number 2017/0329 (COD) and the Official Journal of the European Union, no. L 103 of 23.04.2018 published European Parliament and Council Directive (EC) 2018/597 of 18 April 2018 amending Council Directive 92/66/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease , which brought Council Directive 92/66 / EEC into line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and the provisions on official controls. Since the Member States should ensure the timely transposition of the provisions of Directive 2018/597 by 30 June 2018, a draft Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 31 of 2005 on the measures for the prevention, eradication and eradication of Newcastle disease (pseudoculture) in poultry and the conditions and procedure for their application (SG 12/2006), including amendments to two other ordinances concerning changes in the reference laboratories of the European Union, due to the United Kingdom so the EU and the need to establish laboratories in the territory of any of the other 27 Member States. The draft Ordinance is at the public consultation stage for a period of 30 days under the Laws on the Normative Acts and is available on the MAFF website and on the Public Consultation Portal to the Council of Ministers.

At the beginning of 2018, the Act on Amendments to the Law on Veterinary Activities was adopted. The amendments are aimed at updating the legal framework for

regulation of agricultural activities. By amending Art. 133 of the Law on Veterinary Activities, the municipal councils will be able to issue regulations on the rules in which they raise animals in the respective municipality. The law was promulgated in State Gazette issue 17 of 23.02.2018.

8. Selection and reproduction in livestock

8.1. Management of national genetic resources

The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding (EASRAB) assists the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in conducting the state policy in the field of breeding and management and conservation of genetic resources. The Agency monitors the state of national genetic resources as well as the coordination of the activities related to their management.

EASRAB participates in the management of the national genetic resources in animal husbandry through management, organisation and participation in the activities of the National Council for Management and Preservation of Genetic Resources. In 2017, 18 council meetings were held on the sections on livestock breeding, where the problems of the respective sector were discussed and a number of suggestions were made to improve breeding activities.

The Agency annually monitors the breeds in connection with maintaining and periodically updating the Register of Breeding Herds from the National Genetic Fund under Article 18, 6 of the Animal Breeding Act. The Genetic Resources Council periodically discusses their state and takes adequate measures to prevent the disappearance of national breeds.

EASRAB experts determine the line affiliation according to the elaborated detailed characteristics of the breeding livestock species cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat. In 2017, was established the lineage of: 158 cattle in 4 farms; 527 goats on two farms and 829 sheep on 22 farms.

In 2017, the Agency has defined the herds' breeding status, the risky status of the breeds and the trend of change. During the year, the breeding organisations in the country and EASRAB controlled 27 autochthonous breeds, which are also subject to support under Measure 214 "Agri-environment payments" from the RDP for the period 2007 - 2013 and measure 10 "Agroecology and Climate" of the RDP for the period 2014-2020.

Between 2009 and 2017 there were breeds with a reduced status of threatening but no breed is extinct. As close to extinction, only the Pleven horse breed can be qualified. The status of the Stara Zagora sheep, the White Marish sheep, the Koprivshtitsa sheep, the local Karnobat sheep and the Breznitsa sheep is also disturbing, and of the commercial breeds – the Karnobat and Thracian Fine-Fleece sheep, the Danube Horse and the Danube White pig. In 2017, the Bulgarian Brown Cattle and the Bulgarian Red Cattle were restored.

EASRAB maintains an information database on the state of the genetic resources based on the EFABIS model of the European Regional Focal Point. The national system is linked to EFABIS, and the latter to the FAO's DAD-IS information system. This integration enables the transfer of data from the national to the European and world information systems, and the information is updated in 2017.

In 2017, an update of the input in the Livestock Breeding Information System was carried out jointly with the breeding organisations and by the end of the year 115,834 animals from 34 breeds were registered. By unifying the information collected for individual breeds, the system provides effective electronic access to data necessary for the management of genetic resources in livestock breeding for all participants in this process and provides new opportunities for information services.

EASRAB manages and maintains a National Genetic Bank with two repositories (Sofia and Sliven), where cryopreserved semen of different species and breeds of animals is stored.

To the end of 2017, in the National Genebank were stored a total of 1,933,506 doses of frozen semen from 292 sires of 20 cattle breeds, 3 buffalo breeds, one breed of sheep and one breed of horses.

The Agency also maintains the National Genetic Reserve, as an integrated part of the National Genebank. The Reserve guarantees the national sovereignty of the country in terms of genetic resources, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity, as well as limiting its loss.

As of 31.12.2017, in the National Genetic Reserve of the country were stored 377,818 doses of frozen semen from a total of 486 sires, including: 403 bovine bulls, 28 buffalo bulls, 48 rams and 7 stallions. The material is from 26 breeds of cattle (14 dairy and 12 beef), 4 breeds of bulls (Murrah, Bulgarian Murrah, Jaffarabadi and Nili-Rravi), 16 breeds of sheep (Karakachan Sheep, Copper-Red Shumen, Karnobat Sheep, Replanska Sheep, Mid-Balkan Sheep, Dabenska Sheep, Sakarska Sheep, So-

fia Sheep, West-Balkan Sheep, Breznik Sheep, and crossbreeds with Awassi, Australian and New Zeland Merino, Booroola, Perendale and Corriedale) and 7 horse breeds (Purebred Arabian, Anglo-Arabian, Plevan, Bulgarian Heavy Draught, East Bulgarian Horse, Gidran, and Thoroughbred). In addition, the horses are also used for the breeding of horses.

This diversity provides farmers and livestock breeders with genetic material that can improve their breeds and adapt them to the consequences of climate change.

In 2017, the National Genetic Reserve was enriched with 3,397 new doses of four bovine bulls of Holstein, Bulgarian Red and Brown cattle, and from three new stallions of the East Bulgarian horse, Gidran and Thoroughbred breeds.

In order to ensure higher biosecurity, the frozen semen from the National Genetic Reserve is stored in two cryo-storage facilities - Sofia and Sliven.

At the end of 2017, 2,311,324 doses of cryopreserved semen were stored in the National Genbank and the National Genetic Reserve, including 2,213,151 doses of 28 cattle breeds, 70,041 doses of four buffalo breeds, 24,416 doses of sixteen sheep breeds and 3,716 doses of seven horse breeds.

EASRAB manages and maintains the two State Centres for Artificial Insemination (SCAI) in Sofia and Sliven, supervising the breeding process and the preservation of the genetic resources in the country. The State Centres produce and store in perspective genetic material of precious highly productive breeds and of endangered and extinct local indigenous breeds of animals.

In 2017, in the State Centres are kept two breeding bulls from the breeds of Bulgarian Rhodopean cattle, Simmental, Charolais, Bulgarian Red cattle, Rhodopean Shorthorn cattle, Holstein Friesian, Red Holstein, Bulgarian Brown and buffalo bulls of the Bulgarian Murrah breed.

Within 2017, a total of 27,350 straws of frozen semen of cattle and buffalo bulls were produced in the two Centres, which is 13,100 doses less than in the previous year.

At SCAI Sliven is maintained a Boar Centre for the production of fresh semen for artificial insemination of pigs, and by 31.12.2017 in the Centre there are 3 boars of the Danube White breed and one crossbred between Large White and Landrace.

Implementing the Conservation Program for ex situ management of genetic resources in Bulgaria, in 2017, EASRAB has undertaken activities to stabilise the Danube White sow, which has a status of endangered breed. During the year, 1,039 doses of fresh semen were produced from the active boars and 586 sows were inseminated, which is by 134 fewer on an annual basis.

A Stallion Centre is maintained at SCAI-Sofia, and at the end of 2017 there were 19 horses – five stallions of the breeds: Purebred Arabian, Gidran, Bulgarian Heavy Draught and Plevan East eight mares of Plevan horse, Gidran and Trakehner BG and six foals from Plevan and Trakehner BG breeds.

EASRAB supports the activities of breeding organisations in the implementation of their breeding programs, ensuring proper assessment of selection traits and evaluation of breeding value via: providing the opportunity to study the qualitative parameters of the controlled traits in its laboratories; raising of male animals and production and storage of semen; paternity/maternity testing of breeding animals in its laboratory.

For this purpose, the Agency manages and maintains a Laboratory for Milk Productivity Control and a Laboratory for Wool Productivity Control.

In 2017, in Sliven, after introducing advanced equipment, a total of 16,682 samples of cow milk were analysed in the laboratory for determination of the physico-chemical properties (6,818 samples in 2016).

The Laboratory for Testing Own Production of Rams (Shumen), serving the selection in the fine-fleece sheep breeding, makes it possible to determine the values of some selection traits and the quality of wool in terms of physico-mechanical properties, pure yield and quantity of pure fibre. In 2017, it examined 1,329 samples of wool, by 405 samples more than the previous year.

EASRAB provides breeding organisations with various options for joint activities, co-operation and partnership on production of male breeding animals, production and cryopreservation of semen from them. Cattle breeding organisations are still underestimating the activities of bull production and testing of young bulls, hence in 2017 no calves were provided for raising in the EASRAB bases. Only the National Beef Association in Bulgaria and the Montbeliarde and Simmental Breeding Association have provided in 2017 three Angus bulls and one Simmental under a contract for joint reproductive activity.

In 2016, the National Genetic Laboratory was founded, serving as a credible, scientifically grounded estimation of lineage of animals at a contemporary level recognised by the international community and affording reference DNA analyses to be performed. This opens opportunities for discovering new interrelationships needed to develop breeding strategies and programs for storing national genetic resources in animal husbandry. In 2017, 2,591 samples of isolated DNA were processed in the National Genetics Laboratory, 2,770 samples were electrophoresed and a concentration of 3,000 samples was measured. During the year, PCR analysis (polymerase chain reaction) was performed on 670 samples.

Through EASRAB, Bulgaria is a full member of ICAR and as such is afforded access to important technical information, possibility to use existing contacts with other international organisations, use expert assistance in accreditation of laboratories and many others. The putting into operation of modern equipment in the milk laboratory and in the national genetic laboratory, Bulgaria guarantees the implementation of world-recognised methods and standards in the field of livestock breeding. This creates opportunities for access to international markets for breeding animals produced by Bulgarian farmers.

The application of semen from sires from the national gene pool is carried out by 9 licensed semen storage centres, in six of them an organisation has been set up for the operation of 25 mobile lines, where the semen is delivered in close proximity to the farms and direct contact of experts from EASRAB with farmers and inseminators on the spot, giving the opportunity to discuss problems and help in choosing breeds and bulls in the preparation of mating schemes.

A total of 42,137 semen doses were applied in 2017, which is by 2,162 doses less than in the previous year. Out of these, 39.5% are from Bulgarian breeds of cattle and buffaloes. The demand for semen from Bulgarian Rhodopean cattle is growing steadily, which takes second place after the Bulgarian Black-and-White cattle.

In recent years, there has been a strong interest in preserving the genetic diversity of animals used for agricultural purposes. With the approval of the FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Livestock, EASRAB has taken concrete steps for effective management and long-term conservation of genetic diversity in animal husbandry. For this purpose, a ten-year Conservation Program for ex-situ management of genetic resources in Bulgaria has been developed. It provides

for breeding from commercial and indigenous breeds of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and horses, from which genetic material is preserved, to the State Centres for Artificial Insemination. With the implementation of the cryopreservation program, the National Genetic Reserve and the National Genbank will be enriched with potentially useful genes from 11 cattle breeds, 1 buffalo breed, 26 breeds of sheep, 4 breeds of goats and 13 horse breeds.

Under the program, over the last 4 years, EASRAB has undertaken activities to restore the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed. In this connection, 13 typical animals were found, corresponding to the breed's description, and high-class bull semen was provided. As of 31.12.2017, the Bulgarian Red animals are 16, and in the two controlled herds there is a sufficient number of young animals for reproduction. The main aim of the breeding work with the Bulgarian Red is conservation and gene pool preservation by strengthening the biological qualities, ensuring the type and conformation, productivity and surviving ability of the breed.

In the implementation of the programs for rescue from extinction and restoration of the Danube Horse, Pleven Horse and Bulgarian Heavy Draught, in force are the agreements of EASRAB with the Association for Recovery and Development of the Pleven Horse and Gidran and the Association of the Horse Breeders in Bulgaria. The aim is to obtain and trade semen from stallions of the breeds: Danube, Pleven and Bulgarian Heavy Draught; implementing embryo transfer, as well as natural mating of mares of the Danube and Pleven breed.

In order to prevent the extinction of the Danube and Pleven horse breeds, a team was set up to develop, test and implement technology for obtaining, qualifying, processing and cryopreservation of semen from stallions. Following the successful freezing of semen from stallions, the NGR was filled with semen from stallions. As of 31.12.2017, 3,716 doses of the equine species were stored in the NGB and NGR.

In 2017, EASRAB initiated the First Autumn Review of buffalo bulls in SCAI-Sliven in order to assess the body condition of elite sires from the Bulgarian Murrah breed, characterised by a unique genetic potential for high milk yield, excellent adaptability, good health status and unpretentiousness towards feed.

As a result of the monitoring of the livestock in the country, in 2017 the Fifth edition of the Catalogue of the breeds of farm animals in the Republic of Bulgaria was

prepared, presenting 117 cultural, local autochthonous and primitive breeds of 11 animal species.

During the year, numerous meetings were held and counselling and professional advising services were provided to breeding organisations, non-governmental organisations and farmers on breeding, housing technologies, feeding and reproduction of breeding animals.

The advisory activity of EASRAB is aimed at promoting the advantages of breeding local indigenous breeds, stimulating the effective use of the national genetic resources, and the successful implementation of agri-environmental commitments to protect the environment, preserve and preserve the biodiversity of species and breeds of farm animals and cultivation the process of self-regulation and the introduction of good agricultural practices.

In 2017, EASRAB continues to represent Bulgaria in international bodies and organisations related to the management and conservation of European and world genetic resources in animal husbandry and to participate in working groups, meetings and various projects.

8.2. Control and coordination of breeding activity

In 2017, EASRAB has performed planned checks on the activity of 42 breeding organisations, as well as 3 unplanned inspections of alerts. Apiaries were visited in the village of Baylovo, Sofia-District, according to Ordinance 47 of 11 November 2003 on the production and marketing of elite and breeding bees and swarms and the order of register keeping. Physical examinations were also carried out on East Balkan pig farms as part of prophylactic and preventive measures to avoid destruction of the breed in the event of African swine fever.

During the year a spring and autumn examination of the horse herd of the Kabiyuk State Enterprise was held.

EASRAB carried out checks on the compliance with the breeding program by beneficiaries subsidised under the heading "Conservation of endangered local breeds" of measure 214 "Agri-environment payments" and measure 10 Agroecology and climate from the RDP, based on the results of which were carried out payments.

In 2017, the Agency carried out inspections of the organised 27 exhibitions by breeding organisations.

Due to the lack of approved breeding organisations for certain breeds, in 2017 EASRAB carried out selection activity in breeding of 542 cattle of the following breeds: Galloway - 343 animals, Charolais - 65 animals, Aubrac - 59 animals, Jersey - 33 animals, Bulgarian Brown cattle - 31 animals and Bulgarian Red - 11 animals.

Breeding activities in sheep breeds for which there are no breeding organisations in the country cover 5,597 sheep, distributed by breeds as follows: Kotel Sheep – 2,673 animals, Karnobat – 1,274 animals, Awassi - 999 animals, Chios - 445 animals, Romanowski - 206 animals.

Selection activities in goat-breeding with breeds for which there are no breeding organisations in the country are carried out with 1,216 goats from Alpine Goat – 1,128 animals and Boer - 88 animals.

EASRAB has concluded contracts for breeding activities with farmers raising animals from the breeds listed above, by performing a herd survey and updating the current status of the controlled animals.

With this activity of EASRAB, farmers breeding the mentioned breeds for which no breeding organisations have been established are allowed to apply for coupled support for animals under selection control.

In connection with the implementation of coupled support schemes in the Livestock sector for animals under selection control, inspections were carried out to identify the animals under selection control as well as to input the approved animals in the VetIS system of EASRAB. As of 31.03.2018, the VetIS system reported: 122,725 cattle of 17 breeds, 367,765 sheep of 34 breeds and 25,481 goats of 10 breeds.

The quality of breeding animals produced, entering and distributed on the territory of the country is controlled by EASRAB by maintaining a National Register of Male Breeding Animals and a Register of Breeding Herds within the national gene pool.

As of 31.12.2017, the National Register of Male Breeding Animals included: 1,746 bovine bulls, 221 buffalo bulls, 9,713 rams, 744 billy-goats, 2,551 stallions, 500 boars, 205 dogs and 261 rabbits.

The following information is entered in the Breeding register: cattle breeding – 1,754 herds with 121,991 animals, buffalo - 258 herds with 10,080 animals, sheep –

2,176 herds with 388,543 animals, goats – 1,821 herds with 24,093 animals , pigs - 66 herds with 44,209 animals, horses – 1,060 herds with 11,138 animals, poultry - 8 herds with 868,896 birds. The register includes 160 apiary with 22,835 bee families, 24 dog owners with 489 animals, and 9 rabbit owners with 1,591 animals.

In 2017, two importers were registered in the Register of Importers of organic products with 7 notifications for intra-Community trade and 2 by third countries. During the year 47,773 doses of frozen semen from 92 bovine bulls and 160 doses of 8 billy-goats were imported. The registered doses are from the breeds of cattle Holstein, Brown Cattle, Danish Red, Montbeliarde, Simmental, Normand, Jersey, Hereford, Limousin, Angus, Belgian Blue and Wagyu and goat breeds - Saanen, Alpine and Boer.

9. Agricultural science, training and advisory activities

9.1. Scientific research activities and scientific services to agriculture provided by the Agricultural academy

The research activity of the Agricultural Academy (AA) is related to the development of projects of national and pan-European importance in the field of agriculture and food industry (such as the creation of new, improved varieties and hybrids of agricultural crops with higher ecological plasticity, yield stability and high tolerance of biotic and abiotic stress factors, protection and management of soils, waters, genetic resources, reduction of the negative impact of climate change on agriculture Sustainable development and competitiveness of agriculture and the food industry Quality and safety of food for a healthy lifestyle Integrated rural development policy Sustainable development and competitiveness of the bio-economy Sustainable development of scientific potential and capacity of agricultural science) .

In 2017, 121 research projects were developed in the Research Institutes and the experimental stations of the AA. Of the projects, stated above, 9 projects are funded by the Research Fund and 41 projects by national agencies and organisations.

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 2017a total of 285 varieties of AA were registered. A total of 226 varieties are in-

cluded in list A (cereals, fodder, oil and technical crops, beet, potatoes and fruit plants) and 59 list in list B (vegetables, ornamental, medicinal and essential crops and vine).

Scientific products that received legal protection in 2017 are 20 (twice as many as 2016), ready to conclude licensing contracts. Of them with the largest share are the cereals - 11 varieties, followed by vegetable crops - 3 varieties, forage crops - 2 varieties, etc.

For the year 2017, 16 applications were filed with the Patent Office. The AA owns and maintains 350 certificates of proprietary products issued by the Patent Office. This includes 12 technologies and instructions for the production, processing and processing of tobacco; machine for picking a rose oil; 2 useful models of cryobiology and food technology; a device for express diagnosis of the degree of pest infestation of bee families with varroaosis.

9.1.2. Transfer of knowledge and scientific products

In 2017, 46 open days and meetings were held in the established 54 demonstration fields and farms, and the meetings of the Academy's research teams with farmers to familiarise themselves with new varieties of plants, animal breeds, agricultural machinery, advanced technologies for growing different crops, irrigation equipment and plant protection activities.

AA divisions have participated with their work in more than 73 different exhibitions and fairs of national and local character. Throughout the year, 56 scientific and practical conferences, seminars, symposia and round tables were held.

AA scientists have participated in 58 short-term courses to improve the qualifications of agricultural specialists and farmers. 265 farmers were trained in the professional fields "Farmer", "Agroecologist", "Animal breeder" and "Technician-plant-grower". Training of more than 100 people under Ordinance 2 of 23.07.2017 on the specific requirements for production, collection, transport and processing of raw milk, the dairy market supply and official control and self-control were also carried out.

Throughout the year a large number of consultations related to technologies in plant growing, animal husbandry and the food industry were made.

9.1.3. Qualification Structure of researchers and doctoral students

The total number of researchers in the AA by the end of 2017 is 531, distributed by academic positions and academic degrees as follows: Professors - 90, Associate

Professors - 187, Principal Assistants - 115 and Assistants - 139, with educational and scientific degree " Doctor "- 408 scientists and with doctorate of sciences - 16. The ratio between academic and non-accredited scientists in the SAA is 1.1. During the year, 38 scientists left and 30 were newly recruited.

In 2017, 39 scientists were habilitated, of whom 22 were academics and 17 were "associate professors". In the course of the year, 28 assistants acquired the "Assistant Professor", 24 assistants were appointed.

Within 2017, the research institutes of the AA have included 9 PhD students (Ph.D.). There are also 8 assistant students in the self-study PhD. During the reporting period, 107 doctoral students were trained in the EL (educational level) PhD. Successfully defended their dissertation work and obtained their diplomas for the acquired EL "Doctor" are 25 PhD students.

9.1.4. Specialised scientific periodicals

AA publishes five specialised magazines - "Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science", "Plant Science", "Animal Breeding Sciences", "Soil Science, Agrochemistry and Ecology" and "Economics and Management of Agriculture". Web-based platforms for indexing technical requirements to world databases of articles published in magazines are implemented.

9.1.5. International cooperation in the field of agricultural science

In 2017, AA research institutes and experimental stations participated on topics of mutual interest in joint research projects, international seminars, conferences, consultation meetings, specialisation abroad, admission of foreign scholars and others.

A total of 98 international agreements were implemented during the year, of which 69 bilateral. The Academy's institutes have implemented 29 projects funded and supported by various international institutions - the EU, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) improvement of maize and wheat (SIMMIT) and others.

In 2017, joint projects under the EU Horizon 2020 Program were implemented, projects under the Cross-Border Cooperation Program between Bulgaria and Romania and Cross-Border Cooperation between Bulgaria and Greece, Health and Consumers

Projects with the European Service Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

AA scientists are national coordinators or participants in 4 COST EU projects in the fields of Food and Agriculture and Earth and Environment Science.

Separately, the AA research institutes have executed 50 licensing, distribution and commercial contracts with Turkey, Russia, Romania, Ukraine and others.

During the year scientific and technical cooperation with Azerbaijan, Algeria, Armenia, Vietnam, Germany, Israel, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, China, Cyprus, Lithuania, Morocco, Mongolia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, France, Japan and others.

9.2. Advisory activities

An essential part of the state policy for providing consultancy services to provide an appropriate level of technical and economic knowledge and skills in the agricultural and forestry sector in order to implement the CAP and increase the competitiveness of the Bulgarian producer in the single European market is realised through the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS).

The NAAS offers a comprehensive "package of consultancy services", including consultations from the establishment of the farm to its full service in agronomic, live-stock and agroeconomic aspects, organising and conducting training for farmers. The Office supports the transfer and application of scientific and practical achievements in the field of agriculture and thus helps to improve the relationship "research - agricultural advice – agricultural business".

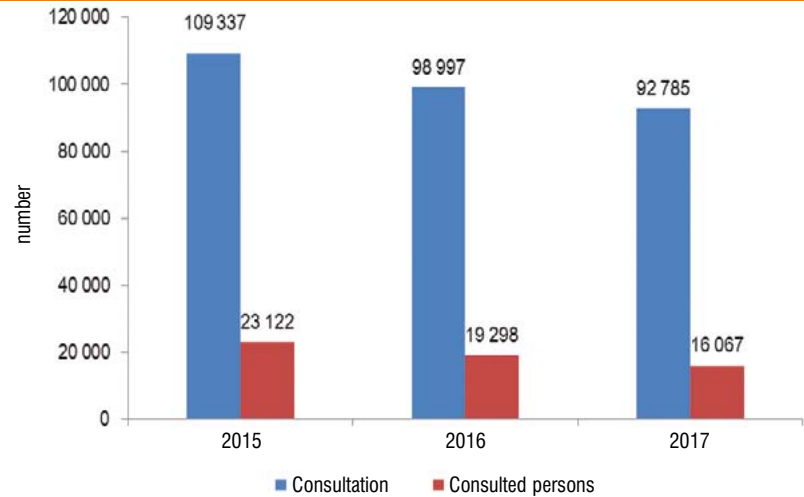
The NAAS organises and hosts excerpts (counselling days) in different settlements remote from district centres in order to facilitate access for farmers to the Office's advisory services. NAAS distributes useful information to farmers and promotes good practices in the application and implementation of RDP projects. Through the established "farmers' circles", the efficiency of the consultations provided by the Office is increased and a larger number of farmers is reached.

All consultations provided by the NAAS are free of charge for farmers. The Office carries out consultancy and advisory services primarily through experts from Territorial

District Offices (TPOs).

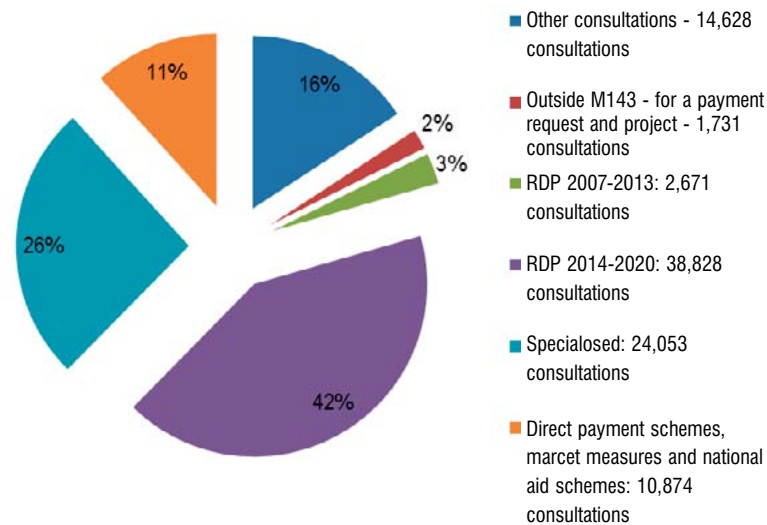
In 2017, a total of 16,067 people received 92,785 consultations from the NAAS experts. On average, one person has received over 5 consultations. The number of consulted persons decreased by 17% compared to the previous year.

Figure V.1. Total number of consultations provided and consulted persons in the office and on site for the period 2015 – 2017



Source: NAAS

Figure V.2. Consultations provided by type in 2017



Source: NAAS

NAAS consultations in the office and on the NAAS farm holdings are 6% less than in 2016. Most consultants benefit from the full range of advisory services offered by the NAAS.

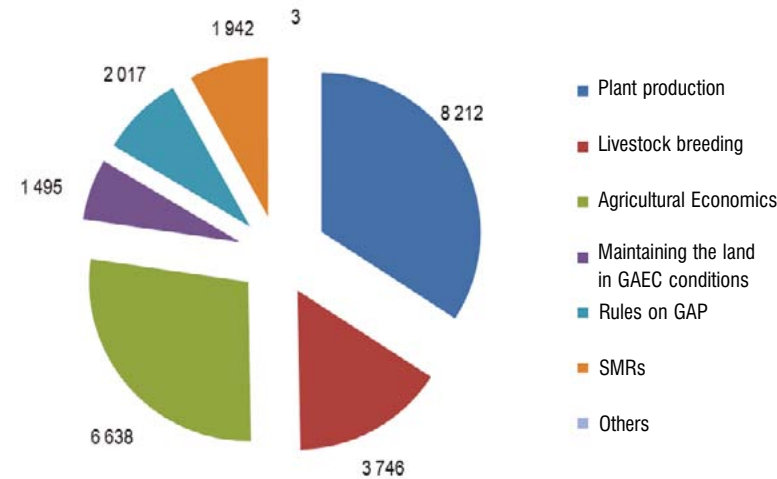
The target groups to which activities are mainly targeted are: farmers who have already started their farming activities (small-scale farming predominates in this group); persons who want to start farming, but are not yet; people living in rural areas, including forest owners.

In 2017, the NAAS experts visited 3 083 farms, which is 17% less than in the previous 2016.

For the year 2017, the following types of consultations take the leading places:

- Consultations on the RDP 2014-2020 - 38 828 were provided, 1.2% more than in 2016;
- Specialised consultations are 25.9% of all consultations, decreasing by 5.5% compared to 2016. They can be summarised in the following main directions:
 - Plant growing, incl. organic plant growing;
 - Livestock breeding, incl. organic livestock breeding;
 - Agricultural Economics - this type of consultation is related to taxes and insurance in the field of agriculture as well as to annual tax returns;
 - Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs);
 - Rules on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP);
 - Conditions for maintaining the land in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)

Figure V.3. Specialised consultations provided by type in 2017, number



Source: NAAS

- Other consultations – 14,628 consultations (11% less compared to 2016), representing 15.8% of all consultations. The group includes:
 - Consultations on the registration and re-registration of farmers under Ordinance 3 of 1999;
 - Consultations on the conclusion of land use contracts, incl. participation and conclusion of agreements under Art. 37c of the OUALA (Ownership and Use of Agricultural Land Act);
 - Consultations on other registration, authorisation and licensing regimes related to agriculture.
- Consultations in the category „Direct Payment Schemes, Market Measures and National Support Schemes“ – 10,874 (11.7%). Compared to 2016, their number increased by 4.7%. The greatest interest is shown in:
 - Consultations on the Single Area Payment Scheme;
 - Consultations on coupled support schemes for fruit and vegetables;
 - Consultations on the payment scheme for climate-friendly and environment-friendly agricultural practices (green direct payments);
 - Consultations on the National Apiculture Programme.
- Consultations on the RDP 2007 - 2013, on the conditions for implementation of projects approved for various measures of the Program and applications for support. In 2017, 2,671 consultations were provided;
- Consultations on the 3rd National Climate Action Plan (NCAP) for the period 2013 - 2020 – 8,287 consultations are given, which is about 3% less than in 2016. This type of consultation is divided into two main groups:
 - Consultations on measures with an indirect effect on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Consultations on measures with direct effect on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

9.3. Professional trainings

The Centre for Vocational Training (VTC) at the NAAS has been training people over the age of 17 to acquire, expand and improve their professional qualifications in order to improve their employability, support for career and individual development.

The training provides opportunities for farmers to clearly define priorities and learn how to allocate the financial resources to implement them. In addition to acquiring knowledge and skills to manage their own business in order to increase their income, the farmers create contacts with colleagues, lecturers, researchers, companies and national units of the MAFF necessary for their business.

In 2017, a total of 46 trainees were trained at the NAAS, 41 of them being farmers.

9.4. Improving the relationship "research - farming advice - agricultural business"

In the year 2017, 109 joint information seminars and events were held, where the specialised topics and the possibilities for supporting the farmers under the measures from the RDP 2014-2020 were discussed with the participation of scientists and experts from NAAS, SAA, Agrarian University - Plovdiv, Thracian University - Stara Zagora, Regional Directorates of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Basin Directorates at MOEW.

Since 2016, information seminars have been launched with demonstrations on NAAS farm holdings. In the year 2017, 29 demonstration seminars were held, with the largest number of joint events in the Crop sector being 46%, followed by 38% in the livestock sector and 16% in the agrarian economy. Over 2,600 farmers have shown interest and have visited these joint activities and events, which by their nature represent specialised training, fully oriented to the needs of farmers.

9.5. Information security

In 2017, the NAAS experts participated in 328 information events (189 information meetings, 94 seminars, 29 seminars with demonstration and 16 other events, excluding exported reception rooms), which is 33 or 11% more than 2016 143 brochures were prepared and distributed (farmer's calendar, educational leaflets, leaflets and brochures).

Through exported hosts, farmers receive up-to-date information and advice on funding opportunities under the RDP 2014-2020, direct payments schemes and national support schemes in the region. In 2017, 1,104 exported reception rooms (6% more compared to 2016) were carried out, with 4,133 persons being consulted.

The 27 "farm circles" continue to function. 313 farmers took part in them during the year. The aim of the "farmers' circles" is to disseminate useful information among farmers and to promote good practices in the application and implementation of RDP projects.

9.6. Agrochemical analyses

The Analytical Laboratory supports the activities of the NAAS and the farmers for the implementation of the CAP and the measures under the RDP. The directions of the laboratory activity are related to the requirements for improving the activity and increasing the competitiveness of the farms.

Within the framework of the additional advisory services under Measure 143, the NAAS provides laboratory services and supports farmers undergoing restructuring. The laboratory is also helping young farmers to provide NAAS experts with the A2B advisory packages as well as small farms with the sub-measure 2.1.2 of the RDP 2014-2020 advisory packages.

The laboratory performs agrochemical analyses of soil samples for acidity (pH), digestible phosphorus and potassium, mineral nitrogen (ammonia and nitrate), total nitrogen in soils, determination of active calcium, determination of humus and determination of liming norm for acidic soils .

In 2017, 1,864 soil samples were obtained, based on which 3,136 samples were made for 15,561 determinations (analyses). The received soil samples are from 1,061 persons and the samples are made up of 1,834 persons. Based on the analysis carried out, 2,279 recommendations for fertilisation were prepared.

9.7. Activity of NAAS under Measure 2 "Consultancy services, farm management services and farm substitution services" of the RDP 2014-2020

In 2016, sub-measure 2.1.2 "Small Business Farm Advisory Services" under measure 2 "Consultancy services, farm management and farm substitution services" of RDP for the period 2014-2020, such as the NAAS is the only advisory organisation designated at this stage and approved by the European Commission to provide advisory services to small farms.

Under sub-measure 2.1.2, NAAS provides six basic advisory packages entirely free of charge to small farms, contributing to both economic development and the strengthening of small farms through modernisation and technological renewal as

sustainable and viable units and to improving environmental protection and combat climate change.

The total number of applications submitted for receiving the advisory package under sub-measure 2.1.2 in 2017 is 1,739.

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.

In recent years there has been an increase in the frequency and strength of dangerous phenomena such as hail, flood, tornado and lightning. Forecasts based on numerical models under different climate change scenarios confirm this increase in the future. One of the geographical areas where a significant increase in extreme phenomena is predicted is Southeast Europe.

Bulgaria is one of the countries in Europe, where the trend for increasing the frequency and strength of hail processes is preserved despite the observed fluctuations in the degree of hail activity over the years.

The territory protected by the Executive Agency "Hail Suppression" is 1,720,226 ha, of which 1,120,000 ha is agricultural land, perennial crops and mixed-use areas in highly hail-risk areas in the districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Sliven.

The activity of EAHS is related to the prevention of formation of large ice grains in the clouds. The number of icy crystals in the cloud is small and, under conditions, they grow rapidly to large-sized hail grains. The main concepts used in anti-hail protection are: beneficial competition and early raining.

In the cloud's beneficial competition, additional artificial ice crystals are supplied, which in the process of growth compete with the natural embryos in the fight for water in the cloud. In this way the over-cooled water is redistributed between the natural and artificial icy embryos, where they do not grow to large sizes. Hail grains, falling to the ground, melt to raindrops or small-grain hail.

The implementation of the second concept is related to the stimulation of the rainfall at an earlier stage in the life of the cloud in which there are still highly developed ascending streams. Cloud water is artificially reduced and thus prevents the growth of icy embryos to large-sized hail grains.

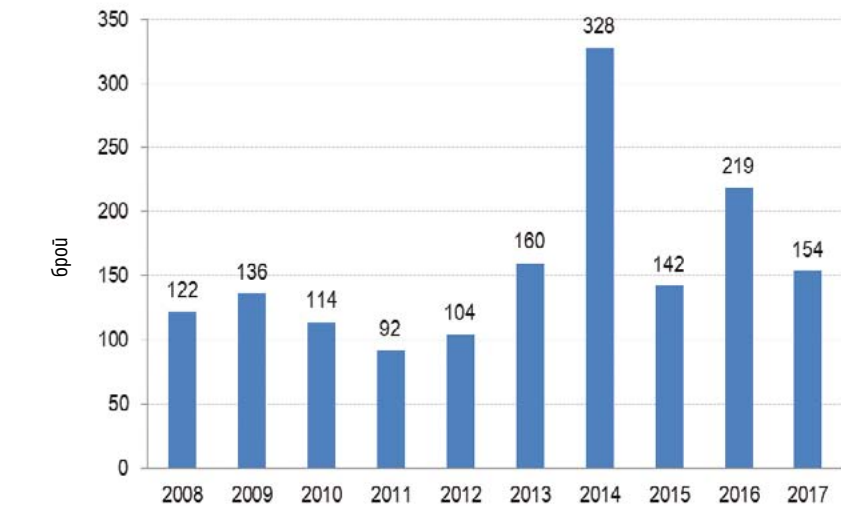
To achieve success in the active impacts, reagent sowing needs to be done at an early stage of cloudy growth before large grains. Causes of damage are:

- cloud cells with high hail parameters and hailstones formed, making it impossible realisation 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 due to limitation of shooting over settlements;
- insufficient seeding and discontinuation of treatment due to running out of anti-hail missiles.

EAHS has a national meteorological radar network, which provides 24 hours continuous monitoring of the atmosphere for detection and ultra-short-term forecast for strong storms, lightning, floods, hailstorms and other adverse events. Information is transmitted immediately to the Ministry of Interior, the Air Forces, the ATSA, the Department of weather forecasts -NIMH and other authorities. Meteorological information is constantly provided by the Agency's website

EAHS teams jointly with the District Directorates "Agriculture" carry out a survey for damages in the protected areas after each impact. The Agency receives information on the sown areas, the state and stage of crop development, re cultivated areas, average yields, etc. On the basis of the weather forecasts and the phase of development of the crops in the protected areas, the IABG Executive Director issues an order for starting and closing the active season for anti-hail protection.

Figure V.4. Conducted effects of the anti-hail system during the period 2008 – 2017



Source: EAHS

In 2017, the active season for operation of anti-hail protection on the territory of the country was opened on 27 April and closed on 3 October.

Season 2017 is classified as "high urban activity" for southern Bulgaria and "average degree of urban activity" for Northern Bulgaria. During the year, 154 impacts were carried out, 698 cell cages being processed.

The total area of the cloud cover cells is approximately 5,500,000 ha

In South Bulgaria, 107 impacts were carried out on 472 cage cells with a total treatment time of 98 hours, and in Northern Bulgaria 47 impacts on 226 cage cells with a total treatment time of 41 hours and 23 minutes.

The month of May 2017 is characterised by a relatively low incidence of powerful cumulus and rainy clouds, and then 38 impacts are realised in 15 days. In June 2017, the frequency of urban processes is increasing. 46 effects occurred in 16 days. In July 2017, the process frequency was retained, with 39 impacts on 13 dates.

During August-September, the frequency of processes significantly decreased, with 30 impacts on 13 dates.

According to the adopted Methodology for Determining the Economic Efficiency

of Anti-Stage Protection, in 2017 the value of the saved production as a result of the active effects performed by EAHS is estimated at BGN 63.6 million.

Throughout the entire season of active impacts, a city with damage to agricultural crops has only 18 cells. With an area of 11.2 million acres above the urban processes, hail damage to agricultural produce amounted to 37 469 decares with an average failure rate of 42.6%.

Figure V.5. Value of the production saved from hails during the period 2013 – 2017, mln. BGN



Source: EAHS

Further to the extension of the anti-flood protection system, two new meteorological radar stations were installed in 2017. Two more meteorological radar stations are to be installed and put into operation. With these activities, EAHS finalises the construction of a full radar field over the territory of Bulgaria. Preparatory work on introducing an airplane grounding system over areas not covered by missile defence is forthcoming. To the already existing structure, the areas of the Sub-Balkan valley and the Haskovo region will be protected by a missile defence.

The active season of anti-flood protection in 2018 was opened on April 24, 2017. The period until 21 June 2017 is characterised by high frequency and intensity of the dangers of the cities. 187 impacts on 968 cloud clouds were conducted.

In 2018, 63 new rocket sites and a command point (CP) were built in the village of Tazha. Two new Doppler radar stations in CP Popovitsa and CP Dolno Tserovene have been installed and put into operation. The necessary computer equipment for the new command stations and the already existing CPs is provided.

In 2019, activities will be carried out on the strategy for the development of anti-flood protection, providing for the extension of the scope, using two means of protection - missile and airplane.

11. Reducing the regulatory and administrative burdens on business
11.1. Implement the measures for reducing the administrative burden covered by the packages and plans adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria
11.1.1. Implement the measures included in the First Action Plan on Reducing Administrative Burdens for Business (2010-2012)

In 2017, MAFF has taken action to implement the non-implemented measures of the First Action Plan for Reducing the Administrative Burdens on Business (2010-2012), the implementation of which is postponed in time - by 2017 by a Council of Ministers Decision from 27 May 2015, for objective reasons not dependent on the MAFF.

The first Action Plan on Reducing Administrative Burdens for Business (2010-2012) includes 5 measures that were met by 31 December 2017.

The implementation of the envisaged measures is related to changes in the Irrigation Association Act and the Ordinance for acquiring and withdrawing from irrigation associations the right to use the facilities of the irrigation infrastructure and the servicing equipment on the territory of the Association. In 2016, the Law on Amendments to the Irrigation Associations Act was promulgated (promulgated in SG 54 from 15.07.2016) and in 2017 an Ordinance was adopted to amend the Ordinance on the acquisition and withdrawal from the irrigation associations the right of use on the facilities of the irrigation infrastructure and the servicing equipment on the territory of the association.

11.1.2. Implementation of identified proposals to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens

In accordance with the Council of Ministers' Decisions, in 2017 a detailed review of the administrative services and regulatory regimes was carried out in the Ministry

of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to identify possibilities for reducing the administrative and regulatory burden.

As a result of the review, as of December 31, 2017, a total of 86 proposals for the cancellation and alleviation of administrative services and regulatory regimes and for the failure to submit publicly available documents or documents that can be obtained on an official basis have been identified.

The implementation of all identified measures as of 31 December 2017 was as follows:

- executed - 48 of which 7 have entered into force and 41 have been adopted by the Council of Ministers and the first vote by the National Assembly;
- in process of implementation - 27 pieces;
- unsupported performance - 11 pieces.

By implementing the measures identified, the obligation of the citizens and the business to deliver on paper 132 documents that are publicly available or will be purchased on the official way will be dropped. 25 amendments to the laws and regulations have been prepared, which will eliminate the provisions for the submission of certificates or copies for registration under the provisions of the Commercial Register Act, registration under the BULSTAT Register Act, certificate of good standing for legal persons, registration under the VAT Act, certificates from the territorial directorate of the National Revenue Agency for taxes due and mandatory insurance contributions and documents to be issued from structures in the system of MAFF and can be purchased on the official way.

The identified measures are administered by the MAFF - Headquarters, the Regional Directorates for Agriculture, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, the Executive Agency for Vine and Wine, the Executive Agency for Forests, the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control.

11.2. Introduced opportunities for electronic provision of administrative service documents

In the context of the policy of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Union to reduce the administrative and regulatory burdens on business,

the Ministry of Health intends to continue to identify opportunities and to take the necessary actions to provide administrative services to citizens and businesses with a minimum number of documents , as well as introducing options for their delivery electronically.

In implementing the proposed measures to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden, it is envisaged to simplify the exchange of information between the different structural units in the MAFF system as well as with other administrations. In order to achieve the objectives, the competent units in the ministry work actively to streamline regulatory regimes and administrative services by reforming the administrative service workflows for priority deployment of eGovernment systems. The goal is for MAFF to provide one-stop services by using better organisational models and implementing the capabilities of information and communication technologies to achieve interoperability in the interaction and exchange of data between the systems and the work processes they support. The scope of activities includes information assets, information systems, registers and data related to the implementation of working processes and the provision of administrative services as well as the operational technical infrastructure, which are considered as building blocks of the general structure of eGovernment in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The implementation of the priorities set for the introduction of capabilities for the electronic provision of a range of services and the administration of regulatory regimes have led to changes in the regulatory framework. In the drafts and amendments adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2017, the Law for the amendment and supplement (LAS) of the Law for the seeding and seedling material (LSSM), the LAS of the Veterinary Practice Act (VPA) and the Act on Hunting and Game Conservation (LAS of the AHGC) provides for the extension of the possibilities for submission of documents/requests for certain services by electronic means or through a licensed postal operator - for 23 services under LAS of the VPA, 2 under LAS of the LSSM and 1 under LAS of the AHGC.

11.3. Implementation of the measures included in the Action Plan "Entrepreneurship 2020 - Bulgaria" adopted by the Council of Ministers on November 11, 2015

In the Action Plan "Entrepreneurship 2020 - Bulgaria", adopted by decision of the Council of Ministers at its meeting on 11 November 2015, Protocol No 46, Item 2, measures are in place in line with the European Commission's Action Plan "Entrepreneurship 2020 - Revival of Entrepreneurial Spirit in Europe ".

Of the specific measures included in the Action Plan "Entrepreneurship 2020 - Bul-

garia", MAFF has a bearing on the implementation of measure No 10 - Reduction of the time needed for obtaining licenses and permits, which concerns all the structures of the state administration. The implementation of this measure is related to taking action to reduce the time needed to obtain licenses and permits to undertake and carry out a specific activity by an undertaking, taking into account the objectives set out in the SBA and hence in the Partnership Agreement, up to 3 months.

As a result of the review of the regulatory regimes, the following was established:

- Most of the licenses and permits issued by the competent bodies in the MAF system have a duration of less than 3 months;
- A significant part of the licenses and permits are issued in accordance with the provisions of the European legislation where the deadlines related to the administration of the regime have been laid down.

On the basis of the data provided by the structures in the system of MAFF, 13 regulatory regimes (3 licenses and 10 permits) have been identified, where the duration of the respective administrative procedure is 90 days or more. Their number represents about 13.3% of the total of 98 licensing and licensing regimes (10 licenses and 88 permits)

It should be noted that the majority of these regimes relate to the issuing of licenses and permits for the production, use or trade of products containing substances harmful to human and animal health. The majority of the time limits within which the administrative procedure is carried out are drawn up or complied with the provisions of European legislation.





VI. FORESTRY

1. Characteristics of the forest areas

As of 31.12.2017 amounts to 4,243,835 ha. The state forest areas have an area of 3,092,262 ha (72.9%), out of which 2,908,638 ha - state forest areas managed by the state enterprises under Art. 163 of the Forestry Act, 172,209 ha - forests in the national parks, reserves and maintained reserves managed by the MoEW (including Rila National Park, Pirin National Park and Central Balkan National Park), 11,415 ha - forest areas allocated for the management of training - experienced forestry holdings. Non-state forest areas cover an area of 1,044,056 ha, of which 552,582 ha - municipal forest areas, 424,897 ha - forest areas owned by natural persons, 46,202 ha - forest areas owned by legal entities and 20,374 ha - forest areas owned by religious communities.

Agricultural territories that have acquired the character of a forest within the meaning of Art. 2, para. 1 of the Forestry Act have an area of 107,517 ha.

Compared to 2016, the total area of forest areas increased by 13,010 ha, mainly due to the unfinished forests.

The afforested area increased to 3,877,626 ha (from 3,864,965 ha in 2016) as a result of an inventory of forests not previously surveyed and of self-plantations between the last two inventories of individual forest and hunting holdings in non-wooded forest areas or in abandoned lands outside forest areas.

The unspoiled area increases by 349 ha, to 366,209. There is a decrease in the area of the gorillas, the roads and the slopes, and the increase - in the fires, the cuttings, the meadows, the meadows, the nurseries, the rocks, the rivers, the slopes and the other non-productive forest areas.

Despite the emergence of self - afforested areas, the afforested area of coniferous forests decreases by 5,544 hectares compared to 2016, due to the continued mitigation of part of the mixed coniferous - deciduous crops obtained after the coniferous crops. This is evidenced by the inventory of forest areas in forest and hunting farms in recent years and the policy of transformation of coniferous crops established outside their natural distribution area in recent years, and the trend is expected to continue in the future. Broad-leaved high-stem forests increase by 11,023 hectares, due to the

transformation of coppice plantations into high-stems, afforestation of fires, winds, etc., self-afforestation of untreated areas, re-evaluation of coniferous crops and low productivity crops and transformation of part of coniferous forests into deciduous . The coppice forests for conversion have increased by 8,679 ha due to the inclusion in the forest areas of crops so far attributed to the so-called "unspent forests" category.

The area of low-stem forests is 1,383 hectares less than in the previous year due to the revaluation of part of the acacia and keleaguagar plantations dominated by other tree species and / or high stem species.

The annual utilisation amounts to 8,322,011 m³ of standing mass, which is equal to 97.7% of the 8,515,062 m³ stand-by foreseen by forestry plan (forest management project).

Of the total annual utilisation, 3,666,832 m³ is from felling (40% of the total utilisation and 80.9% of the foreseen forestry plan) and 4,655,179 m³ - from felling (56% of the total use and 116.8% of the foreseen forestry plan). The annual utilisation in the forest territories - state property, managed by the enterprises under Art. 163 of the Forestry Act, amounts to 6,320,700 m³ of standing mass, which is equal to 98.6% of the foreseen forestry plan.

The total forested area of state-owned enterprises decreases by 4,931 ha in 2017 to 2,642,424 ha.

The unprocessed afforestation - state property allocated to management of the SOE by 2017, decreases by 578 ha compared to 2016 to 48,387 ha. The non-productive forests are 217,827 ha, 1,057 ha more than in 2016.

At the end of 2017, the afforested area of the coniferous forests - state property allocated for management of the SOE - amounts to 773,520 ha, decreasing by 6,506 hectares compared to the previous year. This is due to the ongoing transformation of the coniferous crops into deciduous trees, as well as to the moulting of part of the coniferous and deciduous plantations obtained after the coniferous crops established by the inventory of the forest territories

The total forested area of the broad-leaved high-stem forests in the forest territories of the state-owned enterprises in 2017 increases by 2,608 ha compared to 2016 to 639,012 ha as a result of the inventory of unspent forests, the conversion of the

plantations into high- revaluation of coniferous crops and low productivity crops.

The coppice forests for conversion into the forest areas managed by SOEs amounted to 931,284 ha, by 1,762 ha more than in 2016, due to the assignment to the forest areas of plantations that were so far allocated to the category of so-called. "Unredeemable forests", the revaluation of mixed conifers with deciduous broad-leaved trees and low-productive plantations.

The area of short-stemmed forests in state forest areas decreases by 2,606 ha - from 301,214 ha in 2016 to 298,608 ha in 2017.

2. Changes in the forest territories.

Within 2017 the following changes have occurred in the forest territories of the country:

- 12 administrative acts have been issued for the change of the designation of landed properties in forest territories under the procedure of Art. 14 of the Forestry Act (revoked), with a total area of 7.75 ha and a change price of BGN 715,288. Funds for compensatory afforestation amounting to BGN 38,481.99 have been determined;
- 38 administrative acts have been issued for the change of the designation of landed properties in forest territories under the procedure of Art. 77 of the FA, with an area of 299.28 ha, with a price for the change of BGN 4,207,880. Funds for compensatory afforestation amounting to BGN 1,987,798 were determined. One administrative act partially cancelled administrative proceedings for change of designation;
- The designation of 181.6 ha of forest areas was gratuitously changed according to Art. 73, para. 5 of the FA, for construction of 5 national sites and 15 municipal sites of high importance, as 20 administrative acts on rights and obligations were already established;
- 41 administrative acts for the acquisition of title to 3.88 ha of forest territories - private state property, have been issued, representing a built up and normally defined adjacent area of buildings, structures, networks and facilities, under the procedure of § 123, para. 3 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the FA (repealed), with a total sale price of the landed property BGN 551,799.30 and overhead costs of BGN 11,035.98. Three administrative acts for refusal to acquire a right of ownership on built-up and legally defined adjacent area

of buildings, structures, networks and facilities were issued, pursuant to § 123, para. 3 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the FA (repealed), and under 1 application the administrative procedure has been suspended, pursuant to the provisions of the APC;

- 43 administrative acts for preliminary agreement have been issued for changing the designation of landed properties in forest areas, with a total area of 247.62 ha, by the order of Art. 75, para. 3 of the FA. One of them is for the refusal, one for the amendment of the issued decision and 4 for the termination of the administrative proceedings under the procedure of the APC;
- 11 administrative acts for preliminary co-ordination for establishment of right of construction on forest territories - state property, with a total area of 0.61 ha were issued, according to the procedure of Art. 55 of the FA;
- 25 administrative acts have been issued for the establishment of a right of construction, according to Art. 56 of the FA, on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 0.99 ha, with a total price for the property right BGN 131,469.80 and BGN 2,629.65 overheads. The accrued value of the wood at the present age for the valued plantations amounts to BGN 6,287.40. The defined means of compensatory afforestation are BGN 6,852.45;
- 34 administrative acts for preliminary co-ordination for the establishment of servitude on state-owned forest territories, were issued, according to the procedure of Art. 62 of the FA, with a total area of 10.08 ha;
- 30 administrative acts were issued for constitution of servitude (by the order of Article 63 of the Forestry Act over state-owned forest territories), with an area of 15.77 ha, with a total price for the property right BGN 1,068,433.90 and BGN 21,368.68 overheads. The accrued value of the wood at the present age for the valued plantations amounts to BGN 37,833.37. Appropriation for compensatory afforestation for BGN 130,913.61 was determined.
- 5 administrative acts were issued for the establishment of servitude of an energy site, according to the procedure of Art. 64 of the FA on forest territories - state property, with an area of 2.51 ha, with a total price for the property right BGN 53,058 and BGN 1,061.16 overheads. The accrued value of the wood at the present age for the valued plantations amounts to BGN 894.78. The defined means of compensatory afforestation amount to BGN 19,027.45;
- 4 administrative acts have been issued for the establishment of a right of use under Art. 70 of the FA on state-owned forest territories, with an area of

0.38 ha, with a total price for the property right BGN 485.40 and BGN 9.71 overheads. The accounted value of the wood at the present age for the valued plantations amounts to BGN 2,278.80. Appropriate means of compensatory afforestation for BGN 4,004.30 were determined. Three administrative acts for refusal to establish right of use have been issued, pursuant to Art. 70 of the FA on state-owned forest territories;

- 1 administrative act was issued for establishing right of use and easements, as per Art. 16 of the FA (rev.) On state-owned forest territories, with an area of 0.041 ha, with a price for the property right BGN 2,283.80 and BGN 45.68 overheads. The defined means of compensatory afforestation amount to BGN 388.07;
- 12 administrative acts have been issued for termination under the APC of administrative proceedings for the establishment of limited real rights over state-owned forest territories.

3. Management of the forest territories

The management, the use and the protection of the forests are focused towards the formation and maintenance of live and multifunctional forest ecosystems, the creation of conditions for their natural renewal and improving their sustainability.

3.1. Forestation and protection against erosion and torrents

In 2017, the main activity of EFA in this area was focused in the following aspects:

- Implementation of the objectives and parameters set forth in the program and the budget of the EFA;
- Performing Bulgaria's obligations stemming from the membership in the European Union in the field of the 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 nursery facilities;
- Maintaining of a register of the forest nurseries in the country;
- Exercising control;
- Agreement of projects for biological recultivation in the forest territories, checks under claims, preparation of responses and statements;

- Participation in the preparation of draft normative documents;
- Implementation and coordination of projects and programs, funded by the EU.

Table VI.1. Implemented activities for the creation of forests in 2017

Nº	Type of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2017
1.	Collected and harvested seeds by TD SF/SH	kg	5,6171
2.	Produced saplings in state forest nurseries	Thousand pcs.	11,537
3.	Afforested areas	ha	1,784.52
	Incl. by: State-owned enterprise	ha	1,745.4
	- municipalities	ha	38.97
	- private	ha	0.15
4.	Filling of crops in state forest territories	ha	571.4
5.	Growing of crops in state forest territories	ha	10,708.1
6.	Average percentage of plant establishment:		
	a) state-owned:		
	- annual	%	72.18
	- two-years-old	%	64.02
	- three-years-old	%	65.64
	b) municipal property		
	- annual	%	56.32
	- two-years-old	%	64.01
	- three-years-old	%	66.55
	c) private		
	- annual	%	42.00
	- two-years-old	%	80.03
	- three-years-old	%	70.23

Source: EFA

In 2017, in order to fulfil the set objectives and tasks, the following activities were performed:

- A National list of the approved and registered sources for the production of FRM was prepared and sent to the European Commission;
- 172 new basic sources were approved and registered from the category „selected“ for the production of FRM, meeting the minimum requirements of Directive 1999/105/EU;
- For the identification of the origin of FRM RFD and FSCS, 213 certificates were issued;
- Seed certificates of 276 lots of broad-leaved and coniferous species have been awarded and seeded in the Seed control laboratories of the FSCS Sofia and Plovdiv;

- 786 inspections were carried out on the status and activities carried out in the registered baseline sources for FRM;
- An assessment mission was organised and conducted by the OECD General Secretariat in Bulgaria in connection with the approval of the application for membership;
- 7 projects for recultivation of disturbed terrains in forest areas have been agreed;
- A report has been prepared, containing database on the inventory of the forest crops in the country and recommendations are given for the elimination of the omitted errors;
- The price of compensatory afforestation has been determined and orders have been issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Director of the EFA;
- 690.95 kg of seeds from 186 lots of coniferous and 170.6 kg of 16 lots of deciduous species were stored in the long-term storage site at the FSCS Plovdiv;
- The implementation of a joint project of the FSCS Sofia and the South Western Regional Authority of Blagoevgrad Life 16 NAT/BG /000817 "Restoration and improvement of the conservation status of priority forest habitats by the NATURA 2000 network in Bulgaria" was started. Forest seed control station.

In order to protect the forest territories from erosion and erosion, in 2017 there was anti-erosion afforestation of 520.8 hectares and a barrage was repaired on the territory of South-Western Blagoevgrad.

For afforestation measures in state forest territories BGN 13,92 million were spent.

3.2. Cutting of the forests

In 2017, in the state forests for regulation of the timber composition and improvement of the growth conditions, a field felling of 40,615.3 ha was carried out, which represents 57.7% of the FEP/FMP projections. 39.3% of coniferous forests are in coniferous forests, 41.6% in deciduous high-stem forests and 19.1% in seedbeds for conversion to seed nurseries. The implementation of the untreated felling on an area of 4,049,2 ha was 74,6% of the FEP/FMP projections. By types of cutting, the FEP/FMP performance is 70.2% for illumination, 42.5% for clearing, 50% for grading and 66.3% for sampling.

In 2017, according to the information system of the EAG, clear cuts were carried out in non-state forests on an area of 9,619.2 ha, of which 6,005.7 ha in municipal

forests, 3,018.4 ha in forests owned by natural persons, 404.6 ha in forests owned by legal entities and 190.5 ha in forests owned by religious organisations.

The field felling during the year in the forests up to 40 years old, managed by the SOEs, covers a total area of 21,399.8 ha, with 726.9 ha less than in 2016.

The area of cultivated young plantations without material yield amounts to 4,049.2 ha, of which 180.4 ha is the area of the crops where the Saarland method of production of high quality wood was cut.

In 2017, in the forest territories - state property, support was provided for the natural regeneration through afforestation or sowing under the sloping and felling of the underworld on an area of 5,562.7 ha, which is by 596.2 ha less compared to 2016.

For the implementation of activities related to the management of the forest territories - state property, in the year 2017 the SOEs spent a total of BGN 4,642 thousand, by BGN 97 thousand less on an annual basis.

In the state forests, sawing of standing trees was carried out to improve the quality of the wood produced and to support the process of natural self-pruning of the woods on 1,776.8 ha, with 1,263.8 hectares more than foreseen in the forest plans / forestry projects. Natural regeneration was supported on an area of 5,608.7 ha, which represents 71.1% of the foreseen forest management plans and is 550.2 ha less than the previous year. The marked forest fund amounts to 6,308,118 cubic meters of standing timber or 229,370 cubic meters more than 2016.

4. Use of timber and non-timber forest products

4.1. Timber use

In 2017, the EFA and the regional forest directorates carried out a permanent control of the licenses issued for the felling and the protocols for the certification of the tillage through the information system of the EFA. During the year felling licenses were issued for 9,217 thousand cubic meters of wood, as of 9 February 2018, protocols were drawn up for the certification of the quarries for 7,036 thousand cubic meters of lying wood.

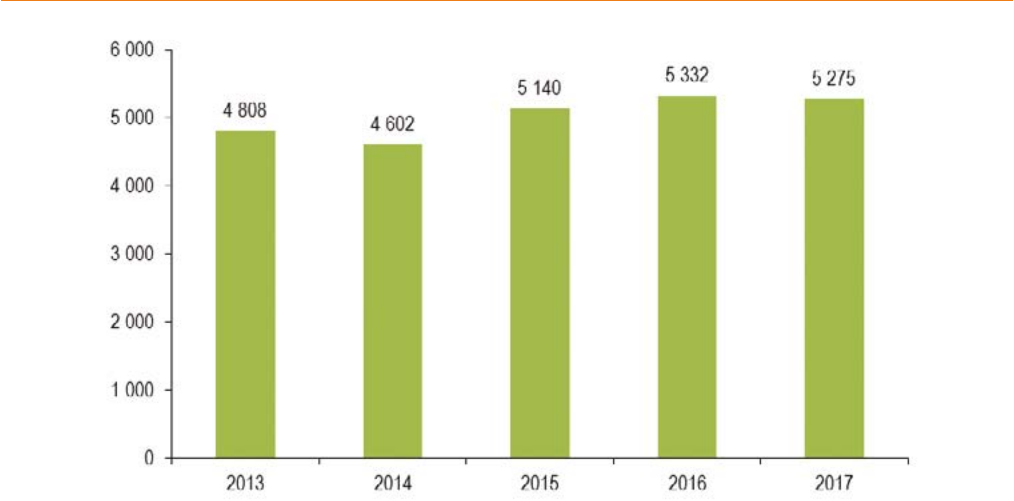
Throughout the year, the SOEs have made a total of 5,274,851 cubic meters of

wood from the state-owned forest area or 108% of the planned quantity for the year. The timber sold is 57 thousand cubic meters (1.1%) less than 2016. A significant part of the realised quantity, amounting to 1,262 thousand cubic meters, is wood that has been harvested, suffered from abiotic and biotic factors wood. Regardless of this, the total use of wood from the state forests is 98.7% compared to the foreseen average annual utilisation of forestry, i.e. the forced and sanitary felling is compensated by a decrease in the volume of the regularly planned replanting and rebuilding.

The reported total revenue from timber sales in 2017 is BGN 272,870 thousand, 1% less than in 2016.

The total cost of using wood is BGN 91,480 thousand, including the deductions from the sale the price of wood to the Forest Investments Fund amounting to BGN 26,553 thousand. The decrease is due to the smaller volume of timber harvested and realised in 2017.

Figure VI.1. Disposed timber from state-owned forest areas for the period 2013 – 2017, thousand cubic meters



Source: MAFF

In 2017, 47.9% of total timber was sold by sale of harvested wood. The remaining 52.1% is through the sale of standing wood - to individuals for personal use and legal entities after auctions. To meet the needs of individuals, a total of 742,000 cubic meters of wood, mainly firewood, which is 37,000 cubic meters or 5% more than 2016, were sold at the price list.

In 2017, the implementation of the first long-term contracts for extraction and

sale of timber, as provided by the FA, continues. Under this order, 8 new procedures were conducted during the year, resulting in another 5 long-term contracts. The reported realisation of timber under the long-term contracts was 385 thousand cubic meters of wood and 125 thousand cubic meters of timber.

Over 10 times the share of wood sales from state forests through electronic auction in 2017 compared to 2016 has been increased, with 667 electronic procedures and 494 timber sale contracts being concluded. The total realised quantity of timber by electronic auction is 250 thousand cubic meters and is more than three times more than foreseen in the financial plans of state-owned enterprises for 2017.

The weighted average sales prices of the timber harvested from the state-owned forest area and its yield are kept at 2016 levels - BGN 68.60/cub. m and BGN 23.64/cub. m. The weighted average selling price of standing timber per root is BGN 37.53/cub. m, with BGN 0.69 per cubic meter or 2% higher than the previous year. Reported weighted prices are directly related to the quality and variety of wood.

Table VI.2. Use of timber from forest territories, managed by SOEs and revenues from sales in 2017

Method of use and sale	Report 2016		Report 2017			
	quantity (cub.m)	value (thousand BGN)	quantity		value	
			cub.m	Vari- tion, %	Thousand BGN	Vari- tion, %
I. Revenues from timber sales (1+2+3+4):	5,331,804	275,835	5,274,851	99%	272,870	99%
1.Sale of standing timber	2,710,685	99,531	2,750,431	101%	103,214	104%
1.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	295,676	3,253	324,826	110%	3,373	104%
2. Sale of harvested timber	2,545,118	174,620	2,448,073	96%	167,929	96%
2.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	409,648	17,006	417,249	102%	26,072	153%
3. Timber use under art. 116b of FA	7,101	x	6,880	97%	x	x
4. Timber use under art. 193 of FA	68,899	1,547	69,467	101%	1,708	100%
II. Total costs, quality (I.1.+ II.1.), value II.(1+2+3):	5,338,337	97,649	5,254,963	98%	91,480	103%
1. Costs for timber harvesting - in total:	2,627,652	62,135	2,504,532	95%	59,200	103%
2.Costs for making routes and on-going repair of forest roads for vehicles	x	4,207	x	x	2,539	146%
3.Deductions for fund "Investments in forests"	x	31,307	x	x	26,553	98%

Источник: МЗХГ

4.2. Use of non-timber forest products

In 2017, SOEs reported income from side activities and non-timber forest products amounting to BGN 13,539 thousand in total and corresponding costs of BGN 7,996 thousand, as it was reported 14% increase in revenues and 7% decrease in costs compared to 2016. From the total revenues, these of use of non-timber products from the state forest territories were BGN 304 thousand, which is BGN 33 thousand less than 2016.

5. Protection of forest territories

5.1. Protection of forest territories from diseases, pests and other damages

Reports for 2017 show that the greatest impact on the state of health of forests in the country has caused damage to insect pests and phytopathogenic fungi on coniferous species, with 20,103 signals for a total area of 57,657 ha. Most areas affected by insect pests and phytopathogenic fungi are in the area of activity of RDF Kardzhali – 1,336.5 ha, RDF Stara Zagora – 7,285.6 ha, RDF Pazardzhik – 5,407.5 ha, RDF Smolyan – 4,050 ha, RDF Plovdiv – 3,917.6 ha and others. The sanitary and forced felling for the utilisation of the affected by biotic and abiotic causes has an area of 27,715.9 ha.

The conducted aerial treatment in 2017 in the coniferous forests has a total area of 2,004.7 ha, with a projected 2,903.6 ha. The fight against insect pests, pine procession and rust pine leaf, with plant protection products based on the biological agent *Bacillus thuringensis* and the active substances diflubenzuron and tebufenozide. The reported effect of aerial spraying on the mortality of the pests is from 66% to 98%. Total air spraying treatment during the year spent BGN 97,586, with an average value of BGN 4.87 per hectare.

A terrestrial chemical and biological struggle was carried out on an area of 352.8 ha for BGN 28,200 or an average of 7.99 BGN/ha. The mechanical struggle has an area of 217.3 hectares, amounting to BGN 11,111 (5.11 BGN/ha) and salvage logging on an area of 27,715.9 ha.

Anticipated actions to combat diseases, pests and others. damages are over-charged with the exception of aerobic and sanitary felling. Sanitation is met at 88% compared to the 2017 forecast.

Table VI.3. Conducted forest protection events in 2017

Event	Forecast 2017 (ha)	Report 2017 (ha)	Money spent (BGN)
Aerial fighting	2,903.6	2,004.7	97,586
incl. aero-chemical	1,796.4	871.3	37,308
aero-biological	1,107.2	1,133.4	60,278
Land-based chemical and biological fighting	254	352.8	28,200
Mechanical fighting	145.2	217.3	11,110
Integrated fighting	-	-	-
Salvage logging	31,014.6	27,715.9	
Total:	34,317.4	30,290.7	136,896

Source: EFA

In 2017, SOEs spent BGN 169.5 thousand for protection forestry activities in the forests, which was by BGN 228 thousand more than in 2016.

5.2. Fire protection of the forests

During the year 513 forest fires were registered in the country, 4,569.4 ha forest areas were affected, of which 989 ha were burned by fires. The area of affected coniferous forests is 1,521.2 ha, the affected areas with deciduous forests are 2,195.9 ha, with mixed forests - 298.2 ha and 554.1 ha with the burned grasses and woodless forest territories.

The largest number of forest fires and affected areas has on the territory of RDG - Blagoevgrad - 7 fires on an area of 1,694.1 ha, RDF - Berkovitsa - 40 fires on area 612.3 ha, RDDF - Burgas - 32 fires on area 538.2 ha, RDF - Sofia - 54 fires on an area of 286.6 ha, and RDF - Sliven - 20 fires on an area of 272.2 ha. At least the registered forest fires in the Regional Forestry Directorate - Smolyan - 17 in the area of 9.2 ha and the RDF - Shumen - 10, affecting an area of 11.2 ha.

Most of the forest areas in Blagoevgrad are caused by the devastating fire occurring on the territory of the South-eastern Bulgarian State Forest - Simitli, which has grown in the RDF - Kresna. Affected are 1,392.1 ha, of which 685.9 ha of peak fire. The direct damage to the two forest farms only from this fire is estimated at about BGN 500 thousand.

The largest share of the burnt areas in 2017 is state property - 70%, 13% are municipal property, 15% private property and 2% are owned by legal entities.

The direct damage from forest fires in 2017 is estimated at almost BGN 4 million,

which is below the average of about BNG 5 million for the last 10 years. This amount does not include the costs needed to restore the forest fires that have been burned in the next three years by State forest enterprises and other forest owners. These financial indicators do not include the expenditures of Mol, MoD, Regional Administrations, Municipalities, volunteers and other owners of forest areas for the suppression of fires in the reporting period.

During the year, as a result of the established organisation and thanks to the immediate and adequate reaction of forest workers, firefighters and others, in most cases a fire signal was not allowed to enter the forest areas. A great contribution to this is also the activity of the exported centre of tel. 112 to the EFA.

In connection with fires, including in the forests, in 2017 several crisis situations were declared, as well as the evacuation of the population at the fire in the Kresna region. In the overcoming of the crises, employees and equipment of the state enterprises under Art. 163 of the GI and their territorial structures – FEP/FMP, as well as officials and forest inspectors from the respective regional forest directorates.

In 2017, in connection with the implementation of the National Strategy for Forestry Development in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013-2020 and the Strategic Plan for Development of the Forestry Sector in Bulgaria 2014 - 2023, a " Forest Fire Protection Program "with a period of operation until 2023. The program is published on the website of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

With regard to the preparation for implementation of the forestry measures approved under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, measure 8.3 "Prevention of forest fires by forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events", the EFA is has actively supported the development of an exemplary "Scheme for deploying means of monitoring and detecting fires in the country's forest areas". The scheme was developed between 2015 and 2017 and approved by the Expert Board of the EFA. The development is also published on the web site of the EFA.

For the implementation of forest fire protection activities in 2017, SOEs spent BGN 2,006,000, which is BGN 202,000 less than the previous year. The bulk of the reported costs are for the implementation of preventive activities.

6. Protected territories

Under the Law on the protected areas, there are six categories of protected areas in the country, the responsibility for whose management is shared between MAF - EFA and MoEW.

MoEW supervises the management of all protected areas and direct management of national parks and reserves.

The 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 the 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 landmarks located on forest territories owned by the state. For the management of natural parks 11 departments were created specialised territorial units to EFA: NP "Belasitsa", NP "Bulgarka", NP "Vitosha", NP "Vratsa Balkan", NP "Golden Sands", NP "Persina", NP "Blue Stones", NP "Strandzha", NP "Ruse Lom", NP "Rila Monastery" and NP "Shumen plateau".

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 MAFF through the state enterprises and the relevant state forest and hunting enterprises.

In 2017, three cooperation agreements and joint activities were concluded between Belasitsa NPP, Vitosha NPP and Rila Monastery NPP Blagoevgrad. The purpose of the agreements is to solve problems of mutual interest in the following areas: sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, environmentally sound land management in protected areas and protected areas under the Biological Diversity Act, qualification of personnel, preparation, implementation of projects related to forests and protected areas.

During the year the directorates of the nature parks have directed their efforts to maintain the established tourist infrastructure - repair of bridges, interpretative routes, shelters and recreation areas. Information boards, marking of tourist routes and others were updated and restored.

The activity of reintroduction of endangered and rare species and maintenance of their populations was also continued. In most of the built aviaries are raised and acclimated ear owls, Egyptian vultures, owl, buzzard, owl, owl, etc., which are then displaced in the respective parks. On-site feeding sites are regularly exported. The

Vratsa Balkan NPP continued its activity in restoring the population of mountain cliff, nourishing the Egyptian and reintroducing the Griffon vulture.

GMPs have participated in a number of press conferences, published and published publications in local and national media to promote their activities and biodiversity. Educational events with children and pupils from local schools (educational excursions, competitions and educational activities) were organised and carried out within this area.

In connection with the dates from the nature conservation calendar, information campaigns were carried out, a number of activities were carried out with eco-clubs and schools located in settlements near the parks.

The Golden Sands Nature Park Directorate has participated for several consecutive years at events of the educational institutions working under the international program "Eco-schools" and "We learn about the forest".

The established Training and Interpretation Centres in the Parks continue their activity by regularly recruiting groups of pupils and children from the country. The Vratsa Youth Red Cross trainings, pedagogical seminars for primary and pre-school teachers, training for young experts on bat conservation, seminars organised by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and others were held in the base.

The Park Directorates have actively worked to support local initiatives and volunteer network development, have organised and participated in volunteer park cleaning actions and in BTV's traditional campaign "Let's Clean Bulgaria for a Day".

For another year the Nature Parks Directorates organise and host the "Greenpeace Festival"; "Chestnut Festival"; "Green Suns"; International Symposium of Contemporary Art "Lomeya" and others.

The GMP together with the FIA participated in the Green Day tourist exhibition in May in Sofia.

The implementation of the obligations related to the monitoring of the species of plants and animals of conservation significance included in the National System for Monitoring of the Biological Diversity continues.

In 2017, the Persina NPP launched the project "Bonding of the Danube Protected Areas in the Danube Green Habitats Corridor" under the Danube 2014-2020 Cross-Border Cooperation Program. "Rusenski Lom" GMP has launched the project "Forest

Monitoring System for early detection and assessment of fires in the Balkan - Mediterranean region" under the INTERREG VV "Balkans - Mediterranean" transnational cooperation program 2014-2020.

The project "Conservation and Restoration of Natura 2000 Fish Types and Their Migration Roads in Key Protected Areas of Bulgaria", project LIFE 12 NAT-BG-001011, has been completed. Two migratory barriers for fish have been removed within the project, a fish passage has been built on the Cherni Lom River and information boards have been placed.

In 2017, the EFA participated in the following procedures for deleting and increasing the area of protected territories:

- Announcement of "Barkite" Protected Site;
- Deletion of a natural landmark "Perustiata" and "Orlicite" NL, falling within the boundary of Pirin National Park;
- Deletion of "Lipaka" Protected Site;
- Deletion of a natural landmark "Ledenika Cave - Roman Kale" and PZ "Rakovski Cave - Zlosteni";
- Deletion of "Witch" Protected Site;
- Increase of the area of Sand Dunes Nature Reserve in the Babata area and deletion of 5 NL "Sand dunes" in Nessebar "(in process)

7. Forest certification

All certified forest areas in Bulgaria are certified by the FSC (Forest Management Board). According to the annual FSC newsletter, the area of certified forest areas is 1,464,607 ha as of December 2017, representing 34% of the total forest area in the country and the certified units are 27. FSC - Chain of custody hold 391 certified units.

According to the PEFC Electronic Information Portal (Certification Program for Forest Certification), the PEFC - Chain of Custody has 10 certified units.

Based on a decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Regional Forestry Directorates have taken actions for the accelerated certification of the state forests, which contributes to the increase of the certified forest territories.

For the state forest territories, operated by the SOE under Art. 163 of the FA, the achieved operational objective was achieved in the "Strategic plan for development of the forestry sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014 - 2023", for certification of 50% of the forest territories. The target for the availability of certified contractors engaged

in timber harvesting in the forests has also been met, with the 200 certified objective being overfilled by 191.

As of the end of 2017, the total area of FSC-certified forest areas managed by state-owned enterprises under Art. 163 of the FA is 1,448,798 hectares (50% of the total territory of the country) and the certified units are 24. The forest territories managed by Northeast State Enterprise and North-eastern State Enterprise are fully certified. In 2017, under the FSC standard certified, 383,500 ha of forest areas are managed by the SOE.

8. Inventory and planning in forest areas

In 2017, the following activities were carried out:

- Meetings of the committees under Art. 34, para. 1 of Ordinance 18 / 07.10.2015 for inventory and planning in the forest areas for territorial units "Govezhda", "Tsonevo" "Sandanski", "Krumovgrad", "Kosti", "Malko Tarnovo", "Zvezdets" "Slaveyno", "Hissarya", "Alabak", Velingrad, "Radomir" and "Kostenets", for territorial units of the Rodopi, Borovo, Dikchan, Satovcha and Vitosha-Studena for Student Experimental Forestry "Georgi St. Avramov", Yundola village;
- Documentation was prepared for conducting open public procurement procedures, inventory of forest areas and forestry plans, forest maps, hunting plans and plans for the protection of forest areas from fires during the period 2017/2018 for territorial units "Slavyanovo", "Hissarya", "Alabak" in the town of Velingrad, "Radomir" and "Kostenets", for the Rhodopes Regional Branch Divisions "Borovo" "Dikchan", p. Satovcha and "Vitoshko - Cold" and learning experience forestry "George St. Avramov", Yundola village;
- In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 18/07.10.2015 on inventory and planning in the forest territories, the documentation for conducting an open procedure for public procurement for the inventory of the forest territories and preparation of forest plans, forest maps, hunting economic plans for the period 2018/2019 for the territorial units Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Osogovo, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovci, Chirpan, Nova Zagora "Tervel", "Shiroka Polyana", "Nessebar", "Trakia" - for the former TPK "Krichim" and the hunting economic department "Tamrash", "Izvora" - the part of the former SFH Devin.

The procedures are carried out by the individual state-owned enterprises under Art. 163 of the Forestry and Regional Forestry Directorates Act, as for the some of the farms the procedures continued in 2018;

- Expert advice on the acceptance of the business classes and the size of the annual use for the state forest and hunting grounds Mezdra, Midzur - for the part of the Chuprene, Troyan, Borima, Sevlievo, Momchilgrad, Kirkovo, Shiroka Laka, Peshtera, Varna, Mesta, Dupnitsa, Ribaritsa, Samokov - for the part of the Borovets and Novo Panicharevo for territorial units RUSALKA, the villages of Apriltsi and Gramatikovo;
- Meetings of the committees under Art. 37, para. 3 of Ordinance No. 18 / 07.10.2015 on Inventory and Planning in the Forest Territories, after which Experts were Advice for Adoption of the Protocols from the Meetings of the Committees for Acceptance of the Inventory of the Forest Areas and the Forestry Plans, Forestry maps, Hunting Economics plans and plans for protection of the forest areas from fires in 2016/2017 for territorial units Mezdra, Midzhur, for the part of the Chuprene, Troyan, Borima, Sevlievo, Momchilgrad, Kirkovo, Shiroka laka, Peshtera, Varna, Mesta, Dupnitsa, Ribaritsa, Samokov - for the part of the rivers Borovets and Novo Panicharevo, and for territorial units RUSALKA, the village of Apriltsi, and Gramatikovo;
- Expert advice was given for the acceptance of assignments in connection with the forthcoming inventory of the forest territories in the period 2018/2019 for territorial units SF Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Osogovo, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovtsi, Chirpan, Nova Zagora and for Territorial state forestries Tervel, Shiroka Polyana, Nessebar, Trakia - for the former SF Krichim and hunting economic section Tamrash, Izvora - the part of the former SF Devin;
- A digital orthophoto record of the companies, which inventory the forest territories and elaborate forest plans, forest maps, hunting economic plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires for the period 2017/2018;
- Three district plans for the development of the forest areas for the Montana, Dobrich and Smolyan regions have been assigned - pilot projects.

9. Hunting

In 2017, the following major activities were carried out with the participation of the EAG, related to the management and use of the game:

- Discussion of an amendment to the LHPG in the National Assembly;
- Development of a National Strategy for Development of the Hunting Economy;
- Development of an amendment to Ordinance No. 2/2009 on the conditions for growing of hairy and feathered game in livestock farms, according to its physiological and behavioural features;
- A National Meeting of the IAG, NLRL - SLRB and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee with the Chiefs and Chiefs of Hunting Associations on prevention of the spread of African plague in Bulgaria, the holding of the hunting rights courses, the reporting of the wild game in the information system, conducting taxing game, etc .;
- The international exhibition "Nature, hunting, fishing" was organised in 2017 in Plovdiv;
- Participated in 5 international hunting exhibitions - Dortmund, Salzburg, Moscow, Athens and Zagreb, resulting in hunting tourism agreements;
- Meetings of inter-ministerial working groups with the participation of the IAG, MoEW and NGOs have been held regarding the implementation of the Management Plan for the bear and the chamois in the country;
- The EFA, together with the BFSA and the Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre, held meetings on issues related to the prevention of the introduction of African swine fever into the country;
- Fee and plan for using the game for 2017;
- Inspections have been carried out on the implementation of the contracts, which provide the management and use of the game in game breeding areas; the contracts for joint hunting activities in the State Enterprise and the contracts for management and use of the game in the hunting companies;
- 9 scientific and research licenses were issued;
- There were courses and exams for hunting rights in 135 hunting associations; examinations for the acquisition of the right to hunting drivers in the Sherpa State Enterprise; courses and exams for obtaining the right to selective hunting in 8 hunting associations; courses and examinations for training of persons in 2 hunting associations;

- 140 tickets were issued for hunting foreign nationals
- Categorisation of 6 hunting grounds in FEP and FMP;
- Thematic and specialised inspections were carried out on the implementation of hunting economic activities and the implementation of the contracts for joint activities in the SOE.

In 2017, the total revenues from the hunting economic activity in the forest territories - state property amount to BGN 8,622 thousand, 4% less than in 2016. The revenues from organised hunting tourism increased by BGN 196,000 compared to the previous one year, reaching BGN 4,947 thousand. Revenues from contracts concluded under the ZLOD in the form of annual fees for game management in game breeding areas and annual rent prices for hunting tourism bases of SFE amounts to BGN 2,989 thousand, 4% less than in 2016. For implementation of the foreseen hunting and fisheries economic activities during the year spent BGN 10,393 thousand, with a slight increase of 1% compared to 2016.

10. Conservation of forest areas and control

By the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018, the Forestry Agency controlled the activities in forest areas of an area of 4.2 million hectares.

In 2017, the employees of the RDA and SOE under Art. 163 of the Forestry Act carried out 439,001 inspections of vehicles, persons and objects related to the use, processing and marketing of forest, game and fish resources, which is 16,170 more than 2016. 19,581 sites were checked under Art. 206 of the GD, 80,593 timber extraction sites, 122,901 vehicles, 148,587 hunters, 17,492 fishermen and 49,847 other persons.

In the course of the year, the forest protection officers of the SOE carried out 201,686 inspections, of which at the timber extraction sites – 39,495; of vehicles – 52,911; of hunters - 84,638; to other persons – 24,016. There were 5,052 acts for establishing administrative violations. 4,549.24 space cubic meters of wood, 419 carts and 247 chainsaws were detained.

Violations detected

In 2017, a total of 19,995 violations of forest legislation were found. There were 14,732 acts of administrative violations, with 2,132 less than 2016. For 2,986 offenses, the perpetrators were not found, and 2,314 offenses established with probative protocols were with some offenders to be drawn up acts.

In the forest territories, which are state property, a total of 8,479 violations were

found, in municipal ownership - 508, and in private ownership - 5,305 violations.

Out of a total of 14,732 acts, 4,651 were made up of employees in the RDP, 8,977 - by employees in FEP or FMO, 907 - by municipal employees, 107 by private forestry practitioners, 89 by the Ministry of Interior officials and 1 by a representative of the Hunting and Fisheries Union. 126 criminal prosecution cases were issued in accordance with Art. 36, para. 2 of the Administrative Violations and Penalties Act.

In the Elitsa information system, 14,292 files were registered - 440 less than the total number, as some of the municipalities do not keep the files with this software. Since January 1, 2018, new software has been introduced, owned by the EFA, which will keep all files for violations of Forest Act.

According to the Forestry Act, 13,637 acts were drawn up, 249 of the Law on Hunting and Game Protection, 249 of the Act on Fisheries and Aquaculture, 90 of Act on Medicinal Plants - 7 and other acts - 309 acts.

The RDF officers have compiled 120 acts of violations committed by FEP/FMO employees, 231 acts of forestry practitioners, private forestry practitioners, and 28 acts of persons related to the activities of management and protection of forest territories - municipal property. 44 coercive administrative measures have been imposed under Art. 253 of the FA. In 2017, most violations were found in the Regional Development Directorate - Lovech – 2,484, followed by Berkovitsa - 1,497, Ruse – 1,353, Varna – 1,270 and Burgas – 1,248 acts.

In 2017, 11,217 penalties were issued, 412 cases were cancelled by the directors of the regional forest directorates. Two 985 files were sent to the Prosecutor's Office, of which 758 were without a decision, 1,989 were returned for administrative proceedings and 238 for criminal proceedings.

480 files were appealed, 56 of which were modified, 88 were cancelled and 26 confirmed. 81 convictions were issued, 50 more than 2016. A total of 7,820 punitive decrees came into force. Penalties and penalties imposed by penal decrees amounted to a total of BGN 1,794,883, with BGN 1,160,293 under the enacting penal sanctions. Only BGN 165,786 have been collected from the enacted penal provisions, which represents 14% collection.

In 2017, a total of 28,899 cubic meters of illegally harvested timber was found in documents and founding records.

Revenues from sales of detained goods during the year amounted to a total of BGN 153,174. A large part of the retained wood is provided under Art. 273, para. 2 and para. 5 of the Forestry Act.

In 2017, the EFA continued its active promotion and enforcement of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and derived products on the timber market.

As a result of the exercise of the control functions, the EFA and RDA carried out 598 inspections, 442 of them being operators and the other traders within the meaning of the Regulation. To support the activity, the Agency has used information from the information system of the Customs Agency.

RFD control activity in forest areas

In 2017, forest inspectors in the RDF carried out 178,916 inspections of 19,540 timber processing and trading sites, 20,417 timber harvesting sites, 56,723 vehicles, 46,483 hunters, 9,803 fishermen and 25,950 individuals.

Forest inspectors and RDF experts have compiled 4,651 acts or 32% of the country's acts. Employees of state-owned enterprises and their subsidiaries have compiled 8,977 acts, or an average of 3.7 per employee. Employees for the protection of municipal forest areas have compiled 907 acts, an average of 2.6 per employee per year.

The detained goods are: 645 cubic meters of wood, 67 cubic meters of wood and 3,734 cubic meters of firewood, 219 vehicles, 48 horses, 155 wagons, 92 chainsaws, 16 weapons, 16 kilos wild game meat and fish, 60 kg of non-wood products and more.

Interaction with other institutions

The interaction of the forestry control and protection staff is mainly with Mol officials. Where criminal data is available, the Mol structures take over the cases. On the other hand, in the case of violations related to the forestry legislation, Mol staff often turn to assistance and drafting acts to employees of RDFs or FEP/FMP. Only in the territorial scope of RDF Berkovitsa employees of the Ministry of Interior have drawn 89 acts.

The protection and protection of forest areas from fires, as well as the immediate extinguishing action, are carried out in close cooperation with the DGFND - Mol.

In 2017, joint actions were carried out with the Gendarmerie Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, on the territory of Sofia Regional Forestry Directorate, RDF Berkovitsa, RDDDF Blagoevgrad and others.

Joint inspections were carried out with employees of the Road Infrastructure Agency, the National Revenue Agency, the Executive Agency "Labor Inspectorate", NAFA.

Exported call centre 112.

In 2017, 8,539 alerts for violations of the FA, LHPG, the Law on the protected areas, the Law for the Fishery and the Aquacultures, etc. were received at the centre for receiving and servicing emergency calls to 112.

The highest number of signals were reported for the occurrence of fires - 29%, illegal logging in forest areas - 28%, illegal timber transportation - 11%, illegal timber storage - 6%, violations of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act - 10 %, under the Hunting and Game Conservation Act - 5.5%, with 331 of the signals (4%) being false.

11. Strategic planning, improvement of the legal framework and international activities

A draft of the National Forest Action Plan 2018 - 2027 was developed in 2017.

A draft White Paper on the state of the forestry sector under the responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, an assessment of the changes that took place in 2009-2017 and a roadmap for future actions and impacts was prepared.

In order to improve the operational utilisation of the dried coniferous wood pulp and limiting the drying by biotic and abiotic factors and updating of the provisions related to the felling applied, an Ordinance for amendment and supplement of Ordinance 8 on the felling of forests, published in State Gazette, issue 71 from 01.09.2017

For timely planning and implementation of forestry and forest protection activities in the forest territories, the EFA has given instructions for the management of coniferous white and black pine trees, published on the website of the Agency.

Within 2017, the following legislative acts were drafted:

- Act for Amendment and Supplement to the Hunting and Game Protection Act;
- Law for amendment of the Forestry Act;
- Decree of the Council of Ministers amending and supplementing the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for the assignment of activities in the forest territories - state and municipal property, and for the use of timber and non-timber forest products;
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 8 of 2011 on felling in forests;
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 5 of 31.07.2014 on the construction in the forest territories without changing their designation;

- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 12 of 16.12.2011 on protection of forest areas from diseases, pests and other damages;
- Ordinance amending the Ordinance No. 8 of 2003 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for exemptions from the prohibitions introduced by the Law on the biological diversity of animal and plant species of Appendix 3 for the animal species of Appendix 4, all wild bird species other than those listed in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 and the use of non-selective gear, means and methods of capture and killing from Appendix 5;
- Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 14 of 27.10.2005 on the conditions and procedure for issuing permits for introducing non-native or reintroduction of local tree, shrub and hunting species into nature and taking into account the opinion of the public in the region of reintroduction;
- Ordinance amending the Ordinance No. 21 of 2012 on the conditions and order for determination, approval, registration and cancellation of the sources of the forest seed production base, the collection and extraction of forest reproductive materials, their qualification, trade and import.
- In 2017, experts from the EFA participated actively in the workshops of the European Commission, as well as in a number of activities in the field of forestry in the country and of an international nature. The necessary information has been provided to EU institutions and other international organisations.

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Implementation of strategic activities and priorities in the forestry sector through projects funded by the EU and other international donors

In 2017, the development of the following project proposals: "Supporting Forest Products through Regional Policies for Bio-Economics - BUS4PRO" under the INTERREG EUROPE Program, "New Public Policies, Business Models and Sustainable Provisions and Payment Mechanisms for Forest Ecosystem Services" The Horizon 2020 Program of the European Union and LIFE FOR OUR FOREST under the LIFE Program. The possibility of developing a project proposal "Priority actions for sustainable management of capercaillie and chamois populations" under the EU's LIFE program was discussed.

At the meetings of the Standing Working Group on Preliminary Drafting of Proposals, as defined by Order No. 289 / 08.02.2016, a total of 13 project proposals submitted by RDF and STT were examined. Relevant denial or support letters have been prepared.

At the meetings of the Commission for the examination of project proposals, defined by Order No. 1013 / 10.11.2017, a total of 9 project proposals submitted by the structures of the EAG were examined. Relevant support letters have been prepared.

In 2017, the project "Collaboration for Improving Management Practices related to the Impact of Land Use on the Danube River Basin Water Management", Camaro - D, was launched under the EU Danube - 2014-2020 transnational program. Within the framework of the project a number of field activities are foreseen in the pilot area of the project - catchment area "Ochindolska reka", with participation of experts from EAG, RDB Berkovitsa, DZC Mezdra and Vratsa Balkan Nature Park. During the implementation of the project, activities related to erosion control, control of torrential activity, control of forest fires, determination and role of the buffer green belt around the settlements and others.

Throughout the year, the following projects are currently being implemented:

- "Conservation of the key forest habitat of the Little Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) in Bulgaria" under the EU LIFE + program. The project team has prepared and submitted a Second Progress Report adopted by the Program Secretariat; two meetings of the Supervisory Group were organised; participation in the annual meeting of all Bulgarian projects under the program; has been successfully organised and audited by the external monitoring expert on the project, and an audit of the project activities is carried out. An information campaign under the RDP 2014-2020 was carried out and the development of the forest measures of the program was supported. The draft Action Plan for the Little Spotted Eagle has undergone a public discussion, the inventory of TPP Krumovgrad and the TPG Grammatikovo TPP has been assisted, and in the territory of TPP Kosti is organised a visiting visit for representatives of RDA Kardzhali and TP in the scope of activity of the Directorate. Pursuant to Art. 24, para. (4) of the Regulation on Inventory and Planning in the Forest Areas has been prepared (after comparative field testing) Method for measuring the quantity and characteristics of deadwood and biotope trees in forest ecosystems. An international conference for the small spotted eagle was organised and held in Bulgaria with the participation of the best experts on the

world level. Participation in the International Conference on the Conservation of Old Forests in Europe was held at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. The preparation of 5 lecture courses at the University of Sofia on the conservation of the species and other relevant topics has been started. There were 7 GIS trainings and an article on the subject in Gora magazine was published. The fourth campaign "I guard the forests and eagles of Bulgaria" was carried out, brochures on the opportunities of RDP, planning in the forestry sector, etc. were prepared;

- "Regional policies for sustainable bioenergy - BIO4ECO" under INTERREG EUROPE. A draft Forest Biomass Energy Action Plan, 2018 - 2027, has been prepared, which has been publicly debated and adopted at 6 meetings of the Expert Council of the EFA; two national meetings of the main project stakeholders were organised and held; a meeting was organised with the Managing Authority of the Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness" and others. At the international level, participations were organised at the International Biomass Exhibition in Vik, Spain and in visits / seminars in Latvia and Slovenia;
- "Testing of poplar branches from EU Member States for the production of biomass (fast growing species)", aiming to realise a voluntary partnership with the possibility of part financing of activities by the leading partner Bavarian Seed Control Station - Teisendorf, Germany;
- "Restoration and Conservation of Alluvial Forests from the Habitat 91E0 in NATURA 2000 Protected Areas and Model Areas in Bulgaria" LIFE13 NATBG000801. The project aims to restore priority habitats of type 91E0 * "Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*".

International activities in state forest enterprises / Increasing the share of the green economy based on forests

In 2017, the project "Provision of consultancy services to support the conservation of ecosystems and the sustainable management of natural resources in Bulgaria has begun by improving information on forests and forest areas for the needs of the Rural Development Program (2014-2020 d) with WIN 01 / 04-05-16 / 030, funded by measure 20 "Technical Assistance" of the RDP (2014-2020). The Law on the Ratification of the Agreement on the Provision of Consultancy Services between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of the Republic of Bulgaria and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was promulgated in SG. pc. 105 of 30 December 2016

12. Financing and investment in forest areas

12.1. Executive Forest Agency

In 2017, EFA received revenues totalling BGN 8,635,192, with BGN 13,134,521 planned. Performance against a specified plan amounted to 65.7%. The main functions of the agency are controlling, which does not imply accumulation of revenue in larger sizes.

The budget approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the year 2017 amounts to BGN 24,471,611, allocated for implementation under the budget programs "Specialised activities in the forest territories" - BGN 19,471,611 and the Budget Program "Planning, protection against encroachments, fires and forest protection "Amount to BGN 5,000,000. The expenditure incurred by the Agency for the performance of its main functions as of 31.12.2017 amounts to BGN 25,419,275.

During the year expenditures under §10 - 00 - Maintenance of a total value of BGN 10,809,404, including BGN 4,468,428 for inventory of forest territories. With an amount of BGN 12,465 reported under Paragraph 51 - 00 - Overhaul, a new playground was rehabilitated in the Hutata area in the territorial scope of Shumen Plateau NPP. A major overhaul was also carried out at an administrative building of RDF Shumen. With the funds amounting to 35,541 leva, covered in §52 - 00, a multifunctional device with fax and GPS devices was purchased in the RDF - Sofia and the construction of a passage tunnel in the Biserova cave, located on the territory of NPP Shumen Plateau, started. Under § 53 - 01 - Acquisition of software and software licenses for software products has reported costs in the amount of BGN 74,788 for the purchase of software for transport tickets from a temporary warehouse for the sites under Art. 206 of the FA, software for registry of acts and forest protocols, forest software, software for virtualisation, backup software and navigation software.

The Directorates of Natural Parks, third-level budget spenders in 2017 have received transfers of verified funds on completed projects under Operational Program Environment 2007 - 2013 amounting to BGN 23,251 which have been reimbursed to the budget of the Fund.

Headquarters of the Regional Forestry Agency, the Regional Forestry Directorate of Burgas, the Regional Forestry Directorate of Rousse, the RDP Plovdiv, the Persina NPP and the Rusenski Lom NPP are beneficiaries of EU funding programs for nature protection and biodiversity LIFE +, operational programs for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. In 2017, funds amounting to BGN 528,110 were received. About BGN 854,485 were spent on implementing the project activities.

The central management of the EFA is implementing projects under the European Economic Area with a program operator, the Ministry of Environment and Waters, which ended in the first semester of 2017.

In 2017, budget year, the funds amounted to BGN 546,378.

12.2. State forest enterprises

Reported revenues from the overall activity of state-owned enterprises for 2017 amounted to BGN 319,087 thousand and total expenses to BGN 311,317 thousand. Compared to 2016, the revenues of the enterprises increased by BGN 570 thousand and the expenditures by BGN 454 thousand.

The total financial result of enterprises in their operating activities in 2017 is positive - BGN 7,770 thousand, an increase of BGN 116 thousand compared to 2016.

The investments made by the six DPs in 2017 amount to BGN 40,102 thousand, by 4% less compared to 2016.

A total of 62.6% of all investments were made with funds from the Forest Investments Fund for the following activities, with a total of BGN 25,100 thousand, with BGN 1,354 thousand less than 2016:

- Design of a 48 km construction of new roads and major overhaul of existing forest roads - BGN 451 thousand;
- Construction and major overhaul of 75 km of forest roads and transport technical infrastructure - BGN 14,630 thousand;
- Design and construction of 2 technical and fortification facilities - BGN 274 thousand;
- For afforestation activities - BGN 5,980 thousand;
- Completion of transactions for the purchase of small-sized private forest property from 2016 - BGN 266 thousand.

With the funds by economic activity, 195 transport vehicles and 46 specialised equipment were purchased and 51 major buildings were repaired.

13. Administrative service

13.1. Register of persons engaged in forestry activities

In 2017, the Commission for examination of applications for registration of natural persons and traders in the public registers of the EFA under Art. 235 and Art. 241

of the FA held 19 sessions, as a result of which 488 individuals were registered and issued certificates for performing activities on the forest territories. During the same period, 476 traders were registered and issued for carrying out activities in the forest areas.

During the year from the public register under Art. 241 , para. 1 of the GD have written off 55traders, and from the register under Art. 235 of the Civil Code have written off 47 individuals. As of 31.12.2017, the total number of registered physical persons for exercising forestry practice was 11,016, and registered traders – 3,883.

In connection with the changes made to the requirements for registration of individuals, the activity for conducting examinations under Art. 236a of the GD. 22 examinations were carried out, including RDF Blagoevgrad, RDF Stara Zagora, RDF Veliko Tarnovo, RDF Varna and RDF Kyustendil, where 853 candidates participated, out of which 426 have passed.



VII. FISHERY AND AQUACULTURES

1. Catch and production of fish and other aquatic organisms

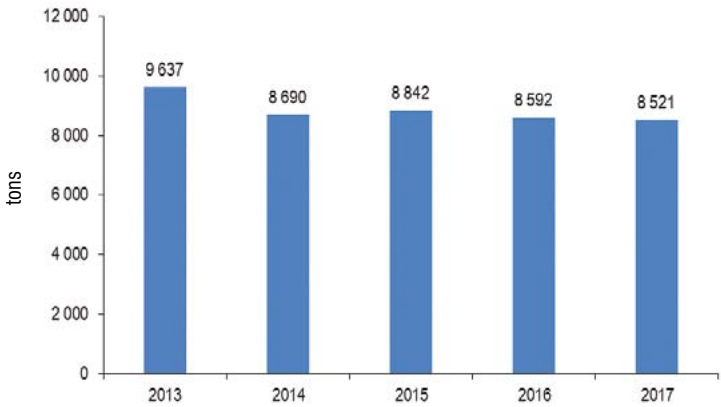
Catch of fish and other aquatic organisms

According to data from the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA), in 2017 the total catches of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing in the country decreased by 0.8% compared to the previous year. The total catch is 8,520.6 tonnes, of which 8,467.1 tonnes - in the Black Sea and 53.52 tonnes - in the Danube. Compared to 2016, catches in the Black Sea decreased by 0.9%, while that in the Danube increased by 2.5%.

The total catch of marine fish species for 2017 amounted to 4,007.1 tonnes, which is 466.8 tonnes or 10.4% less than the previous year. Traditionally, catches of fish from the species sprat (*Sprattus sprattus sulinus*), amounting to 3,184.6 tonnes, have grown 39.1% on an annual basis. Among the other Black Sea species, significant catches are recorded for barley (*Mullus barbatus ponticus*) – 373.9 tonnes, horse mackerel (*Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus*) – 153.3 tonnes, Pomatomus saltatrix – 71.1 tonnes and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) - 50.3 tonnes.

Catches of veined rapa whelk (*Rapana* spp.), representing a major part of the Black Sea catch of aquatic organisms (81% in 2017), rose by 5.8% over the previous year. There was a significant increase in the catch of sand gaper (*Mya arenaria*) by 39.8% to 819.3 tonnes, while that of blue mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) shrank by 73.3% to 11.1 tonnes. The amount of sand shark (*Crangon* sp.) caught was 1.4 tonnes - 2 times less than in the previous year.

Figure VII.1. Total fishing and other aquatic organisms in the country, tonnes



Source: NAFA

In 2017, fishery of diadromous fish species (Pontic shad) (*Alosa pontica*) in the Black Sea amounted to 10.3 tonnes, which was 34% below the level of the previous year.

Table VII.1. Total fishing and other aquatic organisms in the country by water basins, tonnes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Variation 2017/2016
Fishery in Black sea - total, incl.	8,546.7	8,745.2	8,540.0	8,467.1	-0.9%
- marine species	3,713.7	4,490.2	4,473.9	4,007.1	-10.4%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	20.5	17.7	15.6	10.3	-34.0%
- veined rapa whelk, mussels and shrimps	4,812.5	4,237.3	4,050.5	4,449.6	9.9%
Fishery in Danube - total, incl.	142.8	96.96	52.21	53.52	2.5%
- freshwater fish	140.4	85.6	50.2	49.1	-2.2%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	1.6	0.6	1.1	0.5	-54.5%
- crayfish and other	0.0	10.7	0.9	4.0	344.4%
Total fishing and other aquatic organisms	8,689.5	8,842.1	8,592.2	8,520.6	-0.8%

Source: NAFA

In 2017, fishery in the Danube increased by 2.5% compared with the previous year. The total quality was 53.52 tonnes, incl. freshwater fish - 49.1 tonnes, diadromous fish, Pontic shad (*Alosa pontica*) - 0.5 tonnes, crayfishes (*Astacidae*, *Cambaridae*) and others - 4.0 tonnes.

The largest qualities of fishery were recorded for the following species: white barbel (*Barbus barbus*) - 7.92 tonnes, carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) - 6.85 tonnes, bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*) - 6.26 tonnes and bream (*Abramis brama*) - 4.98 tonnes.

Compared to the previous year, the total fishery of freshwater fish decreased by 2.2% to 49.1 tonnes. Reduction in fishery of the following species was significant: silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) - by 32.4%, European sheatfish (*Sillurus glanis*) - by 23.2% and carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) - by 20.6%.

An increase in fishery catch on an annual basis was recorded for the following species: vimba bream (*Vimba vimba*) - twice, bream (*Abramis brama*) - by 59.2%, nase (*Chondrostoma nasus*) - by 41.4%, bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*) - by 40.1%, white barbel (*Barbus barbus*) - by 18.2%.

The catch of crayfishes (*Astacidae*, *Cambaridae*) and other aquatic animals was also significantly increased - by 4.4 times.

Regarding the fishery of diadromous fishes (Pontic shad) (*Alosa pontica*) in the Danube, there was a decrease of 54.5% compared to the previous year.

Table VII.2. Fishery and other aquatic organisms from basins for commercial fisheries in 2017

No	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity in tonnes	
		Black sea	Danube
A. Freshwater fish			
	Family Sturgeon /Acipenseridae/		
1	Sterlet /Acipenser ruthenus/		
	Family Trout /Salmonidae/		
2	River /Balkan/ trout /Salmo trutta fario/		
3	Rainbow trout /Oncorhynchus mykiss/		
4	Brook trout /Salvelinus fontinalis/		0.004
5	Hunchen (Danube salmon) /Hucho hucho/		
	Family Coregonidae /Coregonidae/		
6	Coregonus lavaretus		
7	Peled /Coregonus peled/		
	Family Esocidas / Esocidas/		
8	Northern Pike /Esox lucius/		0.295
	Family Carp /Cyprinidae/		
9	Common Roach /Rutilus rutilus/		0.022
10	European Chub /Leuciscus cephalus/		0.080
11	Orfe /Leuciscus idus/		0.054
12	Common rudd /Scardinius erythrophthalmus/		0.017
13	Asp /Aspius aspius/		1.322
14	Tench/Tinca tinca/		
15	Danube bleak /Chalcalburnus chalcoides/		0.588
16	Common bleak /Alburnus alburnus/		1.768
17	Common bream /Abramis brama/		4.978
18	Oriental bream /Abramis sp./		0.058
19	Vimba bream /Vimba vimba/		3.111
20	Ziege /Pelecus cultratus/		
21	Nase /Chondrostoma nasus/		1.851
22	White barbel /Barbus barbus/		7.919
23	Balkan barbus /Barbus meridionalis petenyi/		
24	Round-scaled barbel /Barbus cyclolepis/		
25	Carp /Cyprinus carpio/		6.850
26	Prussian carp /Carassius sp./		3.752
27	Silver carp /Hypophthalmichthys molitrix/		3.053
28	Bighead carp /Aristichthys nobilis/		6.260
29	Grass carp /Ctenopharingodon idella/		1.831
30	Black carp /Mylopharingodon piceus/		0.025

No	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity in tonnes	
		Black sea	Danube
A. Freshwater fish			
31	Crucian carp /Carassius carassius/		0.096
32	Macedonian vimpa /Vimba melanops/		0.010
	Family Siluridae /Siluridae/		
33	Wels catfish /Sillurus glanis/		3.597
	Family Ictaluridae /Ictaluridae/		
34	Channel catfish /Ictalurus punctatus/		
	Family Gadidae /Gadidae/		
35	Burbot/Lota lota/		
	Family Percidae /Percidae/		
36	Zander /Sander lucioperca/Stizostedion lucioperca/		1.451
37	European perch /Perca fluviatilis/		0.070
38	Zingel /Zingel zingel/		
	Family Catostomidae /Catostomidae/		
39	Buffalo fish /Ictiobus/		
B. Diadromous Fish			
	Family Sturgeon /Acipenseridae/		
40	European sturgeon /Huso huso/		
41	Starry sturgeon /Acipenser stellatus/		
42	Russian sturgeon /Acipenser gueldenstaedti/		
43	Siberian sturgeon /Acipenser baerii/		
	Family Anguillidae /Anguillidae/		
44	European eel /Anguilla anguilla/		
	Family Clupeidae /Clupeidae/		
45	Pontic shad /Caspialosa pontica/Alosa pontica/	10.340	0.473
C. Marine Fish			
	Family Squalidae /Squalidae/		
46	Squalus /Squalus acanthias/	50.340	
	Family Clupeidae /Clupeidae/		
47	European pilchard /Sardina pilchardus/	0.205	
48	Sprat /Sprattus sprattus sulinus/	3,184.612	
	Family Engraulidae /Engraulidae/		
49	Anchovy /Engraulis encrasicolus ponticus/	3.740	
	Family Belonidae /Belonidae/		
50	Garfish /Belone belone/	2.484	
	Family Gadidae /Gadidae/		
51	Shore rockling/Gaidropsarus mediterraneus/		
52	Merlangius merlangus /Merlangius merlangus euxinus/	5.577	

No	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity in tonnes	
		Black sea	Danube
C. Marine Fish			
	Family Mullet Fish /Mugilidae/		
53	Flathead grey mullet /Mugil cephalus/	3.090	
54	Mugil / Mugil soiu/	0.008	
55	Golden gray mullet /Liza aurata/	0.473	
56	Leaping mullet /Liza saliens/	3.225	
	Family Atherinidae /Atherinidae/		
57	Atherina /Atherina spp./	9.718	
	Family Serranidae /Serranidae/		
58	European bass /Dicentrarchus labrax/Morone labrax/		
	Family Pomatomidae /Pomatomidae/		
59	Bluefish/Pomatomus saltatrix/	71.076	
	Family Carangidae /Carangidae/		
60	Mediterranean horse mackerel /Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus/	153.341	
	Family Centranchidae /Centranchidae/		
61	Spearmint /Spicara spp./	0.047	
	Family Mullidae /Mullidae/		
62	Mulus barbatus /Mullus barbatus ponticus/	373.861	
63	Striped red mullet /Mullus surmuletus/	0.755	
	Family Scombridae /Scombridae/		
64	Black Sea mackerel /Scomber scombrus/		
65	Belted bonito /Sarda sarda/	13.054	
66	Family Gobiidae /Gobiidae/	39.646	
	Family Scophthalmidae /Scophthalmidae/		
67	Turbot /Psetta maxima/	41.842	
	Family Pleuronectidae /Pleuronectidae/		
68	European flounder /Platichthys flesus luscus/	0.095	
69	Snouted sole /Solea nasuta/	0.002	
	Family Rajidae /Rajidae/		
70	Thornback ray /Raja clavata/	48.864	
	Family Lophidae /lophiidae/		
71	Anglerfish /Lophius piscatorius/		
	Family Dasyotidae /dasyatidae/		
72	Common stingray /Dasyatis pastinaca/	1.091	
Г. Водни животни			
	Class Amphibia /Amphibia/		
73	Marsh Frog /Rana ridibunda/		

No	Common and local names, scientific name /in Latin/	Quantity in tonnes	
		Black sea	Danube
D. Aquatic animals			
	Class Crustacean /Crustacea/		
74	Common shrimps /Leander spp./	0.430	
75	European brown shrimp /Crangon sp./	1.430	
76	Crayfish /Astacidae , Cambaridae/		2.880
77	European crayfish /Astacus leptodactylus/		
78	Noble crayfish /Astacus astacus/		
79	Warty Crab /Eriphia verrucosa/	0.305	
	Class Mussels /Bivalvia/		
80	Sand gaper /Mya arenaria/	819.305	
81	Blue mussel /Mytilus galloprovincialis/	11.139	
82	Veined rapa whelk /Rapana spp./	3,616.949	
83	Other	0.027	0.861
TOTAL:		8,467. n 07	53.52

Source: NAFA

According to EAFA data, as of 31.05.2018 the reported total commercial catch of fish and other aquatic organisms amounted to 2,566.85 tonnes which represented a decrease of 17.4% compared to the first five months of 2017. During this period, the catch in the Black Sea amounted to 2,555.25 tonnes, and this in Danube River – 11.6 tonnes, respectively by 17.4% and 10.5% less on annual basis.

Production of fish and other aquatic organisms

According to information by NAFA, the total number of active fish breeding farms as of the end of 2017 was 707, while previous year the number was 683. Of them, 675 were for freshwater aquaculture, and 32 - for sea aquaculture.

In connection with the ban on the performance of commercial fishing in the inland water basins in the country, which came into effect in the month of August 2012, and the connected with it re-registration, the number of the active registered producers of aquaculture increased.

Production of species of fish was reported, which are a catch in the extensive and semi-intensive hot water farms – European bream (*Abramis brama*), bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), roach (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*). These species were not an object of purposeful breeding and raising in the aquaculture production.

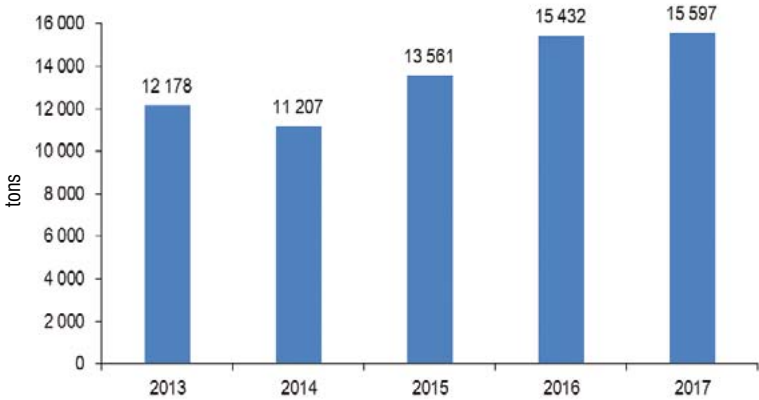
According to information by NAFA, in 2016 the total production of aquaculture (breeding material, fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption) in the special-

ised fish-breeding farms amounted to 15,596.7 tonnes – 1.1% more than the previous year, while an increase was reported not only with the production of fish breeding material, but in the fish for consumption.

The total reported production of aquaculture breeding stock in the fish breeding farms in 2017 was 2,127.7 tonnes, representing a decrease by 30.2% compared to the previous year.

That was mainly as a result of the decreased production of aquaculture breeding stock of the three basic species of fish bred in the fish breeding farms – rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) - up to 1,002.4 tonnes, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) - up to 22.8 tonnes and bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*) - up to 154.6 tonnes. The production of aquaculture breeding stock reported a decrease of other hybrids from the Sturgeon Family (*Acipenseridae*) and blue mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*).

Figure VII.2. Production of fish and other organisms in specialised fish farms for the period 2013-2017, tonnes



Source: NAFA

In 2017, 48.7 tonnes of Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*) was also produced, in the absence of such activity the previous year.

The production of fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption in 2017 amounted to 13,469 tonnes - by 8.8% more than in 2016.

Traditionally, the largest production of fish for the consumption was at the following species: rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), and bighead carp. (*Aristichthys nobilis*). Compared to the previous year, the production of carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and aristichthys nobilis increased by 43.1% and 42.1% respectively, while that of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) decreased by 34%.

A significant increase was recorded in the production of the bream (*Abramis brama*) and the American catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) - by more than three times, European sturgeon (*Huso huso*) - by 93.2%, silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) by 85%, Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*) - by 84%, and African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) - by 68.1%.

Table VII.3. Production of aquaculture breeding stock, fish and aquatic organisms in the fish farms, tonnes

Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Brown trout	1.7	3.5	16.5	16.8	18.2	20.3
Rainbow trout	1,569.7	1,002.4	3,092.2	2,040.5	4,661.9	3,042.9
Brook trout	0.4	0.2	8.8	10.1	9.3	10.3
Pike	3.0	2.0	23.2	23.6	26.2	25.5
European chub	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Tench	0.3	0.2	2.5	5.4	2.8	5.6
Bleak	0.0	0.1	6.2	5.8	6.2	5.9
Nase	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.1
Bream	0.0	0.1	9.0	27.1	9.0	27.2
Carp	544.0	667.6	2,520.0	3,605.5	3,064.0	4,273.1
Crucian carp	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Prussian carp	0.9	3.5	230.9	408.8	231.8	412.3
Silver carp	61.7	22.8	113.1	209.3	174.8	232.0
Bighead carp	310.8	154.6	1,512.7	2,148.9	1,823.4	2,303.5
Grass carp	33.0	45.0	225.6	276.3	258.5	321.4
Black carp	2.4	0.0	3.6	2.5	6.0	2.5
Catfish	25.4	17.3	196.2	187.6	221.6	204.9
Channel catfish	0.5	0.0	7.5	19.0	8.0	19.0
Zander	10.5	4.2	74.4	63.6	84.9	67.8
Common perch	0.0	0.1	9.0	1.4	9.0	1.5
Sterlets	0.0	0.1	3.1	2.0	3.1	2.1
European sturgeon	0.0	0.0	5.9	11.4	5.9	11.4
Starry sturgeon	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Russian sturgeon	5.1	3.1	146.0	129.6	151.1	132.7
Crayfish	3.3	0.3	48.5	13.8	51.9	14.1
Blue mussel	454.6	132.0	3,376.3	3,134.4	3,830.9	3,266.4

Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
- Other	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
- Lake salmon	0.5	17.2	3.9	4.3	4.3	21.5
- Paddlefish	7.5	2.5	47.6	67.7	55.2	70.2
- Green algae	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Rudd	0.0	0.1	3.4	10.2	3.4	10.3
Common Roach	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7
Bester (Huso huso x Acipenser ruthenus)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	3.7
Siberian sturgeon	0.0	48.7	47.8	88.0	47.8	136.7
European eel	0	0	5.21	0	5.21	0
African catfish	0.0	0.0	540.7	909.0	540.7	909.0
Other hybrids of Family Sturgeon	12.9	0.3	98.6	38.1	111.5	38.4
Total	3,048.3	2,127.7	12,384.1	13,468.8	15,432.4	15,596.7

Source: NAFA

Among the more significant fish species, a decrease compared to 2016 marks the production of Black carp [*Mylopharyngodon piceus*] - 30.6%, white fish (*Sander lucioperca* / *Stizostedion lucioperca*) - by 14.5% and Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedti*) - by 11.2%.

Main species of marine aquaculture grown in the coastal waters of the country is the Blue mussel [*Mytilus galloprovincialis*]. In 2017, its production for consumption decreased by 7.2% annually to 3,134.4 tonnes. The production of European crayfish / *Astacus leptodactylus*/ for consumption is 3.5 times less.

In 2018, the trend of an increase in the number of fish farms and aquaculture production is expected to continue, due to the new farms as well as to the upgrading and increasing production capacities.

2. Import and export of fish and fish products

Import

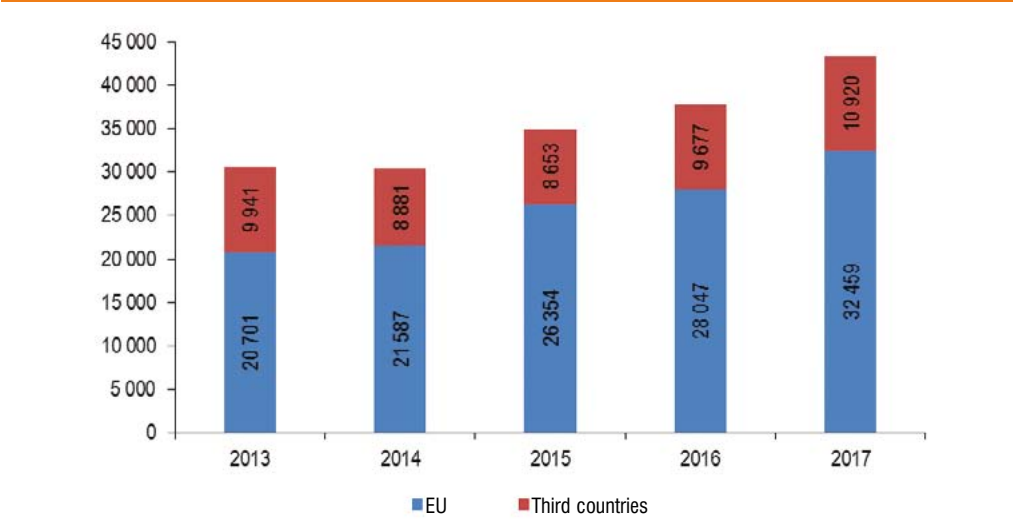
According to NSI data, in 2017 a total of 43,379 tonnes of fish and fish products were imported in the country, 15% more than the previous year. There was an increase in imports of most fish and other aquatic organisms (live, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried), while that of prepared foods and tinned fish, caviar and tinned aquatic organisms decreased.

Nearly 75% of all imported fish and fish products in 2017 were from EU Member States. Deliveries from the Union grew by almost 16% compared to the previous year,

amounting to 32,459 tonnes. The largest quantities were imported from Romania (6.6 thousand tonnes), Spain (4.8 thousand tonnes), the Netherlands (3.7 thousand tonnes), Greece (3.2 thousand tonnes), Denmark (2.8 thousand tonnes), Poland (2 thousand tonnes) and Latvia (1.7 thousand tonnes).

There was also an increase in imports of fish and fish products from third countries - by 13%, to 10,920 tonnes. During the year, imports from Canada (1.9 thousand tonnes), China (1.4 thousand tonnes), Morocco (1.1 thousand tonnes), Peru (1.1 thousand tonnes) and Iceland (0.8 thousand tonnes).

Figure VII.3.Import of fish and fish products from the EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI

Table VII.4. Import of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes

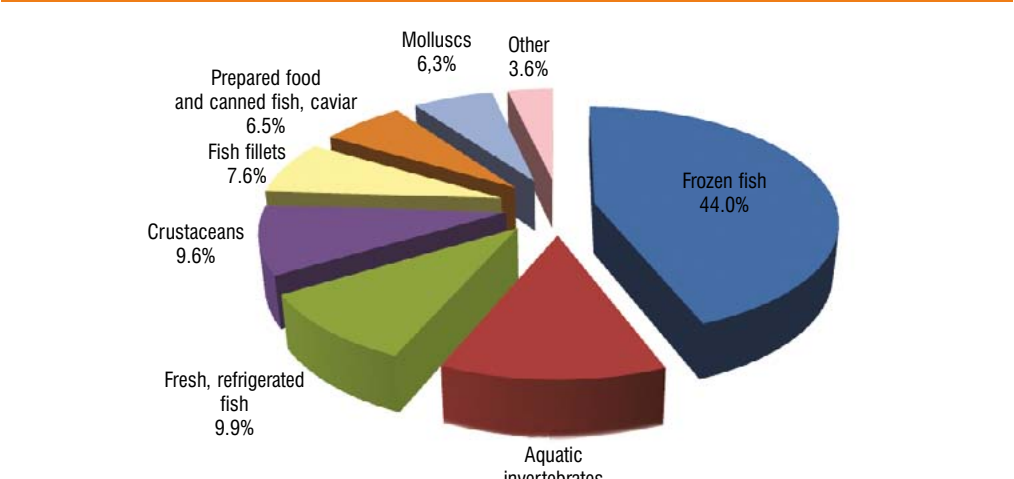
Products	2016	2017	Variation 2017/2016
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	37,724	43,379	15.0%
Live fish - freshwater and marine	22	105	370.3%
Fish - fresh or cooled, except fillets	3,496	4,298	22.9%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	18,596	19,104	2.7%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	3,343	3,293	-1.5%
Fish — dried, salted, smoked	347	451	30.0%

Products	2016	2017	Variation 2017/2016
Crustaceans	3,463	4,159	20.1%
Molluscs	1,070	2,745	156.5%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	2,548	5,393	111.7%
Prepared foods and tinned fish; caviar	3,060	2,831	-7.5%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	1,778	1,000	-43.7%

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF

Traditionally, the largest share of total import of fish, aquatic organisms and fish products was that of frozen fish. In 2017, the imported frozen fish, with the exception of fillets was 19,104 tonnes, which was 2.7% more than the previous year. As in previous years, the most significant was the import of frozen mackerel, which decreased by 3.2% compared to 2016 to 10,980 tonnes. Throughout the year were imported relatively large quantities of frozen fish from the following species: sardines – 1,650 tonnes; herring – 1,196 tonnes; hake - 854 tonnes; salmon - 399 tonnes; shark - 287 tonnes; scad - 219 tonnes, salmon - 200 tonnes.

Figure VII.4. Structure of import of fish and fish products in 2017



Source: NSI

Among the other products delivered in larger quantities, a significant increase compared to 2016 was observed in import of molluscs (almost three times), aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs (twice) and more moderate increase than that of fresh or chilled fish, excluding fillets (by 22.9%) and crustaceans (by

20.1%). At the same time, the import of fillets fell by 1.5%.

After the significant increase observed in the previous year, in 2017 import of tinned crustaceans and molluscs fell by 43.7% on annual basis and imported prepared foods and tinned fish and caviar were 7.5% less.

According to preliminary NSI data, a total of 17,752 tonnes of fish were imported in the period January - June 2018, etc. aquatic organisms and processed fishery products, which is 10.2% less than in the first six months of 2017. Within the period, EU fish and fish products decreased by 20.2% on an annual basis, to 11,549 tonnes, while import from third countries increased by 17,2%, amounting to 6,203 tonnes.

Considering data for the first six months, import of fish and fish products for the whole year 2018 could be expected to be slightly below the level of the previous year, with substantial volumes being introduced to diversify the market with non-typical fish and aquatic organisms and the provision of raw materials for processing plants.

Export

According to NSI data, total exports of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products in 2017 amounted to 16,741 tonnes - 38% above the level of the previous year, with an increase in all types of products. This significant growth is explained by the increased catches of species of fish and aquatic organisms with export orientation and increased aquaculture production in the country, as well as by the re-export of imported fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

Table VII.5. Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes			
Products	2016	2017	Variation 2017/2016
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	1,149	2,122	84.7%
Live fish - freshwater and marine	1,658	1,866	12.6%
Fish - fresh or cooled, except fillets	1,148	1,630	41.9%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	213	222	4.1%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	196	327	66.8%
Fish — dried, salted, smoked	82	130	59.1%
Crustaceans	2,668	4,129	54.8%
Molluscs	48	373	677.1%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	48	373	677,1%

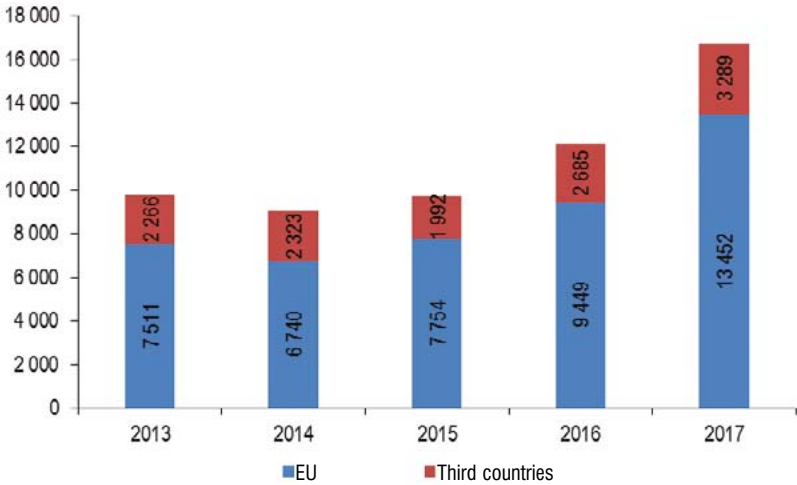
Products	2016	2017	Variation 2017/2016
Prepared foods and tinned fish; caviar	2,070	2,116	2.2%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	2,902	3,826	31.8%

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF

Exports of fish and fish products to the EU grew by 42.4% on annual basis, reaching 13,452 tonnes (80% of total export of such products). The most significant are the dispatches for Romania (5.7 thousand tonnes), Sweden (2.7 thousand tonnes), Italy (1.5 thousand tonnes), Greece (1.4 thousand tonnes), Spain (0.9 thousand tonnes) and Belgium (0.5 thousand tonnes)

Significant increase in export of fish and fish products to third countries was observed - by 22.5%, to 3,289 tonnes. The largest quantities were directed to South Korea (1.4 thousand tonnes), Serbia (0.7 thousand tonnes) and Japan (0.6 thousand tonnes), followed by Malaysia (0.3 thousand tonnes) and others.

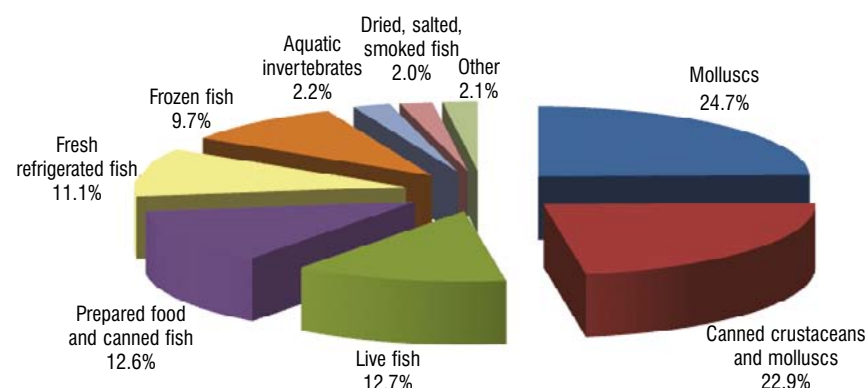
Figure VII.5. Export of fish and fish products to the EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI

In 2017, the export of molluscs represent the most significant share of total exports of fish and other aquatic organisms - nearly 25%, amounting to 4,129 tonnes, which is 54.8% more than in 2016. This increase was related with the increased catch throughout the year, which was mainly for export. Quantities were mainly for Italy (1.4 thousand tonnes), Greece (1 thousand tonnes), Spain (0.5 thousand tonnes), South Korea (0.5 thousand tonnes) and Japan (0.3 thousand tonnes)

Figure VII.6. Structure of export of fish and fish products in 2017



Source: NSI

Exports of live fish increased twice compared to 2016, and that of fresh and chilled fish by 12.6%. This was the result of increased production of fish for consumption in the fish farms throughout the year. Mainly exported were fish from aquaculture production, including live carp - 1,687 tonnes, live salmon - 340 tonnes, and fresh and chilled - carp 318 tonnes and salmon 270 tonnes.

Export of frozen fish, excluding fish, except fillets, was about 42% above the level of the previous year. Over two-thirds of frozen fish exports consisted of from frozen brisling or sprat - 1,118 tonnes, with 54.2% more on an annual basis. Traditionally, the largest quantities of frozen fish were for Romania (0.9 thousand tonnes).

In 2017, there was an increase in exports of processed fish products on an annual basis, which was more significant for tinned crustaceans and molluscs - by 31.8% and lower for prepared foods and tinned fish and caviar - by 2.2%. The main destinations for processed fish products throughout the year remain Sweden (2.6 thousand tonnes) and Romania (1.3 thousand tonnes), followed by South Korea (0.9 thousand tonnes), Belgium (0.4 thousand tonnes), Japan (0.3 thousand tonnes) and Greece (0.3 thousand tonnes).

According to preliminary data of NSI, a total of 6,480 tonnes of fish and fish products were exported in the first six months of 2018, which was 21,6% less than in the same period of 2017. The decrease was mainly due to the significant shrinking of exports of molluscs as well as of tinned crustaceans and molluscs, explained by the lower catches.

About 93% of total exported fish and fish products for the first half of 2018 were targeted at EU Member States. Shipments to EU decreased by 15.4% comparing the same period in 2017, to 6,018 tonnes. Exports of fish and fish products to third countries shrank more significantly - by 60%, to 462 tonnes.

Typically, more significant exports of fish and fish products occur in the second half of the year, which is related to the dependence of catches on climatic conditions and the clear seasonal nature of aquaculture production in the country.

3. Operational Programme „Fisheries Sector Development“ (OPFSD), funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

The strategic goal of the Operational Programme Fisheries Sector Development 2007-2013 was the transformation of fishery into a competitive, modern and dynamic sector, based on the sustainable development of the fishery and aquaculture, as well as improvement of the quality of life in the fishery areas.

The financial resource of the Operational Programme Fisheries Sector Development 2007-2013 was BGN 163.72 million, out of which BGN 122.79 million funding by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and BGN 40.93 million national co-funding. The Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture is Managing Authority (MA) of the OPFSD 2007-2013.

Implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2017

The cumulative progress in the implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2017 may be summarised through the following data:

- Total number of registered projects: 606
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 315
- Total number of cancelled agreements: 81
- Total agreed funds: BGN 176,820,381.15 (108.00% from the Programme's budget);
- Total disbursed funds to beneficiaries: BGN 164,850,103.63 (100,69%);
- Total certified funds: BGN 156,021,874.31.

Table VII.6. Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2017

Axis/Measure	Agreed Funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid funds		
	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 fishing vessels 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 "Productive investments in aquaculture"	57	54,127,091.92	115.89	109	50,697,691.35	108.54	57	50,316,861.83	107.73
Measure 2.2 "Aquatic ecological measures"	1	76,281.43	100.00	3	57,987.95	76.02	1	57,987.95	76.02
Measure 2.6. "Investments in processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products"	17	16,428,372.05	108.64	32	15,672,419.56	103.64	17	15 242 328,99	100.79
Measure 2.7 "Financial engineering"	1	12,167,850.00	105.84	3	11,696,567.28	101.74	1	11,696,567.28	101.74
AXIS 2	76	82,799,595.40	112.80	147	78,124,666.14	106.43	76	77,313,746.05	105.33
Measure 3.1. "Collective activities"	2	871,188.53	101.59	4	857,561.47	100.00	2	857,561.47	100.00
Measure 3.3 "Investments for reconstruction and modernisation of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters"	3	28,154,850.27	100.52	9	27,998,007.99	99.96	3	27,998,007.99	99.96

Axis/Measure	Agreed Funds			Actually paid funds			Fully paid funds		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
Measure 3.4 "Development of new markets and promotional campaigns"	19	4,869,277.27	110.58	39	4,465,992.94	101.43	19	4,465,992.94	101.43
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	55	34,259,574.78	100.15	25	34,259,574.78	100.15
Measure 4.1.A "Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development and coverage of operating expenses of Fishers groups"	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	328	35,851,391.52	94.12	237	35,851,391.52	94.12
AXIS 4	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	328	35,851,391.52	94.12	237	35,851,391.52	94.12
Measure 5.1 "Technical support"	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	106	7,565,955.60	97.69
AXIS 5	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	106	7,565,955.60	97.69
TOTAL	315	176,820,381.15	108.00	803	164,850,103.63	100.69	546	164,039,183.54	100.19

Source: NAFA

Note: Cases where actual payments exceed 100% are the result of financial corrections and unrecoverable bad debts.

Implementation of OPFSD in 2017

In connection with the closure of the 2007-2013 programming period and in view of the deadline for the eligibility of expenditure - 31.12.2015, no contracts under OP RSD were concluded in 2017. The disbursed funds for 2017 amount to BGN 1,606,821.06. The certified funds during the year amount to BGN 6,709,529.91

No payments were made under Priority Axis 1 in 2017. The budget under Axis 1 is BGN 10,278,230.88 (EUR 7,708,673.16 from the EDF). A total of 122 project proposals have been submitted for the entire duration of the OP RDD under Priority Axis 1. The total number of contracts signed is 104, of which 2 are cancelled.

Under Priority Axis 2 "Aquaculture, Inland Fishing, Processing and Marketing of Fishery and Aquaculture Products" in 2017, the payments made totalled BGN 1,606,821.06. The total amount of public funds for Priority Axis 2 is BGN 73,401,916.56, of which

BGN 55,051,437.42 are co-financed by the EDF. The certified expenditures as at 31.12.2017 amount to BGN 71,870,134.30 of public funds.

The production of aquacultures in Bulgaria was dominated by the production of fish, followed by the one of blue mussel. Representatives mainly of two families of fish comprise the aquaculture production in the last years and may be defined as the traditional aquaculture for Bulgaria. From the beginning of the fishing activity in the country until now the most significant remains the production of carp fishes, followed by trouts.

The production of rainbow carp, silver carp, carp and blue mussel continued to prevail in 2017 as well, which was due to the completed projects for construction of farms for the respective species under OPFSD.

Under measure 2.1 „Production investments in the aquaculture“, investment projects were supported for the construction of new farms for rearing and breeding of aquacultures and expanding and/or modernisation of existing farms, which contribute to reaching of one or more of the specific targets of the measure.

The total budget under measure 2.1 as of 31.12.2017 was BGN 46,706,755.57. Under measure 2.1 a total of 192 project proposals have been submitted. The total number of concluded contracts reached 91, out of which 34 were annulled.

Under measure 2.6 „Investments in processing and marketing of products from fishing and aquaculture“ –projects are supported related with improvement of the occupational health and safety; improvement and monitoring of human health and the hygienic conditions or the quality of products; production of products of high quality to fill in the market niches; decrease of the negative impact on the environment; improvement of the use of less used species, by-products and waste; production or marketing of new products by implementation of new technologies for production or development of innovative production approaches; marketing of products with origin basically from local catch and aquaculture.

The assistance is directed into two basic directions – for construction and modernisation of processing enterprises, and for construction and modernisation of market structures. The greatest share in the fish processing belongs to the frozen and deeply frozen products.

The total budget under measure 2.6 amounts to BGN 15,122,309.44. Under measure 2.6 a total of 23 project proposals have been submitted. The total number of concluded contracts reached 20, while three were annulled.

Measure 2.7 „Scheme for financial engineering“ was applied successfully until the end term of eligibility of the expenses for the program period 2007-2013, i.e.31.12.2015.

A national warranty fund issued guaranties and counter-guaranties for 27 projects of small and medium-sized enterprises, funded under OPFSD to the total value of BGN 20,780 thousand.

The value of the certified expenses is BGN 11,496,567.28 public funding.

At the end of 2016 (the month of December) the European Commission was notified about State Assistance for the public funding supplied under measure 2.7 „Scheme for financial engineering“ by OPFSD.

The notification of the Commission was performed following a recommendation of the Auditing Authority in a final report of the sixth system audit, concerning the efficient functioning of the schemes for management and control of the financial instruments, funded under measure 2.7 „Scheme for financial engineering“ of the Operational Program Fishing Sector Development, where it is indicated that the provided grants under measure 2.7 are treated as falling within the range of the state assistance.

After the check, the Auditing Authority established that under 20 of a total of 22 projects, to which a facilitated access to financing was provided under measure 2.7, the maximum grant (G) was approved under other measures of the program to the amount of 60%. In this way, for the indicated 20 projects, the provided G in excess of the maximum eligible and the excess amount represent an ineligible expense under the program. The eligible amount of the G was defined for each project and the amount in excess of the maximum amount of the grant was calculated for 11 projects (above 60% of the value of each project) to be BGN 415,042.15.

According to EC Decision C(2017) 8379 final (of 15.12.2017) on State Aid SA.46997 (2017 / NN - formerly 2016 / N), entitled "Measure 2.7" Financial Engineering Scheme", assistance provided by OPFSD to ten small and medium-sized enterprises in the realisation of eleven OPFSDs projects at a total value of BGN 410,040.

In conclusion, the Commission does not object to the aid „since it is compatible with the internal market, as per art.107 (3) (c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union“.

Priority axis 3. „Measures of common interest“ is directed to the modernisation of fish ports, places for unloading of the catch, support of the organisation of the sector,

enhancing of the professional skills and the innovations in the Fishery Sector, providing stability with respect to the natural resources, dissemination of know-how related to the sector, and promotion of the fishery and aquaculture products.

The budget for Priority Axis 3 is BGN 34,209,258.25, of which BGN 25,656,943.68 are EDF financing and BGN 8,552,314.57 national co-financing. A total of 64 project proposals were submitted under Priority Axis 3. The total number of contracts signed is 34, of which 9 are cancelled.

Under measure 3.3. „Investments for reconstruction and modernisation of fishing ports, landing sites and closed boats“, three projects for reconstruction and modernisation of the Black Sea ports in Pomorie, Sarafovo (Burgas) and Chernomorets were implemented.

Under the project for reconstruction and modernisation of the Pomorie port a building was constructed for fish market and administrative services and a building – repairs workshop, port infrastructure with capacity of 120 mooring places for fish boats with a maximum length of about 7-12 m and a maximum draft depth of up to 1.2 m., as well as a navigation system. The basic technological components of the activity are catch, storage, processing and first sale of fish; production and sale of cold flakes (ice).

The implemented activities under the project for reconstruction and modernisation of the Sarafovo port include construction of suitable infrastructure an equipment to provide accompanying fishing activities. Suitable communications were constructed to provide electricity and water to each boat landing place, the quay front was modernised to allow effective and hygienic unloading and treating of the fish. A fish market was constructed on the territory of the port, which will promote the distribution network of fish products in the region and will turn into a primary sale centre.

Under the project for reconstruction and modernisation of the Chernomorets port a breakwater, floating pontoons, pierce for fishing boats, wharfs for boats and a building for fish market were constructed. The capacity of the port was enlarged to include 96 mooring places for fishing boats with a length from 7 to 12 meters, while there is an opportunity for docking 10 ships with maximum weight of 200 tonnes and length to 25.5 meters. With the help of the constructed boat wharfs with slipway (a rail for sliding of crafts on the mainland), they may dry dock in the non-active season, while there is an opportunity for performing technical maintenance and small repairs. Under the project a fish market was constructed with refrigerating facility for initial processing of the caught fish. In this way an increase of control on the fishing activities was achieved, the unregulated sales were limited and conditions were established for direct sale of the catch of the fishermen. Thus the customers may buy fish and fish products

without the participation of resellers.

The basic goal under the Priority axis 4 is the sustainable development of the fishing regions and improvement of the quality of life of the existing fishermen communities. The budget of the axis is BGN 38,090,383.82, out of which BGN 28,567,787.87 is from EFF.

The total number of the concluded contracts with Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) under the OPFSD 2007-2013 is 6. As a result of the actions undertaken for the promotion of the measures and for the establishment of contacts and trust in the private sector, the number of the concluded contracts under the local strategies for development of FLAGs is 240.

Table VII.7. Financial implementation of OPFSD 2007-2013 as of 30.06.2018

Axis/measure	Agreed Funds			Actually paid funds			Certified funds		
	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	8,908,327.04	99.14
Measure 1.3 "Investments on board fishing vessels 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	9,002,698.20	99.15
Measure 2.1 "Productive investments in aquaculture"	57	54,127,091.92	115.34	109	50,838,884.57	108.33	55	45,250,491.56	96.43
Measure 2.2 "Aquatic ecological measures"	1	76,281.43	100.00	3	57,987.95	76.02	1	57,987.95	76.02
Measure 2.6 "Investments in processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products"	17	16,428,372.05	110.25	32	15,615,202.26	104.79	17	15,065,087.51	101.10

Axis/measure	Agreed Funds			Actually paid funds			Certified funds		
	Number of contracts	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses, BGN	%	Number of projects	Total, BGN	%
Measure 2.7 "Financial engineering"	1	12,167,850.00	105.84	3	11,696,567.28	101.74	1	11,496,567.28	100.00
AXIS 2	76	82,799,595.40	112.80	147	78,208,642.06	106.55	74	71,870,134.30	97.91
Measure 3.1 "Collective activities"	2	871,188.53	101.59	4	857,561.47	100.00	2	857,561.47	100.00
Measure 3.3 "Investments for reconstruction and modernisation of fish ports, unloading sites and boat shelters"	3	28,154,850.27	100.52	9	27,993,770.99	99.94	3	26,637,545.81	95.10
Measure 3.4 "Development of new markets and promotional campaigns"	19	4,869,277.27	110.58	39	4,325,900.52	98.24	19	4,285,421.92	97.33
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	55	34,115,245.36	99.73	25	32,718,541.58	95.64
Measure 4.1.A "Financial support for implementation of local strategies for development and coverage of operating expenses of Fishers groups"	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	328	35,833,609.93	94.08	237	34,864,544.63	91.53
AXIS 4	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	328	35,833,609.93	94.08	237	34,864,544.63	91.53
Measure 5.1 "Technical assistance"	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	106	7,565,955.60	97.69
AXIS 5	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	106	7,565,955.60	97.69
TOTAL	315	176,820,381.15	108.00	803	164,771,968.54	100.64	548	156,021,874.31	96.02

Source: NAFA

Remarks: Cases where actual payments exceed 100% are the result of financial corrections and unrecoverable bad debts. Certified costs are listed in the table due to the completion of the OPFSD

Cumulative progress in the implementation of OPFSD as of 30.06.2018

- Total number of registered projects: 606
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 315
- Total number of cancelled agreements: 81

- Total agreed funds: BGN 176,820,381.15 (108% from the Programme's budget);
- Total disbursed funds to beneficiaries: BGN 164,771,968.54 (100,64%);
- Total certified funds: BGN 156,021,874.31.

On 30.03.2017, Bulgaria submitted documents to the European Commission on the closure of Operational Programme for Fisheries Sector Development 2007-2013, according to the guidelines approved by the Commission by its decision C (2015) 6731 of 06.10.2015 on the closure of the operational programmes, adopted for assistance from the European Fisheries Fund (2007-2013). The final report on the performance under the Programme was approved by the Commission as eligible according to the requirements of art. 67 of Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006 of the Council of 27 July 2016 on the European Fisheries Fund.

The MA of OPFSD monitor the projects funded by the Programme, for which contracts were concluded until December 2015, by performing checks of the production programs under projects and performing checks on the site.

As of 30.06.2018 the amount of the financial corrections resulting from the monitoring of the performance of the production programs for 2017 under projects funded by measures 2.1 „Productive investments in aquaculture“ and 2.6 „Investments, processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products“, which MA shall impose, amount to BGN 241,629.08.

4. Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014 - 2020

In 2017, under the Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020 (MFP), 7 measures were open, which according to EU priorities are as follows:

Priority 1 of the EU: Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterised by efficient use of the resources

On 23.03.2017 the call was opened under **measure 1.8 „Fishing ports, quays for unloading, fish markets and boat shelters“, Sector „Investment in existing fishing ports“ and Sector „Investments directed towards the construction and/or modernisation of boat shelters“.**

The implementation of the measure is expected to contribute towards the achievement of a specific goal: „Improving the competitiveness and viability of the enterprises in the fishery sector, including the small scale offshore float, and improvement of occupational health and safety“.

Taking into account the importance of the fishing ports, the quays for unloading and the boat shelters, the Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries will support investments aimed at: increase of the energy efficiency; environmental protection and quality of the products unloaded to the shore; improvement of occupational health and safety.

The total amount of the grants under the procedure is BGN 10,400,000, allocated as follows:

- Sector „Investments in existing fishing ports – BGN 8,000,000;
- Sector „Investments directed towards the construction and/or modernisation of boat shelters“ – BGN 2,400,000.

The final deadline for submission of project proposals is 21 June 2017. Because of the lack of submitted project proposals within third deadline a decision was made by the MA of MAFF the period for submission to be prolonged from 21.06.2017 until 30.09.2017. Under the measure, 2 projects were received, based on which 2 contracts at total amount of BGN 15,445,840.40 were concluded.

On 21.04.2017 the acceptance procedure under Measure **1.3 Definitive withdrawal of fishing** activities was opened with a budget of BGN 1,681,036. The amount of co-financing from the EMFF was BGN 840,518 and from the national budget BGN 840,518.

The application of the measure will contribute to the achievement of the specific goal „*Provision of balance between the fishing capacity and the available fishing opportunities*“. With the help of the measure adaptation will be achieved of the fishing effort of the Bulgarian fishing fleet according to the available and accessible resources and according to the capacity of the fishing fleet on segment level, while parts of the old and ineffective boats will be scrapped in the unbalanced segments in terms of the possibilities for fishing, and that is the boats of size up to 24 m. Thus the negative impact of the fleet as a whole on the maritime environment will be reduced and this will contributed to the approximation of the fleet to the fishing opportunities.

Within the deadline for submitting project proposals, 11 project proposals have been received, with 8 contracts for a grant amounting to BGN 477,394.96.

On 24.08.2017 the acceptance procedure under **Measure 1.7 „Value added, product quality and use of unwanted catches“** was opened with a budget of BGN 8,752,355.581. The amount of co-financing by the EMFF was BGN 6,564,266.69 and BGN 2,188,088.90 from the national budget.

The implementation of the measure aims at improving the competitiveness and viability of enterprises in the fisheries sector, including the small-scale coastal fleet,

and improving safety and working conditions. The measure promotes investments that add value to fisheries products, in particular allowing fishermen to process, market and sell their own catches and innovative investments on board vessels, which increase the quality of the fishery products.

At the end of the deadline, no project proposal has been received and the procedure has been cancelled.

Priority 2 of EU „Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, characterised by efficient use of the resources“

On 24.02.2017 the acceptance procedure under **Measure 2.2 „Productive investments in aquacultures“, Sector „Recirculation systems“ and sector „Construction of new, as well as expansion and modernisation of existing aquaculture farms“** was launched.

The activities provided in measure „Productive investments in aquacultures“ in terms of the construction and modernisation of the sites and diversification of the income of the aquaculture enterprises, will contribute for the improvement of the competitive abilities and viability of the enterprises in the aquacultures sector, including improvement of occupational health and safety.

The total amount of Grants under the procedure is BGN 16,872,000, of which BGN 12,654,000 were co-funded by EMAFF and BGN 4,218,000 came from the national budget.

The deadline for the submission of project proposals was 25.05.2017. In total, 65 project proposals were submitted, of which 2 – after the announced deadline for submission, while 4 were withdrawn. The total value of the 59 project proposals subject to evaluation for administrative compliance and eligibility was BGN 70,869,548.21, and the amount of the aid – BGN 30,482,069.11.

After finishing of the work of the evaluation committee under the procedure, a list of the proposed project proposals for a total amount of BGN 16,869,872.85 and a list of reserve proposals without financial resources proposed for financing of a total value of BGN 3,007,200.24.

In order to accelerate the process of utilisation of the funds under the grant, following a public consultation process, it was decided to conclude contracts with the applicants on the reserve list, which led to the need to increase the total amount of the grant under the procedure by BGN 3,005,073.09.

By an order of the MA Manager, the Conditions of application under the procedure in section 8 „Total amount of the grant under the procedure“ have been amended

- the value of the total amount of the grant of BGN 16,872,000 was amended to BGN 19,877,073.09, with the EMAFF funds of BGN 12,654,000.00 being changed to BGN 14,907,804.82 and the national co-financing - from BGN 4,218,000 to BGN 4,969,268.27.

Priority 3 of the EU: „Enhancing the implementation of the Common Fishery Policy in the Fisheries Sector“

On 25.07.2017 the reception under **Measure 3.1 „Control and implementation“**

The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate as Managing Authority of the MFP 2014-2020 invited the NAFA, as a specific beneficiary, to submit a project proposal on a procedure through direct delivery.

The implementation of the measure will support the implementation and enforcement of the EU control, inspection and enforcement system, including the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through:

- Global and integrated approach;
- Use of advanced control technologies for the availability and quality of fisheries data;
- A risk-based strategy focusing on systematic and automated cross-checks of all relevant available data;
- Establishment of a culture of compliance among operators;
- Establishing effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.

The indicative budget for the procedure is BGN 14,542,924.06. Four project proposals amounting to BGN 1,469,501 in total have been received, which are under evaluation.

On 02.08.2017 the acceptance procedure under **measure 3.2 „Data collection under the National Program for Data Collection and Management of the Fisheries Sector 2017 – 2019“** was launched with a budget of BGN 5,000,000.

Beneficiary of the direct grant procedure is NAFA. The indicative budget for the procedure is BGN 5,000,000. There was 1 project proposal amounting to BGN 2,269,447.28.

Priority 4 of the EU: Employment growth and territorial cohesion

On 18.08.2017 the acceptance procedure under **Measure 4.2 „Implementation of the Community Local Government Development Strategies“** with a budget of BGN 34,107,073.83 was launched.

The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 28,991,012.76 and BGN 5,116,061.07 - from the national budget. The implementation of the measure aimed to increase employment and territorial cohesion by promoting economic growth, social inclusion, job creation, supporting labour mobility in coastal regions and inland regions dependent on fisheries and aquaculture.

Grant funding under this measure was granted within the defined budget for it in the MFP and was up to 100 per cent of the total eligible costs for public beneficiary activities and up to 50 per cent of the total eligible costs for private beneficiary activities. The maximum grant amount for a one-funded strategy implemented by the FLAG, funded solely by the EMAFF, was BGN 3,911,660.

The deadline for submitting project proposals was 15.11.2017. 13 project proposals were submitted for a total amount of BGN 50,843,772.49.

On June 7, 2018, the 5th meeting of the Monitoring Committee for Democracy and Human Rights was held and a change to the MFP was voted on. The purpose of the changes was to provide funding for 3 FLAG strategies, which were on the reserve list under the measure and amount to BGN 11,733,732.49.

Adoption of administrative contracts under 8 local development strategies for a total value of BGN 31,293,280 is forthcoming. Once the procedures for amending the MFP have been completed, it will be possible to finance the 3 strategies of the reserve list.

Priority 5 of the EU: „Promotion of marketing and processing“

On 18.07.2016, applications for measure 5.4 „Processing of fishery and aquaculture products“ started with a budget of BGN 10,000,000.

The measure aimed to help modernise fish processing plants, introduce new products, improve working conditions and add value to fisheries and aquaculture products. The maximum amount of eligible grant for a single beneficiary and the persons related to it under the measure for the whole programming period was BGN 1,400,000.

The deadline for submitting project proposals was 16.10.2016. 28 project proposals were submitted for a total amount of BGN 44,717,779.67. The amount of the grant was BGN 20,695,812.64. 15 project proposals passed evaluation. There are 13 grant contracts, amounting to BGN 20,073,957.87.

After finishing the evaluation procedure by the evaluation commission, a list of proposed project proposals for a total amount of BGN 9,296,843.32 and a list of reserve projects without financial resources, proposed for financing at a total value of BGN 1,993,700.85 have been prepared.

In order to accelerate the process of funds utilisation under the MFP, following a public consultation process, it was decided to conclude contracts with the applicants on the reserve list, which led to the need to increase the total amount of the grant under the procedure by BGN 1,290,544.17.

By an order of the MA manager, the Conditions for applying under the procedure in section 8 „Total amount of the grant under the procedure“ have been amended - the value of the total amount of the grant of BGN 10,000,000 was changed to BGN 11,290,544.17, the funds from the European Fund for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of BGN 7,500,000 were amended to BGN 8,467,908.13 and the national co-financing from BGN 2,500,000 to BGN 2,822,636.04.

Data for 2018

In 2018, 6 measures were opened under the MFP, which are as follows according to Union priorities:

Union Priority 1: „Promoting environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based, resource-efficient fisheries“

On 13.04.2018 a second admission under **Measure 1.7 „Value added, product quality and use of unwanted catches“** was opened with a budget of BGN 6,181,144.53.

The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 4,635,858.40 and BGN 1,545,286.13 - from the national budget. The difference with the first procedure was that eligible applicants on the second acceptance procedure may also be natural persons. The following activities were eligible for funding: processing and/or adding value to own catches; marketing and direct sale of own catches; innovative investments on board vessels leading to an increase in the quality of fisheries products.

The deadline for submitting project proposals was 12.07.2018.

On 18.05.2018 the reception for Measure **1.1 „Diversification and New Forms of Income“** started with a budget of BGN 3,519,919.89. The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 2,639,939.92 and BGN 879,979.97 from the national budget.

The implementation of the activities foreseen in the measure will enable conservation and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems; ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities; improving the competitiveness and viability of enterprises in the fisheries sector, including the small-scale coastal fleet and improving safety and working conditions.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is 16.08.2018.

On 27.06.2018 a second acceptance procedure under **Measure 1.8 „Fishing ports, landing docks, fish fairs and sheltered boats“** was opened with a budget of BGN 16,823,731.00. The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 12,617,798 and BGN 4,205,933 from the national budget.

The financial resource for the Investment in existing fishing ports sector is BGN 12,823,731.00 and for the sector „Investments aimed at construction and / or modernisation of covered boats“ - BGN 4,000,000 (of which BGN 2,400,000 for the Danube River and BGN 1,600,000 for the Black Sea).

For the „Investment in existing fishing ports“ sector:

- Minimum amount of the eligible Black Sea Grant is 800,000 BGN and the maximum amount of the eligible grant - BGN 8,000,000.

- Minimum eligible amount for the Danube River Danube is BGN 400,000 and the maximum amount of the eligible grant - BGN 4,000,000.

For the sector „Investments aimed at construction and / or modernisation of covered boats“ the minimum amount of the eligible grant is BGN 80,000 and the maximum of the eligible grant is BGN 800,000.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is 25.09.2018.

Priority 2 of EU „Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, characterised by efficient use of the resources“

On 13.04.2018 the reception under **Measure 2.3 „Promotion of new aquaculture**

producers developing sustainable aquaculture“ was launched with a budget of BGN 16,624,555. The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 12,468,416 and BGN 4,156,139 from the national budget. The main objective of the procedure is to promote entrepreneurship in the aquaculture sector and to support the creation of sustainable aquaculture enterprises by new aquaculture producers. The measure encourages investments that will lead to the conservation and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and the improvement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and the promotion of resource-efficient aquaculture through productive investments leading to increased energy efficiency, resource efficiency reducing the use of water and chemicals, improving the competitiveness and viability of enterprises in the aquaculture sector, including improving safety working conditions.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is 12.07.2018.

On 18.05.2018 a second acceptance procedure was launched under Measure 2.2 „Productive investments in aquaculture“, sector „Small projects“ with a budget of BGN 1,000,000

The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 750,000 and BGN 250,000 from the national budget.

The following activities are eligible:

- Modernisation of aquaculture farms, including the improvement of working and safety conditions for workers in the sector;
- Improvement and modernisation of animal health, including the purchase of equipment to protect farms from wild predators;
- Investments that reduce the negative impact or increase the positive impact on the environment;
- Investments in improving quality or added value of aquaculture products;
- Investments that significantly reduce the impact of aquaculture businesses on water consumption and quality;
- Investing in increasing energy efficiency and promoting the passage of aquaculture businesses to renewable energy sources;

- Diversification of aquaculture enterprises' incomes by developing additional activities related to the main activity of the aquaculture business.

The deadline for submitting project proposals was 16.08.2018.

Priority 5 of the EU: „Promotion of marketing and processing“

On 01.06.2018 a second acceptance procedure was launched under **Measure 5.4 „Processing of fishery and aquaculture products“** with a budget of BGN 11,119,499.82

The amount of co-financing by the EMAFF was BGN 8,339,624.86 and BGN 2,779,874.96 from the national budget. The grant under this procedure is granted to support investments in the processing of fishery and aquaculture products where such investments are related to activities that: (a) contribute to the realisation of energy savings or reduction of environmental impacts, including waste treatment; improve safety, hygiene, health and working conditions; are related to the processing of by-products resulting from major processing activities; are related to the processing of organic aquaculture products; lead to new or improved products, new or improved processes, or new or improved management and organisational systems.

The deadline for submitting project proposals under the measure was 16.08.2018.

Table VII.8. Paid projects under measures of MFP 2014-2020 as of 12.10.2018 (BGN)

Measure	Number	Amount paid	National financing	European financing
Priority 1 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterised by efficient use of the resources				
1.3. Definitive withdrawal of fishing activities	8	483,173.09	241,586.55	241,586.55
Priority 2 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, with efficient use of the resources				
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	9	460,787.75	115,196.94	345,590.81

Measure	Number	Amount paid	National financing	European financing
Priority 4 Employment growth and territorial cohesion				
4.1. Preparatory support for strategies of CLLD, including establishment of National fishing net	8	298,397.73	44,759.66	253,638.07
Priority 5 Enhancing the supply on the market and the processing				
5.4. Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	2	422,510.91	105,627.73	316,883.18
Priority 7. Technical Assistance				
7.1. Technical Assistance	6	1,451,857.31	425,440.65	1,026,416.66
Total	33	3,116,726.79	932,611.52	2,184,115.27

Source: SFA

Table VII.9. Upcoming acceptance procedures under MFP 2014-2020 by the end of 2018 (according to the revised Indicative Annual Work Program for 2018)

Measure	Scheduled initiation of the acceptance procedure in 2018	Total budget under the measure (BGN)	Application deadline
Measure 1.6 Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fisheries	3 rd quarter	3,702,848.09	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 2.1 "Innovations in aquaculture"	3 rd quarter	3,227,119.50	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture - Big projects	3 rd quarter	17,499,579.31	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 2.5 Aquaculture providing environmental services	3 rd quarter	8,278,639.20	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 5.1 Production and marketing plans	4 th quarter	189,715.51	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 5.3 "Marketing"	3 rd quarter	1,897,155.10	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 6.1 "Promoting the implementation of the IMS - Art. 80, item 1, para. 1 of Regulation 508/2014	4 th quarter	3,259,717.32	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Measure 6.3 Raising knowledge on the state of the marine environment	2 nd quarter	1,629,857.96	90 days after initiation of the acceptance procedure
Total		39,684,631.99	

Source: MAFF, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Directorate

5. Common policy in the field of fisheries

The Common Fisheries Policy consists of rules for the management of European fishing fleets and the conservation of fish stocks. It includes measures and actions to promote environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries and aquaculture.

In order to protect fish and other aquatic populations, temporary prohibitions and restrictions on fishing in natural and man-made water bodies in the whole country are introduced in 2017. Thus, conditions have been created for the protection of aquatic organisms in the period of their breeding, as well as the establishment of prohibitions or restrictions on fishing in certain watersheds and / or zones thereof.

In order to reduce administrative burdens, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act was amended in 2017, and the requirement for citizens to provide a certain number of documents to be checked by business was dropped.

Progress has been made on the coherence of national fisheries policy with that on water and biodiversity conservation. During the year activities related to the implementation of the Maritime Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria were carried out, such as participation in expert meetings, formulation of measures and activities for their implementation.

With regard to Black Sea fisheries, a number of measures have been adopted in 2017 aimed at sustainable management of marine biological resources. Recommendation GFCM /2017/4 on a multi-annual management plan for turbot fisheries in the Black Sea was adopted at the annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Sea setting out measures for the conservation of the species in the Black Sea and quantitative restrictions on catches of the countries in the region (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia), with a total allowable catch of turbot of 644 tonnes agreed for the first time in the Black Sea region. In 2018, Bulgaria and Romania are authorised to fish turbot for a total of 114 tonnes (57 tonnes per Member State), which is 32% more than the current authorised quantity.

In March 2017, the fourth regular meeting of the Consultative Council for Fisheries was held with the participation of representatives from sectoral organisations in the sector, scientific institutes, state organisations and others. Important issues for the sector were discussed at the meeting, such as problems with white sand clam production, turbot fishing in the Black Sea, improved control efficiency and the legal

basis for aquaculture production, future measures and actions to protect cetaceans in the Black Sea as well and improving coordination between the various responsible institutions.

Activities in 2018:

- Introduction of a temporary ban on fishing in the fish-farming sites under Art. 3, para. 1 (1) and (2) of the LFA during the fish breeding season (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry);
- Conducting a High Level Conference on the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Black Sea, Sofia;
- Conducting a meeting of the Consultative Council of Fisheries with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- Discussing the fishing opportunities for sprat and turbot in the Black Sea for 2019;
- Adoption of a recommendation by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean to implement a regional research program and transitional measures for veined rapa whelk fishing in the Black Sea;
- Adoption of a Regional Action Plan for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Seas;
- Conducting a public consultation on the EC proposal to amend the Control Regulation.

SECTION B

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR, MEASURES AND ACTIONS FOR THEIR FULFILMENT IN 2019

The state policy in the agrarian sector aims at increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture and improving the working conditions and quality of life in the rural areas, while efficiently using the EU funds, sustainable management of the natural resources and high standards for food safety . The priorities and policy objectives in the agricultural sector, measures and actions for their achievement in 2019 set out in this section are in accordance with the Government program for sustainable development of the Republic of Bulgaria 2017 – 2021 and the National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020

PRIORITY 1

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE, COMPETITIVE AND MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE

TARGET 1: PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID WITH FOCUS ON THE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES AND STIMULATING A PROFITABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EQUALITY ON THE MARKET

MEASURE:

Optimal utilisation of the European funds for assistance

ACTIONS:

- Contracting and payment of the funds under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 complying with the deadlines, provided in the indicative annual program for 2019, reducing of the deadlines for processing of documents by the administration and simplification of the application procedures.
- Supporting the small farms that have a potential to increase their production and enter the market by a Thematic sub-program for the small agrarian farms under RDP 2014-2020.
- Establishment of conditions for successful conducting of the Campaign 2019 under the direct payments of the First Priority Pillar of CAP
- Applying the National Programme for supporting the vineyard and winery sector in Bulgaria 2019 – 2023
- Applying the National Apiculture Programme 2017 – 2019

MEASURE:

Keeping of the existing and introduction of new schemes for state assistance and providing financial resources for the application of schemes for transitional state aid in the plant production and in the livestock breeding

ACTIONS:

- Enhancement of the investment process in agriculture (by means of tax alleviations for investment in the agricultural farms; support for construction of farmers' markets; indirect by means of providing discounts from the value of the excise tax on gas oil, and etc.)
- Stimulating the increase on the productivity and the quality of the produce in plant cultivation and animal breeding (Schemes for protection of the genetic resources and the use of quality seeds; schemes for undertaking commitments for welfare of pigs and poultry, and etc.)
- Implementation of schemes for state aid to promote the participation of agricultural producers in international fairs and exhibitions.
- Providing financial resources for the implementation of schemes for transitional government aid in the plant cultivation and in animal breeding.

TARGET 2: CONTINUATION OF THE POLICIES OF BALANCED AND DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE

MEASURE:

Prioritisation of the intensive sectors in agriculture to overcome the structural imbalance in the branch.

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of schemes coupled to the production under the First Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy for priority assistance of the intensive sectors „Livestock Breeding“, „Fruits and Vegetables“, „Protein crops“.

MEASURE:

Optimisation of the land relations to guarantee the efficiency of land use and increase of the income from agricultural activity

ACTIONS:

- Adopting amendments in the normative regulations, regulating the public relations in the sphere of the property and use of land.
- Promotion of the voluntary land consolidation for the purposes of agrarian production.

- Efficient management of the state agricultural fund.

MEASURE:

Establishment of optimum conditions for the development of efficient irrigation farming and prevention of the risk of floods, disasters and accidents.

ACTIONS:

- Performance of activities for reconstruction and building the necessary infrastructure for protection from the harmful impact of the waters;
- Implementation of investment projects in irrigation and protection from the harmful impact of waters under RDP 2014-2020 (submeasure 4.1 „Investments in agricultural farms“) for investment expenses related to irrigation within the agricultural farms.
- Recovery of „Napoitelni sistemi“ EAD, guaranteeing the development of the hydro meliorations.

MEASURE:

Enhancing the development of organic agriculture

ACTIONS:

- Strengthening of the control for observing the requirements for production of organic products, with the purpose of increasing the consumers' trust.
- Implementation of Measure 11 „Organic Agriculture“ under the RDP 2014-2020.
- Promotion of the merits of the organically produced food and products for the human health and the organic approach to production, which protects the environment and preserves the natural resources.

TARGET 3: APPLYING A COMPLEX APPROACH FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RISKS AND CRISES

MEASURE:

Improvement and enhancing the efficiency of the system combating hailstorms

ACTIONS:

- Establish an appropriate legal framework to ensure the effective functioning of the system for the prevention of adverse climatic events in agriculture.
- Continuing the expansion of the system for combating hailstorms.

MEASURE:

Use of the state aid system to compensate the losses of the farmers as a result of unfavourable natural, climatic and economic conditions

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of a Scheme for state aid for co-funding of insurance premiums in the insurance of the agricultural produce.
- Implementation of a Scheme for state aid to compensate losses being the result of unfavourable climatic conditions.
- Implementation of a Scheme for state aid to compensate pecuniary damages from perished farm animals and destroyed beehives as the result of natural disasters.
- Implementation of Schemes to compensate losses as the result of diseases on plants and animals.

TARGET 4: HIGH LEVEL OF PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS AND PREVENTION AGAINST DISEASES

MEASURE:

Strengthening of the official control, guaranteeing the effective application of the normative regulations

ACTIONS:

- Conducting of a regular, based on risk assessment, official control in the area of animal breeding at all stages and units in the production chain, processing, storage, import, transportation, distribution, including feeding of the animals.

MEASURE:

Establishing conditions for conducting adequate prevention of the commercially important diseases in the animals and more effective organisation in order to quickly overcome the burst outbreaks of diseases

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the planned events in the State Prevention Program and programs for surveillance of animal diseases
- Efficient communication with branch organisations and all the stakeholders, relating to the breeding of animals, their welfare and their healthcare.

MEASURE: Motivation and compliance in observing the requirements for humane treatment of animals

ACTIONS:

- Performance of checks for observing the normative requirements for animal welfare, which provides the quality of the obtained products of animal origin.
- Use of the opportunities of the state aids for promoting the animal welfare.
- Assistance under the RDP 2014-2020, measure 14 „Animal welfare“.

MEASURE:

Providing an adequate system for collection and disposal of animal by-products

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the measures of the action plan for disposal of animal by-products.

TARGET 5: SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE – AN INSTRUMENT TO GENERATE INNOVATIVE POLICIES IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR AND AN INTELLECTUAL CENTRE OF BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE ACCESSIBLE FOR BUSINESSES

MEASURE:

Transforming the national agrarian scientific branches into driving force for innovations in the agrarian business

ACTIONS:

- Modernisation of the scientific infrastructure.
- Increasing the innovation of research in the agrarian field:
 - ✓ Selection of new varieties of crop plants and animal breeds;
 - ✓ Development of traditional and new technologies for plant and animal breeding;
 - ✓ Development of methods for preservation and improvement of soil condition and soil fertility;

- ✓ Development of irrigation systems for water deficit;
- ✓ Conducting research on the quality and safety of raw materials and food.

- Encourage participation in European and national funding programs supporting fundamental and applied research.
- Patenting and certification of created scientific products.
- Transfer of scientific products in the production - concluding of licensing contracts.
- Applying measures from RDP 2014-2020 for financial support for the cooperation with the scientific community in order to implement innovative agricultural solutions and practices
- Conducting clarifying information events, including seminars and meetings and consultations with agrarian producers for clarifying the advantages and the opportunities for modernisation of the farms and the implementation of innovations, including in the small and medium-sized farms.
- Establishing partnerships, incl. public-private, for the transfer of scientific knowledge, the introduction of good practices and innovations in Bulgarian agriculture.

MEASURE:

Increasing the professional qualification and knowledge of the farmers

ACTIONS:

- Supporting the transfer of knowledge and information through the implementation of Measure 1 „Knowledge transfer and awareness actions“ under the RDP 2014-2020
- Organisation and conducting of training of the farmers, including by long-term and short-term courses and information activities.
- Giving farmers access to important agrarian information by organising seminars, information events, consultant days/public reception offices and media participation on a local level (municipal and towns and villages).
- Providing counselling services to the farmers in various fields assessment of the farm and introducing improvements in connection with the EU standards concerning health and safety; the correct use of products for plant protection according to the principles of the good plant protection practices; agrarian practices in favour of the climate and the environment, etc.

MEASURE:

Improving the effectiveness of the farm advisory system

ACTIONS:

- Introduction of regulated rules and procedures for cooperative activities between participants in the Agricultural Advisory System and scientific institutes and universities
- Development of the „Farmer Circle“ activities to the regional offices of the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) with the participation of active farmers to disseminate useful information in the field of agriculture and to promote good practices in the application and implementation of projects under the RDP
- Active Regional Advisory Councils for Agricultural Advice with representatives of NAAS, regional structures of MAFF, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and farmers.
- Active use of different communication channels for providing advisory services, incl. organising and conducting consultancy days / excursions received by settlements and municipalities in the relevant area, especially in the settlements remote from the district centres.

TARGET 6: PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND ELECTRONISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE SECTOR TO MITIGATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND PROVIDE A TRANSPARENT, ACCESSIBLE, OBJECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES.

MEASURE:

Development of the electronic management and improvement of the administrative services in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

ACTIONS:

- Expanding the scope of the administrative services provided by the MAFF structures electronically.
- Improvement of the access to information, collected and summarised by the system of MAFF.
- Publishing information and collected data on the open data Portal.

- Introduction of a unified electronic register of the agrarian land properties and the farmers.
- Introduction of a unified electronic platform for management of the lands of the municipal and state agricultural fund – renting and sale by MAFF and the municipalities.
- Electronic identification and electronic healthcare of animals.
- Development of a unified information system in the Agriculture Sector in compliance with the strategic goals, defined in „Strategy for development of the electronic management in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020.

PRIORITY 2:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOOD SECTOR

TARGET 1: ASSURANCE OF THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF FOOD

MEASURE:

Simplification of the legal framework for guaranteeing consumer protection by means of offering safe food on the market and reducing the informal (shadow) sector in the production, processing and distribution of food

ACTIONS:

- Adoption and application of a new Law on Foods.

TARGET 2: SUSTAINABLE MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMERS

MEASURE:

Strengthening the role of the producers along the food chain of supply

ACTIONS:

- Promotion of the use of resources produced on the territory of the country.
- Increasing of the share of the food produced in Bulgaria, offered through the commercial network, stimulation of the good and limitation of the bad faith trade practices in the food chain of supply.
- Improvement of the opportunities for presentation and supplying of Bulgarian food produced under BDS (established or branch standards) in the commercial establishments, as well as food and wine with protected geographical indication or protected name of origin.

- Strengthening the role of the state in the support of export of agricultural produce from the country by expert administrative and technical support.
- Creating opportunities for construction of farmers' markets on the territory of the municipalities, which would shorten the road of the produced agricultural products to the end consumer.
- Organisation, conducting and providing effective administration of the procedures for approval and registration of agrarian products and food with protected geographical indications and with traditional specific character (quality schemes).
- Conducting campaigns for clarification of the advantages of the quality schemes.
- Support of the activity of the organisations of producers and groups of producers by European and national funding.
- Application of the European schemes for providing milk and fruit in the educational establishments.
- Promoting of the opportunities, provided by the promotional programs, for the establishment and entering of Bulgarian products on the new markets

PRIORITY 3:

MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

TARGET 1: SUSTAINABLE USE OF TIMBER

MEASURE:

Reduction of the use of the fully grown forests according to the objectives and regimes for management and increasing the care for raising the young plants

ACTIONS:

- Priority conducting of the sanitary and protective forest events to support the good health condition of the forests
- Gradual reduction of the levels of use of timber from the fully grown forests on the grounds of performed national inventory and partial inventories.
- Increase of the volume of the thinnings to improve the condition of the young forests and development of the green economy.

TARGET 2: DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAGGING BEHIND FOREST AREAS AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE FOREST AREAS

MEASURE:

Improvement of the conditions for development of the small and medium-sized businesses in the forest industry (timber harvesting and timber processing)

ACTIONS:

- Continuing the measure for preferential providing of timber resources to Bulgarian and local processors.
- Stimulation of the conclusion of long-term agreements for harvesting and sale of timber.
- Increasing the share of the sales of timber from the public forests by electronic tenders.

TARGET 3: SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION AND INCREASE OF THE FOREST RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY

MEASURE:

Improving fire safety in the forests

ACTIONS:

- Completion of the Unified system for fire preventive video surveillance in the forest territories.
- Implementation of sub-measure 8.3 of the RDP 2014-2020 „Prevention of damages on forest by fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events“.

MEASURE:

Recovery of vulnerable and damaged forest areas

ACTIONS:

- Increase of the investments and the forest cultivation activities
- Implementation of sub-measure 8.4 of the RDP 2014-2020 „Recovery of damages on forest by fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events“.

TARGET 4: INCREASE OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC FORESTS TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL GREEN ECONOMY AND A MODERN FOREST INDUSTRY

MEASURE:

Increase the efficiency and profitability of the forest activities in the state forests by investments in modern environmentally safe equipment, strengthening of the scientific research and introduction of innovative technologies in the forest sector

ACTIONS:

- Creation of stimuli for the development of the green economy, based on market principle
- Implementation of National action plan for energy of forest biomass 2018 - 2027
- Stimulating investment in modern and high-performance forestry.

TARGET 5: INTRODUCTION OF A CONCEPT FOR PAYMENT OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FROM THE FOREST BY MEANS OF THE REGIONAL PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST TERRITORIES AND THE ORDINANCE UNDER ART. 249 OF THE FOREST ACT

MEASURES:

Value determination of the ecosystem services and providing utilisation of funds from the EU for compensation of the owners of forests in Natura 2000

ACTIONS:

- Introduction of the Ordinance under art. 249 of the Forest Act.
- Starting Measure 15 „Ecological services and services in connection with the climate in the forest farms and protection of the forests“ from the RDP.

PRIORITY 4:

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR BY MEANS OF SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROTECTION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS FROM OVER-EXPLOITATION WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HIGH SOCIAL FUNCTION OF FISHING IN THE COASTAL REGIONS

TARGET 1: PROTECTION OF THE RESOURCES AND PROTECTION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE BLACK SEA

MEASURE:

Preparation and implementation of a program for scientific research of the impact from commercial fishing on the ecosystems in the black sea

ACTIONS:

- Conducting scientific research for collection and analysis of technical, biological and business data in the fishery sector, contributing to the protection, management and exploitation of the live water resources.
- Reporting the collected and processed data of the EC according to the requirements of the European legislation.
- Active partnership with scientific institutes for conducting joint research by collecting data for the fishery sector.

MEASURE:

Active prevention of illegal, non-regulated and unreported catches, including through the introduction of advanced technologies for remote monitoring of fishing vessels

ACTIONS

- Take steps to modernise equipment and control technologies in Fisheries
- Increasing the administrative capacity of the staff responsible for monitoring, controlling and supervising fishing activities
- Ensure publicity with regard to issued fishing licenses and breaches found

TARGET 2: COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES SECTOR**MEASURE:**

Improve conditions for unloading and mooring fishing vessels

ACTIONS:

- Application of Measure 1.8 „Fishermen's ports, quays for unloading, fish markets and boat shelters“ from MFP 2014-2020.

MEASURE:

Supporting the initiatives for investments for storage on the board of the ship for own processing and selling of the catches

ACTIONS:

- Implementation and promotion of the measures under the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020, related to the performance of investments for storage on the board of the ship for own processing and selling of the catches.

MEASURE:

Support of the small scale fishing in the Black Sea and the Danube River

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of incentives for diversification of the revenues and providing opportunities for increasing the added value of the fishing activity by MFP.
- Support initiatives for labour safety investments on board boats and boats in the segment through MFP.

MEASURE:

Identifying the issues in the field of fisheries and making informed decisions

ACTIONS:

- Holding meetings of the Consultative Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, with the active participation of branch and scientific organisations in the definition and implementation of the national policy for development of the Fisheries sector.

TARGET 5: COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE FARMS**MEASURES:**

Supporting the initiatives for investments for construction and modernisation of aquaculture farms and reducing the administrative burden in exercising their activities

ACTIONS:

- Implementation and promotion of the measures under the Marine and fisheries programme 2014-2020, related to the support for investments in the

aquacultures, processing and market realisation of the products from the sector.

- Stimulating the diversification of the species, raised in the aquaculture farms and the introduction of innovative approaches for intensive breeding of precious species of fish and aquatic organisms.
- Mitigating the administrative procedures for registration and reporting of the activities of aquaculture farms.

PRIORITY 5:

MOBILISING THE POTENTIAL OF THE RURAL AREAS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 1: DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY OF THE RURAL AREAS AND HIGH LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION

MEASURE:

- Promotion of the start and development of business activities IN the form of new farms, new enterprises, new investments in non-rural activities.
- Stimulating the local development by applying the approach „Community Lead Local Development/Leader“.

TARGET 2: IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE RURAL AREAS

MEASURES:

- Stimulating the construction of the local infrastructure, include broadband infrastructure and modernisation in the villages.
- Stimulation of the supply of local basic services.
- Promoting the protection of the local cultural and natural heritage.

In order to implement the measures and achieve the objectives of the agricultural policy in 2019, a complex of financial support instruments will be implemented with European and national funds.

This includes mainly direct payments and market support under the First Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the implementation of the measures of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 (second pillar of the CAP), financed by the European Agricultural Fund

for Rural Development. The development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production will be supported under the Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020 funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Despite state budget constraints, sustainable agricultural development will also be promoted with national resources - through transitional national aid schemes, complementing EU support under the first pillar of the CAP and state aid.

For the 2014-2020 programming period, the country is expected to utilise about EUR 7.5 billion in the agricultural sector. To support farm incomes, more than EUR 5 billion of EU funds will be made available in the current programming period in the form of direct payments. More than EUR 2.2 billion will be earmarked for rural development and investment in agriculture under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

According the European legislation, the national ceiling for direct payments set for Bulgaria in 2019 is EUR 796.3 million.

The support of vulnerable and priority sectors will be implemented through the implementation of coupled support schemes. Bulgaria has notified the maximum allowable amount of coupled support for the period 2015 - 2020 - 15% of the financial ceiling for direct payments, incl. 13% for the Livestock and Fruit and Vegetables sectors and 2% for protein crops.

Targeted support for certain sectors and industries will also be provided by the national budget through state aid schemes and transitional national aid. A total budget for these schemes is envisaged for 2019, amounting to BGN 300.4 million.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1
GROSS AND END PRODUCTION FROM SECTOR „AGRICULTURE“ FOR 2017* (ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER PRICES)

(BGN million)

Current prices																		
Code	Products	Gross production	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Variation in stocks	End production	
					Seed and plant mate-rial	Feed supple-ments	Other			Within the country		Abroad						
										In the sector	Outside the sector							
a	b	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
01	Cereal crops	2,580.3	2.2	524.5	136.6	80.2	3.7	1.4	16.2	160.1	2,084.6	14.3	2,259.0		605.5	81.0	2,437.8	
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,688.7	1.6	259.5	128.2	30.8	2.5	0.9	12.6	101.1	1,354.6	11.0	1,466.7		304.9	45.4	1,556.4	
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,669.7	1.6	257.7	127.4	29.3	2.5	0.9	12.4	97.4	1,345.5	9.9	1,452.8		300.5	42.8	1,538.2	
01.1/2	Durum wheat	19.0		1.8	0.8	1.5			0.2	3.7	9.1	1.1	13.9		4.4	2.6	18.2	
01.2	Rye	4.4		0.5	0.1	1.0			0.3		2.8		2.8		0.7	0.2	4.3	
01.3	Barley	157.0	0.1	25.8	5.3	10.4	0.3	0.2	1.3	10.9	132.0	0.6	143.5		21.7	-4.1	151.3	
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	8.3		4.9	0.5	3.1		0.1	0.3	1.1	3.8		4.9		4.3	-0.6	7.8	
01.5	Grain maize	673.3	0.4	203.6	0.1	28.3	0.8	0.1	1.4	45.4	553.2	2.6	601.2		244.6	41.0	672.0	
01.6	Rice	28.6		25.6	1.5						29.1		29.1		23.6	-2.0	27.1	
01.7	Other cereals	20.0	0.1	4.6	0.9	6.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.6	9.1	0.1	10.8		5.7	1.1	18.9	
02	Industrial crops	1,859.9	4.3	516.8	8.8	9.1	1.2	5.4	1.5	71.0	1,687.4	10.8	1,769.2		577.2	60.4	1,845.6	
02.1	Oilseeds	1,493.8	2.7	445.4	0.7	2.6	0.5	0.8	1.2	63.2	1,385.4	8.2	1,456.8		473.9	28.4	1,489.9	

Code	Products	Current prices															End production	
		Gross produc-tion	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Variation in stocks		
					Seed and plant mate-rial	Feed supple-ments	Other			Within the country								Abroad
										In the sector	Outside the sector							
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	316.1	0.5	1.0	0.1						6.4	300.9		307.3		9.2	8.2	315.5
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,164.8	2.2	441.1	0.4	2.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	56.8	1,072.2	7.9	1,136.9		461.9	20.8	1,161.7	
02.1/3	Soy	11.2		0.6	0.2						10.0	0.3	10.3		1.3	0.6	11.0	
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.7		2.7					0.6		2.3		2.3		1.5	-1.2	1.7	
02.2	Protein crops	124.9	1.3	15.3	8.1	6.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	4.0	85.8	0.4	90.2		33.5	18.3	115.2	
02.3	Tobacco	62.3		42.7							56.9	0.7	57.6		47.4	4.7	62.3	
02.4	Sugar beet																	
02.5	Other indus-trial crops	178.9	0.3	13.4			0.4	4.5	0.1	3.8	159.3	1.5	164.6		22.4	9.0	178.2	
02.5/1	Fibre crops	2.7		0.2							1.8	0.6	2.4		0.5	0.3	2.7	
02.5/2	Hops	0.6		0.6				0.7			0.5		0.5			-0.6	0.6	
02.5/3	Other indus-trial crops	175.6	0.3	12.6			0.4	3.8	0.1	3.8	157.0	0.9	161.7		21.9	9.3	174.9	
03	Feed crops	226.2	0.8	80.1		149.8	1.5	18.8	1.0	24.5	9.0	0.3	33.8		100.6	20.5	223.9	
03.1	Maize for silage	58.3				30.2	0.4	18.0	0.1	8.4	1.2		9.6				57.9	
03.2	Fodder roots	0.1				0.1											0.1	

Code	Products	Current prices															End production	
		Gross produc-tion	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales				Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks		Variation in stocks
					Seed and plant mate-rial	Feed supple-ments	Other			Outside the country			Abroad					
										In the sector	the sector	the country						
03.3	Other feed crops	167.8	0.8	80.1		119.5	1.1	0.8	0.9	16.1	7.8	0.3	24.2		100.6	20.5	165.9	
04	Vegetables	344.6		15.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.5	2.3	9.6	333.0	3.4	346.0		8.4	-6.7	344.3	
04.1	Fresh vegetables	319.7		12.7		0.1	0.2	2.5	2.3	5.0	313.4	3.4	321.8		5.5	-7.3	319.5	
04.1/2	Tomatoes	121.9								3.8	118.1		121.9				121.9	
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	197.8		12.7		0.1	0.2	2.5	2.3	1.2	195.3	3.4	199.9		5.5	-7.3	197.6	
04.2	Flowers	24.9		2.3	0.1					4.6	19.6		24.2		2.9	0.6	24.8	
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.4		2.3	0.1					2.1	6.6		8.7		2.9	0.6	9.3	
04.2/2	Orna-mental plants, incl. Christmas trees	15.5								2.5	13.0		15.5				15.5	
04.2/3	Creation and grow-ing																	
05	Potatoes	81.2	0.3	14.8	3.0	0.1			0.9	5.7	64.9	1.6	72.2		19.5	4.7	77.9	
06	Fruits	341.4	0.2	7.1				5.5	0.9	16.9	300.0	18.3	335.2		6.7	-0.6	341.2	
06.1	Fresh fruits	240.8	0.2	7.1				4.6	0.7	15.6	201.8	18.3	235.7		6.7	-0.6	240.6	
06.1/1	Apples	22.3	0.1	3.4						2.4	19.8		22.2		3.4	-0.1	22.2	
06.1/2	Pears	2.2									2.1	0.1	2.2				2.2	
06.1/3	Peaches	23.3								0.2	15.4	7.7	23.3				23.3	
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	193.0	0.1	3.7				4.6	0.7	13.0	164.5	10.5	188.0		3.3	-0.5	192.9	

Code	Products	Current prices															End production	
		Gross production	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales				Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks		Variation in stocks
					Seed and plant material	Feed supple-ments	Other			Within the country	Abroad							
											In the sector	Outside the sector						
06.4	Grape-total	100.6						0.9	0.2	1.3	98.2		99.5					100.6
06.4/1	Table grape	11.9									11.9		11.9					11.9
06.4/2	Other grape	88.7						0.9	0.2	1.3	86.3		87.6					88.7
	Other plant crops	49.3	1.3	58.3	1.5	0.3			0.1	4.9	38.9	0.2	44.0		60.4	2.1	46.5	
09	Seeds	46.5	1.3	58.3	1.5	0.3			0.1	2.1	38.9	0.2	41.2		60.4	2.1	43.7	
09.2	Other plant products	2.8								2.8			2.8				2.8	
09.3	Plant production (from 01 to 09)	5,482.9	9.1	1,216.6	150.0	239.6	6.6	33.6	22.9	292.7	4,517.8	48.9	4,859.4		1,378.3	161.4	5,317.2	
10	Livestock	817.0		215.0					146.4		596.6		596.6		42.2	246.8	31.7	817.0
11	Large ruminants	136.5		105.8					7.5		63.4		63.4		22.3	149.1	43.3	136.5
11.1	Pigs	265.9		26.6					21.6		237.4		237.4		4.2	29.3	2.7	265.9
11.2	Horses																	
11.3	Kohe																	

Code	Products	Current prices														End production	
		Gross production	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks		Variation in stocks
					Seed and plant material	Feed supple-ments	Other			Within the country		Abroad					
										In the sector	Outside the sector						
11.4	Sheep and goats	149.4		35.6					52.3			84.6		84.6	32.4	-3.3	149.4
11.5	Poultry	265.2		47.0					65.0			211.2		211.2	36.0	-11.0	265.2
11.6	Other animals																
12	Livestock products	1,037.6	1.1	94.7		58.9	61.2	17.0	59.3	83.5		757.0		840.5	94.3	-0.5	916.4
12.1	Milk	736.6				56.3		16.6	31.9	39.3		592.5		631.8			680.3
12.2	Eggs	215.8	1.1	3.1		0.2	42.4	0.4	21.4	31.4		118.6		150.0	3.4	0.2	172.1
12.3	Other livestock products	85.2		91.6		2.4	18.8		6.0	12.8		45.9		58.7	90.9	-0.7	64.0
12.3/1	Greasy wool	2.8								1.4		1.4		2.8			2.8
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons																
12.3/3	Other livestock products	82.4		91.6		2.4	18.8		6.0	11.4		44.5		55.9	90.9	-0.7	61.2
13	Livestock production (from 11 to +12)	1,854.6	1.1	309.7		58.9	61.2	17.0	205.7	83.5		1,353.6		1,437.1	341.1	31.2	1,733.4

Code	Products	Current prices													End production			
		Gross production	Loss-es	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Self-utili-sation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense		Closing stocks	Variation in stocks	
					Seed and plant material	Feed supply-ments	Other			In the sector	Outside the sector	Within the country						Abroad
14	Agricultural production (10 + 13)	7,337.5	10.2	1,526.3	150.0	298.5	67.8	50.6	228.6	376.2	5,871.4	48.9	6,296.5	42.2	1,719.4	192.6	7,050.6	
15	Production of agricultural services	465.3								465.3			465.3				465.3	
16	Production from agriculture (14 + 15)	7,802.8	10.2	1,526.3	150.0	298.5	67.8	50.6	228.6	841.5	5,871.4	48.9	6,761.8	42.2	1,719.4	192.6	7,515.9	
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	228.7						228.7									228.7	
17.1	Agricultural products processing	228.7						228.7									228.7	
17.1/1	- cereals	51.9						51.9									51.9	
17.1/2	- vegetables	23.8						23.8									23.8	
17.1/3	- fruits	12.1						12.1									12.1	

Code	Products	Current prices						End production	Variation in stocks	Closing stocks	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Sales-total	Abroad	Within the country	Outside the sector	In the sector	Self-utili-sation	Pro-cessed by pro-ducers	Used in the unit	Seed and plant mate-rial	Feed supple-ments	Other	Initial stocks	Loss-es	Gross produc-tion	17.2	18
17.1/4	- wine	30.6	80.2	23.7	23.7	6.4		30.6									30.6										
17.1/5	- livestock	80.2	23.7	23.7	6.4			80.2									80.2										
17.1/6	- livestock products	23.7	23.7	6.4				23.7									23.7										
17.1/61	- milk	23.7	6.4					23.7									23.7										
17.1/7	- other	6.4						6.4									6.4										
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities																										
18	Production from Agriculture sector ('16 + '17)	8,031.5	10.2	1,526.3	150.0	298.5	67.8	50.6	457.3	841.5	5,871.4	48.9	6,761.8	42.2	1,719.4	192.6	7,744.6										

Source: NSI
* Data for 2017 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 2

**VALUE OF THE GROSS PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED
VALUE FROM SECTOR „AGRICULTURE“ (BY MANUFACTURER PRICES)
FOR THE PERIOD 2015 -2017***

(BGN million)

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereal crops	2,514.2	-3.9%	2,415.6	6.8%	2,580.3
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,493.4	1.1%	1,509.6	11.9%	1,688.7
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,473.9	1.2%	1,491.7	11.9%	1,669.7
01.1/2	Durum wheat	19.5	-8.2%	17.9	6.1%	19.0
01.2	Rye	3.6	16.7%	4.2	4.8%	4.4
01.3	Barley	216.6	-0.4%	215.8	-27.2%	157.0
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	5.7	75.4%	10.0	-17.0%	8.3
01.5	Grain maize	740.2	-14.5%	632.8	6.4%	673.3
01.6	Rice	34.3	-25.7%	25.5	12.2%	28.6
01.7	Other cereals	20.4	-13.2%	17.7	13.0%	20.0
02	Industrial crops	1,771.3	2.4%	1,813.1	2.6%	1,859.9
02.1	Oilseeds	1,547.3	0.6%	1,556.0	-4.0%	1,493.8
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	294.5	10.7%	326.0	-3.0%	316.1
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,231.7	-1.2%	1,216.6	-4.3%	1,164.8
02.1/3	Soy	20.0	-48.5%	10.3	8.7%	11.2
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.1	181.8%	3.1	-45.2%	1.7
02.2	Protein crops	19.2	130.7%	44.3	181.9%	124.9
02.3	Tobacco	91.2	-27.1%	66.5	-6.3%	62.3
02.4	Sugar beet	-	-	-	-	-
02.5	Other industrial crops	113.6	28.8%	146.3	22.3%	178.9
02.5/1	Fibre crops	0.8	200.0%	2.4	12.5%	2.7
02.5/2	Hops	0.8	50.0%	1.2	-50.0%	0.6
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	112.0	27.4%	142.7	23.1%	175.6
03	Feed crops	126.0	27.1%	160.2	41.2%	226.2

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
03.1	Maize for silage	41.6	-5.3%	39.4	48.0%	58.3
03.2	Fodder roots	0.4	-75.0%	0.1	0.0%	0.1
03.3	Other feed crops	84.0	43.7%	120.7	39.0%	167.8
04	Vegetables	245.7	24.6%	306.1	12.6%	344.6
04.1	Fresh vegetables	232.0	21.1%	280.9	13.8%	319.7
04.1/2	Tomatoes	80.5	15.8%	93.2	30.8%	121.9
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	151.5	23.9%	187.7	5.4%	197.8
04.2	Flowers	13.7	83.9%	25.2	-1.2%	24.9
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.5	9.5%	10.4	-9.6%	9.4
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	4.2	252.4%	14.8	4.7%	15.5
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-	-	-	-	-
05	Potatoes	64.6	-19.0%	52.3	55.3%	81.2
06	Fruits	298.2	7.6%	320.8	6.4%	341.4
06.1	Fresh fruits	177.3	24.3%	220.4	9.3%	240.8
06.1/1	Apples	23.8	2.5%	24.4	-8.6%	22.3
06.1/2	Pears	2.6	-30.8%	1.8	22.2%	2.2
06.1/3	Peaches	17.3	33.5%	23.1	0.9%	23.3
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	133.6	28.1%	171.1	12.8%	193.0
06.4	Grape-total	120.9	-17.0%	100.4	0.2%	100.6
06.4/1	Table grape	10.5	-29.5%	7.4	60.8%	11.9
06.4/2	Other grape	110.4	-15.8%	93.0	-4.6%	88.7
09	Other plant crops	38.1	23.6%	47.1	4.7%	49.3
09.2	Seeds	31.7	28.1%	40.6	14.5%	46.5
09.3	Other plant products	6.4	1.6%	6.5	-56.9%	2.8
10	Production from plant growing	5,058.1	1.1%	5,115.2	7.2%	5,482.9
11	Livestock	924.9	-12.9%	805.3	1.5%	817.0
11.1	Large ruminants	158.0	-16.8%	131.5	3.8%	136.5
11.2	Pigs	277.7	-4.9%	264.0	0.7%	265.9
11.3	Horses	0.3	-33.3%	0.2		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	165.2	-9.4%	149.7	-0.2%	149.4

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
11.5	Poultry	323.7	-19.7%	259.9	2.0%	265.2
11.6	Other livestock	-	-	-	-	-
12	Livestock products	1,032.7	-5.0%	981.4	5.7%	1,037.6
12.1	Milk	718.0	-2.3%	701.4	5.0%	736.6
12.2	Eggs	217.4	-10.6%	194.3	11.1%	215.8
12.3	Other livestock products	97.3	-11.9%	85.7	-0.6%	85.2
06.1/3	Greasy wool	2.7	11.1%	3.0	-6.7%	2.8
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-	-	-	-	-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	94.6	-12.6%	82.7	-0.4%	82.4
13	Livestock production	1,957.6	-8.7%	1,786.7	3.8%	1,854.6
14	Production of agricultural product (line10 + line13)	7,015.7	-1.6%	6,901.9	6.3%	7,337.5
15	Production from agricultural services	485.2	-9.4%	439.8	5.8%	465.3
16	Production from agriculture (line14 + line15)	7,500.9	-2.1%	7,341.7	6.3%	7,802.8
17	Non-agricultural inseparable second- ary activities	230.9	-5.2%	218.8	4.5%	228.7
17.1	Agricultural products processing	230.9	-5.2%	218.8	4.5%	228.7
17.1/1	- cereals	51.6	-42.8%	29.5	75.9%	51.9
17.1/2	- vegetables	23.0	-1.7%	22.6	5.3%	23.8
17.1/3	- fruits	12.2	-3.3%	11.8	2.5%	12.1
17.1/4	- wine	30.5	0.0%	30.5	0.3%	30.6
17.1/5	- livestock	53.5	-2.1%	52.4	53.1%	80.2
17.1/6	- livestock products	53.7	22.2%	65.6	-63.9%	23.7
17.1/6/1	- milk	53.7	22.2%	65.6	-63.9%	23.7
17.1/7	- other	6.4	0.0%	6.4	0.0%	6.4
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	-	-	-	-	-
18	Production from Agriculture sector (line10 + line13 + line15 + line17)	7,731.8	-2.2%	7,560.5	6.2%	8,031.5

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19	Intermediate consumption	4,978.7	-8.6%	4,549.9	4.8%	4,766.4
	Losses	9.0	-56.7%	3.9	161.5%	10.2
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	280.9	-4.9%	267.2	29.2%	345.3
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	23.4	10.7%	25.9	-1.2%	25.6
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	150.5	11.7%	168.1	1.0%	169.7
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	107.0	-31.6%	73.2	104.9%	150.0
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,130.9	-7.0%	1,052.2	4.2%	1,096.0
19.02/1	- electricity	86.8	-12.6%	75.9	14.4%	86.8
19.02/2	- gas	26.1	-8.4%	23.9	14.2%	27.3
19.02/3	- other fuels	1,014.4	-6.4%	949.1	3.1%	978.2
19.02/4	- other	3.6	-8.3%	3.3	12.1%	3.7
19.03	Fertilisers and soil improvers	367.2	5.4%	386.9	2.1%	394.9
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	8.6	-17.4%	7.1	-1.4%	7.0
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	358.6	5.9%	379.8	2.1%	387.9
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	-	-	-	-	-
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	362.5	-12.7%	316.4	-5.2%	299.9
19.05	Veterinary costs	262.0	-8.6%	239.5	-1.3%	236.3
19.06	Feed supplements	1,017.6	-10.2%	913.4	3.9%	948.8
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	292.1	-8.3%	268.0	-1.3%	264.5
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	421.1	5.2%	442.8	0.4%	444.6
19.06/3	produced and consumed in the farm itself	304.4	-33.4%	202.6	18.3%	239.7
	Feed supplements not included in the end production	58.3	-15.6%	49.2	19.7%	58.9
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	330.6	-8.6%	302.1	-1.3%	298.2

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19.08	Building maintenance	162.1	-8.6%	148.2	-1.3%	146.2
19.09	Agricultural services	485.2	-9.4%	439.8	5.8%	465.3
19.10	PHYSIM	92.1	-20.3%	73.4	0.1%	73.5
19.11	Other goods and services	420.3	-14.9%	357.7	9.8%	392.9
	supplied by other agricultural farms	94.8	-25.1%	71.0	11.4%	79.1
	purchased outside the sector	239.4	-8.6%	218.8	12.4%	246.0
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	86.1	-21.1%	67.9	-0.1%	67.8
20	Gross added value by producer prices (line18 - line19)	2,753.1	9.4%	3,010.6	8.5%	3,265.1

Source: NSI

* Data for 2017 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 3

**INDICES OF THE PRODUCER'S PRICES IN AGRICULTURE
FOR YEARS 2016 AND 2017 (2015=100)**

No	Indicators	Links	2015	2016	2017
1	Cereal crops	1=2+5+6+7+8+9+10	100.0	92.2	93.4
2	Wheat - total	2=3+4	100.0	87.9	91.1
3	Common wheat	3	100.0	88.0	91.1
4	Durum wheat	4	100.0	82.4	94.1
5	Rye	5	100.0	106.5	102.8
6	Barley	6	100.0	88.5	89.6
7	Oat	7	100.0	97.9	89.1
8	Maize	8	100.0	102.1	99.9
9	Paddy rice (arpa)	9	100.0	78.7	73.2
10	Other plant crops	10=11+12	100.0	89.6	97.3
13	Industrial crops	13=14+19+23+27	100.0	97.7	89.5
14	Oilseeds	14=15+16+17+18	100.0	98.3	89.3
15	Rapeseed or colza seeds	15	100.0	99.6	97.4
16	Sunflower seeds	16	100.0	98.4	87.6
17	Soy	17	100.0	67.8	68.9
18	Peanuts	18	100.0	100.0	100.0
19	Crops with dried leguminous pods	19=20+21+22	100.0	86.0	76.8
20	Pea (grain) and field pea	20	100.0	82.5	72.5
21	Bean	21	100.0	80.8	75.9
22	Lentils	22	100.0	118.8	97.7
23	Raw tobacco	23=24+25+26	100.0	100.9	111.5
24	Oriental tobacco	24	100.0	104.0	115.0
25	Virginia-type tobacco	25	100.0	91.8	103.0
26	Burley-type tobacco	26	100.0	99.0	104.1
27	Other industrial crops	27=28+29+30	100.0	89.3	80.1

No	Indicators	Links	2015	2016	2017
28	Unginned cotton	28	100.0	103.4	97.7
29	Hops	29	100.0	342.7	153.9
30	Other industrial crops	30=31+34+40	100.0	87.9	79.7
31	Medicinal herbs	31=32+33	100.0	70.7	98.1
34	Essential oils perennials used in medicine	34=35+36+37+38	100.0	111.6	108.0
35	Mint	35	100.0	113.0	192.3
36	Damask rose	36	100.0	141.8	118.2
37	Lavender (green mass)	37	100.0	81.2	98.5
38	Other essential oils perennials	38=39	100.0	100.0	100.0
39	Fennel	39	100.0	100.0	100.0
40	Unprocessed spices	40=41	100.0	56.3	36.6
41	Coriander seeds	41	100.0	56.3	36.6
42	Feed crops	42=43+44	100.0	81.7	116.9
43	Maize for silage	43	100.0	109.6	159.5
44	Other feed crops	44=45+46	100.0	72.3	102.6
45	Hay from natural meadows	45	100.0	65.9	104.5
46	Lucerne, hay	46	100.0	95.6	95.8
47	Vegetables grown for their fruits; nurseries and flowers	47=48+68	100.0	88.3	104.1
48	Fresh vegetables	48=49+52	100.0	87.8	104.6
49	Tomatoes	49=50+51	100.0	84.4	119.9
50	Tomatoes grown on open areas	50	100.0	66.3	125.2
51	Greenhouse tomatoes	51	100.0	100.9	115.2
52	Other fresh vegetables	52=53+54+55+58+59+60+61+62	100.0	89.6	96.3
53	White cabbage	53	100.0	55.9	57.4
54	Lettuces	54	100.0	83.4	101.2
55	Cucumbers and gherkins	55=56+57	100.0	86.3	92.9
56	Cucumbers and gherkins from open areas	56	100.0	113.4	114.9

No	Indicators	Links	2015	2016	2017
57	Greenhouse cucumbers and gherkins	57	100.0	84.1	91.1
58	Carrots	58	100.0	79.9	93.9
59	Onion	59	100.0	91.7	94.8
60	Broad beans	60	100.0	117.8	112.2
61	Green garden peas	61	100.0	100.1	87.4
62	Other fresh vegetables; Other	62=63+64+65+66+67	100.0	97.3	104.9
63	Garlic	63	100.0	111.2	121.8
64	Green onion	64	100.0	151.3	129.9
65	Green or red pepper for fresh consumption	65	100.0	100.2	108.4
68	Nurseries and flowers	68	100.0	102.9	89.2
69	Potatoes	69	100.0	94.5	97.3
70	Fruits	70=71+84	100.0	105.5	101.3
71	Fresh fruits	71=72+73+74+75	100.0	114.2	109.2
72	Apples	72	100.0	97.5	97.3
73	Pears	73	100.0	129.4	111.1
74	Peaches	74	100.0	102.4	94.0
75	Other fresh fruits, walnuts and other	75=76+77+78+79+80	100.0	118.4	113.3
76	Cherries	76	100.0	151.0	147.3
77	Prunes	77	100.0	93.9	92.8
78	Strawberries	78	100.0	73.7	74.5
79	Walnuts in shell	79	100.0	82.1	84.0
80	Other fresh fruits, Other	80=81+82+83	100.0	96.3	84.9
81	Apricots	81	100.0	98.5	85.2
82	Sour cherries	82	100.0	104.3	122.5
83	Cultivated raspberries	83	100.0	93.5	80.3

No	Indicators	Links	2015	2016	2017
84	Grape - from vineyards	84=85+86	100.0	92.9	89.7
85	Table grape - from vineyards	85	100.0	96.5	123.3
86	Wine grape - from vineyards	86	100.0	92.5	86.5
87	Other plant products	87	100.0	113.5	128.7
88	Seeds	88=89+90+91+92+93+94+95	100.0	116.9	138.5
96	Other plant products: other	96=97	100.0	101.6	94.2
97	Cultivated mushrooms	97	100.0	101.6	94.2
98	Vegetables and fruits	98=47+70	100.0	122.1	132.4
99	Plant breeding, without vegetables and fruits	99=1+13+42+69+87	100.0	94.7	92.1
100	Plant breeding - total	100=98+99	100.0	95.1	93.3
101	Livestock	101=102+113+119+129	100.0	93.1	91.9
102	Livestock - Large ruminants	102=103+110	100.0	88.1	88.1
103	Livestock - Large ruminants over 1 year age	103=104+105+106+107+108+109	100.0	87.5	90.1
110	Livestock - Large ruminants up to 1 year age	110=111+112	100.0	90.7	79.5
113	Livestock of the porcine type	113=114+115+116+117+118	100.0	94.6	95.5
119	Livestock of the sheep and goats type	119=120+125	100.0	100.5	99.0
120	Livestock of the sheep type	120=121+122+123+124	100.0	101.6	92.9
125	Livestock of the goats type	125=126+127+128	100.0	97.9	112.7
129	Poultry	129=130+131	100.0	90.7	86.9
130	Chicken, broilers up to 6 months	130	100.0	91.7	88.1
131	Laying hens of eggs for consumption	131	100.0	89.7	-
132	Livestock products	132=133+140+143	100.0	94.3	105.2
133	Raw milk	133=134+137	100.0	94.5	107.2
134	Large ruminants raw milk	134=135+136	100.0	94.9	110.1
135	Cow raw milk	135	100.0	94.0	109.3
136	Buffalo raw milk	136	100.0	102.1	103.6

No	Indicators	Links	2015	2016	2017
137	Small ruminants raw milk	137=138+139	100.0	96.5	96.8
138	Sheep raw milk	138	100.0	95.1	95.2
139	Goats raw milk	139	100.0	102.1	103.4
140	Poultry eggs in shell	140=141+142	100.0	87.5	97.1
141	Hens eggs for consumption	141	100.0	80.3	98.4
142	Hens eggs for breeding	142	100.0	92.3	95.3
143	Other livestock products	143=144+145	100.0	108.6	104.0
146	Livestock breeding	146=101+132	100.0	93.8	99.5
147	Agriculture, without vegetables and fruits	147=99+146	100.0	94.5	94.0
148	Agriculture - total	148=100+146	100.0	94.8	94.8

Source: NSI

APPENDIX 4
INTERIM CONSUMPTION, FACTOR EXPENSES,
OTHER SUBSIDIES AND TAXES FOR 2017*

(BGN million)

Elements of the intermediate consumption	For creating gross output at producer prices	For creating end production at basic prices	produced and consumed in the farm itself	Purchase of goods and services for intermediate consumption	
				from other agricultural units	from units outside the sector
a	1	2	3	4	5
Losses	10.2		10.2		
Seeds and seedling material	345.3	195.3	150.0	25.6	169.7
Fuels and oils	1,096.0	1,096.0			1,096.0
- electricity	86.8	86.8			86.8
- gas	27.3	27.3			27.3
- other fuels	978.2	978.2			978.2
- other	3.7	3.7			3.7
Fertilisers and soil improvers	394.9	394.9		7.0	387.9
Plant protection products and pesticides	299.9	299.9			299.9
Veterinary costs	236.3	236.3			236.3
Feed supplements	948.8	948.8	239.7	264.5	444.6
Feed supplements not included in the end production	58.9		58.9		
Maintenance and repair works	444.4	444.4			444.4
- maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	298.2	298.2			298.2
- building maintenance	146.2	146.2			146.2
Agricultural services	465.3	465.3		465.3	
PHYSIM	73.5	73.5			73.5
Other goods and services	392.9	325.1	67.8	79.1	246.0
Intermediate consumption	4,766.4	4,479.5	526.6	841.5	3,398.3

Elements of the intermediate consumption	For creating gross output at producer prices	For creating end production at basic prices	produced and consumed in the farm itself	Purchase of goods and services for intermediate consumption	
				from other agricultural units	from units outside the sector
a	1	2	3	4	5
Consumption of fixed capital	868.8	868.8			868.8
- equipment	714.2	714.2			714.2
- buildings	67.0	67.0			67.0
- creation and growing	20.4	20.4			20.4
- other	67.2	67.2			67.2
Compensation of the hired persons	865.7	865.7			865.7
Other taxes on production	2.7	2.7			2.7
Other subsidies on production	1,920.3	1,920.3			1,920.3
Lease	1,101.9	1,101.9			1,101.9
Interest paid	99.2	99.2			99.2
Interest received	45.9	45.9			45.9

Source: NSI

* Data for 2017 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 5

END PRODUCE VALUE, GROSS ADDED VALUE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INCOME IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR (UNDER CURRENT BASE PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD 2015 -2017

(BGN million)

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereal crops	2,403.2	-2.4%	2,345.8	3.9%	2,437.8
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,396.3	3.9%	1,450.5	7.3%	1,556.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,378.3	4.0%	1,433.5	7.3%	1,538.2
01.1/2	Durum wheat	18.0	-5.6%	17.0	7.1%	18.2
01.2	Rye	3.4	20.6%	4.1	4.9%	4.3
01.3	Barley	207.6	0.4%	208.4	-27.4%	151.3
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	5.2	86.5%	9.7	-19.6%	7.8
01.5	Grain maize	738.0	-14.4%	631.6	6.4%	672.0
01.6	Rice	32.7	-25.1%	24.5	10.6%	27.1
01.7	Other cereals	20.0	-15.0%	17.0	11.2%	18.9
02	Industrial crops	1,892.6	2.1%	1,931.7	1.9%	1,969.2
02.1	Oilseeds	1,543.5	0.7%	1,553.7	-4.1%	1,489.9
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	294.2	10.7%	325.8	-3.2%	315.5
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,228.7	-1.1%	1,214.9	-4.4%	1,161.7
02.1/3	Soy	19.5	-49.2%	9.9	11.1%	11.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.1	181.8%	3.1	-45.2%	1.7
02.2	Protein crops	48.7	44.8%	70.5	106.2%	145.4
02.3	Tobacco	184.8	-14.8%	157.5	-3.9%	151.3
02.4	Sugar beet	-	-	-	-	-
02.5	Other industrial crops	115.6	29.8%	150.0	21.7%	182.6

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
02.5/1	Fibre crops	4.6	47.8%	6.8	4.4%	7.1
02.5/2	Hops	0.8	50.0%	1.2	-50.0%	0.6
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	110.2	28.9%	142.0	23.2%	174.9
03	Feed crops	125.2	27.5%	159.6	40.3%	223.9
03.1	Maize for silage	41.3	-5.6%	39.0	48.5%	57.9
03.2	Fodder roots	0.4	-75.0%	0.1		0.1
03.3	Other feed crops	83.5	44.3%	120.5	37.7%	165.9
04	Vegetables	281.9	22.3%	344.9	11.4%	384.1
04.1	Fresh vegetables	273.1	17.2%	320.0	12.3%	359.3
04.1/2	Tomatoes	82.5	14.2%	94.2	30.5%	122.9
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	190.6	18.5%	225.8	4.7%	236.4
04.2	Flowers	8.8	183.0%	24.9	-0.4%	24.8
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	4.6	119.6%	10.1	-7.9%	9.3
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	4.2	252.4%	14.8	4.7%	15.5
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-	-	-	-	-
05	Potatoes	63.2	-20.9%	50.0	57.8%	78.9
06	Fruits	334.9	7.0%	358.3	19.1%	426.7
06.1	Fresh fruits	214.0	20.5%	257.9	7.9%	278.4
06.1/1	Apples	23.8	2.5%	24.4	-9.0%	22.2
06.1/2	Pears	2.6	-30.8%	1.8	22.2%	2.2
06.1/3	Peaches	17.3	33.5%	23.1	0.9%	23.3
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	170.3	22.5%	208.6	10.6%	230.7
06.4	Grape-total	120.9	-17.0%	100.4	47.7%	148.3
06.4/1	Table grape	10.5	-29.5%	7.4	60.8%	11.9

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
06.4/2	Other grape	110.4	-15.8%	93.0	46.7%	136.4
09	Other plant crops	34.6	30.1%	45.0	3.3%	46.5
09.2	Seeds	28.2	36.5%	38.5	13.5%	43.7
09.3	Other plant products	6.4	1.6%	6.5	-56.9%	2.8
10	Production from plant growing	5,135.6	1.9%	5,235.3	6.3%	5,567.1
11	Livestock	1,131.1	-6.1%	1,061.8	-1.2%	1,048.9
11.1	Large ruminants	303.0	-9.8%	273.4	-5.9%	257.2
11.2	Pigs	277.7	5.1%	291.8	0.6%	293.5
11.3	Horses	0.3	-33.3%	0.2		
11.4	Sheep and goats	226.4	-8.0%	208.3	-3.8%	200.4
11.5	Poultry	323.7	-11.0%	288.1	3.4%	297.8
11.6	Other livestock	-	-	-	-	-
12	Livestock products	905.3	-3.4%	874.6	6.3%	929.8
12.1	Milk	659.9	-0.8%	654.5	4.1%	681.6
12.2	Eggs	169.3	-9.3%	153.6	12.0%	172.1
12.3	Other livestock products	76.1	-12.6%	66.5	14.4%	76.1
12.3/1	Greasy wool	2.7	11.1%	3.0	-6.7%	2.8
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-	-	-	-	-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	73.4	-13.5%	63.5	15.4%	73.3
13	Livestock production	2,036.4	-4.9%	1,936.4	2.2%	1,978.7
14	Production of agricultural product (line10+line13)	7,172.0	-0.004%	7,171.7	5.2%	7,545.8
15	Production from agricultural services	485.2	-9.4%	439.8	5.8%	465.3
16	Production from agriculture (line14+line15)	7,657.2	-0.6%	7,611.5	5.2%	8,011.1
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	230.9	-5.2%	218.8	4.5%	228.7

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
17.1	Agricultural products processing	230.9	-5.2%	218.8	4.5%	228.7
17.1/1	- cereals	51.6	-42.8%	29.5	75.9%	51.9
17.1/2	- vegetables	23.0	-1.7%	22.6	5.3%	23.8
17.1/3	- fruits	12.2	-3.3%	11.8	2.5%	12.1
17.1/4	- wine	30.5		30.5	0.3%	30.6
17.1/5	- livestock	53.5	-2.1%	52.4	53.1%	80.2
17.1/6	- livestock products	53.7	22.2%	65.6	-63.9%	23.7
17.1/6/1	- milk	53.7	22.2%	65.6	-63.9%	23.7
17.1/7	- other	6.4		6.4		6.4
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	-	-	-	-	-
18	Production from Agriculture sector (line10 + line13 + line15 + line17)	7,888.1	-0.7%	7,830.3	5.2%	8,239.8
19	Intermediate consumption	4,718.3	-7.7%	4,355.7	2.8%	4,479.5
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	173.9	11.6%	194.0	0.7%	195.3
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	23.4	10.7%	25.9	-1.2%	25.6
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	150.5	11.7%	168.1	1.0%	169.7
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,130.9	-7.0%	1,052.2	4.2%	1,096.0
19.02/1	- electricity	86.8	-12.6%	75.9	14.4%	86.8
19.02/2	- gas	26.1	-8.4%	23.9	14.2%	27.3
19.02/3	- other fuels	1,014.4	-6.4%	949.1	3.1%	978.2
19.02/4	- other	3.6	-8.3%	3.3	12.1%	3.7
19.03	Fertilisers and soil improvers	367.2	5.4%	386.9	2.1%	394.9
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	8.6	-17.4%	7.1	-1.4%	7.0
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	358.6	5.9%	379.8	2.1%	387.9
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	362.5	-12.7%	316.4	-5.2%	299.9
19.05	Veterinary costs	262.0	-8.6%	239.5	-1.3%	236.3
19.06	Feed supplements	1,017.6	-10.2%	913.4	3.9%	948.8
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	292.1	-8.3%	268.0	-1.3%	264.5
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	421.1	5.2%	442.8	0.4%	444.6

Code	Products	2015	Variation 2016/2015 %	2016	Variation 2017/2016 %	2017*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19.06/3	produced and consumed in the farm itself	304.4	-33.4%	202.6	18.3%	239.7
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	330.6	-8.6%	302.1	-1.3%	298.2
19.08	Building maintenance	162.1	-8.6%	148.2	-1.3%	146.2
19.09	Agricultural services	485.2	-9.4%	439.8	5.8%	465.3
19.10	PHYSIM	92.1	-20.3%	73.4	0.1%	73.5
19.11	Other goods and services	334.2	-13.3%	289.8	12.2%	325.1
	supplied by other agricultural farms	94.8	-25.1%	71.0	11.4%	79.1
	purchased outside the sector	239.4	-8.6%	218.8	12.4%	246.0
20	Gross added value by basic prices (line18 — line19)	3,169.8	9.6%	3,474.6	8.2%	3,760.3
21	Consumption of fixed capital	783.3	9.8%	860.1	1.0%	868.8
21.1	- equipment	656.4	9.8%	720.8	-0.9%	714.2
21.2	- buildings	52.5	9.7%	57.6	16.3%	67.0
21.3	- creation and growing	19.0	10.0%	20.9	-2.4%	20.4
21.4	- other	55.4	9.7%	60.8	10.5%	67.2
22	Net added value under basis prices (line20 — line21)	2,386.5	9.6%	2,614.5	10.6%	2,891.5
23	Compensation of the hired persons	804.1	3.5%	832.2	4.0%	865.7
24	Other taxes on production	2.2	9.1%	2.4	12.5%	2.7
25	Other subsidies on production	1,324.9	19.5%	1,583.5	21.3%	1,920.3
26	Income per factors (line 22 - line 24 + line 25)	3,709.2	13.1%	4,195.6	14.6%	4,809.1
27	Operating surplus / Mixed income (line 22 — line 23 + line 25)	2,905.1	15.8%	3,363.4	17.2%	3,943.4
28	Lease	1,011.3	0.6%	1,017.2	8.3%	1,101.9
29	Interest paid	42.8	111.7%	90.6	9.5%	99.2
30	Interest received	10.2	189.2%	29.5	55.6%	45.9
31	Entrepreneurial income (line 27 - line 28 - line 29 + line 30)	1,861.2	22.8%	2,285.1	22.0%	2,788.2

Source: NSI

Calculation of variation by years in percentage - MAFF

* Data for 2017 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 6

**END PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE
(PER BASIC PRICES) - 2016 - 2017 VALUE
AND INDEXES OF CHANGE - 2017 COMPARED TO 2016**

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
01	Cereal crops	1=2 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10	2 345,8	105,2	2 467,7	98,8	2 437,8	103,9
01.1	Wheat and spelt	2=3 + 4	1 450,5	104,8	1 520,5	102,4	1 556,4	107,3
01.1/1	Common wheat	3	1 433,5	105,0	1 504,9	102,2	1 538,2	107,3
01.1/2	Durum wheat	4	17,0	91,8	15,6	116,7	18,2	107,1
01.2	Rye	5	4,1	102,4	4,2	102,4	4,3	104,9
01.3	Barley	6	208,4	82,5	172,0	88,0	151,3	72,6
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	7	9,7	102,1	9,9	78,8	7,8	80,4
01.5	Grain maize	8	631,6	113,6	717,6	93,6	672,0	106,4
01.6	Rice	9	24,5	94,7	23,2	116,8	27,1	110,6
01.7	Other cereals	10	17,0	119,4	20,3	93,1	18,9	111,2
02	Industrial crops	11=12 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 20	1 931,7	115,1	2 222,6	88,6	1 969,2	101,9
02.1	Oilseeds	12=13 + 14 + 15 + 16	1 553,7	110,4	1 714,9	86,9	1 489,9	95,9
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	13	325,8	97,1	316,2	99,8	315,5	96,8
02.1/2	Sunflower	14	1 214,9	114,1	1 386,7	83,8	1 161,7	95,6
02.1/3	Soy	15	9,9	104,0	10,3	106,8	11,0	111,1
02.1/4	Other oil-seeds	16	3,1	54,8	1,7	100,0	1,7	54,8
02.2	Protein crops	17	70,5	307,2	216,6	67,1	145,4	206,2
02.3	Tobacco	18	157,5	90,7	142,8	106,0	151,3	96,1

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
02.4	Sugar beet	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
02.5	Other industrial crops	20=21 + 22 + 23	150,0	98,9	148,3	123,1	182,6	121,7
02.5/1	Fibre crops	21	6,8	120,6	8,2	86,6	7,1	104,4
02.5/2	Hops	22	1,2	91,7	1,1	54,5	0,6	50,0
02.5/3	Other	23	142,0	97,9	139,0	125,8	174,9	123,2
03	Feed crops	24=25 + 26 + 27	159,6	110,2	175,8	127,4	223,9	140,3
03.1	Maize for silage	25	39,0	131,0	51,1	113,3	57,9	148,5
03.2	Fodder roots	26	0,1	100,0	0,1	100,0	0,1	100,0
03.3	Other feed crops	27	120,5	103,4	124,6	133,1	165,9	137,7
04	Vegetables	28=29 + 32	344,9	106,0	365,5	105,1	384,1	111,4
04.1	Fresh vegetables	29=30 + 31	320,0	106,5	340,7	105,5	359,3	112,3
04.1/2	Tomatoes	30	94,2	123,7	116,5	105,5	122,9	130,5
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	31	225,8	99,3	224,2	105,4	236,4	104,7
04.2	Flowers and nurseries	32=33 + 34 + 35	24,9	99,6	24,8	100,0	24,8	99,6
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	33	10,1	92,1	9,3	100,0	9,3	92,1
04.2/2	Ornamental plants	34	14,8	104,7	15,5	100,0	15,5	104,7
04.2/3	Creation and growing	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
05	Potatoes	36	50,0	168,2	84,1	93,8	78,9	157,8
06	Fruits	37=38 + 43	358,3	106,9	383,2	111,4	426,7	119,1
06.1	Fresh fruits	38=39 + 40 + 41 + 42	257,9	109,5	282,4	98,6	278,4	107,9

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
06.1/1	Apples	39	24.4	98.0	23.9	92.9	22.2	91.0
06.1/2	Pears	40	1.8	144.4	2.6	84.6	2.2	122.2
06.1/3	Peaches	41	23.1	106.5	24.6	94.7	23.3	100.9
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	42	208.6	110.9	231.3	99.7	230.7	110.6
06.4	Grape-total	43=44 + 45	100.4	100.4	100.8	147.1	148.3	147.7
06.4/1	Table grape	44	7.4	120.3	8.9	133.7	11.9	160.8
06.4/2	Other grape	45	93.0	98.8	91.9	148.4	136.4	146.7
09	Other plant crops	48=49 + 50	45.0	92.9	41.8	111.2	46.5	103.3
09.2	Seeds	49	38.5	100.5	38.7	112.9	43.7	113.5
09.3	Other plant products	50	6.5	47.7	3.1	90.3	2.8	43.1
10	Production from plant growing	51=1 + 11 + 24 + 28 + 36 + 37 + 46 + 48	5 235.3	109.7	5,740.7	97.0	5,567.1	106.3
11	Livestock	52=53 + 54 + 55 + 56 + 57 + 58	1 061.8	100.4	1,066.0	98.4	1,048.9	98.8
11.1	Large ruminants	53	273.4	96.1	262.7	97.9	257.2	94.1
11.2	Pigs	54	291.8	100.7	293.9	99.9	293.5	100.6
11.3	Horses	55	0.2	0.0		-		
11.4	Sheep and goats	56	208.3	99.2	206.7	97.0	200.4	96.2
11.5	Poultry	57	288.1	105.1	302.7	98.4	297.8	103.4
11.6	Other livestock	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Livestock products	59=60 + 61 + 62	874.6	95.6	836.5	111.2	929.8	106.3

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
12.1	Milk	60	654.5	93.5	612.2	111.3	681.6	104.1
12.2	Eggs	61	153.6	100.1	153.8	111.9	172.1	112.0
12.3	Other livestock products	62=63 + 64 + 65	66.5	106.0	70.5	107.9	76.1	114.4
12.3/1	Greasy wool	63	3.0	90.0	2.7	103.7	2.8	93.3
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	64	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	65	63.5	106.8	67.8	108.1	73.3	115.4
13	Livestock production	66=53 + 59	1 936.4	98.2	1,902.5	104.0	1,978.7	102.2
14	Production of agricultural goods	67=51 + 66	7 171.7	106.6	7,643.2	98.7	7,545.8	105.2
15	Production of agricultural services	68	439.8	103.6	455.8	102.1	465.3	105.8
16	Production from agriculture	69=67 + 68	7 611.5	106.4	8,099.0	98.9	8,011.1	105.2
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	70=71 + 80	218.8	103.8	227.1	100.7	228.7	104.5
17.1	Agricultural products processing	71=72 + 73 + 74 + 75 + 76 + 77 + 79	218.8	103.8	227.1	100.7	228.7	104.5
17.1/1	Cereals	72	29.5	175.3	51.7	100.4	51.9	175.9
17.1/2	Vegetables	73	22.6	103.5	23.4	101.7	23.8	105.3
17.1/3	Fruits	74	11.8	100.8	11.9	101.7	12.1	102.5
17.1/4	Wine	75	30.5	99.3	30.3	101.0	30.6	100.3

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
17.1/5	Livestock	76	52.4	153.2	80.3	99.9	80.2	153.1
17.1/6	Livestock products	77≥78	65.6	35.2	23.1	102.6	23.7	36.1
17.1/6/1	Milk	78	65.6	35.2	23.1	102.6	23.7	36.1
17.1/7	Other	79	6.4	100.0	6.4	100.0	6.4	100.0
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Production from Agriculture sector	81=69 + 70	7 830.3	106.3	8,326.1	99.0	8,239.8	105.2
19	Intermediate consumption	82=83 + 86 + 91 + 94 + 95 + 96 + 100 + 101 + 102 + 103 + 104	4 355.7	101.3	4,413.9	101.5	4,479.5	102.8
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	83=84 + 85	194.0	102.5	198.9	98.2	195.3	100.7
19.01/1	Seeds and seedling material, supplied by other agricultural farms	84	25.9	100.8	26.1	98.1	25.6	98.8
19.01/2	Seeds and seedling material, purchased outside the sector	85	168.1	102.8	172.8	98.2	169.7	101.0
19.02	Fuels and oils	86=87 + 88 + 89 + 90	1 052.2	98.7	1,038.8	105.5	1,096.0	104.2
19.02/1	Electricity	87	75.9	108.3	82.2	105.6	86.8	114.4
19.02/2	Gas	88	23.9	108.4	25.9	105.4	27.3	114.2
19.02/3	Other fuels	89	949.1	97.7	927.2	105.5	978.2	103.1

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
19.02/4	Other	90	3.3	106.1	3.5	105.7	3.7	112.1
19.03	Fertilisers and soil improvers	91=92 + 93	386.9	105.9	409.6	96.4	394.9	102.1
19.03/1	Fertilisers supplied by other agricultural farms	92	7.1	101.4	7.2	97.2	7.0	98.6
19.03/2	Fertilisers purchased outside the sector	93	379.8	106.0	402.4	96.4	387.9	102.1
19.04	Plant protection products	94	316.4	91.0	287.8	104.2	299.9	94.8
19.05	Veterinary costs	95	239.5	98.2	235.2	100.5	236.3	98.7
19.06	Feed supplements	96	913.4	104.6	955.5	99.3	948.8	103.9
19.06/1	Feed supplements supplied by other agricultural farms	97	268.0	99.4	266.3	99.3	264.5	98.7
19.06/2	Feed supplements purchased outside the sector	98	442.8	101.1	447.8	99.3	444.6	100.4
19.06/3	Feed supplements produced and utilised in the farm	99	202.6	119.2	241.4	99.3	239.7	118.3
19.07	Maintenance and repair works of the machinery	100	302.1	98.2	296.7	100.5	298.2	98.7
19.08	Building maintenance	101	148.2	98.0	145.2	100.7	146.2	98.7
19.09	Agricultural services	102	439.8	103.6	455.8	102.1	465.3	105.8

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2016 - BGN million	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2017 at previous year prices - (BGN million)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2017 - BGN million	Mixed index
19.10	PHYSIM	103	73.4	72.0	102.1	73.5	100.1	100,1
19.11	Other goods and services	104	289.8	318.4	102.1	325.1	112.2	112,2
20	Gross added value by basic prices	105=81-82	3 474.6	3,912.2	96.1	3,760.3	108.2	108,2

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF

* Data for 2017 is preliminary.

