



**MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND THE FORESTRY**

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

(AGRICULTURAL REPORT `2019)

Table of Content

Abbreviation list.....	7
SECTION A.....	11
I. STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK. PLACE OF AGRARIAN SECTOR IN NATIONAL ECONOMY	11
II. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2018 AND FORECASTS FOR 2019	16
1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture.....	16
1.1. Use of agricultural land	16
1.2. Use of agricultural parcels.....	17
1.2.1. Land Parcel Identification System	17
1.3. Registration of farmers.....	18
1.4. State Land Fund Participation in Land Relations in Bulgaria.....	18
1.4.1. Providing SLF Own Terrains for Rent or Lease.....	18
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.....	19
1.4.3. Establishment of limited rights in rem over SLF lands.....	19
1.5. Activities and Contracts for Resituated Ownership Map and Registers Maintenance	20
1.6. Land Relations	20
1.6.1. Consolidation of Agricultural Land.....	20
1.7. Agricultural Land Protection Activities	20
2. Economic and Production Results in 2018 and estimated data for 2019	21
2.1. Agriculture Economic Accounts for 2018.....	21
2.1.1. Value of the gross production from the Agriculture sector.....	21
2.1.2. Final Production Value	22
2.1.3. Intermediate consumption	24
2.1.4. Gross Added Value	24
2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income	24
2.2. Plant Production Results.....	25
2.3. Livestock Breeding Production Results.....	34
2.3.1. Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding	38
2.3.2. Sheep Breeding and Goat Breeding	40
2.3.3. Pig Breeding.....	42
2.3.4. Horse Breeding	44
2.3.5. Poultry Farming.....	45
2.3.6. Apiculture	47
2.3.7. Rabbit Breeding	49

2.4.	Organic Farming Status in Bulgaria in 2018.....	50
2.4.1.	Control System Operators.....	50
2.4.2.	Lands within Control System. Groups of Organically Grown Crops	50
2.4.3.	Organic Livestock Breeding	52
2.4.4.	Organic Products Market.....	53
2.5.	Viticulture and Wine-Production	53
2.5.1.	Grapes Production	53
2.5.2.	Wine Production.....	57
2.5.3.	Export and Import of Wine.....	58
III.	AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TRADE.....	60
1.	Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Level and Dynamics.....	61
2.	Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Geographical Distribution	62
3.	Agrarian Trade Structure and Dynamics by commodities	66
4.	Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Development in 2019	70
5.	Activities to support the export of agricultural products	70
IV.	SUPPORTING THE AGRARIAN SECTOR.....	71
1.	Support under First Pillar of CAP (EU Common Agricultural Policy)	71
1.1.	Area-Based Direct Payments, National Complements to Direct Payments and Specific Support	71
1.2.	Market Support Mechanisms.....	80
1.2.1.	Milk Sector	80
1.2.2.	Fruit and Vegetables Sector.....	81
1.2.3.	Apiculture Sector.....	83
1.2.4.	Wine Sector.....	84
1.2.5.	Public Intervention and Private Storage	85
1.2.6.	Sugar Sector	85
1.2.7.	Promotional Programmes.....	85
1.2.8.	Quality Policy: Protected Designations.....	86
1.3.	Trade Mechanisms.....	86
1.3.1.	Export Licensing.....	86
1.3.2.	Import licensing of the agricultural products from third countries	87
2.	Support under Second pillar of CAP	87
3.	Supplementary State Aid.....	94
3.1.	State Aids.....	95
3.2.	Short-term lending.....	98
3.3.	Investment Credit Schemes of SFA	98
V.	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES	100

1.	Control of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery	100
1.1.	Registration of agricultural and forestry machinery	100
1.2.	Technical Inspection of the machinery	100
1.3.	Qualification for Work with Machinery and Issuance of Certificates	101
1.4.	Testing and Certification of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery	101
2.	Hydromeliorations	101
3.	Plant Protection and Phytosanitary Control	103
3.1.	Plant Protection	103
3.2.	Phytosanitary Control	107
3.2.1.	Production control of the territory of Bulgaria and movement of plants, plant products and other objects within the EU	107
3.2.2.	Export Phytosanitary Control	109
3.3.	Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers Control	109
3.3.1.	Results of control activities on the marketing of PPPs	109
3.3.2.	Results of control activities on the use of PPPs	110
4.	Fertilizers	111
4.1.	Registration of Fertilizers	111
4.2.	Control of Fertilizers when marketed	111
5.	Variety testing, Approbation and Seed Control	111
6.	Control of Grain and Cereal Products	117
6.1.	Control of Public Warehouses, Granaries and Other Grain Storage Facilities	117
6.2.	Quality Grading of Harvest `2018	117
7.	Food Chain Safety	119
7.1.	Animal Healthcare and Welfare	119
7.2.	Control of Animal Identification and Registration, Traceability of Their Movement	124
7.3.	Control Activities	127
7.3.1.	Food Safety	127
7.3.2.	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)	131
7.3.3.	Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system	133
7.3.4.	Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System - Food Fraud Network	133
7.3.5.	Plant Protection Products Authorization Management System (PPPAMS)	133
7.3.6.	Control of Veterinary Activities, Veterinary Medicinal Products and Feeds, Border Control	134
7.3.6.1.	Control of Veterinary Activity	134
7.3.6.2.	Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products	135
7.3.6.3.	Border control	137
7.3.6.4.	Feed Control	138

7.3.6.5. Audits of Feed Business Operators	145
7.4. Food Chain Risk Analysis	145
7.5. Legislative Changes in the Field of Food Safety	147
8. Livestock Selection and Reproduction	148
8.1. National Livestock Genetic Resources Management	148
8.2. Control and Coordination of Breeding Activities	151
9. Agricultural Science, Training and Advisory Activities	153
9.1. Agricultural Scientific Research and Scientific Service Activities Provided by the Agricultural Academy 153	
9.1.1. Scientific Products Created and Introduced in Production	153
9.1.2. Transfer of Knowledge and Scientific Products and Vocational Training	153
9.1.3. Qualification of Scientists and Training of PhD Students	154
9.1.4. Specialized Scientific Periodicals	154
9.1.5. International Cooperation in the Field of Agricultural Science	154
9.2. Advisory activities	155
9.3. Vocational Training	157
9.4. Improving the Link "Scientific Research - Advice in Agriculture - Agricultural Business"	157
9.5. Information support	157
9.6. Agrochemical analyses	158
10. Hail Suppression	159
11. Reducing the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business	161
11.1. Measures taken in 2018 to Reduce the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business	161
11.2. Review of the Applied Regulatory Regimes in the MAFF system as of 01.01.2019	162
11.3. Risk and Crisis Management in Agriculture	162
VI. FORESTRY	163
1. Characteristics of Forest Areas	163
2. Changes of Forest Areas	164
3. Management of Forest Territories	166
3.1. Afforestation and Protection against Erosion and Rain	166
3.2. Logging in the forests	168
4. Use of Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products	168
4.1. Use of Timber	168
4.2. Side Activities and Use of Non-Timber Forest Products	170
5. Protection of Forest Territories	170
5.1. Protection of Forest Territories from Diseases, Pests and Other Damage	170
5.2. Forest Fire Protection	171

6.	Protected Areas	172
7.	Forest certification	175
8.	Inventory and Planning in Forest Territories.....	175
9.	Hunting Farm	176
10.	Protection of Forest Territories and Control	177
11.	Strategic Planning, Improvement of the Regulatory Framework and International Activities.....	179
12.	Financing and Investments in Forest Territories	181
12.1.	Executive Forest Agency.....	181
12.2.	State Forest Enterprises.....	181
13.	Administrative Services	182
14.	FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE	182
1.	Catch and Production of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms 193	182
2.	Import and export of fish and fish products	187
3.	Operational Programme “Fisheries Sector Development”(OPFSD), funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF).....	191
4.	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020	195
5.	Common Fisheries Policy.....	206
	SECTION B.....	208
	APPENDIXES	220

Abbreviation list

AGC	Administrative Grant Contracts
AEP	Agri-environmental payments
AAC	Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system
BFSA	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency
BSMAEC	Bulgarian Survey for Monitoring the Agricultural and Economic Conjuncture
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
BSS	Gross Value Added
BSS	Bulgarian State Standard
Buffaloes	Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
BNB	Bulgarian National Bank
BEQ	Biological and economic qualities
BRC	Bulgarian Red Cross
G	Grants
RES	Renewable energy sources
VMP	Veterinary 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 Programs
SAEM	State Agency "Electronic Management"
SG	State Gazette
SF	State forestry
VAT	Value Added Tax
SSC	Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control
SSF	Scheme for small farmers
SH	State hunting
SOE	State-owned enterprise
SMR	Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats in mountain regions
SLF	State Land Fund
SFA/ SF "Agriculture"	State Fund Agriculture
SFA-PA	State Fund Agriculture - Paying Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
SSCc-MILK	Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control
SSCc-MEAT	Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
SMNCP	Single Multi-annual National Plan for Foods, Animal Feed, Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health
EFSA	European Food Safety Agency

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
GDP	Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environment friendly (green direct payment)
SMR	Statutory management requirements
IND	Infectious nodular dermatitis
PDO	Protected designation of origin
SPMA	Seed and Propagating Material Act
OUALA	Ownership and Use of Agricultural Land Act
LICOAMEU	Law on the implementation of the common organisation of agricultural markets of the European Union
EFA	Executive Forest Agency
EAVW	Executive Agency on Vine and Wine
EAFA	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture
EAVTASC	Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control
EASRAB	Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Livestock Breeding
UAA	Utilised agricultural area
IIS	BFSA Integrated Information System
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
UMIS 2020	Unified Management Information System for the EU structural instruments in Bulgaria
CAT	Control of auto transport
Mol	Ministry of Interior
YFS	Young Farmers Scheme
MAFF	Ministry Of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
LAG	Local action groups
LAFG	Local action fisheries groups
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water
NRA	National Revenue Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
NB	National budget
NGF	National Guarantee Fund
NSA1	Transitional National Decoupled Support Scheme 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
NMPRC	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
TNM	Total number of microorganisms
TNSC	Total number of somatic cells
RD Agriculture	Regional Directorates of Agriculture
RDFS	Regional Directorate for Food Safety
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMO	Common Markets Organisation
PO	Producer organisations
OPIC	Operational Programme "Innovation 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 the 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
EU P	European Union Priority
DFI	Direct foreign investment
RDF	Regional Directorate of Forestry
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DHS	Diversity, 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 Fruits (Plums and Table Grapes)
SF-main	Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (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
CLCTC	Central Laboratory for Chemical Testing and Control
CRAFC	Centre for Risk Assessment along the Food Chain
DOM	Digital orthophoto map
PTC	Professional Training Centre
HO	Head Office
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office
ESVAC	European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PPPAMS	Plant Protection Products Authorization Management System
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

SECTION A

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

According to NSI data, in 2018 the gross domestic product produced in the country increased by 3.1% compared to the previous year in real terms.

The nominal value of GDP for the year reached BGN 109,695 million (EUR 56,086 million).

By the end of 2018, inflation has increased by 2.7% on annual basis and the annual average inflation rate was 2.8%.

According to Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) data, in 2018 exports amounted to BGN 54,263 million (EUR 27,744 million), which represents 49.5% of the country's GDP. Imports for the year amounted to BGN 57,897 million (EUR 29,602 million) or 52.8% of GDP. As the growth rate of the import exceeded that of the export, the negative trade balance for the year increased to BGN -3,634 million (EUR -1,858 million).

In 2018, foreign direct investment in Bulgaria amounted to BGN 1,050 million (EUR 537 million), which represents 1% of GDP.

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

Indicator	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
GDP at current prices, million BGN	83,857	89,333	95,092	102,308	109,695
GDP at current prices, million EUR	42,875	45,675	48,620	52,309	56,086
Annual real GDP growth rate, %	1.9	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.1
Average annual inflation, %	-1.4	-0.1	-0.8	2.1	2.8
Inflation at the end of the year, %	-0.9	-0.4	0.1	2.8	2.7
Trade balance, million BGN	-5,431	-5,129	-1,925	-1,498	-3,634
Trade balance, million EUR	-2,777	-2,622	-984	-766	-1,858
FDI, million BGN	679	3,913	1,813	3,166	1,050
FDI, million EUR	347	2,001	927	1,619	537

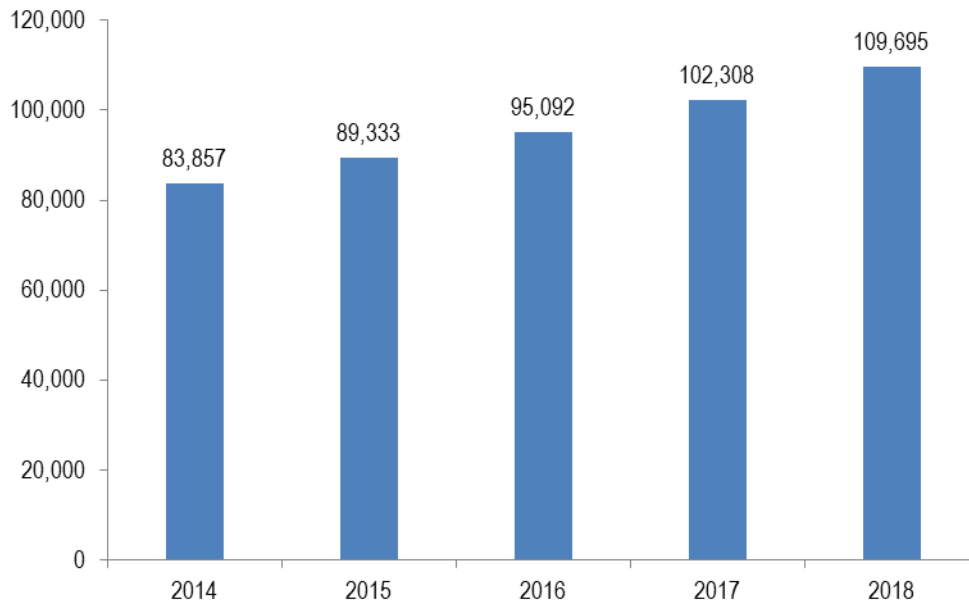
Source: NSI - GDP and inflation; BNB - data on trade balance and FDI, compiled in accordance with the sixth edition of the Balance of payments and international investment position manual of the IMF, 2008 (preliminary data for 2018)

Note: Due to the different methodologies used, the export, import and trade balance data compiled by the BNB for the balance of payments statistics differ from the export, import and trade balance data compiled by the NSI for foreign trade statistics.

Gross Domestic Product

In 2018, GDP grew by 3.1% in real terms compared to the previous year. In nominal terms it amounted to BGN 109,695 million (EUR 56,086 million), with a per capita amount of BGN 15,615 (EUR 7,984).

Figure I.1. GDP amount for the period 2014 - 2018, million BGN

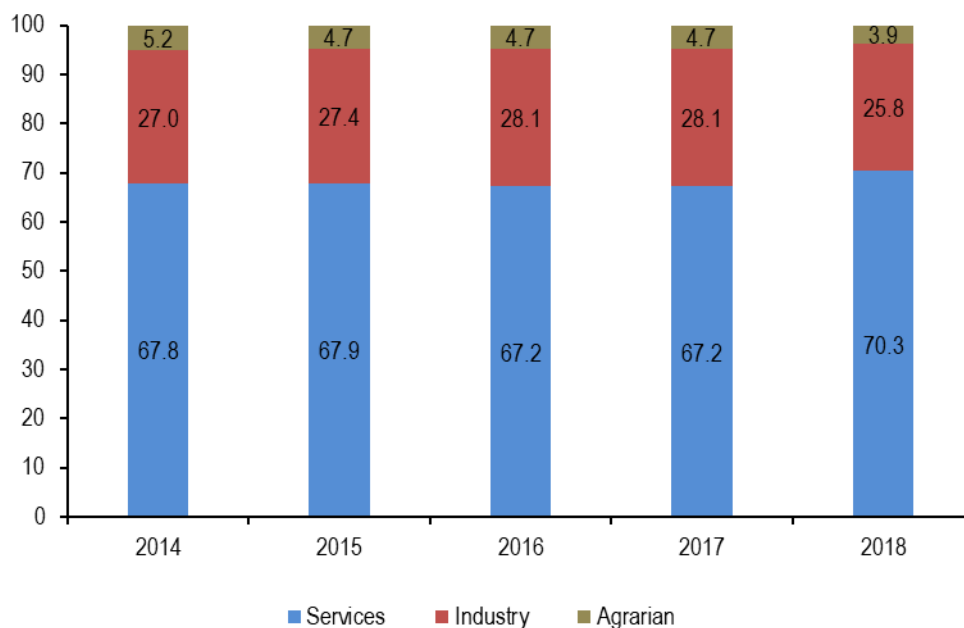


Source: NSI

Gross Value Added

The gross value added created by the sectors of the national economy in 2018 amounted to BGN 95,119 million (EUR48,634 million) at current prices, showing real growth of 3.5% compared to the previous year. The value added of the subjects of the agricultural sector in 2018 amounted to BGN 3,698 million at current prices. In real terms, it shrank by 2.0% on annual basis.

Figure I.2. GVA by economic sectors for the period 2014 - 2018, %



Source: NSI

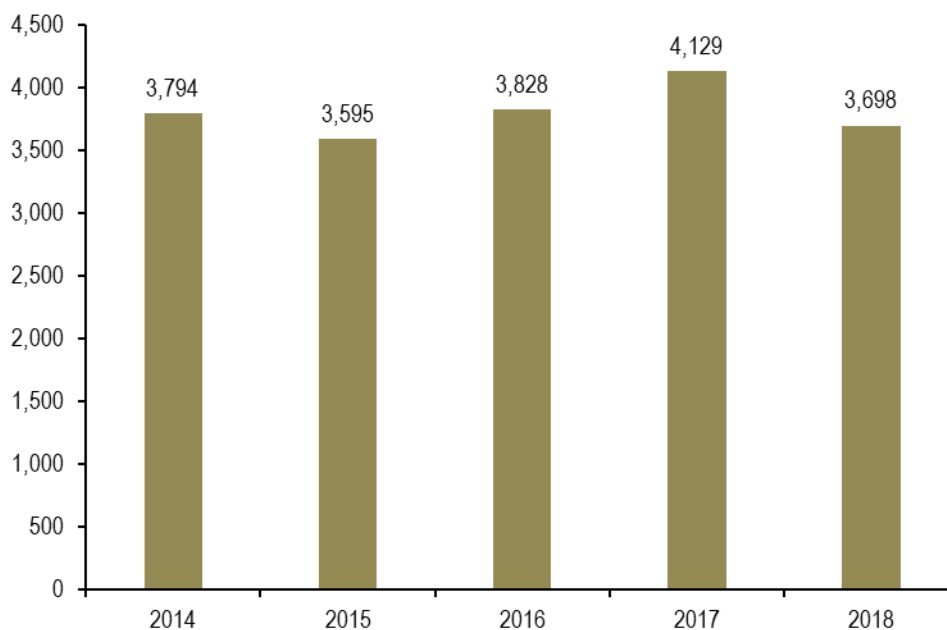
By economic sectors, the GVA for 2018 was distributed as follows:

- Industry (including construction) - 25.8%;
- Services - 70.3%;
- Agrarian (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) - 3.9%.

The share of the agrarian sector in total GVA decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to the previous year.

According to preliminary seasonally adjusted NSI data, in the first and second quarters of 2019, the total GVA for the country's economy increased by 3.3% and 3.7% respectively compared to the corresponding period of 2018 in real terms. With regard to the GVA formed by the agricultural sector, preliminary data indicate a slight annual increase in real terms by 0.1% in the first quarter of 2019 and an increase of 3.9% in the second quarter.

Figure 1.3. GVA from Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2014 - 2018, million BGN

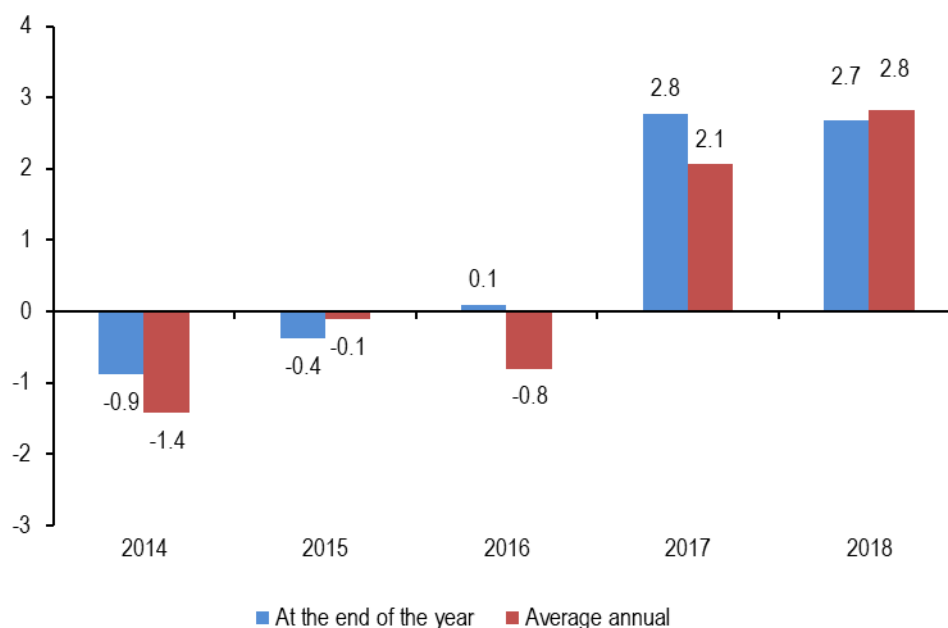


Source: NSI

Inflation

The inflation accumulated at the end of 2018 was 2.7% and the average annual inflation for the year was 2.8%. As of December 2018, food prices increased by 2.6% on annual basis, catering prices – by 4.3%, prices of non-food products – by 1.2%, and service prices – by 4.3%.

Figure 1.4. Inflation, 2014 - 2018, %



Source: NSI

Employment and unemployment

According to NSI data, the average annual number of employees aged 15 and over in 2018 was 3,152.7 thousand - representing an increase by 2.4 thousand compared to the previous year. The number of persons employed in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors decreased by 6.2% down to 207.4 thousand, leading to a slight shrinking of the sector's relative share in the employment structure by economic activities to 6.6% (7% in 2017).

The unemployment rate decreases by 1 percentage point compared to 2017, down to 5.2%. The average annual number of unemployed persons was 173.3 thousand, by 16.2% less than in 2017.

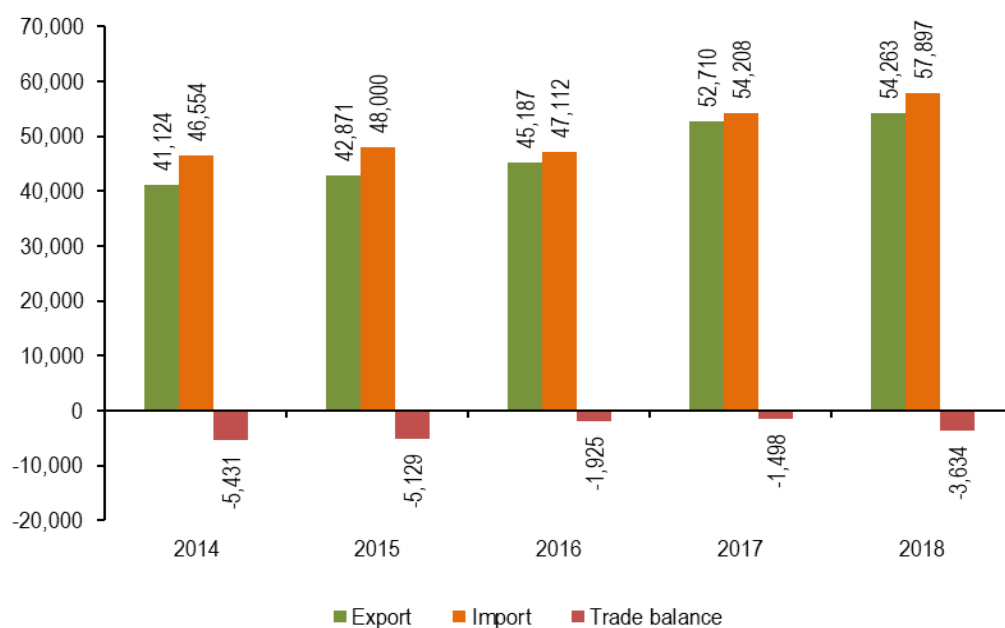
According to NSI preliminary data, in 2018 the average annual salary of the employees under employment contract was BGN 13,621 which represents an increase by BGN 1,173 or 9.4% than the previous year. In the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector there was an increase of 9% on an annual basis, up to an average of BGN 10,883 per person.

Export and import

According to BNB preliminary data on the balance of payments, in 2018 Bulgaria's exports amounted to BGN 54,263 million (EUR 27,744 million) - by 2.9% above the level of the previous year, representing 49.5% of the country's GDP. Imports registered a more significant increase - by 6.8% to BGN 57,897 million (EUR 29,602 million) or 52.8% of GDP.

Thus, in 2018, the negative trade balance extends to BGN -3,634 million (EUR 1,858 million), compared to BGN -1,498 million (-766 million) for 2017.

Figure I.5.Exports, imports and trade balance for the period 2014 - 2018, million BGN

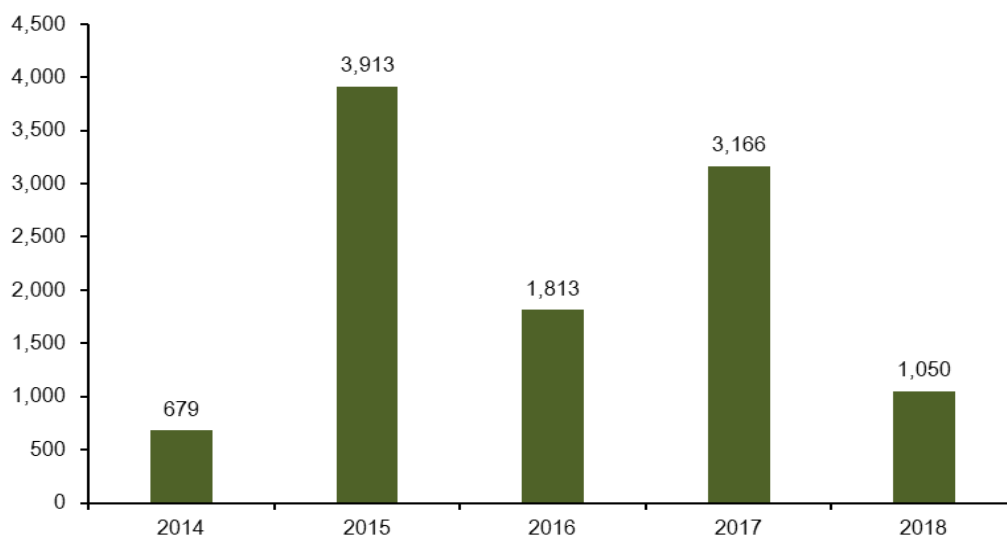


Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2018)

Foreign Direct Investment

According to BNB preliminary data, FDI in the country for 2018 amounted to BGN 1,050 million (EUR 537 million), 66.8% below the level of the previous year. Direct investment during the year represented 1% of GDP, compared to 3.1% in the previous 2017.

Figure I.6.Foreign Direct Investment, 2014 - 2018, million BGN



Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2018)

Within 2018, the largest investments were made in the financial and insurance activities sectors (EUR 623.8 million) and in the manufacturing sector (EUR 128 million). Net foreign investments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries during the year amounted to EUR 11.6 million.

II. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2018 AND FORECASTS FOR 2019

1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture

1.1. Use of agricultural land

The land designated for agriculture in 2018 was 5,226,194 ha, which represents about 47% of the country's territory.

Table II.1. Arable land, utilized agricultural area and land designated for agriculture for the period 2014 - 2018, ha

EMPLOYEMENT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wheat	1,305,733	1,151,225	1,215,684	1,197,768	1,237,736
Barley	218,612	191,433	168,244	138,122	115,773
Rye and triticale	37,020	24,190	30,909	30,639	29,767
Oat	21,732	13,329	15,675	19,730	16,886
Maize	480,929	524,121	468,762	461,085	478,357
Other cereals	19,768	31,479	21,304	19,600	24,641
Sunflower	877,538	851,245	887,845	934,715	859,910
Tobacco	19,072	17,443	13,930	10,506	8,668
Industrial oilseeds	208,212	225,847	196,958	181,067	203,397
Other industrial crops	47,676	53,755	55,144	58,848	46,640
Potatoes	10,224	9,449	10,109	12,909	14,611
Peas, beans, broad beans, lentils and other legumes	4,877	24,617	33,928	78,389	103,445
Fresh vegetables	29,394	37,538	46,527	33,312	35,483
Plant nurseries	///	///	///	///	///
Annual feed crops	7,206	6,871	14,223	17,705	18,152
Meadows sown with legumes and cereals	87,715	94,682	108,793	117,951	118,619
Fallow	92,268	235,150	191,537	159,959	149,683
Greenhouses	1,412	1,314	1,419	1,520	1,606
ARABLE LAND:	3,469,388	3,493,688	3,480,991	3,473,825	3,463,370
Kitchen gardens	17,072	15,664	15,367	15,258	14,836
Orchards	66,057	68,543	77,625	84,320	88,829
Vineyards - axenic culture	53,521	54,210	52,517	53,251	53,787
Mixed perennials	4,791	8,522	8,222	8,220	8,312

EMPLOYEMENT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Plant nurseries	2,002	2,202	2,602	2,304	2,100
Total perennials:	126,371	133,477	140,966	148,094	153,029
Greenhouses	///	///	///	///	///
Permanent grasslands and meadows with orchards	1,363,984	1,368,665	1,384,088	1,392,352	1,399,041
UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREA:	4,976,815	5,011,494	5,021,412	5,029,529	5,030,276
Non-cultivated land	216,125	191,258	193,228	194,873	195,918
LAND DESIGNATED FOR AGRICULTURE:	5,192,940	5,202,752	5,214,640	5,224,402	5,226,194

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The utilized agricultural area (UAA) includes arable land, permanent crops, nurseries, permanent grassland and kitchen gardens. In 2018, it amounted to 5,030,276 ha or 45% of the country's territory, with no significant change from the previous year.

An arable land includes areas under which crop rotation is applied, temporary meadows with cereals and legumes, fallow land and greenhouses. In 2018 it decreased slightly (by 0.3%) compared to the previous year, up to 3,463,370 ha, representing 68.9% of the utilized agricultural area.

Orchards in 2018 represented 1.8% of the UAA of the country, with the areas occupied by them being 88,829 ha or 5.3% more on an annual basis.

Vineyards - axenic culture in 2018 they occupy over 53,787 ha, which is an increase of about 1% compared to 2017.

Non-cultivated land includes both abandoned permanent crops and arable land, which have not been used for agricultural production for more than two years, but their operational recovery is possible with minimal resources. In 2018, non-cultivated land amounted to 195,918 ha and occupied about 1.8% of the country's area.

1.2. Use of agricultural parcels

1.2.1. Land Parcel Identification System

The Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is the main subsystem of the Integrated Administration and Control System, on the basis of which the application of support areas and the control of eligibility for payment of the declared areas are claimed. Therefore, the data in it must be as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

In 2018, maintaining data in the LPIS covers the following activities:

- Updating of the digital orthophoto map (DOM) of the country by using airplane photography, which was carried out within the framework of a contract concluded under the procedure of the Public Procurement Act with Reg.No. RD 51-52 dated 03.08.2016 for the recording and production of the DOM in the period 2016-2019 by the consortium "Georeal - Geoconsult" as a contractor.
- Updating of the physical blocks along the new DOM - borders, mode of long-term use, layer "Areas eligible for support" according to the changes that have occurred in the use of the agricultural areas and their condition;
- Carrying out field inspections using GPS devices to measure and capture the parcels inspected of:

- physical parcels whose borders and other features cannot be clearly determined by the new DOM
 - a random sample of the physical parcels updated under the new DOM and the layer "Areas eligible for support" for decryption control (92,323 physical blocks with an area of 25,269 ha for 2018);
 - physical parcels in which areas beyond the borders of the parcel or outside the "Areas eligible for support" (22,612 physical parcels with a total area of 806,049 ha for 2018) have been claimed for support;
- 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;
 - Creating of a specialized layer "Temporary grassland" to be used in green payment calculations.
 - Creation of a specialized layer "Eco-friendly area" containing landscape elements in arable land for the purposes of the green payment.
 - 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

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 3 of 1999, the register of farmers serves to collect information about farmers and their activities in order to support agriculture and rural development.

The activity of maintaining a register of farmers covers the 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 2017/2018 business year the total number of farmers registered in the register under Regulation No 3 of 1999 was 93,023; during the 2018/2019 business year – 87,128.

Table II.2. Farmers registered under Ordinance No 3/1999

	2012/2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019*
Total number of registered farmers	76,340	76,408	97,266	98,303	96,476	93,023	87,128

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

* Data as of July 2019

1.4. State Land Fund Participation in Land Relations in Bulgaria

1.4.1. Providing SLF Own Terrains for Rent or Lease

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. As of 2018, leased or rented agricultural properties by the SLF to individuals and legal entities amounted to 103,012 ha.

In 2018, 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 2018/2019 business year. Of the 323, 689 acres of free agricultural land announced, 92,126 acres were contracted, with a total of 581 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 facilities 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.

The areas designated by the municipal land fund (MLF) for the 2018/2019 business year were 100,364 ha for general use and 275,900 ha for individual use. The submitted applications for distribution were 3,647 for 101,527 ha, of which 48,762 ha were allocated for general use and 73,800 ha pastures, grasslands and meadows for individual use. Announced by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, pastures, grasslands and meadows amounted to 30,829 ha, 286 applications were submitted for 12,306 ha, and 5,929 ha were allocated. The signed contracts for use after distribution of MLF were 2,700 for 37,880 ha, for SLF were 115 contracts for 2,112 ha. The conducted tendering procedures and concluded one-year contracts for lease of properties from MLF were 349 for 7,418 ha, for SLF - 167 for 6,225 ha.

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		Areas allocated by a municipal commission		Contracts concluded for designated land use (DLU) properties - pastures, grasslands and meadows, by the MLF		Areas distributed by SLF	Areas contracted by SLF
	For general use	For individual use	For general use	For individual use				
	ha	ha	ha	ha	pcs.	ha	ha	ha
2018/2019	100,364	275,900	48,762	73,800	349	7,418	5,929	6,225

Source: MAFF, Land Relations and Consolidation (LRD) Directorate

1.4.3. Establishment of limited rights in rem over SLF lands

In 2018, more than 83 requests from mayors of municipalities, legal entities and individuals were considered in relation to investment intentions for construction or expansion of site and/or linear sites affecting land owned by the SLF. Pursuant to Article 24c of the ALOUA, 31 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.

Fourteen contracts have been concluded for the establishment of limited 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 for Resituated Ownership Map and Registers Maintenance

In compliance with the provisions of the Cadastre and Property Register Act in connection with the accelerated transformation of the map of resituated property (MRP) into cadastral map and cadastral registers, out of a total of 4,623 lands in the country, 1,197 were maintained by the MAFF structures, and 3,426 have been supported by the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency (GCCA) and the regional units. Due to the large volume of work and in order to facilitate the farmers, the municipal agricultural services assist the GCCA in providing cadastral data in the application and performance of administrative services related to properties in agricultural and forest territories. Conversion rates are dynamic. The trend is that by the end of 2019 cadastral maps for non-urban areas will be completed nationwide.

Services were provided to citizens in accordance with Ordinance No. 49/2004 on their submitted applications for issuing sketches, reflecting changes in ownership, as a result of performed disposal transactions, issuing decisions on restitution of property rights, certificates of various nature and others. The collected state fees were transferred into the state budget.

Digital information from the MRP is provided to municipalities and investors for the elaboration of General Development Plans (GDP) and Detailed Development Plans (DDP), as a total of 1,779 administrative services were implemented. Checks and inquiries were carried out in the database on the lands with approved map of the resituated property for specifically designated by the NRA bodies legal and natural persons owning agricultural lands, lands and forests in forest territories.

1.6. Land Relations

In 2018, were elaborated guidelines, methodologies and rules for implementing legislative acts, document templates, including:

- Guidelines on the application of Article 37b and Article 37c of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (ALOUA) and Chapter Seven „Agricultural Land Use” of the Rules for Implementation of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (RIALOUA) for the 2018 - 2019 business year.
- Rules for registration of agricultural land lease and rental agreements in municipal agriculture services.

1.6.1. Consolidation of Agricultural Land

For the 2018/2019 business year, 3,545 agreements have been executed for the creation or distribution of land plots for consolidated use of agricultural lands, for plots with long-terms land use of the „farmland” type, covering an area of 28,499,165 decares, with 2,342,992 decares more than the previous business year. For plots with long-terms land use - “pastures, grasslands and meadows”, 610 agreements or allocations on 301,922 decares were concluded, which is 41,251 decares more on an annual basis. There was an increased interest of farmers in the procedures for consolidated land use of the agricultural land registered by them on a legal basis. In the created arrays for consolidated use, the size of the areas of included plots for which no declarations have been submitted by the owners and no contracts for their use have been concluded, the so-called “white spots”, increased. The total area of the “white spots” in the arrays was 2,206,545 decares for farmlands and 193,028 decares for pastures, grasslands and meadows.

1.7. Agricultural Land Protection Activities

In 2018, the Agricultural Land Commission considered a total of 909 proposals for changing the designation of agricultural land, issuing decisions covering a total of 1,309 ha.

The commissions in the Regional Directorates of Agriculture examined a total of a total of 1,038 proposals for changing the designation of agricultural land, issuing decisions covering 344 ha.

2. Economic and Production Results in 2018 and estimated data for 2019

2.1. Agriculture Economic Accounts for 2018

Table II.4. Basic economic indicators for agriculture for the period 2016 - 2018*, million BGN

	Indicators	2016	Change 2017/2016 %	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018*
1	Value of crop growing and livestock production (at producer prices **), including:	6,901.9	6.3%	7,337.5	1.7%	7,460.6
1.1	Crop growing production	5,115.2	7.2%	5,482.9	2.9%	5,642.0
1.2	Livestock production	1,786.7	3.8%	1,854.6	-1.9%	1,818.6
2	Agricultural services	439.8	5.8%	465.3	7.8%	501.7
3	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	218.8	4.5%	228.7	-15.7%	192.7
4	Value of gross value in the Agriculture sector (at producer prices**) (line 4 = line 1.1 + line 1.2 + line 2 + line 3)	7,560.5	6.2%	8,031.5	1.5%	8,155.0
5	Value of output of the Agriculture sector (at basic prices***)	7,830.3	5.2%	8,239.8	2.6%	8,457.6
6	Intermediate consumption (excluding internal revolutions)	4,355.7	2.8%	4,479.5	7.0%	4,794.2
7	Gross added value at basic prices	3,474.6	8.2%	3,760.3	-2.6%	3,663.4

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF

* Data for 2018 is preliminary

** Producer prices - prices excluding subsidies by products

*** Base Prices - Prices that include subsidies by products

2.1.1. Value of the gross production from the Agriculture sector

The value of the gross production from the Agriculture sector for 2018 at current producer prices (according to preliminary data) amounted to BGN 8,155.0 million, showing a slight increase of 1.5% compared to the previous year (Appendix 2). It is formed by the value of:

- Crop Production - BGN 5,642.0 million (with a share of 69.2%);
- Livestock Production - BGN 1,818.6 million (with a share of 22.3%);
- Agricultural services – BGN 501.7 million (with a share of 6.2%);
- Production of inseparable secondary activities - BGN 192.7 million (with a share of 2.4%).

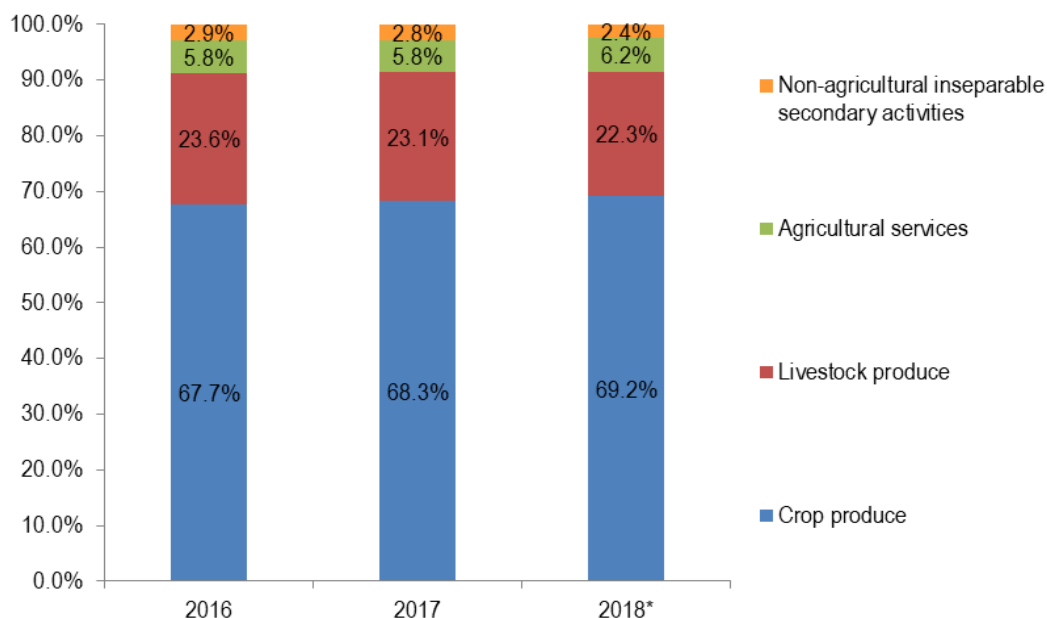
The increase in the value of gross production in the sector was caused by an increase in crop production. There was also an increase in agricultural services.

Gross output of the crop production sub-sector increased by 2.9% on annual basis (by BGN 159.1 million),

In the Livestock sub-sector, there was a 1.9% (BGN 36.0 million) decrease in gross production compared to 2018. There was a decrease in value in the production of milk, which is a structurally defining sub-sector. The Bovine, Pigs and Poultry sub-sectors marked a positive development.

The total amount of agricultural products sold (crop and livestock products) in 2018 amounted to BGN 6,624.2 million or 81.2% of the gross output of the agriculture sector (Appendix 1). The sold crop production during the year amounted to BGN 5,159.9 million (63.3% of the gross production), and the sold livestock production amounted to BGN 1,464.3 million (17.9% of the gross production). Outside the sector, crop production and livestock production were sold for BGN 6,235.6 million (including exports), and within the framework of sales between agricultural enterprises - for BGN 364.2 million.

Figure II.1. Structure of the value of gross production from Agriculture sector for the period 2016 - 2018*, %



Source: MAFF calculations according to NSI data

*Data for 2018 is preliminary

For production purpose, the agricultural units used agricultural products (seeds, propagating material, feed, etc.) produced during the year amounting to BGN 418.3 million (5.1% of the gross production).

Agricultural production amounting to BGN 269.1 million (3.3% of the gross production) was used for own needs on the farms.

The production of goods - fixed capital (production of livestock) for own needs amounted to BGN 112.3 million.

2.1.2. Final Production Value

According to preliminary data, the value of the final agricultural value (value of products after deduction of internal turnover) at basic prices (prices with subsidies by products included) for 2018 amounted to BGN 8,457.6 million. Following the trend of change in the components of the value of gross production, it increased by 2.6% (by BGN 217.8 million) compared to the previous year (Appendices 4 and 5).

The structure of final production in agriculture for 2018 kept the formed ratios between the branches of the industry, outlined in terms of gross production. In the final production, the relative share of crop production was the largest - 68.3%. For 2018, the relative share of livestock production was 23.5%, of agricultural services - 5.9% and of the output of inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities - 2.3%.

Cereals and oilseed crops remain with the largest share in the final production value in the sector. Together, the two groups of crops (respectively, cereals amounting to BGN 2,823.6 million and oilseed crops - BGN 1,392.4 million) account for half (49.8%) of the value of production in the agriculture sector in 2018.

The most important contribution to the formation of the final production of the sector in 2018 was the following crop products:

- Common wheat - a share of 19.8% with BGN 1,671.3 million
The production value increased by 8.7% compared to the previous year as a result of the price increase by 9.7% (at a reduced physical volume by 0.9%).
- Sunflower - a share of 12.7% with BGN 1,076.2 million.
Regarding the sunflower, there was a decrease in physical volume of 7% and a decrease in prices of 0.4%, which ultimately caused a decrease in the production value by 7.4% compared to the previous year.
- Grain maize - a share of 11.2 % with BGN 948.5 million.
Grain maize showed a significant increase in the value of final production by 41.1% on an annual basis, due to an increase in both physical volume (by 34.7%) and prices (by 4.8%).
- Rapeseed and colza - a share of 3.7% with BGN 310.4 million (a decrease of 1.6% compared to the previous year).

With the increase in prices from the previous year (by 0.2%), the change in the value of final production of rapeseed and colza in 2018 followed the rate of decrease of the physical volume (by 1.8%).

In 2018, the Fruits and Vegetables (including potato and vineyards) sector generated production amounting to BGN 905.3 million, by 1.8% compared to the previous year. The sector accounted for 10.7% of the final production. The production of vegetables amounted to BGN 521.7 million (a share of 6.2% in final production), and of fruits - to the amount of BGN 383.6 million (share of 4.5%). For vegetables, there was an increase in the physical volume of production (by 13.7% for potatoes and 4.7% for other vegetables), accompanied by a price increase of 4.5% for vegetables and 13.4% for potatoes, which leads to a 1.8% increase in output from this subsector compared to 2017. Final output from the Fruits subsector decreased by 10.1% in value, mainly as a result of a decrease in prices for the subsector by an average of 11.1%, while the volume remained at levels slightly higher than the previous year.

The final production of the Livestock subsector for 2018 was BGN 1,990.2 million. There was an increase in value - by 0.6% compared to the previous year, with a decrease in production volume by 1.5% and an average increase in prices for the subsector as a whole by 2.2%.

The branches of the livestock subsector with the largest contribution to the total value of final production of the agriculture sector in 2018 were:

- Milk production - share of 7.7% with BGN 653.0 million;
There was a decrease in milk production of 4.2% in value on an annual basis, which was influenced by the decrease in production volume of 5.2%.
- Poultry - a share of 3.6% with BGN 304.4 million (+2.2% annually);
- Cattle breeding - 3.5% share with BGN 293.0 million (+13.9%);
- Pig breeding - share of 3.6% with BGN 305.1 million (+4.0%);
- Sheep and goat breeding - a share of 2.4% with BGN 200.0 million (-0.2%);

- Eggs production - share of 2.1% with BGN 174.3 million (+1.3%).

2.1.3. Intermediate consumption

Intermediate consumption used to generate final production in the industry in 2018 amounted to BGN 4,794.2 million, which is BGN 314.7 million or 7.0% more on an annual basis (Appendices 3, 4 and 5).

There was an increase in feed consumption by BGN 45.5 million(4.8%), of agricultural services with BGN 36.4 million(7.8%) of plant protection products and pesticides by BGN 38.8 million.(12.9%), of the fertilizers and soil improvers by BGN 55.6 million(14.1%), of the costs for maintenance and repair of machinery, small inventory and buildings amounting to BGN 37.9 million in total(8.5%), fuels and oils (by BGN 90.2 million or 8.2%) and veterinary expenditure (by BGN 13.1 million or 5.5%) crease was observed in consumption of seeds and seedlings (by BGN 14.5 million or 7.4%),

In 2018, intermediate consumption represented 56.7% of production value, or 100 output units were created using 56.7 intermediate consumption units.

The largest share in its structure is occupied by fuels and oils - 24.7% (BGN 1 186.2 million), followed by feed costs - 20.7% (BGN 994.3 million), agricultural services - 10.5% (BGN 501.7 million), costs for fertilizers and soil improvers - 9.4% (BGN 450.5 million), costs for maintenance and repair of machinery and small inventory - 6.7% (323 , BGN 6 million).

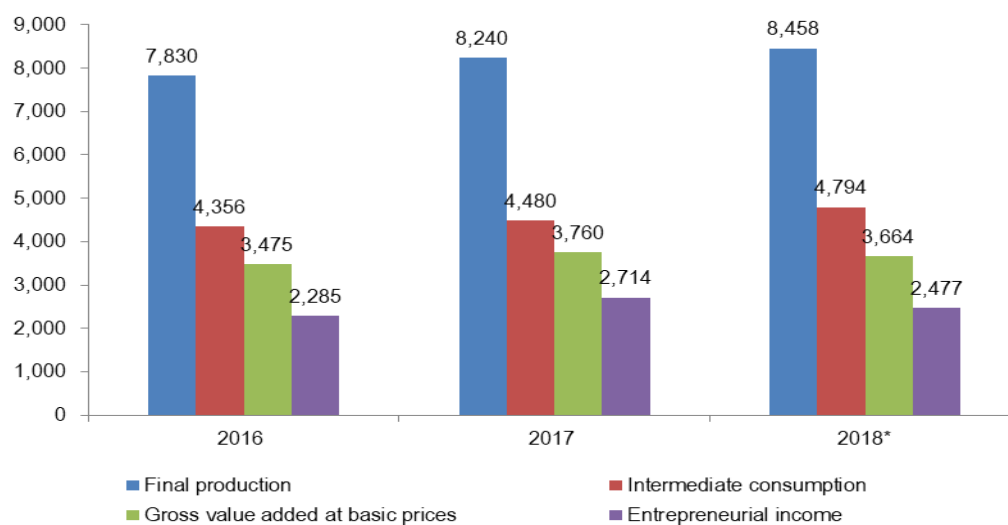
2.1.4. Gross Added Value

The gross added value of the subjects of the agricultural sector in 2018 amounted to BGN 3,663.4 million (at basic prices).Reflecting the trends of slight growth in the value of final production and more than two and a half times higher growth in intermediate consumption, it registered a decrease of 2.6% (by BGN 96.9 million) on an annual basis.

2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income

For 2018, acc. to the preliminary data the entrepreneurial income in industry amounted to BGN 2,477.2 million - by 8.7% below the level of the previous year. The main factors contributing to this result were the decrease of gross value added by the industry and the increase in rental costs and compensation of employees.

Figure II.2.Basic economic indicators for Agriculture sector for the period 2016 - 2018*, million BGN



Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.

2.2. Plant Production Results

Agrometeorological conditions in 2018 were characterized by increased dynamics, alternating short-term colds in winter and excessive temperatures, lack of economic rainfall in early spring, heavy rainfall, accompanied by hailstorms and strong winds from May to beginning of August and drought during the period August - October.

In 2018, crop damage was reported from the following adverse climatic events: frost, heavy rains, floods, hail and drought.

Grain production

In 2017, all major cereals reported higher average yields compared to 2016, resulting in increasing production for most of them. Only the production of barley and rice decreased on an annual basis, as a result of less sown and, consequently, harvested areas.

Table II.5. Cereal production `2017 and` 2018 Harvest Years

Crop	Harvested areas			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Wheat	1,144,519	1,212,012	5.9%	5.36	4.81	-10.3%	6,132,671	5,832,449	-4.9%
Rye	8,237	8,316	1.0%	2.10	1.66	-21.0%	17,304	13,776	-20.4%
Triticale	18,660	15,171	-18.7%	3.17	2.66	-16.1%	59,140	40,306	-31.8%
Barley	128,365	103,570	-19.3%	4.64	4.22	-9.1%	595,237	437,507	-26.5%
Oat	13,266	11,339	-14.5%	2.40	2.14	-10.8%	31,849	24,308	-23.7%
Grain maize	398,152	444,623	11.7%	6.44	7.82	21.4%	2,562,569	3,478,013	35.7%
Rice	10,434	11,004	5.5%	5.61	5.76	2.7%	58,523	63,415	8.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Yields of Crops Survey

Wheat

In 2018, wheat production amounted to 5,832.4 thousand tonnes, which is 4.9% less than in 2017. This is due to unfavourable climatic conditions in the process of crop development, which led to a decrease in the average yield by 10.2%.

The wheat-sown areas under for the `2018 yield were 1,217,304 ha, 6.1% more than the previous year. Of these, 1,212,012 ha (99.6%) were harvested, which is an increase of 5.9% compared to 2017.

The relative share of wheat in the total harvested cereals during the year is 67%.The largest share of the harvested areas of wheat is occupied by the North-Eastern Region - 24%.

According to data from the BSMAEC survey of the Agrostistics Department, in 2018 wheat was grown following wheat crop on 6.4% of the area, and following root crops - on 70.4%, against 7.2% and 69.5, respectively, compared to the previous year. Approximately 92.6% of the area under wheat harvested in 2018 had a good crop rotation. In the same year, 2.7% of fallows were included in wheat crop rotation.

Rye and triticale

The grain produced from rye harvest `2018 amounted to 13.8 thousand tonnes - 20.4% below the level of the previous year, due to the decrease in the average yield. In the production of triticale, there was a more

significant decrease - by 31.8%, to 40.3 thousand tons, due to a combination of a decrease in both the harvested area and the average yield.

The most harvested areas with rye are observed in the South-Western region (3,308 ha), and with triticale - in the South Central region (6,309 ha).

Barley

Barley production in 2018 amounted to 437.5 thousand tonnes. This is 26.5% less than in 2017, taking into account a decrease in both the area (sown and harvested by about 19%) and the average yield.

The largest area with barley during the year were located in the South-Eastern region (27% of the total harvested area in the country), followed by the Northwest region (21%).

In terms of predecessors, good crop rotation was made on about 79.6% of the area with barley, with the highest again being the share of sunflower - 45.5%. Nearly 54% of the area with barley is planted after root crops. The fallows included in the barley crop rotation in 2018 were 3%.

Oat

Oat production shrunk by 23.7% on annual basis, due to the smaller size of the harvested areas and the lower average yields.

Most areas with oats were harvested in the North-Western Region - 3 428 ha or 30% of the areas harvested with oats in the country.

Grain maize

In 2018, maize production increased by 35.7% compared to the previous year, to 3,478 thousand tonnes, due to a combination of increased area and average yield.

The areas sown with grain maize - harvest `2018 were 447,705 ha, of which 444,623 were harvested - 11.7% more on an annual basis. The country's average yield was by 21.5% higher than reported in 2017.

The largest share was the share of harvested maize areas in the North-Western Region (36%), followed by the North Central Region (30%).

Similar to the previous years, in maize, the largest was the share of precursor wheat - 48.5%. The barley included in the maize crop rotation in 2018 was 4.1%.

Rice

Harvested husked rice in 2018 reached 63.4 thousand tonnes, marking an increase of 8.4% compared to the previous year. There was an increase in both the harvested area (by 5.5%) and the average yield (by 2.7%).

Oil-bearing crops

The most common oilseed crops grown in the country are sunflower and winter oilseed rape.

Sunflower

In 2018, the country produced 1,927 thousand tonnes of sunflower seeds. This is 6.3% less than in 2017, with the reported higher average yield (6.8%) offsetting the partial reduction in harvested areas (by 12.3% with 13.2% less sown area).

About 27% of the sunflower harvested areas during the year were in the North-Western region. North-Eastern region followed with 23%.

Traditionally, the largest was the share of sunflower, located on the precursor wheat - 65.7%. No crop rotation was made on 3.7% of the area.

Table II.6. Production of oilseeds from harvest `2017 and` 2018

Crop	Harvested areas			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Sunflower	898,844	788,656	-12.3%	2.29	2.44	6.8%	2,056,987	1,927,040	-6.3%
Rapeseed	160,650	182,619	13.7%	2.98	2.58	-13.5%	478,987	471,035	-1.7%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Rapeseed

Rapeseed production from the harvest `2018 amounted to 471 thousand tonnes. The quantity was 1.7% below the level of 2017 as a result of the lower average yield (by 13.5%), although the harvested area was growing.

The areas planted with rapeseed in 2018 were 184,879 ha, of which 182,619 ha have been harvested - 13.7% more than the previous year.

The highest harvested rapeseed areas during the year were reported in the South-Eastern Region (26%), followed by the North-Eastern region (24%) and North Central Region (23%).

Industrial crops

Cotton

In 2018, cotton production decreased by 45.6% compared to the previous year, to 2,385 tonnes, due to the reduction of both the harvested area (by 34.3%, to 3,175 ha) and the average yield (by 17.2%, up to 0.76 tonnes/ha). The area sown were 4,241 ha, by 15.9% less on an annual basis.

Tobacco

In 2018, 8 640 tonnes of tobacco were produced in the country - 33.7% below the level reported in 2017. The decrease in production was mainly due to a decrease in the area planted by 24.2% to 5,881 ha.

Medical and aromatic crops

The areas occupied by major medical, aromatic and essential oil crops (Damask rose, lavender, hub, coriander, carving, white thorn (Silybum), etc.) in 2018 amounted to 36,470 ha, which is 27 % less than the previous year. Annual decrease in the area harvested with these crops was by 34%, to 29 693 ha.

In 2018, there was a significant increase in the area of lavender - about 21% in both planted and harvested areas. Combined with a slight increase in the average yield, this led to an increase in lavender production of 24.7% annually, to 34,481 tonnes.

Damask rose production also increased compared to 2017, albeit more moderately, by 13.5%, to 14,483 tonnes. The harvested areas with Damask rose were 2.1% above the level of the previous year and the average yield - by 11.2%.

In 2018, there was a significant increase in the area of lavender - about 21% in both planted and harvested areas. Combined with a slight increase in the average yield, this led to an increase in lavender production of 24.7% annually, to 34,481 tonnes.

Table II.7. Production of essential oilseeds from harvest `2017 and` 2018

Crop	Harvested areas			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Lavender	8,038	9,695	20.6%	3.44	3.56	3.4%	27,659	34,481	24.7%
Damask rose	4,189	4,279	2.1%	3.05	3.39	11.2%	12,756	14,483	13.5%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Damask rose production also increased compared to 2017, albeit more moderately, by 13.5%, to 14,483 tonnes. The harvested areas with Damask rose were 2.1% above the level of the previous year and the average yield - by 11.2%.

Fruits

In 2018, fruit production on farms amounted to 228,501 tonnes, 3.9% more than in 2017. Most fruits showed an annual increase in production ranging from 12% for apples to 80.4% for almonds. Only the production of apricots (by 39.7%) and peaches and nectarines (by 16.5%) decreased significantly, while the production of raspberries (by 0.3%) was insignificant.

Fruit production occupied the leading position in the South-Eastern Region with 26.9% of total production for the year, followed by the South Central Region with 25.7%. The production of peaches (57%) and cherries (37.2%) was concentrated in the south-eastern region, while the largest number of apples (42.6%), pears (36.9%), plums and cherry plums (30.4%) and cherries (28.5%) were produced in the South Central region. In the North Central region, 85.1% of apricots in the country were produced.

The largest relative share of the total fruit production in 2018 is occupied by plums and cherry plums - 24.7%, followed by cherries - 24.2%, apples - 22% and peaches and nectarines - 12.6%.

The total area planted with fruit and berry crops in 2018 increased by almost 11% compared to the previous year (up to 68,255 ha) and the harvested area - by 7.8%. The highest was the share of harvested areas with cherries (25.2%), followed by plums and cherry plums (18.5%) and walnuts (15.5%). Most of all fruit crops marked an increase in harvested areas compared to 2017, reaching up to 35.4% for hazelnuts. Only peaches and nectarines and apricots and apricots decreased by 9.6% and 12.0% respectively. The non-harvested areas, from which no production was harvested in 2018, due to climatic and agricultural reasons, amounted to 9,768 ha.

Table II.8. Fruit production, harvests 2017 and 2018

Fruit Crops	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Apples	3,973	3,981	0.2%	11,308	12,635	11.7%	44,927	50,298	12.0%
Pears	449	571	27.2%	6,325	5,881	-7.0%	2,840	3,358	18.2%
Apricots	2,898	2,550	-12.0%	7,778	5,330	-31.5%	22,542	13,592	-39.7%

Fruit Crops	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Peaches and nectarines	3,893	3,521	-9.6%	8,881	8,202	-7.6%	34,572	28,879	-16.5%
Plums and cherry plumbs	6,815	7,357	8.0%	7,218	7,671	6.3%	49,194	56,433	14.7%
Cherries	8,989	10,049	11.8%	5,383	5,504	2.2%	48,391	55,309	14.3%
Sour cherries	1,074	1,184	10.2%	3,823	4,046	5.8%	4,106	4,791	16.7%
Walnut	5,047	6,181	22.5%	703	828	17.8%	3,549	5,116	44.2%
Almonds	944	1,091	15.6%	755	1,179	56.2%	713	1,286	80.4%
Hazelnut	590	799	35.4%	531	492	-7.3%	313	393	25.6%
Raspberries	1,863	2,102	12.8%	4,013	3,544	-11.7%	7,476	7,450	-0.3%
Other	427	468	9.6%	-	-	-	1,224	1,596	30.4%
Total:	36,962	39,854	7.8%	-	-	-	219,847	228,501	3.9%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Fruit Production

Areas with young fruit trees, not yet having reached fruit bearing stage, on farms in 2018 were 18,633 ha. Walnuts (49.4%), followed by plums and cherry plumbs (15.1%), hazelnuts (13%) and cherries (7.3%) accounted for the largest relative share. During the 2017/2018 business year, 62% of the newly planted crops were of the stone fruits, 30% were the nuts and 8% were the pome fruits and other species. Of the stone fruits, the largest was the share of plums (54.4%), followed by cherries (24.8%).

In 2018, the average yields of cherries, sour cherries, plums and cherry plumbs, apples and walnuts increased by between 2.2% and 17.8% on an annual basis, with almonds increasing to 56.2%. At the same time, the average yields of pears, hazelnuts, peaches and nectarines, raspberries and apricots dropped down from 7% to 31.5%, most significantly in apricots.

A total of 95% of the fruit produced - the harvest `2018 were realised. 37% of the fruits were directed to the sales network, to the processing industry - 37.8% and for own needs - 2.2%.

Vegetables

In 2018, the area used for the production of vegetables and dried leguminous crops on farms was 119,107 ha, which is an increase of 59.3% compared to 2017. The open areas occupied by vegetables grew by 60.2% to 118,191 ha, while greenhouses decreased by 5.2%, to 916 ha. The harvested open areas amounted to 107,758 ha - 50.8% above the level of the previous year.

Total production of vegetables - harvest `2018 amounted to 906.2 thousand tonnes, including 775.3 thousand tonnes of open areas and 130.9 thousand tonnes of greenhouse production. The total quantity is 9% compared to the previous year, with the production of open areas increasing by 6.4% and that of greenhouses - by 28.1%.

In 2018, the largest was the production of potatoes - 261.7 thousand tonnes (28.9% of the total production of vegetables and dried legumes), tomatoes - 148.1 thousand tonnes (16.3%), watermelons - 95 thousand tonnes (10.5%), cucumbers - 67 thousand tonnes (7.4%), chickpeas - 58.3 thousand tonnes (6.4%) and pepper (sweet and hot) - 52 thousand tonnes (5.7%).

The harvested area with vegetables grew by 50.8% compared to 2017, mainly as a result of the growth of the areas with dried leguminous crops by more than twice. By crop group, a significant increase was registered in the harvested areas with tuber and onion vegetables - by 49.4%, vegetables of the genus Brassica - by 15% and potatoes - by 10.1%. On the other hand, for fruit vegetables and fresh legumes there was a decrease of harvested areas of 7.3% and 32.1% respectively.

In 2018, the area occupied with chickpeas (55.5%), followed by those with potatoes (13.1%), watermelons (4%), tomatoes (3.6%), onion - ripe (3.4%), lentils (3%), etc.

Table II.9. Main areas used for vegetable production - harvests `2017 and` 2018, ha

Main areas	Harvest `2017	Harvest `2018	Change 2018/2017
Open areas	73,797	118,191	60.2%
Total greenhouse area	966	916	-5.2%
Total area	74,763	119,107	59.3%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Survey „Vegetables Production”

By types of vegetables, the most significant annual growth was reported in harvested areas of chickpeas, leeks and spinach (about two to two and a half times), followed by okra, ripe onions, cucumbers, cauliflower and carrots - with between 32.5% and 88.8%. At the same time, there was a significant decrease in the areas harvested with onions, green onion, lettuce, salad beet and seed pumpkin - from 48.9% to 67.8%, and more moderate decrease - those with watermelons, tomatoes and peppers - within 10.4% - 12.8%.

Table II.10. Areas, production and average yields of vegetables - harvest 2018

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open areas (kg/ha)	
			From open areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018
Fruit vegetables, including:	19,232	17,821	344,543	312,905	97,976	126,277	442,519	439,182	-0.8%	-	-
Tomatoes	4,376	3,907	102,548	85,232	56,214	62,845	158,762	148,077	-6.7%	23,434	21,815
Cucumbers	282	470	4,574	7,216	37,980	59,788	42,554	67,004	57.5%	16,220	15,353
Gherkins	470	400	10,667	7,006	1,177	347	11,844	7,353	-37.9%	22,696	17,515
Aubergines	481	439	11,908	11,246	c	14	c	11,260	-	24,757	25,617
Zucchini	105	110	1,914	2,894	16	21	1,930	2,915	51.0%	18,229	26,309
Pumpkins	1,869	1,569	20,342	23,397	c	-	c	23,397	-	10,884	14,912
Seed Pumpkins	143	46	95	27	-	-	95	27	-71.6%	664	587
Melons	2,674	2,766	26,489	26,536	c	59	c	26,595	-	9,906	9,594
Watermelons	4,820	4,318	108,141	94,995	-	-	108,141	94,995	-12.2%	22,436	22,000
Pepper (sweet and hot)	3,272	2,854	52,455	48,755	2,367	3,203	54,822	51,958	-5.2%	16,031	17,083
Sweet Corn	491	472	4,156	3,507	-	-	4,156	3,507	-15.6%	8,464	7,430
Okra	249	470	1,254	2,094	-	-	1,254	2,094	67.0%	5,036	4,455

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open areas (kg/ha)	
			From open areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018
Fresh leguminous crops, including:	982	667	6,756	3,468	6	5	6,762	3,473	-48.6%	-	-
Garden peas - green	766	479	5,518	1,707	-	-	5,518	1,707	-69.1%	7,204	3,564
Garden beans - green	216	188	1,238	1,761	6	5	1,244	1,766	42.0%	5,731	9,367
Brassica vegetables, including:	1,848	2,125	43,871	49,834	96	-	43,967	49,834	13.3%	-	-
Head cabbage	1,692	1,961	41,817	47,240	c	-	c	47,240	-	24,715	24,090
Cauliflower	63	92	1,178	1,528	-	-	1,178	1,528	29.7%	18,698	16,609
Broccoli	75	72	802	1,066	-	-	802	1,066	32.9%	10,693	14,806
Leaf or stem vegetables (excluding vegetables of the genus Brassica), including:	606	632	6,065	6,435	3,034	4,289	9,099	10,724	17.9%	-	-
Artichoke	-	168	-	294	-	-	-	294	-	-	1,750
Spinach	66	132	359	327	15	c	374	c	-	5,439	2,477
Leek	49	104	1,069	2,284	-	-	1,069	2,284	113.7%	21,816	21,962
Salads and lettuce	116	54	2,221	1,165	2,958	4,171	5,179	5,336	3.0%	19,147	21,574
Dill	85	54	426	950	-	3	426	953	123.7%	5,012	17,593
Garlic - green	-	31	-	434	-	11	-	445	-	-	14,000
Green onion	45	23	801	660	55	89	856	749	-12.5%	17,800	28,696
Parsley	35	22	513	243	-	13	513	256	-50.1%	14,657	11,045
Other leafy or stem vegetables (savory, etc.)	210	44	614	78	6	c	620	c	-	-	-
Tuber and onion vegetables, including:	3,869	5,779	51,578	71,145	980	231	52,558	71,376	35.8%	-	-
Onion	2,080	3,675	23,499	41,798	c	-	c	41,798	-	11,298	11,374
Carrots	1,150	1,524	23,539	25,645	-	-	23,539	25,645	-	20,469	16,827
Garlic - ripe	387	418	1,444	1,772	-	-	1,444	1,772	-	3,731	4,239
Salad Beet	99	39	1,128	763	-	-	1,128	763	-32.4%	11,394	19,564
Seed onion	87	87	800	487	-	-	800	487	-39.1%	9,195	5,598

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open areas (kg/ha)	
			From open areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018
Other tuber and onion vegetables (turnips, radishes, celery, etc.)	66	36	1,168	680	c	231	c	911	-	-	-
Potatoes	12,806	14,096	227,713	261,594	102	100	227,815	261,694	14.9%	17,782	18,558
Strawberries	655	726	5,319	4,791	40	42	5,359	4,833	-9.8%	8,121	6,599
Total vegetables	39,998	41,846	685,836	710,172	102,234	130,944	788,079	841,116	6.7%	-,	-,
Dry leguminous crops, including:	31,444	65,912	43,005	65,118	-	-	43,005	65,118	51.4%	-,	-,
Beans	2,749	1,809	2,502	2,246	-	-	2,502	2,246	-10.2%	910	1,242
Lentils	4,471	3,179	5,920	3,209	-	-	5,920	3,209	-45.8%	1,324	1,009
Chick-peas	22,564	59,841	32,383	58,342	-	-	32,383	58,342	80.2%	1,435	975
Other dried leguminous crops (peas and broad beans)	1,660	1,083	2,200	1,321	-	-	2,200	1,321	-40.0%	-	-
Total vegetables and dried leguminous crops	71,442	107,758	728,850	775,290	102,234	130,944	831,084	906,234	9.0%	-	-

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

Continuing the positive trend of the last three years, in 2018 the total production of vegetables from **open areas** increased by 6.4% on an annual basis, reaching 775.3 thousand tonnes. Among the more significant crops, a significant increase in production was reported for chickpeas - by 80.2%, onions (ripe onion) - by 77.9%, cucumbers - by 57.8% and zucchini - by 51.2%, and more moderate increase - for potatoes, pumpkins, cabbage and carrots - within 8.9% - 15%. On the other hand, the production of open-area gherkins decreased by 34.3% and that of tomatoes, peppers and watermelons by between 7.1% and 16.9%.

The total production of dried leguminous crops (beans, lentils and chickpeas) from open areas in 2018 amounted to 65.1 thousand tonnes, increasing by more than 50% compared to 2017. The reported growth was entirely due to the increased production of chickpeas, while the production of beans and lentils was decreasing.

Production of tubers and onions from open areas increased by 37.9% compared to 2017 to 71.1 thousand tonnes, and that of Brassica (head cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli) vegetables - by 13.6%, up to 49.8 thousand tonnes.

Annual growth was also registered in the production of potatoes from open areas, which reached 261.6 thousand tonnes (by 14.9% more than in 2017).

In 2018, harvested fruit and vegetables produced from open areas declined by 9.2% on annual basis to 312.9 thousand tonnes, mainly as a result of reduced production of tomatoes and watermelons.

In 2018, the main vegetable crops showed divergent variations in the average yield per hectare compared to 2017. Increase in the average yield was reported for onions (onion), potatoes, peppers and pumpkins - in the range of 0.7% to 37%, and a decrease - for watermelons, cabbage, melons, tomatoes, carrots, strawberries and chickpeas - by between 1.9% and 32.1%.

Table II.11. Total production of basic vegetables from harvests `2017 and` 2018

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2017	Harvest `2018	Change 2018/2017
Tomatoes	158,762	148,077	-6.7%
Pepper (sweet and hot)	54,822	51,958	-5.2%
Cucumbers and gherkins	54,398	74,357	36.7%
Watermelons	108,141	94,995	-12.2%
Potatoes	227,815	261,694	14.9%
Strawberries	5,359	4,833	-9.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Survey - „Vegetables Production”

Beyond the main vegetable crops, a significant increase in the average yield per hectare was observed in onions-green, garden beans-green, lettuce and dill, and a decrease in seed onion, garden green peas and spinach.

The higher average yield in some of the major vegetables was the result of the use of certified seeds by farmers and the adherence to vegetable cultivation technologies with an emphasis on the application of environmentally friendly techniques.

Greenhouse production of vegetables in the country mainly includes tomatoes and cucumbers (together forming over 90% of the total greenhouse production) and in much smaller quantities - salads and lettuces, peppers, gherkins and more. The development of greenhouse production depends on market demand, as part of the production is intended for export.

Table II.12. Greenhouse production of basic vegetables from harvests `2017 and` 2018, tonnes

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2017	Harvest `2018	Change 2018/2017
Tomatoes	56,214	62,845	11.8%
Pepper	2,367	3,203	35.3%
Cucumbers	37,980	59,788	57.4%
Gherkins	1,177	347	-70.5%
Salads and lettuce	2,958	4,171	41.0%
Other vegetables (without mushrooms)	1,538	590	-61.6%
Total	102,234	130,944	28.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, Survey - „Vegetables Production”

The total production of greenhouse vegetables in 2018 was 130.9 thousand tonnes - 28.1% more than in 2017, as a result of increased production of tomatoes, peppers, salads and lettuce and cucumbers - by between 11.8% and 57.4%. Among the main greenhouse vegetables, only gherkins recorded a decrease - by 70.5%.

The trend for the modernization of existing greenhouses continued with the application of new and more modern technologies for quality vegetables from greenhouse production.

Diversification of the types of greenhouse vegetables grown was reported. In addition to the main greenhouse crops, potatoes, onion-green, garlic-green, zucchini, eggplants, melons, strawberries and others were also produced.

Forecast data for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds from the harvest `2019

According to forecast data available at the end of October, production of most of the main cereals is expected to increase in 2019 compared to the previous year. At this stage, there will be an annual increase in wheat production of around 5% (up to 6.1 million tonnes), grain maize - by 9% (up to 3.8 million tonnes) and barley - by 21% (up to 530 thousand tonnes).

On the other hand, the production of rapeseed from the harvest `2019 is expected to be about 15% less on an annual basis, with the reduction of the harvested area partially offset by an increase in the average yield per unit area. A slight decrease is expected in the production of sunflower - by about 4% due to the reduction of the average yield.

Table II.13. Forecast for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds in 2019

Crop	Indicator/year	2018	2019 (forecast)	Change 2019/2018
Wheat	Area (thousand ha)	1,212	1,189	-1.9%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	4.81	5.16	7.3%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	5,832	6,136	5.2%
Grain maize	Area (thousand ha)	445	550	23.7%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	7.82	6.90	-11.8%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	3,478	3,800	9.3%
Barley	Area (thousand ha)	104	111	7.2%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	4.22	4.80	13.7%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	438	530	21.1%
Sunflower	Area (thousand ha)	789	800	1.4%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.44	2.30	-5.7%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	1,927	1,850	-4.0%
Rapeseed	Area (thousand ha)	183	150	-17.9%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.58	2.67	3.5%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	471	400	-15.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department (2019 estimates).

2.3. Livestock Breeding Production Results

State livestock policy aims to create conditions for the sustainable development of the sector and to protect the interests of farmers. As a priority sector in the field of agriculture, livestock is supported through various financial instruments with EU budget funds under the two pillars of the CAP (for direct payments and market measures and for rural development) as well as national funds. The support is aimed at achieving stable production, increasing competitiveness, fair distribution of value along the food chain, environment friendly use of natural resources and adapting to climate change, ensuring the economic and social dynamics of rural areas. In present day's context, an important focus is the introduction of innovative technologies and digitization into production, which will stimulate a more modern, market-oriented and more attractive agriculture, which will attract young farmers, new contractors and investments in the sector.

The classification of carcasses of cattle, pigs and sheep (lambs) on the EU Scales continues to apply. The purpose of the classification is to improve market transparency and make the meat products more competitive on the European market, as well as to provide feedback to farmers on the results of their livestock production methods.

In 2018, the trend to decrease in the number of farms was maintained, mainly at the expense of part of the small-scale farms being dropped. The process of sector consolidation contributed to greater farm sustainability, more efficient and cost-effective production.

Compared to 2017, cattle farms decreased by 16.8% and those breeding sheep and goats by 21.4% and 17.1% respectively. Pig farms decreased by 19.8% and buffalo farms – by 2.5%.

On the other hand, in almost all the main types of farm animals, there was an increase in the number of animals bred compared to the previous year, reaching up to 22% for buffaloes. The total number of pigs increased by 10.4%, and that of goats and sheep – by 5.7% and 2.5% respectively. Only the total number of cattle shrunk by 2.5%.

Table II.14. Number of animals in 2017 and 2018 and forecast for 2019

Type of Animal	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2019. forecast
Cattle - total, including:	540,115	526,491	-2.5%	530,000
cows - total	348,691	340,818	-2.3%	337,000
- beef cows	96,635	106,763	10.5%	112,000
Buffaloes - total, including:	12,809	15,625	22.0%	16,000
Buffalo cows	8,720	10,309	18.2%	10,500
Sheep - total, including:	1,316,784	1,350,033	2.5%	1,350,000
ewes - total	1,096,393	1,119,885	2.1%	1,121,000
- meat sheep	104,324	131,500	26.0%	132,000
Goats - total, including:	256,967	271,734	5.7%	275,000
she-goats	220,866	231,250	4.7%	233,000
Pigs - total, including:	593,154	654,554	10.4%	600,000
Total sows over 50 kg	62,156	69,987	12.6%	60,000
Poultry - total, thousands, including:	14,756	15,519	5.2%	15,500
hens and pre-laying hens	6,898	6,951	0.8%	7,000
meat chicken	5,966	6,921	16.0%	6,900
waterfowl	1,712	1,456	-15.0%	1,410
Other poultry	180	191	6.1%	190
Bee colonies	765,772	783,348	2.3%	785,000

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Note: the data on animals of the genus LR (large ruminants), SR (small ruminants) and pigs are as of 1 November, for poultry - as of 31 December and for bee colonies as of 1 October.

The specialization of production was deepening, with the trend of an increase in the large and small ruminants of the meat-purpose sector, favoured by the applied schemes for coupled support in animal husbandry (including schemes for meat-producing cows and animals under selection control). In 2018, the number of meat cows was 10.5% higher on an annual basis and the number of ewes was 26%.

By the end of 2018, there were 5.2% more poultry raised in the country compared to a year earlier, mainly as a result of an increase in meat-purpose chickens (by 16%) and turkeys (by 16.7%).

The total number of bee colonies increased by 2.3% on an annual basis to 783,348.

In 2018, there was a consolidation of farms in all species and categories of farm animals. The average number of pigs per farm increased most significantly - by 37.5% up to 100.7 heads, as the increase of sows was by 48.1% up to 73.6 heads. Compared to the previous year, the average number of sheep per farm increased by 30.4% in total, up to 62.2 heads, and of ewes - by 29.6%, to 51.8 heads. The average number of goats in total and she-goats was 27.6% and 29.6% respectively higher than in 2017. A slightly less increase was observed in large ruminants: cattle in total - by 17.2%, cows in total - by 15.7%, buffaloes in total - by 21.9% and buffalo cows - by 18.4%.

Table II.15. Milk production in the period 01.11.2017 - 31.10.2018 by planning regions, thousand litres

Regions	Total milk	including:			
		Cow milk	Buffalo milk	Sheep milk	Goat Milk
North-Western	144,176	122,789	2,945	10,209	8,233
North-Central	145,765	131,594	1,088	6,796	6,287
North-Eastern	159,961	145,803	964	7,906	5,288
South-Eastern	203,091	179,042	2,241	15,415	6,393
South-Western	81,740	60,152	756	11,275	9,557
South-Central	260,290	233,216	3,395	17,516	6,163
Total for the country	995,023	872,596	11,389	69,117	41,921
Change 2018/2017	-6.1%	-7.2%	13.3%	3.1%	-0.9%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The total production of raw milk in 2018 amounted to 995,023 thousand litres - 6.1% below the level of the previous year, mainly as a result of the decreased cow milk production (by 7.2%), which represents about 88% of total milk production for the year. The goat milk produced was with the negligible 0.9% less annually. At the same time, the buffalo milk production increased by 13.3% and that of sheep milk - by 3.1%.

Leading region in the milk production in 2018 remained the South Central Region, with a share of 26.2%, followed by the South-Eastern Region by 20.4% and the North-Eastern Region by 16.1%. The lowest production was recorded in the South-Western region - 8.2%.

Table II.16. Animal Production in 2017 - 2018 and a forecast for 2019

Product	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2019 forecast
1.Milk - total (thousands of litres), including:	1,059,376	995,023	-6.1%	970,000
Cow milk	939,978	872,596	-7.2%	845,000
Buffalo milk	10,053	11,389	13.3%	12,000
Sheep milk	67,029	69,117	3.1%	70,000
Goat milk	42,316	41,921	-0.9%	43,000
2.Meat - total carcass weight (tonnes), including:	211,230	228,138	8.0%	218,000
Red meat	104,266	109,669	5.2%	100,000

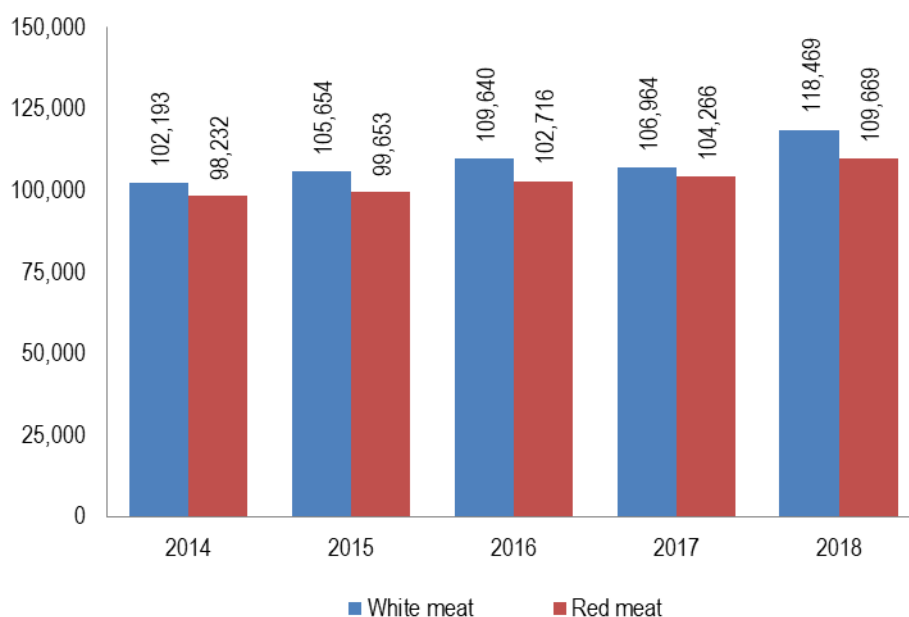
Product	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2019 forecast
White meat	106,964	118,469	10.8%	118,000
3.Eggs (thousand pieces)	1,325,853	1,298,425	-2.1%	1,300,000
4.Bee honey (tonnes)	11,807	10,338	-12.4%	11,200

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Total meat production in the country in 2018 increased by 8% compared to the previous year, reaching 228,138 tonnes, including: 109,669 tonnes red meat and 118,469 tonnes white meat.

Red meat production was 5.2% above the 2017 level, as a result of an 11% increase in abattoirs production, while that of farms decreased by 15.6%. The quantity of white meat produced increased by 10.8% on an annual basis, due to an increase in industrial production by 12.1%, with a simultaneous decrease in the farms productions by 35.7%.

Figure II.3. Meat production in the period 2014 - 2018, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2018, bee honey production decreased by 12.4% compared to the previous year, due to the lower average yield (16.8 kg/bee colony).

Eggs produced were in total 1,298,425 thousand pieces - 2.1% less on annual basis.

Expected Data for 2019

In 2019, the total number of most categories of farm animals was expected to be around or slightly above the levels of the previous year. A more significant decrease is foreseen only in the swine as a result of the damage suffered by the African Swine Fever disease.

The number of cows is generally estimated to be about 1% less on an annual basis, with a decrease in dairy cows of nearly 4% mainly because of an increase in meat-producing cows. Beef cattle sector is expected to continue to develop, as a result that the total cattle numbers remain close to those reported in 2018.

The total number of sheep is expected to remain around the level of the previous year, with relative preservation for dairy ewes and a slight increase (0.4%) for dairy sheep.

The total number of goats is expected to be about 1% higher than in 2018, reaching about 275 thousand.

Due to the negative effect of African Swine Fever, the total pig population is expected to be reduced by about 8% annually and the number of breeding female swine - by 14%.

The total number of poultry in the country, as well as the number of bee colonies, is expected to remain unchanged compared to 2018.

Total production of dairy raw material in 2019 is expected to be about 970 million litres - 2.5% less than the previous year, as a result of a decrease in cow milk production to about 845 million litres. Other types of milk are expected to mark a slight increase in production, most significant of buffalo milk.

Total meat production is expected to reach around 218 thousand tonnes - about 4% less annually, with the production of red meat decreasing by about 9% (mainly at the expense of pork) and that of white meat remaining around the level of the previous year.

Honey production is expected to grow by slightly more than 8% on an annual basis, while egg production will remain unchanged.

According to preliminary data from the MAFF's Agrostatistics Department, for the period January - June 2019, 43,575 tonnes of red meat and 55,907 tonnes of white meat were produced in the country's abattoirs. Compared to the same period of the previous year, the industrial production of red meat showed an increase of 6%, and that of white meat - a slight decrease of about 1%.

Approximately 91% of total red meat production during the period was formed by the production of pig meat, which has grown from about 9% annually to 39,725 tonnes.

The industrial broiler chickens production was 3.3% more than in the six months of the previous year, amounting to 43,597 tonnes (78% of total white meat). At the same time, duck meat production fell by about 17% to 9,782 tonnes.

In the first seven months of 2019, a total of 415,220 thousand litres of milk were processed in dairy companies, including 385,656 thousand litres cow milk - by 0.8% and 0.9%, respectively on an annual basis.

2.3.1. Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding

In 2018, the process of specialisation of production in cattle breeding continued, characterized by the transition from dairy to meat production.

As of 01.11.2018, the total number of cattle in the country shrunk by 2.5% compared to a year earlier, down to 526,491. The number of dairy cows decreased by 7.1%, at the expense of the increasing number of beef cows - by 10.5%. Thus, the share of beef cows in the total number of cows reached 31.3% compared to 27.7% in the previous year.

Due to the reduced number of dairy cows, the cow milk production in 2018 was 7.2% less than the previous year, amounting to 995,023 thousand litres.

Traditionally, South Central Region accounted for the largest share of total cow milk production - 26.2%, followed by South-Eastern region - 20.4%, and North-Eastern region - 16.1%.

In 2018, the number of dairy farms decreased by 19.2% compared to the previous year. The largest decrease was observed in farms growing between 3 and 9 dairy cows - by 37.4%, followed by farms with 10 to 19 animals - by 24.6%, and the smallest with 1 - 2 animals - by 17.7%. Only the number of large farms with 100 or more cows increased compared to 2017 - by 5.8%, raising about 33% of the dairy cows in the country.

By the end of the year, the average size of dairy farms increased to 13.3 heads (compared to 10.4 heads in 2017).

Table II.17. Distribution of dairy cows by number of farmed animals as of 01.11.2018

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Dairy cows	
	thousand heads	Change 2018/2017	thousand heads	Change 2018/2017
1 - 2	13.2	-17.7%	15.4	-23.8%
3 - 9	1.9	-37.4%	8.6	-38.1%
10 -19	1.3	-24.6%	17.6	-25.1%
20 -49	1.9	-10.4%	61.5	-9.3%
50 - 99	0.8	-4.3%	52.9	-2.8%
100 and more	0.4	5.8%	78.0	8.0%
Total	19.5	-19.2%	234.0	-7.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Table II.18. Distribution of cattle by region in 2017 and 2018

Regions	11/01/2017				11/01/2018			
	Cattle		Cows		Cattle		Cows	
	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share
North-Western	63.6	11.8%	42.1	12.1%	62.6	11.9%	41.9	12.3%
North-Central	59.2	11.0%	36.5	10.5%	57.5	10.9%	35.7	10.5%
North-Eastern	75.1	13.9%	43.8	12.6%	66.8	12.7%	38.8	11.4%
South-Eastern	101.0	18.7%	65.6	18.8%	101.6	19.3%	65.5	19.2%
South-Western	67.5	12.5%	44.2	12.6%	72.6	13.8%	46.3	13.6%
South-Central	173.7	32.2%	116.4	33.4%	165.4	31.4%	112.6	33.0%
Total for the country	540.1	100%	348.6	100%	526.5	100%	340.8	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

As of the end of 2018, buffalo farms were 2.5% less on annual basis, while the number of the buffaloes bred on them increased significantly by 22%, up to 15.6 thousand. The number of the farms breeding buffalo cows decreased slightly by 1.5%, with a significant increase in the number of buffalo cows on them - by 18.2%. Number of farms with 100 or more buffalo cows grew significantly in 2018 – by 66.7%, where 41.4% of the total number of buffalo cows was bred. The number of farms breeding between 10 and 19 buffalo cows also marked a significant increase - by 24.7%, and the animals rose on them - by 23.9%. Small farms (1-2 and 3-9 animals each) decreased by 27% - 28%, and the number of buffalo cows in them - by 24% and 41.2% respectively.

Thus, the average number of buffaloes bred on a farm during the year reached 34.3 (compared to 29 in 2017).

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

The buffalo milk produced in 2018 reached 10,389 thousand litres - 13.3% more than the previous year, as a result of the increased number of buffalo cows during the year.

Table II.19. Distribution of buffaloes by region in 2017 and 2018

Regions	01/11/2017				01/11/2018			
	Buffaloes total		Buffalo cows		Buffaloes total		Buffalo cows	
	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share
North-Western	3.6	28.5%	2.5	29.0%	4.5	28.7%	2.9	28.6%
North-Central	1.2	9.1%	0.69	8.0%	1.4	8.9%	0.9	8.2%
North-Eastern	1.1	8.6%	0.7	8.2%	1.1	7.3%	0.8	7.6%
South-Eastern	3.1	24.5%	2.0	22.7%	3.4	21.9%	2.3	22.8%
South-Western	1.1	8.6%	0.8	8.5%	1.6	10.0%	0.9	8.3%
South-Central	2.7	20.7%	2.01	23.6%	3.6	23.2%	2.5	24.5%
Total for the country	12.8	100%	8.7	100%	15.6	100%	10.3	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The total beef production in the country in 2018 amounted to 16,156 tonnes expressed in carcasse weight – by 7.8% below the level of the previous year, considering a decrease both in abattoirs (by 2.9%) and on farms (by 11.4%). Beef accounted for 14.7% of total red meat produced for the year.

Table II.20. Beef production in 2017 and 2018 (tonnes of carcasse weight)

Categories of animals	In abattoirs			On farms			Total production		
	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Calves and grower cattle	752	592	-21.3%	7,275	6,530	-10.2%	8,027	7,122	-11.3%
Other cattle	6,724	6,665	-0.9%	2,769	2,369	-14.4%	9,493	9,034	-4.8%
Total for the country	7,476	7,257	-2.9%	10,044	8,899	-11.4%	17,520	16,156	-7.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2018, a total of 10,785 cattle over 8 months of age were classified on the EUROP scale, which was 5.1% more than in 2017. Abattoirs that classify cattle carcasses during the year were eight.

The highest was the share of category D cows - 68.1%, followed by cattle with category A - young bull, E - heifer, B - bull, Z - animal aged 8 to 12 months and C - castrated males - 16.3%, 6.3%, 5.5%, 4.5% and 0.2%, respectively.

The main part of the classified beef was from dairy-purpose animals whose carcasses were of low dressing percentage and poorly developed conformation. Therefore, the largest was the share of classified cattle with conformation class P (poor) – 71.3% and fatness class 2 (slight) – 56.2%.

2.3.2. Sheep Breeding and Goat Breeding

Long-standing traditions and appropriate climatic conditions favour the development of sheep breeding in the country. It was widespread both in the plains and in the mountainous and semi-mountainous regions, providing livelihoods for a large proportion of the rural population.

As of 01.11.2018, a total of 1,350,033 sheep were bred in the country - 2.5% above the level of one year ago. The total number of ewes increased by 2.1%, with a minimal decrease of 0.4% (up to 988,385 heads) in the dairy sector, at the expense of a 26% increase in meat-producing ewes. The number of animals in the other sheep category (including lambs) increased by 9.2% and that of the rams - by 4.8%.

The process of consolidation of sheep farms continued. By the end of 2018, the number of farms breeding sheep and ewes decreased by around 21% compared to a year earlier. At the same time, the average number of sheep on a farm increased by 30.4%, reaching 62.2 heads and that of ewes - by 29.6%, up to 51.8 heads.

Traditionally, sheep breeding is mainly concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, with about 66% of the total population raised in 2018. The largest number of ewes was bred on the territory of the South Central Region, followed by the South-Eastern and South-Western regions. From the northern regions, the North-Eastern remained the leading region of the country.

Table II.21. Distribution of sheep by region in 2017 and 2018 (thousand heads)

Regions	Sheep total, thousand heads			Including ewes, thousand heads		
	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)
North-Western	144.2	126.8	9.4%	113.8	109.6	9.8%
North-Central	131.2	120.6	8.9%	110.5	104.4	9.3%
North-Eastern	197.1	212.5	15.7%	159.3	161.0	14.4%
South-Eastern	295.2	300.4	22.3%	247.3	249.7	22.3%
South-Western	250.7	255.4	18.9%	208.8	211.6	18.9%
South-Central	298.3	334.3	24.8%	256.7	283.6	25.3%
Total for the country	1,316.7	1,350.0	100%	1,096.4	1,119.9	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The slight increase in the total number of ewes in the country compared to the previous 2017 is due to the reported growth in farms raising 300 and more ewes - by about 24% of both the number of these farms and the animals on them. The other farm sizes showed a decrease, the most significant being for the farms with up to 9 ewes, which decreased by 30.2% and the animals in them - by 25.8%.

By the end of 2018, 271,734 goats were raised in the country - 5.7% more on an annual basis, with she-goats increasing by 4.7%.

Farms breeding goats in total and she-goats decreased by 17.1% and 19.2% respectively compared to the previous year.

Thus, the average size of goat herds in general increased by 27.6%, up to 22.5, and that of goat farms - by 29.6%, up to 19.6.

A significant increase was observed in large farms raising 100 or more pregnant goats - by 49%, with the number of animals in them being by 23.9% more in annual basis. Other categories of farms showed a decrease of between 12% and 22%, and animals on them - between 12% and 18%.

Goat production is concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, with over 64% of goats raised in 2018. South-Western region remained the leading one with almost one third of the total number of goats. Of the northern regions, the North-Western region had the largest number of goats.

In 2018, the production of milk from small ruminants in the country increased by 1.5% to 111,038 thousand litres, including: 69,117 thousand litres of sheep milk and 41,921 thousand litres of goat milk. The relative share of sheep milk in the total volume of dairy production during the year was 6.9% and of goat milk - 4.2%. Compared to the previous year, sheep milk production increased by 3.1%, while that of goat milk shrunk slightly (by 0.9%).

Table II.22. Distribution of goats by region in 2017 and 2018 (thousands heads)

Regions	Goats total			Including she-goats		
	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)
North-Western	46.4	39.9	14.7%	39.4	34.2	14.8%
North-Central	22.5	27.2	10.0%	18.8	24.4	10.5%
North-Eastern	23.9	29.0	10.7%	20.0	23.6	10.2%
South-Eastern	38.8	43.2	15.9%	33.1	37.3	16.1%
South-Western	91.6	88.1	32.4%	79.4	71.9	31.1%
South-Central	33.7	44.3	16.3%	30.1	39.9	17.3%
Total for the country	256.9	271.7	100%	220.8	231.3	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

About 64% of sheep milk and 53% of goat milk were produced in Southern Bulgaria, where most of the sheep and goats were raised.

The total meat production from SR during the year amounted to 11,016 tonnes expressed in carcass weight, representing 10% of the total volume of red meat produced. The quantity is 2.6% lower than in 2017, due to a decrease in the production of goat meat by 16.6% (down to 1 485,7 tonnes), while in the case of sheep meat there is a slight increase of 0,1 % (up to 9 530,3 tonnes).

The classification of light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) in 2018 was applied in three abattoirs. A total of 4,732 light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) were classified, which is 78% more compared to 2017. Nearly 86% of them were light carcasses (up to 13 kg), as about 75% were classified as first quality.

The largest was the share of light carcasses weighing from 10.1 kg to 13 kg - category C - 58.9%. Those weighing from 7.1 kg to 10 kg - category B, followed by 41.1%. As in the previous year, there was no category A lambs.

The carcasses of sheep under 12 months of age and over 13 kg, classified in 2018, were 543 pieces - a 39% increase compared to the previous year.

In 2018, all classified heavy lambs were in conformation class O (fair), with the highest proportion of those classified with fatness class 2 (slight) 67.3%.

For 2019 there was no change in the number of abattoirs that carry out the classification of sheep.

2.3.3. Pig Breeding

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

By the end of 2018, the total number of pigs in the country increased by 10.4% on an annual basis, up to 654.6 thousand heads. With a 19.8% decrease in pig farms, the average size of pig farms increased by 37.5% to 100.7 heads. The farms with main sows were 22.2% less on an annual basis, and the average number of animals on them reached 73.6 sows (compared to 49.7 in 2017).

In all regions of the country, except for the Northwest, there was an increase in the number of pigs raised, compared to the previous year. About 70% of the total number of pigs was raised in Northern Bulgaria, mainly in the North-Eastern and North-Central regions. The share of pigs raised in the South-Eastern region was also relatively high.

Table II.23. Distribution of pigs by region in 2017 and 2018 (thousands heads)

Regions	Pigs in total			Main sows		
	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)	01/11/2017	01/11/2018	share (2018 r.)
North-Western	35.1	27.0	4.1%	2.1	2.6	5.0%
North-Central	194.7	197.6	30.2%	12.3	14.2	27.6%
North-Eastern	196.2	219.6	33.6%	12.1	13.2	25.9%
South-Eastern	118.9	139.4	21.3%	11.1	12.6	24.5%
South-Western	10.5	15.9	2.4%	1.1	1.5	2.6%
South-Central	37.8	55.1	8.4%	6.0	7.4	14.4%
Total for the country	593.2	654.6	100%	44.7	51.5	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Traditionally, the largest number of sows is bred in the North Central, North-Eastern and South-Eastern regions. In all regions, the number of main sows increased by 9% to 36% compared to the previous year.

The total number of farms raising breeding swine (over 50 kg) at the end of 2018 decreased by 17.8% compared to the previous year and the number of animals in them increased by 12.6%. The number of farms with 3 to 9 pigs - by 32.3% and those with 10 to 49 animals - dropped most significantly by 29.2%. At the same time, the number of large pig farms with 200 or more breeding sows increased by 12.5%, with 90% of the breeding sows concentrated in the country.

Table II.24. Distribution of breeding female swine over 50 kg according to the number of animals bred on a farm as of 01.11.2018

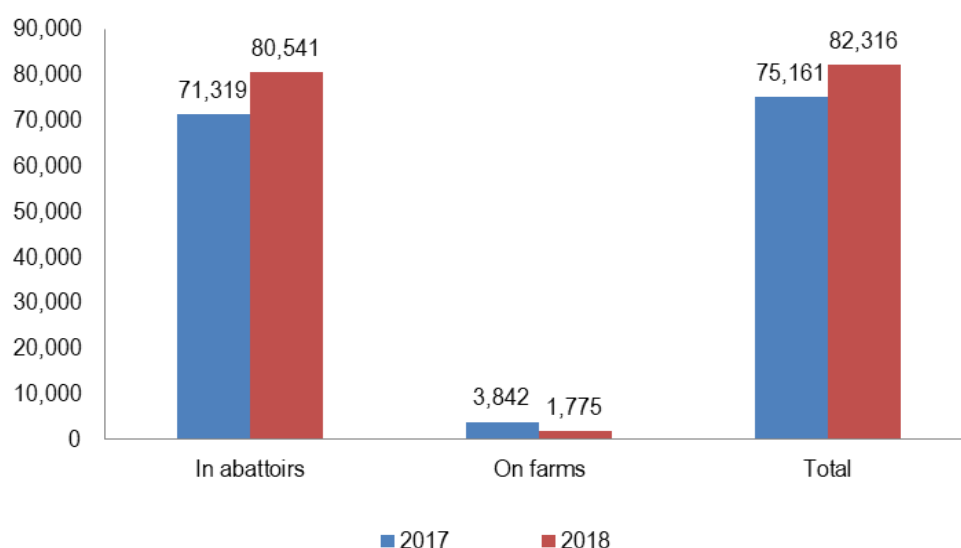
Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Breeding females over 50 kg	
	Number	Change 2018/2017	thousand heads	Change 2018/2017
1-2	433	-20.3%	0.5	- 37.5%
3-9	157	-32.3%	0.7	- 41.7%
10-49	62	29.2%	1.4	27.3%
50-199	41	17.1%	4.0	11.1%
200 and more	45	12.5%	63.3	14.3%
Total	738	-17.8%	69.9	12.6%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Sustainable development of the sector throughout the year was supported by the financial aid provided under the State aid scheme for the implementation of the five-year voluntary commitments on swine welfare launched in 2012. Subsidies are granted annually and cover the additional costs or missed income related to these commitments.

In 2018, pork production amounted to 82,316 tonnes (75% of total red meat production), of which: 80,541 tonnes - produced in abattoirs and 1,775 tonnes - on farms. The total quantity was 9.5% above the level of the previous year, as a result of the reported growth of industrial production by 12.9%, while the production on the farms (which generally occupies a relatively small share) decreased by 53.8%.

Figure II.4. Pork production in 2017 and 2018, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2018, a total of 89,762 units were classified on the pig carcasses (S) EUROP Scale, which is 8.2% less than in 2017. There were two abattoirs that carried out classification in the year (one of them operating in the first quarter only).

More than 78% of the pigs classified in 2018 were in class E, with a lean meat content of 55% to 60% by carcass weight, and 21.5% of the other classified pigs were in conformation class U - by 50% up to 55% lean meat content.

Table II.25. Classified pig carcasses by lean meat content

Year	S 60% or more	E from 55 to 60%	U from 50 to 55%	R from 45 to 50 %	O from 40 to 45%	P 40% or less	Total (number)
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	70,525	20,967	82	17	0	97,831
2018	318	70,422	18,888	134			89,762

Source: MAFF, Livestock Directorate

The abattoirs performing classifications during the year classified 73% of slaughtered and scalded pigs (only scalded pigs are classified by this regression equation) or 9% of the total industrial production in the country.

For 2019, the number of classified pigs is expected to be around the level of 2018, since no new regression equation for the classification of skinned pigs has been developed.

2.3.4. Horse Breeding

According to expert estimates, in 2018 the number of equidae (including horses) in Bulgaria remained at about 116 thousand. Their main purpose is as draught power in agriculture.

There is one state-owned enterprise in the sector - the Kabyuk Stud. The rest of the horses are raised in the private sector.

In order to preserve the livestock population of horses, in 2014 horse breeding was first supported by de minimis state aid, which had a beneficial effect on the development of the sector. This contributed to the continuation of the existing centuries-old cultural and historical traditions and the consolidation of the country's position in this sector among other EU Member States.

Work on the conservation and development of genetic resources in horse breeding continued in 2018.

2.3.5. Poultry Farming

Poultry farming is one of the most intensive sectors in animal husbandry, characterized by widespread mechanization and automation of production processes, which ensures high-efficiency industrial production.

As of 31.12.2018, a total of 15,519 thousand heads of poultry were bred in the country - 5.2% more than the previous year, including: 6,951 thousand hens and laying hens, 6 921 thousand meat chickens, 35 thousand turkeys, 1,408 thousand ducks, 13 thousand geese and 191 thousand other poultry.

The recorded annual increase in the total number of poultry was mainly due to the 16% increase in the number of meat chickens. Turkeys increased by 16.7%, birds included in the category of other species (quails, ostriches and guinea fowls) - by 6.1% and hens and young laying hens - by 0.8%. At the same time, the number of ducks and geese decreased by 15.5% and 18.8% respectively.

Table II.26. Number of poultry at the end of the year, thousand heads

Type of poultry	2016	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
Adult and young laying hens	7,158	6,898	6,951	0.8%
Meat-purpose chickens	5,290	5,966	6,921	16.0%
Turkeys	32	30	35	16.7%
Ducks	1,128	1,666	1,408	-15.5%
Geese	17	16	13	-18.8%
Other poultry	75	180	191	6.1%
Total	13,700	14,756	15,519	5.2%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The development of poultry farming was favourably influenced by the State aid scheme for the implementation of voluntary commitments for the poultry welfare (for fattening and egg laying) for a period of five years, which continued to apply in 2018. The support under this scheme was provided both to large, highly modernized poultry farms and to smaller farms providing eggs, poultry meat and fatty liver.

Table II.27. Number of poultry by species and regions in 2018, thousand heads

Regions	Laying hens and young laying hens	Meat chicken	Hens and chickens in total	Turkeys	Ducks	Geese	Other poultry	Poultry in total	Change 2018/2017
North-Western	826	264	1,090	9	271	2	5	1,377	7.6%
North-Central	1,917	4,295	6,212	1	125	0	6	6,344	9.9%
North-Eastern	1,344	1,107	2,451	4	97	9	2	2,563	3.1%

Regions	Laying hens and young laying hens	Meat chicken	Hens and chickens in total	Turkeys	Ducks	Geese	Other poultry	Poultry in total	Change 2018/2017
South-Eastern	1,022	855	1,877	10	227	0	33	2,147	12.6%
South-Western	c	c	750	3	4	1	122	880	-14.0%
South-Central	c	c	1,492	8	684	1	23	2,208	15.6%
Total for the country	6,951	6,921	13,872	35	1,408	13	191	15,519	7.7%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department, with confidential information

The trend of concentrating the production in the sector on fewer but larger farms continued.

At the end of 2018, egg-purpose farms raising poultry - laying hens and young laying hens - decreased by 14.6% on an annual basis, down to 57,955. Almost all farm sizes suffered a decrease in both the number of farms and the poultry raised in them. Only farms with a capacity of between 10,000 and 99,999 heads showed an increase of 4.3%, with the number of heads increasing by 20.5% on an annual basis. About 62% of laying hens and growers were reared on large farms with 100,000 or more heads.

A larger decrease compared to the corresponding period of 2017 was reported for the number of farms raising meat chicken - by 59.2%. This is due to the drop off of a large part of the small farms with 1 - 199 heads and 200 - 9 999 heads, by 76.5% and 36.4% respectively. At the same time, large poultry farms with 100 thousands or more heads increased by 8.3% on an annual basis, with the number of heads in them increasing by 21.6%, representing 57.2% of the total number of broilers rose during the year.

About 60% of laying hens and over 80% of meat chickens at the end of 2018 were raised in the northern regions of the country. Most turkeys and ducks were reared in the southern regions - about 60% and 65% of the total, respectively, and nearly 70% of the geese were in the North-Eastern region.

Total egg production in 2018 amounted to 1,298,425 thousand pieces - by 2.1% less than the previous year, including: 1,273,574 thousand of hens and 24,851 thousand of other poultry. Of the total number of eggs obtained from hens, 1,092,829 thousand were for consumption, which is 2.1% less on an annual basis. The breeding eggs of the chicken species showed a slight increase in production by 0.7% to 180 745 thousand units.

Leaders in the production of eggs in 2018 were South Central, North Central and North-Eastern regions of the country.

Table II.28. Production of eggs in 2018 by planning regions, thousand pieces

Regions	Chicken eggs	Other eggs	Total eggs	Change 2018/2017
North-Western	119,630	589	120,219	- 3.8%
North-Central	325,672	1,621	327,293	6.0%
North-Eastern	275,763	729	276,492	- 15.5%
South-Eastern	165,201	4,773	169,974	- 7.9%
South-Western	65,720	11,014	76,734	6.8%
South-Central	321,588	6,125	327,713	6.1%
Total for the country	1,273,574	24,851	1,298,425	- 2.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2018, a total of 118,469 tonnes of poultry meat and by-products were produced within the country. This is a 10.8% increase over the previous year as a result of increased industrial production by 12.1%. On-farm production, which generally accounts for a relatively small share, fell by 35.7%. About 78% of the meat produced in the country was of the chicken species.

Table II.29. Production of poultry meat and by-products during the period 2017 - 2018

	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
In abattoirs	103,960	116,537	12.1%
On farms	3,004	1,932	-35.7%
Total	106,964	118,469	10.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics. Department

2.3.6. Apiculture

Beekeeping is a sector with long-standing traditions, the development of which benefits from the appropriate natural, climatic and ecological conditions in Bulgaria, as well as from the rich and varied flora of the Balkan Peninsula. Considering the irreplaceable medicinal properties of honey and bee products, there is an increased interest and demand from consumers, and the good quality parameters of Bulgarian honey make it largely export oriented.

Bee-keeping represents alternative employment for the population in underdeveloped rural areas, providing additional income.

The implemented for the fourth consecutive three-year National Beekeeping Programme, which was developed with the wide participation of the beekeeping organisations, has a positive impact on the sector.

As of October 1, 2018, the number of farms with bee colonies in the country was 8.7% less compared to the previous year, the decrease regarding all sizes of farms with up to 149 bee colonies. Nevertheless, the total number of bee colonies increased by 2.3% (up to 783,348), as the professional farms raising 150 or more bee colonies increased by 36.7% on an annual basis, and the bee colonies on them - by 29.6%.

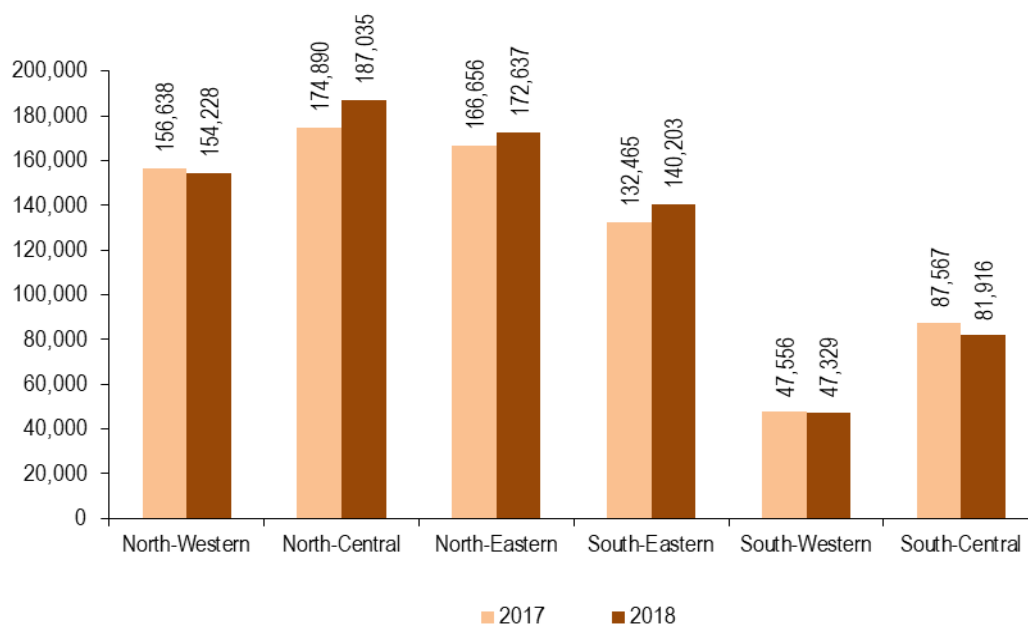
Thus, the average number of bee families raised on a farm during the year reached 63.9, compared to 57 in 2017.

Table II.30. Number bee farms and bee colonies as of October 1st

Number of bee colonies on a farm	Number of farms			Number of bee colonies			Average number of bee colonies		
	2017	2017	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017
From 1 to 9	2,804	2,510	-10.5%	13,041	11,550	-11.4%	4.6	4.6	0.0%
From 10 to 49	5,239	4,584	-12.5%	118,679	106,891	-9.9%	22.7	23.3	2.6%
From 50 to 149	4,188	3,526	-15.8%	354,771	302,870	-14.6%	84.7	85.9	1.4%
150 and more	1,200	1,640	36.7%	279,281	362,037	29.6%	232.7	220.8	-5.1%
Total	13,431	12,260	-8.7%	765,772	783,348	2.3%	57.0	63.9	12.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Figure II.5. Number of bee colonies by region in 2017 and 2018



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Traditionally, bee-keeping is more widespread in Northern and South-eastern Bulgaria, where in 2018 more than 83% of bee colonies were raised. The largest number of bee colonies were raised in the North Central and North-Eastern regions (22% each), followed by the North-Western (19.7%) and South-Eastern regions (17.9%).

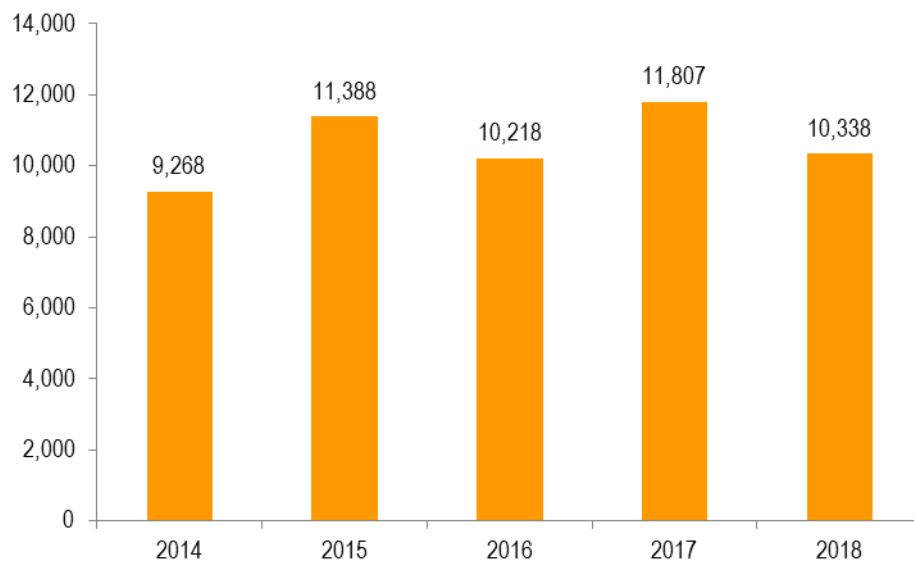
In 2018, the number of bee colonies from which honey was extracted increased by 3.5% compared to the previous year, reaching 613,946. As a result of the lower average yield (16.8 kg per bee colony), partly influenced by adverse weather conditions, honey extracted during the year was 12.4% below the 2017 level, amounting to 10,338 tonnes.

The sales of honey and average selling prices (excluding VAT) in 2018 were as follows:

- Direct sales to end users - 1,523 tonnes - 7.41 BGN /kg;
- Direct sales to retailers - 549 tonnes - 5.39 BGN /kg;
- Sales to processing plants - 4,210 tonnes - 4.94 BGN / kg;
- Sales to industry - 324 tonnes - BGN 4.67 / kg;
- For own needs and nutrition of bees - 1,554 tonnes.

In 2018, the total volume of honey produced decreased by 25.2% on annual basis, down to 8,160 tonnes. The largest drop was observed in the sales to industry - by 50.8%, as well as in the direct sales to retailers - by 36.3%. Direct sales to end consumers and those to processing plants decreased by 22% and 27% respectively, and the quantity of honey for own needs and nutrition of bees - by 7.5%. As of October 1, 2018, unrealized quantities of honey were by 55.4% higher compared to the previous year, reaching 3,285 tonnes.

Figure II.6. Production of honey in the period 2014 - 2018, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

As a result of disease, poisoning, starvation and other causes, a total of 50,702 bee colonies were destroyed in 2018, which is by 24.3% lower compared to the previous year.

Varoatosis is a common disease in Europe, including Bulgaria. Its invasion significantly affects the yields and its treatment measures affect the quality of honey. In 2018, 777 549 bee colonies were treated (99% of the total number), at an average cost of one treatment BGN 5.12, which is by 3.3% less than the cost of the previous year.

The nutrition of bee colonies during the year includes: winter - 555,154 bee colonies, spring - 569,544 bee colonies and autumn feeding - 543 622 bee colonies.

Farms practising mobile apiculture in 2018 decreased by 24.5% on an annual basis, down to 364 farms, and bee colonies on them - by 23.3%, down to 26,571.

Within the fourth three-year National Bee-keeping Programme applicable for the period 2017 - 2019, a budget of BGN 4,758,594 (including 50% national co-financing) was provided for 2018, of which bee-keepers were paid a total of 3,803,709 BGN, which represents 80% utilisation of the total resource.

2.3.7. Rabbit Breeding

In recent years, breeding rabbits in the country was the sooner amateur in character. According to expert estimates, the total number of rabbits in the country in 2018 was 115 thousand heads.

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

- Poor professional training of rabbit farmers;
- Obsolete equipment;
- High production costs that often exceed purchase prices;
- Lack of stable strategic export markets and partners;

- Strong dependence of rabbit meat exports on external markets;
- Lack of direct subsidies for rabbit farmers;
- Insufficient scientific potential to secure the sector;
- Insufficient marketing and management on the Bulgarian market.

2.4. Organic Farming Status in Bulgaria in 2018

Factors that motivate Bulgarian farmers to focus on organic production are the availability of very good prerequisites for the development of this type of production in the country - environmentally conserved areas, the perceived benefits to the environment and rural areas, as well as the growing demand for healthy food from consumers.

Information on the state of organic production in Bulgaria for 2018 is based on the data from the annual reports of a total of 17 organic control entities approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

2.4.1. Control System Operators

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

As of the end of 2018, the biological operators registered in the MAFF were 6,660 - 162 less compared to the previous year. Of these, 6,214 were producers, 234 were processors of organic production and 212 were traders (importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers).

In 2018, the number of operators in a control system in organic production represented nearly 7.2% of the total registered farmers under Ordinance No. 3 of 1999 on the establishment and maintenance of a register of farmers. There is a relative preservation of the level from the previous year, when this share was slightly below 7.1%.

2.4.2. Lands within Control System. Groups of Organically Grown Crops

An increase in the areas to which organic production methods were applied (transitional areas and organic areas) is set for 2018.

Table II.31. Areas in a control system (ha)

	2017	2018
Cereals, incl. rice	16,601.8	21,019.4
Grain legumes, protein crops for leguminous grain production	1,238.1	17,380.2
Root crops	342.2	1,366.8
Industrial crops – total	22,998.4	31,272.7
Green/Forage crops from arable land	14,366.3	1,119.7
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (greenhouse and field production)	2,894.4	5,526.8
Perennials	30,485.0	38,188.5
Permanent meadows and pastures	39,921.1	40,751.0
Fallow	7,782.2	5,707.1
Total Lands within Control System	136,629.2	162,332.4

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

In 2018, the area under the control system represented 3.2% of the total utilized agricultural area in the country, compared to 2.7% in the previous year. Of all the areas applied for SAPS assistance during the year, about 2.4% were areas under control.

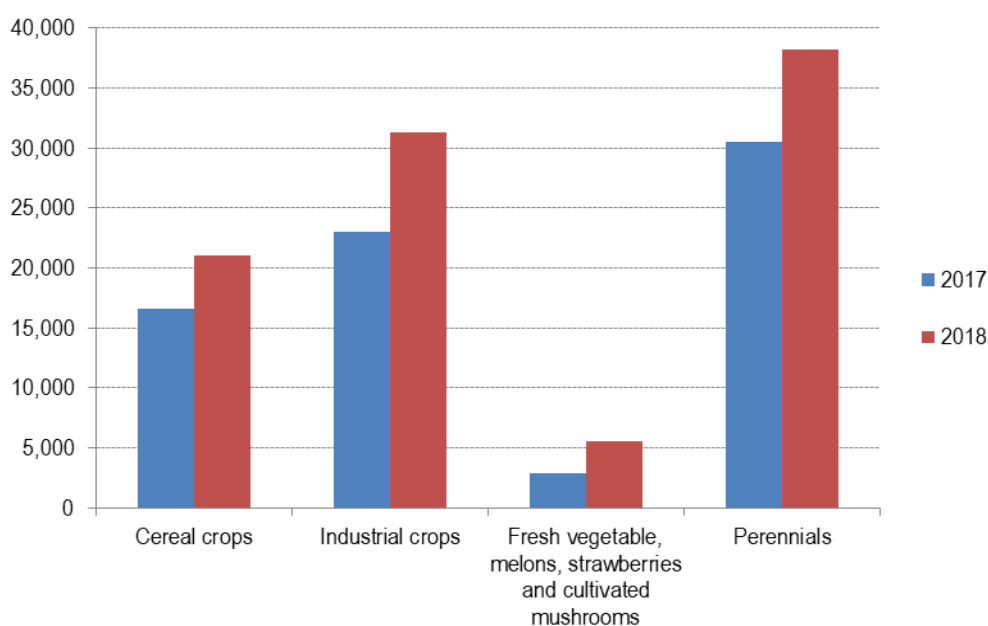
Table II.32. Areas of organic production and areas in transition (ha)

Type of crops	Areas in transition		Areas that have passed the transition period		Total area	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Cereals, incl. rice	10,409	3,991	6,192	17,028	16,602	21,019
Industrial crops	14,481	8,708	8,517	22,565	22,998	31,273
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (total)	1,338	2,336	1,556	3,191	2,894	5,527
Perennials	19,165	15,409	11,320	22,780	30,485	38,188
Permanent meadows and pastures	26,498	16,100	13,423	24,651	39,921	40,751
Forage crops from arable land (Green crops)	9,766	277	4,601	842	14,366	1,120
Fallow	5,455	2,362	2,328	3,345	7,782	5,707

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

Areas with cereals - organic production increased by 26.6% compared to the previous year, up to 21 019.4 ha, mainly growing wheat, maize, barley and oats.

Figure II.7. Areas with main groups of crops grown organically in 2017 and 2018 (ha)



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

The areas occupied by industrial crops under the control system in 2018 were 31,272.7 ha (including areas with Damask rose, aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices). Compared to 2017, there was an increase by 8,274.4 tonnes or by 36%. Areas with aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices reached 20,548.1 ha, which is 3,688.8 ha more on an annual basis. The largest share of this crop group was occupied by the areas with lavender (7,021.5 ha), followed by those with fennel (3,948.2 ha), coriander (2,648.6 ha) and Damask rose (2,255.2 ha).

The area with permanent crops was increased by 25.3% compared to 2017, up to 38,188.5 ha.

The area under the control system with fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries and cultivated mushrooms almost doubled, reaching 5,526.8 ha.

Just over 2% was the increase in areas with permanent meadows and pastures.

2.4.3. Organic Livestock Breeding

The organic livestock sector in Bulgaria continues to be less developed than organic crop production, although in recent years there has been a positive trend in the number of farm animals in the control system. In the country, organically raised were chiefly cattle, sheep, goats and bee colonies.

Following the upward trend of the last 5 years, in 2018 organic cattle reached 11,359 heads – an increase by 9.2% on an annual basis, representing 2.2% of the total cattle in the country.

Number of goats in the control system continues to increase. In 2018, their number was 9,339 - by 316 more compared to 2017, representing 3.4% of the total number of goats in the country.

Table II.33. Farm animals in control system (includes animals in transition)

	Groups of organically raised animals		Total number of animals bred in 2018 r.	Share of organically raised animals from the total number of animals for 2018
	2017	2018		
Cattle	10,400	11,359	526,491	2.2%
Sheep	25,959	23,636	1,350,033	1.8%
Goats	9,023	9,339	271,734	3.4%
Bee colonies	250,434	264,069	783,348	33.7%

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

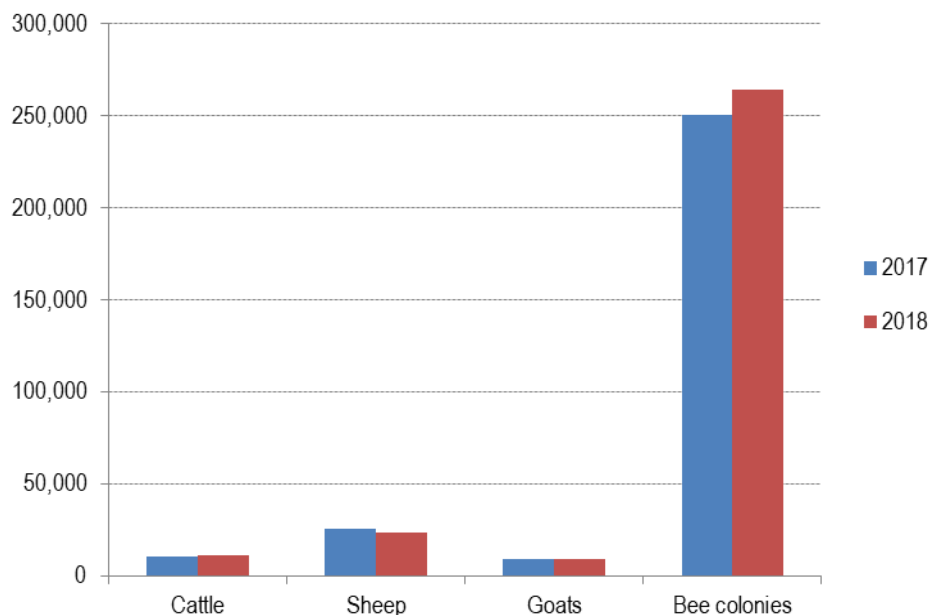
By 5.4% was the increase of organically bred bee colonies in 2018, which forms about one third of the total bee colonies raised.

Only the number of organically raised sheep showed a decrease by 8.9%, down to 23,636 heads, compared to 2017.

By organic means, in 2018, 5 280 tonnes of raw milk, 5.7 tonnes of cream, 10.5 tonnes of butter and 244 tonnes of cheese were produced. Organic production of bee honey and bee-keeping products during the year amounted to 3,203 tonnes, compared to 3,760 tonnes in 2017.

In 2018, 1,500 tonnes of organic mussels were produced, 500 tonnes less than the previous year.

Figure II.8. Number of organic farm animals in 2018 (including animals in transition)



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

2.4.4. Organic Products Market

Although relatively new and still small, the market for organic products in Bulgaria is growing rapidly. Over the last few years, there was a boom in the market for organic products in Bulgaria. The number of specialized stores is increasing as well as the number of retail stores offering organic food.

Most of the Bulgarian organic foods and products are intended for foreign markets. Bulgaria is a traditional producer of various types of organic certified honey with excellent quality indicators, with most of the production being exported to the world market.

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

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry promotes the development of organic farming by creating the necessary legal framework that makes Bulgarian bio products legitimate in the EU common market and through information and awareness raising activities on the benefits and advantages of organic farming. The efforts are also directed towards the Bulgarian producers to work for the Bulgarian market, so that the majority of the high quality products produced reach the Bulgarian consumers.

2.5. Viticulture and Wine-Production

2.5.1. Grapes Production

Areas

In 2018, the area of vineyards on the farms decreased by 1.1% compared to the previous year, down to 50,727 ha, with no care for nearly 15 thousand ha, mainly due to economic and social reasons. About 5% of the farm area is still young, at pre-fruit-bearing age.

The non-cultivated vineyards, as well as those of small and fragmented parcels outside the agricultural farms, were 13,676 ha.

Table II.34. Vineyards in Bulgaria for the period 2009 - 2018

Year	Vineyards on agricultural farms, ha	Vineyards outside farms, ha	Total area of vineyards, ha
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
2016	50,892	12,024	62,916
2017	51,272	12,680	63,952
2018	50,727	13,676	64,400

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total area planted with vines in 2018 was 64,400 ha, by 0.7% more than the previous year.

Traditionally, the largest share of vineyards on the farms (about 76%) is in the Southern part of the country, mainly in the Southeast and South Central regions.

Table II.35. Distribution of vineyards in 2018 by location of farms

Regions	Total area (ha)	Including harvested (ha)	Harvested, %
North-Western	5,233	2,317	44%
North-Central	2,832	1,343	47%
North-Eastern	4,448	2,654	60%
South-Eastern	17,646	12,276	70%
South-Western	2,974	2,376	80%
South-Central	17,594	10,354	59%
Total	50,727	31,320	62%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2018, were harvested a total of 31,320 ha with vines, by 8% less than the previous year. From over 2,180 ha of fruit-bearing vines no produce was harvested during the year due to bad weather conditions. Compared to 2017, the total harvested area under vines with red wine grape varieties decreased by about 10%, with a decrease in the area under cultivation in almost all areas except the North-Eastern and South Central regions, where there was an increase by 16% and 2% respectively. For table vines, the total harvested area was by about 9% less than in 2017, with the most significant decrease in the North-Eastern region – by about 36% and in the North-Western region - by about 26%. In the case of white wine varieties, the reduction of the harvested area was by 5% for the whole country, most significantly in the South-Western and North-Western regions, by 58% and 33% respectively.

Table II.36. Distribution of harvested vineyards in 2018 by statistical regions

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine varieties (ha)		Table varieties (ha)		Total vineyards (ha)	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
North-Western	2,048	1,821	690	461	47	35	2,785	2,317
North-Central	731	653	572	614	73	76	1,376	1,343
North-Eastern	652	758	1,581	1,838	91	58	2,324	2,654
South-Eastern	5,948	4,873	7,032	6,838	532	565	13,512	12,276
South-Western	3,039	2,033	163	68	318	275	3,520	2,376
South-Central	7,741	7,917	1,788	1,508	1,065	929	10,594	10,354
Total	20,159	18,055	11,826	11,327	2,126	1,938	34,111	31,320

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Red wine varieties continued to be leaders in the structure of vineyards in 2018, with a relative share of about 58%, followed by areas with white wine varieties - about 36%, and table varieties - about 6%.

Average yields

The average yield of wine grape varieties in 2018 were 6,214 kg/ha, by 6.8% higher than the previous year. At the same time, the table varieties of vineyards showed a decrease in the average yield by 9.2% to 6,103 kg / ha.

Table II.37. Average yield of grapes from the vineyards - harvest `2018

Regions	Average yield from vineyards (kg/ha)	
	White wine varieties	Table varieties
North-Western	5,183	2,714
North-Central	6,151	3,737
North-Eastern	5,483	3,603
South-Eastern	6,948	6,350
South-Western	6,046	5,596
South-Central	5,798	6,580
Bulgaria	6,214	6,103

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The highest average yields of wine varieties were reported in the South-Eastern and North Central Regions (6,948 kg/ha and 6,151 kg/ha, respectively), and from the table varieties - in the South Central Region (6,580 kg/ha).

Production

In general, 2018 was characterized by favourable agro-meteorological conditions to the development of vineyards in the country.

The total production of grapes ((vineyards and trellis vines) in the country during the year amounted to 195,470 tonnes, which is by 3% below the level of 2017. The grapes from vineyards were 194,397 tonnes (by

3% less annually), in the following proportions: wine grape - 94%, and table grape - 6%. Production of trellis vines decreased by 2.5%, down to 1,073 tonnes.

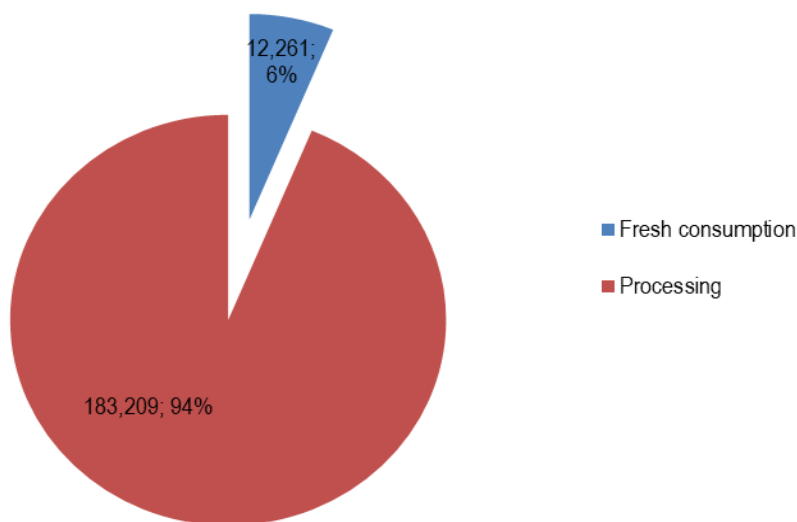
Traditionally, the largest production of vineyards was reported in the South-Eastern and South Central regions, where about 75% of all production is concentrated. In 2018 in most parts of the country there was a decrease in the production of grapes from vineyards, most significantly in the South-Western region - by 32%. Solely in the North Central and South Central regions an increase of production was reported, by about 16%.

Table II.38. Grape production - harvest `2018

Regions	Grape from vineyards			Grapes of trellis vines (tonnes)	Total grapes produced (tonnes)
	Wine grape (tonnes)	Table grape (tonnes)	Total grape from vineyards produced (tonnes)		
North-Western	11,827	95	11,922	-	-
North-Central	7,793	284	8,077	-	-
North-Eastern	14,235	209	14,444	-	-
South-Eastern	81,363	3,588	84,951	-	-
South-Western	12,702	1,539	14,241	-	-
South-Central	54,649	6,113	60,762	-	-
Total	182,569	11,828	194,397	1,073	195,470

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Figure II.9. Distribution of grapes produced – harvest `2018, tonnes and percentage

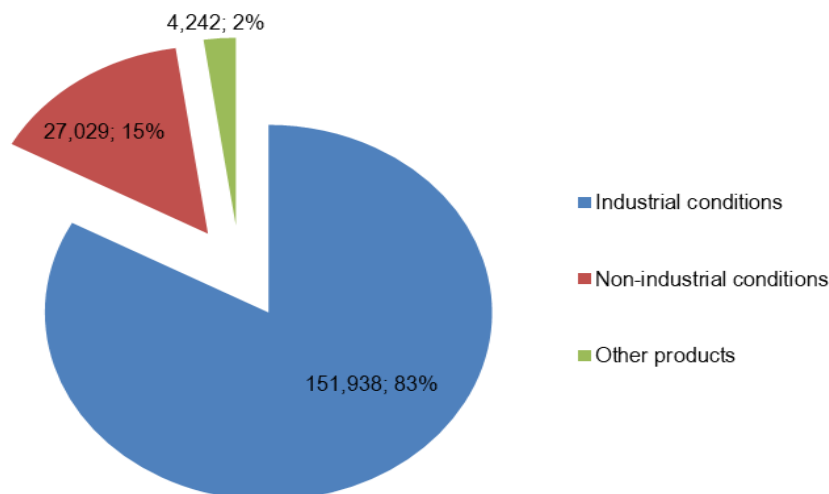


Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

According to the data of the Executive Agency for Vine and Wine, in 2018 the amount of wine grapes purchased and processed from the wineries amounted to 151,938 tonnes, 13.9 thousand tonnes less compared to the previous year.

The grapes intended for processing in non-industrial conditions amounted to 27,029 tonnes and 4,242 tonnes of processed grapes were needed for products other than wine and grape must.

Figure II.10. Distribution of grapes – harvest `2018, intended for processing, tonnes and percentage



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

2.5.2. Wine Production

The total production of wine from the harvest `2018 declared by the registered wine producers amounted to 1,040,650 hectolitres - by 3.6% less compared to the previous year. In the case of white wines, a decrease of production of about 7% on an annual basis was reported, up to 526,519 hectolitres, while in the case of red wines and rosé wines, the level of the previous year was kept - 514,131 hectolitres. The amount of grape must produced was reduced by 63% to 28,404 hectolitres.

With the highest share of industrial wine production - harvest `2018, was table wines (wines without protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication) – 59.8%, followed by regional wines (wines with protected geographical marking) with 39.6 %.

Leader in the wine industry was the South-Eastern Region with about 57% of total industrial production, followed by the South Central Region with 21%. The lowest was the share of wine produced in the North-Western region - 2%.

Table II.39. Quantity of wine and grape must produced by wineries, harvest `2018

Regions	Quantity of wine and grape must produced, hectolitres								
	PDO* wines (quality)		PGI** wines (regional)		Other wines (including table wines)		Musts	Total wine	
	White	Red and rosé	White	Red and rosé	White	Red and rosé		White	Red and rosé
North-Western region	0	1,181	3,387	4,563	3,533	7,883	0	6,920	13,627
North Central region	0	1,638	17,404	15,729	9,578	17,992	0	26,982	35,359
North-Eastern region	491	0	30,766	8,728	18,309	11,631	0	49,566	20,359
South-Eastern region	536	614	96,366	108,188	259,887	122,454	9,732	356,789	231,256
South-Western region	0	0	4,565	15,259	17,634	44,985	0	22,199	60,244
South Central Region	0	1,280	21,584	85,569	42,479	66,437	18,672	64,063	153,286
TOTAL WINE:	1,027	4,713	174,072	238,036	351,420	271,382	28,404	526,519	514,131

Source: Executive Agency on Vine and Wine

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

In non-industrial conditions, 129,536 hectolitres of wine were produced in 2018, compared to 113,195 hectolitres for the previous year.

Thus, the total production of wine - harvest `2018 amounted to 1,170,186 hectolitres, by 1.9% lower than harvest` 2017.

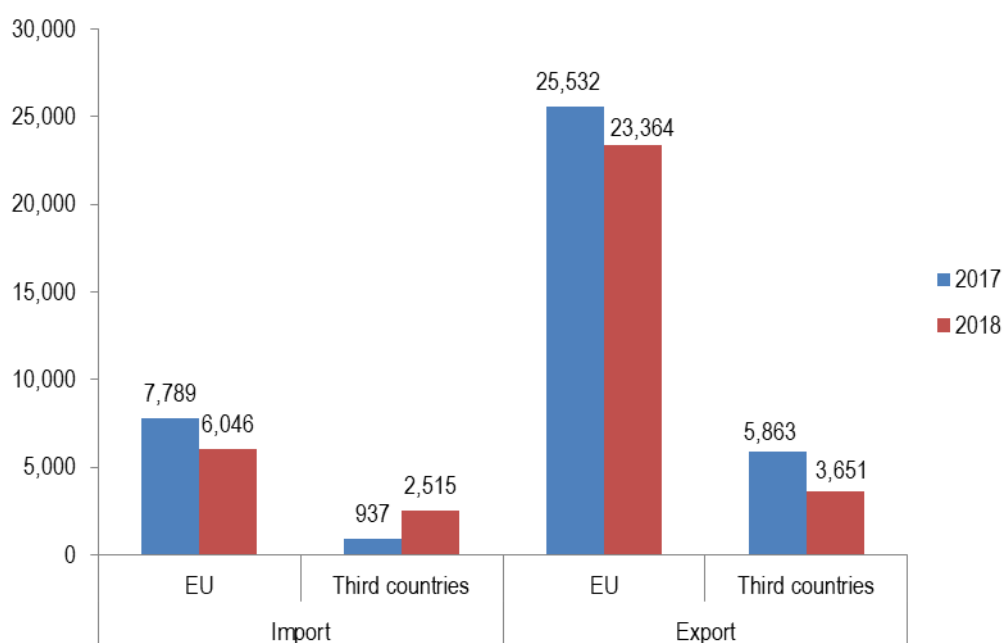
2.5.3. Export and Import of Wine

Exports of wine from Bulgaria have traditionally exceeded significantly imports into the country.

Export

According to NSI final data, in 2018 wine exports amounted to 27,015 thousand litres - by 14.0% less than in the previous year, the quantities destined for the EU decreasing by 8.5% and those for the third countries - by almost 37.7%. In terms of value, exports decreased slightly less - by 9.0% to EUR 32,214 thousand due to an increase in the average export price by 5.3% to EUR 1.19 / litre.

Figure II.11. Foreign trade in wine during the period 2017 - 2018, thousand litres



Source: NSI

The main destination for Bulgarian wines remained the EU countries in general, making 23,363 thousand litres, or 87%, of total exports for 2018. Of which, Poland was the main counterparty, although shipments to the Polish market shrunk by 14% compared to 2017. Significant quantities were also directed to Sweden, the United Kingdom and Czech Republic, taking into account the growth of exports for all three countries - by between 18.4% and 36.3%. On the other hand, shipments to other important partners such as Romania, Slovakia and Croatia were significantly reduced.

Exports of wine to third countries in 2018 amounted to 3,651 thousand litres. There was a significant decrease in the quantities realized in leading markets such as Russia (by 50.4%), China (by 58.0%) and the USA (by 16.1%), etc. This was only partially offset by a nine-fold increase in exports to Côte d'Ivoire and exports to Nigeria (in the absence of such export in 2017).

Table II.40. Wine Exports in 2017 and 2018, litres

Countries	2017	2018
EU, including:	25,531,954	23,363,719
Poland	16,881,475	14,511,516
Sweden	2,994,208	3,545,329
United Kingdom	1,259,569	1,716,565
Czech Republic	1,237,890	1,488,897
Belgium	516,584	495,944
Germany	390,696	352,691
Lithuania	350,190	304,779
France	155,958	233,483
Romania	648,605	161,664
Slovakia	396,090	143,848
Netherlands	113,270	113,644
Greece	103,574	102,186
Croatia	257,968	51,161
Latvia	52,961	29,016
Italy	36,498	18,140
Other	136,420	94,859
Third parties, including:	5,863,083	3,651,007
Russian Federation	3,237,863	1,606,174
Japan	488,891	484,847
China	1,024,305	430,377
USA	424,970	356,361
Côte d'Ivoire	10,179	93,393
Canada	127,350	81,760
Mongolia	54,567	76,536
Nigeria	-	64,022
Hong Kong	65,319	59,919
Belarus	31,239	58,500
Vietnam	85,814	56,624
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	51,009	53,698
Other	261,578	228,798
Total	31,395,037	27,014,726

Source: NSI

Import

In 2018, 8,560 thousand litres of wine were imported to the country, which is 1.9% less than in 2017. As a result of the increase in the average price (by 7.4%, up to 2.31 EUR/litre), the value of imports increased by 5.5%, up to EUR 19,800 thousand.

Table II.41. Wine Imports in 2017 and 2018, litres

Countries	2017	2018
EU, including:	7,789,399	6,045,571
Spain	2,557,920	1,581,604
Italy	2,759,659	1,194,733
France	892,587	1,178,854
Romania	219,237	763,998
Germany	781,309	734,769
Czech Republic	209,734	169,663
Sweden	1,553	134,493
Greece	53,272	78,332
United Kingdom	56,506	49,159
Portugal	30,938	31,574
Belgium	19,931	29,997
Other	206,755	98,397
Third parties, including:	937,374	2,514,744
Republic of Northern Macedonia	93,980	1,557,031
New Zealand	393,490	543,678
Chile	251,807	232,302
Argentina	51,384	55,178
Kosovo		47,100
Georgia	12,524	22,342
Other	134,190	57,113
Total	8,726,774	8,560,315

Source: NSI

Shipments of wine from European Union were reduced by 22.4% on annual basis, down to 6,046 thousand litres, accounting for 70.6% of total imports. Traditionally, the most significant quantities were imported from Spain and Italy, with both countries registering a significant decrease compared to 2017 - by 38.2% and 56.7% respectively. At the same time, shipments from France increased by 32.1% and those from Romania more than tripled.

Imports of wine from third countries amounted to 2,515 thousand litres - more than double compared to the previous 2017, mainly as a result of repeatedly increased imports from Northern Macedonia.

III. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TRADE

In 2018, the agricultural sector retained its importance in the foreign trade of the country; according to NSI data forming 15.0% of total exports, 10.1% of total imports and 12.4% of total trade turnover for the year.

Table III.1. Share of agricultural commodities in the foreign trade of Bulgaria in the period 2017 - 2018, thousand EUR

Year	2017		Share of Agricultural sector in%	2018		Share of Agricultural sector in%
	Total for the country	Agricultural sector		Total for the country	Agricultural sector	
Export, FOB	27,915,852	4,171,765	14.9%	28,647,953	4,308,919	15.0%
Imports, CIF	30,285,679	3,143,167	10.4%	32,147,872	3,256,144	10.1%
Commodities exchange	58,201,531	7,314,932	12.6%	60,795,825	7,565,064	12.4%

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF,

1. Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Level and Dynamics

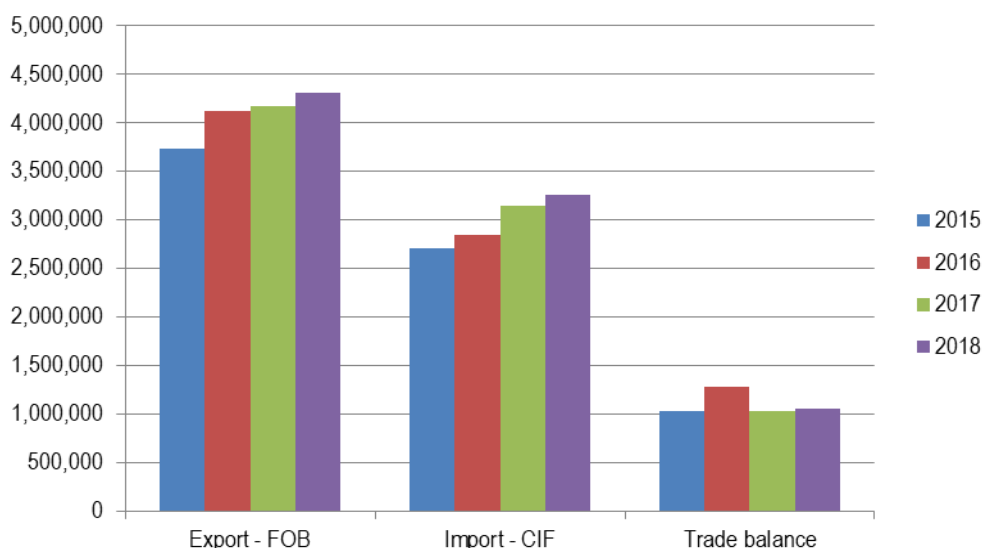
According to final data, in 2018 the agricultural trade of Bulgaria amounted to EUR 7,565.1 million, 3.4% above the level of the previous year. The value of exported agricultural goods increased by 3.3% on an annual basis, to EUR 4,308.9 million, mainly due to the export of maize, wheat, sunflower oil and oilcake. Agricultural imports reported an increase of 3.6% to EUR 3,256.1 million, mainly as a result of the increase in the supply of sunflower seeds, citrus fruits, tobacco and chocolate products. Thus, in the course of 2018 a positive trade balance for Bulgaria was formed in the amount of EUR 1,052.8 million, which is 2.4% more than in 2017.

Table III.2. Foreign trade in agricultural commodities in the period 2017 - 2018, thousand EUR

	2017	2018	Change 2018/2017	
			In value	in %
Export- FOB	4,171,765	4,308,919	137,154	3.3%
Imports- CIF	3,143,167	3,256,144	112,977	3.6%
Balance	1,028,598	1,052,775	24,177	2.4%
Stock exchange	7,314,932	7,565,064	250,132	3.4%

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Figure III.1. Import and export of agricultural commodities in the period 2015 - 2018, thousand EUR



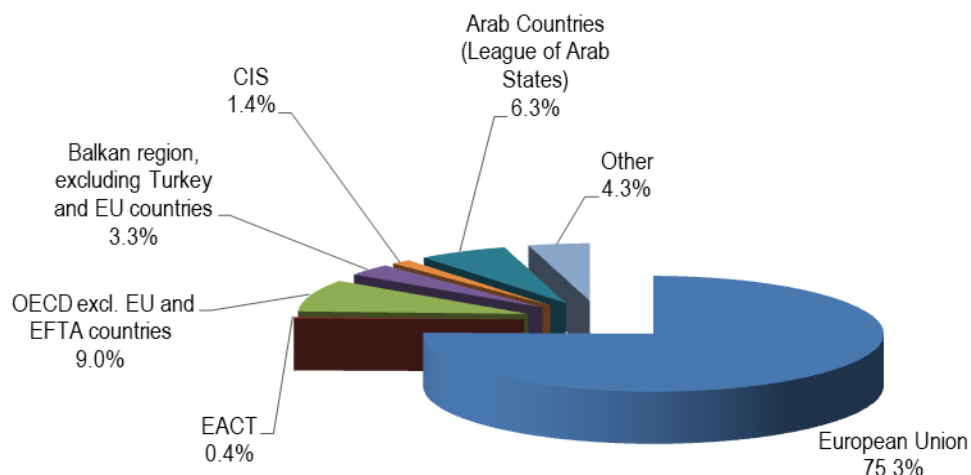
Source: NSI

2. Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Geographical Distribution

The main partners of Bulgaria in the trade in agricultural commodities are the countries of the European Union. In 2018, agricultural trade with the EU increased by 6.0% on an annual basis, with the Union's share of the country's total agricultural exports being 75.3% and that of agricultural imports - 79%.

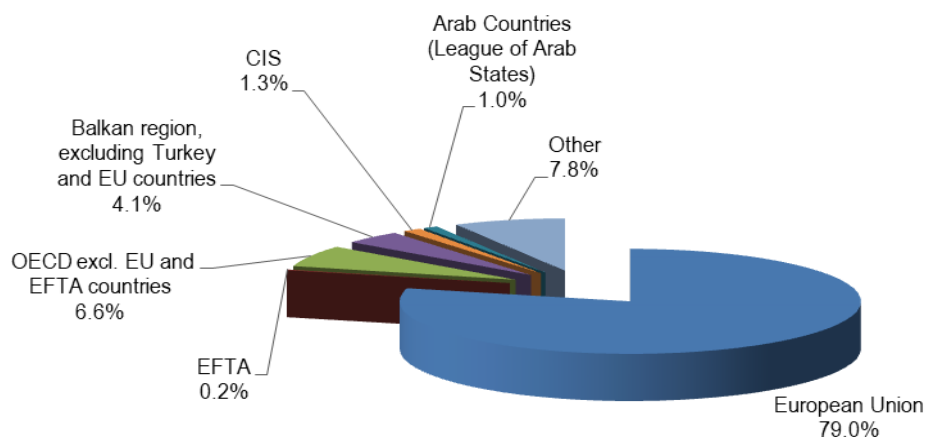
On the other hand, the overall exchange of agricultural commodities with third countries decreased by 4.3%, most significantly in trade with Arab countries (by 26.3%).

Figure III.2. Structure of agricultural exports of Bulgaria by economic communities in 2018



Source: NSI

Figure III.3. Structure of agricultural import of Bulgaria by economic communities in 2018



Source: NSI

Table III.3. Imports and exports of agricultural commodities by economic communities and regions in 2017 and 2018, million EUR

Trade areas	2017					2018				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	million EUR	%	million EUR	%	million EUR	million EUR	%	million EUR	%	million EUR
All countries including:	4,171.8	100.0	3,143.2	100.0	1,028.6	4,308.9	100.0	3,256.1	100.0	1,052.8
European Union	2,983.0	71.5	2,505.1	79.7	477.9	3,243.9	75.3	2,572.3	79.0	671.6
EFTA	15.8	0.4	5.3	0.2	10.5	15.6	0.4	6.3	0.2	9.3
OECD**, excluding EU and EFTA countries	416.5	10.0	161.3	5.1	255.2	388.3	9.0	215.4	6.6	172.9
including USA	72.9	1.7	22.9	0.7	50	69.6	1.6	23.1	0.7	46.5
Balkan region excluding Turkey and EU countries***	134.6	3.2	140.8	4.5	-6.2	143.1	3.3	133.3	4.1	9.8
CIS	59.7	1.4	51.1	1.6	8.6	61.4	1.4	40.8	1.3	20.6
including Russia	40.4	1.0	9.1	0.3	31.3	46.1	1.1	7.0	0.2	39.1
Arab countries (League of Arab States)	373.4	9.0	21.3	0.7	352.1	271.2	6.3	32.7	1.0	238.5
Other	188.8	4.5	258.3	8.2	-69.5	185.4	4.3	255.3	7.8	-69.9

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

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

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

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

Trade with the EU

In 2018, trade in agricultural goods with EU countries amounted to EUR 5,816 million (76.8% of total agricultural commodity exchange), which is EUR 328.2 million or 6% more than in 2017. As a result, of a further increase in the value of shipments from Bulgaria to the European markets (by 8.7%) compared to that of the EU deliveries (by 2.7%), the positive balance in the agrarian trade with the EU increased by 41% on annual basis, up to EUR 671.6 million.

Table III.4. Agricultural trade of Bulgaria with EU Member States in 2017 and 2018

Country	2017					2018				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR
Total, including:	2,983,015	100	2,505,083	100	477,932	3,243,937	100	2,572,344	100	671,593
Austria	40,615	1.4	62,285	2.5	-21,670	33,993	1.0	75,145	2.9	-41,152
Belgium	151,200	5.1	53,198	2.1	98,002	134,128	4.1	53,147	2.1	80,981
Germany	252,937	8.5	340,861	13.6	-87,924	292,440	9.0	343,373	13.3	-50,933

Country	2017					2018				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR	%	thousand EUR
Greece	592,705	19.9	341,920	13.6	250,786	604,387	18.6	340,162	13.2	264,225
Denmark	10,855	0.4	35,037	1.4	-24,182	11,668	0.4	33,236	1.3	-21,568
Estonia	1,423	0.0	3,310	0.1	-1,887	1,769	0.1	5,384	0.2	-3,615
Ireland	6,765	0.2	17,679	0.7	-10,914	48,618	1.5	19,475	0.8	29,143
Spain	400,392	13.4	149,963	6.0	250,429	308,567	9.5	152,656	5.9	155,911
Italy	187,235	6.3	168,231	6.7	19,004	274,612	8.5	204,879	8.0	69,733
Cyprus	34,749	1.2	3,231	0.1	31,518	47,534	1.5	4,695	0.2	42,839
Latvia	3,835	0.1	6,202	0.2	-2,367	3,975	0.1	5,608	0.2	-1,633
Lithuania	9,501	0.3	11,731	0.5	-2,230	16,027	0.5	17,462	0.7	-1,435
Luxembourg	697	0.0	509	0.0	188	456	0.0	2,059	0.1	-1,603
Malta	1,976	0.1	1,100	0.0	876	2,840	0.1	439	0.0	2,401
Netherlands	199,071	6.7	203,733	8.1	-4,662	282,050	8.7	193,135	7.5	88,915
United Kingdom	99,111	3.3	55,412	2.2	43,699	148,847	4.6	57,547	2.2	91,300
Poland	107,474	3.6	262,515	10.5	-155,041	126,520	3.9	267,417	10.4	-140,897
Portugal	59,803	2.0	4,986	0.2	54,817	33,579	1.0	4,735	0.2	28,844
Romania	440,807	14.8	389,179	15.5	51,628	509,591	15.7	401,227	15.6	108,364
Slovakia	18,490	0.6	24,370	1.0	-5,880	19,629	0.6	24,613	1.0	-4,984
Slovenia	7,822	0.3	10,973	0.4	-3,151	9,793	0.3	11,088	0.4	-1,295
Hungary	40,948	1.4	123,051	4.9	-82,103	43,709	1.3	126,360	4.9	-82,651
Finland	6,658	0.2	946	0.0	5,712	6,210	0.2	656	0.0	5,554
France	186,227	6.2	136,070	5.4	50,157	161,819	5.0	121,429	4.7	40,390
Croatia	28,172	0.9	18,982	0.8	9,190	28,107	0.9	26,941	1.0	1,166
Czech Republic	42,421	1.4	64,963	2.6	-22,542	40,826	1.3	64,948	2.5	-24,122
Sweden	50,610	1.7	14,414	0.6	36,196	52,053	1.6	14,443	0.6	37,610

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Among EU countries, Bulgaria's main partners in agricultural trade in 2018 were Greece, Romania, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Poland. The largest share of value had the shipments of agricultural commodities to Greece - 18,6%, Romania - 15,7%, Spain - 9,5%, Germany - 9,0% and the Netherlands - 8,7%, while the leading Union suppliers were Romania - 15.6%, Germany - 13.3%, Greece - 13.2%, Poland - 10.4% and Italy - 8.0%. The neighbours Greece and Romania accounted for nearly one-third of Bulgaria's agricultural trade with the EU during the year, accounting for 34.3% of shipments and 28.8% of EU agricultural deliveries.

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

OECD trade, excluding EU and EFTA countries, represented 9.0% of total agricultural exports and 6.6% of total agricultural imports of Bulgaria for 2018. Within the year a positive balance was formed in the trade of agricultural commodities with these countries amounting to EUR 172.9 million - 32% under the 2017 level, due to a combination of a decrease in Bulgarian exports by 6.8% and an increase in imports by 33.5%.

Trade with the Balkan countries

The countries of the Balkan region retained their importance in the agrarian trade of Bulgaria, due to their territorial proximity.

In 2018, the exchange of agricultural goods with the Balkan countries (including those from the EU and Turkey) amounted to EUR 2,590.0 million (34.2% of the total agricultural commodity exchange). This is 4.3% more than in 2017 as a result of an increase in both Bulgarian exports (by 3.2%) and imports (by 5.7%). The positive balance for Bulgaria in the agrarian trade with these countries shrunk by 2.2% annually, but remained significant - EUR 447.6 million.

Traditionally, the most significant was the exchange of agricultural goods with Greece, Romania and Turkey. In all countries of the Balkan region, with the exception of Serbia and Slovenia, the agricultural exports from Bulgaria exceeded the imports from the respective country.

Table III.5. Agricultural trade with the Balkan region countries in 2017 and 2018, thousand EUR

Country	2017			2018		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Total, including:	1,470,957	1,013,125	457,832	1,518,711	1,071,105	447,606
Albania	18,610	5,801	12,808	20,081	5,769	14,312
Bosnia and Herzegovina	15,226	1,258	13,968	12,633	1,800	10,833
Greece	592,706	341,920	250,786	604,387	340,162	264,226
Kosovo	12,303	1,424	10,879	13,803	1,897	11,906
Republic of Northern Macedonia	43,533	36,490	7,044	46,587	38,041	8,546
Romania	440,807	389,179	51,628	509,591	401,227	108,364
Slovenia	7,822	10,973	-3,151	9,793	11,088	-1,294
Serbia	38,572	95,778	-57,206	38,756	85,748	-46,992
Turkey	266,841	111,269	155,572	223,779	158,428	65,351
Croatia	28,172	18,982	9,190	28,107	26,941	1,165
Montenegro	6,366	51	6,315	11,193	4	11,188

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

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

In 2018, the agricultural trade of Bulgaria with the countries of the European Free Trade Association amounted to EUR 21.9 million - 3.8% more than the previous year. Imports of agricultural commodities from these countries increased by 18.9% on an annual basis, while Bulgarian exports showed a slight decrease - by 1.2%. This led to a decrease of the positive trade balance for Bulgaria by 11.2% compared to 2017, up to EUR 9.4 million.

In 2018, the main EFTA partners remained Norway and Switzerland.

Table III.6. Agricultural commodity trade with the EFTA countries in 2017 and 2018, thousand EUR

Country	2017			2018		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Total, including:	15,833	5,263	10,570	15,642	6,259	9,383

Country	2017			2018		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Iceland	11	1,174	-1,163	68	1,742	-1,674
Liechtenstein	8	-	8	8	-	8
Norway	8,927	1,746	7,181	9,637	1,254	8,382
Switzerland	6,887	2,343	4,544	5,929	3,262	2,667

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

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

The exchange of agricultural goods with the CIS countries in 2018 decreased by 11.1% on an annual basis, to EUR 98.4 million, mainly due to a 20.1% drop in deliveries there. With a slighter decrease in Bulgarian exports to the CIS (by 3.4%), the positive balance in the agricultural trade of Bulgaria with these countries reached EUR 16.9 million, almost twice the reporting for 2017.

The value of agricultural goods exported to Russia increased by 8.3% compared to the previous year, representing about 76% of total agricultural exports to the CIS in 2018.

Trade with Arab countries (League of Arab States)

The agricultural trade between Bulgaria and the Arab countries consists mainly of exports from Bulgaria. According to preliminary data, in 2018 the exchange of agricultural goods with these countries amounted to EUR 290.7 million - 26.3% below the 2017 level due to a 30.9% drop in Bulgarian exports. At the same time, imports of agricultural commodities from Arab countries increased by 52.9%, but remained limited. Thus, the traditionally positive trade balance for Bulgaria decreased by 36% compared to 2017, to EUR 225.4 million.

3. Agrarian Trade Structure and Dynamics by commodities

Export

Cereals had the largest contribution to the increase in total exports of agricultural commodities in 2018. The value of the cereals sold abroad increased by 11.5% compared to the previous year, accounting for 24.1% of the total agricultural exports (Table 7).

Although falling by 4.2% annually, exports of oilseeds continued to occupy second place in the structure of agricultural exports with 13.5%.

Next is the export of fats and oils of vegetable or animal origin; food industry leftovers and prepared animal food and food products prepared on the base of cereals, accounting for between 6.0% and 7.6% of the value of total agricultural exports. In the first two groups, there was an increase in exports on an annual basis, and in the third - a relative retention.

Among other more significant product groups, an increase in exports compared to 2017 was observed in cocoa and cocoa products; non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and vinegar and meat and by-products, and a decrease - in tobacco and processed substitutes for tobacco and milk and dairy products, poultry eggs and natural honey.

Import

In 2018, there was an increase in imports of most major groups of agricultural products.

Imports of meat and by-products remained the most significant in value, accounting for 11.5% of total agricultural imports for the year.

Imports of tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes increased by 18.2% compared to the previous year, and that of fruit; vegetables; non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and vinegar; oilseeds; cocoa and cocoa products; meat and fishery products - within 5.2% - 14%.

Among the more important groups of agricultural products, a decrease was reported in the supply of cereals; sugar and confectionery; milk and dairy products, poultry eggs and natural honey and live animals.

In particular, the leading agricultural products in the country's exports and imports in 2018 are listed in Tables 8 and 9.

Table III.7. Import and export of agricultural commodities during the period 2017 - 2018

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORTS-CIF					Balance 2017	BALANCE 2018
		2017		2018		amend. 2018 /2017	2017		2018		amend. 2018/ 2017	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural products in%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural products in%	%	thousand EUR	share of total Import of agricultural products in%	thousand EUR	share of total Import of agricultural products in%	%		
	a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	TOTAL	27,915,852	.	28,647,953		2.6	30,285,679		32,147,872		6.1	-2,369,827	-3,499,919
	including agricultural commodities:	4,171,765	100.0	4,308,919	100.0	3.3	3,143,167	100.0	3,256,144	100.0	3.6	1,028,597	1,052,776
	SECTION I	509,205	12.2	483,820	11.2	-5.0	767,778	24.4	753,675	23.1	-1.8	-258,574	-269,854
1	Livestock	64,074	1.5	45,646	1.1	-28.8	39,099	1.2	31,853	1.0	-18.5	24,975	13,793
2	Meat and edible meat by-products	188,706	4.5	194,248	4.5	2.9	377,436	12.0	373,787	11.5	-1.0	-188,730	-179,539
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	41,793	1.0	36,703	0.9	-12.2	91,377	2.9	91,695	2.8	0.3	-49,584	-54,992
4	Dairy produce; poultry eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	200,379	4.8	191,245	4.4	-4.6	242,782	7.7	235,812	7.2	-2.9	-42,403	-44,567
5	Other products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	14,253	0.3	15,978	0.4	12.1	17,084	0.6	20,528	0.6	20.2	-2,832	-4,550
	SECTION II	1,926,085	46.2	2,007,829	46.6	4.2	859,533	27.3	875,834	26.9	1.9	1,066,552	1,131,995
6	Live plants and floricultural products	9,858	0.2	9,365	0.2	-5.0	30,606	1.0	30,151	0.9	-1.5	-20,748	-20,786
7	Vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, edible	120,019	2.9	122,043	2.8	1.7	154,235	4.9	168,000	5.2	8.9	34,216	-45,957
8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruits or melons,	106,687	2.6	112,809	2.6	5.7	173,042	5.5	200,284	6.2	15.7	-66,355	-87,475
9	Coffee, tea, maté and spices	94,721	2.3	90,190	2.1	-4.8	137,905	4.4	133,440	4.1	-3.2	-43,184	-43,250
10	Cereals	932,972	22.4	1,039,815	24.1	11.5	119,709	3.8	67,188	2.1	-43.9	813,263	972,627
11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten	50,386	1.2	48,407	1.1	-3.9	32,670	1.0	32,776	1.0	0.3	17,716	15,631
12	Oil seed, oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grain, seed, fruit; industrial or medical plants; straw and fodder	608,083	14.6	582,597	13.5	-4.2	194,956	6.2	218,910	6.7	12.3	413,127	363,687
13	Natural varnishes, gums, resins and other plant juices and extracts	2,813	0.1	2,202	0.1	-21.7	16,131	0.5	24,700	0.7	53.1	-13,318	-22,498
14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included	546	0.0	400	0.0	-26.7	278	0.0	386	0.0	38.8	268	14
	SECTION III	307,788	7.4	326,254	7.6	6.0	117,849	3.7	118,912	3.7	0.9	189,939	207,342

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORTS-CIF					Balance 2017	BALANCE 2018
		2017		2018		amend. 2018 /2017	2017		2018		amend. 2018/ 2017		
		thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural products in%	thousand EUR	share of total exports of agricultural products in%	%	thousand EUR	share of total Import of agricultural products in%	thousand EUR	share of total Import of agricultural products in%	%	thousand EUR	thousand EUR
15	Fats and oils of animal or plant origin; products from their decomposition; processed fats for food; waxes of animal or plant origin	307,788	7.4	326,254	7.6	6.0	117,849	3.7	118,912	3.7	0.9	189,939	207,342
	SECTION IV	1,428,687	34.2	1,491,016	34.6	4.4	1,398,007	44.6	1,507,723	46.3	7.8	30,680	-16,707
16	Products of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	78,217	1.9	87,145	2.0	11.4	51,495	1.6	57,876	1.8	12.4	26,722	29,269
17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	96,971	2.3	93,032	2.2	-4.1	140,343	4.5	119,303	3.7	-15.0	-43,372	-26,271
18	Cocoa and cocoa products	148,240	3.6	179,503	4.2	21.1	197,707	6.3	221,010	6.8	11.8	-49,467	-41,507
19	Food prepared from cereals, flours, starch, farina or milk; pastry confectioner	253,788	6.1	260,257	6.0	2.5	145,717	4.6	157,261	4.8	7.9	108,071	102,996
20	Food made of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants	134,855	3.2	136,079	3.2	0.9	127,003	4.0	132,882	4.1	4.6	7,852	3,197
21	Various types of food products	95,040	2.3	99,718	2.3	4.9	185,841	5.9	192,274	5.9	3.5	-90,801	-92,556
22	Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar	136,864	3.3	149,980	3.5	9.6	234,538	7.5	267,371	8.2	14.0	-97,674	-117,391
23	Residues and waste from the food industry; prepared animal feed	218,293	5.1	267,535	6.1	22.6	127,568	4.2	137,744	4.2	8.0	90,725	129,791
24	Tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes	266,419	6.4	217,766	5.1	-18.3	187,797	6.0	222,003	6.8	18.2	78,622	-4,237

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Table III.8. Leading agricultural commodities in Bulgaria's exports in 2018

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Euro)	Relative share of total agricultural exports (%)
Wheat and a mixture of wheat and rye	4,235,747	732,703,169	17.0
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	787,866	388,284,484	9.0
Sunflower oil, cottonseed oil or safflower oil	407,526	285,157,059	6.6
Maize	1,391,653	228,180,532	5.3
Bakery, pastry or biscuits	94,943	223,583,363	5.2
Meat and edible poultry by-products	46,099	164,343,464	3.8
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	38,758	138,109,789	3.2
Rape or colza seeds, even crushed:	345,398	130,265,474	3.0
Raw or unprocessed tobaccos; tobacco wastes	27,260	121,227,370	2.8

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (Euro)	Relative share of total agricultural exports (%)
Oilcakes and other solid residues, whether or not granulated	504,393	100,963,645	2.3
Preparations of a types used in animal feeding	92,344	116,008,415	2.7
Cigars (including cut edges), cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	9,833	92,426,049	2.1
Cheese and curd	23,510	82,428,373	1.9
Food products not elsewhere specified or included	26,050	79,639,902	1.8
Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, cooked or preserved	37,619	75,995,678	1.8

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Table III.9. Leading agricultural commodities for imports into Bulgaria in 2018

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural imports (%)
Pork	122,078	206,774,468	6.4
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	327,122	157,619,657	4.8
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	35,358	140,457,113	4.3
Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated	38,403	110,118,792	3.4
Food products not elsewhere specified or included	26,905	108,976,341	3.3
Meat and edible poultry by-products	110,352	107,950,704	3.3
Cigars (including cut edges), cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	11,195	107,593,000	3.3
Bakery, pastry or biscuits	45,626	106,438,607	3.3
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, sweetened or flavoured, and other non-alcoholic beverages (excluding fruit and vegetable juices and milk)	153,290	93,449,338	2.9
Indetured ethyl alcohol	20,172	12,910,124	0.4
Raw or unmanufactured tobacco	23,951	84,787,497	2.6
Cheese and curd	26,024	82,495,155	2.5

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural imports (%)
Sugar from sugar cane or from sugar beet and chemically pure sucrose in a solid form	214,468	79,120,432	2.4
Preparations of a types used in animal feeding	73,656	73,724,472	2.3
Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	127,833	55,142,732	1.7

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

4. Agricultural Commodities Foreign Trade Development in 2019

According to the NSI preliminary data, in the first semester of 2019 agricultural exports increased by 6.2% compared to the same period in 2018, up to EUR 2,035 million. The biggest contribution to this was registered growth of the value of exported cereals (by 29.4%). Exports of vegetables increased significantly (by 33.3%), as well of cocoa products (by 23.1%) and soft and alcoholic beverages (by 26.1%).

The leading product groups in the structure of agricultural exports of the country during the period January-June 2019 were cereals and oilseeds, followed by fats of vegetable or animal origin, pasta, residues and waste from the food industry, etc.

Imports of agricultural commodities for the six months of 2019 increased by 8.6% annually, up to EUR 1,695 million.

Thus, for the first semester of 2019 a positive trade balance for Bulgaria was formed, amounting to EUR 340.0 million, 4.2% less compared to the same period of 2018.

The EU's agricultural partners remained the main partners in the country's agricultural trade, accounting for about 68% of total agricultural commodity exports for the six months of 2019 and 77% of total agricultural imports for the period.

5. Activities to support the export of agricultural products

One of the main mechanisms to support exports is to gather and provide information on potential markets for agricultural production in the country. In this regard, in 2018 the following analyses for agricultural products were prepared and published on the MAFF website:

- State and trends of essential oils in Bulgaria. Sales opportunities for produced oils in new markets;
- State and trends of the greenhouse sector in Bulgaria;
- Opportunities for export of greenhouse products to Norway, Switzerland and Belarus.

The ongoing negotiations between the EU and third countries were also addressed in 2018, as an opportunity to increase the export volumes of Bulgarian agricultural products as a result of new trade agreements. The MAFF website provides up-to-date information on the state of play of EU negotiations with all countries, as well as a timetable for the upcoming rounds of negotiations.

Internationally, as a result of the active relations and cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the field of agriculture, in 2180 for the first time Bulgarian farmers from the dairy sector, producers of honey, essential oils, rice and etc. participated in an agricultural exhibition in Riyadh.

In October 2018, a Memorandum was signed between Bulgaria and Saudi Arabia to elaborate a business plan and specific measures for establishing a joint Bulgarian-Saudi state company.

In October 2019, Bulgarian producers participated for the second time in the organized by MAFF national stand at the International Food, Ingredients and Technology Exhibition Saudi Agro -Food 2019

IV. SUPPORTING THE AGRARIAN SECTOR

1. Support under First Pillar of CAP (EU Common Agricultural Policy)

1.1. Area-Based Direct Payments, National Complements to Direct Payments and Specific Support

Area-based and animal-based financial support was provided by the EAGF, EAFRD and the NB. During the calendar year 2018, an authorization was made for payment applications submitted for campaigns 2017 and 2018.

Campaign `2017

Table IV.1. Authorised Funds for Campaign 2017 during the 2018 calendar year

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)			Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
SAPS	63,337	182	100	-	-	77,421,324
SRP	63,269	58,065	100	-	-	105,342,708
GDP	63,337	58,087	100	-	-	455,197,933
YFS	3,542	3,416	100	-	-	1,430,909
Cotton	153	152	100	-	-	4,817,155
SMLK	5,590	13	100	-	-	6,548,862
SMKH	6,568	23	100	-	-	3,536,775
SSCc-MEAT	271	7	100	-	-	207,787
SSC	2,082	8	100	-	-	1,361,295
Buffaloes	266	3	100	-	-	537,918
SF(main)	5,986	5,708	100	-	-	30,595,798
SV(main)	5,474	5,258	100	-	-	26,877,576
SVg	791	779	100	-	-	6,981,960
SPC	17,383	16,993	100	-	-	29,974,608
SSCc-milk	834	0	100	-	-	2,611,442
SF(other)	2,787	2,662	100	-	-	6,749,200
SV(other)	2,637	2,567	100	-	-	4,496,424
SSF	5,326	5,163	100	-	-	5,256,937
TMSA1.	5,382	18	-	-	100	20,101,325
TMSA3.	8,213	16	-	-	100	10,157,965
TNT	41,345	41,323	-	-	100	84,471,116
Measure 214 - Agri-environment payments	1,879	1,743	-	75	25	36,154,892
Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate	5,539	5,276	-	75	25	55,923,955
Measure 11 - Organic Farming	4,255	3,841	-	75	25	55,607,249
Natura 2000	11,550	11,530	-	75	25	44,729,122

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)			Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
Less-favoured areas (LFA) 1.	24,425	24,410	-	75	25	71,757,428
LFA2.	10,513	10,504	-	75	25	22,872,604
Financial discipline	n/a	n/a	100	-	-	15,072,797
Total:						1,186,754,005

Source: SFA-PA

Campaign `2018

During the campaign 2018, farmers were supported under the following schemes and measures for direct payments, financed by European and national funds:

Direct payment schemes

- Single Area Payment scheme
- Scheme for redistributive payment
- Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environment friendly (green direct payment)
- Young Farmers Scheme
- Scheme for small farmers
- Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows
- Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control
- Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas
- Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control
- Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats in mountain regions
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control
- Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
- Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Main Group)
- Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (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 Support Schemes:

- Transitional National Decoupled Tobacco Support Scheme
- Transitional National Decoupled Support Scheme for Cattle
- Transitional National Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats

RDP 2014-2020 measures

- Measure 10 “Agri-environment-climate”
 - 10.1. Agri-environment and climate commitments payments:
 - Direction 10.1.1. Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value
 - Direction 10.1.2. Maintaining the 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 endangered indigenous breeds of importance to agriculture
 - Direction 10.1.6. Conservation of endangered local varieties of importance to agriculture
- Measure 11 Organic Farming
 - 11.1. Payments for conversion to organic farming practices and methods - conversion from conventional to organic production (crop production, 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 and Water Framework Directive payments”
- Measure 13 “Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints”
 - 13.1 Compensatory payments in mountainous areas
 - 13.2 Compensatory payments for areas other than mountainous areas with significant natural constraints

During the campaign `2018, a total of 110,944 applications were accepted under all schemes and measures. To facilitate farmers, when applying for direct payment schemes and measures, applicants can declare the areas they cultivate using digital geographic data obtained from their own measurements with GPS devices. This minimizes the risk of possible errors in the recognition of the area of the digital orthophoto map. The figures for the areas claimed by the beneficiaries in the previous campaign can be obtained through the "space" for individual reference, thus eliminating the need to submit applications in paper form.

Authorization of payments for the Campaign 2018 under the livestock support schemes financed by the NB started in October 2018, and the approved funds under the SAPS and under the EAGF funded animal welfare schemes were authorized in December 2018.

Table IV.2. Authorised Funds for Campaign 2018 during the 2018 calendar year

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)			Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
SAPS	62,464	57,909	100	-	-	634,337,431

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)			Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	EAFRD	NB	
SMLK	4,447	4,357	100	-	-	28,339,651
SMKH	6,054	5,944	100	-	-	18,248,545
SSCc-meat	367	360	100	-	-	3,131,836
SMR	2,673	2,603	100	-	-	3,787,449
SSC	2,207	2,180	100	-	-	23,210,412
Buffalo	279	271	100	-	-	3,615,633
SSCc-milk	908	886	100	-	-	35,405,312
SMLK-MR	282	273	100	-	-	532,445
TMSA1.	,	4,854	-	-	100	19,055,080
TMSA3.	7,623	7,595	-	-	100	15,707,738
Total:						785,371,532

Source: SFA-PA

Area-based support schemes

Single area payment scheme applies for a minimum farm size of 0.5 ha, with a minimum parcel size of 0.1 ha. As a tool for overcoming structural imbalances, a reduction in SAPS payments is made for amounts over EUR 150,000, taking into account farm employment by deducting the costs of agricultural work remuneration before the reductions in payments.

The applications for SAPS support for the Campaign `2018 were 62,464, with a declared area of over 3.8 million ha. As of June 30, 2019, BGN 714,681,989 (96.2% utilisation) were authorized from the budget amounting to BGN 743,039,713. The amount of support per unit area was 195.73 BGN / ha.

Redistributive payment scheme aims at promote economically more vulnerable small and medium-sized farms by raising a single payment per hectare for the first 30 hectares of each farm eligible for SAPS support. For the campaign `2018, the scheme had a budget of BGN 109,274,458 and was claimed by 62,413 farmers. As of June 30, 2019, payments amounting to BGN 106,200,486 or 97.2% of the budget were authorized. The amount of support per unit area was 137.55 BGN / ha.

Payment scheme for climate and environmental friendly agricultural practices (green direct payments) was introduced for the first time in 2015. Farmers eligible for SAPS must comply with crop diversification practices, maintaining permanent grassland, and maintaining eco-friendly areas throughout their hectares, depending on the structure of the farm, its size and the crops grown. For the campaign `2018, the scheme had a budget of BGN 466,317,482 and was claimed by 62,464 farmers. As of June 30, 2019, the authorized financial resource amounted to BGN 452,848,500 (budget utilisation 97.1%), with a support amount of 122.84 BGN/ ha.

Farmers, who are up to 40 years old in 2018 and started farming in the last 5 years, receive an overpayment of 50% of the SAPS payment for the first 30 ha under *The young farmers scheme*. 4,222 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. As of the end of June 2019 the authorized funds amounted to BGN 3,482,920.

Coupled support schemes

Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows

The scheme with a budget of BGN 30,093,539 aimed at supporting dairy farms to maintain the level of milk produced. 4,444 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. As of June 30, 2019, BGN 28,751,184 was authorized under the scheme, which represents 95.5% of the budget utilization. The dairy cow rate set for support was 301.15 BGN/head, with support being granted only to the 250th animal.

Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control

908 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. The annual budget of the scheme amounted to BGN 36,807,035, and the rates set for support - 542.58 BGN/ head for up to 250th eligible animal and 434.06 BGN/ head for the animals over the 250th animal. The authorized funds as of June 30, 2019 amounted to BGN 35,881,240 or 97.5% of the budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers

6,050 farmers submitted their applications for support under the campaign `2018. The authorized funds as of June 30, 2019 amounted to BGN 18,534,590 (budget utilisation - 98.9%). The amount of support for an animal was 152.55 BGN/ head, supporting the first 250 animals on the farm.

Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas

Under the scheme, with an annual budget of BGN 551,879, support was provided to farmers raising 5 to 9 dairy cows in mountainous areas. 282 breeders claimed support for the 2018 campaign, and as of 30.06.2019, 98.6% of the budget were authorized, at a rate of 269.73 BGN / head.

Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control

The determined annual budget of the scheme was BGN 3,249,951, which as of 30.06.2019 was utilized at 97.7%. 367 farmers applied for support. The subsidy per animal amounted to 197.54 BGN / head for up to 250th eligible animal and 158.03 BGN / head for the animals following the 250th animal.

Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats in mountain regions

The scheme supports farmers who raise 10 to 49 ewes and/or goats in mountainous areas in order to maintain the level of production in this category of farms. 2,672 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. As of June 30, 2019, 98.1% of the annual budget, amounting to BGN 3 933 051, was authorized at a rate of 55 BGN/ head.

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

The scheme aims to support farmers raising 50 or more ewes under selection control of one breed and/or 20 or more she-goats under selection control of one breed. 2,207 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. The authorized funds at the end of June 2019 amounted to BGN 23,467,567, which is 97.8% of the budget. The amount of animal support was 73.34 BGN/ head for up to 300th eligible animal and 58.67 BGN/ head for animals over the 300th animal.

Coupled support scheme for buffaloes

Support for buffalo breeding, as a vulnerable sector, is implemented through a separate direct payment scheme. The support is aimed at farmers who raise 10 or more animals. For the campaign `2018, the scheme had a budget of BGN 4,424,442 per year and was claimed by 279 farmers. The amount of animal support was 367.30 BGN/head for up to 250th eligible animal and 293.84 BGN/ head for animals following the 250th animal. The authorized funds as of June 30, 2019 amounted to BGN 3,658,911 or 82.7% of the budget.

Schedule for coupled fruit support (main group) - strawberries, raspberries, apples, pears, apricots, cherries, sour cherries, peaches and nectarines

For the 2018 campaign, 6,318 farmers have applied for support under the scheme. The determined budget was BGN 31,996,554 and the rate was 1,759.98 BGN/ ha for the hectares up to 30th and 1,173.32 BGN/

ha for the hectares over the 30th. The authorized funds as of June 30, 2019 amounted to BGN 31,400,775 or 98.1% of the budget.

Schedule for coupled support for vegetables (main group) - tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, gherkins, onions - ripe, aubergine, carrots, garlic (ripe), field potatoes and / or tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers - greenhouse production

Applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 5,543 farmers. The annual budget amounted to BGN 28,157,942. As of June 30, 2019, BGN 27,527,821 (97.8% of the budget) were authorized for the campaign `2018, at rates of 1,277.62 BGN/ ha for up to the 30th hectare and 851.75 BGN/ ha for hectares following the 30th.

Coupled Support Scheme for Greenhouse Vegetables

Due to the specific nature of greenhouse production, eligible areas are areas with a minimum farm size of 0.5 ha, which can be combined from field and greenhouse production. 854 farmers applied for the 2018 campaign under the scheme. As of June 30, 2019, BGN 8,064,193 was authorized, which represents over 97.5% of the annual budget, at a rate of 17,021.85 BGN/ ha.

Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits –Plums and Table Grapes

The annual budget of the scheme declared for the campaign `2018 by 3 262 farmers was BGN 7,167,291. As of 30.06.2019, 98% of the funds were authorized for the campaign at rates of 1,006.17 BGN/ ha for up to the 30th hectare and 670.78 BGN/ ha for hectares over the 30th.

Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables – Cabbage, Watermelons and Melons

For the campaign `2018, the scheme had a budget of BGN 4,667,358 and was claimed by 2,250 farmers. At the end of June, 2019, BGN 4,571,132 or 97.9% of the budget were authorized for the campaign at rates of 735.49 BGN/ ha for up to the 30th hectare and 490.33 BGN/ ha for hectares over the 30th.

Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops

The main objective of the scheme is to indirectly support livestock farmers by promoting the production of protein crops for feed. On the other hand, it contributes to meeting the requirements for maintaining green areas as part of green requirements. 18,225 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. As of June 30, 2019, BGN 29,085,792 were authorized from the annual budget, amounting to BGN 31,087,793, which represents an utilisation of 96.2%, at a rate of 135.64 BGN/ ha.

Specific support for cotton

Cotton is supported through a stand-alone scheme with a specific budget. 109 farmers applied for support under the campaign 2018, and the funds authorized at the end of June 2019 were BGN 4,965,068.

Scheme for small farmers

4,210 young farmers applied for support for the 2018 campaign. As of June 30, 2019, a financial resource of BGN 1 210 750 was authorized.

Transitional National Support Scheme

In order to secure consistency in the policy of supporting livestock and tobacco sectors with national funds, the implementation of transitional national aid schemes for cattle, buffaloes, ewes, she-goats and tobacco under the national co-payments applied in 2013, continued through the campaign 2018.

Transitional national aid for cattle and buffaloes (decoupled)

The budget of the campaign scheme `2018 'amounted to BGN 38,477,240 and 4,879 farmers declared support. The fixed rate for cattle was 181.44 BGN/ head, and for buffaloes - 317.52 BGN/ head. As of June 30, 2019, payments amounting to BGN 38,393,024 (99.8% of the budget) were authorized.

Transitional National Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats)

7 623 breeders submitted applications under the scheme, with a budget of BGN 32,194,420. As of the end of June 2019, an amount of BGN 31,518,932 (97.9% of the budget allocated) was authorized, with animal support amounting to 39.60 BGN/ head.

Transitional National Support Scheme for Tobacco

Under the Transitional National Decoupled Tobacco Support Scheme the authorized amount for the campaign `2018 as of 30.06.2019 was BGN 80,038,268, for 41,255 applications for support. Payment covers in full the applications for the Virginia, Cape Fur, Burley and Basmie varieties.

Table IV.3. Amount of support under direct payment schemes and transitional national aid and utilisation of their budgets for the campaign `2018, BGN

Scheme	Budget Campaign `2018	Rate Campaign `2018 (BGN/ha)/ (BGN/head)		Campaign Authorization Funds `2018	Implementation of the budget
Single Area Payment scheme	743,039,713	195.73		714,681,989	96.18%
Scheme for redistributive payment	109,274,458	137.55		106,200,486	97.19%
Green direct payments	466,317,482	122.84		452,848,500	97.11%
Coupled support scheme for buffaloes	4,424,442	up to 250	367.30	3,658,911	82.70%
		over 250	293.84		
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats in mountain regions	3,933,051	55.00	0.00	3,859,604	98.13%
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control	24,004,232	up to 300	73.34	23,467,567	97.76%
		over 300	58.67		
Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control	3,249,951	up to 250	197.54	3,173,415	97.65%
		over 250	158.03		
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control	36,807,035	up to 250	542.58	35,881,240	97.48%
		over 250	434.06		
Coupled Support Scheme for Beef Cows and/or Heifers	18,749,713	up to 250	152.55	18,534,590	98.85%
		over 250	0.00		
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows	30,093,539	up to 250	301.15	28,751,184	95.54%
		over 250	0.00		
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas	551,879	269.73		544,289	98.62%
Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Main Group)	28,157,942	up to 30 ha	1,277.62	27,527,821	97.76%
		up to 30 ha	851.75		
Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Cabbage, Watermelons And Melons)	4,667,358	up to 30 ha	735.49	4,571,132	97.94%
		up to 30 ha	490.33		
Coupled Support Scheme for Greenhouse Vegetables	8,267,667	17,021.85		8,064,193	97.54%
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Main Group)	31,996,554	up to 30 ha	1,759.98	31,400,775	98.14%
		up to 30 ha	1,173.32		

Scheme	Budget Campaign `2018	Rate Campaign `2018 (BGN/ha)/ (BGN/head)		Campaign Authorization Funds `2018	Implementation of the budget
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Plums and Table Grapes)	7,167,291	up to 30 ha	1,006.17	7,030,413	98.09%
		up to 30 ha	670.78		
Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops	31,087,793	135.64		29,905,592	96.20%
Transitional National Support Scheme for Cattle	38,477,240	Buffalo	317.52	38,393,024	99.78%
		Cattle	181.44		
Transitional National Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats	32,194,420	39.60		31,518,932	97.90%
Transitional National Support Scheme for Tobacco	81,000,000	-	-	80,038,268	98.81%

Source: Direct Payments and Identification of Agricultural Parcels Directorate, MAFF

* Data as of 30.06.2019

Rural area payment measures

Measure 10 “Agri-environment-climate”

During the 2014-2020 programming period, measure 10 is applied in the following areas:

- Restoration and maintenance of permanent grasslands of high nature value;
- Maintaining habitats for wintering geese and Montagu’s harrier in arable land;
- Maintaining the habitats of the Imperial Eagle and the Egyptian Vulture in arable land;
- Soil erosion control;
- Traditional practices for seasonal pasture (pastoralism);
- Preservation of endangered indigenous breeds of importance to agriculture;
- Conservation of endangered local varieties of importance to agriculture.

In 2018, a total of 5,546 aid applications were received under the measure. The largest number of farmers applied under the 'Endangered Local Breeds' and 'Soil Erosion Control' - 34.5% and 32% respectively of all beneficiaries.

Authorized funds in 2018 amounted to BGN 55,657,081, and from the beginning of implementation of the RDP to 31.12.2018 - BGN 222,219,885.

Measure 11 Organic Farming

The measure covers the implementation of two sub-measures "Payments for transition to organic farming" and the sub-measure "Payments for maintaining organic farming", with support being provided in three strands - organic plant breeding, organic bee-keeping and organic livestock breeding.

In 2018, 3,848 farmers applied for support under Measure 11. Of these, more than 76% applied for under the Organic Plant Production line. The funds authorized during the year amounted to BGN 56,647,720.

For the whole period of application of the measure until 31.12.2018, the public funds paid for it amounted to BGN 163,630,526.

Measure 12 “Natura -2000 and Water Framework Directive payments“

Sub-measure 12.1.Compensatory payments for agricultural land in Natura 2000

In 2018, a financial resource of BGN 44,509,159 was authorized under the sub-measure. For the period of its implementation till 31.12 2018, payments were made for commitments in the total amount of BGN 136,083,011.

Measure 13 “Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints“

The measure is implemented through two sub-measures - sub-measure 13.1 "Compensation payments in mountain areas" and sub-measure 13.2 "Compensation payments for other areas affected by significant natural constraints". In 2018, the funds authorized under the two sub-measures amounted to BGN 94,432,082, and from the beginning of the implementation of the RDP to December 31, 2018 amounted to BGN 267,525,116.

Campaign `2019

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

Scheme	Applications submitted (number)	Declared area (ha)
Single Area Payment scheme	60,248	3,870,547
Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops	17,114	154,372
Coupled support for vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)	2,937	11,518
Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables - Greenhouse Production	952	765
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Main Group)	6,289	23,391
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (other)	3,437	10,084
Coupled Support for Vegetables (Carrots Cabbage, Watermelons And Melons)	2,910	9,946
Coupled support for vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)	2,171	6,971
Coupled Support for Vegetables (pepper)	1,433	2,915
Specific support for cotton	114	3,942
Measure 10:	3,915	270,229
Measure 11:	2,834	83,278
Measure 12/Natura 2000	11,536	411,038
Measure 13.1/LFA 1 - Mountain areas	22,769	414,714
Measure 13.1/LFA 2 - Other	10,119	291,502

Source: SFA-PA

Note: The data are as of 19.06.2019.

Table IV.5. Declared data on schemes for support per animal head

Scheme	Applications submitted (number)	Declared animals (number)
Transitional National Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-goats	6,998	791,486
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control	2,106	330,091
Coupled Support Scheme for Beef Cows and/or Heifers	5,478	137,697
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows	3,913	119,578
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control	924	78,165

Scheme	Applications submitted (number)	Declared animals (number)
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats in mountain regions	2,341	66,098
Scheme for coupled support for beef cows under selection control	418	21,187
Coupled support scheme for buffaloes	282	13,905
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas	314	2,430
Transitional National Support Scheme (Cattle)	4,439	197,129
Transitional National Support Scheme (Buffaloes)	76	3,456

Source: SFA-PA

Note: The data are as of 19.06.2019.

Table IV.6. Applications submitted for support under the Transitional National Support Scheme for Tobacco

Variety	Applications submitted (number)	Reference quantity (kg)
Basmi	33,824	29,403,514
Burley	1,320	6,934,476
Kaba kulak	5,929	6,336,685
Virginia	70	8,574,921

Source: SFA-PA

Note: The data are as of 19.06.2019.

As of June 19, 2019, a total of 3,924 applications were submitted under the Young Farmers Scheme, and 3,398 beneficiaries continued to participate under the Small Farmers Scheme.

1.2. Market Support Mechanisms

1.2.1. Milk Sector

Contractual relations in the milk sector

The contractual relations in the milk sector, the conditions and procedure for the recognition of producer organisations, their associations and inter-sectoral organisations in the milk and dairy products sector are governed by Ordinance No 1 of 28.01.2015.

The implementation of the regime aims at ensuring the conditions for the sustainable development of raw milk production of all types, improving the ability of dairy producers to negotiate with purchasers and a fairer distribution of value added across the supply chain.

The regulations allow dairy organisations or their associations to negotiate with the purchaser of raw milk the terms of the contracts, including the price, for partial or the total quantity of the raw milk of their members.

In 2018, 1,340 applications were submitted by purchasers for the registration of nearly 10,024 contracts/annexes for milk purchase. Pursuant to the requirements of Ordinance No. 1/2015, 722 on-site inspections were carried out in the period May-July 2018, including 112 first buyers of raw milk and 610 producers of raw cow, buffalo, sheep and goat milk. A penal decree was issued to a buyer of raw milk, with a total amount of sanctions of BGN 5,000.

In connection with the amendment of Ordinance No. 1/25.05.2018, actions were taken to update the Rules of Procedure and to develop the possibility of accepting applications for the registration of contracts by first purchasers of raw milk through the SFA electronic services system.

1.2.2. Fruit and Vegetables Sector

Fruit and vegetable producer groups Scheme

In 2012, two financial aid contracts were concluded with recognized producer groups of fruits and vegetables to the total amount of BGN 31 million (European and national financing), with a five-year implementation period for the investment plans. In 2013, another 10 producer groups were approved, with a total financial aid of BGN 28,537,821, distributed over a period of 5 years.

The approved 12 groups include 55 farmers engaged in vegetable production, horticulture and greenhouse production in the regions of Plovdiv, Haskovo, Ruse, V. Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Vidin and Montana.

Funds paid in 2018 amounted to BGN 14,130,423, of which BGN 3,699,691 from the EAGF and BGN 10,430,732 was co-financing from the national budget. Of the total disbursed funds, BGN 13,592,938 was for investment and BGN 537,485 for administrative expenses.

In the first semester of 2019, BGN 1,109,755 was paid to one producer group for expenses incurred in 2018, of which BGN 197,093 were from the EAGF and BGN 912,662 - co-financing from the national budget. By the end of the year, the payment of the funds for 2018 was due to 4 more producer groups that have completed their recognition plans by 31.12.2018.

All producer groups that have applied for recognition as producer organisations were recognized within the regulatory deadline.

Producer Organisation Scheme

Fruit and vegetable producer groups organisations

The Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisations Scheme aims to bring producers together into marketing organisations, leading to concentration of supply, lowering production costs, shortening supply chains and increasing competitiveness. Under the scheme, operational programmes were implemented, including investments aimed at modernizing OP farms, including administrative expenditure aimed at ensuring the management of organisations.

Three groups of fruit and vegetable producers who completed their recognition plans as of December 31, 2017, were recognized within the statutory deadline as fruit and/or vegetable producer organisations. One of them has submitted an operational programme in 2018, the implementation of which started in January 2019.

As of 2018, there were four OPs implementing operational programmes with a total approved operating fund of BGN 15,568,579. One organisation implements a 5-year operational programme and the other three programs have a 3-year implementation period. 5 applications for approval/modification of an operational programme were submitted and annexes to the existing financial assistance contracts were signed. One of the support contracts was terminated.

No payments were made under the Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisations scheme in 2018. In order to report on the implementation of the first year of their operational programmes, payment claims for 2018 have been submitted by 3 producer organisations.

Producer organisations and groups in other sectors

In 2018, a total of 27 producer organisations and producer groups were recognized, of which: 2 PGs (Producer Groups) in the Cereals sector, 1 PG in the Industrial crops sector, 2 PGs in the Meat sector, 4 PGs in

the Milk sector, 1 PG in the Wine Grape sector, 1PG in the Fruits sector, 4 PGs in the Medical and Essential Oils sector, 3 POs (Producer Organisations) in the Fruits and Vegetables sector, 1 PO in the Fruits sector, 1 PO in the Vegetables sector, 4 POs in the Honey and Bee Products sector , 1 PO in the Milk and Dairy Products sector, 1 PO in the Meat and Wool sector and 1 PO in the Cereals and Oil Crops sector.

As of December 31, 2018, there are 93 recognized organisations and groups of agricultural producers in the country, with members more than 800 farmers.

Temporary Emergency Measures Scheme

In 2017, four applications for support under the “Withdrawal from the market” measure were submitted, with a total claimed quantity of 335 kg of cherries. In 2018, four applications for participation were withdrawn and payments were not made.

Under applications submitted in previous acceptance procedures under a temporary emergency market support measure in the fruit and vegetables sector, in the financial year 2018 financial aid amounting to BGN 199 ,261 was paid.

Scheme for supplying fruits, vegetables, milk and milk products to kindergartens and schools in Bulgaria

From the academic year 2017/2018, the School Fruit Scheme and the School Milk Scheme have been implemented as a single scheme for the supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products to kindergartens and schools. It aims to improve the eating habits of children.

The aid is intended for children attending kindergarten and school on a regular basis. The schemes are implemented throughout the country and cover children from I to IV group of the respective kindergarten (municipal, state or private) and all pupils from preparatory class up to IV grade incl. of the respective school (municipal, state or private). Children and pupils can benefit from the aid only during school days.

2017/2018 academic year

For the school year, 3 546 tonnes of fruits and vegetables were provided to 468,502 children in 3,450 educational establishments. The total budget of the scheme, which includes accompanying measures and information activities, amounted to BGN 10,717,938, of which BGN 5,235,890 from the EU and BGN 4,983,108 from national co-financing. The number of participating applicants was 231.

The budget for the supply of milk and dairy products for the school year amounted to BGN 10,115,163 of which BGN 2,283,136 was European and BGN 7,832,027 was national funding. 165 applicants have been approved to participate. The educational establishments included in the scheme were 3,349, with 448,389 children and pupils, to whom 3,809 tonnes of milk and dairy products were provided.

2018/2019 academic year

The budget for the supply of fruits and vegetables for the school year amounted to BGN 13,651,713, of which BGN 5,067,427 was provided by the EU and BGN 8,584,286 - from the national budget. From the total budget, BGN 1,012,079 was provided for accompanying measures and BGN 133,030 for information activities and publicity. 211 applicants have been approved for the supply of fruits and vegetables. The scheme is expected to cover 468,502 children from 3,478 schools.

The budget for the supply of milk and dairy products amounted to BGN 15,813,412, of which BGN 2,211,773 was from European funds and BGN 13,601,639 - from national funds. The scheme involved 157 applicants and 3,405 schools with 448,389 children.

As of the end of June 2019, BGN 17,006,752 excluding VAT was paid for delivery of milk and dairy products and BGN 17,977,548 excluding VAT for delivery of fruits and vegetables. Funds paid related to 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic years.

1.2.3. Apiculture 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 of 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 resources under the programme available to Bulgaria for the period 2017-2019 amounted to BGN 14,275,774, including: BGN 4,758,590 for 2017; BGN 4,758,594 for 2018; and BGN 4,758,590 for 2019.

During the financial year 2018, 1,750 applications for support were submitted under NBKP and 1,649 financial aid contracts were concluded. The investments made were fulfilled in 97% of the contracts.

Table IV.7. Budget and disbursement of financial aid under the NDP for 2018, BGN

Measure, activity	Budget	Financial Aid Paid			Budget utilisation (%)
		Total	including the EAGF	including the NB	
1.Measure A - Technical assistance to beekeepers and beekeepers' associations	343,677	301,790	150,895	150,895	88%
2.Measure B - Fighting Varroaosis	1,103,559	904,978	452,489	452,489	82%
3.Measure B - Rationalization of mobile apiculture	14,190	9,240	4,620	4,620	65%
4.Measure D - Measures to support the physical and chemical analysis of honey	57,858	36,636	18,318	18,318	63%
5.Total under Measure D - Measures to support the renewal of bee hives in the EU	3,239,309	2,551,065	1,275,532	1,275,532	79%
Activity 1: Purchase of new beehives to replace old beehives and / or increase the number of bee families in apiary	1,535,613	1,287,556	643,778	643,778	84%
Activity 2 "Maintaining or increasing the number of bee families"	998,267	731,003	365,502	365,502	73%
Activity 3 "Purchasing bee queens"	705,429	532,505	266,253	266,253	75%
6. Total under Measure E - cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of bee-keeping and apiculture products.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
TOTAL	4,758,594	3,803,709	1,901,855	1,901,855	80%

Source: IACS, module National Bee-keeping Programme - Acceptance procedure '2018

For the financial year 2019, 1,800 support contracts were signed in respect of which 1,677 payment applications were submitted. The deadline for payment of the aid was 15.10.2019.

On 14 June 2019, the European Commission published in the Official Journal of the EU Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/974 of 12 June 2019 approving the national programmes to improve the production and marketing of apiculture products for the period 2020-2022, submitted by the Member States. For the new programming period, EU support under the NBKP for Bulgaria amounted to BGN 9,599,705.95, which will be supplemented by national funding for the same amount.

1.2.4. Wine Sector

In 2018, under the National Programme for Support of the Wine Sector 2014-2018, the following measures were applied: measure "Restructuring and Conversion of Vineyards" with a budget of BGN 50,708,027, fully provided by the EAGF, and measure "Promotion of the markets of third countries" countries" with a budget of BGN 1,633,093, of which 50% was provided by the EU, 30% from the national budget and 20% from the participating beneficiaries.

During the year, no applications for financial aid were received under measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards". Activities approved by acceptance procedure 2017 implemented. Payments amounting to BGN 46,335,143 were made from the budget for the financial year; with an utilisation of 86.7%. The financial resource paid for the calendar year 2018 amounted to BGN 40,433,629.

For the period from the beginning of financial 2019 (16.10.2018) to 20.06.2019, 80 applications for financial aid for activities carried out in 2018 were received under the measure. Funds amounting to BGN 5,845,180 were paid.

Under the measure "Promotion of the markets of third countries" financial support was provided for projects that are implemented for a period of 1 to 3 years. They aimed at promoting wines with a protected designation of origin, a protected geographical indication and varietal wines without PDO and PGI. In the period of application of the NPSWS 2014-2018, four contracts were concluded, amounting to BGN 5,749,617 in total, the implementation of which was completed in 2018. The funds paid under the measure for 2018 amounted to BGN 989,972, of which BGN 618,733 from the EAGF and BGN 371,239 - from the national budget.

As of 16 October 2018, the implementation of a new National Support Programme for the wine sector, with a period of action 2019-2023 began, covering 4 financial support measures:

- Measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards", with a budget for 2019 in the amount of BGN 29,849,420;
- Measure "Promotion of Third Party Markets", with a budget for 2019 of BGN 3,911,600 ;
- Measure "Investments in enterprises", with a budget for 2019 amounting to BGN 16,624,300 BGN;
- Measure "Harvest Insurance", with a budget for 2019 in the amount of BGN 1,955,800.

Between January 28 and February 8, 2019, acceptance procedure was conducted under the measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards". The total value of the submitted projects before their administrative processing is nearly BGN 80 million. During the same period, an acceptance procedure was also initiated under the measure "Promotion of third-country markets". Two proposals were submitted which did not meet the eligibility criteria and were rejected. EC approval of state aid in the amount of BGN 2,346,960 is expected, after which a new acceptance procedure will be initiated under the measure.

In the period June 17 - 27, 2019, acceptance procedure was also initiated under the Investment in Enterprises measure. The measure is new to Bulgaria and this is the first acceptance procedure conducted under it.

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 2018, there are no conditions for opening public intervention and private storage of products.

1.2.6. Sugar Sector

From 1 October 2017, EU sugar production was liberalized 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. In 2018, an isoglucose production plant operates on the territory of Bulgaria - Amilum Bulgaria EAD, Razgrad and one refinery - Zahar EAD, Gorna Orjahovitsa.

In 2018 no import of sugar for refining was realized in Bulgaria. According to the NSI, during the first two months of 2019, 34 thousand tonnes of raw cane sugar were imported for refining.

By adopting the Regulation No 2017/1185, a new organisation for the reporting of data from Member States to the EC with respect to different types of products, including sugar and isoglucose, was established. In this regard, amendments and addenda were made in 2018 to the Act implementing the Common organisation of the Markets of European Union Agricultural Products (prom.SG issue106 of 21 December 2018) requiring the refiners to submit to the MAFF notifications of prices and availability of sugar, and the producers of isoglucose - notifications of isoglucose production.

1.2.7. Promotional Programmes

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

The implementation of the promotional programmes leads to 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 2018 the following programmes were under process of implementation:

- Enjoy EU Cherries - 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 - it 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 at the amount of EUR 1,639,645 (BGN 3,206,818).

In 2018, under effective promotional programmes have been paid BGN 718,418 (from EAGF - BGN 449,012 and national co-financing – BGN 269,406).

The rules for the implementation of promotional programmes were described in Regulation (EU) 2015/1831 and Regulation (EU) 1144/2014. According to European legislation, the selection of programmes for which financial support is provided is made annually by an agency established for that purpose at EU level - Chafea. In 2018, one promotional programme for Bulgaria was approved.

1.2.8. Quality Policy: Protected Designations

In 2018, the submitted by the Association "Traditional raw-dried meat products" 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", were evaluated under the national procedure.

The application-specification for PDO „Iztochnobalkanska svinia“ has been evaluated within the framework of the national procedure.

In accordance with the envisaged procedures for registration of new producers in the registers of the producers of protected designations under Ordinance № 16 of 2007, in 2018 to the registers of the producers of PGI "Bulgarsko rozovo maslo" (Bulgarian rose oil) 7 new producers were registered.

Following a national procedure, two new controllers of PGI, TSG and PDO products have been approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The national procedure is conducting for processing the application-specification of the applicants for PDO "Bulgarian yoghurt" and "Bulgarian white brined cheese" and accompanying documentation in order the two dossiers to be sent to the European Commission for consideration and obtaining the entry of the two names in the European register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications.

The national procedure for the processing of two separate applications for the entry of Lutenitsa Parvomay as a protected geographical indication in the European Register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications is in progress.

In 2019, the EC entered the Protected Designation of Origin „Strandzhanski manov med/„Manov med ot Strandzha“ in the European Register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications.

In May, 2019, an Ordinance No 4/28.05.2019 on the terms and conditions for the use of the optional term for quality "mountain product" and for the official control of its use was adopted. According to the Ordinance in question, the farmers in the mountain areas are 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

Rice products are subject to mandatory export licensing to third countries, regardless of whether export refunds are requested. Mandatory licenses should be used for statistical purposes, for monitoring the market of these sensitive products in the EU.

For the calendar year 2018, 94 mandatory export licenses were issued for export of 7,011 tonnes of rice in total. The implementation of mandatory licenses is secured by guarantees. Two new beneficiaries have been registered under the scheme.

For the period January 1 - June 1, 2019, 36 mandatory licenses for rice export were issued. Three new beneficiaries were registered.

Scheme "Export licenses for dairy products to Canada for calendar year 2018"

According to the Agreement between the European Community and Canada, signed in 1995, in order for the traders to get benefit from a reduced rate of duty in import of cheeses and yellow cheese in Canada, it is compulsory required an export license, issued within a quota at a reduced rate of duty. Bulgaria applies the scheme since the date of its accession to the EU.

In 2018, 30 export licenses to Canada for milk and dairy products were issued under the quota, including 14 export licenses for 48,550 kg of cheese and 16 licenses for export of 139,619 kg of cheese.

In the first semester of 2019, a total of 27 dairy export licenses to Canada were issued, including 12 export licenses for 49,391 kg of cheese and 15 export licenses for 139,619 kg of cheese.

Scheme: Export Licenses of cheese to the USA within a quota for the 2018 calendar year

According to an agreement concluded between the US and the EU, since 2013 Bulgaria and Romania become part of the US import quota for European cheese under code 0406 of the Combined Nomenclature, with a reduced import duty. For calendar year 2018, 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 2018, mandatory licensing of the import from third countries applied for the :rice, ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, hemp seeds for sowing, hemp seeds, not intended for sowing and unprocessed or heated hemp.

The application of import licenses under tariff quotas and preferential arrangements shall cover the following agricultural product groups: cereals, rice, sugar, olive oil and table olives, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables (garlic and preserved mushrooms), beef and veal, pork, milk and dairy products, poultry, eggs and egg albumin.

In 2018, 296 applications for issuance of licenses for import of agricultural products were submitted and the issued licenses were 261, of which 110 - under tariff quotas and preferential regimes.

In 2018 at the register of MAFF were included 2 new importers of agricultural products. As of 31.12.2018, the registered importers of agricultural products were 481.

2. Support under Second pillar of CAP

Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020

The Rural Development Programme for the 2014-2020 programming period has a total budget of BGN 5,706,727,515 (EUR 2,917,848,203) public funds allocated between 17 measures and a Thematic Sub-Programme for the Development of Small Farms.

Till 31.12.2018, four amendments to the Program were approved. In December 2018, the Fifth Amendment, which was approved in the second quarter of 2019, was sent for review by the EC services.

From the beginning of implementation of the Programme until December 31, 2018, the agreed resource amounted to BGN 3,216,112,871 public funds or 56.5% of its budget. The accumulated public resource amounted to BGN 1,435,116,611, which represents 25.2% of the available budget of the RDP. For the calendar year 2018, BGN 582,882,036 under public funds were paid.

In 2018, the following measures and sub-measures of the RDP 2014-2020 were implemented:

- Sub-measure 4.1.2. Investments in farms under Thematic sub-programme for small farms development
- Sub-measure 4.2. Investments in Processing/Marketing of Agricultural Products

- Sub-measure 6.1. Starting Aid for Young Farmers
- Sub-measure 6.4 "Investments in support of non-agricultural activities"
- Sub-measure 6.4.1 "Investments in support of non-agricultural activities"
- Sub-measure 7.2. Investments in Creation, Improvement or Expansion of All Types of Small-Scale Infrastructure
- Sub-measure 8.3 "Forest damage prevention, natural disasters and catastrophic events"
- Sub-measure 8.6. Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, in mobilising and in the marketing of forestry products
- Measure 9 "Establishment of producer groups and organisations"
- Measure 10 "Agri-environment-climate"
- Measure 11 Organic Farming
- Measure 12 "Natura -2000 and Water Framework Directive payments"
- Measure 13 "Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints"
- Measure 14. Animal Welfare"
- Sub-measure 19.3. Preparation and Implementation of LAG Cooperation Activities

Measure 2 "Consultancy, farm management and farm substitution services"

Sub-measure 2.1. Aid for Consultancy services

In the period March - June 2018, the NAAS announced acceptance procedure for the provision of A2B consultancy packages under sub-measure 2.1. Aid for Consultancy services. Applicants were farmers who were candidates for financial assistance under sub-measure 6.1. "Start-up aid for young farmers" of the Programme. Within the deadline for application submission, 936 applications for consultancy services were received.

In 2018, the payments made under the sub-measure amounted to BGN 4,263,640.

Measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets"

Sub-measure 4.1 Investments in farms

In 2018, no project proposals were accepted under sub-measure 4.1 of the RDP 2014-2020. 121 support contracts were concluded with value of the agreed subsidy amounting to BGN 86,920,233. Payments in the amount of BGN 122,768,449 were made.

Of the 3,341 applications received for the first acceptance procedure under the sub-measure conducted in 2015, by the end of 2018, 903 contracts for financial assistance were concluded, amounting to BGN 346,939,362; and of 2,921 project proposals received during the second acceptance procedure in 2016, 577 support contracts were signed amounting to BGN 440,328,812. A total of 632 projects have been completed, with public funds paid to the amount of BGN 206,415,132.

The highest was the number of contracts concluded in the Fruit and Vegetables sector - 635 (40.4% of the contracts concluded), with approved financial assistance amounting to BGN 325,816,722, and of the projects in the Livestock sector - 573 contracts or 36.42% of all, with approved financial assistance amounting to BGN 354,019,358. Mixed projects accounted for 15% of the contracts concluded, with a financial aid amounting to BGN 98,181,160, while contracts in the sector of essential oils and medical crops accounted for 8.1% of all, with financial assistance amounting to BGN 43,123,434.

Almost one third of financial aid contracts were for the implementation of investment projects of young farmers.

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 in the farms, encouraging the introduction of new processes and technologies for enhancing the quality of production, protecting environmental components and complying with EU standards and improving conditions on farms.

During the period July 18 - October 22, 2018, project proposals acceptance procedure was electronically opened through the UMIS 2020 system, with a budget of BGN 24,447,500. There were 244 applications received, with a total value of the requested grant of BGN 3,672,246. At the end of 2018, projects were under examination.

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

Between February 14 and May 16, 2018, project proposals acceptance procedure under the sub-measure was announced, with a budget of BGN 166,243,000. There were 593 applications received, with a total value of the requested grant of BGN 703,676,087. 82 financial aid contracts, amounting to BGN 71,880,767 were concluded, and 25 applications were under examination.

For the period of application of the sub-measure until 31.12.2018, 295 contracts have been concluded, of which 270 are in force, with the amount of the agreed financial assistance BGN 342,181,804. The number of contracts involving investments for the introduction of new and energy-saving technologies and innovations in the manufacturing industry was 177 in total, with the approved financial aid amounting to BGN 273,538,188. The projects with investments for the promotion of cooperation and integration between the farmers and the enterprises of the processing industry were 82, with a subsidy value of BGN 101,564,694. For the processing of organic raw materials and production of organic products, 33 projects were implemented, and the approved financial assistance under them amounted to BGN 38,646,608.

Among the contracts in force as of 31.12.2018, the largest was the share of the projects in the Fruit and Vegetables sector - 49.3%. 42.2% of the approved project proposals were for processing livestock products, and 8.5% for the processing of essential oils.

Measure 6 Farms and enterprises development

Sub-measure 6.1. Starting Aid for Young Farmers

In order to facilitate farmers and to reduce the administrative burden, the sub-measure is implemented in the 28 regional departments of the Paying Agency.

In the period March 15 - June 14, 2018, a second acceptance of project proposals under sub-measure 6.1 was conducted through the UMIS 2020 system. A total of 1,658 applications have been received, with a total value of BGN 80,970,120, which were processed at the stage of "Administrative compliance and eligibility" by the end of the year. In 2018, 12 support contracts were signed, with a subsidy of BGN 586,740, on applications received at the first acceptance procedure in 2015. Financial assistance amounting to BGN 23,079,471 was paid.

The total number of concluded contracts for the whole period of application of the measure up to 31.12.2018 was 1,323, with the value of the agreed financial assistance amounting to BGN 64,688,085. The projects in the Crops sector - 61.4% and Livestock - 33.9% had the largest relative share of contracts. The total amount paid was BGN 54,390,798.

Sub-measure 6.3. Starting Aid for Small Farms Development

The implementation of the sub-measure started in 2016. This is the first focused reception for small farms in the RDP 2014-2020, as through it, the actual implementation of the specially developed Thematic sub-programme for small farms for the territory of the country started. 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 2018, no project proposals acceptance procedures were announced under the sub-measure. During the year, 401 contracts were concluded, amounting to BGN 11,764,137. The paid public funds amounted to BGN 19,257,160.

During the whole period of application of sub-measure 6.3, 3,433 applications for support have been received. As of the end of 2018, 1,925 financial aid contracts were concluded, amounting to BGN 56,473,725 in total. The completed projects were 1,153, with a subsidy to amount of BGN 33,815,782.

Sub-measure 6.4.1 "Investments in support of non-agricultural activities"

The sub-measure started with first acceptance procedure in the calendar year 2018, with a total budget of BGN 132,994,400, divided into three support procedures - in the sectors "Production", "Services", and "Crafts". The total number of received applications under the acceptance procedure was 826, with the value of the requested subsidy BGN 220,848,690.

As of the end of 2018, no contracts were concluded and the project proposals received were under examination and evaluation.

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

In 2018, a second project proposals acceptance procedure was conducted under the sub-measure. The reception budget, amounting to BGN 195,580,000, was allocated in the following directions:

- Direction "Kindergartens", with a budget of BGN 9,779,000, on which 24 applications were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 20,271,952.
- Energy Efficiency Direction, with a budget of BGN 19,558,000. There were 51 applications received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 26,860,734.
- Direction "Areas for general public use", with a budget of BGN 19,558,000. There were 132 applications received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 95,885,080
- "Sport" Direction, with a budget of BGN 19,558,000. There were 107 applications received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 10,184,151.
- Direction "Streets", with a budget of BGN 97,790,000, on which 148 applications were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 168,378,409.
- Direction "Schools", with a budget of BGN 14,668,500. There were 41 applications received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 34,512,007
- Direction "Gym", with budget of BGN 14,668,500, on which 15 applications were received, with a total value of the subsidy applied for in the amount of BGN 7,138,160.

In 2018, 157 contracts for financial aid were concluded, amounting to BGN 520,083,226 in total. Payments to the amount of BGN 43,829,978 were made.

For the whole period of implementation of the sub-measure until 31.12.2018, within the two project proposal acceptance procedures, 925 project proposals were received, with the value of the financial aid

amounting to BGN 2,112,775,519. The total number of concluded support contracts was 325, with the amount of the agreed subsidy BGN 824,906,719.

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 implements not only the objectives set out in the RDP but also in the National e-Government Development Plan (National e-Government Development Plan). It is also consistent with the National Broadband Development Strategy in Bulgaria and supports the activities of the State Agency for Electronic Governance, which is the sole beneficiary of the sub-measure.

The measure will start in May 2019.

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

In 2018, no acceptance procedures project proposals were announced under the sub-measure. During the year, 16 contracts were concluded, with the amount of financial support of BGN 9,909,170. Public funds paid were to the amount of BGN 12,791,421.

During the whole period of implementation of the sub-measure, a total of 348 applications for financial support were received, with a total amount of the requested investments BGN 209,752,376. As of December 31, 2018, 89 support contracts were concluded, with a total subsidy of BGN 50,599,536.

Measure 8 "Investing in the development of forest regions and improving the viability of forests"

Sub-measure 8.3 "Forest damage prevention, natural disasters and catastrophic events"

In the period July - October 2018, the first acceptance procedure of project proposals was announced under the sub-measure, with a budget of BGN 33,363,992, conducted through the UMIS 2020 system. Eligible for support are the introduction and improvement of preventive activities to reduce the risk of forest fires and the introduction and improvement of preventive activities to reduce the risk of pests, diseases, natural disasters and catastrophic events in forest areas.

37 applications have been received, with a total value of the requested grant of BGN 57,690,674, which are under review and approval by the end of 2018.

Sub-measure 8.4 "Restoration of damage to forests from fire, natural disasters and catastrophic events"

In 2018, the first procedure for admission of projects under the sub-measure through the UMIS 2020 system was carried out, with a budget of BGN 15,646,400. The support aimed at restoring forests affected by forest fires, natural disasters, catastrophic events, diseases and pests, protecting the environment and adapting to climate change.

14 applications were accepted, for a total amount of BGN 5,946,658. As of 31.12.2018, the applications submitted were under review and evaluation.

Sub-measure 8.6 Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, in mobilising and in the marketing of forest products

In 2018 the first procedure for admission of projects through the UMIS 2020 under the sub-measure was announced, with a budget of BGN 35,204,400. The support aims at improving the competitiveness and job creation of the forest sector, as well as improving the condition of forests, their protection and sustainable management. There were 197 applications received, with a total amount of the financial aid of BGN 79,373,910, which, by the end of 2018, were under review and approval.

Measure 9: Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations

In the period June 15 - September 4, 2018, the first procedure for admission of applications for support under the sub-measure was announced, with a budget of BGN 14,793,044. The support aimed at promoting and supporting the establishment of groups and producer organisations in the agricultural sector, supporting the production and supply of high quality agricultural products meeting European standards and market requirements, as well as facilitating access to the SME market.

In 2018, there were 38 applications received, with a total amount of the requested subsidy of BGN 32,228,355.7 contracts were concluded, with the amount of financial assistance BGN 5,438,315. The funds paid amounted to BGN 248,259.

Measure 14 "Animal Welfare"

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 2018, the payments made under sub-measure 14.1. amounted to BGN 3,032,491.

Sub-measure 14.1. 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 2018, payments under sub-measure 14.2 amounted to BGN 852,926.

Measure 19– Community-led local development

Sub-measure 19.1. Assistance for Preparatory Activities

Within the implementation period of the sub-measure, 101 contracts were concluded amounting to BGN 5,085,080 in total, for performance of activities by 180 municipalities covering a population of 2,300,000 inhabitants and a territory of 74,433 sq km (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 organized and held.

The total value of the funds paid till the end of 2018 with accumulation was BGN 3,886,069.

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

Within the implementation period of the measure, two admission procedures were conducted. At the first admission procedure, conducted in 2016, 53 applications for financial aid from the LAG were received, of which 40 strategies for CLLD were approved for implementation, mobilizing funds from the following sources:

- EAFRD (RDP) - BGN 112,435,465
- ERDF (OPE) - BGN 3,146,994

- ERDF (OPIC) - BGN 29,779,468
- ESF (OPHRD) - BGN 21,742,545

The approved strategies cover 74 municipalities in the country's rural areas, within which 1,047,819 residents will benefit from the aid.

In 2017, a second admission procedure under sub-measure 19.2 was carried out through the UMIS 2020 system, under which 70 applications for support were submitted. 25 LAGs were approved for the implementation of the CLLD strategy, covering 43 municipalities with an area of 22,203 square km. and a population of 619,026 inhabitants.

The funds under the approved strategies amounted to BGN 164,132,884 in total, of which:

- RDP - BGN 92,558,875 (BGN 69 419 156 for projects on CLLD strategies under sub-measure 19.2 "Implementation of operations under Community-led Local Development Strategies" and BGN 23,139,719 for LAG management and promotion of CLLD strategies under Sub-measure 19.4 "Ongoing costs and promotion of CLLD strategies")
- OPE - BGN 10,326,415
- OPIC - BGN 27,512,614
- OPRD - BGN 23,581,345
- OPSEGG - BGN 10,153,635

The number of project proposals received under the various LAG measures was 479.

In 2018, 72 procedures under the sub-measure, amounting to BGN 38,876,786 in total, were received through UMIS 2020, in the status "Completed".

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

The budget for the sub-measure amounted to BGN 12,712,700. In August 2018, an call for project proposals was announced, divided into two procedures - "Selection of project proposals for preparatory activities for the preparation of cooperation projects", with a budget of BGN 399,994 and "Selection of project proposals for implementation of cooperation projects", with a budget of BGN 1,599,975. According to Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, the application for the sub-measure is ongoing.

Within the first deadline for receipt of project proposals, which ended at the end of August 2018, 10 project proposals were registered in the UMIS 2020 system, of which 8 were for preparatory activities and 2 for cooperation which were subsequently withdrawn.

Eight project proposals were approved for funding, with an approved grant amounting to BGN 344,089.

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

Pursuant to Art. 12, para. 1 of Ordinance No. 1 of 2016 on the implementation of sub-measure 19.4 annually by September 30, the local initiative groups submit an application for approval of planned activities and expenditures for the next calendar year. In 2018, 63 budgets were approved under the sub-measure, amounting to BGN 11,522,857 in total. Advance payments for 2018 were paid and the costs incurred by the local initiative groups have been regularly paid. As of 31.12.2018, LAGs were reimbursed the amount of BGN 5,372,311.

Measure 20. Technical Assistance

At the end of 2018, 119 applications for support were approved under the measure, to the amount of BGN 41,047,679. Costs in the amount of BGN 24,843,055 was paid.

The Technical Assistance measure has a key role to play in the implementation of the RDP. By submitting financial aid under them measure, activities aimed at providing information and publicity to the Programme were carried out, analyses, surveys, studies and evaluations are carried out, as well as technical remunerations for the MA and PA

Table IV.8. Funds paid under measures and sub-measures under RDP in 2018, in BGN

No of measure	Title of Measure	Funds Paid
M 2.1.2	Advisory services for small farmers	4,263,640
M 4.1	Investment in farms	122,768,449
M 4.2	Investments in Processing/Marketing of Agricultural Products	45,436,475
M 6.1	Start-up aid for young farmers	23,079,471
M 6.3	Starting Aid for Small Farms Development	19,257,160
M 7.2	Investments in Creation, Improvement or Expansion of All Types of Small-Scale Infrastructure	43,829,978
M 7.6	Surveys and Investments for Maintenance, Restoration and Improvement of Villages' Cultural and Natural Heritage	12,791,421
M 8	Investing in the development of forest areas and improving the viability of forests	201,755
M 9	Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations	248,259
M 10	Agri-environment-climate	55,657,081
M 10/M 214	Agri-environment-climate	28,190,699
M 11	Organic farming	56,647,720
M 11/M 214	Organic farming	9,376,265
M 12	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	44,509,159
M 12/M 213	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	80,632
M 13	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	94,432,082
M 13/M 211	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	124,057
M 13/M 212	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	15,856
M 14.1	Animal welfare payments in the large ruminant sector	3,032,491
M 14.2	Sub-measure 14.2. Animal welfare payments in the small ruminant sector	852,926
M 19.1	Community-led local development	276,561
M 19.4	Running Costs and Popularization for strategy for Community-led local development	7,781,603
M 20	Technical Assistance	10,028,296
	Total	582,882,036

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 investment loans, granted by SF Agriculture.

3.1. State Aids

The main purpose of the state aid policy in the field of agriculture is improving economic efficiency of the agricultural farms and the living standard of the employees in the sector. Submitting state aid to Bulgarian agriculture is aimed at improving the competitiveness of agricultural farms, producing better quality produce, as well as quickly managing crisis situations in relation to animal and plant diseases or meteorological damage.

State aids in agriculture are 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 support, they are directed to priority and sensitive sectors for activities not covered by EU funds or in cases of emergency. State aid is targeted primarily at small and medium-sized agricultural farms.

In 2018 were applied existing in the previous year's schemes for state aids in sector "Plant-growing" and in sector "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 summarized 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 farms 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.

The application of aid of this kind aims at increasing the production and use of certified (qualitative) seeds for cereals, feed, oilseeds, potatoes, tobacco, cotton and vegetables, as well as supporting breeding activities in the livestock sector, which, in turn, aims to increase the number of animals under breeding control, to increase productivity and to maintain the trend of consolidation of livestock farms.

- *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*

The support of such kind 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 in case of arising of various significant difficulties in a particular agricultural sector.

The total value of state aid in the agricultural sector in 2018 amounted to BGN 270 million, of which:

- BGN 144.8 million under the State aid and de minimis aid schemes administered by the SFA;
- BGN 125.2 million under 2 tax relief schemes (corporate tax reduction for tax year 2018 and reduced rate of excise duty on gas oil).

In 2018, under de minimis schemes, assistance amounting to a total of BGN 22.4 million were granted in the following directions: for animals; for bee colonies and for farmers growing Damask rose.

According to data from the National Revenue Agency, the state aid granted for investment through the corporate tax reduction for the tax year 2018 amounts to BGN 41.2 million. Under this aid, administered by the NRA, 2,267 farmers benefited during the year.

In 2018, 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 was paid to 9,595 farmers.

Table IV.9. State Aids in the Agriculture in 2018

State Aid	Utilized financial resource – BGN	Number of beneficiaries
Aid to compensate farmers for costs related to implementation of measures under the State Prophylactic Programme and the Programmes for the Surveillance and Eradication of Animal Diseases	24,288,346	86,800
Aid for creation and maintenance of a herd book and for determination of the productiveness and the genetic properties of the animals - it applied within the period 15.03.2018 - 31.12.2020	7,191,759	5,135
Aid to offset material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives and bee colonies	31,822	6

State Aid	Utilized financial resource – BGN	Number of beneficiaries
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	55,594	6
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs	30,219,161	91
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of poultry	35,422,014	229
Aid for compensating costs for removing and disposal of fallen stock	12,911,016	12
State aid to compensate for crop damage caused by adverse climatic events that can be equated with natural disasters (damages in 2017 - BGN 570,779 for 239 beneficiaries and damages in 2018 - BGN 762,953 for 126 beneficiaries)	1,333,732	365
Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Programme for Pest Control in Perennials during the winter period	5,315,361	5,346
Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Programme for Control of soil pests in potatoes of the family Wireworms	1,582,999	289
Aid for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production	1,151,562	353
Aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of seeds and seedlings.	1,100,609	450
Aid for participation in exhibitions	1,765,400	517
De Minimis Aids	22,441,871	10,743
Aid in the form of reduced excise duty on gas oil used for primary farm production	83,993,454	9,595
Aid for investments in agricultural farms through a corporate tax reduction - for 2018	41,205,559	2,267
Total state aids and de minimis aids, administered from SFA	144,811,246	
TOTAL under schemes for state aid (including through tax relief) and de minimis	270,010,259	

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

Date for the period January - June 2019

In the first semester of 2019, five new state aid schemes for agriculture were developed, four of which were approved by the EC and implemented after decisions were made by the Managing Board of SFA Board. One of the schemes is under notification procedure, with the EC deciding on compatibility.

Four of the new schemes are investment oriented as follows:

- "Aid for investment in tangible assets on agricultural farms related to the primary production of crop production" - implemented in 2019;

- "Investment for the purchase or construction of raw milk processing and/or processing facilities" - implemented in 2019;
- "Investments in the purchase of raw milk production and storage facilities and newborn nursery facilities" - implemented in 2019;
- "Investments in the construction of abattoirs" - EC decision expected.

To support farmers, the "Aid for certification of farms in Fruit and Vegetables sector under GLOBALG.A.P standard" was also implemented, which aimed at optimizing the production of quality agricultural products in the Fruit and Vegetables sector.

For 2019, the allocated resource for State aid and de minimis in agriculture, applied by the SFA was BGN 171.3 million. As of 21.06.2019, by decisions of the MB of the SFA, BGN 161.4 million were allocated from the budget.

3.2. Short-term lending

In 2018, the State Agriculture Fund provided a total of BGN 2,228,659 in the form of short-term loans to farmers, compared to BGN 2,446,314 in 2017. The funds were granted entirely through a special purpose loan for the purchase of mineral fertilizer and/or seeds and the use of not-finally certified own seeds for wheat production.

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

3.3. Investment Credit Schemes of SFA

In 2018, the SFA implemented the following credit schemes for farmers' investment intentions:

- 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 seventh 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 bee-keeping equipment and towed implements for mobile bee-keeping.

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 NAP, and the interest rate is 4% annual interest

Within the deadline of acceptance procedure under the scheme, 134 credit applications were submitted, all of which were processed and financed. The amount of the provided funds is BGN 740,366.86.

The repayment of the credit, interest due and a service fee shall be effected by offsetting the approved financial aid under the NAP.

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 facilities envisaged 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 market 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 2018 – 4% upon direct crediting and up to 7% upon refinancing through commercial banks. For loans directly financed by the SF Agriculture, the processing and management fee is 0.5%.

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 2018, for the seventh 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 implemented

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 a site for retail trade, purchase of refrigerators, refrigerator glass-cases and other specific commercial equipment. In order to secure the financing of these projects, the applicants have the opportunity also to use crediting with funds of SF Agriculture.

Expected Data for 2019

In 2019, the SFA continued to apply the above-mentioned three investment credit schemes to farmers.

It is expected that by the end of the year investment credits of up to BGN 1 million will be provided under the credit scheme to persons with approved NAP projects. As of June 2019, 131 credit applications amounting to BGN 733,177 were submitted under the scheme, and 115 credits amounting to BGN 638,274 were funded from them.

With regard to the agricultural investment credit scheme, in 2019 the annual interest rate on new credits financed directly by the State Fund was reduced to 3%.

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.

In 2018, a total of 25,208 agricultural and forestry machinery were registered in the country, of which 8,274 or about one-third was new machines.

Table V.1. Registered agricultural and forestry machinery:

Machine type	2017		2018	
	Total	incl. new machines	Total	incl. new machines
Caterpillar tractors	170	19	143	24
Wheeled tractors	7,443	1,340	7,971	1,352
Self-propelled chassis	120	4	136	4
Other self-propelled machinery	3,126	773	4,092	1,241
Tractor trailers	2,134	494	2,482	618
Harvesting and threshing machinery	919	158	1,042	187
Self-propelled forage harvesters	32	3	32	1
Other self-propelled machinery	113	31	90	12
Sowing and planting machines	1,034	533	1,015	571
Fertilizing and plant protection machines	1,141	657	1,160	665
Forage harvesters and forage processors	2,508	1,267	2,552	1,372
Soil cultivators	3,518	1,752	3,206	1,762
Dryers and more	17	12	5	0
Grain and seed cleaners	24	7	24	13
Irrigating machines	67	34	69	32
Forestry machinery	1,100	448	854	376
Total	23,466	7,532	25,208	8,274

Source: MAFF

1.2. Technical Inspection of the machinery

Effective control of the technical condition and safety of the equipment aims at protecting the life and health of workers with agricultural and forestry equipment and reducing occupational accidents and road accident victims associated with equipment malfunctions.

In 2018, the Regional Directorates of Agriculture carried out 125,799 technical inspections of agricultural and forestry equipment.

1.3. Qualification for Work with Machinery and Issuance of Certificates

The ability to work with agricultural and forestry equipment is one of the decisive factors that determine the safe use of machinery. The knowledge, skills and professional qualities of the machinery operators guarantee not only the quality performance of agricultural operations, but also a significant reduction in the risk of accidents and accidents with agricultural and forestry equipment.

in 2018 were issued as follows 40 permits were issued for training for obtaining legal capacity for working with agricultural and forestry machinery; 417 exams were conducted; a total of 8,301 new and renewed certificates of competence were issued.

1.4. Testing and Certification of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery

In 2018, at the centres for testing and certification in Ruse and Plovdiv were made 1,504 tests of used agricultural and forestry machinery and earth-moving machinery.

2. Hydromeliorations

In 2018, a total of 236,208 decares were watered by Irrigation Systems EAD as 278,598 thousand m³ of water masses were supplied for this purpose, incl. 116,870 decares rice with 264,285 thousand m³ of water mass.

Table V.2. Areas watered by Irrigation Systems EAD in 2018 by crop type

	TOTAL		Maize		Tobacco		Vegetables		Permanent crops		Rice		Other plant crops	
	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied
	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³	decares	thousand m ³
Burgas	9,732	355					85	7	5,247	210			4,400	138
Vidin	60	1	60	1										
Gorna Tundzha	16,600	30,346	1,431	202	1,650	189	677	71	400	23	12,442	29,861		
Lower Danube	8,230	1,598	889	126			510	149	99	16			6,732	1,307
Maritsa	95,457	152,279	16,099	1,922	3,253	275	2,173	247	2,779	156	69,039	149,490	2,114	189
Mizia	1,285	166			1,065	148	17	10	203	8				
Sofia	1,326	121					165	19	968	96			193	6
Middle Danube	9,426	893	408	17	420	46	4,941	622	1,097	85			2,560	123
Sredna Tundzha	21,472	2,361	12,170	1,515	1,709	178	1,193	131	2,799	280			3,601	257
Struma-Mesta	5,518	927	954	90	200	16	3,059	459	610	102			695	260
Topolnitsa	58,336	88,312	14,182	2,099	3,123	487	2,793	510	2,751	257	35,389	84,934	98	25
Haskovo	4,302	668	750	54	635	32	1,763	504	794	24			360	54
Black Sea	1,851	206	456	21			929	152	184	14			282	19
Shumen	2,613	365	1,320	90			353	127	8	0			932	148
TOTAL	236,208	278,598	48,719	6,137	12,055	1,371	18,658	3,008	17,939	1,271	116,870	264,285	21,967	2,526

Source: "Irrigation Systems" EAD

According to the forecasts made by the Company's branches in the preparation of the development for the cost of the service "water supply for irrigation", the areas to be irrigated in 2019 amounted to 286,000 decares.

Weather conditions, under which the 2019 irrigation season began - intense rains and hailstorms across the country, however, do not suggest an increase in areas, but rather the opposite. The need for irrigation is eliminated in rainfall, and when they are intense or combined with hailstorms, they destroy not only the crops to be irrigated, but also irrigation infrastructure, the restoration of which is not always possible during the respective irrigation season.

In 2019, the prices at which Irrigation Systems EAD provided the "water supply for irrigation" service were differentiated by region and by delivery method, unchanged from 2018.

Table V.3. Summary for Irrigation by Irrigation Systems EAD for the period 2016-2018

	2016			2017			2018		
	Ist irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	Ist irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	Ist irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses
	decares	decares	thousand m ³	decares	decares	thousand m ³	decares	decares	thousand m ³
Burgas	2,974	5,819	336	6,896	10,041	498	9,732	11,209	356
Vidin	2,410	16,750	134	3,170	9,210	156	60	60	1
Gorna Tundzha	17,982	26,947	29,410	16,359	19,620	25,161	16,600	18,963	30,346
Lower Danube	10,188	46,361	2,537	9,332	32,173	1,445	8,229	38,177	1,598
Maritsa	99,368	116,744	163,888	100,694	116,293	152,378	95,457	102,647	152,279
Mizia	3,336	3,965	185	2,805	3,308	171	1,285	2,500	165
Sofia	4,047	8,895	572	5,376	9,587	540	1,326	2,423	121
Middle Danube	20,129	67,599	2,158	10,977	33,214	1,076	9,427	27,089	893
Sredna Tundzha	29,637	43,642	5,206	30,340	58,587	4,211	21,472	33,768	2,362
Struma-Mesta	6,531	14,519	1,037	6,720	12,910	945	5,518	12,981	927
Topolnitsa	59,346	80,756	87,271	60,792	81,088	85,759	58,336	69,372	88,312
Haskovo	6,631	32,522	1,782	5,993	21,628	1,058	4,302	13,208	667
Black Sea	7,770	34,503	1,732	4,256	12,788	589	1,851	5,051	204
Shumen	7,414	12,622	792	3,001	6,040	425	2,613	5,747	366
TOTAL	277,763	511,644	297,040	266,711	426,487	274,412	236,208	343,195	278,598

Source: "Irrigation Systems" EAD

Figure V.1.Irrigation from Irrigation Systems EAD within the period 2014-2018



Source: "Irrigation Systems" EAD

3. Plant Protection and Phytosanitary Control

3.1. Plant Protection

■ Cereal Crops Protection

In 2018, the overall phytosanitary status of cereals was good.

Weeds Control

Throughout the year, herbicides were applied to a total of 1,310.925 thousand ha with winter crops, including 1,202.729 thousand ha of wheat and 108.196 thousand ha of barley. Treatment against broadleaf weeds was held on 713.160 thousand ha. Cereal herbicides were applied to 129.460 thousand ha, and cereal and broadleaf weeds herbicides - to 360.105 thousand ha.

Maize planted areas were treated with soil herbicides to 255.940 thousand ha. Vegetative herbicides were applied to a total of 224.433 ha against broadleaf weeds.

Pests and Diseases Control

Sunn pest Eurygaster integriceps

The total areas infested by the adult sunn pests was 179.824 thousand ha and treatment was made on 114.320 thousand ha.

Treatment against the larvae of the pest was made on 49.165 thousand ha of infested 106.219 thousand ha.

Cereal Leaf Beetle (Oulema melanopa (L.))

In 2018, 106.370 thousand ha of 46,391 thousand ha infested were treated against the larvae of a cereal leaf beetle.

Powdery Mildew

The total areas of wheat affected by the powdery mildew were 385.224 thousand ha and treatment was applied on 548.336 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 271.781 thousand ha, and treatment was applied to 414.799 thousand ha.

▪ **Technical Crops Protection**

Weeds Control

The year, soil herbicides were applied to 475.253 thousand ha of sunflower and 397.157 thousand ha was treated vegetationally.

In the autumn, a chemical control on the weeds was carried out, in the case of rapeseed mainly with soil herbicides as there were treated to 78.562 thousand ha. Vegetative herbicides were applied to 86.012 thousand ha.

In 2018, soil herbicides were applied to 2.679 thousand ha of tobacco, and 0.952 thousand ha were treated with vegetative herbicides.

Chemical control of weeds in potatoes was carried out by the application of soil and vegetative herbicides. Soil herbicides were applied to 7.662 thousand ha., and the vegetative herbicides were applied to 2.545 thousand ha.

Control of diseases and pests

Black Stem (Phoma) and Stem Canker (Phomopsis) on Sunflower

In 2018, treatment was applied to 10.650 thousand ha against Phoma and to 24.082 thousand ha against Phomopsis. Treatments were mainly preventative.

Mildew on Sunflower

The disease-infested areas were 0.10 thousand ha in total.

Meligethes aeneus

During the months April 2018 to May 2018, spraying treatment against *Meligethes aeneus* was applied to 142.057 thousand ha of rapeseed.

Ceutorhynchus napi

Throughout the year, 39.637 thousand ha of rapeseed were treated.

▪ **Vegetables Protection**

Pest Control

Tuta Absoluta

In 2018, most of the country's greenhouses do not allow the multiplication of the pest. From 2 to 5 sprays of insecticides were applied to 0.151 thousand ha.

Under field conditions, 1 to 11 treatments against the *Tuta absoluta* were applied to an area of 2.706 thousand ha.

In 2018, an acceptance procedure under State Aid under National Programme of measures to control *Tuta Absoluta*, was not initiated.

▪ Fruit Trees Protection

Pests and Diseases Control

Leaf-feeding Caterpillars

The most common type on fruit trees are as follows: *Lymantria dispar* L., *Euproctis chrisorrhoea* L., *Geometridae*, *Hyphantria cunea* Drury, as in 2018 they are in low population density and degree of infestation. The harmful activity and spread of leaf-bites is limited by the treatment of other enemies. 8.198 thousand ha of fruit trees, including 2.287 thousand ha of pome fruits and 5.911 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 2.019 thousand ha pome fruits.

Aphididae

In 2018, aphids infest was found everywhere in all fruit crops. Mass harmful activity and high population density were reported. Treatment to 3.736 thousand ha of pome fruits and to 12.752 thousand ha of drupes was applied 2 to 7 times.

Quadraspidiotus perniciosus Comst.

There were 2.337 thousand ha of fruit trees in total treated against *Quadraspidiotus perniciosus* Comst.

Parthenolecanium corni Bouche

In 2018, 1.630 thousand ha of plums of a total of 7.079 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 10% has been reported, as 8.372 thousand ha were treated.

Hoplocampa minuta Christ.

Throughout the year, 3.877 thousand ha of peach and apricot trees were treated.

Fruit worms (Laspeyresia)

In 2018 were treated as follows: 4.163 thousand ha of apple orchards against *Laspeyresia pomonella* L., 5.513 thousand ha of plum trees against *Laspeyresia funebrana* Tr. and 5.555 thousand ha of peaches and apricots against *Laspeyresia molesta* L.

Peach-twig borer (Anarsia lineatella Zell.)

In 2018, 5.444 thousand ha of peach and apricot trees were treated.

Leucotera (Cemiosoma) scitella Zell. on apple trees

Against *Leucotera (Cemiosoma) scitella* Zell. were treated 0.284 thousand ha of 5.023 thousand ha of apple orchards in total.

Apple scab and pear scab

A good protection of the apple and pear trees against scabbing was reached throughout the year. In all districts of the country the reported range of leaves infest was low to medium and the range of fruits infest was low. A higher degree of attack was observed in plantations with sensitive varieties, and 5,003 thousand ha have been treated against apple and pear scabies.

Apple Powdery Mildew

In 2018, 4.348 thousand ha of apple and pear orchards were treated against powdery mildew.

Early Brown Rot

In the district of Blagoevgrad, peaches and apricots were attacked above ET (economic threshold).

Late Brown Rot

In June, the attack of the fungal disease on the plum fruits remained low, with moderate attacks in the districts of Plovdiv and Kyustendil.

Peach Powdery Mildew

During the vegetation period, 1 to 6 spraying treatment were carried out, as 4.253 thousand ha of peach orchards were treated.

Peach Leaf Curl

There were applied 1 to 2 treatments to 3.767 thousand ha of peach trees

Cherry Leaf Spot

In 2018, 1 to 7 treatments were applied to 6,017 ha of cherry and sour cherry trees.

▪ **Vineyards Protection**

Weeds Control

During the year, from the vine cultivated areas soil herbicides of 0.257 thousand ha and vegetative herbicides of 92.646 thousand ha were applied.

Pests and Diseases Control

European Grapevine Moth (Lobesia botrana Schiff.)

Within 2018, 29.318 thousand ha of 51.474 thousand ha in total were treated against European grapevine moth.

Schizotetranychus viticola Reck.

Throughout the year, treatment was applied 1 to 4 times to 7.589 thousand ha of vine plants.

Grapevine Downy Mildew (Plasmopara viticola)

1 to 11 treatments were applied to the total area of 57.359 thousand ha of vineyards.

Powdery Mildew (Oidium)

There were applied 1 to 12 treatments to 57.129 thousand ha of vineyards

Gray Mold Rot (Botrytis)

The areas treated with gray mold rot were 41,045 thousand hectares, 1 to 6 treatments have been carried out.

▪ **Plant Protection against Omnivorous Pests**

Common Vole (Microtus arvalis)

In the spring of 2018 the total number of winter crops infested by common vole was 21.404 thousand ha, chemical control was applied to 8.270 thousand ha.

Wireworms

In 2018, 282 declarations were submitted by farmers to the Regional Food Safety Directorates for 349,705 thousand ha of potatoes infested. Chemical treatment was applied to 4.870 thousand ha of 5.144 thousand ha infested in total.

Maize Leaf Weevil (*Tanymecus dilaticollis* Gyll.)

In the spring of 2018 there was an increase in the number of infested areas on annual basis. Chemical control against maize leaf weevil was applied to 38.550 thousand ha of maize and to 31.250 thousand ha of sunflower.

3.2. Phytosanitary Control

The priority actions to achieve the main operational objective in the field of phytosanitary control in 2018 were:

- Legislation harmonized with the EU's plant health regime;
- Production control on the territory of Bulgaria with a view to timely detection and prevention of the spread of quarantine pests on plants and plant products;
- 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);
- 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

Phytosanitary control in the production and movement of plants, plant products and other objects and observations on the territory of the country with regard to the regulated quarantine pests is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act and Ordinance No. 8 of 2015 on phytosanitary control, in accordance with the relevant EU legislation.

In 2018, in the official phytosanitary control register as per art. 22, para. 1 of the Plant Protection Act (including importers, producers, processors, warehouses, forwarding centres, markets and persons handling plants, plant products and other objects subject to phytosanitary control), 3,297 persons were registered compared to 3,168 in 2017.

171 companies were registered under Standard 15 for thermal treatment of wood packaging material and as well as 16 registered sites, other than border points (border phytosanitary inspection posts at border crossing points), approved for phytosanitary inspections under Ordinance No. 68 of 2006.

In 2018, 4,534 inspections were carried out for the production of plants and plant production, by 12.8% less on an annual basis.

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 pests by crops and pests were developed and implemented.

In 2018, the BFSA's plant protection inspectors carried out phytosanitary control under the following national monitoring programmes:

- Monitoring for quarantine pests on potatoes;

- Monitoring for quarantine fruit pests;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests on the vine;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests on vegetable species in greenhouses and outdoor areas;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests in greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers for flowers and ornamental plants;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests on strawberries and raspberries;
- Monitoring for *Xylella fastidiosa*;
- Monitoring for *Phytophthora ramorum* Werres, De Cock & Man;
- Monitoring for Kiwi bacterial cancer, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*;
- Monitoring for *Drosophila suzukii* Matsumura;
- Monitoring for quarantine pests by forest species;
- Calendar plan for monitoring of plants and plant products not included in monitoring programmes but subject to control.

In 2018, a total of 5,406 samples were received at the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine (CLCF), up 5.8% from the previous year. 12,444 analyses of plants, plant products and soils were carried out (compared to 12,451 in 2017).

At the six regional plant health diagnostic laboratories (RPHDL) of RFSD (regional food safety directorates) 3,336 samples were analysed.

Timely detection of pests enables the phytosanitary inspectors to take timely and adequate actions to locate the outbreaks and eliminate them where possible. In 2018, the following pests were identified:

- Quarantine pests in plant samples: *Globodera* sp., *Erwinia amylovora*, *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *michiganensis*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus*, *Scirrhia pini*, *Scirrhia acicula* (Dearn.) Siggers (= *Lecanosticta acicula* (Thumen) H. Sydow, TSWV, PPV, SMYEV);
- In soil samples: *Globodera pallida* и *Globodera rostochiensis*
- Non-quarantine pests: *Bemisia tabaci*, *Drosophila suzukii*, *Ceratitis capitata*, *Aonidiella aurantii*, *Lepidosaphes* sp. (in 5 samples of oranges, imports from Egypt), *Ostrinia nubilalis*, *Colembolla*, *Sciara* sp., *Thrips tabaci* (in 1 sample of *Dianthus*, imports from Turkey), *Sciara* sp., *Protura* sp. (in 1 sample of *Helichrysum italicum*, imported from Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Xantomonas campestris* sp. *Vesicatoria* (in 1 sample of pepper seed from Serbia); *Ploeosinus* sp. (in 1 sample *Thuja occidentalis*, imported from Turkey); *Abutilon* sp., *Reseda* sp. (in 1 sample of sorghum, imports from Laos), *Bursaphelenchus mucronatus* (in 2 samples of wood packaging material imported from Egypt and Russia).

Specialized potato laboratory - Samokov carries out tests of the potato varieties for resistance to cancer and potato cyst nematodes and determines the pathotype of the potato cancer found in the country in the regions of the town of Samokov. Samokov and the region of Smolyan.

During the year, 2,625 plant passports of locally produced goods for the country and the EU and 59 health certificates were issued.

3.2.2. Export Phytosanitary Control

In 2018, 11,039 inspections of 28,362 consignments of plants and plant products designated for export were carried out in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. There were issued 19,260 phytosanitary export certificates and 144 phytosanitary re-export certificates.

The main export goods are: timber, sunflower, coriander, grain, tobacco, dried herbs, nuts and spices. Timber accounts for a major share of exports in 2018 - 8,634 lots, despite a 41.2% drop compared to 2017. Most timber lots were exported to Turkey (3,171) and Northern Macedonia (1,343), followed by from China (675), with exports to Turkey and Northern Macedonia being mainly coniferous material. There were also 630 lots of wooden chips exported to Turkey.

3.3. Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers Control

Bulgarian Food Safety Agency carries out plant protection products and fertilizers control in accordance with the Plant Protection Act.

The main purpose of the control of the marketing of PPPs and fertilizers is to ensure the marketing, storage, repackaging and production of authorized, usable, efficient, maximum safe for the health of humans and animals, environmentally friendly PPPs and fertilizers which meet the legal requirements for packaging and labelling. Scope of control is the companies for trade, repackaging and production of PPPs and fertilizers, as well as unregulated trading sites and border points.

The control of the use of PPPs and fertilizers aims to ensure the correct and sustainable use of plant protection products in compliance with the requirements of Good Plant Protection Practice (GPPP) and the implementation of forecasting methods with integrated pest management in order to produce safe plant production. Scope of control involves farmers who apply plant protection products and fertilisers in the production of crop products for food or feed.

In 2018, were permitted 146 plant protection products for placing on the market and use, in accordance with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on the placing of plant protection products on the market.

There were 60 authorizations for plant protection products revoked or terminated and 3 denials were issued for application for parallel trade and restricted and controlled use of plant protection products.

3.3.1. Results of control activities on the marketing of PPPs

On the territory of the country were registered 1,305 objects, including 888 for trade in an agricultural pharmacy, 401 warehouses for storage and wholesale (own warehouses and cells for rent), 14 sites for repackaging and 2 manufacturing companies.

During 2018, 1,675 inspections were carried out, of which 1,049 were in agricultural pharmacies, 525 in warehouses, 20 in repackaging sites, 5 in PPP production sites and 76 in non-regulated sites (municipal markets, shops, etc.). There were drawn up 250 prescriptions, including 192 in agricultural pharmacies, 51 in commercial warehouses, 2 in PPP production sites and 14 in non-regulated sites. 19 acts of administrative offence have been drawn up.

During the year, a total of 448 certificates were issued, including 367 certificates for trade in PPPs, 3 for repackaging and 78 certificates for change of circumstances.

On the territory of the country, 20 samples were taken to extend the shelf life of the product and 14 certificates were issued after ascertaining compliance with the physical and chemical parameters.

In 2018, 99 control tests and 4 alert samples were taken, as 3 inconsistencies were found.

During the year a total of 102 kg and 215 l of PPP were seized or confiscated from the sites for trade, production and repackaging and left in custody. The seized or confiscated PPPs at the border checkpoints were 2,240 kg and 851 l.

The total import of PPP in 2018 to the country according to data from BCP is 8,159,582 kg and 3,498,930 l.

3.3.2. Results of control activities on the use of PPPs

During 2018, 6,856 inspections of PPP use were carried out, including 4,988 documentary inspections of farmers, 28 inspections at aviation treatment, 9 inspections at implementation of fumigation, 33 inspections at decontamination of seeds and 132 inspections at treatment with ground machinery. During the year, the following prescriptions were drawn up: 1,228 at documentary inspection, 87 at ground handling, 2 air spraying prescriptions and 4 for seed decontamination. 17 acts of administrative offence and 10 criminal decrees were drawn up.

On the territory of the country, 101 inspections were carried out on signals or complaints regarding the use of PPPs and 6 acts of established administrative offence were drawn up.

Samples for pesticide residues under the National Programme for the Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods of Plant and Animal Origin (NPCP) and Leaf Samples for PPP Identification

During the year, 46 samples were taken for pesticide residues.

For the identification of the PPPs used, 58 leaf samples were taken and analyzed in an external laboratory (Primoris Bulgaria AD, Plovdiv). For the unauthorized use of PPPs, 4 acts and 2 prescriptions were drafted.

Samples of plants and plant products under the National Food Pollution Control Programme (nitrates and heavy metals - lead and cadmium)

26 samples were taken and analysed for the content of nitrates and heavy metals. In one sample of pepper taken from inspectors of the RFSD - Montana, a high lead content was identified.

Plant samples for analysis of GMO content

Genetically modified DNA was not detected from the 26 taken and analysed samples of soy bean, maize and oil rapeseed.

Samples taken from plants and plant products outside the National Control Plan for the Use of PPPs for 2018

14 inspections were carried out on reports or complaints, 7 inconsistencies were found and 2 acts of administrative offence were drawn up.

Permits issued for the application of PPPs by aerial spraying

Aerial spraying permits issued in 2018 were 157, including 146 in agricultural areas, 11 in forest areas. The treated areas were as follows: 48,519 ha of agricultural land and 3,178 ha - forest areas.

Inspections of agricultural farms carried out to comply with the rules of Good Agricultural Practice - Nitrates (Agroecology)

During 2018, 564 inspections were carried out and 13 prescriptions were drawn up.

Cross compliance inspections carried out to comply with the programme of measures to limit and prevent nitrate contamination on agricultural farms falling into nitrate vulnerable zones and for the use of PPPs

The total number of inspections related to monitoring compliance with the Programme of Measures in Nitrate Vulnerable Areas is 672, with 160 prescriptions made.

4. Fertilizers

4.1. Registration of Fertilizers

In 2018, a total of 96 new products were registered - organic, non-organic, organo-mineral, microbial fertilizers and soil improvers and biologically active substances.

4.2. Control of Fertilizers when marketed

In connection with the control of fertilizers carried out by BFSA, total of 795 inspections were made on the territory of the country in 2018. 71 prescriptions have been issued with a specified deadline. Two acts of administrative offence have been drawn up. 101 fertilizer samples were taken and analysed in implementation of the National Fertilizer Control Plan, soil improvers, bioactive substances and nutrients. 12 inconsistencies were found.

Table V.4. Fertilizers control over the period 2016 - 2018

Activities	2016	2017	2018
Number of registered fertilizers	48	88	96
Number of on-site inspections	1,258	960	795
Samples taken from fertilizers for analyses	106	97	101
Acts of infringement	7	2	2

Source: BFSA

Information on fertilizer imports

In the course of 2018, a total of 140,572,531 kg and 3,464,104 l of fertilizers were imported to Bulgaria through the border crossing point.

Use of sludge in agriculture

In 2018, 99 permits were issued for the utilization of sewage sludge for use in agriculture, on fields with a total area of 24,065 acres. The total amount of recovered sludge, expressed as dry matter, was 46,374 tonnes for the following crops: barley, wheat, rapeseed, sunflower, corn, rapeseed and coriander.

5. Variety testing, Approbation and Seed Control

State policy in the field of variety testing, variety maintenance, production, trade, import and export of seed and seeding material is implemented through the Executive Agency Plant Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control at MAFF.

EAPVTASC controls the production, harvesting, distribution, marketing and storage of seed and propagating material; its certification in accordance with accepted methods, schemes and technological quality characteristics; directs the procedure for testing, recognition and regional distribution of varieties of cultivated plants; annually issues the Official Variety List of the Republic of Bulgaria for the varieties of field, vegetable, fruit and vine crops; it registers newly registered varieties in the EU's European catalogues and is responsible for the full harmonization of national seed and planting legislation with that of the EU.

The Agency is a national body for the implementation of the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) seed schemes.

In 2018, the by-laws on seeds and propagating material, transposing directives for amendments to major EU directives, were updated. The existing regulations have been amended and supplemented, specialized internal regulations have been developed, such as testing methods for distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) in accordance with the technical protocols of the European Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), test methods for Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU).

Amendments to Ordinance No 13/31.03.2004 have been prepared on the procedure for issuing permits of producers and prepares of seed and seeding material and for registration of traders of seed and planting material. The final provisions of the Ordinance made some changes of a technical nature in Ordinance No 3/25.02.2010 on the marketing of fruit seeding material and fruit plants intended for fruit production on the European Union market, Ordinance No 12/01.06.2007 on the procedures for certification and/or approval of the produced and marketed propagating material of the groups of agricultural plants - fruit, vine, ornamental and vegetable species, Ordinance No. 96/08.09.2006 on the marketing of vegetable seed on the market of European Union, Ordinance No 16/30.05.2008 on the marketing of seed potatoes from the European Union market, Ordinance No 24 / 28.05.2004 on the production and marketing of seed and seeding material of medicinal and aromatic plants and Ordinance No 80 / 22.06.2006 for the production and marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants, carried out between the Member States of the European Union.

In order to meet the customers' expectations for the provision of administrative services, according to the highest professional standards, the Executive Agency 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

Administration of State aid

Pursuant to a contract for granting of state aid to promote the production and use of quality seeds and propagating material, in 2018 EAPVTASC provided services to farmers related to:

- field inspection of seed crops and common balm plantations; labelling;
- sampling of seed lots intended for certification;
- laboratory analysis of seed samples by crop group;
- ex-post control of seed lots;
- qualification of certified and CAC fruit and certified and standard vine seeding.

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 seedling material from the following crop groups: cereals, feed, oilseeds, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, certified and CAC fruit planting material, certified and standard vine planting material, and certified and standard vegetable seeds. 90% of EAPVTASC customers have benefited from state aid to encourage the production and use of quality seeds and propagating material.

State aid is a prerequisite for achieving significant added value as a result of the use of certified seeds, related to the quantity and quality of production. The positive effects of producing more and better quality production per unit area and improving the agri-environment of agricultural production are of benefit to the whole society.

The total value of the services provided by EAPVTASC in 2018 amounted to BGN 1,100,608.97.

Publication of an official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2018 EAPVTASC regularly exchanges information with the European Commission, the Member States and other international institutions regarding the names, entries and de-registrations of plant varieties in and from the official variety list, as well as the trade in seeds and propagating material.

The official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria is part of the European catalogues for varieties of field and vegetable crops, which enables varieties of Bulgarian selection to be present on the EU free market. The official variety list is published on the Agency's website, updated promptly after new varieties are entered.

In 2018, 1,277 varieties of field, vegetable, medical, aromatic and fruit crops, vineyards and tobacco were registered, representing 39.6% more than in 2017.

The trend of increasing the number of registered varieties of field and vegetable crops continues. Of the 724 varieties of arable crops, 230 are protected by a Patent Office certificate. Of the 206 varieties of vegetable varieties enrolled, 61 hold a certificate of legal protection.

In the case of fruit crops and vines, the number of varieties submitted for registration is maintained at the level of the previous year.

The total number of declared and registered tobacco varieties in the official variety list of the country was 34, of which 31 hold a certificate of legal protection.

Under the Law on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants and Animal Breeds, the Agency carries out substantive examination of the distinctness, uniformity and stability of new plant varieties, on the basis of which the Patent Office issues a certificate of protection.

Carrying out variety tests for distinctness, uniformity and stability and value for cultivation and use of new plant varieties

Value for cultivation and use of new plant varieties

In 2018, a total of 881 varieties, hybrids and lines were planted and tested (1,004 in 2017), of which 317 (282 in 2017) were contracted for variety testing and 564 (772 for 2017) - similar varieties and a comparative collection to prove the distinctiveness of the new varieties applied for and to draw up their own varietal descriptions from foreign varieties recognised by other testing offices. The comparative variety collection (seeds, material of vegetatively propagating plant species and official varietal descriptions) maintained by EAPVTASC counted 6,821 (compared to 7,702 for 2017) varieties of 77 crop species. For the purpose of the comparative collection for DUS, seeds of 1,784 varieties of 16 crop species were requested. Seeds of 734 varieties of the same crop types were obtained.

At the request of the European Plant Variety Office, 10 final DUS reports were submitted, and at the request of other variety testing offices - 20 (respectively 12 and 15 for 2017).

In order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the country, 35 publications, final reports and official sort descriptions have been prepared and sent to the Patent Office.

During the year, 5 varieties of sunflower and 1 rice variety, commissioned by the CPVO, were tested for DUS. At the request of the French Office, 3 tobacco varieties have been tested for legal protection purposes in France.

By variety of crops, the variety testing for DUS is distributed as follows:

- 18 species of arable crops (16 in 2017);
- 3 species of fruit trees and vine (8 in 2017);
- 11 species of vegetable crops (9 in 2017).

The total number of varieties, excluding standard varieties tested for VCU (for inclusion in List A of the Official Variety List and in preliminary experiments under contracts) was 1,621, which is 195 less than 2017.

From the total number of varieties, 1,392 hybrids of maize, sunflower, rapeseed, common and durum wheat, and barley (1,225 for 2017) were subjected to preliminary testing, and 229 varieties in total were tested for VCU (201 in 2017). The varieties of standards included in the VCU trials were 65.

Of the tested varieties for VCU and preliminary testing, 1,543 were foreign selection (95.2%) and 78 Bulgarian selection (4.8%). Compared to 2017, there is an increase in the number of Bulgarian breeding varieties due to an increase in requests from private breeders.

During the year, 937 evaluations were carried out for varieties tested for VCU: 236 phytopathological, 92 for cold resistance and 609 chemical-technological and tasting. From the preliminary experiments, 790 average samples were prepared and submitted to applicants for chemical-technological assessments.

143 final DUS reports and 83 VCU reports were prepared, with final results of a 2-3-year sort of examination for expert committees. There were 14 expert committee meetings held to discuss the results of the testing of new varieties by group of crops (3 for DUS and 11 for VCU) and decisions were made for listing of A and B of the Official Variety lists.

In 2018, 1,089 samples (compared to 1,263 for 2017) were taken for ground control of 40 spices of crops, of which 1,073 were approved. 40 plans were prepared with a total of 340 standard samples.

137 variety testing contracts were concluded, by 8% more compared to 2017.

234 dossiers of newly declared varieties were prepared and 553 varieties and names were checked in the CPVO database. 199 applications have been entered into the EAPVTASC System for DUS test - "iasasdu".

There have been issued 54 authorisations and 7 permits have been updated, 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.

Two internal audits and one external audit for the implementation of QMS in accordance with the requirements of the international standard ISO 9001:2015 were successfully carried out, the subject of which are the activities performed in the central management of EAPVTASC and in the experimental field in Novo selo, Plovdiv and in Radnevo.

Registration and maintenance of databases for producers, traders and sellers of seed and seedling material, under Art. 28 of LSS

In order to regulate the trade in seeds and propagating material, EAPVTASC maintains a public register that allows quick orientation of users and other administrative units for persons registered by activities and groups of crops.

In 2018, 201 certificates of trade were issued (290 in 2017).

Certification of seeds and propagating material

Certification of seed and planting material in 2018 was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the procedures of the quality management system and "Quality scheme for production of quality seeds and seedlings".

During the year, applications for certification were received for 32,025 ha of seed crops from different crop groups. The total area of the inspected crops of arable and vegetable crops by EAPVTASC inspectors amounted to 29,545.2 ha. The total area of arable crops inspected by EAPVTASC inspectors was 29,486.2 ha, with the largest share of the cereal group being 26,961 ha (91.3%), followed by feed – 1,420 ha (4.8%), oil and fibre - 918 ha (3.1%), potatoes - 182 ha (0.6%), vegetables - 59 ha (0.2%), tobacco - 5 ha and beet - 0.2 ha

Compared to 2017, the inspected crops decreased by 15.3%. After carrying out the field inspections, 175 ha (0.6%) were declassified in the lower category than stated for certification, and 37 ha (0.1%) were rejected due to lower indicators than required under the ordinances under Art. 29, para. 6 of the LSS.

737 ha of wheat seed production were inspected, compared to 731 ha in 2017.

In 2018, there is a reduction in inspected crops of winter common wheat, barley, oats, triticale and maize. At the same time, the inspected seed crops of rice and rye were growing almost three times a year and those of durum wheat and chickpeas - by 67.6% and 55.1% respectively.

Among the group of oil and fibre crops there was an increase in the area inspected compared to 2017 in sunflower seed production - by 5.1% and soybean - by 18.6% and a decrease in peanut and cotton species. Seeds of hemp, white mustard and flax were also inspected.

Inspected potato crops were 7.8% less than in 2017, however 0.7% higher than in 2016.

Seed crops from the vegetable and feed crops, beet and tobacco groups decreased compared to 2017.

In 2018, 53 ha of vine nurseries, 39 ha of nursery vineyards and 20 ha of root vines were inspected.

There were evaluated 3,058,800 vine seedlings, of which 932,200 were cultivated vines, 307,600 were graft cuttings, 1,819,000 root cuttings and 36,626 fruit trees seedlings - cultivated trees.

For the purposes of certification, 4,601 samples of homogeneously prepared batches of seed were taken. There were 612 samples taken from individuals (samplers) who received permission from the Executive Director of EAPVTASC under the terms and procedure of Ordinance No. 8/31.10.2016.

Central Laboratory carried out 3,943 analyses to determine the seed quality of the seeds, including 1,208 for analytical purity, 1,710 for germination and 1,025 for moisture content of the seeds.

The Central laboratory, accredited by the International Seed Testing Association ISTA, successfully participated in three rounds of international lupine, carrot and rice tests.

During the year, 92 "electrophoresis" tests were performed to establish the varietal authenticity and varietal purity of the seed of parent lines and hybrids of maize and sunflower.

Laboratory analyses were performed to determine the quality of the seeds to be exported and a total of 95 ISTA certificates (including originals, duplicates and intermediate certificates) were issued.

The laboratory has issued 39 certificates in accordance with the requirements of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) schemes for the export of seeds to third countries.

In 2018, 296,939 official labels were issued.

In connection with the implementation of Measure 10 "Agri-environment-climate" from the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 - 2020, certificates for already existing permanent crops and 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 2018, more than 680 document and on-the-spot checks were carried out. GMO inspections did not detect the presence of GMOs in conventional batches of seed. Inter-institutional cooperation between the BFSA and EAPVTASC has been improved, which has led to a significant improvement in border control.

Effective control has been exercised in the harvesting and marketing of seeds and seedlings. During inspections performed, 425 samples were taken from the inspectors for control analysis. The results of the analyses show that the seeds meet the minimum germination requirements.

Checklists and ascertaining protocols were issued for the results of the inspections in cases of non-compliance. There were 15 acts of administrative offence have been drawn up.

Samples for the quantitative determination of the content of tetrahydrocannabinol in hemp varieties have been taken on manufacturers' demand.

Enabling business operators to carry out certification activities under official control

According to Ordinance No. 4/11.03.2011, in 2018, one permit was issued to a natural person to carry out field inspections.

According to Art. 6, para. 17 of the LSS, inspectors from EAPVTASC have inspected more than 20% of the inspected areas by the persons under Art. 6 of the LSS. No discrepancies were found.

Under the terms and conditions of Ordinance No. 8/31.10.2013, 1 permit was issued for a private laboratory and 3 for individuals to take seed samples and carry out field inspections.

Expected Data for 2019

In the first semester of 2019, a draft Law on Amendments to the Seed and Propagating Material Act was prepared with a view to aligning the business services provided by EAPVTASC with the Act on Restricting Administrative Regulation and Administrative Control over Economic Activity (ARARACEA) and creating relief for business operators.

An Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 4 of 2011 on the terms and conditions for conducting competitions for field inspectors has been published. The final provisions of the Ordinance also made amendments and supplements to Ordinance No. 7 of 2013 on the conditions and procedure for variety testing, recognition, entry and de-registration of plant varieties in and from the Official Variety List of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ordinance No. 8 of 2013 on the conditions and procedure for the approval and authorization of sampling of seeds by natural persons (samplers) and for the conditions and procedure for the approval of laboratories to carry out laboratory analyses for the propagation characteristic of seeds and laboratories for determination of health status of seeds and seedlings and Decree № 13 of 2004 on the procedure for registration of traders in seeds and planting material, with a view to bringing EAPVTASC services in accordance with ARARACEA and the Law on e-governance.

In 2019, the Agency continued to provide services related to the implementation of State aid for the participation of farmers in a quality scheme for the production of seeds and propagating material under a contract with the State Fund Agriculture. The estimated maximum annual aid budget for 2019 was BGN 1.2 million.

Applications for certification of spring and perennial seed and planting material was registered on time.

In 2019, a total of 24,495 ha were applied for field inspection, including 168 ha by inspectors under Art. 6 of the Seed and Propagating Material Act.

Of the declared seed production, the largest share is occupied by the cereals group - 23,567 ha (96.2%), followed by feed - 623 ha (2.6%), oil and fibre - 272 ha (1.1%). Seeds of vegetable crops were declared - 31 ha (0.1%) and tobacco - 2 ha.

Applications for spring crop certification are still being accepted.

There were 39 ha of nursery vineyards applied for certification/approval.

In 2019, EAPVTASC continued to exercise control over the harvesting and marketing of seeds and propagating material. Seeds not meeting the minimum germination requirements are suspended from marketing. Checklists and protocols of findings are issued for the results of inspections.

For the violation of the provisions of the Seed and Propagating Material Act, an act for establishing an administrative violation has been drawn up by May.

For the 2019 harvest year, 145 cultivation contracts were concluded, 6% more than those for 2018.

In 2019 there was an increase in the number of varieties applied for tests for the DUS varieties to 327 (compared to 317 in 2018), as well as in the percentage of DUS varieties tested, at the expense of similar varieties from the comparative collection, which is the result of the active activity of increasing the varieties in the comparative collection and refining the methods for selecting such varieties. During the year, a DUS tests of 9 varieties commissioned by the European Plant Variety Office under Treaty 83/2008 and 1 variety of Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (UVHVVR) - Slovenia is conducted.

VCU variety tests for the purpose of entry in list "A" of the Official Variety List of the country decreased. The number of varieties applied and tried for VCU is 224 (compared to 232 for 2018).

The number of varieties in the pre-test reaches 1,725 - up 23.9% compared to 2018, due to the fact that applicants wish to have more varieties tested, with fewer replicates in the test. The areas of EAPVTASC's pilot fields are balanced, the quality of service offered is very good and satisfies the applicants.

The results of the last three years show a tendency to maintain the percentage of applied for variety testing for VCU varieties for the purpose of entry in list "A" of the Official Variety List of the country and the varieties applied for preliminary testing.

Of the varieties applied for VCU testing and preliminary testing in 2019, 1,754 were foreign selection (nearly 90%, against 95.2% in 2018), and 195 - Bulgarian selection (10%, at 4.8 % for 2018). The increase in the number of Bulgarian breeding varieties was due to more requests made by private breeders.

6. Control of Grain and Cereal Products

6.1. Control of Public Warehouses, Granaries and Other Grain Storage Facilities

In 2018, there was an increase in both the number of grain storage facilities and the total storage capacity. During the year, the Database of Grain Storage Sites in the country was updated, with 51 new grain storage facilities enrolled, a change in the circumstances of 181 of the enrolled sites and 17 items deleted. As of 31.12.2018, the total number of grain storage facilities in the country was 3,731, with a capacity of 15,184,368 tonnes. The database on the location and capacity of the grain storage sites as of June 30 and December 31, 2018 was published on the Open Data Portal at the Council of Ministers.

In 2018, a total of 1,577 inspections were carried out, incl. of grain storage facilities - 592, of grain producers - 830 and of new grain storage facilities - 155. For the violations found during the inspections, 547 protocols of findings and 9 documents for administrative violations were drawn up.

6.2. Quality Grading of Harvest `2018

Of 4,072,237 tonnes, 2,982 samples from wheat, barley, sunflower, maize and rice husk were collected and analysed for a representative qualification of the harvest `2018, which is 38.6% of the quantity obtained and meets the criteria for representativeness of the qualification.

Quality of wheat from the harvest `2018

The final quality results show that 65.2% of the 2018 wheat produced has milling and baking qualities that meet the requirements of traders and processors.

The distribution of the grain into groups is as follows:

- First group - 0.8%, compared to 3.2% in 2017;
- Second group - 3.3%, compared to 10.3% in 2017;

- Second Group B - 12.2%, compared to 34.6% in 2017;
- Third group - 83.8%, compared to 52% in 2017;

The average values of the main indicators that determine the quality characteristic of the grain from the harvest `2018 for the country are:

- moisture content: $12.6\% \pm 0.6\%$
- hectolitre mass: $72.9 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.5 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3$
- wet gluten yield: $22.6\% \pm 3.4\%$
- gluten release: $6.6 \text{ mm} \pm 1.1 \text{ mm}$
- baking strength: $54.5 \text{ cond. units} \pm 5.2 \text{ cond. units}$
- protein content: $12.2\% \text{ v.c.} \pm 1.2\% \text{ v.c.}$
- falling number: $207.8 \text{ sec.} \pm 75.1 \text{ sec.}$

Quality of barley from the harvest `2018

The final results show that 67% of the barley is brewed and 33% is feed. Compared to the previous year, the share of brewing barley decreased by 2.8 percentage points.

The average values of the main quality indicators of barley harvest `2018 are:

- protein content: $11.7\% \pm 0.7\%$
- hectolitre mass: $61.7 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.4 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$
- balance of lots: $86\% \pm 8.7\%$
- humidity: $12.6\% \pm 0.9\%$
- crop impurities: $1.7\% \pm 1.1\%$
- miscellaneous impurities: $1.2\% \pm 0.9\%$

Quality of black oilseed sunflower from the harvest `2018

The final results show that 81.8% of the samples analysed meet the requirements of the sunflower seed quality standard, compared to 78% in the previous year.

The average values of the main quality indicators of sunflower harvest `2018 are:

- moisture content: $5.8\% \pm 0.4\%$
- fat content: $45.1\% \pm 2.4\%$
- crop impurities: $0.9\% \pm 0.5\%$
- miscellaneous impurities: $3\% \pm 1.6\%$

Quality of maize from the harvest `2018

The final results show that 87.4% of the maize grain produced meets the starch content criteria and the minimum limits laid down in the standard for moisture content and impurity content, compared to 79.5% in 2017.

The average values of the main quality indicators of maize harvest `2018 are:

- moisture: $12.7\% \pm 0.9\%$

- crop impurities: $3.2\% \pm 2.3\%$
- miscellaneous impurities: $0.9\% \pm 1.0\%$
- starch content: $72.7\% \pm 0.8\%$
- hectolitre mass: $72.6 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.1 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3$

Quality of husked rice from the harvest `2018

The results of the analysed samples show that 80% of the analysed quantity of husk meets the requirements for first quality, compared to 90.6% reported in 2017.

The average values of the main quality indicators of husked rice harvest `2018 are:

- moisture: $13\% \pm 1.1\%$
- crop impurities: $1.5\% \pm 1.0\%$
- miscellaneous impurities: $1.1\% \pm 1.0\%$
- red grains: $0.5\% \pm 0.3\%$
- yellowed grains - not found
- nude grains: $2.4\% \pm 1.9\%$
- hectolitre mass: $58.0 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.1 \text{ kg}/100 \text{ dm}^3$

7. Food Chain Safety

A major objective of EU food safety policy is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and consumer interests in food, including traditional products, as well as the effective functioning of the internal market.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry manages, coordinates and controls the implementation of state policy and EU policy in the field of animal health and food safety through its specialized administration.

The Agri-Food Policy Directorate assists the Minister of Agriculture for Food and Forestry in developing, coordinating and implementing state policies in the fields of food and feed quality and safety, animal health, plant health and plant reproductive material. An important part of this policy is to limit the spread of genetically modified organisms throughout the food chain from farm to mass.

The regulatory framework in the field of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, plant reproductive material and plant protection products continued to be optimized in 2018.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Authority (BFSA) conducts official farm-to-table control of food, following best European practices in the application of high standards in the control of the safety and quality of food, food additives and beverages, veterinary medicine and animal health and welfare, plant protection and fertilizers, phytosanitary control, feed control, border control and more.

7.1. Animal Healthcare and Welfare.

Animal Healthcare

Priorities of BFSA in this area are:

- protection of animal health in the country;
- protecting the health of farm animals from the occurrence of dangerous viral infections associated with major economic losses;

- ensuring the production of eligible raw cow's milk in accordance with European legislation;
- the free movement of animals, products and raw materials obtained from them between Member States and exports to third countries;
- protecting the population from the onset of zoonoses (diseases transmitted by animals to humans).

In order to achieve these priorities in 2018, a scheme to assist farmers in implementing the measures set out in the National Programme for the Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal and Zoonotic Diseases in the Republic of Bulgaria for the Period 2019 - 2021 d.

In 2018, the mandatory measures set out in the implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal and Zoonotic Diseases in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2016 - 2018 have been implemented.

The activity of BFSA is aimed at reducing the risk of the emergence and spread of acute and exotic infectious animal diseases, taking into account the geographical location of our country. To this end, national disease surveillance programs shall be 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 the Supervision of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE);
- Program for precautionary measures against certain transboundary animal diseases, which includes infected nodular dermatitis in large ruminants, foot-and-mouth disease, small ruminant plague and sheep and goat disease.
- All the above programs are co-financed by the European Commission.
- In 2018, the following standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed, approved and issued with orders to the Executive Director of BFSA:
 - 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 performing control of the facilities for disposal of animal by-products registered under Art. 259 and Art. 259a of the Law on Veterinary Medicine in connection with the execution of the concluded contracts for the performance of the service;
 - SOP "Standard Operating Procedure for Determining the Rights, Responsibilities and organisational Process of Current Control at Municipal, Regional and Central Levels in the Animal Health and Welfare Sector";
 - SOP "Standard operating procedure for determining the rights, responsibilities and organisational process of day-to-day control at the municipal, regional and central level in the Animal Health and Welfare sector".

In 2018, the BFSA Integrated Information System - VetIS was upgraded, with additional functionalities for the electronic servicing of the whole process of taking, sending, testing and recording the results of the milk samples taken - module "Milk".

After starting the module, an electronic sample of the breeding establishments is prepared on a monthly basis, containing the calculated average values of the total number of microorganisms and total number of somatic cells, in accordance with the requirements of EU Regulation 853/2004, and the information is published on the BFSA web site .

In 2018, a total of 1,120 raw cow milk samplers were trained to obtain the samples needed to control dairy farms under Regulation 853/2004.

Official veterinarians completed 17,000 inspections in 2018 regarding the Animal Disease and Zoonotic Disease Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication Program (compared to 14,193 in 2017), with 984 prescriptions served (878 prescriptions) in 2017), 111 documents for administrative violations were drawn up (101 documents in 2017).

In 2018, the following major diseases were identified on the territory of the country, included in the list of priority diseases of the Animal Health Act issued by the EC: highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease, African swine fever in domestic pigs, African swine fever in feral pigs, small ruminant plague, West Nile fever virus, cattle anthrax; bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, and small ruminant (SR) Q-fever.

In view of the outbreaks of bluetongue in 2014 and contagious nodular dermatitis in 2016, vaccination was carried out in 2018 to protect animals susceptible to these diseases and to protect livestock production in the country.

During the year, 28 outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds were detected. Measures have been taken immediately to eliminate all infected and contact ducks in the outbreaks, in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2005/94 / EC and the Emergency Plan for the Fight against Avian Influenza.

In 2018, BFSA also recorded the plague disease of small ruminants. The disease was confirmed in the implementation of Cross-Border Disease Control Programs approved and funded by the EC. During the period June - July 2018, a total of 7 outbreaks of the plague of small ruminants were confirmed (6 epizootic outbreaks in the municipality of Bolyarovo, Yambol district and 1 outbreak in the village of Kosti, Tzarevo municipality, Burgas district).

Veterinary measures for the control and eradication of the disease have been taken in due time in accordance with EU legislation (Directive 92/119 / EC) and the National Contingency Plan for the Restriction of the Disease of Small Ruminant Plague, namely:

- Humane killing and disposal of all small ruminants in the affected settlements;
- Determination of 3 km of protected and 10 km monitored areas around the affected settlements in which samples for laboratory analysis were taken from all sites for SR and weekly clinical examinations were performed to detect deviations from health status;
- Weekly clinical examinations at all SRs sites in municipalities along the border with Turkey;
- Repeated disinfection in the affected settlements;
- Creation of an additional surveillance zone 20 km around the outbreaks and creation of a "sanitary border".

The measures imposed by the BFSA, as well as the surveillance strategy and results, are regularly communicated with the EC and the EU Member States.

In July 2018, an EUVET mission on the disease in Bulgaria was carried out. The mission's conclusions were for early detection and adequately adopted measures by the BFSA.

In the period June - December 2018, the population of SRs in restricted areas is subject to enhanced clinical and laboratory surveillance, with over 28,500 clinical examinations and 23,300 serological and 16 503

virological tests to prove the animal health status of animals available for antibodies or small ruminant plague virus in the regions of Haskovo, Burgas, Yambol. Laboratory results found serologically positive animals targeted for slaughter and no infection with the disease virus.

The absence of the disease virus infection was confirmed at the last laboratory surveillance in November - December 2018 (7,203 samples from SRs were examined in 249 settlements in Yambol, Burgas and Haskovo districts). Based on these results and the expiry of the restriction deadlines of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1499 at the end of 2018, the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed of the European Commission at the beginning of 2019 discussed the envisaged national measures, which will continue to be implemented as a commitment of our country to the EC for guaranteeing the animal health status, limiting the possible subsequent spread of the disease, as well as for the early detection of new outbreaks. These measures include strict surveillance while allowing the movement of small ruminants and their products from the border areas of the country.

In order to monitor and guarantee freedom in relation to the disease, the BFSA continues to actively implement the above programs, which are funded and directly controlled by the EC - a program for transboundary animal diseases in the territories of Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Smolyan and Blagoevgrad and a cross-border animal disease program, including clinical and laboratory surveillance of animals in villages along the border with Turkey.

In connection with the established outbreak of anthrax in cattle in the district of Targovishte, in 2018 immediate measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease in the country.

During the year, eight outbreaks of tuberculosis occurred on the territory of the districts of Plovdiv (3), Pazardzhik (2), Kardzhali, Stara Zagora and Kyustendil.

In 2018, the brucellosis outbreak of small ruminants originating in the village of Vukovo, Kyustendil district was eliminated (3 cases of sick sheep). Thus, the country is free from brucellosis in large ruminants and brucellosis in small ruminants in 2018 and is applying for official brucellosis-free status before the EC.

In view of the complicated epizootic situation regarding the disease of African swine fever in Europe and the outbreaks identified in Bulgaria in 2018, MAFF has prepared a program of measures to prevent and limit the spread of the disease on the territory of the country, in accordance with the requirements of the Councils 2002/60 / EC, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2014/709 and the EU ASF Control Strategy. During the year, the following measures were taken:

- Surveillance program
- Control of movement of people, animals, products, incl. and personal luggage from ASF countries;
- Confiscation of meat products, testing and disposal;
- Disinfection of vehicles coming from countries with ASF;
- Disposal of waste from vehicles from countries with ASF;
- Biosecurity checks at pig farms;
- Development of individual contingency plans for pig farms;
- Regular meetings with the sector, EAG, hunting organisations;
- Biosafety training for the sector and for hunters;
- Reduction of backyard farms around industrial farms;
- Prohibition of eating fresh herbs and special feed measures;
- Development of a mobile application for trichinella and ASF samples;

- Prohibition on the movement of feral pigs from other EU Member States and on imports from third countries;
- Training of ASF hunters, sampling, biosecurity, including material development;
- Construction of special pits for carcasses and animal by-products for each hunting holding;
- Construction of a fence along the border with Romania;
- Obligation to report any detected dead or atypical behaviour of wild boar to the RFSD;
- Special regime, restrictions on hunting in restricted territories;
- information campaigns;
- Coordination between institutions to reduce the risk of dissemination in transport and tourism;
- Additional national requirements.

Council of Ministers Decree No. 130 of July 5, 2018 approved additional expenditures for 2018 under the MAFF's budget to ensure the implementation of these measures.

The control over the implementation of the program is assigned to the BFSA. A plan for the preservation of the Eastern Balkan breed of pigs has also been drawn up with regard to its specific breeding method and its epizootological significance as a possible bridge for the transmission of the disease between wild and domestic pigs, the implementation of which is entrusted to the Executive Agency for Breeding and Reproduction in Livestock. The Coordination Council of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall periodically evaluate the implementation of the measures provided for in the program.

In 2018, 1,118 inspections were carried out of veterinary hospitals on the territory of the country (compared to 1,431 in 2017), 148 prescriptions were issued and 20 documents for established administrative violations were issued (14 acts in 2017).

The measures set out in the Action Plan for the disposal of animal by-products from the two recipes in the country have been implemented.

In 2018, all expenditures for the implementation of the measures under the National Program for Prevention, Control, Surveillance and Eradication of Diseases and Zoonoses in the Republic of Bulgaria, which are included in surveillance and eradication programs but are not co-financed by the EC, are provided to assist farmers from the State Agricultural Fund.

Animal Welfare

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency monitors compliance with the animal health and welfare requirements and the implementation of the applicable European and national legislation in these fields.

According to an annual plan approved by the Executive Director of the BFSA, in 2018 the Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSDs) on the territory of the country carried out inspections for compliance with animal welfare requirements.

Animal welfare controls are carried out with official controls at all stages of animal husbandry, including transport, with periodic, planned or alerted controls.

On the basis of the reports received from the RFSD on the inspections carried out at the production establishments, in order to comply with the animal welfare requirements, it can be concluded that the nonconformities found are mainly in the calf breeding establishments and are expressed in the following directions: staff, buildings and accommodation, food, water and other substances.

In accordance with the current European and national legislation, the BFSA has taken actions to eliminate the non-conformities within the statutory period without taking immediate action to impose administrative and criminal sanctions.

In 2018, there has been a significant improvement in poultry breeding establishments, where in 2017 the discrepancies were mainly related to exceeding the specified capacity of the breeding establishments and non-compliance with the established breeding procedure.

Improvement of the animal husbandry conditions in respect of the building stock, food and water, freedom of movement, inspections and automatic equipment and mechanical equipment is observed, dramatically reducing the inconsistencies found with respect to these indicators in the following livestock areas: laying hens reared in large cages; pigs; calves.

In 2018, there has been an increase in the number of inspections carried out in all livestock industries, which has a fundamental role to play in reducing disparities in different livestock farms.

As a result of increased number of inspections by the RFSD, the number of "backyard" sites has been reduced compared to the previous year, leading to improved animal welfare.

In the field of animal welfare, Bulgaria complies with the requirements of Council Directive 2008/120 / EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. In 2018, an Action Plan came into force on measures to reduce the need to queue up, and brochures were developed for farmers in the pig sector.

Licenses for the transport of live animals continue to be issued, ensuring compliance with the rules on the welfare and protection of animals during transport. In the course of 2018, 167 short-travel licenses and 30 long-term travel licenses were issued. The BFSA maintains an up-to-date register of issued licenses for the transportation of live animals in accordance with Art. 166 of the Air Traffic Control Act, as the updated information on approved vehicles is introduced in the BFSA - VetIS integrated information system.

In 2018, the interaction with the reporting of BFSA and other contact points with regard to the established violations of the animal welfare requirements during transport continues, with a decrease in the observed inconsistencies compared to 2017.

A total of 24,700 inspections were carried out during the year.

Pursuant to Art. 155, para. 7, permits for the use of animals in experiments were issued to 7 of the FIAs in 2018 (compared to 22 for 2017).

An annual report for 2018 has been prepared for the implementation of municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs. Current registers of the shelters and kennels in Bulgaria are maintained, which are accessible on the official site of BFSA.

The identification (chipping) of dogs in the country continues into 2018, with the relevant data being reflected in the VetIS system, which is significantly adapted to these animals.

7.2. Control of Animal Identification and Registration, Traceability of Their Movement

Animal identification and registration information system and traceability of their movement (Integrated Information System (IIC) of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency - VetIS)

The activities of the BFSA in this area are as follows:

- Identification and registration of farm animals (large, small ruminants, pigs, equidae), bee colonies, pets;
- Registration of breeding sites in accordance with national legislation;
- Ensuring traceability of the movement of animals in the country, as well as those of import and intra-Community trade;

- Ensuring timely entry of correct data in IIS registers in connection with the implementation of the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal and Zoonotic Diseases in Bulgaria;
- Providing up-to-date and correct information maintained in the IIS registers and entering the information in the further developed module of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), maintained by the State Agricultural Fund - RA;
- Performing checks under cross compliance with Statutory requirements for Animal Identification Management (SMR).

In order to carry out these activities, work continued in 2018 on the development of the existing ones and the addition of new functionalities and references in IIS to the BFSA - VetIS for the purposes of official control, as well as in connection with the improvement of the work of the users of the system.

As of 23.02.2018, amendments to the Law on Veterinary Activities, in particular with regard to the registration of animal breeding sites under Art. 137 of the law.

In 2018, active work continued to ensure the identification of farm animals and bee colonies.

In 2018, meetings were held between the BFSA and the State Fund Agriculture" to discuss the system for cross compliance.

Within the scope of the cross compliance in the field of animal identification are the statutory management requirements for the identification and registration of: pigs (SMR-6), cattle (SMR-7) and sheep and goats (SMR-8), for which the BFSA, as the competent control body, carries out annual checks on their compliance.

In order to reflect cross compliance checks, an additional module to the IACS system was developed in 2018, through which BFSA employees with appropriate access enter the data from the beneficiary checks. To this end, training has been conducted for the designated employees of all 28 RFSDs in the country.

In connection with cross compliance checks, the standard operating procedure for carrying out these checks in the field of animal identification, registration and traceability was also improved on 15.08.2018.

In 2018, a large number of inspections were carried out by the BFSA on the registration of animal breeding establishments, the identification and traceability of animals, the activities of registered veterinarians and veterinary establishments, with the issuance of prescriptions and documents for established administrative offences (AUAN) as follows :

Table V.5. Number of inspections carried out and administrative prescriptions and acts issued in the period 2017 - 2018

Subject to inspections	2017			2018		
	Inspections	Requirements	AUAN	Inspections	Requirements	AUAN
Registration of livestock facilities	4,728	761	65	4,480	873	116
Identification of animals	13,886	787	519	11,107	967	834
Animal movement	4,634	77	368	6,287	93	346
Control of the activity of registered veterinarians	2,334	97	29	1,940	114	32
Inspections of veterinary establishments	1,431	137	14	1,118	148	20

Source: BFSA

Comparing the results with the previous year, in 2018 there was a tendency of decrease in the number of inspections concerning the registration of breeding facilities, the identification of animals and veterinary medical institutions, while the number of prescriptions and documents for administrative offence issued in these

sectors is increasing. During the year, checks on the movement of animals increased. The control of the activity of registered veterinarians shows a significant decrease in the number of inspections, while relatively preserving the number of prescriptions issued and documents for administrative offence.

In 2018, to different degrees, there was an increase in control by the competent authority in all sectors.

Through the year, the BFSA carried out cross compliance checks on observing the animal identification and registration requirements. Farms under SMR for 2017 and 2018 were checked as follows:

Table V.6. Cross-compliance checks under SMR in the field of animal identification and veterinary activity in the period 2017 - 2018

Under the SMR	Number of farms to inspect	
	2017	2018
6.1.	27	115
6.2.	27	115
6.3.	23	111
6.4.	23	112
7.1.	596	1,051
7.2.	598	1,049
7.3.	587	1,028
7.4.	582	1,039
7.5.	589	1,036
8.1.	365	677
8.2.	365	676
8.3.	345	659
8.4.	352	670

Source: BFSA

Cross-compliance checks carried out for 2018 in the field of animal identification and veterinary activity increased significantly compared to the previous 2017.

Activities in 2019

In 2019, controls relating to the identification and registration of animals and veterinary activities will continue to pursue the main operational objectives set:

- Ensuring the timely identification and registration of animals, their traceability, and the registration of breeding sites in accordance with the LFA, which greatly contribute to the protection of animal health and protection from fraud;
- Ensuring timely entry of correct data in the BFSA - VetIS IIS registers on the identification and registration of animals, as well as the data related to the implementation of the National program for the prevention, control, control and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases in Bulgaria.
- Provision of up-to-date and correct information from the IIS registers through the new module to the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), maintained by the State Agricultural Fund - RA;
- Providing identification with individual bee plates of apiary families in apiaries whose owners or users participate for support under measures "Agri-environment-climate", "Organic Agriculture" from RDP 2014-2010 and "Agro-ecological payments" from RDP 2007-2013, in accordance with Ordinance No. 10 of 01.04.2015 on the conditions for registration and the procedure for identification of bee colonies;

- Development of the BFSA - VetIS IIS and taking measures to develop an electronic checklist for carrying out checks on the identification and registration of pigs, small ruminants and small ruminants, with a view to using the latter in sectoral legislation and cross compliance checks;
- Improve work and methods in performing cross compliance checks;

The implementation of these objectives will be achieved through:

- Conducting checks on compliance with the requirements of the legislation related to the identification and registration of animals, their traceability, the activities of veterinary specialists, including in veterinary establishments;
- Trainings of RFSD employees;
- Preparation of drafts for amending regulatory acts;
- Improvement of individual controls in BABH - VetIS IIS.

7.3. Control Activities

7.3.1. Food Safety

The BFSA methodically guides and coordinates the activities of the BFSA in the implementation of the safety and quality control of: raw materials, foods, including protected geographical indications, bio-products, as well as materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, food additives, enzymes and flavorings; intermediate storage and animal by-products processing plants; animal welfare during slaughter.

The Agency manages and coordinates the implementation of national and monitoring programs for laboratory control as follows:

- National Program for the Control of Pesticide Residues in or on Foods of Vegetable and Animal Origin (NPCP);
- National Program for the Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF);
- National Food Control Program for contaminants, additives, materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and for foods treated with ionizing radiation;
- Program for monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commensal bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- National Monitoring Program for the Control of Residues from Veterinary Medicinal Products and Environmental Pollutants (NMVEC).

The official control of food in Bulgaria is 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.

Maintaining a web-based system for national registers and lists of BFSA-controlled sites facilitates the access of users, business operators and institutions to up-to-date information about the registered sites on the territory of the country. The total number of registered sites for 2018 is 178,175.

Table V.7. Official control carried out in 2018

Inspections	2018
1.Sites for production and wholesale of foods	36,031
1.1 Audits	2,236
1.2 Inspection	33,795

Inspections	2018
1.2.1 Inspections traceability (Regulation 178/2002)	13,251
1.2.2 General Hygiene Requirements Inspection (Regulation 852/2004)	20,931
1.2.3 Inspections specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (Regulation 853/2004)	7,691
1.2.4 Animal by-products inspections (Regulation 1069/2009)	5,331
2. Retail and catering establishments	109,821
Total number of inspections (scheduled, thematic, by signal)	165,118
3. Measures taken by the official controls	
3.1 Issued NEAO/notice establishing administrative offence (number)	1,745
3.2 Instructions (number)	9,607
3.3 Foreclosed and discarded foods (kg/l)	116,152 kg /1,150 l/126 pcs./7 420,500 pcs. eggs
3.4 Closed sites (number)	76

Source: BFSA

It is based on risk analysis, effective official controls on food safety in food production, wholesale and retail outlets and catering establishments is performed. Additional thematic checks (winter and summer tourist season, official and religious holidays, etc.) and signal checks are carried out.

In 2018, a total of 165,118 official controls were carried out at production, wholesale and retail establishments, food and catering establishments, thematic, unscheduled and alert and complaint controls.

The inconsistencies found concern:

- Structural inconsistencies concerning the building stock and equipment in the sites;
- Operational inconsistencies regarding the implementation of activities related to product safety/;
- Inconsistencies related to the self-control systems of business operators;
- Labelling
- Traceability
- Foods that do not meet legal safety requirements.

Analysis of the average performance of official controls carried out in 2018 indicates that: on average, every 17th inspection ends with the issuance of a Prescription (every 16th for 2017); on average, every 94th inspection ends with the drawing up of a document for the establishment of an administrative violation (at every 74th for 2017).

The results of official inspections show that a risk-based approach to the planning and execution of official controls is appropriate to detect non-conformities and ensure food safety as effectively as possible.

In 2018, the implementation of procedure for receiving information on continuing training courses, sports camps, green schools, field trips and camps for kindergartens and schools, introduced in 2013, continued. By conducting inspections for compliance with the requirements of Ordinance No. 8 of 04.12.2018 on the specific requirements for the safety and quality of food offered in kindergartens, school canteens and retail establishments on the territory of schools and kindergartens, as well as on food offered in organized activities for

children and students aims to ensure safe feeding of children in kindergartens, schools and exported events (camps, green schools, etc.).

The control of food produced according to standards (national, approved or sectoral) was carried out by inspections of production sites and by sampling of commercially available food.

In 2018, the number of food producing facilities by standard was as follows:

- Approved standard "Stara Planina" - 83 pieces;
- Approved standard "Bulgaria" - 97 pieces;
- Branch standard "Lutenitsa" - 12 pieces;
- Industry standard "Refined Sunflower Oil" - 6 pieces;
- Bulgarian state standard for dairy products - 57 pieces.
- According to the Annual Plan for the analysis of commercially available products, manufactured according to national and industry standards for 2018, 341 samples were tested as follows
- Approved standard "Stara Planina" - 90 samples;
- Approved standard "Bulgaria" - 120 samples;
- Branch standard "Lutenitsa" - 20 samples;
- Industry standard "Refined Sunflower Oil" - 6 samples;
- BDS 15: 2010 "Bulgarian white brined cheese" - 30 samples;
- BDS 14: 2010 "Bulgarian yellow cheese" - 30 samples;
- BDS 12: 2010 Bulgarian Yoghurt - 45 samples.

Of these, 59 were non-compliant, and administrative measures have been taken in connection with the established violations - issuing transcripts and drafting documents with definite deadlines.

In order to guarantee the right of consumers to receive complete and correct information about the foods they buy and consume, in 2018 BFSA will organize the control of the marketed dairy products for unauthorized use of non-dairy fats by sampling commercially.

Sampling was carried out with the participation of the dairy industry organisations and the Consumer Protection Commission. For the purposes of official control, a total of 232 samples were taken from the beginning of the year to 17.12. 2018, of which 64 were for compliance with physicochemical parameters and 168 for non-dairy fat.

In the tested 64 samples by physicochemical parameters (water content, oil content, salt), a mismatch was found in 15 samples as follows; cheese - 7 samples, yellow cheese - 5 samples and butter - samples).

Of the 168 samples taken for laboratory testing for the presence of non-dairy fats, 154 samples were from Bulgarian producers and 14 from European producers. In the laboratory test, the presence of non-dairy fats was found in three of the samples of Bulgarian producers (yogurt, melted cheese and cream cheese).

The following verifications have been carried out in relation to the implementation of food safety legislation:

- Physical and documentary verification of compliance with applicable legislation, sampling of raw milk for conformity with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin 17 dairy events and 69 deliveries from Member States;

- Monitoring of 31 dairy enterprises in connection with the adopted amendments to Ordinance No 1 of 2016 on food hygiene.

Implementation of official laboratory control programs.

National Programme for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods (NPCPR) 2018

In 2018, a total of 363 food samples were taken, of which 167 were under Regulation (EC) 2016/662, of which 269 were non-animal food, 24 were animal food, 10 were infant food and 60 pieces - leaf samples. One sample of organic food was taken from the mandatory matrices - 12 samples in total. Inconsistent results were found in 12 of them.

For each non-compliance, a follow-up study was conducted on the origin of the food and the reason for the non-compliance and the necessary corrective action was taken.

National Program for the Control of Raw Materials and Foods for Chemical Contaminants, Food Additives, Materials and Articles for Contact with Foods, Foods Treated with Ionizing Radiation (2018)

Within the program, a total of 41 862 samples of food of plant and animal origin (including 41,355 planned and 507 unplanned samples) were taken under the program and tested for 58,381 indicators, from which positive results were observed in 361 indicators.

For the purposes of official Trichinella control, a total of 1,173,908 samples were tested, of which 169 were equidae, 968 were bovine animals and 1,172,771 were slaughtered regularly. 166,883 samples were tested in the BFSA's laboratories, with regular slaughter in meat-producing enterprises, of which there is no positive sample for the presence of trichinella.

Washes/rubes - 29,874 samples tested for a total of 37,548 indicators, 172 were positive, 132 were positive for the TMN indicator and one was positive for Salmonella. Staphylococci and Escherichia coli (E. coli) were not detected in the tests.

Of the food groups with the highest number of positive results in terms of food safety, "minced meat and meat preparations from ungulates" stand out - from 1,294 samples tested, salmonella (Salmonella) was detected in 20 and 4 samples - Escherichia coli (E. coli).

A high number of inconsistent results is also indicated by the tested 175 raw milk samples from enterprises and the commercial network. 36 samples were tested positive for the TNM indicator, 13 samples for the TNSC indicator and 3 samples for the presence of inhibitors.

Corrective action has been taken to identify any non-compliant results.

Monitoring and Reporting Program for Antimicrobial Resistance to Zoonotic and Commensal Bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria (AMR) 2018

Antimicrobial resistance control is one of the European Commission's defined priorities in the areas of food safety, animal health and the use of veterinary medicinal products. Assessing the significance of the problem, the EC adopted a specific Decision No 2013/652 / EU of 12 November 2013 to monitor and report the antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commensal bacteria for the period 2014-2020 and to determine the type and number of the samples that Bulgaria has for implementation.

For the purposes of the AMR monitoring in 2018, 437 samples of broccoli contents and 158 commercial samples of pre-packaged, chilled broiler meat were taken.

National Programme for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF) 2018

In 2018, 80 samples are planned for laboratory testing, with RDFS obtaining data for 74 samples, including 32 from raw materials, 44 from ready-to-eat foods, 2 from infant foods, and young children on soybean and /or maize basis, adapted milk intended for infants and 2 pieces of rice and rice products. In the laboratory

testing of these samples, the presence of GMOs was suspected, but after qualitative and quantitative analysis, the quantity was found to be below the detection limit of the method - 0.1%. According to the legislation, a quantity below 0.9% is not stated on the label.

National Monitoring Programme for Residue Control (NMPRC) 2018

Official controls on residues of VMPs and contaminants in live animals and foodstuffs of animal origin shall be exercised through the NMVCO, which shall be implemented from April 2018 to March 2019, 1, 570 number of samples, one discrepancy was detected and the product was destroyed.

Audit of official controls

In 2018, the preparation and conduct of an audit of EC SANTE by the EC took part in evaluating the current system of official controls relating to the safety of food of animal origin, in particular milk and milk products.

During the audit, the findings were described in the audit report as follows:

- Enhancing official control competence through training to comply with the requirements of Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004;
- Official controls and monitoring of raw milk from sheep, goats and buffaloes;
- Development of a raw milk sampling system that will ensure that samples are properly sampled and transmitted and that they are properly tested for compliance with the raw milk criteria;
- Take measures to provide laboratories engaged in the raw milk test that can sustainably and consistently deliver reliable results in order to establish a fair and realistic status of dairy farms with a view to meeting the criteria for raw milk.

7.3.2. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed has been set up by the European Commission to provide Member States' control authorities with a well-functioning tool for communicating the human health risks posed by food or feed, by maintaining a rapid exchange of information and measures that have been taken or are about to be taken to manage these risks. The operation of the RASFF system is carried out through a network of contact points, with each Member State designating a single point of contact which is in permanent contact with the European Commission contact point. Commission Regulation (EU) No 16/2011 lays down measures for the implementation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Contact points have been set up to operate RASFF effectively in Bulgaria as follows:

- National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria, located in the specialized administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- Contact point at 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 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 at the Unified National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria in MAFF, a total of 3 European Union contact points were received 3,628 notifications in total that were checked, analysed and action were taken.

The notifications received are distributed by sector as follows: 3,176 notifications for the food sector, 313 notifications for the feed sector and 139 notifications for the food contact materials sector.

The types notified by the RASFF system to the EU are as follows:

- Warning notifications - 1,084 item, incl.: for food - 990 items, for feed - 46 items, for materials in contact with food - 48 items;
- Attention-directed notifications - 664 item, incl.: for food - 614 items, for feed - 34 items, for materials in contact with food - 16 items;
- Tracking notifications - 483 item, incl.: for food - 326 items, for feed - 135 items, for materials in contact with food - 22 items;
- Notifications of consignments rejected at the border – 1,385 items incl.: for food - 1,235 items, for feed - 98 items, for materials in contact with food - 52 items;
- Information notifications - none
- News Notification - 12 items, incl.: for food - 11 items, for materials in contact with food - 1 item.

In 2018, 100 notifications, sorted by species, prepared and sent by Bulgaria to the European Commission, were as follows:

- Warning notifications – 1 item for foods;
- Attention-directed notifications - 1 item for foods;
- Tracking notifications – 1 item for foods;
- Notifications of consignments rejected at the border - 97 items for foods;
- Information notifications – none;
- News Notification - none.

The notifications to which Bulgaria is a party, on notifications made by other members of the RASFF system and notified to the European Commission for taking the necessary measures and actions on them, were 135 in total, their distribution in groups was as follows:

- Warning notifications - 40 items;
- Attention-directed notifications - 5 items;
- Tracking notifications - 19 items;
- Notifications for rejection of consignments at the border - 71 items;
- Information notifications – none;
- News Notification - none.

All notifications were sent to the contact points of the BFSA and the Ministry of Health for taking the necessary measures and actions.

BFSA received notifications distributed through the RASFF System by the National Contact Point - MAFF.

In 2018, Bulgaria was affected by 5 (five) incoming notifications concerning the feed sector that were investigated and followed up. The information is provided through the RASFF system and is validated by the EC.

Regarding the information on the availability of the notified foods market for 2018, actions have been taken by the BFSA contact point on 61 incoming notifications, including 38 alerts, 15 alerts and traces, 7 information documents and targeting attention and 1 notification. Four outgoing notifications were made, in which Bulgaria reported on inconsistencies found. Of these, 1 notification for warning, 1 notification for information and follow-up, and 1 for directing attention, the notification was rejected by the EC as there was no risk to human health.

Through the website of BFSA, consumers are informed in a timely manner about the presence of foods on the market that are subject to notification and are distributed on the Bulgarian market.

7.3.3. Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system

The European Commission's administrative assistance and cooperation system (AAC) was established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1918 of 22 October 2015, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council official controls carried out to ensure compliance with feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules. Decision (EU) 2015/1918 lays down rules for the establishment and use of the AAC system to support the exchange of information between the competent authorities of the Member States and between them and the Commission.

In 2018, the files received under the European Union system were 16 in total.

From Bulgaria, 1 initial notification was made.

7.3.4. Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System - Food Fraud Network

The fight against food fraud is an EU priority aimed at meeting the highest standards of food safety. The EU Food Fraud Network was established to enable EU countries to operate in accordance with the rules laid down in Articles 36 to 40 of the Official Control Regulation (Regulation 882/2004) and on matters where national authorities are facing possible deliberate violations of the cross-border food chain law. The EU Food Fraud Network consists of 28 national contact points in the Member States, Sweden, Norway and Iceland and the European Commission.

In 2018, a total of 17 notifications were received under the system, on which Bulgaria provided the necessary information. One notification was issued by Bulgaria for established violations, counterfeiting and food fraud.

Bulgaria is a country participating in the joint operation OPSON VIII - Organic production of EC and Europol to counter food fraud in the organic food sector. The total number of notifications under Operation OPSON VIII - Organic Production is 13.

As of the creation of the system, there has been an increase in the number of created and distributed notifications. This is due to the fact that the EC is campaigning extensively to reduce food fraud and ensure transparency and quality in food production, as well as to protect consumer confidence in EU-produced foods. However, the AAC-FF system remains a relatively new, not well-researched system, not only for Bulgaria but also for other EU Member States.

7.3.5. Plant Protection Products Authorization Management System (PPPAMS)

An EU-wide authorization system is in place in the EU to allow it to operate in a harmonized and efficient system. The EU is divided into 3 zones for the authorization of plant protection products (PPPs): North, Central and South. Member States evaluate the applications on behalf of other countries in their area and/or sometimes on behalf of all zones.

Regulation (EU) 1107/2009 lays down the requirements, procedure and time limits for the authorization of plant protection products so that applicants, Member States, the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) can participate in the authorization process.

The management system for the authorization of plant protection products has been developed by the European Commission to enable industry users to make applications for plant protection products and submit them to the Member States for evaluation. Upon receipt of the applications, Member States manage those applications within the system, approving the PPP authorization or rejecting the application. The objectives of the PPPAMS System are:

- Harmonization of formal requirements for the implementation of PPPs between Member States;

- Streamlining the mutual recognition of PPP authorizations between Member States in order to speed up marketing time;
- Improving the management of the evaluation process to resolve PPPs;
- Provide stakeholders with accurate and timely information on authorized or withdrawn plant protection products.

7.3.6. Control of Veterinary Activities, Veterinary Medicinal Products and Feeds, Border Control

7.3.6.1. Control of Veterinary Activity

The Directorate-General for Verification of Official Control (VOC) at the CAF of BFSA supervises the activities of the 28 Regional Directorates for Food Safety and coordinates the activities of the territorial units.

The official controls on the effectiveness of official controls in the BFSA shall be carried out in accordance with an approved annual "Program for the performance checks on official controls carried out by the RFSD in accordance with Article 8 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directive 2000/29 of the Council".

By a decree of the Executive Director of the BFSA of December 2017, a Program of DG VOC for carrying out inspections on the effectiveness of the official control carried out by the RFSD in accordance with Art. 8 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Council Directive 2000/29 for 2018.

In 2018, 12 planned inspections of the activities of the RFSD were carried out in Gabrovo, Blagoevgrad, Haskovo, Razgrad, Veliko Turnovo, Shumen, Kardzhali, Smolyan, Pleven, Montana, Vidin, Sofia-region.

The plans/programs for verifying the official control of the RFSD are prepared mainly on a rotational basis, but also according to the number and nature of the discrepancies found during the previous inspections of the relevant RFSD.

Each single inspection for the effectiveness (verification) of official RFSD control involves 2 stages - documentary and physical (on-the-spot, on-site).

In 2018, 13 of the official controls planned for the year were conducted. Two of the planned audits in the field of animal health control have been postponed and included in the 2019 program.

The official control audits covered 12 regional structures and one central level directorate (Border Control Directorate at the BFSA Central Office).

The audit process assesses the official control of the food chain from health and animal welfare to food control. The official control audit process follows the rules of the approved procedure for official control audits in the BFSA, assessing the compliance, quality and effectiveness of the official controls carried out.

The follow-up audits carried out in 2018 show that, as a whole, the audited organisations have taken the necessary measures to effectively implement the recommendations, leading to an improvement in the control system.

In the audits conducted in 2018, the approval, implementation and introducing of documented procedures, instructions, guidelines at central level which lay down rules for carrying out official control of inspectors in the regional structures, which leads to an improvement in the quality of the official control carried out, was considered as a positive trend.

In 2019, the approved program for conducting official control audits will be implemented, following the approved procedure, assessing the compliance and effectiveness of official controls, with the aim of improving the audit process.

7.3.6.2. Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products

The control of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) is carried out in accordance with the Law on Veterinary Medicine. It relates to licensing for the use of immunological and medicinal VMPs, renewal of marketing authorizations, issuance of additions, in relation to changes in the circumstances in which the products have been licensed, work on procedures for mutual recognition of VMPs, decentralized procedure, transfer of licenses for use of the VMP and others.

In 2018, an evaluation of the dossiers of the VMPs was carried out, which the applicants attached to the applications according to the necessary procedures. An evaluation of the received periodic safety reports has been carried out within the so-called 'Pharmacovigilance' - a system that is relevant not only to the quality and safety of VMPs, but which monitors adverse reactions in animals as well as reactions in humans who administer VMPs to animals.

The register of licensed VMPs is updated periodically, with the aim of supporting the control of the VMP market, as well as providing the information provided by law to veterinary professionals and external users.

Inspections of enclosed documentation and conditions at the sites were carried out under the procedures for issuing a license for wholesale trade of VMPs, retail trade with VMPs, production of VMPs, as well as in changes in the entered circumstances.

Inspections of enclosed documentation and conditions at the sites under procedures for issuance / renewal of licenses for wholesale and retail trade of narcotic drugs for veterinary purposes from the Lists under Art. 3, para. 2, items 2 and 3 of the Narcotic Drugs and Precursors Control Act and changes in the circumstances.

The public registers of licenses issued for wholesale trade in VMPs, retail trade in VMPs, production of VMPs and licenses issued for activities for narcotic substances for veterinary medicinal purposes are updated periodically, with the aim of assisting mainly official veterinarians of the RFSD, who are responsible for overseeing the activities of the VMP as well as providing publicly available information provided for by law.

In connection with the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, data on the quantities of antimicrobial activity sold have been collected and summarized annually by the holders of the VMPs. The data are submitted to the European Medicines Agency and the International Bureau of Epizootics (OIE) according to the ESVAC (European Veterinary Antimicrobial Surveillance System) and OIE formats approved by ESVAC. The data provided in 2018 by BFSA are included in the Annual Report of ESVAC and OIE on the use of antimicrobial agents for animals in the EEA.

The BFSA controls the use, production, marketing, storage, advertising of the VMP in accordance with the Annual Inspection Programme. Under this program, RFSD inspectors carry out at least one inspection per year for livestock farms to control the use of VMPs, wholesale and retail outlets for VMPs and veterinary establishments.

By an order of the Executive Director of the BFSA of April 2017, a Quality Control Program for the commercially available VMPs was approved and implemented.

The purpose of the program is to ensure that the commercially available VMPs after the granting of the marketing authorization are of the required quality, according to the specifications in the registration documentation and the requirements of the marketing authorization for the VMP.

The program provides:

- verification of the quality of the VMP at each stage of the distribution chain during the shelf life of the product;
- ensuring that control methods are satisfactory;
- study of suspected deviations in the quality of the VMP;
- checks to identify counterfeit VMPs.

The program is for nationally licensed VMPs under a mutual recognition and decentralized procedure. The centralized procedure (sampling and laboratory analysis) of quality control of VMPs is carried out under the program of the European Medicines Agency.

The program does not apply to laboratory testing of the quality of VMPs during the procedure for granting a marketing authorization for VMPs.

For the implementation of the program, a sampling plan is drawn up annually on a sample of the wholesale and retail VMP sites. In case of finding non-compliance with the quality requirements of the VMP, under the conditions under which the VMP license was issued, the BFSA Executive Director or a person authorized by him shall notify the holder of the Marketing Authorization in writing and, upon a proposal by the SCMM, take the regulatory actions provided for in the LFA. .

The Annual Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection Plan of VMP manufacturers / importers is prepared and implemented annually. The inspections shall monitor compliance with GMP requirements in accordance with European and national legislation in the field of production of VMPs. The data on the manufacturing authorizations granted, the approved amendments thereto and the GMP certificates issued are entered in the European Database for the exchange of registered manufacturers of medicinal and immunological products for human and veterinary use (EudraGMP).

Subject to control for veterinary medicinal products are: VMP manufacturers, VMP wholesalers and/or active substances, VMP retailers (veterinary pharmacies), animal husbandry and veterinary practices.

The number of inspections carried out in 2018 for control over the use and marketing of VMPs exceeds the minimum set in the BFSA Inspection Program for 2018. and on the basis of a risk assessment for each individual site, on the basis of which additional inspections were planned, as well as inspections ordered by the BFSA management.

Most often, inconsistencies with the requirements of the Law on Veterinary Medicine and the by-laws regarding the marketing and use of VMPs are found during inspections of livestock establishments and veterinary establishments. The inconsistencies concern mainly: the lack of good practices in keeping and storing documentation and information on the performed preventive measures; information necessary to trace the correspondence between the available quantities of VMPs at the sites and those described in the documents.

Discrepancies found directly increase the risk of:

- Application to animals of non-licensed VMPs;

- Inability to fully trace the origin of purchased / used VMPs and to identify treated animals;
- Administration of VMPs by persons without the necessary qualification to animals from which products for human consumption are obtained;
- Failure to observe the withdrawal periods after the use of the VMPs for which they are required;
- Use of VMPs with expired or quality defects;
- Storage of the VMP in breach of the manufacturer's requirements.

As a result of found inconsistencies in the carried out inspections of trading sites and use of the VMP in 2018, 360 prescriptions have been issued and 46 acts have been drawn up to establish an administrative violation

In connection with the information received from the State Agricultural Fund for unauthorized trade in VMPs to all RFSDs, additional inspections at the wholesale and retail VMP sites were ordered for the presence of unlicensed VMPs intended for bees, as well as inspections in stores for beekeeping equipment for illegal trade in VMPs. For open unlicensed VMPs, as well as for the unregulated trade in VMPs from beekeeping shops, the relevant measures were implemented in accordance with the Law on Waste Management and in the AIA.

SCSM experts have participated in 6 cross compliance checks. These checks are carried out to monitor compliance with statutory management requirements (SMRs) in the relevant

In 2018, the following was done with regard to control activities on the production of VMPs: There were 2 licenses issued for the production of VMPs; changes to the license for production of the VMP were approved - 5; 13 certificates of Good Manufacturing Practice have been issued; cancelled production licenses - 2; inspections of VMP production sites carried out for compliance with the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice - 15 in total; 251 certificates of origin and free sale were issued, as well as certificates for a pharmaceutical product.

The inspections carried out revealed a total of 87 non-compliances with GMP requirements, most of which do not pose a direct risk to the quality of the manufactured VMPs and would not lead to the production and marketing of VMPs presenting a risk to human and animal health.

With regard to control activities on trade and use of the VMP, the following has been done: 3 licenses have been issued for wholesale trade of VMPs; approved changes to issued licenses for wholesale trade of VMP - 10; issued 9 licenses for retail trade with VMPs; approved changes to issued licenses for retail trade with VMP - 10; suspended 11 licenses for retail trade with VMPs; issued 1 (one) license for wholesale of narcotic substances; approved changes / additions issued / renewal of licenses for trade in narcotic substances - 6; 3 batches of VMP withdrawn from the market.

In 2018, the total number of inspections carried out by the RFSD in relation to official controls on the trade, storage and use of VMPs was 3,936, of which: 158 inspections of wholesale sites; 347 inspections of retail outlets; 985 inspections of veterinary establishments; 2,414 inspections of livestock establishments and 32 inspections of pet stores.

7.3.6.3. Border control

Border control exercised includes border veterinary control, border phytosanitary control and border health control.

Border veterinary checks are carried out to comply with the requirements of 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 in accordance with Regulation (EC) 206/2009; of domestic pets accompanying travellers from third countries - in accordance with Regulation (EC) 576/2013.

The official control of the commercial consignments of products of animal origin, feed and live animals is carried out in accordance with Commission Decision 2007/275 / EU. Control is carried out by border veterinary inspectors - official veterinarians of 8 (eight) approved by EC Border Inspection Points (BIPs): Varna - West port; Port of Burgas; Captain Andreevo; Zlatarevo-highway; Gyueshevo - highway; Kalotina-highway; Sofia Airport; Coastal-highway. In addition to approved BIPs, passengers 'and pets' personal luggage controls are also carried out at entry points: Malko Turnovo, Lesovo, Logodazh, Strezimirovtsi, Varna Airport, Burgas Airport.

Border phytosanitary (quarantine) control of imports of plants, plant products and other objects to Bulgaria and EU Member States is carried out in accordance with European standards and Directives 2000/29, 98/22 and others. Official controls are carried out at border inspection posts of phytosanitary points which are identical with the BIP.

Border health controls on imports of 'high-risk' foods of non-animal origin in accordance with the requirements of European legislation, which are carried out at designated points of entry, first points of entry and control points designated by the competent authority and notified to the Commission. The designated border crossing points for official controls on imports of food of non-animal origin are: Captain Andreevo, Port of Bourgas, Port of Varna, Port of Varna - West, Sofia Airport.

The Captain Andreevo BIP is aligned with both veterinary and phytosanitary and health border controls.

Official border controls include the carrying out of documentary, identification and physical checks, including sampling and corrective action in the event of non-compliance with 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 foodstuffs, GMOs and imports of organically produced food and products originating in third countries shall be strictly adhered to. The requirements of EU regulations and directives, as well as compliance with national applicable legislation in the field.

The results of the control activity of the Border Veterinary, Phytosanitary and Health Control carried out during the year are reflected in the report on the implementation of the Single Multiannual National Control Plan for Food, Feed, Animal Health, Welfare and Plant Protection (SMNCP) for 2018. . prepared in accordance with the requirements of Art. 44 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

In recent years, there has been a decline in the recorded discrepancies related to the import of food and feed of animal origin. In 2018, there has been a decrease in the number of non-compliant consignments of fresh fruits and vegetables originating in third countries. The reasons for suspended, destroyed or returned consignments are a lack of mandatory documents, a ban on the import of plant species and a lack of mandatory marking.

7.3.6.4. Feed Control

In 2018, the strategic goals set out in the Single Multiannual National Control Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria for Food, Feed, Animal Health, Welfare and Plant Protection (2018-2020) (SMNCP) for the achievement of the strategic goals were fulfilled. Objective "Effective functioning of the feed control system".

In order to achieve a high level of protection of human and animal health, environmental protection and protection of consumers from delusions, regular, risk-based, control of each of the stages of production, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, including feeding on feed, was carried out during the year. The control covers both feed business establishments and livestock establishments that produce feed or feed the animals only with purchased feed.

Feed control in 2018 followed the following priorities:

- Achieving a high degree of protection of human health, animal health and the environment;
- Protecting consumers from fraud, misconduct and illegal practices in feed;

- Effective functioning of the feed control system;
- Performing a regular and risk-based process control of feed business operators - at every stage of production, processing, storage and distribution of feed, including animal nutrition;
- Control of feed, regarding the content of unwanted and prohibited substances, and control of 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 by GMOs to ensure informed consumer choice;
- Control of the production, dispensing, transport and use of medicated feed in order to minimize the risk of the marketing of raw materials and/or food of animal origin for human consumption containing concentrations of pharmacologically active medicinal substances above the maximum levels laid down in applicable law;
- Control over compliance with the feed prohibitions set out in Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 (the so-called Intra-species feed ban) and in Art. 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (the so-called total feed ban) related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Registration and approval of facilities in the feed sector

In accordance with the requirements of the Feed Act and in relation to Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, activities carried out in the Feed sector are carried out at sites and operators approved or registered by the Bulgarian Agency for Feed Food Safety.

As of December 31, 2018 in the territory of the state the total number of registered and approved sites was 11,317, which are broken down by activities as follows:

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.

Table V.8. 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 31.12.2018)

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
I. Registered sites under art. 9 of Regulation (EC) № 183/2005	3,581	
1.Manufacturers of supplements	3	
2.Manufacturers of premixtures of the supplements	2	
3.Manufacturers of compound feed	259	
4.Operators carrying out the activities cutting, packaging, repackaging and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	66	
5.Packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	8	
6.Grinding, packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	10	
7.Manufacturers of feed materials	387	
8.Feed dealers	2,214	
9.Operators transporting feeds	577	

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
10.Operators offering warehouses for rent	55	
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]	7,587	
1.Registered sites of farmers producing primary feed at the location of the property	5,192	
2.Registered sites of farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	559	
3.Registered sites of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixes, using supplementary feed	1,816	
4.Registered sites of farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for their own farm	20	
III.Approved sites under art. 10, operating under art. 5, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EC) No183/2005		139
1.Manufacturers of feed additives		6
2.Manufacturers of premixes, based on feed additives		5
3.Manufacturers of compound feed		42
4.Dealers of feed additives and premixes		79
5.Operators carrying out decontamination of feeds		1
6. Operators carrying out fat blending[2]		2
7. Operator manufacturing products obtained from the production of biodiesel[3]		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		3
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		11,317

Source: BFSA

Information is provided by the Direct Payments and Identification of Agricultural Parcels Directorate, MAFF

² The approved operators carrying out the activity "Fat Blending" are three, but one of them carries out in the same site also the activity "Processing of raw vegetable oil except for the sites registered under the Food Act". This operator is only entered under the column "Operators producing biodiesel derived products" in order to avoid duplication of operators and reporting non-existent sites.

³ The approved biodiesel production site also carries out other activities that require an approval regime. This operator is only entered under the column "Operators producing biodiesel derived products" in order to avoid duplication of operators and reporting non-existent sites. Actually also performs "fatty acid production", "crude oil processing activity" activities

In fulfillment of the requirements of Art. 19 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005, the register of approved feed establishments / operators is available on the website of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission.

According to signed bilateral agreements between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Bulgaria, BFSA also maintains 4 lists:

- List of the establishments approved for export of maize to PRC;

- List of the establishments approved for export of alfalfa to PRC;
- List of crop-based compound feed manufacturers approved for export to the PRC;
- List of manufacturers of feed additives approved for export to the PRC.

Table V.9. Number of registered and approved sites in Feed Sector in 2017 and 2018 .

No	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2017	Number of sites as of 31.12.2018	Variation in %
1.	Registered operators under Art. 15, para. 1 of the Feed Act	3,587	3,581	-0.2 %
1.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	267	259	-3.0%
1.2.	Operators carrying out the activities cutting, packaging, repackaging, labelling and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	63	66	+4.8%
1.3.	Packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	8	8	-
1.4.	Grinding, packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	9	10	+11.1%
1.5.	Manufacturers of supplements	4	3	-25.0%
1.6.	Manufacturers of premixtures of the supplements	2	2	-
1.7.	Manufacturers of feed materials	407	387	-4.9%
1.8.	Feed dealers	2,244	2,214	-1.3%
1.9.	Operators transporting feeds	542	577	+6.5%
1.10.	Operators offering warehouses for rent	41	55	+34.1%
2.	Registered operators under Art. 15, para. 3 and para. 4 of the Feed Act	143	139	-2.8 %
2.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	45	42	-6.7%
2.2.	Manufacturers of feed additives	6	6	-
2.3.	Manufacturers of premixtures of the supplements	4	5	+25.0%
2.4.	Dealers of feed additives and premixes	82	79	-3.7%
2.5.	Operators, performing: - processing of raw vegetable oil, except for sites registered under the Food Act, and/or -production of fatty acids through the processing of vegetable oils and animal fats, biodiesel production and fat blending	2	3	+50.0%
2.6.	Operators carrying out detoxification of feeds	1	1	-
2.7.	Operators carrying out fat blending	2	2	-
2.8.	Operators, producing biodiesel	1	1	-
3.	Approved producers of medicated feed under Art. 55b, para. 1 of the Feed Act	10	10	-
4.	Registered farmers exercising activities under Art. 5 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	6,703	7,587	+13.2%
4.1.	Registered farmers producing primary feed	4,821	5,192	-7.7%
4.2.	Registered farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	381	559	+46.7%
4.3.	Registered farmers mixing feed exclusively for	1,471	1,816	+23.5%

No	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2017	Number of sites as of 31.12.2018	Variation in %
	their own farm without the use of additives and premixes, using supplementary feed			
4.4.	Registered farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for their own farm	30	20	-33.3%
	Total number	10,443	11,317	+8.4%

Source: BFSA

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.

Manufacturing of compound feed

In 2018, pursuant to Art. 14b of the Feed Act produced a total of 1,112,576.96 tonnes of compound feed (according to data from manufacturers of compound feed), which is 3.4% less than the previous year.

Medicated feed production

Throughout 2018, in the country, 37,545.48 tonnes of medicated feeds were produced for pigs only. Compared to 2017, when pig feed-only medicines were also produced, there was an increase in production of 2,253.68 tonnes or by 6.4%. The share of the production of medicated feeds for the needs of own farms was 59.8% of the total quantity produced in 2017 and that of the produced for the market - 40.2%. The ratio in 2017 was 57.9% to 42.1%.

Table V.10. Medicated feed production in 2018 by regional areas

District	Medicated feeds for pigs/tonnes		
	For the market	For own farms	Total
Varna	7,677.52	12,902	20,579.52
Razgrad	0	2,836	2,836
Ruse	467	5,181.46	5,648
Stara Zagora	0	354.5	354.5
Shumen	6,442	1,061	7,503
Yambol	524	100	624
Total	15,110.52	22,434.96	37,545.48

Source: BFSA

Official feed control

During the year, the operational objectives set out in the Feed Control Framework Plan for 2018 were met, incl. facilities producing feed or feeding only animals raised for food production and their production is intended for human consumption.

In 2018, feed control follows the set of specific operational objectives that relate to the strategic objectives set out in the EMNCP of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2018 - 2020, namely: ensure that feed meets safety requirements; verification of 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 business operators are responsible for the safety of the feed they produce, for the protection of animal health and for the prevention of risks for the environment.

Official feed control is planned and ongoing. Planned control is based on country-wide risk assessment criteria. In 2018, the 'Feed Control Framework Plan for 2018' was implemented and guidance on its implementation was applied. It covers the control of feed at all levels, including the feeding of farm animals.

Ongoing controls include ex-post controls, suspicion checks and investigations (alerts, complaints, RASFF notifications, etc.).

Results from the control activity for 2018

The feed control framework includes three control systems: Animal Feed and Feed, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and Animal By-Products and Veterinary Medicinal Products and Residues of Veterinary Medicinal Products. The inspections carried out during the year and the samples taken from feed for analysis are evenly spread over the period and cover all groups of operators.

- Results of control activities under the Feed and Animal Feed Control System

Overall progress towards the strategic and specific objectives of the Feed and Animal Feed Control System is assessed as positive. The number of inspections set out in the Framework Control Plan for 2018 were 99.3% as of 31.12.2018. Compared to the previous year, the planned inspections decreased by 76 pcs. or by 1.8%, to 4,172, due to the deletion of the registration / approval of sites / operators in the sector that were planned for control during the period.

By the end of 2018, a total of 4 860 inspections were carried out (planned - 4,172, subsequent - 525, investigative - 137 and by signal - 26), documented with a statement of findings.

The inspections revealed 1,016 non-compliances with the requirements of the applicable legislation in the sector. Prescriptions were made for the inconsistencies found, with specific deadlines for their elimination. The applicable requirements of the legislation are grouped into a total of four areas: hygiene requirements; self-control (meeting the requirements of the quality control plan and / or introducing procedures based on HACCP principles); traceability - maintaining records and archives and procedures for retrieving feed from the market; labelling.

No serious discrepancies have been observed with regard to the feeds tested which would result in animal or public health hazards. The type of non-compliance identified does not pose a potential risk to the animals. It is not uncommon for self-control plans to be implemented by feed business operators and farmers.

The number of discrepancies found by type is as follows: 461 hygiene requirements; 148 for self-control (meeting the requirements of the quality control plan and/or introducing procedures based on HACCP principles); 350 - traceability and 57-labelling.

By type of establishment, the largest number of discrepancies is found in livestock establishments feeding the reared animals with purchased feed or compound feed for their own use only, without the use of additives and premixtures, except for silage - 601 or 59.2% of all discrepancies identified. Compared to 2017, discrepancies found in livestock establishments decreased by 303 units. In 2018, 2,379 inspections were made (2,497 in 2017).

Discrepancies found and the type of operators identified during the year were taken into account in the risk assessment in the planning of the 2019 control framework plan.

The most common reasons for the discrepancies found are: unrealised liability of operators in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002; insufficient knowledge of the requirements of the legislation; insufficient financial resources from feed business operators to invest in new equipment, which has an impact on compliance with hygiene requirements.

In 2018, the inspections of feed establishments took samples for analysis on the indicators declared by the manufacturer for compliance, as well as for compliance with the safety limits set by the legislation.

The total number of analyses from official controls taken in 2018 was 2,730, of which:

- 493 samples of the nutritional composition (17 inconsistent results were obtained - 3.4% of the analyses performed, which is an increase of 11 compared to the inconsistent analyses for 2017);
- 305 feed additives with fixed maximum content, including coccidiostats allowed (discrepancies were detected in 39 analyses - 12.8% of the performed analyses, which is an increase of 39.3% compared to the number of inconsistent analysis results in 2017). In the analyses performed for the quantification of coccidiostats, inconsistent results were not found during the year;
- 1,381 for undesirable substances, including mycotoxins (4 inconsistent results were obtained - 0.3% of analyses). In 2018, the number of inconsistencies found in laboratory analysis remained unchanged from 2017.

In 2018, a total of 150 feed samples were analysed for mycotoxin content, in line with the Feed Control Framework Plan, with 58 less than 2017, which is the result of a risk analysis and factors that have contributed to the occurrence and development of mycotoxins, as well as the increased operator accountability established in previous years' control.

In 2018, the following were collected:

- 20 feed samples for dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls, under the framework control plan. All analyses 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, in the analysed samples the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls in relatively constant values in the range of 0.14 to 0.26 ng was detected;
- 50 analyses for banned medicinal substances, such as feed additives and for inevitable transfer into non-target feed. The analyses carried out on all samples were found to comply with the law;
- 187 microbiological contamination samples - Salmonella presence (7 non-compliant analyses were detected or 3.7% of the analysed samples), which increased the number of non-compliant analyses by 4 compared to 2017;
- 21 feed samples for the presence of GMOs, collected in implementation of the framework control plan - there were no unauthorised genetically modified feed.

The analysis of the performed laboratory control shows that in cases where the non-compliance of the feed with the requirements of the applicable legislation was found, it increased compared to 2017. This is a testament to the proper planning of the official feed control for 2018, which is based on a risk assessment and the effectiveness of the one carried out in the previous year.

In 2018, 48 documents for administrative violation were drawn up. The most common violations on the part of the feed business operators for which AUAN is drawn up are for non-compliance with the requirements of Art. 15 (9 items) and Art. 48, para. 1 and Art. 26, para. 4 (5 each) of the Feed Act. The analysis of the implementation of the administrative penal provisions of the Feed Act shows that the penalties imposed have an effect on the compliance of feed operators with the requirements of feed law.

- **Feed control under the control system "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products"**

Compliance with feed business operators of the total feed ban (Article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) and intraspecific feed ban (Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009) regarding the processed animal proteins was monitored.

In the course of the documentary and physical inspections in 2018, no violations of the requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 on Intra-Specific Feed Prohibition were found.

In the course of the documentary and physical inspections carried out in 2018 by the inspectors responsible for the official control of the feed in 2 pig farms, violations of Art. 7 and Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, were found, for which all necessary administrative penal measures and actions were taken.

The animal feed samples taken in 2018 for the presence of animal ingredients in the implementation of the feed control framework plan were 311, including 293 samples for the implementation of the feed control framework plan and 18 feed samples intended for export.

Proteins of animal origin represent risk for contamination with microorganisms (salmonella and other bacteria from the fam. Enterobacteriaceae), which is why feed samples are taken for microbiological contamination. In 2018, 37 approved feed samples for salmonella and 21 for Enterobacteria were collected under the approved framework plan. Of the feed intended for export, respectively, 14 samples and 13 samples were analysed. During the laboratory control, 4 positive results of laboratory analysis for the presence of enterobacteria in feed were detected. As in 2017, non-compliant samples were taken from feed intended for feeding pigs. Studies have been carried out to identify inconsistencies.

Five samples were also taken, outside the approved framework plan for 2018, in the investigations carried out in relation to laboratory tests for classical scrapie in small ruminants (4 feed samples and 1 powder sample).

- **Feed control under the control system "Veterinary medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products"**

As of 31.12.2018, 10 sites for production of medicated feed and/or intermediates under Art. 55, para. 1 of the Feed Act were approved.

In 2018, a total of 18 inspections were conducted of approved operators engaged in the activity "Manufacture of medicated feed", of which 9 planned, 5 follow-up and 4 investigative. The inspections carried out gave 9 prescriptions to 4 operators, which represents 44.4% of the 9 operators checked.

7.3.6.5. Audits of Feed Business Operators

In accordance with the requirements of Art. 6 and Art. 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and in connection with Art. 26, para. 2 of the Feed Act, feed business operators carrying out activities other than those at the primary feed production level (referred to in Article 5 (1)) are required to have procedures developed and implemented based on HACCP principles - Analysis procedure of hazards and control of critical points.

In 2018, 233 audits of feed business operators and 28 ex-post audits were carried out to implement audit recommendations. It can be concluded that the operators have developed, implemented and implemented the appropriate procedures to meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Some operators have found that procedures based on HACCP principles are not up to date at the time of the audit. For all identified discrepancies, recommendations are given on which the operators have taken corrective action. They have been checked for their implementation and are closed.

In 2018, there has been a decrease in the number of recommendations made, with almost the same number of audits carried out, compared to 2017, which is indicative of the effectiveness of official feed controls carried out over the years.

7.4. Food Chain Risk Analysis

The Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre (FCRAC) is a competent authority within the meaning of Art. 22 (7) of Regulation (EC) No 1781/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

The FCRAC is the scientific structure for risk assessment in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health, while respecting the principles of transparency,

accessibility, objectivity and impartiality and to be independent, responsive and trusted partner of risk managers - MAFF, BFSA and other competent authorities, as well as actively contributing to the high level of consumer protection through independent scientific assessment and communication of food risk chain.

The National Food Centre of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which liaises between the EFSA, the FCRAC and the national scientific organisations for the risk assessment of the Member States, is located in the FCRAC.

In 2018, the Centre successfully implemented the Quality Management System in accordance with ISO 9001 (2015), for which Certificate BG.121391Q / U as of 12.10.2018 was issued. The Quality Management System covered all processes and activities providing influence on the quality of the administrative service in the FCRAC administration, as well as creating confidence in all interested parties that they will be provided with services tailored to their needs and expectations.

The main activity of the FCRAC is aimed at preparing scientific opinions (at the request of MAFF, BFSA, MH and other organisations); risk communication and approval, renewal and review of approval of active substances, antidotes and synergists and evaluation of plant protection products.

In 2018, 43 scientific opinions were prepared (including 7 scientific reviews and 5 scientific analyses). The assessments, opinions and analyses carried out during the year concern animal health (including, in particular, the diseases of avian influenza, African swine fever and small ruminant plague), food safety, animal welfare, health of plants.

In February 2018, the FCRAC organized a scientific and practical conference on "African swine fever, reducing the population density of feral pigs, as a method of limiting the risk of disease in Bulgaria".

During the year, 7 scientific reviews were prepared regarding: the latest methods in molecular diagnostics of animal diseases; methods for determining sex in the egg and stopping the killing of male chicks in the egg-laying direction; alternative meds, replacing in part animal testing and safety assessment of chemicals and products for human and veterinary medicine and plant protection; scientific substantiation of the MAFF methodology for voluntary bird welfare commitments approved by the EC.

In 2018, 3 inquiries were sent via the BCC to the network of contact points to provide information on the prohibition of the use of neonicotinoids, national measures on the percentage of raw materials in certain foods and ancillary sodium chloride content in traditional raw dried and smoked meat products. Communication was made by querying the contact points of Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and Austria on a procedure for requesting EU financial assistance for the prevention and control of the disease African swine fever.

Information from the EU's Information System for the Announcement of Some Particularly Dangerous Animal Diseases (ADNS) has been processed weekly.

Publications of scientific information were prepared in printed publications - brochures of the EFSA Contact Centre and 11 materials were published.

Effective communication and dialogue with stakeholders on various issues related to food safety has been carried out in 2018, based on the principles of transparency and mutual cooperation, with the aim of increasing confidence in the FCRAC. In this regard, scientific and practical conferences were organized by the FCRAC, which discussed the current risks for the country.

The FCRAC 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 working in the areas of EFSA's competence and the competent authority under Art. 75 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (PPP) and the procedures for the approval, renewal and review of approval of active substances, antidotes and synergists.

In this regard, evaluations have been made in 2018 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 in the following areas: ecotoxicology - 90; existence in the environment - 89; physicochemical and technical properties, analytical methods - 131; mammalian toxicology - 74; residues and consumer exposure - 85; biological efficiency - 118 pieces.

During the year, information on authorized PPPs in Bulgaria was processed and 14 evaluation reports were prepared in the field "Residues and consumer exposure" for amendment under Art. 44 and Art. 45 of Regulation (EC) 1107/2011.

As a result of the activities described above, 176 were completed and submitted to BFSA for authorization of plant protection products.

7.5. Legislative Changes in the Field of Food Safety

In 2018 and 2019 the optimization of the regulatory framework in the field of animal health, food safety and quality, protected names continued, with the following elaborated:

- Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No 31 of 2005 on the measures for the prevention, restriction and eradication of Newcastle disease (pseudogestation) in birds and the conditions and procedure for their implementation (prom.SG issue 64 of 03.08.2018);
- Ordinance to supplement Ordinance No. 1 (prom. SG. 51 of 19.06.2018 r.);
- Ordinance to amend and supplement the Ordinance on Specific Requirements for Dairy Products (prom.SG issue 58 of 13 July 2018);
- In May, 4, an Ordinance No 4/28.05.2019 on the terms and conditions for the use of the optional term for quality "mountain product" and for the official control of its use was adopted. According to the Ordinance in question, the farmers in the mountain areas are entitled to put the designation "Mountain Product" on their labels (prom.SG issue 45 of 07.06.2019);
- Ordinance No 5 of 13 August 2019 on the preparation and submission of requests to the European Commission concerning agricultural products and foodstuffs with a protected geographical indication and traditionally specific character, for control of compliance with the product specification and for keeping records of producers and controllers (SG, issue 67 of 23.08.2019).

In connection with the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council, technical meetings, working groups and sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Committees have been organized and held: Committee on Pesticide Residues, Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, Committee on Residues from VMP in Foods, Committee on Food Pollutants and Committee on Food Additives.

Priority activities in 2019

In the first semester of 2019, the MAFF's priority activity in the field of food safety is the preparation of an analysis of European legislation on a package of five proposals for review by the European Union of food chain legislation and their official publication in connection with the drafting of a new Law on Veterinary Medicine and updating the draft Law on the Management of the Agri-Food Chain.

Also important are the activities and working groups related to the difficulties in implementing the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal and Zoonotic Diseases, and the implementation of stock-breeding sites throughout the country. In this regard, on-the-spot checks were carried out in connection with the State aid granted to farmers for the implementation of preventive measures as well as physical checks on the farms to establish their compliance with the current legislation in the field of identification of farm animals. Reports on the findings, omissions, violations were prepared and recommendations for improving procedures and other operational documents were presented as a result of the analysis.

8. Livestock Selection and Reproduction

8.1. National Livestock Genetic Resources Management

The Executive Agency for Breeding and Reproduction in Animal Breeding (EASRAB) assists the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in pursuing the state policy in the field of breeding and management and conservation of genetic resources. The Agency monitors the state of national genetic resources and coordinates the activities related to their management.

EASRAB participates in the management of national genetic resources in animal husbandry through the direction, organisation and participation in the activities of the National Council for the Management and Conservation of Genetic Resources. In 2018, 33 meetings of the Section Council for the various livestock sectors were held, where the problems of the respective branch were discussed and a number of proposals for improvement of breeding activities were made.

The Agency monitors the breeds annually in connection with the maintenance and periodic updating of the Register of breeding flocks by the National Gene Fund under Art. 6 of the Livestock Act. The Genetic Resources Council periodically discusses the state of national breeds of animals and takes the necessary measures to prevent their disappearance.

Experts from EASRAB determine the breed belonging to the detailed breed characteristics of the animals of the cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat species grown in the country. In 2018, it was established the lineage of: 158 cattle in 4 farms: 308 cattle on 5 farms and 316 sheep raised on 2 farms.

In 2018, the Agency determined the breeding status of herds, the risk status of breeds and the trend of change. During the year, breeding organisations in the country and EASRAB control 27 autochthonous breeds, which are also subject to support under measure 214 "Agro-environmental payments" in the direction "Protecting our endangered local breeds" from RDP 2007-2013 and measure 10 "Agroecology and Climate" of the RDP for the period 2014 - 2020

During the period 2009 - 2018, there were breeds with reduced threat status, but there are no extinct breeds. Only the Pleven Horse breed can be identified as an extinct breed. The condition of the autochthonous breeds of Stara Zagora sheep, Byala Mariska sheep, Local Karnobat sheep, Breznitsa sheep is monitored, and from the commercial breeds the Karnobat and Thracian thin-ruined, Danube horse and Danube white pig. Measures for the restoration of Bulgarian Brown Cattle and Bulgarian Red Cattle continued to be applied in 2018. At the beginning of 2018, the Bulgarian Brown Beef Breeding Association was granted a breeding permit for the breed, as a result of which it took over breeding activities. A breeding plan was elaborated for the development of the Bulgarian Red Cattle and was implemented in 2018.

The EASRAB maintains an information database on the state of genetic resources, modelled on the EASRAB database of the European Regional Focal Point. The national system is linked to EASRAB and the latter to the World Food organisation (FAO) DAD-IS information system. This integration enables the transfer of data from national to European and global information systems, with information updated in 2018.

In 2018, in conjunction with breeding organisations, data were updated in the Information System for Local Breeds of Farm Animals, with 113,161 animals of 33 breeds registered at the end of the year.

EASRAB manages and maintains a National Genetic Bank with two repositories (Sofia and Sliven), which stores cryopreserved semen from different species and breeds of animals.

At the end of 2018, a total of 1,917,095 doses of deep-frozen semen from 299 breeding animals of 21 breeds of cattle, 3 breeds of buffalo, 3 breeds of sheep and one breed of horse are stored in the National Genetic Bank.

The Agency also maintains a National Genetic Reserve as a separate part of the National Genetic Bank. The reserve guarantees the national sovereignty of the country with regard to genetic resources, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biological diversity, as well as limiting its loss.

As 31.12.2018, there were 380,139 doses of frozen semen from the following are stored in the National Genetic Reserve of the country: 406 beef and 28 buffalo breeders, of 56 huts and 10 stallions. The doses are from 27 breeds of cattle (15 dairy and 12 meat-breeding), 4 breeds of buffalo (Murra, Bulgarian Murra, Jaffarabad and Nile Ravi), 20 breeds of sheep (Karakachan, Copper-red Shoumen, Local Karnobat, Replyan, Srednarskobar, Saranskara, Dara, Western Balkan, Breznik, Kotren, Black-headed Plevan, Asaf, Ile-de-France and the crosses of the Awasi breed, Australian and New Zealand Merino, Burula, Perendel and Coridel) and 7 horse breeds (Purebred Arabian, Anglo-Arabian, Plevan Eastern Bulgarian, Guy dran and Purebred English Horse).

In 2018, the National Genetic Reserve is enriched with 2,321 new doses of four new Jersey bovine breeders from Angler; with three stallions of breeds: Plevan, Gydran and Thoroughbred Arabic; with 8 cats from the breeds of Kotlenska, Chernoglav Plevenska, Asaf and Ile-de-France; with three rods of the Saan goat breed. This diversity provides farmers and breeders with genetic material that can help them improve their breeds and adapt them to the effects of climate change.

To ensure higher biosecurity, frozen seed from the National Genetic Reserve is stored in two cryo-storage facilities - Sofia and Sliven.

At the end of 2018, a total of 2,297,234 doses of deep-frozen semen were stored in the National Bank and the National Genetic Reserve, of which 311 996 doses were from 94 breeds of 5 breeds of cattle, 1 breed of sheep, 3 breeds of sheep and 3 breeds of horses that are extinct and endangered by native and native species.

EASRAB manages and maintains the two State Artificial Insemination Stations (SATIS) in Sofia and Sliven, providing breeding and conservation of genetic resources in the country. Long-lasting breeding material from valuable highly productive breeds and from endangered and endangered native autochthonous breeds was received and stored at the stations.

As of the end of 2018, 6 beef and 3 buffalo breeding plants are being grown at the Sliven SATIS. During the year, 4 bulls from the breeds came in: Jersey, Simmental and Bulgarian Murra, and 9 nurseries have been excluded from breeding because of a completed production program.

Within 2018, 20,900 doses of frozen semen in the form of sequins have been produced from the available breeding centres at the Sliven SATIS.

The SATIS Sliven maintains a rearing booth for the production of fresh semen for artificial insemination of pigs. Due to the complicated epizootic situation with the disease "African swine fever" from September 2018, the production of semen from the available boars has been suspended. From the beginning of the year until their use, 699 doses of fresh semen have been produced and 446 sows have been inseminated from the existing 4 birches (3 birches from the Danube White breed and one cross breed from the Greater White x Landras x Pietren breeds).

The SATIS Sofia maintained at the horse breeding depot, and by the end of 2018, 20 horses - 7 stallions from the breeds are bred there: Purebred Arabic, Purebred English, Arabian Shaggy, Danube and Plevan Horse; 8 mares from breeds Plevan Horse, Hydran, Trakeen BG and 5 young horses from breeds Plevan Horse, Hydran and Bulgarian heavy.

In May 2018 at the SATIS Sofia started a work with sheep and goat breeding plants. During the year, 15 huts of the Chernoglav Plevenska, Stara Planina Tsigai, Starozagorsk, Ile-de-France, Asaf and Kotlenska breeds entered the station, and six left. Of the goat species, the breeders that entered the station are of the

breeds German White Noble, Thuringer Wald, Saan, Anglo Nubian and Alpine goat. In 2018, 164 ejaculas were obtained and 3,497 doses of semen were available from the available sticks and rods.

EASRAB supports the activities of breeding organisations in the implementation of their breeding programs, ensuring the correct assessment of breeding traits and the assessment of breeding value through: providing an opportunity to study the quality indicators of controlled features in its laboratories; breeding of male animals and production and storage of semen; proof of origin of breeding animals in her laboratory.

To this end, the Agency manages and maintains a milk productivity control laboratory and a wave productivity control laboratory.

In 2018, in the laboratory for determining the physicochemical composition of milk in Sliven were analysed a total of 17,367 samples of cows and sheep's milk , with 685 samples more than the previous year.

Laboratory for testing of stakes on own productivity (gr. Shumen), serving breeding in fine wool sheep breeding, allows to determine the magnitude of some breeding traits and the quality of the wave with respect to the physical-mechanical properties, the yield and the amount of pure fibre. In 2018, it tested 1,123 samples of wool, which is with 206 less than the previous year.

EASRAB provides breeding organisations with various options for joint activity, cooperation and partnerships for breeding male breeding animals, producing and cryopreserving semen from them. In 2018, 8 beef nurseries, 15 huts, 11 sticks, and 26 stallions and mares were raised in cooperative reproductive contracts at the EASRAB bases.

The National Genetics Laboratory, opened in 2016, continues to serve the purpose of reliable, scientifically based animal species identification at a contemporary level, recognized by the international community and allowing reference DNA analyses to be carried out. This gives the opportunity to control the implementation of the Breeding Programs, as well as to separate purebred animals from the crosses, in connection with their subsidization .In 2018, 4,838 samples were analysed at the National Genetic Laboratory.

Through EASRAB, Bulgaria is a full member of the International Committee for Registration in Livestock (ICAR) and as such receives access to significant technical information, the ability to use existing contacts with other international organisations, expert assistance in accreditation of laboratories and many others. With the commissioning of modern equipment in the dairy laboratory and in the national genetic laboratory, Bulgaria guarantees the implementation of world-renowned methods and standards in the field of breeding. This creates opportunities for access to international markets for breeding animals produced by Bulgarian farmers.

The sale of semen of breeding plants of the national gene pool is carried out by 9 licensed semen storage centres, with six of them establishing an organisation for the operation of 25 mobile lines through which the semen is delivered in close proximity to the farms and direct contact is made of EASRAB experts with farmers and insemination technicians on site, creating the opportunity to discuss problems and assist in the selection of breeds and bulls in the preparation of random plans.

In 2018, a total of 37,837 doses of semen were sold, with 4,300 doses less than the previous year.About 39% of the total doses delivered were from Bulgarian cattle and buffalo breeds. Demand for semen from the Bulgarian Rhodope cattle was growing, which is already the first in the distribution of Bulgarian breeds.

In recent years, there has been a strong interest in maintaining 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 Animal Husbandry, the EASRAB has taken concrete steps for the effective management and long-term conservation of genetic diversity in animal husbandry. To this end, a ten-year Conservation Program for ex situ management of genetic resources in the Republic of Bulgaria has been developed. It stipulates that breeding establishments of commercial and autochthonous breeds of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and horses, from which genetic material is preserved, should be submitted to the State Stations for artificial insemination.

With the implementation of the cryopreservation program, the National Genetic Reserve and the National Genetic Bank will be enriched with potentially useful genes from 11 breeds of cattle, 1 breed of sheep, 26 breeds of sheep, 4 breeds of goats and 13 breeds of horses.

In the course of the program, over the last 5 years, the EASRAB has undertaken activities to restore the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed. In this regard, 13 typical animals matching the breed descriptions of the breed were searched and seed of high-grade bulls was provided. By the end of 2018, the animals of the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed were 27, with sufficient numbers of young animals for reproduction in the two controlled flocks. The main purpose of breeding work with the Bulgarian Red Cattle is to preserve and increase the available gene pool and to consolidate the biological qualities that ensure the breed's typicality, productivity and survival.

Pursuing to the programs for rescue from the disappearance and restoration of the Danube, Pleven Horse and Bulgarian Heavy Horse breeds, the contracts signed by the Agency for Reconstruction and Development of the Pleven Horse and Gydran Breeds and the Horse Breeders Association in Bulgaria are in force. The purpose is to obtain and trade semen from stallions of the three breeds, to carry out embryo transfer, as well as to naturally cover mares of the Danube and Pleven horse breeds.

With a view to preventing the disappearance of the Danube and Pleven horse breeds, a team for the development, testing and implementation of technology for receiving, qualifying, processing and cryopreservation of seed from stallions continues to operate. After successful freezing of semen from stallions, it is proceeded to replenish NGR with stallion semen. As of December 31, 2018, 4,663 doses of equine semen were shipped to NSC and NGR, demonstrating the quality of the cryopreserved fluid of 4 stallions.

In order to promote national genetic resources and breeding activities, in 2018 the Agency has organized and held two exhibitions financed by the State Fund for Agriculture under State aid schemes - National Exhibition of Animal Breeding, Sliven and Euro Tier Exhibition, Hanover

In 2018, the Agency organized and conducted, for the second year, an open-to-the-public review of buffalo bulls in the SATIS, Sliven, and in SATIS Sofia - Open Day to promote the effect of breeding activities.

During the year, numerous meetings were held and advisory services and professional advice were provided to breeding organisations, non-governmental organisations and farmers on issues related to breeding activities, technologies for breeding, feeding and reproduction of breeding animals.

The EASRAB consulting activity is aimed at promoting the benefits of indigenous breeding, stimulating the efficient use of national genetic resources, undertaking and successfully implementing agri-environmental commitments on environmental protection, preserving and preserving biodiversity of species and native species and species the process of self-regulation and the introduction of good agricultural practices.

In 2018, the EASRAB continued to represent Bulgaria in international bodies and organisations related to the management and conservation of European and global genetic resources in animal husbandry and to participate in working groups, meetings and various projects.

8.2. Control and Coordination of Breeding Activities

In 2018, the EASRAB exercised control by conducting a check on the activities of breeding organisations that received support under the State aid scheme "Aid for keeping a herd book and for determining the productivity and genetic characteristics of animals". In accordance with the requirements of the scheme, the checks carried out cover breeding activities with animals as follows: 120,813 cattle, 10,080 buffaloes, 358,008 sheep, 20,197 goats, 66 farms with 43,181 pigs, 6 farms with 904,494 poultry, 493 farms with 9,292 horses, 97 apiaries with 19,057 bee colonies, 18 farms with 299 dogs and 10 farms with 1,671 rabbits.

During the year at least 5% of the number of breeding herds in the cattle breeding sector was checked for breeding, with 10 breeding organisations inspected, with a total of 360 farms (representing 19.4% of the total number of breeding flocks control), with 27 849 animals.

Inspections of cattle, sheep and goats were also carried out in 2018 to comply with the criteria for the entry of animals in herd books and their compliance with the objectives set in their breeding programs.

During the year, the Agency carried out routine inspections of the activities of 42 breeding organisations, as well as 6 unplanned inspections.

The Agency carried out checks on the compliance of the breeding program by the beneficiaries, subsidized under the heading "Conservation of endangered local breeds" under measure 214 "Agri-environmental payments" and measure 10 Agro-ecology and climate of the RDP, based on the results of which the corresponding payments.

During the year, a spring and autumn inspection of the horse breeding herd at the Kabyuk State Enterprise was carried out.

In 2018, the Agency carried out inspections of 31 exhibitions and exhibitions by breeding organisations.

An evaluation was made using a Methodology for assessing breeding animals of the bovine species of 59 animals.

Due to the lack of approved breeding organisations for certain breeds, in 2018 EASRAB performed breeding activities in cattle breeding of 813 cattle of the following breeds: Galloway - 579 animals, Charolais - 94 animals, Aubrac - 59 animals, Jersey - 71 animals and Bulgarian Red Cattle - 10 animals.

Breeding activity in sheep breeding with breeds for which there are no breeding organisations in the country, includes 3,694 sheep distributed by breed as follows: Local Karnobat - 1,656 animals, Avasi - 1,352 animals, Chios - 519 animals, Romanovska - 167 animals.

Breeding activities in goat breeding with breeds for which there are no breeding organisations in the country are carried out with 1,346 goats of breeds: Alpine - 1,194 animals and Boer - 152 animals.

The Agency has concluded contracts with farmers raising animals of the above breeding breeds, inspecting the herds and updating the current status of the animals being controlled. In 2018, the breed of 308 cattle and 316 sheep in 7 new herds has been determined. A total of 624 animals were selected for breeding in the integrated information system of BFSA - VetIS. During the year, 813 cattle, 3,694 sheep and 1,346 goats were entered in herd books. By the end of 2018, 580 zootechnical goat certificates, 126 new cattle herd certificates and 1 203 new and 300 sheep certificates entered in the register of issued herd certificates by the EASRAB.

This activity of the EASRAB enables farmers breeding the specified breeds for which no breeding organisations have been set up to apply for coupled support schemes for animals under breeding control.

In connection with the implementation of production support schemes in the livestock sector for animals under breeding control, checks have been carried out to identify the animals under breeding control as well as the recording of approved animals in the BFSA VetIS system. In 2018, from EASRAB in the VetIS system were described: 121,680 cattle of 17 breeds, 372,808 sheep of 34 breeds and 24,333 goats of 10 breeds.

The quality of breeding material produced, received and disseminated on the territory of the country is controlled by the Agency, through the maintenance of a national register of male breeding animals and a Register of breeding flocks by the national gene pool.

As 31.12.2018, the Register of Male Breeding Animals includes: 1,535 beef bulls, 272 buffalo bulls, 9,800 huts, 801 sticks, 494 stallions, 500 boars, 47 dogs and 261 rabbits.

The register of breeding herds contains information as follows: cattle breeding - 1,852 herds with 120,660 animals, cattle breeding - 251 herds with 11,752 animals, sheep breeding - 2,194 herds with 372,808 animals, goat breeding - 339 herds with 24,333 animals, pig breeding - 52 herds with 44,398 animals, cattle breeding - 1,089 owners with 11 301 animals, poultry breeding - 16 flocks with 1,029,611 birds. The register also

includes 100 apiaries with 22,942 bee colonies, 16 owners of dogs of breed dogs with 342 animals, and 9 owners of rabbits with 1,591 animals.

In 2018, 2 importers were registered in the Register of Importers of Organic Products, with 5 notifications of intra-Community trade submitted. During the year, 14,839 doses of deep-frozen semen from 55 bovine breeding nurseries were imported. The reported doses were from the cattle breeds Holstein, Brown Cattle, Montbeliard, Simmental, Hereford, Limousin, Aberdeen Angus, Gascon, Belgian Blue, Charolais and INRA 95.

9. Agricultural Science, Training and Advisory Activities

9.1. Agricultural Scientific Research and Scientific Service Activities Provided by the Agricultural Academy

The Agricultural Academy's (AA) research activities are related to the development of projects of national and pan-European importance in the field of agriculture and food industry based on research based on the agro-environmental conditions of the country. Major research priorities are projects for the creation of new, improved varieties and hybrids of crops with higher environmental plasticity; yield stability and high tolerance of biotic and abiotic stressors; protection and management of soil, water, genetic resources; reducing the negative impact of climate change on agricultural production; sustainable development and competitiveness of agriculture and food industry; quality and safety of food for a healthy lifestyle; integrated rural development policy; sustainable development and competitiveness of the bioeconomy; sustainable development of the scientific potential and capacity of agricultural science.

During the reporting year, 123 research projects were developed at the research institutes, research centres and testing stations of the AA. Of these, 9 projects were funded by the Research Fund and 45 were funded by national agencies and organisations.

9.1.1. Scientific Products Created and Introduced in Production

In the Official List of Plant Varieties in the country, issued annually by EAPVTFISC, in 2018 a total of 269 varieties of AA were registered. List A (cereals, feed, oilseeds and industrial crops, beets, potatoes and fruit plants) includes 205 varieties and List B (vegetables, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic crops and vines) - 64 varieties.

The scientific products that have received legal protection in 2018 are 18 in number, including 4 cereals, 3 fiber crops, 3 oilseeds, 4 ornamental plants, 3 fodder crops and 1 vegetable crop.

In 2018, 22 applications were filed with the Patent Office. The AA holds and maintains 352 certificates for plant and animal varieties according to the Law on Protection of New Varieties of Plants and Animal Breeds, issued by the Patent Office. The Academy has 5 operating registered utility models in the field of crop production, animal husbandry and food technology.

In 2018, 51 licensing agreements were signed with companies and farmers totalling BGN 412,898 for the use of varieties developed by the AA institutes.

9.1.2. Transfer of Knowledge and Scientific Products and Vocational Training

In 2018, in the 51 demonstration fields, 36 open days were organized to familiarize farmers with new varieties of plants, animal breeds, agricultural machinery, technological solutions, irrigation equipment and plant protection measures.

AA units have participated in over 51 different exhibitions and fairs of national and local character with their work. 66 scientific-practical conferences, seminars, symposia and round tables were held during the year.

AA scientists have participated in 13 short-term training courses for agricultural professionals and farmers. A total of 10 courses were conducted at the Vocational Training Centre of the AA (7 courses "Farmer - producer of agricultural products", 2 courses "Farmer- plant grower" and 1 course in "Agroecology"), with 126 farmers trained.

During the year, a large number of consultations were carried out related to technologies in the crop, livestock and food industries.

9.1.3. Qualification of Scientists and Training of PhD Students

The total number of researchers at the AA at the end of 2018 is 494, distributed by academic positions and by scientific degrees, as follows: professors - 79, associate professors - 171, chief assistants - 127 and assistants - 117, with educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 397 scientists and with scientific degree "doctor of sciences" - 11. The ratio between habilitated and non-habilitated scientists in the AA is 1.02.

In 2018, 14 scholars were habilitated, 7 of whom had acquired the academic position of "professor" and the other 7 - "associate professor". During the year, 26 teaching assistants occupied the academic position of Chief Assistant.

Within the framework of 2018, the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation submitted documents for the opening of a program accreditation procedure for training at the Doctor of Science in Nursing under the new Doctoral Program in Viticulture for the Academy of Crop Production at the Institute of Viticulture and wine - Pleven. 6 PhD students and 5 PhD assistants are enrolled at AA research institutes. During the reporting period, 95 PhD students were trained at the Doctor's Degree educational level. 18 PhD students successfully defended their dissertations and received their doctoral degrees.

9.1.4. Specialized 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 2018, AA's research institutes and research stations have participated in topics of mutual interest in joint research projects, international seminars, conferences, consultative meetings, specializations abroad, admission of foreign scientists, and more.

During the year, a total of 73 international agreements were implemented, of which 25 were bilateral.

The Academy's institutes have implemented 8 projects funded and supported by various international institutions - the Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO), the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGIB), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Center for Improvement of maize and wheat (SIMMIT) and others.

In 2018, joint projects were implemented under the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, projects under the Cross-border Co-operation between Bulgaria and Romania and Cross-border Co-operation between Bulgaria and Greece, projects under the Health and Consumer Program with the European Office, Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

AA scientists are national coordinators or participants in 7 EU COST projects in the following areas: Food and Agriculture and Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Separate research institutes at AA have fulfilled 59 distribution and trade contracts with Turkey, Russia, Romania, Ukraine and others.

During the year, scientific and technical cooperation with Algeria, Vietnam, the PRC, Cyprus, the Kingdom of Morocco, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Ukraine and others was made.

9.2. Advisory activities

An essential part of the state policy for providing advisory services to ensure an adequate level of technical and economic knowledge and skills in the agricultural and forestry sector with a view to applying the CAP and enhancing the competitiveness of the Bulgarian producer in the single European market is implemented through the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS).

The NAAS offers a comprehensive "package of advisory services", including advice from the establishment of the farm to its full service in agronomic, livestock and agrarian economics, organizes and conducts training for farmers.

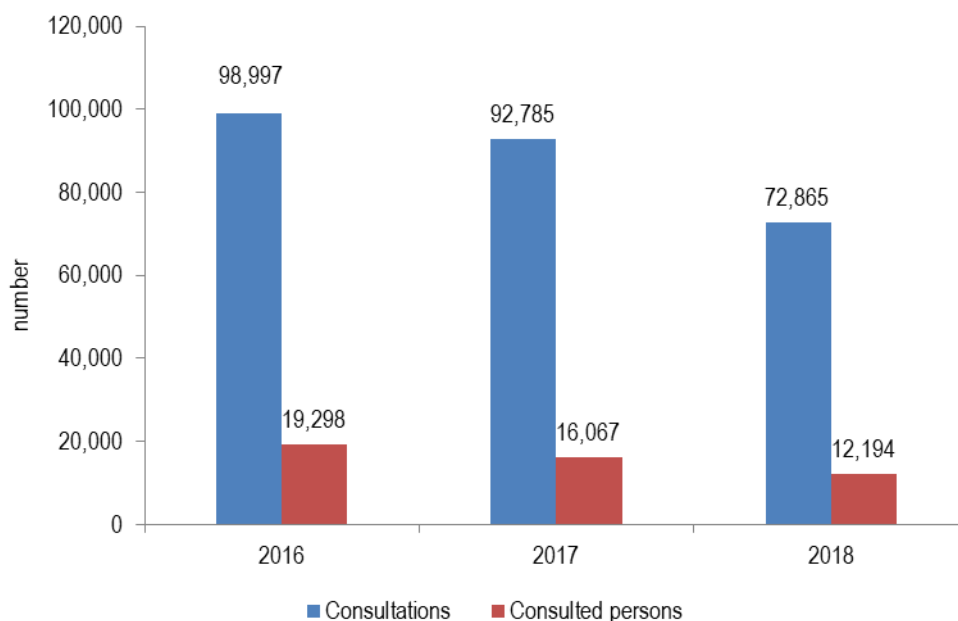
The activities of the NAAS are diverse and complementary to provide a variety of services and information to reach a wider range of people. New electronic services are also coming in for farmers. In 2018, project proposals for the RDP 2014-2020 measures were launched through the EU Funds Management and Monitoring Information System in Bulgaria 2020 (MIS 2020).

The Office supports the transfer and application of scientific and practical developments in the field of agriculture and thus contributes to improving the link "research - advice in agriculture - agricultural business". In 2018, activities related to the organisation of demonstration events have been increased in order to improve mutual learning and exchange of knowledge between farmers and to strengthen the link between them.

The NAAS conducts professional training for farmers in the field of agriculture, courses, seminars, information activities and training in key competences through the licensed Center for Vocational Training (CVT) of the Office.

Remote reception (consulting days) are held in different settlements, which are far from the regional centres, in order to facilitate the access of the farmers to the offered consulting services.

Figure V.2. Total number of consultations and consultants provided at the office and on site for the period 2016 – 2018



Source: NAAS

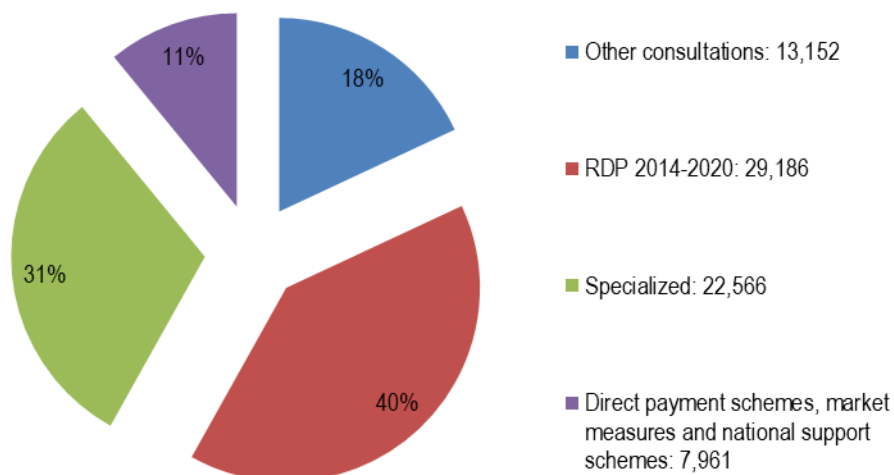
The NAAS disseminates useful information to farmers and promotes good practices in applying and implementing RDP projects. The "farmer circles" created increase the efficiency of the advice provided by the Office and reach more farmers.

All consultations provided by the NAAS are free of charge to farmers.

In 2018, a total of 12,194 individuals received 72,865 consultations from NAAS experts. There were also 2,625 on-site visits to farms. The number of consulted persons decreased by 24% compared to the previous year, and the consultations provided at the office and on the farm site by 21%. The majority of consultants benefit from the NAAS's comprehensive advisory services package.

The target groups, which are mainly focused on the activities of the NAAS are: farmers who have already started their farming activities (in this group small farms predominate); persons who want to start farming; persons living in rural areas, including forest owners.

Figure V.3. Consultations provided by type in 2018

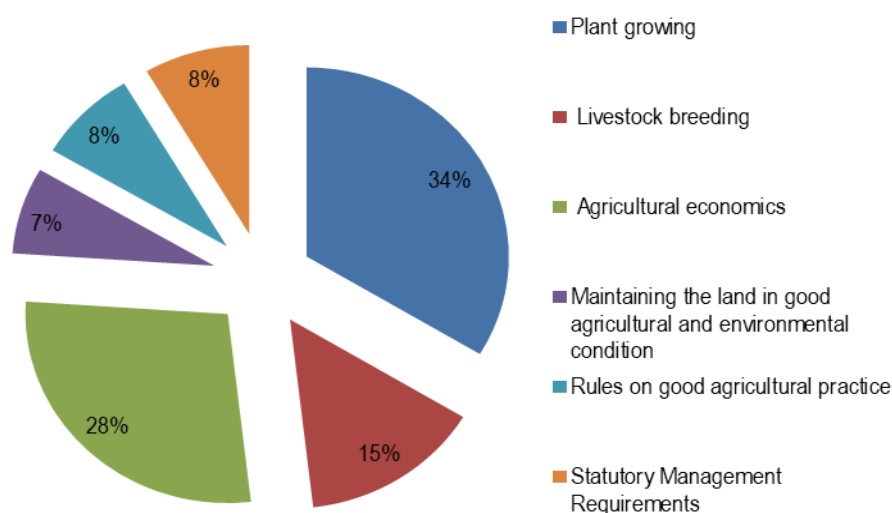


Source: NAAS

In 2018, NAAS experts provided 7,840 consultations on topics related to the third National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) for the period 2013-2020. 4,431 persons consulted - 8% less compared to 2017, on topics related to different types of activities with a direct or indirect effect on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The main consultations provided by the NAAS in 2018 relate to support options under the RDP 2014-2020, especially under sub-measures 6.1 "Starting aid for young farmers"; 4.1.2 "Investments in agricultural farms under the Thematic Sub-Programme for the Development of Small Farms" and 6.3 "Starting aid for the development of small farms", as well as specialized consultations in the field of crop production, livestock breeding and the agrarian economy.

Figure V.4. Distribution of specialized consultations provided in 2018



Source: NAAS

9.3. Vocational Training

The NAAS Center for Vocational Training provides training for persons over 16 years of age to acquire, expand and improve their professional qualifications in order to improve employability, support their professional careers and individual development.

In 2018, 20 farmers trained on Agro-ecology at CPC.

9.4. Improving the Link "Scientific Research - Advice in Agriculture - Agricultural Business"

In 2018, 113 joint information meetings, seminars and events with universities were held to discuss specialized topics, opportunities to support farmers under the RDP 2014-2020 measures and direct payment schemes - campaign 2018, with participation of scientists and experts from NAAS, SAS, Agrarian University - Plovdiv, Thracian University - Stara Zagora, Angel Kanchev University of Rousse, BFSA Regional Directorates and other organisations.

Conducting information seminars with demonstrations on the farms of NAAS customers has started as a good practice since 2016. The seminars with demonstrations for 2018 are 27 in number.

More than 2,300 farmers have taken an interest in the information events in 2018. These joint activities and events, by their very nature, constituted specialized training, fully geared to the needs of farmers. The highest number of joint events was held in the crop sector - 50%, followed by those in the livestock sector - 42% and in the agricultural economy - 21%.

9.5. Information support

In 2018, NAAS experts participated in 264 information events (124 information meetings, 98 seminars, 27 demonstration seminars and 15 other events). 145 informational materials were prepared and distributed (farmer's calendar, educational leaflets, leaflets, brochures).

Farmers receive up-to-date information and advice on the funding opportunities under the RDP 2014-2020, direct payment schemes and national on-the-spot aid schemes in the region through exported foster homes. In 2018, 1,092 outgoing reception rooms were held and 3,145 persons were consulted.

The "27 Farmers Circles" created continue to function. 348 farmers participated in them during the year. The aim of the "farmer circles" is to disseminate useful information to farmers and to promote good practices in applying for and implementing RDP projects.

9.6. Agrochemical analyses

The directions of the laboratory activity of the Centre for Testing and Assessment of Soil Suitability and Quality (CTASSQ) at the NAAS are related to the requirements for improving the activity and improving the competitiveness of the farms.

The CTASSQ is to assist small and young farms in obtaining advisory packages from NAAS experts.

The Centre performs agrochemical analyses of soil samples for acidity, absorbable phosphorus and potassium, mineral nitrogen (ammonia and nitrate), total nitrogen in soils, determination of active calcium, determination of humus and determination of the rate of liming of acid soils.

In 2018, the laboratory received 2,036 soil samples from 1,078 individuals, on the basis of which 2,033 samples were made for 10,158 determinations (analyses). Based on the analyses performed, 1 256 fertilizer recommendations were made.

NAAS activity under measure 2 "Consultancy, farm management and substitution services" of RDP 2014 - 2020.

In 2016, started the implementation of 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, as the NAAS was the only advisory organisation designated at this stage and approved by the European Commission to provide advisory services to small farms.

Under Sub-measure 4.1.2. 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 for sub-advisory package under sub-measure 2.1.2 in 2018 was 768, 44% less than in 2017.

NAAS activity under measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" from RDP 2014 - 2020.

In 2018, applications for the provision of an A2B Advisory Package to young farmers under sub-measure 6.1 "Starting aid for young farmers" under measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" of the RDP 2014-2020 were received.

The A2B Advisory Package includes information and advice on: creation and development of young farmers' farms (including preparation of business plans and baseline information on project proposal under sub-measure 6.1.); farm-level obligations arising from statutory management requirements and / or standards for good agricultural and environmental status; agricultural practices that benefit the climate and the environment; water policy; the requirements for the placing on the market of plant protection products; occupational safety standards and farm safety standards.

During the period of acceptance of projects under sub-measure 6.1, 1,658 applications were submitted, on the basis of which the NAAS experts prepared 930 project proposals, of which 717 were for crop farms, 148 for livestock farms and 65 for mixed farms. Of the farms for which project proposals have been prepared, 91% cultivate up to 5 ha.

As of the date of application, 408 farms are organically grown or in organic production or in transition to organic production, and by the date of the second payment, 526 farms are planning to become and/or continue

to engage in organic farming. By the date of the second payment, it is expected that additional jobs will be created in 760 young farmers' farms.

10. Hail Suppression

The country's geographical position and orography predetermine Bulgaria as one of the countries in Europe with high frequency and power of urban processes.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the frequency and severity of dangerous phenomena such as hailstorms, floods, tornadoes and lightning. Predictions made on the basis of numerical models under different climate change scenarios confirm this increase in the future. One of the geographical areas where a significant increase in extreme cases is forecast is South-Eastern Europe.

Bulgaria is one of the countries in Europe where the trend of increasing the frequency and strength of urban processes persists, despite the observed fluctuations in the degree of urban activity over the years.

The territory protected by the Hail Suppression Agency (HSA) in 2018 is 1,720,226 ha, of which 1 120 000 ha are arable land, permanent crops and mixed-use areas in highly urbanized areas in Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora and Sliven.

HSA's activities are related to the prevention of the formation of large hail grains in the clouds. The main concepts used in anti-hail protection are useful competition and early dismissal.

With useful competition in the cloud, an additional amount of artificial ice crystals are delivered, which in the process of growth compete with the natural germs in the fight for water in the cloud. The supercooled water is then redistributed between the natural and artificial ice buds, and they do not grow to large sizes. Hail grains, falling to the ground, melt to rain drops or fine-grained hail.

The implementation of the second concept is related to the stimulation of rainfall at an earlier stage in the life of the cloud, in which there are still no strong upward flows. The water is artificially reduced in the cloud, thus preventing the growth of ice buds to large-sized urban grains.

In order to be successful in active impacts, reagent seeding must be carried out at an early stage in cloud development before large city grains are formed. The main causes of damage are:

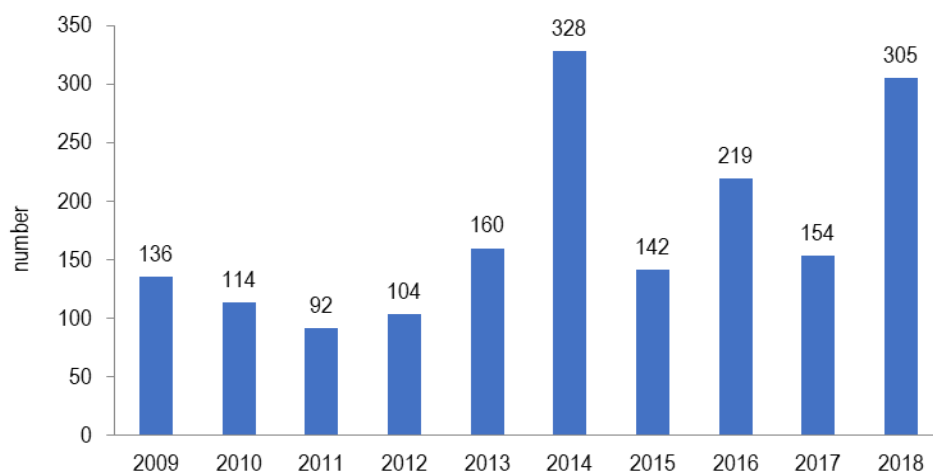
- cloud cells with high urban parameters and formed hail grains, which makes it impossible to compete;
- hurricane-force winds at speeds up to 40 m/s leading to a decrease in the concentration of the reagent in the seeding area;
- reduced concentration of artificial competitive ice nuclei in fast growing cells due to insufficient growth of ice forming nuclei of the reagent to competitive sizes;
- reduced concentration of artificial competitive ice-forming nuclei due to restricted firing of settlements (prohibited azimuths (directions) for firing);
- impaired processing due to completion of anti-aircraft missiles due to the long duration of hail processes.

HSA has a national meteorological radar network, which provides 24/7 continuous monitoring of the atmosphere for detection and a short-term forecast for severe storms, lightning, storms, hailstorms and more. adverse atmospheric phenomena. Information is immediately transmitted to the Ministry of Interior, Air Force, Air Force, NIMH and others. service. Meteorological information is constantly provided through the Agency's website.

HSA teams in conjunction with the Regional Directorates of Agriculture conduct surveys of damage in the protected areas after each impact. The Agency receives information on the areas sown, the condition and phase of the development of crops, reclaimed areas, average yield, etc. On the basis of weather forecasts and

the phase of crop development in the protected territories, HSA issues an order for the beginning and closure of the active season for anti-hail protection.

Figure V.5. Conducted effects of the anti-hail system during the period 2009 – 2018



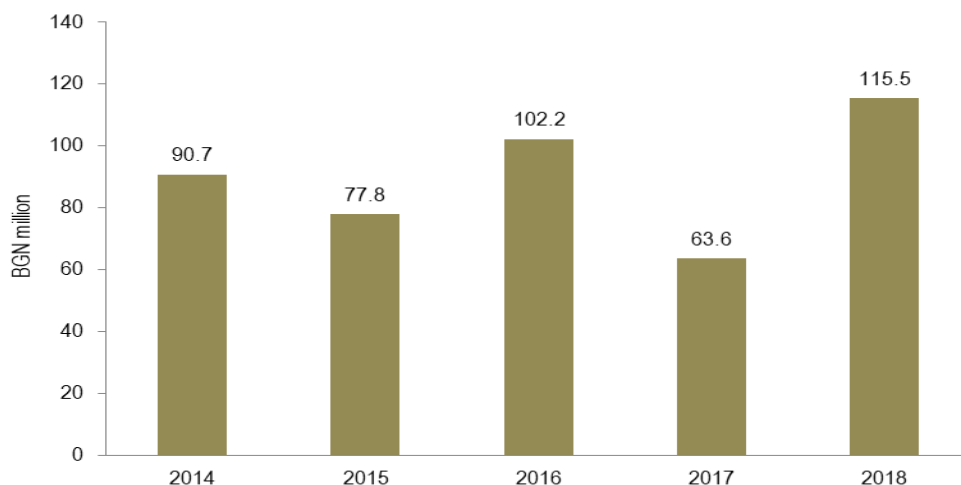
Source: HSA

In 2018, the active season for anti-hail protection work on the territory of the country was opened on April 24 and closed on September 25.

The 2018 season is classified with a "high degree of urban activity" for southern and northern Bulgaria. During the year, 305 impacts were carried out and 1 346 urban hazard cells were treated.

In May 2018, the incidence of hailstorms is high. Then 80 impacts were carried out in 18 days. In June, 97 impacts were conducted in 20 days, with the frequency of urban hazards being the highest in the last 10 years. In July, the trend of a high frequency of development of a powerful cloud-rain cloud is continuing. 79 impacts were performed in 20 days, but the number of urban cells decreased significantly compared to previous months, to 254. During the period August-September, the frequency of urban hazards decreased, with 28 impacts being implemented on 11 dates.

Figure V.6. Value of hail production saved in the period 2014 - 2018, BGN million



Source: HSA

According to the adopted Methodology for determining the economic effectiveness of anti-hail protection, in 2018 the value of the saved production as a result of active impacts carried out by HSA is estimated at BGN 115.5 million.

Throughout the season of active impacts, a crop-affected city has only 16 cells, affecting 42,234 acres with an average injury rate of 58.3%.

Due to the increase in adverse climatic events and the occurrence of hailstorms in regions that have not been affected so far, action has been taken to cover 90% of the entire country with anti-hail protection. Two methods will be used for this purpose - missile and aircraft. To the already existing and functioning structure in 2018 of the anti-hail defence, carried out by missile means, the construction of command points and their adjacent rocket sites was completed, the necessary technical equipment and the appointment of specialists to start work in 2019 in the Sub-Balkan region were delivered. valley and Haskovo region. Two new Doppler radar stations at the command posts in Popovitsa and Dolno Tserovene have been installed and put into operation.

Throughout the season of active impacts, a crop-affected city has only 16 cells, affecting 42,234 acres with an average injury rate of 58.3%.

Due to the increase in adverse climatic events and the occurrence of hailstorms in regions that have not been affected so far, action has been taken to cover 90% of the entire country with anti-hail protection. Two methods will be used for this purpose - missile and aircraft. To the already existing and functioning structure in 2018 of the anti-hail defence, carried out by missile means, the construction of command points and their adjacent rocket sites was completed, the necessary technical equipment and the appointment of specialists to start work in 2019 in the Sub-Balkan region were delivered. valley and Haskovo region. Two new Doppler radar stations at the command posts in Popovitsa and Dolno Tserovene have been installed and put into operation.

In 2019 it is envisaged to build two radar centers and to install two weather radar stations in Yarlovo village, Sofia district and Shumen, which will provide detailed radar monitoring of the atmosphere over Bulgaria, necessary for the implementation of the two methods of impact on the clouds - rocket and aircraft.

In 2020, activities will be undertaken on a strategy for the development of anti-hail protection, envisaging an extension of its scope.

11. Reducing the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business

In the context of the policy of the European Union and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for reducing the administrative and regulatory burden on business and citizens, the MAFF annually reviews the regulatory regimes applied in the Ministry's system. The purpose of the review is to identify opportunities to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden on businesses and citizens, create better conditions for business development by improving access to and quality of public services, as well as improving the efficiency of public expenditure.

The main mechanism for achieving this goal is to remove unnecessary regulatory regimes and streamline their implementation procedures, introduce electronic provision of administrative services and increase the volume of publicly available information for business operators and citizens.

11.1. Measures taken in 2018 to Reduce the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business

In 2018, a number of actions have been taken in the MAFF system aimed at repealing unnecessary regulatory regimes and easing existing ones in order to create an optimal business environment. Amendments and supplements to the normative acts regulating the economic relations in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors have been adopted, with which they are:

- 6 regulatory regimes abolished;

- Simplified 53 regulatory regimes by eliminating the requirement to submit documents that are publicly available or obtainable through official channels, and by extending the validity of a MAFF document.

With the legislative changes made, the requirement for submission of 94 documents was abolished and the validity period of 1 license was extended.

In the course of 2018, actions have been taken to fulfill the set priority for introducing possibilities for electronic provision of a number of services and administration of regulatory regimes.

Amendments to the Sowing and Planting Material Act, the Veterinary Medicine Act, the Hunting and Game Conservation Act, and Ordinance No. 7 of December 28, 2017, on the approval procedure for the type of agricultural and forestry vehicles, systems, components and separate were adopted technical units for them, which extend the ability to submit documents / applications for certain services electronically or through a licensed postal operator.

Work is ongoing on reforming administrative workflows to prioritize the deployment of e-Government systems. The aim of MAFF is to provide one-stop-shop services using better organisational models and implementing information and communication technology capabilities to achieve interoperability when interacting and exchanging data between systems and the workflows they support.

11.2. Review of the Applied Regulatory Regimes in the MAFF system as of 01.01.2019

Following the review of the regulatory regimes in the MAFF system, as of January 1, 2019, 172 regulatory regimes related to the regulation of economic activity in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forests were identified, including:

- Licensing - 10 pieces;
- Registration - 68 pieces;
- Licenses - 83 pieces;
- Certifying - 2 pieces;
- Notifying - 3 pieces;
- Reconciliation - 6 pieces.

Of the total number of regulatory regimes, 44 are administered by MAFF - Headquarters and the remaining 128 by various structures within the Ministry's system.

11.3. Risk and Crisis Management in Agriculture

One of the key priorities of the CAP is managing existing risks in the agriculture sector in order to prevent crisis situations. This priority has become increasingly important in recent years in view of the increased occurrence of crisis situations as a result of adverse weather conditions, as well as health and phytosanitary crises caused by extreme events. These events have a negative impact on animal husbandry and crop production and create unfavourable conditions for the functioning and development of these sectors.

Risk management aims at achieving sustainable, competitive and market-oriented agriculture, controlled use of natural resources in the Forestry sub-sector and protection of fisheries from over-exploitation in the Fisheries sub-sector.

In the context of the EU's Risk Management Policy for Agriculture, a new Risk and Crisis Management Program was developed in 2018 in the Agriculture sector, which was approved on 4 January 2019 by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Agriculture the forests.

The program sets out the following main priorities and strategic goals:

Priority 1: Effective, competitive and market-oriented agriculture

- Establish an effective risk management system to prevent crises in agriculture leading to adverse effects on farmers and livelihoods.
- Creating an efficient and competitive agriculture, contributing to increased production profitability and market stability in the sector.
- Implementation of an integrated approach in crisis management in agriculture in order to overcome the negative effect and reduce the damage.

Priority 2: Sustainable management of forest resources through conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in forest areas

- Maintaining, protecting and increasing forest resources in the country through prevention of fires, diseases and pests.

Priority 3: Sustainable management of fisheries resources by protecting biodiversity and ecosystems

- Creating conditions for the sustainable use of natural resources by providing an effective system for their conservation and protection of fish populations from overexploitation, taking into account the high social function of fishing in coastal areas.

The Risk and Crisis Management program in the Agriculture Sector includes impact measures, risk management tools, sector identification and crisis management.

In 2018, the funds spent to implement risk management measures and activities in agriculture are aimed at preventing contagious animal and plant diseases, limiting the adverse impact of natural and climatic phenomena, supporting farmers' incomes, improving competitiveness agricultural production and forest pest and fire control. Their implementation is financed by European funds and the state budget, through the use of various methods and schemes - direct payments, state aid, measures under the Rural Development Programme, targeted funds from the state budget and own funds within the financing of main activities of the structures responsible for managing the respective risks.

In 2018, the livestock sector has been declared local health crises in several areas of the country related to the following diseases - Avian influenza, Small ruminant plague, African swine fever, Brucellosis of ECG and UGV and occurring crisis situations caused by natural disasters - adverse weather events.

Crops in almost the entire territory of the country have been declared crisis situations caused by adverse climatic conditions and natural disasters - freezing / sheltering, flooding / wetting of agricultural land, hail and drought.

In order to overcome the negative and unfavourable impact of the crisis situations, as well as to reduce the material damages for farmers, in 2018 financial resources were provided to farmers as state aid through additional funds from the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria, for the compensation of material damage to killed animals and the destruction of beehives as a result of natural disasters, State aid to compensate for crop damage, due to the adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to natural disasters and help de minimis, in accordance with Regulation (EU) № 1408/2013.

VI. FORESTRY

1. Characteristics of Forest Areas

The total area of the forest territories in Bulgaria as of 31.12.2018 amounts to 4,257,200 ha. The state forest territories have an area of 3,090,010 ha (72,6%), of which 2,906,435 ha - managed by the state enterprises under art. 163 of the Forest Law, 172,307 ha - forests in national parks, reserves and maintained

reserves managed by the MoEW (including Rila National Park, Pirin National Park and Central Balkan National Park) and 11,268 ha - allocated for management of Training Forestry. Non-state forest territories cover an area of 1,050,424 ha (24.7%), of which 558,116 ha are municipal, 425,246 ha are owned by natural persons, 47,167 ha are owned by legal entities and 19 895 ha are owned by religious communities.

The agricultural territories which have acquired the character of a forest within the meaning of Art. 2, para. 1 of the Forest Act covers an area of 116,766 ha (2.8%).

Compared to 2018, the total area of forest territories is increasing by 13,365 ha, mainly due to the arrangement of previously undeveloped forests.

The forested area grows from 15,770 ha to 3,893,396 ha, which is mainly due to the inventory of previously unindented forests and to self-afforested plantations between the last two inventories of individual forest and hunting farms in independent forest areas or in abandoned lands outside forest areas.

The unforested area decreased by 2,405 ha to 363,804 ha. There is a decrease in the area of branches, meadows, nurseries, rocks, rivers, screes and other non-productive forest areas, and an increase - in fires, loggings, glades, roads and clearings.

Despite the emergence of self-afforested areas, the afforested area of coniferous forests is decreasing by 3,412 ha compared to 2017 due to the continued silencing of part of the coniferous-deciduous plantations obtained after the creation of coniferous crops established by the inventory of forest areas in the forest and hunting farms in recent years, as well as the policy for the transformation of coniferous plantations established outside their natural range of distribution in recent years. The deciduous high-altitude forests are increased by 3,559 ha due to the conversion of shoots to high-altitudes, afforestation of fires, winds, etc., self-afforestation in independent territories, reassessment of coniferous crops and low-needle forests and transformation of coniferous forests into deciduous. Conifer forests grow by 16,842 ha as a result of the inclusion in the forest territories of plantations that are currently classified as so-called 'Uncultivated forests' and reassessment of coniferous crops mixed with deciduous shoots.

The area of low-stemmed forests is 1,219 ha less than in the previous year, due to the reassessment of part of the Acacia and Oriental hornbeam plantations, which dominated by other shoots and/or high-stem tree species.

The total use of forests in 2018 amounted to 8 ,62,133 cubic meters of standing mass, which is equal to 98.7% of the forestry plan (forestry project) 8,576,905 cubic meters of standing mass.

Of these, 3,597,857 cubic meters are from renewable felling (42.5% of the total use and 78.9% of the projected forestry plan / forest management project) and 4,864,276 cubic meters - from cultivated felling (56% of the total use and 121.1% of the projected forestry plan / forest management project). Annual use in the forested territories - state property is 6,447,693 cubic meters of standing mass, which equals 99.4% of the projected forestry plan / forestry project 6,485,385 cubic meters of standing mass.

The actual annual use of forests provided for training forestry is 43,565 cubic meters (approximately 95% of the planned); from the municipal forest territories - in the amount of 904,463 cubic meters of standing mass (82.5% of the foreseen), and that of forests - owned by natural and legal persons - in the amount of 926,555 cubic meters of standing mass (114.1 % of forecast).

2. Changes of Forest Areas

The following changes have occurred in the country's forest territories in 2018:

- 17 administrative acts have been issued in accordance with Art. 14 of the Law on Forests (repealed) for changing the purpose of landed properties in forest territories with a total area of 10.98 ha, with a

change price of BGN 453,032. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 40,571.95. 1 administrative decree was issued;

- 33 administrative acts have been issued for preliminary coordination for changing the purpose of landed properties in forest territories with a total area of 5,83.8 ha, in accordance with Art. 75, para. 3 of the SG, one of which is for refusal;
- 39 administrative acts have been issued in accordance with Art. 77 of the Law on Forests for changing the purpose of landed properties in forest territories with a total area of 41.9 ha, with a change price of BGN 2,093,394. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 340,872.85. 1 administrative act was issued for termination of administrative proceedings and 2 administrative acts were issued with extinguished rights;
- The purpose of nearly 71 ha of forest territories was changed free of charge, in accordance with Art. 73, para. 5 of the Law on the construction of 8 national sites and 8 municipal sites of paramount importance, 16 administrative acts were issued declaring rights and obligations arising;
- Pursuant to § 6, para. 1 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the FA issued 1 administrative act, as a result of which land properties in forest territories with an area of 12.8 ha, in the Municipality of Bratsigovo, are considered to be re-designed and procedures for changing the purpose are not carried out;
- 24 administrative acts have been issued for the acquisition of ownership of 0.99 ha of forest territories - private state property, representing the built-up and normatively determined adjacent area of buildings, structures, networks and facilities, in accordance with § 123, para. 3 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the FA (repealed), with a total price for the sale of the landed properties BGN 147,629.18 and overheads in the amount of BGN 2,985.58. 14 administrative acts have been issued for refusal to acquire the right of ownership of built-up and normatively determined adjacent area of buildings, structures, networks and facilities, according to the order of § 123, para. 3 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the FA (repealed);
- Nine administrative acts were issued pursuant to Art. 55 of the FA for preliminary coordination for establishing the right of construction on forest territories - state property, with a total area of 0.27 ha;
- 30 administrative acts have been issued for the establishment of the right of construction in accordance with Art. 56 of the FA on forest territories - state property, with an area of 1.45 ha, with a total price for the right in rem: 154,082.40 BGN and 3,081.65 BGN overhead costs. The present value of the root wood at the present age for the estimated plantations is BGN 5 080,88. The allocated funds for compensatory afforestation are in the amount of BGN 8,499.65;
- 30 administrative acts have been issued in accordance with Art. 62 of the FA for preliminary coordination for establishing an servitude on forest territories - state property, with a total area of 7.96 ha;
- 30 administrative acts have been issued for the establishment of the right of construction in accordance with Art. 63 of the FA on forest territories - state property, with an area of 91.8 ha, with a total price for the property right: 5,926,817.20 BGN and 118,536.34 BGN overhead costs. The present value of the root wood at the present age for the estimated plantations is in the amount of BGN 703,436.68. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 915,563.73;
- 1 administrative act was issued for the establishment of an servitude of an energy facility pursuant to Art. 64 of the FA on forest territories - state property, with an area of 0.038 decares, with a price for the right in rem BGN 165 and BGN 3.30 overheads. The present value of the root wood at the present age

for the estimated plantations is in the amount of BGN 55.20. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 41.19;

- 10 administrative acts have been issued for establishing the right of use on forest territories - state property in accordance with Art. 70 of the FA, with an area of 0.74 ha, with a total price for the real property law of BGN 1,190.50 and overhead expenses of BGN 23.81. The present value of the root wood at the present age for the estimated plantations is in the amount of BGN 2,587.64. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 6,925.68;
- Two administrative acts were issued for establishing the right of use and easements in accordance with Art. 16 of the FA (repealed) on forest territories - state property, with an area of 0.14 decares, with a price for the right in rem BGN 3,462.00 and overhead costs of BGN 69.24;
- 15 administrative acts were issued to terminate, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Code, the administrative proceedings for the establishment of limited rights in rem in forest areas - state property.

In total, in 2018, 273 administrative acts were issued for a total value of about BGN 11 million, of which BGN 6.7 million for the EAG budget, BGN 2.1 million for MAFF and for the account of DP - 2, BGN 2 million. 38 administrative acts have been issued for changing the purpose of landed properties in forest territories in accordance with Art. 77 of the FA, with an area of 29.93 ha, with a change price of BGN 4, 207,880. Funds for compensatory afforestation have been determined in the amount of BGN 1,987,798. One administrative act partially terminated the administrative procedure for change of purpose.

3. Management of Forest Territories

The management, use and protection of forests is aimed at the formation and maintenance of vital and multifunctional forest ecosystems, creating conditions for their natural regeneration and improving their sustainability.

3.1. Afforestation and Protection against Erosion and Rain

In 2018, EFA's activities in this area are focused mainly on the following areas:

- Implementation of the goals and indicators set out in the EFA program and budget;
- Fulfilment of Bulgaria's obligations arising from EU membership in the field of forest reproductive materials;
- Approval and registration of basic sources for forest reproductive materials (FRM), registration of suppliers of timber, testing and grading of seeds and improvement of the condition of the forest seed production base;
- Keeping a register of forest nurseries in the country;
- Performing control activities;
- Coordination of biological reclamation projects in forest areas, inspection of complaints, preparation of responses and opinions;
- Participation in the drafting of regulatory documents.

Table VI.1. Implemented activities for the creation of forests in 2018

No	Type of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2018
1.	Collected and harvested seeds by TD SF/SH	kg	43,732
2.	Produced saplings in state forest nurseries	thousand pcs.	11,593.6

No	Type of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2018
3.	Forested areas, including	ha	1,584.9
	- State-owned enterprise	ha	1,503.3
	- municipalities	ha	81.6
4.	Crowing of crops in state forest territories	ha	694.5
5.	Growing of crops in state forest territories	ha	10,987.5
6.	Average percentage of plant establishment		
	a) state-owned		
	- annual	%	81.46
	- two-years-old	%	79.75
	- three-years-old	%	80.14
	b) municipal property		
	- annual	%	78.40
	- two-years-old	%	59.82
	- three-years-old	%	63.66

Source: EFA

The following activities were carried out in 2018:

- A national list of approved and registered sources for the production of timber has been drawn up and sent to the European Commission;
- 133 new basic sources in the category "selected" for the production of timber have been approved and registered, meeting the minimum requirements of Directive 1999/105 / EU;
- For the identification of the origin of FRM RFD and FSCS, 203 certificates for identification of the origin of the timing have been issued;
- In the seed control laboratories of the of the FSCS Sofia and Plovdiv, 298 batches of seed of deciduous and coniferous species have been certified and seed certificates have been issued;
- EFA and FSCS specialists carried out 861 control checks on the status and activities carried out in the registered baseline sources for timing;
- 13 projects for recultivation of disturbed terrains in forest areas were agreed;
- A report was prepared, with a database, on the conducted inventory of forest crops in the country and recommendations were made for the elimination of the omissions and errors;
- The price of the compensatory afforestation has been determined and orders have been issued by the MAFF Minister and the Executive Director of EFA;
- 673.13 kg of seeds from 205 lots of conifers and 839.23 kg from 221 lots of deciduous species are stored in the long-term storage facility in the FSCS Plovdiv;
- The public register of forest nurseries in the country is updated monthly;
- A joint project of the FSCS Sofia and the Blagoevgrad SWPP Life 16 NAT / BG / 000817 "Restoration and improvement of the conservation status of priority forest habitats from the NATURA 2000 network in Bulgaria" has been implemented.

For the protection of the forest territories from erosion and torrents, erosion afforestations of 487.36 ha were carried out, 83 square meters of glue and 129 square meters of congestion were constructed.

BGN 14.07 million was spent on afforestation activities in the state forest territories.

3.2. Logging in the forests

In 2018, harvesting of 34,821.6 ha was conducted in the state forests to regulate the tree composition and improve the growing conditions, which represents 51.2% of the FEP/FMP projections. Of these, 40.2% are in coniferous forests, 40.4% in deciduous high-stemmed forests and 19.4% in conifer forests for conversion to seed. The performance of cultivated fellings without material yield of 3,729.1 ha is 62.1% of the FEP/FMP projections. By type of felling, the FEP/FMP performance is 60.6% for lighting, 31.9% for clearings, 42.9% for thinning and 60.4% for test tubes.

In the state forests, selection fellings of an area of 1,154.1 ha were carried out during the year, which means that the FEP/FMP projections were met at 85.8%.

Harvests in forests up to 40 years old were conducted during the year on a total area of 17,467.9 ha, with 3,931.9 ha less than in 2017.

The area of cultivated young plantations without material production amounts to 3,765.9 ha, of which 92.1 ha are planted in which the Saarland method of producing high quality wood has been harvested.

In 2018, non-state forests were harvested on 9,308.5 ha, of which 5,856.6 ha in municipal forests, 2,658.2 ha in forests, owned by individuals, 460 ha in forests, owned of legal entities and 333.7 ha in forests owned by religious organisations.

In 2018, the state-owned forest territories assisted the natural regeneration by afforestation or sowing under the field and felling of the undergrowth over an area of 5,640.1 ha, which is 77.4 ha more than in 2017.

For the implementation of activities related to the management of state-owned forest territories, in 2018 the state budget spent a total of BGN 4,816 thousand, which is BGN 174 thousand more than in the previous year.

In the state forests, pruning 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 stands over 1,507.9 ha, with 1,263.6 ha more than the FEP/FMP projections. Natural regeneration on an area of 5,640.1 ha (57.3% of the projected forest management plans) was supported, with 31.4 ha more than the previous year. It is marked on a logging fund of 6,107 890 cubic meters of standing wood, with 200,228 cubic meters less than 2017.

4. Use of Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products

4.1. Use of Timber

In 2018, the EFA and the Regional Forest Directorates carried out constant monitoring of the issued logging permits and the drafted protocols for logging of the clearings through the EFA information system. Logging permits have been issued for 9,226,369 cubic meters of timber, and as of 24.04.2019, protocols have been drawn up for certification of logging for harvested 7,137,916 cubic meters of timber.

During the year, SOEs sold a total of 5,298,775 cubic meters of timber from the forest territories - state property or 106% of the planned amount. The timber sold was 25 thousand cubic meters (0.5%) more than 2017. A significant part of the realized quantity, amounting to 1,361 thousand cubic meters (7% more than the previous 2017), is wood affected by abiotic and biotic factors. Nevertheless, the total use of timber from the state forests is within the estimated average annual use of timber under the GSP - 5,294,969 cubic meters, i.e. compulsory and sanitary fellings carried out are offset by a reduction in the volume of regularly scheduled felling and re-felling.

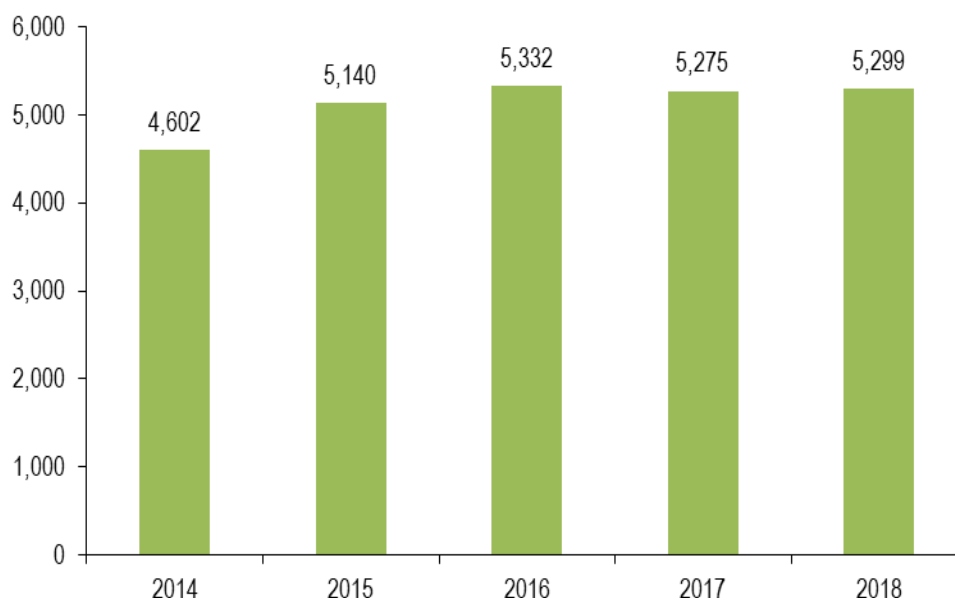
Reported total timber sales in 2018 amounted to BGN 306,977 thousand, up 12.5% compared to 2017. Total timber use costs amounted to BGN 109 680 thousand (nearly 20% above the reported in the previous year). 2017), including the deductions from the sale price of the wood to the Forest Investment Fund in the amount of BGN 25,383 thousand.

In 2018, 59.8% of total timber sales were realized through the sale of harvested timber from a warehouse. The remaining 40.2% was realized through the sale of standing timber to individuals for personal use and to legal entities after tendering. To meet the needs of individuals, a total of 698 thousand cubic meters of timber was sold, priced primarily for firewood, which is 44 thousand cubic meters or 6% less than in 2017.

The volume of timber granted under long-term contracts from state-owned enterprises in 2018 is 205 thousand cubic meters of standing timber and 215 thousand cubic meters of harvested timber.

Following electronic auctions, contracts for the sale of 710 thousand cubic meters of timber from the state forests were concluded during the year, which is twice more than in 2017.

Figure VI.1. Disposed timber from state-owned forest areas for the period 2014 – 2018, thousand cubic meters



Source: MAFF

Table VI.2. Use of timber from forest territories, managed by SOEs and revenues from sales in 2018

Method of use and sale	2017		2018			
	Quantity (cub.m)	value (thousand BGN)	Quantity		Value	
			cub.m	Variation compared to 2017 (%)	Thousa nd BGN	Variation compare d to 2017 (%)
I. Revenues from timber sales (1+2+3+4):	5,274,851	272,870	5,298,755	0.5%	306,977	12.5%
1.Sale of standing timber	2,750,431	103,214	2,053,102	-25.4%	83,202	-19.4%

Method of use and sale	2017		2018			
	Quantity (cub.m)	value (thousand BGN)	Quantity		Value	
			cub.m	Variation compared to 2017 (%)	Thousa nd BGN	Variation compare d to 2017 (%)
1.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	324,826	3,373	290,579	-10.5%	3,215	-4.7%
2.Sale of harvested timber	2,448,073	167,929	3,169,010	29.4%	221,447	31.9%
2.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	417,249	26,072	407,065	-2.4%	28,007	7.4%
3.Timber use under art. 116b of FA	6,880	x	6,376	-7.3%	x	x
4.Timber use under art. 193 of FA	69,467	1,708	70,267	1.2%	1,812	6.1%
II.Total costs, quality (I.1.+ II.1.), value II.(1+2+3):	5,254,963	91,480	5,303,441	0.9%	109,680	19.9%
1.Costs for timber harvesting - in total:	2,504,532	59,200	3,250,339	29.8%	78,612	32.8%
2.Costs for making routes and on-going repair of forest roads for vehicles	x	2,539	x	x	5,685	123.9%
3.Deductions for fund "Investments in forests"	x	26,553	x	x	25,383	-4.4%

Source: MAFF

The weighted average selling prices of the harvested timber from a state-owned forestry warehouse, as well as its yield, are slightly higher than those in 2017 - BGN 69.88 / cubic meter respectively. m and BGN 24.20 / cubic meter. m. The weighted average selling price of standing rootwood is BGN 40.53 / cubic meter. m, with 3.00 BGN / cubic meter m or 8% higher than the previous year. The weighted average prices reported are directly dependent on the quality and assortment structure of the wood.

4.2. Side Activities and Use of Non-Timber Forest Products

In 2018, SOEs reported income from side activities and non-timber forest products amounting to BGN 13,911 thousand in total and corresponding costs of BGN 9,634 thousand, as it was reported 3% increase in revenues and 20% decrease in costs compared to 2017. Of the total revenues, BGN 295 thousand came from the use of non-timber forest products from the state forest territories, which is BGN 9 thousand less than in 2017.

5. Protection of Forest Territories

5.1. Protection of Forest Territories from Diseases, Pests and Other Damage

In 2018, attacks on an area of 85,211.2 ha were detected. The most affected are the districts of RDF Pazardzhik with an area of 19,183.1 ha, followed by RDF Smolyan with 16,765.8 ha, RDF Kardzhali with 9,700 ha, RDF Kyustendil with 7,382.1 ha, RDF Plovdiv with 6,116.1 ha, RDF Sofia with 4,540.7 ha and others. The stations' reports for 2018 show that the greatest influence on the health of the forests in the country was exerted by abiotic factors - 7,399 signals for a total area of 38,378.6 ha.

Table VI.3. Conducted forest protection events in 2018

Event	Forecast 2018 (ha)	Report 2018 (ha)	Implementation (%)	Spent funds (BGN)
Aerial fighting	2,401.3	1,530.4	64	87,110
incl. aero-chemical	2,241.3	1,207.9	54	67,497
aero-biological	160	322.5	201	19,613
Land-based chemical and biological fighting	261.7	558.5	213	27,502
Mechanical fighting	29	131.1	452	14,118
Integrated fighting	1.4	-	0	-
Salvage logging	41,188.4	35,287.1	86	
Total:	43,881.8	37,507.1	88	128,730

Source: EFA

The airfare conducted in 2018 in the coniferous forests is a total area of 1,530.4 ha, with an estimated 2,401.3 ha. The fight was carried out against the pest insect pests and the rusty pine wasp. The reported effect of aerial spraying on pest mortality is 78% to 89%.

Ground-based chemical fighting was carried out on a total area of 558.5 ha. The mechanical combat took place on an area of 131.1 ha.

The planned measures for the control of diseases, pests, etc. the damage is overcompensated with the exception of aerial combat and logging. Logging has been completed at 86% over the forecast for 2018.

In 2018, SOEs spent BGN 180.4 thousand to carry out forest protection activities, 6% more on an annual basis.

5.2. Forest Fire Protection

In 2018, 222 forest fires were reported in the country, affecting 1,453 ha of forest territories, with only 19.7 ha of them being fires by peak fires. For comparison, in 2017, 513 forest fires were recorded, affecting 4,569 ha of forested territories, of which 989 ha were burned by peak fires.

The area of coniferous forests affected in 2018 is 223 ha, the affected areas of deciduous forests are 1 130.8 ha, with mixed forests 29.5 ha, and 69.7 ha are grasslands and independent forested areas. The largest number of forest fires and affected areas is in the territory of RDF Lovech - 20 fires on an area of 667.3 ha, RDF Berkovitsa - 12 fires on an area of 419.1 ha and RDF Blagoevgrad - 36 fires on an area of 101.2 ha. The least recorded are forest fires in RDF Smolyan - 5 fires on an area of 1.3 ha, RDF Veliko Turnovo - 4 fires on an area of 6.6 ha, RDF Shumen - 7 fires on an area of 7 ha, and RDF Pazardzhik - 8 fires on area 8.2 ha.

The largest share of the area under fire in 2018 is private property - 53%, 41% is state property and 6% is municipal property.

The direct damage caused by forest fires in the forest territories during the year was estimated at only BGN 39,286, which is the lowest value in the last 20 years, at almost BGN 4 million in 2017 and an average of about BGN 5 million over the last decade. .

The good results in 2018 are due to both the preventive activity and the considerable financial resources invested by MAFF, SOE and the Ministry of the Interior in the last years for specialized equipment, training and creation of voluntary units. The SOEs in southern and north-eastern Bulgaria, which have invested significant

financial and organisational resources to provide high-throughput equipment, monitoring tools and to ensure the safety of their forest fires teams, are already outstanding.

The results in 2018 are also a consequence of the timely and rigorous implementation of the signed Interaction Plan between DG FSCP and the EFA. Significant is the role of the tel.112 to the EFA. A total of 1,455 signals were received for occurrence of fires in or near forest areas, which are forwarded to the SOEs and RFD specialized groups for inspection sites. As a result of the immediate reaction, fire was not allowed in the vast majority of cases in the forest areas. Thus, in 2018 no crisis situations were declared on the territory of the country in connection with the occurrence of forest fires.

During the year, the extension of the systems for monitoring and detection of fires in the forest territories was started, and the RFD prepared projects under sub-measure 8.3 of the RDP for the construction of automated systems for monitoring and detection of fires in the forest territories. Project proposals have been submitted by 5 RFDs (Berkovitsa, Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Kardzhali and Sliven), envisaging the construction of a total of 18 towers and 5 observation centres.

For the implementation of the activities for protection of the forest territories from fires in 2018, the SOEs spent a total of BGN 1,961 thousand, with BGN 45 thousand less than the previous year. A major part of the reported expenses is for the implementation of preventive activities.

6. Protected Areas

According to the Law on Protected Areas, there are 6 categories of protected territories in the country, the responsibility for the management of which is shared between MAFF - EFA and MOEW.

The MOEW exercises control over the management of all protected areas and direct management of national parks and reserves.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Executive Forest Agency, as well as the natural and legal persons and municipalities - owners of forests, lands and water areas in the protected territories other than those subject to exclusive state ownership, exercise their management, conservation and security. The EFA is responsible for the management of nature parks.¹¹ directorates - specialized territorial units at the EFA, have been established for the management of the nature parks: 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 on the management of the protected areas and the natural landmarks in the forest territories are carried out by the state forestry and hunting farms, depending on the territorial scope of which the territory falls. Regardless of the status of the protected area and the property, all forest resources in the protected territories are managed by MAFF through the State enterprises and the respective state forest and hunting farms.

In 2018, three cooperation agreements and joint activities were concluded between NPP and SOE - NPP Belasitsa, NPP Vitosha and NPP Rila Monastery with SWSOE Blagoevgrad. The purpose of cooperative agreements is to resolve issues of mutual interest in the following areas: sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, environmentally sound land management in protected areas and protected areas under the BDA (Biological Diversity Act), qualification of personnel, preparation, application and implementation of projects related to forests and protected areas.

During the year, repair and rehabilitation activities were carried out on the existing tourist infrastructure - bridges, interpretive routes, shelters, gazebos, recreation areas, fountains and more. The information boards, the marking of tourist routes and others have been updated and restored.

Three sports grounds for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system in the area of Iglikina Polyana have been opened on the territory of Vitosha Nature Park, and the Shelter 2050 has been built in the area of Three Wells.

The Vrachanski Balkan National Park has built a children's eco-playground in front of the Ritlite visitor center, "Feeling Trail", sandbox "How far do the animals jump?", A new wooden climbing house, a gazebo, a bench and other tourist infrastructure.

All NPPs continued their active work with volunteers, with the help of which a number of activities were undertaken to restore and maintain the tourist infrastructure, clean the park territories, update the tourist marking, afforestation events and more. NPPs, in conjunction with forestry, have removed fallen trees and trees that pose a danger along tourist routes.

The activities in the field of reintroduction of endangered and rare species and the maintenance of their populations, as well as the fulfillment of the obligations related to the monitoring of conservation species of plants and animals included in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System, were continued. The necessary forms have been filled in and sent for entering into the EEA system. Food was regularly exported to the bird feeder sites.

The Vrachanski Balkan NPP has continued the activity of restoring the population of Rock Partridge. Last year, the park experimented with a species that collected only eggs outside the nests. 120 eggs were collected and 62 chicks hatched. More than 400 hatching eggs are found in the nests. At present, 110 birds are wintering in the parks. The feeding of the Egyptian and the reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture continued.

In the spring of 2018, fishing was carried out with Balkan trout in four of the mountain rivers on the territory of Balgarka Nature Park - Sivek, Yantra, Belilska and Belaya Reka.

The established training and interpretation centres in the parks continued their activity by welcoming groups of students and children from the country periodically.

NPDs have participated in a number of press conferences, and publications in local and national media have been prepared and published to promote their activities and biodiversity. Under this strand, educational events were organized and conducted with children and students from the local schools - educational excursions, competitions, sports holidays. Information campaigns have been carried out regarding the dates of the conservation calendar, and a number of activities have been carried out with eco clubs and schools in the settlements near the parks.

Parks staff lead groups on hiking trails, green camps, as well as open lessons and talks for students and students.

The Golden Sands NPD has for a number of years been involved in the activities of educational institutions working on the international program Eco-Schools and Learning for the Forest.

The Persina Nature Park has organized Children's Eco - Vacation 2018, within which a visitor centre for the Persina Nature Park organizes activities for children during the summer holidays. There were competitions for drawing "One day at the Rusenski Lom Nature Park, sports holidays at the Golden Sands Nature Park, celebration of the Children's Day at the Beli Brezi Children's Eco-Station and more.

In 2018, 5 green schools with a duration of 3 to 5 days were organized at the Youth Eco Camp - Ochindol village, with a visit from students from Vratsa, Mezdra, Svoje, Sofia and others.

The Park Directorates have worked actively to support local initiatives and the development of a volunteer network, have organized and participated in volunteer actions to clean the park grounds and in the traditional campaign of BTV "Let's clean Bulgaria for a day". Within a week of the forest, the DPP, together with the RFD and the DP, organized and held a Forest Holiday - Forestry for a Day.

For the next year, with the aim of promoting and presenting the rich nature, culture, history and tourism opportunities in the area of nature parks, NPDs have organized and hosted the Greenfield Festival; Chestnut Festival; Green Suns, Golden Autumn. The activities are also supported by the National Park on whose territory the respective nature parks are located. The Chestnut Festival - Petrich Municipality was awarded in the Spirit of Bulgaria category during the Third Annual Tourism Awards, presented by the Ministry of Tourism. A number of competitions for children's creativity, art studios and more have been held.

Belasitsa Nature Park has joined the Tourism Forum "Focus is Tourism", organized by the Association "Focus", Bulgaria and the Association "Leshki", Macedonia under the project "Sustainable Tourism Development - an asset for cross-border cohesion and prosperity".

In 2018, Vitosha, Vratsa Balkan, Golden Sands and Rila Monastery Nature Parks launched the implementation of projects under operational programme Environment 2014-2020 related to the improvement of the conservation status of species and types of natural habitats on the territory of nature parks.

Belasitsa DPP participated in the Cross-border Entertainment Center project implemented by the Pirin Tourism Forum (Bulgaria) and the Planetum - Strumica (Macedonia) Environmental Association with EU financial support through the Interreg CBC Programme - IPA Bulgaria - Former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia. The aim of the project is to stimulate tourism as a real long-term alternative for the cross-border area between Bulgaria and Macedonia. Within its framework a network of 10 tourist "nodes" or mini-destinations in Blagoevgrad District, Bulgaria, and Southeastern Planning Region, Macedonia, has been developed, which has developed modern and attractive tourist services offered through a website designed for this purpose: www.crossborderfuncenter.net. One of the "mini destinations" is related to the promotion of Belasitsa Nature Park.

The Rila Monastery DPP, in partnership with the Pirin Tourism Forum, the German Bureau of Ecological Communication and Regional Development "Terolog", has started the implementation of the project "Guides in the Protected Areas of Bulgaria", funded by the German Federal Foundation for the Environment - DBU and which is aimed at nature parks in Bulgaria.

Persina Nature Park has started the implementation of the Lower Danube project, future restoration, Bulgaria - improvement of the water management of the marshes on the territory of Persina Nature Park and Kalimok Protected Area, funded through a donation program of Coca-Cola Company. The implementation of the project "Linking the protected areas along the Danube in the Green Corridor of the Danube habitats" under the Danube Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 continued.

In the field of Forest Pedagogy, EFA experts organized and conducted educational initiatives with children and adolescents from Sofia schools, dedicated to Forest Week, Starting the Fire Season and the beginning of the school year.

In 2018, the EFA participated in the following procedures for changing protected areas under the Protected Areas Act:

- Reduction of the area of the Kaliakra Reserve and increase of the area of the Steppe Protected Area, deletion of the natural landmarks of Perustia and Orlitsite Nature Park, falling within the boundary of Pirin National Park;
- Amendment and Supplementation of the Plan for Maintenance of the Izgorialoto Giune Reserve;
- Deletion of the Roman Bridge Protected area;
- Declaration for protected area "Gorna River Negovanka (Upper Boaz);
- Declaration for the Felix Vozeli Protected Site;
- Declaration for the Barkite Protected Area;

- Increasing the area of the Sand Dunes in Baba and deleting 5 Sand Dunes in Nessebar;
- Reduction of the area of the Samodivska Polyana Protected Area (PA);
- Extension of the Rhodope Lopen Locality;
- Declaration for the Parkovo Protected Site;
- Change in the regime of the Magura Cave Software.

7. Forest certification

The certified forest territories in Bulgaria are certified by the FSC (Forest Management Council). According to the FSC annual bulletin, the area of certified forest territories as of December 2018 was 1,459,577 ha, which represents 34% of the total forest area in the country, and the certified units were 27. FSC - Chain of custody hold 456 certified units.

The area of the certified state forest territories managed by the SOE was 1,444,204 ha, equivalent to 50% of the total territory managed by them in the country, and the certified units are 25.

According to the PEFC (Certification of Forestry Certification Programme) electronic information portal, the PEFC - Chain of custody certificate hold 20 certified units.

8. Inventory and Planning in Forest Territories

The following activities were carried out in 2018:

- Meetings of the committees under art. 34, para. 1 of Ordinance No. 18 / 07.10.2015 on inventory and planning in forest territories, for inventory of forest territories and development of forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting plans and plans for the protection of forest territories from fires in 2018/19 for territorial units of Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovtsi State Forestry Tervel, Nova Zagora and Chirpan, and for hunting units "Nessebar", "Trakia" - for the part of SFH "Krichim", "Osogovo", "Spring" to what streamed SFH "Devin" and "Broad Meadow";
- Documentation was prepared for conducting open procedures for public procurement for carrying out inventory of forest territories and elaboration of forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for the protection of forest territories from fires during the period 2019/20 for the State Forest Service Borino, Dospat, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv District), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad District), Katunzi, Garmen and Pirdop, and for Rakitovo State Forest Service. The procedures are conducted by individual state-owned enterprises and regional forest directorates, with part of the farms continuing in 2019;
- Expert advice for the adoption of the business classes and the amount of the annual use for the Govezhda, Tzonevo, Sandanski, Krumovgrad, Kostinovo, Malko Turnovo, Zvezdets, Slaveyno, Hissarya "Alabac" c. Velingrad, "Radomir" and "Kostenets", for the State Forest Service "Rodopi", "Borovo", "Dikchan" Satovcha and "Vitoshko - Studena", as well as for the Experimental Forestry "Georgi St. Avramov" village of Yundola;
- Meetings of the committees under art. 37, para. 3 of Ordinance No. 18 / 07.10.2015, for inventory and planning in the forest territories, for the approval of the performed inventory of the forest territories and the elaborated forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for the protection of the forest territories from fires in 2017/18 d. for territorial divisions of state forestry farms "Govezhda", "Tzonevo" "Sandanski", "Krumovgrad", "Kostinovo", "Malko Turnovo", "Zvezdets", "Slaveyno", "Hissarya", "Alabac", Velingrad, "Radomir" and "Kostenets", for the State Forest Service

"Rodopi", "Borovo", "Dikchan" Satovcha and "Vitoshko - Studena", as well as for the Experimental Forestry "Georgi St.Avramov" village of Yundola;

- Expert councils were held for the adoption of assignments in connection with the forthcoming inventory of the forest territories in 2019/20 and the joint development of forest management maps, forest management plans, plans for hunting activities and for fire protection activities for the State Forest Service Borino, Dospat, Smolyan, the part of the Mugla, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv District), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad District), Katuntsi, Gurmen and Pirdop, and for TD SFH Rakitovo
- The digital orthophoto map was provided to the companies carrying out an inventory of forest territories and developing forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting plans and plans for the protection of forest territories from fires for the period 2018/19;
- A digital model of the map of the restored property and the cadastral map for the territorial scope of activity of the state forest and hunting farms subject to inventory and forestry planning in 2018/19 is provided;
- The balance of the forest territories as of 31.12.2017 was adopted and submitted to the NSI.

9. Hunting Farm

In 2018, the following major activities were carried out with the participation of the EFA related to the management and use of game in the country:

- 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
- The exhibition "Nature, Hunting and Fishing 2018" was organized in Plovdiv;
- Participated in 5 hunting exhibitions - Dortmund, Salzburg, Moscow and Athens as a result of which a number of hunting tourism arrangements have been reached;
- Meetings of interministerial working groups were held jointly with MOEW and NGOs regarding the implementation of the Bear and Goat Management Plan 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 African swine fever;
- 5 meetings of the Hunting Council were organized;
- Checks were carried out on the implementation of the contracts, which provide for the management and use of game of hunting associations;
- analyses have been made on the results of the controls on the implementation of joint hunting contracts in 22 SFHs and the controls on the implementation of contracts for the management and use of game in 32 game breeding areas of the state forest holdings;
- 9 research and development licenses have been issued;
- Courses and examinations were held for the acquisition of hunting rights in 71 hunting associations;
- Courses and examinations were conducted for the acquisition of the right to selective hunting in 16 hunting associations;

- 156 hunting tickets issued to foreign nationals;
- 83 hunting bases have been categorized in the SHF and SFF;
- Thematic and specialized inspections were carried out on the implementation of the hunting activities and the implementation of the contracts in the hunting associations.

During the year in the forest territories - state property, a feed base was established and maintained, game was nourished, biotechnical facilities were built and maintained - jackals, feeders, traps, mud pits, and intensive game management facilities were built and repaired.

The total revenues from the hunting activity in the forest territories - state property, reported in 2018, amounted to BGN 8,809 thousand, which is 2% more than in 2017. The revenues from organized hunting tourism amounted to BGN 5,325 thousand, having increased by BGN 378 thousand compared to the previous year. Revenues from concluded contracts under the LHPG in the form of annual contributions for the management of game in game breeding areas and annual rental prices of hunting grounds of SFF were BGN 3,059 thousand, 2% less than in 2017.

10. Protection of Forest Territories and Control

By the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, the EFA controlled activities in forest territories covering an area of 4.26 million hectares.

In 2018, the employees of the RFD and the SOE under Art. 163 of the Forest Act carried out 474,521 inspections of persons and sites related to the use, processing and marketing of forest, game and fishery resources, with 35,520 more comparing to 2017. There were 92,028 inspections of timber production sites carried out, 22,256 inspections of objects under art. 206 of the FA, 133,827 vehicles, 151,762 hunters, 12,081 fishermen and 62,567 others.

During the year, the State Forestry Protection Officers carried out 228,836 inspections, of which 54,544 were logged; of vehicles - 61,210; hunters - 91,097; to other persons - 21,435. There were 15 documents of administrative offence drawn up. 5,481.18 cubic meters of firewood, 563 carts and 277 power saws were detained.

Violations detected;

In 2018, a total of 18,051 violations of forestry legislation were detected, with 1,944 less than in 2017. There were 12,942 documents for administrative violations drawn up. The perpetrators were not found for 2,897 violations and 2,212 violations established by ascertaining protocols were known by the offenders.

Most violations established by documents, were as follows: RFD Lovech - 1 849 acts, followed by RFD Berkovitsa - 1,406 acts, RFD Burgas - 1,333 acts, RFD Varna - 1,236 acts, RFD Ruse - 1,056 acts, RFD Sliven - 1,014 acts and RFD Kardzhali - 1,010 acts. The regional directorates with the least acts were RFD Smolyan - 74 acts, RFD Kyustendil - 207 acts, RFD Plovdiv - 317 acts and RFD Pazardzhik - 318 acts.

According to the property, 7,737 violations were found in forest territories - state property, 865 violations in municipal property, and 1,917 violations in private property.

According to the Forest Act, 12,664 acts have been drawn up, under LHPG - 193 acts, under MFA - 85 acts.

The employees of the RFD drawn up 107 acts for violations committed by employees of the territory units State Forest Farm/State Hunting Farm, 248 acts of foresters practising private forestry practice and 14 acts of persons related to the activities of management and protection of forest territories, municipal property.

30 compulsory administrative measures under Art. 253 of the FA (closed sites under Article 206 due to established violations).

As of January 1, 2018, new EFA-owned software has been introduced to keep records of forest law violations.

The directors of RFD cancelled 267 files. There were 10,161 penal decrees issued, 3,465 files were sent to the Prosecutor's Office, of which 1,044 were without a decision, 2,197 were returned for administrative proceedings, and 287 criminal proceedings were initiated.

441 files were appealed, of which 35 were modified, 91 were canceled and 43 confirmed. 37 convictions were issued, down from 44 in 2017. A total of 8,158 penalty orders entered into force. The imposed penalties and fines on the effective POs amounted to BGN 1,202,563.254,089 BGN were collected from the penal decrees that came into force, which represents 21.1% collection. The collection rate is the highest since the last 10 years, when the average collection rate has been around 12 - 14%.

In 2018, by acts and protocols of findings, logged illegal timber was established in the amount of 19,019 solid cubic meters.

Activities of the teams of senior experts and chief specialists at EFA

In 2018, a total of 3,424 inspections were carried out, of which 538 at sites under Art. 206 of the FA, 380 in timber extraction sites, 1,273 vehicles, 861 hunters, 3 fishermen and 369 individuals.

191 acts were drafted and 157 regulations were issued by the RFD for drafting acts and imposing CAM (coercive administrative measures).

Implementation of Regulation 995/2010

In 2018, the EFA participated in two meetings of the FLEGT / EUTR Committee on issues related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 955/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber on the market. timber products in Brussels, Belgium.

In June 2018, the composition of the Standing Working Group, which is responsible for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, was revised and the Internal Rules for the Group's activities were updated. Meetings were held with representatives of all RFD and WWF representatives to explain the implementation of the Regulation in the country.

In connection with the implementation of effective control, in 2018 RFD carried out a total of 1,017 inspections of operators and traders.

Control activities in forest areas

In 2018, forest inspectors at the RFD carried out a total of 202,896 inspections, of which 26,514 were at timber production sites, 21,630 at sites under art. 206 of the FA, 61,422 vehicles, 49,139 hunters, 11,718 fishermen and 32,473 individuals. 8 090 vehicles were checked at the permanent control posts. Forest inspectors and experts in the RFD drawn up 4 632 acts, or 36% of the acts in the country.

Items detained by offenders were: 102 cubic meters of shaped timber, 268 cubic meters of round timber, 4,458 cubic meters of timber, 184 pcs/kg of non-timber forest products, 179 motor vehicles, 60 horses, 139 power saws, 19 other logging tools, 6 pieces legal weapons, 16 other hunting equipment and ammunition, 3 boats, 17 pieces / 715 m nets, 18 other fishing gear, 3 large game and 82 kg of fish.

Interaction with other institutions

At the end of 2018, a new Agreement No. 50-106/31.12.2018 on cooperation and interaction between the Mol and MAFF was signed.

Measures were taken together with the DG SP-Mol to combat systemic forest offenders. A joint plan for combating offenders in the concentration areas of the offences has been developed and implemented by the RFD and the District Directorate of Mol.

Together with COC and the Traffic Police, inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with the provisions of the ZLOD throughout the country.

In 2018, joint actions were carried out with the Gendarmerie Directorate - DGSP on the territory of RFD Sofia, RFD Berkovitsa, RFD Blagoevgrad and others.

The protection and preservation of the forest territories from fires, as well as the direct extinguishing activities were carried out in close cooperation with the Directorate-General of the Fire Safty and Population Protection- Ministry of Interior. Joint inspections were carried out with other institutions related to forest control - RIA, NRA, EA GIT, NAFA.

11. Strategic Planning, Improvement of the Regulatory Framework and International Activities

The National Forest Biomass Energy Action Plan 2018 - 2027 was developed and approved in 2018.

By order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests, a working group has been set up to develop a Strategy to strengthen the role of the agricultural sector in the bioeconomy.

At the meeting of the National Council for Biological Diversity at the Ministry of Environment and Waters, an Action Plan for the Small Spotted Eagle was adopted.

Within the framework of 2018, amendments to the following legal acts have been prepared:

- Law on Amendments to the Forestry Act (prom.SG issue17 of 23.02.2018 and issue83 of 09.10.2018);
- Act to amend and supplement the Hunting and Game Conservation Act (prom.SG issue61 and 77 of 2018);
- Decree No. 224 of the Council of Ministers of 17.10.2018 to amend and supplement the Rules for the Implementation of the LHPG (prom.SG issue88 of 23.10.2018);
- Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 5 of July 31, 2014 on construction in forest territories without changing their purpose (prom.SG issue19 of 02.03.2018);
- Draft Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 1 of 30.01.2012 on the control and protection of forest territories;
- Draft Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 8 of 2011 on logging in forest;
- Draft of new Ordinance for protection of forest territories from diseases, pests and other damages;
- Draft Decree of the Council of Ministers on amending and supplementing the Ordinance on the conditions and procedure for assigning the implementation of activities in forest territories - state and municipal property, and on the use of wood and non-timber forest products;
- Draft Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 4 of 2012 on the conditions and procedure for the registration of forest nurseries, as well as for the production of saplings in forest nurseries - state property;
- Draft Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 14 of 27.10.2005 on the conditions and procedure for issuing permits for the introduction of non-native or reintroduction of native tree, shrub and hunting species in nature and taking into account the public opinion in the area of re-introduction;
- Draft Ordinance to amend and supplement Ordinance No. 21 of 2012 on the conditions and procedure for determining, approving, registering and canceling sources of forest seed production base, collecting and extracting forest reproductive materials, their qualification, trade and import;
- Draft Rules on Health and Safety at Work in Forest Areas (prom.SG issue38 of 2019).

Eurocoordination and international cooperation

During the first semester of 2018, Bulgaria, as President of the EU Council, organized 6 meetings of the EU Forestry Working Group (FWG), within which the main work on drafting the documents for EU participation was carried out. at the 13th session of the UN Forest Forum. The second main topic discussed within the FWG is the preparation of the EU for participation in the Roundtable on the resumption of negotiations on the adoption of a legally binding agreement initiated by the Forests of Europe policy process. Preparation for EU participation in the 24th session of the FAO Forestry Committee has also started.

Within the EU Council Presidency, Bulgaria hosts a regular informal meeting of forestry directors held in Sofia and on the territory of Rila Monastery Nature Park, with the participation of representatives from 22 Member States. With the assistance of the South-West side, the European Forest of Hope is afforested.

As part of the Presidency's program, the EFA was presented at the international conference "Cross-sectoral work to reduce deforestation and increase forest areas from goals to actions" organized by the Partnership for Forests Cooperation at the FAO Headquarters in the city of Rome, Italy

In 2018, EFA experts participated in the activities of working forums with the European Commission in the field of forestry. Information has been provided to EU organisations and other international organisations. There are various meetings and working visits of an international nature.

Implementation of strategic activities and priorities in the forestry sector through projects funded by the EU and other international donors

In 2018, a total of 17 project ideas and proposals submitted by the FWG and the STT were considered at the meetings of the Standing Working Group on the preliminary consideration of project proposals. Corresponding letters of refusal or support were drafted.

The Commission for the examination of project proposals has considered a total of 5 project proposals (for OPE application) submitted by the NPD. Appropriate letters of support have been drawn up.

In 2018, the project "Increasing the capacity of EFA staff to perform forest management control functions" under operational programme "Good Governance" co-financed by the European Social Fund was launched. The main activities of the project were the organisation and implementation of three trainings: Development and implementation of district plans for the development of forest territories, Modern environmentally friendly methods of forest management and Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010.

The following projects are currently ongoing during the year:

- "Conservation of key forest habitats of the Aquila pomarina in Bulgaria" under the EU LIFE programme.
- "Regional policies for sustainable bioenergy - BIO4ECO" under the INTERREG EUROPE programme.
- "Collaboration to improve management practices related to the impact of land use on the water regime in the Danube River Basin", Camaro - D, under the EU 's Danube Transnational Programme 2014-2020.
- "Restoration and conservation of alluvial forests from habitat *91E0 in Natura 2000 protected areas and model territories in Bulgaria" - LIFE13 NATBG000801.

The implementation of the project "Testing of Poplar Branches from EU Member States for Biomass Production / Fast-growing Species" has been completed, with a leading partner of the Bavarian Seed Control Station - Tiesendorf, Germany.

12. Financing and Investments in Forest Territories

12.1. Executive Forest Agency

In 2018, the Executive Agency for Forests reported revenues amounting to BGN 14,682,771, which is just over 100% of the implementation of the revenue part of the budget for 2018.

Funds amounting to BGN 26,182,590 have been approved for the implementation of the Budget Programs "Specialized Activities in the Forest Territories" and "Planning, Protection against Intrusions, Fires and Forest Protection" in 2018 under the budget of the EFA. The implementation of the expenditure of the budget under the two programs as of 31.12.2018 amounts to BGN 26,150,335.

During the reporting period, investments (capital expenditures) in the amount of BGN 523,940 were made as follows:

- Overhaul of fixed tangible assets - BGN 35,908;
- Acquisition of vehicles - BGN 452,104;
- Acquisition of business inventory - BGN 5,940;
- Construction of infrastructure - BGN 29,899.

In July 2018, a new project "Good Governance" was launched at the Council of Ministers, with a beneficiary EFA - CA, with duration of 18 months and received an initial advance of BGN 27,051.

According to the successfully completed projects under operational programme "Environment 2007-2013", the Directorates of Nature Parks received transfers of verified funds in the amount of BGN 141,292, which were reimbursed under the budget of the EFA, of the Vitosha and the GMP "Strandzha".

New projects under OP "Environment 2014 - 2020", priority axis 3 "Natura 2000 and biodiversity" were launched, with beneficiaries of NPDs - third-level spending units in the structure of the EFA, receiving the first advance funds of BGN 107,187.

The Central Administration of the EFA, the Regional Directorate of Rousse and the Regional Directorate of Plovdiv are beneficiaries of the LIFE/NAT/14 programme from 2014. The Regional Directorates of Burgas, the Regional Directorate of Kardzhali, the Persina Nature Park and the Rousse Lom Nature Park are beneficiaries of INTERREG 2014 - 2020 Territorial Cooperation Programme to the MRDPW. In 2018, BGN 1,411,543 were spent for the implementation of the project activities, of which the funds received under the projects amounted to BGN 778,888, the financing from the EFA budget amounted to BGN 632,565.

12.2. State Forest Enterprises

The reported revenues from the overall activity of the state-owned enterprises for 2018 are BGN 355,752 thousand, and the total expenses amount to BGN 347,557 thousand. Compared to 2017, the revenues of the enterprises increased by BGN 19,691 thousand and the expenses by BGN 18,696 thousand.

The total financial result of the enterprises from their operating activity in 2018 was positive at the amount of BGN 8,195 thousand before taxation, which is an increase of BGN 88 thousand compared to 2017.

The investments made from the six SOEs in 2018 amounted to BGN 50,042 thousand, 24.8% more than in 2017. Of these, 74.7% were made with funds from the Forest Investments Fund for the implementation of the following activities, with a total of BGN 28,646 thousand spent, with BGN 3,456 thousand more than 2017:

- design of 47 km of construction of new roads and major repair of existing forest roads - BGN 269 thousand;
- construction and overhaul of 36 km of forest roads and transport technical infrastructure - BGN 23,404 thousand;

- design and construction of 5 technical and fortification facilities - BGN 53 thousand;
- for afforestation activities - BGN 6,354 thousand.

With the funds by economic activity, 219 vehicles and 101 specialized equipment, 4 buildings were purchased and 55 buildings were overhauled.

13. Administrative Services

In 2018, more than 1,000 consultations were held with individuals and traders regarding the procedure for entering, writing off and updating the information entered in the public registers of the EFA for conducting forestry practice and performing activities in forest territories.

The Commission for examining applications for entry of individuals and traders in the public registers of EFA under Art. 235 and Art. 214 FA in 2018 held 18 meetings, as a result of which 376 individuals were certified and issued certificates for forestry practice. During the same period, 399 traders were registered and issued certificates for performing activities in forest areas.

During the year, from the public register under Art. 241, para. 1 of the FA, 45 traders were written off and from the register under Art. 235 of FA 43 individuals were written off. 57 individuals and 5 traders have been refused entry in the registers under Art. 235 and Art. 241 of the FA.

As of 31.12.2018, the total number of registered natural persons for forestry practice was 11,295, and of the registered traders - 4,011.

In connection with the changes in the requirements for registration of individuals, the activity for conducting exams was organized in accordance with Art. 236a of FA. Eighteen exams were conducted, with a total of 941 applicants, of which 276 passed.

In 2018, more than 1,200 consultations were conducted with owners, private foresters and other interested parties over the telephone, e-mail, at the MAFF reception and during the field inspections.

14. FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE

1. Catch and Production of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms 193

Catch of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

According to data from the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA), in 2018 the total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing in the country amounts to 8,602.4 tonnes, of which 8,546.7 tonnes - in the Black Sea and 53.7 tons - into the Danube River. The total quantity is 1% above the level of 2017, with catches in the Black Sea increasing by 0.9% and that in the Danube - by 4.1%.

A total of 4,403.9 tonnes of marine fish were caught during the year, up 9.9% from the previous year. Traditionally, the most significant is the catch of sprat, amounting to 3,187.8 tonnes, up 3.2 tonnes from the 2017 level.

Among other Black Sea fish species, significant catches were recorded for the Black Sea redfish - 594.6 tonnes, lefer - 260.7 tonnes, horse mackerel - 196.7 tonnes and turbot - 55.5 tonnes.

Rapana, the major share of aquatic organisms in the Black Sea (85.1% in 2018), showed decrease 2.8% from the previous year. At the same time, the catch of black sea mussel increased by 1.3 tons, reaching 12.5 tons, while that of white sand mussel decreased from 26.7% to 600.5 tons. Sand shrimp catches a catch of 1 tonne, down 30.7% on an annual basis.

The catch amount of by-pass fish / caragos / in the Black Sea in 2018 is 10.8 tonnes, which is 4.9% more than the previous year.

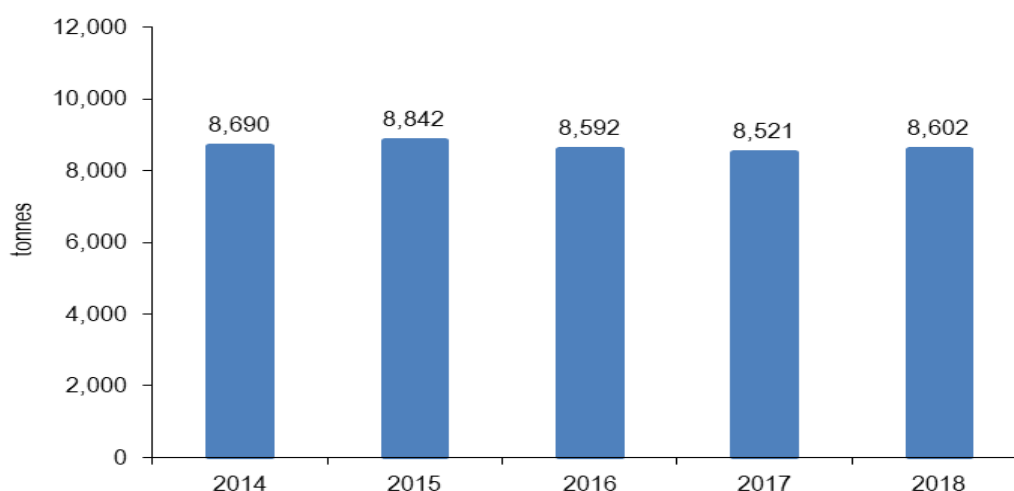
In 2018, catches in the Danube River increase by 4.1% compared to the previous year, up to 55.74 tonnes. Of these, 54.3 tonnes are freshwater fish, up 10.6% on annual basis.

Table VII.1. Total fishing and other aquatic organisms in the country by water basins, tonnes

	2015	2016	2017	2018	Variation 2018/2017
Fishery in Black sea - total, incl.	8,745.2	8,540.0	8,467.1	8,546.7	0.9%
- marine species	4,490.2	4,473.9	4,007.1	4,403.9	9.9%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	17.7	15.6	10.3	10.8	4.4%
- veined rapa whelk, mussels and shrimps	4,237.3	4,050.5	4,449.6	4,132	-7.1%
Fishery in Danube - total, incl.	96.96	52.21	53.52	55.74	4.1%
- freshwater fish	85.6	50.2	49.1	54.3	10.6%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	0.6	1.1	0.5	1.0	100.0%
- other aquatic organisms	10.7	0.9	4.0	0.5	-87.5%
Total fishing and other aquatic organisms	8,842.1	8,592.2	8,520.6	8,602.4	1.0%

Source: EAFA

Figure VII.1. Total fishing and other aquatic organisms in the country, tonnes



Source: EAFA

The highest quantities of catches in the Danube are recorded by whitefish, carp, platypus and colorful silverhead.

There is a significant increase in catches of zander - by 61.1%, whitefish - by 46.3% and European catfish - by 22.8%, while the catches of colorful silverhead were reduced by 20.1%.

In 2018, the catch amount of fish in the Danube river was twice as high as in the previous year. The catch of other aquatic organisms decreased by 87.5%.

Table VII.2. Fishery and other aquatic organisms from basins for commercial fisheries in 2018

No	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
A. The Danube River		
1	Common Roach, <i>Rutilus, rutilus</i> /	0.032
2	Danube,bleak, <i>Chalcalburnus, chalcoides</i> /	0.423

No	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
3	Grass, carp, / <i>Ctenopharingodon, idella</i> /	1.909
4	Silver, carp, / <i>Hypophthalmichthys, molitrix</i> /	3.680
5	White, barbel, / <i>Barbus, barbus</i> /	11.585
6	Zander, / <i>Sander, lucioperca</i> , / <i>Stizostedion, lucioperca</i> /	2.337
7	Zingel, / <i>Zingel, zingel</i> /	0.007
8	Pontic, shad, / <i>Caspialosa, pontica</i> / <i>Alosa, pontica</i> /	1.016
9	Burbot, / <i>Lota, lota</i> /	0.028
10	Vimba, bream, / <i>Vimba, vimba</i> /	3.307
11	Orfe, / <i>Leuciscus, idus</i> /	0.062
12	White-eye, bream, / <i>Ballerus, sapa</i> /	0.064
13	Common, bream, / <i>Abramis, brama</i> /	5.224
14	Bighead, carp, / <i>Aristichthys, nobilis</i> /	5.003
15	Asp, / <i>Aspius, aspius</i> /	1.112
16	European, Chub, / <i>Leuciscus, cephalus</i> /	0.023
17	European, perch, / <i>Perca, fluviatilis</i> /	0.022
18	Ziege, / <i>Pelecus, cultratus</i> /	0.002
19	Nase, / <i>Chondrostoma, nasus</i> /	2.234
20	Wels, catfish, / <i>Sillurus, glanis</i> /	4.416
21	Prussian, carp, / <i>Carassius, sp.</i> /	3.785
22	Common, bleak, / <i>Alburnus, alburnus</i> /	1.572
23	Common, rudd, / <i>Scardinius, erythrophthalmus</i> /	0.082
24	Carp, / <i>Cyprinus, carpio</i> /	6.870
25	Northern, Pike, / <i>Esox, lucius</i> /	0.477
26	Other	0.470
Total for the Danube River		55.742
B. The Black Sea		
27	Atherina, / <i>Atherina, spp.</i> /	15.734
28	Striped, red, mullet, / <i>Mullus, surmuletus</i> /,	0.572
29	Sand, gaper, / <i>Mya, arenaria</i> /	600.510
30	See, bottom, worm	0.016
31	Garfish, / <i>Belone, belone</i> /	3.327
32	Leaping, mullet, / <i>Liza, saliens</i> /	3.438
33	Turbot, / <i>Psetta, maxima</i> /	55.506
34	Pontic, shad, / <i>Caspialosa, pontica</i> / <i>Alosa, pontica</i> /	10.809
35	Mugil, / <i>Mugil, soiyu</i> /	0.534
36	Bluefish, / <i>Pomatomus, saltatrix</i> /	260.650
37	Freshwater, pearl, mussel, (Margaritifera, margaritifera)	0.250
38	Freshwater, mussel, Anodonta	1.680
39	Common, stingray, / <i>Dasyatis, pastinaca</i> /	1.338
40	Thornback, ray, / <i>Raja, clavata</i> /	13.122
41	Anglerfish, / <i>Lophius, piscatorius</i> /	0.016
42	Snouted, sole, / <i>Solea, nasuta</i> /	0.003
43	Flathead, grey, mullet, / <i>Mugil, cephalus</i> /	4.404
44	Shrimps, / <i>Leander, spp.</i> /	0.633
45	Warty, Crab, / <i>Eriphia, verrucosa</i> /	0.180
46	Belted, bonito, / <i>Sarda, sarda</i> /	22.907
47	European, flounder, / <i>Platichthys, flesus, luscus</i> /	0.187
48	Golden, gray, mullet, / <i>Liza, aurata</i> /	0.606
49	Family, Gobiidae, / <i>Gobiidae</i> /	25.138
50	European, brown, shrimp, / <i>Crangon, sp.</i> /	0.991
51	Veined, rapa, whelk, / <i>Rapana, spp.</i> /	3,515.392
52	European, pilchard, / <i>Sardina, pilchardus</i> /	0.042
53	Mediterranean, horse, mackerel, / <i>Trachurus, mediterraneus, ponticus</i> /	196.687
54	Spicara, / <i>Spicara, spp.</i> /	0.006

No	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
55	Anchovy, <i>/Engraulis, encrasicolus, ponticus/</i>	4.757
56	Sprat, <i>/Sprattus, sprattus, sulinus/</i>	3,187.799
57	Blue mussel, <i>/Mytilus, galloprovincialis/</i>	12.455
58	Mullus, barbatus, <i>/Mullus, barbatus, ponticus/</i>	594.640
59	Squalus, <i>/Squalus, acanthias/</i>	10.082
60	Merlangius, merlangus, <i>/Merlangius, merlangus, euxinus/</i>	2.261
61	Other	0.047
Total for the Black Sea		8,546.719
Total for the Black Sea and the Danube		8,602.400

Source: EAFA

According to NAFA data, as of 31.05.2019, the reported total commercial catches of fish and other aquatic organisms amounted to 4,034.72, an increase of 53% compared to the first five months of 2018. The sea is 4,017.14 tonnes and the one in the Danube river - 17.58 tonnes, respectively by 54% and 10% more on an annual basis. The largest contribution to the increase of the total amount caught in the Black Sea was the significant growth of the catch of sprat - by 28% and of rapeseed - by 2.5 times (from 639.8 tons to 1,596.2 tons).

Production of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

According to NAFA, the total number of active fish farms at the end of 2018 was 764, up from 707 a year earlier. Of these, 730 are for freshwater aquaculture and 34 are for marine aquaculture.

The number of active registered aquaculture producers continues to increase in connection with the ban on commercial fishing in inland waters, which entered into force in August 2012, and the related re-registration. Production of fish species that are by-catches in extensive and semi-intensive warmwater farms is reported - carp bream (*Abramis brama*), Danube bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*), common perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*) and Redfin (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*). These species are not subject to targeted breeding and rearing in aquaculture production.

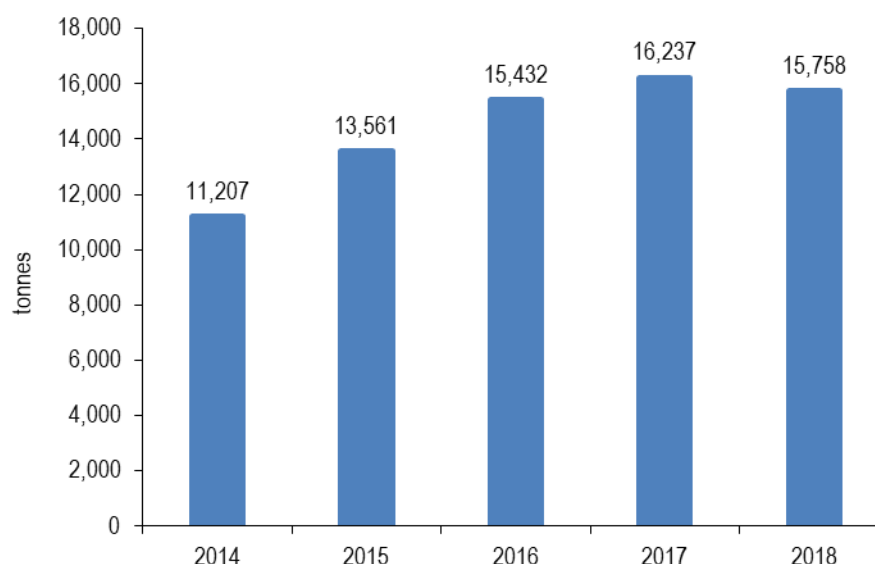
According to NAFA, in 2018 the total production of aquaculture (stock material, fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption) in specialized fisheries is 15,758.08 tonnes - about 3% below the level of the previous year, taking into account a reduction in both the production of stocked fish and that of fish for consumption.

The total reported production of fishery material on fish farms in 2018 was 1,986.02 tonnes. The quantity is by 7.3% less than in the previous year, mainly as a result of a decrease in the production of rainbow trout material (up to 845.72 tonnes) and Siberian sturgeon (up to 0.35 tonnes).

The production of silver carp and lake salmon is also significantly reduced. Production of rearing for Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) has not been reported in 2018, up from 132 tonnes in 2017. On the other hand, a significant increase was observed in the production of rearing material from bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) (up to 333.37 tonnes) and grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (up to 79.20 tonnes).

The production of fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption in 2018 amounted to 13,772 tonnes - 2.3% less than the previous year, mainly due to a decrease in the production of Bighead carp (-28, 5%), African catfish (-69.2%) and Blue mussel (-19.9%).

Figure VII.2. Production of fish and other organisms in specialized fish farms for the period 2014-2018, tonnes



Source: EAFA

Note: The data used for aquaculture production for 2017 is up-to-date as of 09/17/2018.

The aquaculture production information for 2018 is as of 20.06.2019 from the NAFA Statistical System

Consumption of zander, pike and Brown trout is among the more important commercial fish species compared to 2017.

The production of Russian sturgeon (+91%), rainbow trout (+73%) and European sturgeon (+52.1%) marked a significant increase on an annual basis. Although more moderate, production of Siberian sturgeon, catfish, carp and more is increasing.

Table VII.3. Production of aquaculture breeding stock, fish and aquatic organisms in the fish farms, tons

№	Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
		2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
1	<i>Brown trout</i>	4.80	7.80	17.34	6.39	22.15	14.19
2	<i>Rainbow trout</i>	1,014.95	845.72	2,213.02	3,828.14	3,227.96	4,673.86
3	<i>Brook trout</i>	0.20	0.41	10.06	0.41	10.26	0.81
4	<i>Pike</i>	1.97	2.09	23.57	9.91	25.53	11.99
5	<i>European chub</i>	0.10	0.00	0.04	0.56	0.14	0.56
6	<i>Rapacious carp</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.50
7	<i>Tench</i>	0.17	2.97	5.39	3.14	5.56	6.11
8	<i>Bleak</i>	0.08	0.00	5.79	2.79	5.87	2.79
9	<i>Bream</i>	0.05	0.00	27.09	31.72	27.14	31.72
10	<i>Vimba</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.50
11	<i>Nase</i>	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
12	<i>Carp</i>	667.61	659.56	3,705.68	3,897.48	4,373.28	4,557.04
13	<i>Crucian carp</i>	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.45	0.30	0.45
14	<i>Prussian carp</i>	3.48	3.62	423.80	220.13	427.28	223.74

№	Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
15	<i>Silver carp</i>	22.75	4.55	209.29	184.38	232.04	188.93
16	<i>Bighead carp</i>	154.62	333.37	2,389.58	1,708.29	2,544.20	2,041.66
17	<i>Grass carp</i>	45.03	79.20	291.39	212.20	336.42	291.40
18	<i>Black carp</i>	0.00	0.00	2.50	1.52	2.50	1.52
19	<i>Catfish</i>	17.30	22.51	197.64	222.90	214.94	245.41
20	<i>Channel catfish</i>	0.00	0.21	19.00	19.42	19.00	19.63
21	<i>Zander</i>	4.20	4.17	70.59	48.17	74.79	52.34
22	<i>Common perch</i>	0.05	0.01	1.44	1.91	1.49	1.92
23	<i>Sterlets</i>	0.08	0.00	2.00	2.18	2.11	2.18
24	<i>Beluga</i>	0.00	0.00	11.42	17.37	11.42	17.37
25	<i>Starry sturgeon</i>	0.00	0.00	1.01	2.36	1.01	2.36
26	<i>Russian sturgeon</i>	3.12	10.89	129.60	247.52	132.72	258.41
27	<i>European eel</i>	0.00	0.00	40.01	35.00	40.01	35.00
28	<i>Blue mussel</i>	132.00	0.00	3,159.58	2,531.12	3,291.58	2,531.12
29	<i>Other</i>	0.00	0.00	2.24	2.05	2.24	2.05
30	<i>Lake salmon</i>	17.16	0.88	4.29	0.00	21.45	0.88
31	<i>Paddlefish</i>	2.50	6.04	67.71	59.71	70.21	65.74
32	<i>Green algae</i>	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.14	0.05	0.14
33	<i>Rudd</i>	0.06	0.00	10.23	7.25	10.29	7.25
34	<i>Common Roach</i>	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.73	0.70	0.73
35	<i>African catfish</i>	0.00	0.63	908.97	280.23	908.97	280.86
36	<i>Siberian sturgeon</i>	48.70	0.35	87.96	108.52	136.66	108.87
37	<i>Crayfish</i>	0.33	0.60	13.82	4.65	14.14	5.25
38	<i>Bester (Huso huso × Acipenser ruthenus)</i>	0.00	0.00	3.68	4.43	3.68	4.43
39	<i>Other hybrids of Family Sturgeon</i>	0.31	0.11	38.08	64.66	38.38	64.77
40	<i>Tilapia</i>	0.00	0.35	0.00	3.14	0.00	3.49
Total		2,141.60	1,986.02	14,094.99	13,772.06	16,236.60	15,758.08

Источник: ЕАФА

Traditionally, the largest is the production of fish for consumption of rainbow trout, carp and bighead carp.

Main species of marine aquaculture grown in the coastal waters of the country is the Blue mussel /*Mytilus galloprovincialis*/. In 2018, its production for consumption decreased by 19.9% compared to the previous year, to 2,531.12 tonnes. The production of lake cancer for consumption is also lower, by 66.4%.

Aquaculture production is expected to increase in 2019. The development of the sector is aided by the construction of new farms, as well as the modernization and expansion of production facilities.

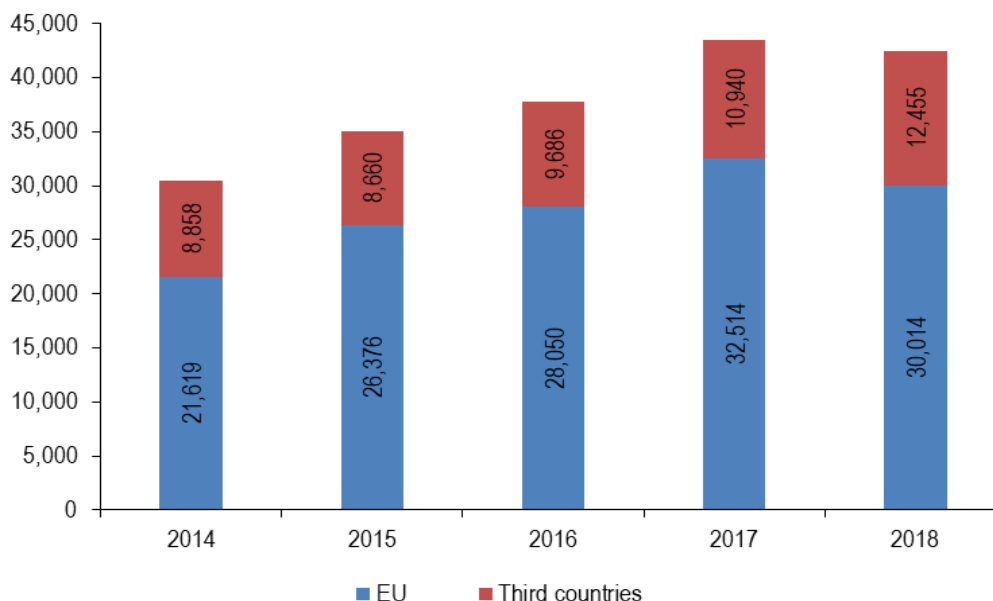
2. Import and export of fish and fish products

Import

According to NSI data, in 2018 a total of 42,469 tonnes of fish and fish products were imported in the country. This is 2.3% less than the previous year due to shrinking supplies of aquatic invertebrates, frozen fish and fillets, while those of fresh, chilled and dried fish, crustaceans, molluscs and processed fish and other aquatic organisms increase.

Traditionally, the largest share of total import of fish, aquatic organisms and fish products was that of frozen fish. In 2018 the imported frozen fish, with the exception of of fillets was 18,406 tonnes, which was 3.7% less than the previous year. As in previous years, the most significant was the import of frozen mackerel, which decreased by 2% on annual basis to 10,765 tonnes. Throughout the year were imported relatively large quantities of frozen fish from the following species: sardines - 887 tonnes; herring - 925 tonnes; hake - 1,191 tons; salmon - 131 tonnes; shark - 284 tonnes; scad - 188 tonnes, salmon - 172 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, tons

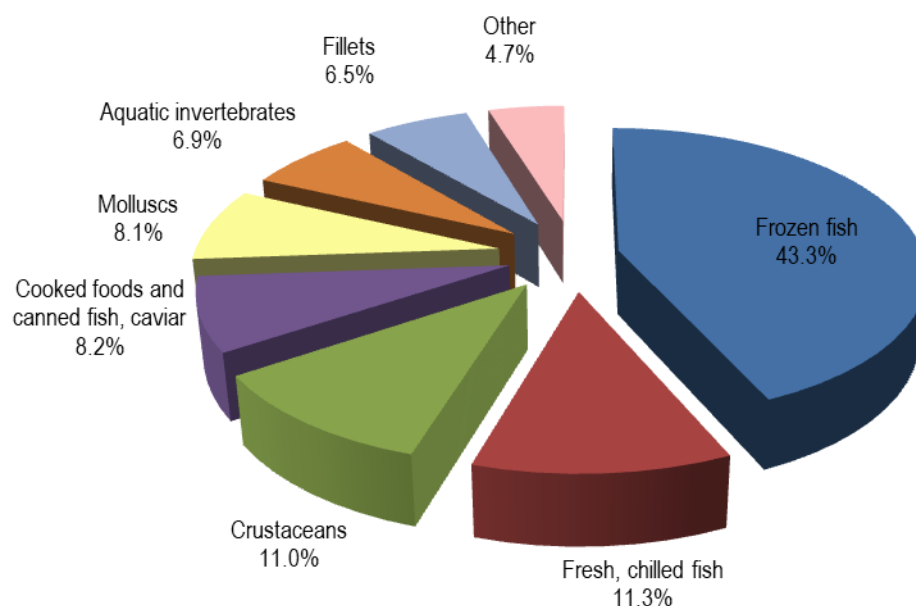
Products	2017	2018	Variation 2018/2017
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	43,454	42,469	-2.3%
Live fish - freshwater and marine	115	241	109.6%
Fish - fresh or cooled, except fillets	4,298	4,818	12.1%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	19,104	18,406	-3.7%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	3,293	2,751	-16.5%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	451	770	70.6%
Crustaceans	4,159	4,658	12.0%
Molluscs*	2,809	3,429	22.1%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	5,393	2,917	-45.9%
Prepared foods and tinned fish; caviar	2,831	3,473	22.7%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	1,000	1,006	0.5%

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF,

* Note: Including also some terrestrial molluscs, which cannot be distinguished

Among other products delivered in larger quantities, a significant decrease compared to 2017 was observed in the import of aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs - by 46% and fillets - by 16,5%.

Figure VII.4. Structure of import of fish and fish products in 2018



Source: NSI

On the other hand, the supply of fresh fish and crustaceans increased by about 12%, and those of molluscs and prepared fish and canned food by about 22% and 23% respectively.

According to NSI estimates, a total of 19 540 tonnes of fish, other aquatic organisms and processed fishery products were imported in the first semester of 2019, up 8.8% from the same period in 2018. they shrink by 5% on an annual basis, amounting to 11 180 tonnes, while imports from third countries increase from almost 35% to 8 360 tonnes.

Considering the data for the first six months, imports of fish and fishery products for the whole of 2019 can be expected to be slightly above the level of the previous year, while substantial quantities of raw material for processing plants and diversification of the market will continue to be imported. with non-typical fish and aquatic species.

Export

According to NSI data, in 2018 total exports of fish, other aquatic organisms and fishery products amounted to 16 709 tonnes - 5.6% less than in 2017, with a significant reduction in mollusc exports (fresh (frozen or dried) and live fish.

Table VII.5. Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tons

Products	2017	2018	Variation 2018/2017
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	17,698	16,709	-5.6%
Live fish - freshwater and marine	2,147	1,414	-34.1%

Products	2017	2018	Variation 2018/2017
Fish - fresh or cooled, except fillets	1,866	2,347	25.8%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	1,630	1,980	21.5%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	222	360	62.0%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	327	745	127.7%
Crustaceans	130	120	-8.1%
Molluscs*	5,061	3,545	-30.0%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	373	240	-35.8%
Prepared foods and tinned fish; caviar	2,116	2,653	25.4%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	3,826	3,306	-13.6%

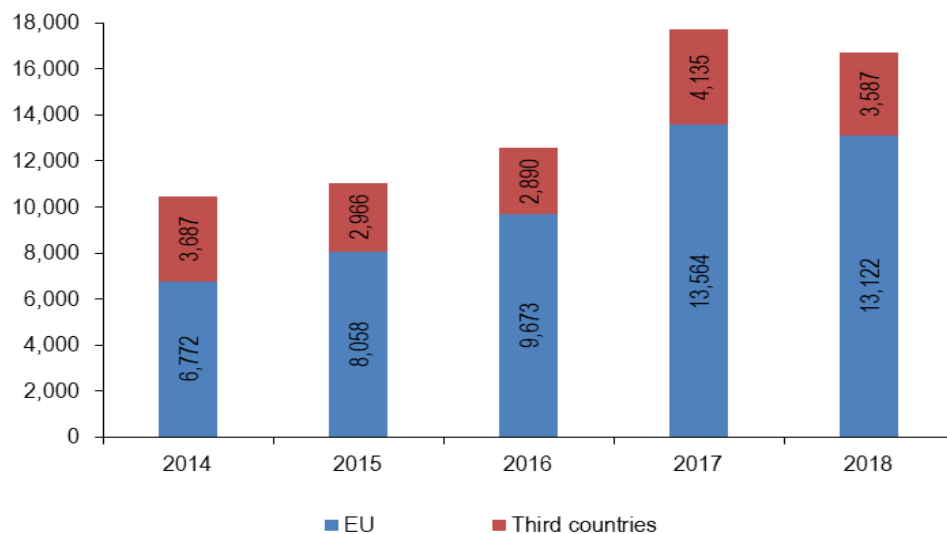
Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF,

* Note: Including also some terrestrial molluscs, which cannot be distinguished

Shipments of fish and fishery products to the EU decreased by 3.3% on an annual basis to 13 122 tonnes (almost 79% of total exports). Most significant are the quantities realized in Romania (5.9 thousand tonnes) and Sweden (2.3 thousand tonnes), followed by those in Greece (1.2 thousand tonnes), Italy (0.9 thousand tonnes), Belgium (0.5 thousand tonnes) and Spain (0.5 thousand tonnes).

Exports of fish and fishery products to third countries shrink significantly - by just over 13%, to 3 587 tonnes, targeting mainly South Korea (877 tonnes), Serbia (832 tonnes), Bosnia and Herzegovina (658 tonnes), Japan (633 tonnes) and China (214 tonnes).

Figure VII.5. Export of fish and fish products to the EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI

The largest share of the total export of fish and other aquatic organisms in 2018 is accounted for by the export of molluscs - just over 21%, followed by that of preserved crustaceans and molluscs - nearly 20%,

respectively by 30% and 13.6% respectively. Compared to 2017, exports of prepared foods and canned fish and caviar increased by 25.4% to 2 653 tonnes. The main destinations for canned aquatic organisms and canned fish and eggs during the year remain Sweden (2.1 thousand tonnes) and Romania (1.4 thousand tonnes), followed by South Korea (0.5 thousand tonnes), Belgium (0.5 thousand tonnes), Japan (0.4 thousand tonnes), Serbia (0.4 thousand tonnes) and Greece (0.3 thousand tonnes).

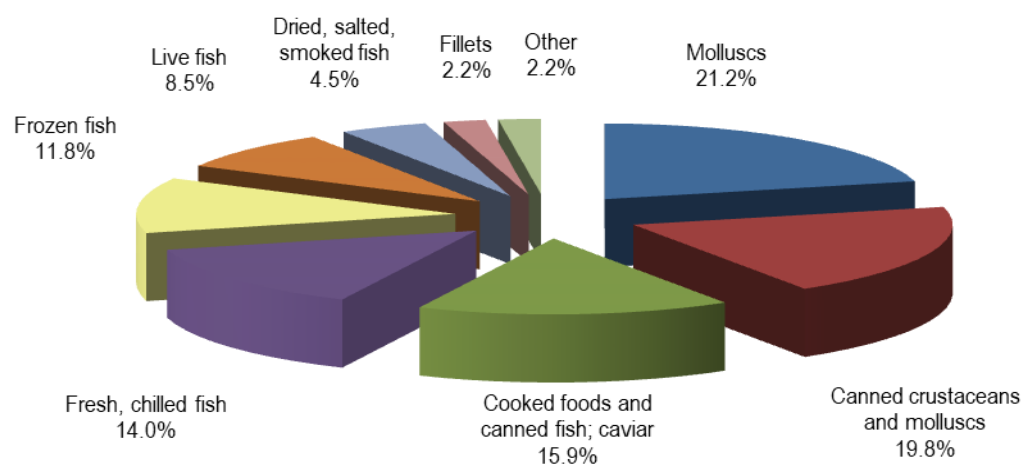
Among other products exported in larger quantities, a significant increase compared to 2017 was observed in the export of fresh and chilled fish - by 25.8% and frozen fish, excluding fillets (mainly sprat, chickpeas or sprat) - by 22%. Traditionally, the largest quantities of frozen fish are destined for Romania (1,168 tonnes).

According to NSI estimates, in the first six months of 2019, a total of 7,937 tonnes of fish and fishery products were exported, up 1.9% on annual basis. Most product categories see an increase in exports compared to the six months of 2018 by between 3% and more than nine times (in aquatic invertebrates). Only exports of live fish and molluscs decreased by 3.3% and 46.4%, respectively.

Shipments of fish and fishery products to the EU for the first semester of 2019 amounted to 6 501 tonnes, 0.2% more than in the same period in 2018. 10.5%, reaching 1 435 tonnes.

In the first semester of the year, overall exports of fish, aquatic organisms and processed fishery products for the whole of 2019 are expected to be above the level of the previous 2018. as well as the expected increase in production on fish farms.

Figure VII.6. Structure of export of fish and fish products in 2018



Source: NSI

3. Operational Programme “Fisheries Sector Development”(OPFSD), funded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

The strategic goal of the Operational Programme Fisheries Sector Development was the transformation of fishery into a competitive, modern and dynamic sector, based on the sustainable development of the fishery, as well as improvement of the quality of life in the fishery areas.

The financial resource of the Operational Programme Fisheries Sector Development (OPFSD) 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 2018

The cumulative progress in the implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2018 may be summarized through the following data:

- Total number of registered projects: 609;
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 318;
- 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 165,175,119.88 (100.88%);
- Total certified funds: BGN 156 021 874.31.

Table VII.6. Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 31 December 2018

Axis/Measure	Budget for the OPFSD	Funds agreed, BGN			Actually paid funds, BGN			Certified funds	
	Total, BGN	Number	Total public expenses	%	Number	Total public expenses	%	Total, BGN	%
Measure 1.1	10,183,859.71	95	8,957,035.50	87.95	95	8,954,144.43	87.92	8,908,327.04	87.74
Measure 1.3	94,371.16	7	106,507.87	112.86	7	94,371.16	100.00	94,371.16	100.00
AXIS 1	10,278,230.88	102	9,063,543.37	88.18	102	9,048,515.59	88.04	9,002,698.20	87.59
Measure 2.1	46,927,652.83	57	54,127,091.92	115.34	109	50,980,056.89	108.64	45,250,491.56	96.43
Measure 2.2	76,281.45	1	76,281.43	100.00	3	57,987.95	76.02	57,987.95	76.02
Measure 2.6	14,901,412.18	17	16,428,372.05	110.25	32	15,615,202.26	104.79	15,065,087.51	101.10
Measure 2.7	11,496,570.10	4	12,167,850.00	105.84	3	11,696,567.28	101.74	11,496,567.28	100.00
AXIS 2	73,401,916.56	79	82,799,595.40	112.80	147	78,349,814.38	106.74	71,870,134.30	97.91
Measure 3.1	857,561.47	2	871,188.53	101.59	4	857,561.47	100.00	857,561.47	100.00
Measure 3.3	28,010,477.95	3	28,154,850.27	100.52	9	27,993,770.99	99.89	26,637,545.81	95.10
Measure 3.4	4,403,206.45	19	4,869,277.27	110.58	39	4,325,892.71	98.41	4,285,421.92	97.33
Measure 3.5	938,012.38	1	938,012.38	100.00	3	938,012.38	100.00	938,012.38	100.00
AXIS 3	34,209,258.25	25	34,833,328.45	101.82	55	34,115,237.55	99.71	32,718,541.58	95.64
Measure 4.1	38,090,383.82	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	329	36,095,596.76	94.76	34,864,544.63	91.53
AXIS 4	38,090,383.82	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	329	36,095,596.76	94.76	34,864,544.63	91.53
Measure 5.1	7,744,484.40	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	7,565,955.60	97.69
AXIS 3	7,744,484.40	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	7,565,955.60	97.69
TOTAL	163,724,273.91	318	176,820,381.15	108.00	804	165,175,119.9	100.89	156,021,874.3	95.30

Source: EAFSA

Note: Cases in which the amounts actually paid exceed 100% are the result of financial corrections imposed and bad debts recovered.

Implementation of the OPFSD in 2018

In connection with the closure of the 2007-2013 programming period and in view of the eligibility deadline for expenditure - 31.12.2015, no contracts were signed in 2018 under the OPRD. Funds paid for 2018 amount to BGN 2,267,119.71. Certified funds during the year amount to BGN 156,0201,874.31.

In 2018, no payments were made under priority axis 1 "Measures for adaptation of the Bulgarian fishing fleet". The budget under axis 1 is BGN 10 278 230.88 (BGN 7 708 673,.6 from the EDF). A total of 122 project proposals have been submitted under Priority Axis 1 for the whole OPRD period. The total number of contracts concluded is 104, of which 2 have been cancelled.

Under Priority Axis 2 "Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products", payments in the total amount of BGN 2 055 132.45 were made in 2018. The total amount of public funds for Priority Axis 2 is BGN 73 401 916.56, of which BGN 55 051 437.42 is co-financed by the EDF. The certified expenses as of December 31, 2018 amount to 71 870 134.30 BGN of public funds.

Aquaculture production in Bulgaria is dominated by fish production, followed by that of black mussel. Representatives of mainly two fish families have been shaping aquaculture production in recent years and can be defined as traditional aquaculture in Bulgaria. Since the emergence of fisheries in the country, the production of carp fish, followed by trout fish, remains the most significant.

The production of rainbow trout, silver carp, carp and black mussel continues to prevail in 2018, which is due to the realized projects for the construction of farms for the respective species under the OPRD.

Under Measure 2.1 "Aquaculture production investments" support investment projects for the construction of new aquaculture farms and the expansion and / or modernization of existing farms that contribute to one or more of the specific objectives of the measure.

The total budget under measure 2.1 as of 31.12.2018 is BGN 46 927652.83. A total of 192 project proposals were submitted under the measure. The total number of concluded contracts reached 91, 34 of which were cancelled.

Measure 2.6 "Investments in the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products" - support projects related to improving working conditions and safety; improving and monitoring human health and hygiene or product quality; production of high quality products to fill market niches; reducing the negative impact on the environment; improving the use of low-used species, by-products and waste; production or marketing of new products through the application of new technologies for the production or development of innovative production methods; marketing products originating mainly from local catches and aquaculture.

The assistance is aimed at two main areas - the construction and modernization of processing plants, and the construction and modernization of market structures. The largest share of fish processing is occupied by frozen and deep-frozen products.

The total budget under measure 2.6 is BGN 14 901 412.18. A total of 23 project proposals were submitted under the measure. A total of 20 contracts have been concluded and three of them have been cancelled.

Measure 2.7 The Financial Engineering Scheme was successfully implemented until the eligibility deadline for the 2007-2013 programming period, 31.12.2015.

The National Guarantee Fund has issued guarantees and counter-guarantees for 27 projects of small and medium-sized enterprises, financed under the OPFSD, for a total value of BGN 20.780 thousand.

The value of the certified expenses is BGN 11 496 567.28 public funding.

The implementation of the financial engineering scheme has proved to be extremely successful for Bulgaria. It actually supports small and medium-sized enterprises in the fisheries sector.

Priority Axis 3 "Measures of common interest" focuses on the modernization of fishing ports, landing sites, supporting the organisation of the sector, promoting professional skills and innovation in the fisheries sector, ensuring sustainability in terms of natural resources, disseminating know-how - how-related to the sector and promotion of fishery and aquaculture products.

The budget of Priority Axis 3 is BGN 34,209,258.25, of which BGN 25,656,943.68 is financing from the EDF and BGN 8,552,314.57 - national co-financing. A total of 64 project proposals have been submitted under this axis. The total number of contracts concluded is 34, of which 9 have been cancelled.

Measure 3.3 "Investments for reconstruction and modernization of fishing ports, landing places and closed boats" are completed three projects for the reconstruction and modernization of the Black Sea ports in Pomorie, district Sarafovo (Burgas) and Chernomorets.

The main objective of Priority Axis 4 is the sustainable development of fisheries areas and the improvement of quality of life in existing fisheries communities. The budget of the axis is BGN 38,090,383.82, of which BGN 28,567,787.87 is from the EDF.

The total number of contracts concluded with Local Fisheries Initiative Fisheries Groups (FLAGs) under the OPRD 2007-2013 is 6. As a result of the actions taken to promote the measures and to build contacts and trust with the private sector, the number of contracts concluded under local FLAG development strategies is 240.

Table VII.7. Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 31 May 2019

Axis/Measure	Budget for the OPFSD	Funds agreed, BGN			Actually paid funds, BGN			Certified funds	
	Total, BGN	Number	Total public expenses	%	Number of payments	Total public expenses	%	Total, BGN	%
Measure 1.1	10,183,859.71	95	8,957,035.50	87.95	95	8,954,144.43	87.92	8,908,327.04	87.74
Measure 1.3	94,371.16	7	106,507.87	112.86	7	94,371.16	100.00	94,371.16	100.00
AXIS 1	10,278,230.88	102	9,063,543.37	88.18	102	9,048,515.59	88.04	9,002,698.20	87.50
Measure 2.1	46,927,652.83	57	54,127,091.92	115.34	109	50,980,056.89	108.64	45,250,491.56	96.43
Measure 2.2	76,281.45	1	76,281.43	100.00	3	57,987.95	76.02	57,987.95	76.02
Measure 2.6	14,901,412.18	17	16,428,372.05	110.25	32	15,615,202.26	104.79	15,065,087.51	101.10
Measure 2.7	11,496,570.10	4	12,167,850.00	105.84	3	11,696,567.28	101.74	11,496,567.28	100.00
AXIS 2	73,401,916.56	79	82,799,595.40	112.80	147	78,349,814.38	106.74	71,870,134.30	97.91
Measure 3.1	857,561.47	2	871,188.53	101.59	4	857,561.47	100.00	857,561.47	100.00
Measure 3.3	28,010,477.95	3	28,154,850.27	100.52	9	27,980,971.24	99.89	26,637,545.81	95.10
Measure 3.4	4,403,206.45	19	4,869,277.27	110.58	39	4,333,074.50	98.41	4,285,421.92	97.33
Measure 3.5	938,012.38	1	938,012.38	100.00	3	938,012.38	100.00	938,012.38	100.00
AXIS 3	34,209,258.25	25	34,833,328.45	101.82	55	34,109,619.59	99.71	32,718,541.58	95.64
Measure 4.1	38,090,383.82	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	329	36,095,596.76	94.76	34,864,544.63	91.53
AXIS 4**	38,090,383.82	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	329	36,095,596.76	94.76	34,864,544.63	91.53
Measure 5.1	7,744,484.40	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	7,565,955.60	97.69
AXIS 3	7,744,484.40	106	8,689,744.34	112.21	171	7,565,955.60	97.69	7,565,955.60	97.69
TOTAL	163,724,273.91	318	176,820,381.15	108.00	804	165,169,501.92	100.88	156,021,874.31	95.30

Source: EAFA

Note: Cases in which the amounts actually paid exceed 100% are the result of financial corrections imposed and bad debts recovered. The table shows the certified costs due to the completion of the OPRD

Cumulative progress in the implementation of the OPRD as of May 31, 2019

- Total number of registered projects: 609;
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 318;
- 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 165,169,501.92 (100,88%);
- Total certified funds: BGN 156,021,874.31.

In compliance with the provisions of Art. 56 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and in pursuance of the audit findings, contained in the reports of the inspections carried out by the control bodies for the implementation of projects financed under the Operational Program for Regional Development and Public Works, NAFA, as its MA under the Operational Program for Regional Development, on-the-spot checks and on-the-spot inspections of the projects financed under the Program with contracts concluded by December 2015. By the end of June 2019, the MA has carried out inspections under 299 contracts.

The Agriculture Fund, in fulfilment of the functions of the CA under the OPRD, in accordance with the requirements of Article 86 (1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006, in 2017, completed the OPRD for the 2007-2013 programming period. The closing documents, including a statement of payment of the balance and a statement of expenditure, were sent to the EC on 31 March 2017.

Certified public expenditures for the programming period under the OPFSD 2007-2013 amount to a total of BGN 156 021 874.31, of which BGN 117 907 238.14 is co-financed by the European Fisheries Fund (EDF) and BGN 38 114 636.17 - from the National Budget. 96.02% of the budget execution is reported. In connection with the acceptance of the received documents for the completion of the OPRD by the European Commission in accordance with the requirements of Article 86 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006, additional checks were carried out in 2018 by the MA of the OPRD. and provided information related to the registered irregularities in the implementation of the projects by the beneficiaries.

In 2018, the Certification Authority undertook activities related to updating and maintaining the debtors' program book in connection with its completion.

4. Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020

In the course of 2018, the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 (MFP) adopted measures under 15 measures, broken down as follows by EU priorities:

- ***European Union Priority 1: Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterized by efficient use of the resources***

Under Union Priority 1 (UP 1) - 8 measures are set at Programme level. In 2018, 4 measures were opened under UP1, with a total of 8 contracts concluded:

On 18.05.2018, the reception for ***Measure 1.1 "Diversification and new forms of income"*** - with a budget of BGN 3 519 919.89. One contract was signed amounting to BGN 110,404.5.

The implementation of the activities foreseen in the measure will enable the 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 businesses in the fisheries sector, including the small-scale coastal fleet, as well as improving safety and working conditions.

Measure 1.6 "Conservation and restoration of biodiversity" - with a budget of BGN 3 702 848.09. The acceptance of the measure was opened on 13.12.2018, with no contracts concluded in 2018.

The implementation of Measure 1.6 aims to promote environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries characterized by resource efficiency.

Measure 1.7 "Value added, product quality and use of unwanted catches" - with a budget of BGN 6 181 144.53. Under this measure, 3 project proposals were received, 2 administrative grant contracts were concluded (total amount of BGN 245 383.46 grants). At the opening of the second admission of the measure in April 2018, the application conditions are significantly facilitated - the minimum grant amount for one project has been reduced, and the number of eligible applicants has been expanded. Five information campaigns were conducted prior to the opening of the measure, but nevertheless only 3 project proposals were submitted, one of which was rejected in the evaluation process.

The measure will encourage investments that add value to fisheries products, in particular by allowing fishermen to process, market and directly sell their catch and make innovative investments on board vessels that lead to quality improvements of fishery products.

The low interest in the measure, despite the information campaigns carried out and the eligibility conditions for the application, is mainly due to the fact that over 90% of all Bulgarian fishing vessels are up to 12 meters and declare an average annual catch, which cannot justify a business plan for more than 10 000 euros.

Measure 1.8 "Fisheries ports, landing berths, fish markets and covered moorings" - with a budget of BGN 16 823 731 grants.

In 2018, a second acceptance of the measure was announced and 4 project proposals were received, the evaluation of which ends at the beginning of 2019. In 2018, 2 ADPFs were concluded for a total value of BGN 8 797 545.54 from the first acceptance of the measure announced in 2017.

The implementation of Measure 1.8 "Fisheries ports, landing berths, fish markets and covered boats" will contribute to the specific objective of "Improving the competitiveness and viability of enterprises in the fisheries sector, including small-scale coastal fleet, and improving safety and security to work."

Given the importance of fishing ports, landing berths and sheltered moorings, the MFP supports investment aimed in particular at: improving energy efficiency; the protection of the environment and the quality of landed products; improving safety and working conditions.

The planned expenditures under UP 1 for 2018 are in the amount of BGN 6 017 543.09, which is 2.71% of the total budget of the program, while the planned expenditures by the EMFF are 2.64% of the total budget of the EMFF expenditures.

The overall progress under UP 1 in terms of the agreed funds in 2018 amounts to BGN 9 153 333.5 grants or 20.28% of the UP 1 budget.

Overall progress under UP 1 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2018 amounted to BGN 990 472.44 grants or 2.2% of the UP 1 budget. The total agreed funds are BGN 9 153 333.5 grants. The certified funds amount to BGN 990 472.44.

- **Priority 2 of the European Union Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, with efficient use of the resources**

There are 5 measures envisaged under UP 2 - at Programme level. In 2018 under UP 2, 4 procedures were opened under 3 measures and 45 contracts were concluded.

Measure 2.1 Aquaculture Innovation - with a budget of BGN 3 033 492.33 grant. The acceptance of the measure was opened on 13.12.2018, with no contracts concluded in 2018. The implementation of the activities foreseen in the measure will enable innovation in aquaculture to be supported.

Measure 2.2 "Productive investments in aquaculture", "Small projects" sector - with a budget of

BGN 1 000 000 grant. The acceptance of the measure was opened on 18.05.2018.9 project proposals were received for a total value of BGN 414 045.39.

Measure 2.2 "Productive investments in aquaculture", Large Projects sector"- with a budget of BGN 15 789 783.01, a grant. The acceptance of the measure was opened on 25.10.2018. There were 27 project proposals received with a total value of BGN 9 965 266.44.

In 2018, a total amount of BGN 19 210 390 Grant from the Reception in 2017 was agreed.

The implementation of the actions provided for in the measure will enable the conservation and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and the improvement of aquaculture-related ecosystems and the promotion of aquaculture through resource efficiency through productive investments leading to increased energy efficiency, resource efficiency, reducing the use of water and chemicals, improving the competitiveness and viability of businesses in the aquaculture sector, including improving safety and working conditions.

- **Measure 2.3 "Promoting new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture"-** with a budget of BGN 16 624 555

The acceptance of the measure was opened on 13.04.2018. There were 22 project proposals received with a total value of BGN 14 612 420.38 grants. Nine contracts were signed amounting to BGN 5,530,404 grant.

The measure aims at promoting entrepreneurship in the aquaculture sector, supporting the creation of sustainable aquaculture enterprises by new aquaculture producers.

The planned expenditures under UP 2 for 2018 amounted to BGN 17 779 995.24, which is 8% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures by the EMFF are 8% of the total budget of the expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 2 in terms of the agreed funds in 2018 amounts to BGN 24 740 794 grants or 35% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 2 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2018 amounted to BGN 92 151 831.79 grants or 3.1% of the priority budget. The amount of BGN 24 740 794 grant has been contracted.

- **Priority of the Union 3 "Promoting the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy"**

Under UP 3 - at Program level, 2 measures with deadline for submission of project proposals 2020, with NAFA as a specific beneficiary and 18 contracts have been concluded. 2 measures out of a total of 2 under UP 3 were opened, or 100% of the envisaged measures.

Admission procedure under Measure 3.1 Control and Enforcement remains open, with a total budget of BGN 14 542 924.06 grant. Under the measure, in 2018, 17 contracts were concluded with a total value of BGN 9 387 544.23 grants.

Implementation of Measure 3.1 will contribute to the specific objective of "Supporting monitoring, control and implementation through enhancing the institutional capacity and efficiency of public administration without increasing administrative burden".

Measure 3.2 "Data collection". The total budget under the measure is BGN 9 737 881.99 (EUR 4 978 976,37). A second admission procedure with a budget of BGN 5,000,000 has been opened. In 2018, under the measure, one contract was concluded for the amount of BGN 2 235 944.08.

The implementation of measure 3.2, procedure BG14MFOP001-3.003 "Collection of data under the National Fisheries Data Collection and Management Programme 2017-2019" will contribute to the specific objective "Improvement and provision of scientific knowledge as well as improving data collection and management."

The planned expenditures under UP 3 for 2018 are to the amount of BGN 7 865 477.90, which is 3.54% of the total budget of the programme, while the planned expenditures by the EMFF are 4.12% of the total budget of the EMFF expenditures.

The overall progress under UP 3 in terms of the agreed funds in 2018 amounted to BGN 11 623 488 grants or 48% of the UP3 budget.

Overall progress under UP 3 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2018 amounted to BGN 4 363 061.15 grants or 18% of the UP 3 budget.

The amount of BGN 11 623 488.31 grant has been contracted.

The certified funds amount to BGN 363 061.15.

- **Priority 4 of the European Union Employment growth and territorial cohesion**

There are 2 measures set at UP 4 - at the MFP level and 8 contracts were signed for the implementation of the CLLD strategies.

On admission from 2016 on **Measure 4.1 Preparatory assistance for CLLD strategies**", 14 Pre-Aid Contracts concluded in 2017 have been implemented to the amount of BGN 491,850.36 grant.

Under **Measure 4.2 "Implementing community-led local development strategies"** 9 contracts were signed for the implementation of strategies for BGN 35 204 940 grant (1 contract was signed in 2019, after the change of the Program approved by the EC on March 20, 2019). The budget of the measure was BGN 39 115 352.30 Grants.

The financial assistance under the measure will contribute to increasing employment and territorial cohesion by promoting economic growth, social inclusion, job creation and providing support for employment and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities in coastal and inland regions, fisheries and aquaculture, including diversification of activities within the fisheries sector as well as other sectors of the maritime economy.

The planned expenditures under UP 4 for 2018 are in the amount of BGN 2 847 041, which is 1.28% of the total budget of the program, while the planned expenditures by the EMFF are 1.45% of the total budget of the EMFF expenditures.

The overall progress under UP 4 regarding the agreed funds in 2018 amounted to BGN 31 293 280.

Overall progress under UP 4 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2018 amounted to BGN 1 104 232.44 grants or 2.8% of the UP 4 budget.

The amount of the contracted grant is a total value of BGN 31 293 280, or 79% of the budget of the UP 4.

The certified funds amounted to BGN 1 104 232.44 grant.

- **Priority 5 of the European Union Enhancing the supply on the market and the processing**

There are 4 measures envisaged under UP 5 - at Programme level. In 2018 under UP 5, 4 procedures were opened under 3 measures. One contract was signed amounting to BGN 999,995.36 grant;

4 procedures under 3 measures were opened.

Under **Measure 5.1 Plans for production and marketing**" one procedure is open. The acceptance procedure under the measure was opened on 05.11.2018, with a budget of BGN 178 332.52 grants.

The support for the activities under the procedure is aimed at assisting the preparation and implementation of plans for the production and marketing of producer organisations and associations of producer organisations.

Under **Measure 5.3 "Marketing measures"** two receptions procedures were open.

The budget for the measure was as follows: 1st admission - BGN 586 931.99 grant; 2nd admission - 189 715.51 BGN grants.

The implementation of the measure is aimed at establishing producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-branch organisations; providing opportunities for entry into new markets, conducting market studies to expand the range of production and processing, improving the conditions for the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products; conducting regional, national or transnational advertising campaigns for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as other public awareness campaigns in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Under **Measure 5.4 Processing of fishery and aquaculture products** on 01.06.2018 an admission under the measure was opened with a budget of BGN 11 119 499.82 grant, and 12 project proposals were received worth BGN 8 613 96852 grant.

In 2018, one contract was concluded for the amount of BGN 999,995.36 grant from the 2017 admission procedure.

The measure supports projects aimed at expanding, equipping and modernizing businesses in the Fisheries sector. Investment should contribute to one or more of the objectives of the measure, namely by encouraging investment in the processing and marketing sectors by setting up and modernizing processing plants.

- **Priority 6 of the European Union "Integrated Maritime Policy"**

Under UP 6 - there are 3 measures envisaged at Programme level.

In 2018, one measure was opened under UP 6 - **Measure 6.3 "Raising knowledge of the marine environment"** with a budget of BGN 1 629 857.96 grant.

Under the project selection procedure BG14MFOP001-6.003 "Increasing knowledge about the state of the marine environment" through the implementation of activities related to increasing the knowledge about the state of the marine environment in accordance with the Marine Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, including measures to achieve or maintain its good ecological status will ensure the preservation of biodiversity in the marine environment, and its implementation will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of "blue growth".

In 2018, four applications for interim payment were sent to the European Commission in accordance with Article 131 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by the Certification Body (CA) of the MFP 2014-2020 the costs incurred by the beneficiaries and paid for the execution of the operations. Certified public expenditures as of 31.12.2018 for the MFP are in the amount of BGN 13,586,106.94, of which BGN 10,605,003.81 was co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and BGN 2,981,103.13 are the funds from the National Budget. 6.12% of the budget execution is reported.

For the period 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2018, the PA has accepted, registered, processed and paid the payment requests according to the table below.

Table VII.8. Paid projects under measures of MFP 2014-2020 within the period 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2018

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Amount paid</i>	<i>National financing</i>	<i>European financing</i>
Diversification and new forms of income		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.2. Investments for the improvement of hygiene, health, safety and working conditions on board or of individual equipment, provided that those investments exceed the requirements under Union or national law		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.3. Definitive withdrawal of fishing activities	8	483,173.09	241,586.55	241,586.54
1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.5. Development or introduction of new technical or organisational knowledge leading to a reduction in the environmental impact of fishing activities, including: better fishing gear, or the achievement of more sustainable use of marine biological resources and coexistence with protected predators		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.8. Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve berths for landing. Construction or modernization of parking lots	2	507,299.35	126,824.84	380,474.51
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	22	2,147,215.37	536,804.13	1,610,411.24
3.1. Control and implementation	10	2,076,410.68	207,641.08	1,868,769.60
3.2. Collection of data	3	2,286,650.47	457,330.10	1,829,320.37
4.1. Preparatory support for strategies of CLLD, including establishment of National fishing net	12	467,967.75	70,195.20	397,772.55
4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies	22	652,766.38	97,914.94	554,851.44
5.3 Creating producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-branch organisations. Searching for new markets and improving the conditions for the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.		0.00	0.00	0.00
5.4. Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	8	3,401,790.33	850,447.63	2,551,342.70
6.1. Encouraging the implementation of the IMP		0.00	0.00	0.00
7.1 Technical assistance	10	1,974,860.13	493,715.06	1,481,145.07
Total:		13,998,133.55	3,082,459.53	10,915,674.02

Source: SFA

In fulfillment of the implementation activities of the MFP 2014-2020, on 09.04.2019, the EC, submitted the Annual Financial Report for the period from 01.07.2017 to 30.06.2018, has been approved by the EC in accordance with Art. 126 (b) and in connection with Art. 138 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The total reimbursed amounts from the EMFF to 31 December 2018 for the MFP are in the amount of BGN 10,676,025.14, and the appropriations for 2018 amounted to BGN 1,568,658.53 and represent an annual reconciliation of the Programme accounts and recovered interim payments.

Overall progress in the implementation of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program (2014-2020), as of 21.06.2019

Priority 1 of the Union 1 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterized by efficient use of the resources

Measure 1.1 "Diversification and new forms of income" - Approved projects - 1 piece of the total investment value 110 404.50 BGN.

Measure 1.3. "Final cessation of fishing activities" - Approved projects - 8 pieces of the total investment value 483 173.09 BGN. Payments made - 8 pieces of the total value of the subsidy BGN 483 173.09.

Measure 1.7 "Value added, product quality and use of unwanted catches" - Approved projects - 2 pieces of the total investment value 245 383,46 BGN.

Measure 1.8 "Investments for improvement of infrastructure in fishing ports, investments for improvement of berths for landing. Construction or modernization of shelters" - Approved projects - 5 pcs. to the total value of the investment BGN 23 261 566.43. Payments made - 2 pieces of the total value of the subsidy BGN 507 299.35.

Priority of the Union 2 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge aquacultures, with efficient use of the resources

Measure 2.2. "Productive investments in aquaculture" - Approved projects - 51 pieces of the total investment value 19 252 942.97 BGN. Payments made - 29, total subsidy amount BGN 3 513 608.99.

Measure 2.3 "Encouragement of new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture" - Approved projects - 9 pieces of the total investment value BGN 5 530 403.19.

Priority of the Union 3 "Promoting the implementation of the CFP"

Measure 3.1. "Control and Implementation" - Approved projects - 18 pieces, the total value of the investment BGN 9 403 708.23. Payments made - 13, total subsidy amount BGN 4 455 316.82.

Measure 3.2. "Data Collection" - Approved Projects - 2 pieces of the total investment value BGN 3 164 164.44. Payments made - 4, total subsidy amount BGN 2 575 227.98.

Priority of the Union 4 "Increasing employment and territorial cohesion"

Measure 4.1 "Preparatory assistance for CLLD strategies, including the establishment of a National Fisheries Network" - Approved projects - 14 pieces of the total investment value BGN 571 950.01. Payments made - 13, total subsidy amount BGN 509 388.74.

Measure 4.2. "Implementation of Community-led Local Development Strategies" - Approved Strategies - 9 items with a total investment value of BGN 35 204 940.00. Payments made - 30, total subsidy amount BGN 1 664 886,68.

Priority of the Union 5 "Promotion of marketing and processing"

Measure 5.3. "Establishment of producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-branch organisations. Searching for new markets and improving the conditions for placing fishery and

aquaculture products on the market "- Approved projects - 8 pieces of the total investment value BGN 372 113.74.

Measure 5.4."Processing of fishery and aquaculture products" - Approved projects - 21 pieces for a total investment of BGN 15 979 026.16. Payments made - 10, total subsidy amount BGN 5 261 877.81.

Priority of the Union 7 "Technical Assistance" - Approved projects - 7 pieces of the total subsidy value of BGN 7 892 006,35. Payments made - 17, of the total subsidy value of BGN 2 606 670.28.

Table VII.9. Paid projects by measures from the MFP 2014-2020 as of 21.06.2019.

Measure	Number	Amount paid	National financing	European financing
Diversification and new forms of income		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.2. Investments for the improvement of hygiene, health, safety and working conditions on board or of individual equipment, provided that those investments exceed the requirements under Union or national law		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.3. Definitive withdrawal of fishing activities	8	483,173.09	241,586.55	241,586.54
1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection		0.00	0.00	0.00
Measure	Number	Amount paid	National financing	European financing
1.5. Development or introduction of new technical or organisational knowledge leading to a reduction in the environmental impact of fishing activities, including: better fishing gear, or the achievement of more sustainable use of marine biological resources and coexistence with protected predators		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.8. Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve berths for landing. Construction or modernization of parking lots	2	507,299.35	135,651.85	371,647.50
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	29	3,513,608.99	878,402.58	2,635,206.41
3.1. Control and implementation	13	4,455,316.82	445,531.70	4,009,785.12
3.2. Collection of data	4	2,575,227.98	515,045.60	2,060,182.38
4.1. Preparatory support for strategies of CLLD, including establishment of National fishing net	13	509,388.74	76,408.35	432,980.39
4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies	30	1,664,886.68	249,732.99	1,415,153.69

5.3.Creation of producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-branch organisations.Searching for new markets and improving conditions for the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products		0.00	0.00	0.00
5.4.Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	10	5,261,877.81	1,315,469.50	3,946,408.31
6.1. Encouraging the implementation of the IMP		0.00	0.00	0.00
7.1Technical assistance	17	2,606,670.28	651,667.57	1,955,002.71
Total:	126	21,577,449.74	4,509,496.69	17,067,953.05

Source: SFA

Table VII.10. Estimated payments for the 2014-2020 MFP payments for 2019

European Union Priorities	European Union priority measure(s)	Total for 2019 (BGN)		
		EMFF	National co-funding	Funds - total
Priority 1 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterized by efficient use of the resources	Measure 1.1.Diversification and new forms of income -75%	82,803.38	27,601.13	110,404.50
	Measure 1.6.Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fisheries- 75%	1,388,568.03	462,856.01	1,851,424.05
	Measure 1.7.Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	184,037.60	61,345.87	245,383.46
	Measure 1.8.Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve berths for landing.Construction or modernization of parking lots	6,217,684.64	2,072,561.55	8,290,246.19
Priority 2 Enhancement of environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and based on knowledge fisheries, characterized by efficient use of the resources	Measure 2.2.Productive investments in aquaculture - 75% Small projects sector and Recycling systems and construction of new ones, as well as expansion of the modernization of existing aquaculture farms	13,709,796.33	4,569,932.11	18,279,728.44

European Union Priorities	European Union priority measure(s)	Total for 2019 (BGN)		
		EMFF	National co-funding	Funds - total
	Measure 2.3.Encourage new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture - 75%	4,125,000.00	1,375,000.00	5,500,000.00
	Measure 2.5.Aquaculture providing environmental services	1,551,217.67	517,072.56	2,068,290.23
Priority of the Union 3 "Promoting the implementation of the CFP"	Measure 3.1.Control and implementation	6,898,402.57	766,489.17	7,664,891.74
	Measure 3.2.Data collection - 80%	726,441.21	181,610.30	908,051.51
Priority 4 Employment growth and territorial cohesion	Measure 4.1 Preparatory assistance for CLLD strategies - 85%	44,193.74	7,798.89	51,992.63
	Measure 4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies -85%	5,100,000.00	900,000.00	6,000,000.00
Priority 5 Enhancing the supply on the market and the processing	Measure 5.4.Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures-75%	3,411,437.48	1,137,145.83	4,548,583.30
	Measure 5.1 Production and marketing plans	13,374.94	4,458.32	17,833.26
	Measure 5.3.Marketing	611,196.74	203,732.25	814,928.98
Priority 6 Integrated Maritime Policy	Encouraging the implementation of the IMP - Article 80, Item 1, Paragraph 3 of Reg.508/2014	694,653.75	231,551.25	926,205.00
Technical Assistance	75%	2,972,478.38	990,826.13	3,963,304.51
Total:		47,731,286.44	13,509,981.35	61,241,267.79

Source: MAFF, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Directorate

Table VII.11. Upcoming MPF 2014-2020 receptions by the end of 2019

Measure	Scheduled initiation of the acceptance procedure in 2019	Total budget under the measure (BGN)	Application deadline
Diversification and new forms of income	1st quarter - 1st reception 3rd quarter - 2nd reception with residual budget under the measure	3,198,320.20	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 1.2 Health and safety	2-nd quarter	452,456.82	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection	4th quarter	1,302,349.57	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 1.5. Innovation linked to the conservation of marine biological resources	2nd quarter	2,410,350.91	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 1.6.Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fisheries	3rd quarter	2,753,207	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 1.7 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	1st quarter - 1st reception 3rd quarter – 2nd reception with residual budget under the measure	3,505,388.20	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.2.Productive aquaculture investments - Small Projects Sector	1st quarter	579,945.62	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.2.Productive aquaculture investments - Large Projects Sector	2nd quarter	9,189,383.22	90 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.3.Encourage new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture	1st quarter	8,637,572.94	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.4 Conversion to eco-management and audit schemes and organic aquaculture	3rd quarter	1,038,741.31	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.5.Aquaculture providing environmental services	2nd quarter - 1st reception 4th quarter - 2nd admission with the remaining budget under the measure	6,204,870.67	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 5.1.Production and marketing plans	3rd quarter	178,332.58	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 5.3.Marketing	2nd quarter	832,259.14	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 5.4.Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	2nd quarter	5,414,049.87	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 6.1.Promoting the implementation of the IMS - Art. 80, item 1 of Regulation 508/2014	2nd quarter	3,031,537.11	60 days as of the date of announcement of

Measure	Scheduled initiation of the acceptance procedure in 2019	Total budget under the measure (BGN)	Application deadline
			the procedure
Measure 6.2.Preservation of the marine environment, in particular biodiversity and marine protected areas, such as Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the obligations laid down in Directives 92/43 / EEC and 2009/147 / EC	2nd quarter	1,401,679.19	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 6.3.Raising knowledge on the state of the marine environment	3rd quarter	637,945.24	60 days as of the date of announcement of the procedure

Source:MAFF, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Directorate

5. Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) 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 fishing and aquaculture.

The Common Market organisation (CMO) for fisheries and aquaculture products is one of the pillars of the CFP and represents the European Union policy for managing the market for fisheries and aquaculture products. A major factor in achieving the CMO objectives is the fishery and aquaculture producer organisations, the associations of producer organisations and inter-branch organisations.

In 2018, changes were made to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (FAA) in relation to the implementation of the CMO for fishery and aquaculture products and the creation of a common framework for the recognition of professional fisheries organisations.

With the promulgation of Ordinance No. 7 of 2018 on the conditions and procedure for the recognition of fishery and aquaculture producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and inter-branch organisations in the fisheries sector, and the approval of production plans and marketing (promulgated, SG, issue.99 of 2018) provided conditions for the implementation of the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, amending Regulations (EC) No 1184/2006 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000.

With changes in the CLA in 2018, the scope of the powers of NAFA's employees was significantly expanded in order to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported catches and to increase the effectiveness of the control activity.

During the year, activities related to the implementation of Measure No 12 of the Marine Strategy and the Program of Measures for Achieving the Good Ecological Status of the Marine Environment were carried out. legislation, including at regional level.

In order to protect the populations of fish and other aquatic organisms, temporary prohibitions and restrictions on fishing in natural and artificial aquatic sites throughout the country have been introduced in 2018.This creates conditions for the protection of aquatic organisms during their breeding season, as well as for the conservation of fish populations in certain reservoirs and / or areas thereof.

As regards fisheries in the Black Sea, measures aimed at sustainable management of marine biological resources, including a recommendation on a regional fisheries research program, were adopted in 2018 at the 42nd session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the Black Sea raft, recommendation

on access to information and data related to monitoring, control and surveillance under joint inspection and surveillance schemes, recommendation on regional marking of fishing gear.

The administrative burden on small-scale coastal fishing has been reduced by exempting masters of fishing vessels up to 10 meters in length from the obligation to maintain a fishing logbook as of 1 May 2018.

In March 2018, the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Council was held with the participation of representatives from the sectoral organisations in the sector, scientific institutes and public administrations. Important topics for the sector were discussed, such as identifying measures for the management of white sand mussel stocks, turbot quotas in the Black Sea, improving water legislation relevant to aquaculture production.

Within the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a High Level Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture was organized in the Black Sea. The event focused on three major fisheries topics, such as data collection and research, combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, developing sustainable aquaculture and the key role of aquaculture demonstration centres and developing a plan for action for sustainable small-scale fishing. A Declaration of Ministers signed in Sofia outlined specific actions and achievement of specific targets for the Black Sea basin on illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, improved controls and data collection.

Activities in 2019:

- Introducing a temporary ban on fishing at the fisheries sites under Art. 3, para. 1, items 1 and 2 of the LDA during the breeding period of the fish (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests);
- Introducing a 30-day ban on fishing for white sand mussels of the species *Donax trunculus* and *Chamelea gallina* in the Bulgarian Black Sea waters in order to preserve and create optimal conditions for their natural reproduction (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry);
- Conducting a meeting of the Advisory Council on Fisheries with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- Discussion of fishing opportunities for sprat and turbot in the Black Sea for 2020;
- Discuss with stakeholders (administration, representatives of the fisheries sector, scientific organisations) the future approach for setting TACs and turbot quotas in the Black Sea in order to form a national position on the topic;
- Conducting the 43rd Annual Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which is expected to adopt recommendations directly affecting the Republic of Bulgaria, such as TACs and turbot quotas in the Black Sea;
- Public consultation on the European Commission's proposal to amend the Control Regulation;
- Recognition of the organisation of producers in the fisheries sector and an approved plan for production and marketing;
- Publication of: Ordinance on the Terms and Procedure for the Management of the Fishing Fleet of the Republic of Bulgaria and Ordinance on Keeping the Registers of Art. 16, para. 1 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act.

SECTION B

PRIORITIES AND POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR, MEASURES AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THEM IN 2020

The state policy in the agrarian sector is aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture, sustainable development of the fisheries and forestry sectors, improving working conditions and quality of life in rural areas, using EU funds effectively, sustainable management of natural resources and compliance with high food safety standards. The priorities and objectives of the agricultural policy, the measures and actions to achieve them in 2020, set out in this section, are in accordance with the Governance Program of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2017-2021 and the National Development Program: Bulgaria 2020.

PRIORITY 1

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE, COMPETITIVE AND MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE

OBJECTIVE 1 PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH A LOCATION ON SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

MEASURE:

Maximum utilisation of European support funds

ACTIONS:

- Negotiating and disbursement of funds under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in compliance with the deadlines set in the indicative annual program for 2019, reducing the deadlines for processing documents by the administration and simplifying the application procedures.
- Supporting small farms that have the potential to increase production and enter the market through the Thematic Sub-Programme for Small Farms to RDP 2014-2020.
- Creating the conditions for successful Campaign 2020 on direct payments under the first pillar of the CAP.
- Implementation of the National Programme for Assistance to the Wine Sector in Bulgaria 2019 - 2023
- Implementation of the National Beekeeping Programme 2020 - 2022

MEASURE:

Maintain existing ones and introduce new state support schemes and provide financial resources for the implementation of transitional national aid schemes in crop and livestock production

ACTIONS:

- Encouragement of the agricultural investment process (through tax incentives for investments in agricultural farms; support for the construction of farmers' markets; indirectly by providing a discount on the excise duty on gas oil, etc.).
- Stimulating the increase in productivity and quality of production in crop and livestock production (schemes for the conservation of genetic resources and the use of quality seeds; schemes for the welfare of pigs and poultry, etc.).

- Implementation of State aid schemes to encourage farmers' participation in international fairs and exhibitions.
- Provision of financial resources for the implementation of transitional national aid schemes in crop production and animal husbandry.

OBJECTIVE 2CONTINUING THE BALANCED AND DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE POLICIES

MEASURE:

Prioritizing intensive agricultural sectors to overcome the structural imbalance of the sector

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of coupled support schemes under the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy for priority support for the intensive sectors "Livestock", "Fruits and vegetables", "Protein crops".

MEASURE:

Optimizing land relations to ensure land-use efficiency and increase agricultural income

ACTIONS:

- Adopt changes to the regulations governing public relations in the field of property and land use.
- Promoting voluntary land consolidation for agricultural production.
- Effective management of the state land fund.

MEASURE:

Creating optimal conditions for the development of efficient irrigation agriculture and prevention of the risk of floods, disasters and accidents

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of activities for reconstruction and construction of the necessary infrastructure to prevent the harmful effects of water.
- Implementation of investment projects in irrigation and prevention of the adverse effects of water under the RDP 2014-2020 (Measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets") for investment costs related to irrigation within agricultural farms.
- Rehabilitation of Irrigation Systems EAD, which guarantees the development of land reclamation.
- Preparation of amendments to the legislation in the field of land reclamation.

MEASURE:

Promoting organic farming

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of effective controls to comply with the requirements for organic production in order to increase consumer confidence.
- Implementation of Measure 11 Organic Agriculture under the RDP 2014-2020
- Promoting the benefits of organically produced food and products for human health and the organic production method as environmentally friendly and preserving natural resources.

OBJECTIVE 3 IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

MEASURE:

Climate risk prevention in agriculture

ACTIONS:

- Establish an appropriate legal framework to ensure the effective functioning of the system for the prevention of adverse climatic events in agriculture.

MEASURE:

Use of the State aid system to offset losses to farmers as a result of adverse climatic and economic conditions

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the State Aid Scheme for co-financing agricultural insurance premiums.
- Implementation of a State aid scheme to compensate for losses caused by adverse climatic conditions.
- Implementation of the State Aid Scheme to compensate for material damage to livestock killed and bee hives destroyed as a result of natural disasters.
- Implementation of plant and animal disease loss compensation schemes.

OBJECTIVE 4HIGH LEVEL OF ANIMAL PROTECTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

MEASURE:

Strengthen official controls to ensure effective enforcement of the legislation

ACTIONS:

- Conducting regular, risk-based official controls in the livestock sector at all stages and units of the production, processing, storage, import, transport, distribution, including animal feed chain.
- Exercise timely and effective control of the identification and registration and traceability of animals and veterinary activities.
- Effective implementation and enforcement of national and European legislation related to animal identification and veterinary activity.

- Development of the BFSA Integrated Information System - VetIS.

MEASURE:

Creating conditions for adequate prevention of economically important animal diseases and a more effective organisation for rapid control of emerging disease outbreaks;

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the planned activities in the State Prevention Programme and Animal Disease Surveillance Programmes.
- Effective communication with industry organisations and all stakeholders relevant to animal husbandry, animal welfare and health.

MEASURE:

Encouragement and compliance with animal welfare requirements

ACTIONS:

- Carrying out checks on compliance with the animal welfare regulatory requirements, which ensures the quality of the products obtained from animal origin.
- Utilizing State aid opportunities to promote animal welfare.
- RDP Support 2014-2020, Measure 14 "Animal Welfare".

MEASURE:

Provision of an adequate system for the collection and disposal of animal by-products

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of the measures in the Action Plan for the disposal of animal by-products

OBJECTIVE 5 AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND INNOVATION - THE INSTRUMENT FOR GENERATION OF INNOVATIVE POLICIES IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR AND THE BUSINESS INTELLECTUAL CENTER OF THE BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE

MEASURE:

Making National Agrarian Scientific Units a Driving Force for Innovation in Agrarian Business

ACTIONS:

- Modernisation of the scientific infrastructure.
- Increasing the innovativeness of agricultural research:
 - ✓ Selection of new varieties of cultivated plants and animal breeds;
 - ✓ Development of traditional and new technologies for growing plants and animals;
 - ✓ Development of methods for preservation and improvement of soil condition and soil fertility;
 - ✓ Development of water shortage irrigation systems;
 - ✓ Conducting research, related to the quality and safety of raw materials and food.

- Encourage participation in European and national funding programs supporting basic and applied research.
- Patenting and certification of scientific products created.
- Transfer of scientific products in production - conclusion of licensing contracts.
- Implementation of RDP 2014-2020 measures to financially support cooperation with the scientific community for the implementation of innovative solutions and practices in agricultural production.
- Conducting awareness events, including seminars and meetings and consultations with farmers to clarify the benefits and opportunities for farm modernization and innovation, including for small and medium-sized farms.
- Building partnerships, incl. public-private, for transfer of scientific knowledge, implementation of good practices and innovations in Bulgarian agriculture.

MEASURE:

Enhancing the professional skills and knowledge of farmers

ACTIONS:

- Supporting knowledge and information transfer by implementing Measure 1 "Knowledge transfer and information actions" under RDP 2014 - 2020.
- Organizing and conducting trainings for farmers, including through long-term and short-term courses and information activities.
- Providing farmers with access to important agricultural information through the organisation of seminars, information events, consulting days / hosted and media events at local level (municipal and local).
- Provision of specialized advice to farmers in various fields - farm management; requirements regarding EU standards; proper use of plant protection products; agricultural practices for the benefit of the climate and the environment, etc.

MEASURE:

Improving the efficiency of the farm advisory system

ACTIONS:

- Establishment of regulated rules and procedures for joint activity between participants in the System of Agricultural Advisors and scientific institutes and universities
- Development of the activities of the "farmer circles" at 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 applying and implementing RDP projects
- Active functioning regional advisory councils for agriculture advice with the participation of NAAS representatives, MAFF regional structures, universities, scientific institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and farmers.
- Active use of various communication channels for providing advisory services, incl. organizing and conducting consultative days / outlets in localities and municipalities in the respective area, especially in settlements remote from the regional centres.

OBJECTIVE 6 PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND ELECRONISATION 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:

Developing e-Government and improving administrative services within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

ACTIONS:

- Expanding the range of administrative services provided by MAFF structures electronically.
- Improving access to information collected and summarized within the MAFF system.
- Publication of information and datasets on the Open Data Portal.
- Establishment of a single electronic register of agricultural properties and farmers.
- Establishment of a single electronic platform for municipal and state land management - leasing and sale by MAFF and municipalities.
- Electronic identification and electronic animal health.
- Establishment of a unified information system in the agriculture sector in accordance with the strategic objectives defined in the e-Government Development Strategy in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014 - 2020 ".

PRIORITY 2

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOOD SECTOR

OBJECTIVE 1 GUARANTEE OF FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

MEASURE:

Simplification of the legal framework to guarantee consumer protection by marketing safe foods and reducing the gray sector in food production, processing and distribution

ACTIONS:

- Adopt and implement a new Food Law.

OBJECTIVE 2:SUSTAINABLE MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

MEASURE:

Strengthening the role of producers in the food supply chain

ACTIONS:

- Encourage the use of raw materials produced on the territory of the country.
- Increasing the share of commercially produced foods in Bulgaria, promoting good practices and limiting unfair commercial practices in the food supply chain.

- Improvement of the opportunities for presentation and offering in the outlets of Bulgarian food produced according to BDS (approved or industry standards), as well as food and wine with a protected geographical indication or a protected designation of origin.
- Strengthening the role of the State in supporting the export of agricultural products from the country through expert, administrative and technical assistance.
- Creating opportunities for building more farmers' markets on the territory of the municipalities, which will shorten the path of produced agricultural products to the end consumer.
- Organizing, conducting and ensuring effective administration of procedures for the approval and entry of agricultural products and foodstuffs with protected geographical indications and traditional special character (quality schemes).
- Undertaking campaigns to clarify the benefits of quality schemes.
- Supporting the activities of producer organisations and producer groups through European and national funding.
- Implementation of European School Milk and Fruit Schemes.
- Promoting the opportunities offered by the promotional programs for the promotion and entry of Bulgarian products into new markets.

PRIORITY 3

SUSTAINABLE AND MULTI-FUNCTIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE 1SUSTAINABLE USE OF WOOD

MEASURE:

Reducing the use of mature forests in accordance with the purposes and management regimes and increasing the cultivation of young plantations

ACTIONS:

- Priority of carrying out sanitary and protective forestry measures for maintaining the good health of the forests.
- Gradual reduction of levels of use of wood from mature forests on the basis of national inventory and partial inventories.
- Increasing the volume of cultivated felling to improve the status of young forests and develop the green economy.

OBJECTIVE 2DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAGGING BEHIND FOREST AREAS AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE FOREST AREAS

MEASURE:

Improvement of conditions for development of small and medium-sized businesses in the forestry industry (logging and wood processing)

ACTIONS:

- Continuation of measures for preferential provision of raw material to Bulgarian and local processors.
- Encouraging the conclusion of long-term contracts for the production and sale of timber.
- Increase the share of timber sales from public forests through electronic auction.

OBJECTIVE 3SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND INCREASE OF FOREST RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY**MEASURE:****Improve fire safety in forests****ACTIONS:**

- Completion of the Unified Fire-Fighting CCTV System in the Forest Territories.
- Implementation of Sub-measure 8.3 "Prevention of damage to forests from fire, natural disasters and catastrophic event.

MEASURE:**Restoration of vulnerable and damaged forest areas****ACTIONS:**

- Increase investment and forestry care and support the processes of difficult natural regeneration of forests through afforestation.
- Implementation of sub-measure 8.4 of the RDP 2014 - 2020 "Recovery of forest damage from forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events".

OBJECTIVE 4 INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL GREEN ECONOMY AND MODERN FORESTRY INDUSTRY**MEASURE:****Increasing the efficiency and profitability of forestry activities in state forests by investing in state-of-the-art nature conservation equipment, enhancing research and introducing innovative technologies in the forestry sector****ACTIONS:**

- Creating market incentives for green economy development.
- Implementation of the National Forest Biomass Energy Action Plan 2018 - 2027
- Encouragement of investments in modern and high-performance forestry equipment.

OBJECTIVE 5INTRODUCING THE CONCEPT OF PAYMENT OF Ecosystem SERVICES FROM THE FORESTS THROUGH THE REGIONAL PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTRY AND THE ORDINANCE OF ART. 249 OF THE FORESTS LAW

MEASURES:

Valuing ecosystem services and ensuring utilisation of EU funds to compensate forest owners in Natura 2000

ACTIONS:

- Launch of Measure 15 "Environmental and Forest Climate and Forest Service "by the RDP.

PRIORITY 4

DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES

OBJECTIVE 1 CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEMS IN THE BLACK SEA**MEASURE:**

Preparation and implementation of a research program on the effects of commercial fisheries on ecosystems in the Black Sea

ACTIONS:

- Conducting research to collect and analyse technical, biological and economic data in the fisheries sector contributing to the conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources.
- Reporting of the collected and processed EC data in accordance with the requirements of the European legislation
- Active partnership with scientific institutes to conduct joint surveys to collect data on the fisheries sector.

MEASURE:

Active prevention of illegal, unregulated and unreported catches, including through the introduction of modern technologies for remote monitoring of fishing vessels

ACTIONS:

- Take steps to modernize equipment and technology to implement fisheries control
- Enhancing the administrative capacity of the staff responsible for monitoring, controlling and supervising fishing activities
- Provision of publicity with regard to the fishing licenses issued and the infringements found

OBJECTIVE 2 COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES SECTOR**MEASURE:**

Improvement of conditions for landing and mooring of fishing vessels

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of Measure 1.8 "Fisheries ports, landing berths, fish markets and covered moorings" of the MFP 2014-2020.

MEASURE:

Supporting investment initiatives for on-board storage of vessels for own processing and marketing of catches

ACTIONS:

- Implementation and promotion of the measures of the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 related to the realization of investments for storage on board the vessel for its own processing and sale of catches.

MEASURE:

Support for small-scale fishing in the Black Sea and the Danube

ACTIONS:

- Apply incentives to diversify incomes and provide opportunities for enhancing the added value of fisheries through MFP.
- Assistance of safety and health investment initiatives on board ships and boats in the segment through the MFP.

MEASURE:

Identifying fisheries problems and making informed decisions

ACTIONS:

- Conducting meetings of the Advisory Council on Fisheries and Aquaculture with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, with active participation of industry and scientific organisations in the definition and implementation of the national policy for the development of the Fisheries sector.

MEASURE:

Strengthening the role of producers by setting up producer organisations for fishery and / or aquaculture products, associations of producer organisations and inter-branch organisations

ACTIONS:

- Improving the regulations governing the implementation of the Common Market organisation for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products;
- Arranging and ensuring effective administration of the recognition procedures for fishery and / or aquaculture producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and inter-branch organisations in the fisheries sector (professional organisations);
- Ensure effective administration and control of the plans for the approval of production plans and the marketing of producer organisations.

OBJECTIVE 5 COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE FARMS

MEASURES:

Supporting investment initiatives for the construction and modernization of aquaculture farms and reducing the administrative burden in the exercise of their activities

ACTIONS:

- Implementation and promotion of the measures of the Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020, related to support for investments in aquaculture, processing and marketing of products in the sector.
- Encouragement of the diversification of aquaculture species and introduction of innovative methods for intensive rearing of valuable fish and aquatic species.
- Relief of the administrative procedures for the registration and reporting of the activities of aquaculture farms.

PRIORITY 5:

Mobilizing the potential of rural areas to achieve balanced social and territorial development

OBJECTIVE 1 DIVERSITY OF RURAL ECONOMY AND HIGH EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION

MEASURES:

- Encouraging the start-up and development of economic activities in the form of new farms, new enterprises, new investments in non-agricultural activities.
- Promoting local development through the implementation of the Community-led Local Development / Leader approach.

PURPOSE 2: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS

MEASURES:

- Promoting the construction of local infrastructure, including broadband infrastructure and rural renewal.
- Promoting the provision of local essential services.
- Promoting the conservation of local cultural and natural heritage.

In order to implement the measures and achieve the goals of the agricultural policy in 2019, a set of financial support instruments with European and national funds will be applied.

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) funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production will be supported under the Maritime and Fisheries Program 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 support from European CAP pillar funds and state aid.

In total for the 2014-2020 programming period, the country is expected to absorb about 7.5 billion euros in the agricultural sector. Over 5 billion euro of European funds will be made available in the form of direct payments to support farm incomes over the current programming period. Over 2.2 billion euro will be spent on rural development and investment in agriculture under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020.

According to European legislation, the national ceiling for direct payments set for Bulgaria in 2020 is EUR 796.3 million.

Support for vulnerable and priority sectors will be achieved through the implementation of coupled support schemes. Bulgaria has notified the maximum eligible 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 vegetable sectors and 2% for protein crops.

Targeted support for certain sectors and industries will also be provided from the national budget through State aid schemes and transitional national aid. A total budget of BGN 300.4 million for these schemes is foreseen for 2020.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1

GROSS AND END PRODUCTION FROM SECTOR "AGRICULTURE" FOR 2018* (ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER PRICES)

(million BGN)

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Processed by producers	Self- utilisation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Variation in stocks	End production
										Within the country		Abroad					
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement s	Other			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	2,904.6	3.6	638.3	73.7	73.3	3.7	2.4	15.3	168.8	2,408.8	5.1	2,582.7		788.2	149.9	2,823.6
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,756.4	2.4	323.9	63.2	26.8	2.4	0.7	10.6	112.8	1,544.7	2.5	1,660.0		314.2	-9.7	1,688.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,738.4	2.4	320.1	62.7	26.0	2.0	0.7	10.4	109.1	1,532.3	2.3	1,643.7		310.6	-9.5	1,671.3
01.1/2	Durum wheat	18.0		3.8	0.5	0.8	0.4		0.2	3.7	12.4	0.2	16.3		3.6	-0.2	17.1
01.2	Rye	3.7		0.7	0.2	0.6			0.3	0.1	2.6		2.7		0.6	-0.1	3.5
01.3	Barley	129.9	0.1	23.3	5.4	7.8	0.2	0.2	1.2	9.6	113.7	0.3	123.6		14.7	-8.6	124.2
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	6.6		4.1	0.3	3.0	0.2		0.2	0.8	3.2		4.0		3.0	-1.1	6.1
01.5	Grain maize	952.4	0.9	256.3	2.1	29.2	0.9	1.4	2.8	43.5	705.0	2.3	750.8		420.6	164.3	948.5
01.6	Rice	32.5		24.5	1.8						28.6		28.6		26.6	2.1	30.7
01.7	Other cereals	23.1	0.2	5.5	0.7	5.9		0.1	0.2	2.0	11.0		13.0		8.5	3.0	22.2
02	Industrial crops	1,732.7	9.9	562.2	7.2	5.2	8.6	7.6	1.9	76.3	1,642.0	7.0	1,725.3		529.2	-33.0	1,707.0
02.1	Oilseeds	1,396.8	3.4	466.6	0.7	1.9	0.3	1.1	1.4	70.0	1,379.2	5.8	1,455.0		399.6	-67.0	1,392.4
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	310.8	0.3	9.1	0.1					10.4	306.5	0.1	317.0		2.5	-6.6	310.4
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,080.0	3.1	453.5	0.4	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.8	59.6	1,067.3	5.6	1,132.5		393.4	-60.1	1,076.2
02.1/3	Soy	3.0		1.5	0.2						3.1	0.1	3.2		1.1	-0.4	2.8
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	3.0		2.5					0.6		2.3		2.3		2.6	0.1	3.0
02.2	Protein crops	101.4	1.3	25.7	6.5	3.3	1.1		0.5	4.6	37.7	0.6	42.9		71.5	45.8	92.5
02.3	Tobacco	41.2	4.7	47.3						0.1	53.3	0.3	53.7		30.1	-17.2	36.5
02.4	Sugar beet																
02	Other industrial crops	193.3	0.5	22.6			7.2	6.5		1.6	171.8	0.3	173.7		28.0	5.4	185.6
02.5/1	Fibre crops	1.7		0.5							0.3	0.2	0.5		1.7	1.2	1.7
02.5/2	Hops	0.6									0.1		0.1		0.5	0.5	0.6
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	191.0	0.5	22.1			7.2	6.5		1.6	171.4	0.1	173.1		25.8	3.7	183.3
03	Feed crops	178.0	0.3	77.5		127.6	0.9	12.6	1.4	11.2	11.9	0.2	23.3		89.4	11.9	176.8
03.1	Maize for silage	35.7	0.2			17.5	0.1	11.2	0.3	1.3	5.1		6.4				35.4
03.2	Fodder roots	0.4				0.3									0.1	0.1	0.4
03.3	Other feed crops	141.9	0.1	77.5		109.8	0.8	1.4	1.1	9.9	6.8	0.2	16.9		89.3	11.8	141.0
04	Vegetables	380.7		8.9	0.1		0.2	1.3	1.0	8.8	361.2	1.1	371.1		15.9	3.2	380.4
04.1	Fresh vegetables	354.9		6.1			0.2	1.3	0.9	4.6	343.6	1.1	349.3		9.3	3.2	354.7
04.1/2	Tomatoes	102.1								2.9	99.2		102.1				102.1
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	252.8		6.1			0.2	1.3	0.9	1.7	244.4	1.1	247.2		9.3	3.2	252.6
04.2	Flowers	25.8		2.8	0.1				0.1	4.2	17.6		21.8		6.6		25.7
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.2		2.8	0.1				0.1	1.7	4.1		5.8		6.0		9.1
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	16.6								2.5	13.5		16.0		0.6		16.6
04.2/3	Creation and growing																
05	Potatoes	104.8	0.5	24.5	4.1	0.2	0.1		1.1	7.8	86.4	1.7	95.9		27.4		100.1
06	Fruits	299.2	0.2	5.7				4.4	1.7	13.5	269.5	9.3	292.3		6.3	0.6	299.0
06.1	Fresh fruits	189.6	0.2	5.7				3.3	0.7	12.4	163.1	9.3	184.8		6.3	0.6	189.4
06.1/1	Apples	27.1	0.1	4.3						2.0	24.8		26.8		4.5	0.2	27.0
06.1/2	Pears	3.2									3.2		3.2				3.2
06.1/3	Peaches	14.4								0.2	9.7	4.5	14.4				14.4
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	144.9	0.1	1.4				3.3	0.7	10.2	125.4	4.8	140.4		1.8	0.4	144.8
06.4	Grape-total	109.6						1.1	1.0	1.1	106.4		107.5				109.6
06.4/1	Table grape	6.6								0.3	6.3		6.6				6.6
06.4/2	Other grape	103.0						1.1	1.0	0.8	100.1		100.9				103.0
07	Wine																
07.1	Table wine																
09	Other plant crops	42.0	4.2	56.3	0.6	0.4			0.2	3.4	65.9		69.3		23.6	-32.7	37.2
09.2	Seeds	39.8	4.2	56.3	0.6	0.4			0.2	1.2	65.9		67.1		23.6	-32.7	35.0
09.3	Other plant products	2.2								2.2			2.2				2.2
10	Plant production (from 01 to 09)	5,642.0	18.7	1,373.4	85.7	206.7	13.5	28.3	22.6	289.8	4,845.7	24.4	5,159.9		1,480.0	99.9	5,524.1
11	Livestock	822.3		263.6				43.9			640.9		640.9	112.3	288.8	25.2	822.3
11.1	Large ruminants	137.8		135.2				1.9			30.3		30.3	86.4	154.4	19.2	137.8
11.2	Pigs	275.1		45.6				30.8			235.2		235.2	5.1	49.6	4.0	275.1

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used in the unit			Processed by producers	Self-utilisation	Sales			Sales-total	Production of goods from main capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Variation in stocks	End production
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement s	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
11.3	Horses																
11.4	Sheep and goats	137.2		36.9				0.2			108.5		108.5	20.8	44.6	7.7	137.2
11.5	Poultry	272.2		45.9				11.0			266.9		266.9		40.2	-5.7	272.2
11.6	Other livestock																
12	Livestock products	996.3		93.0		51.8	60.6	10.5	53.8	74.4	749.0		823.4		89.2	-3.8	883.9
12.1	Milk	702.2				49.2		10.1	25.6	30.5	586.8		617.3				653.0
12.2	Eggs	216.9		2.7		0.1	42.5	0.4	22.2	32.5	118.8		151.3		3.1	0.4	174.3
12.3	Other livestock products	77.2		90.3		2.5	18.1		6.0	11.4	43.4		54.8		86.1	-4.2	56.6
12.3/1	Greasy wool	2.9									2.9		2.9				2.9
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons																
12.3/3	Other livestock products	74.3		90.3		2.5	18.1		6.0	11.4	40.5		51.9		86.1	-4.2	53.7
13	Livestock production (from 11 to +12)	1,818.6		356.6		51.8	60.6	54.4	53.8	74.4	1,389.9		1,464.3	112.3	378.0	21.4	1,706.2
14	Agricultural production (10+13)	7,460.6	18.7	1,730.0	85.7	258.5	74.1	82.7	76.4	364.2	6,235.6	24.4	6,624.2	112.3	1,858.0	121.3	7,230.3
15	Production of agricultural services	501.7									501.7		501.7				501.7
16	Production from agriculture (14+15)	7,962.3	18.7	1,730.0	85.7	258.5	74.1	82.7	76.4	364.2	6,737.3	24.4	7,125.9	112.3	1,858.0	121.3	7,732.0
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	192.7							192.7								192.7
17.1	Agricultural products processing	192.7							192.7								192.7
17.1/1	- cereals	55.9							55.9								55.9
17.1/2	- vegetables	24.2							24.2								24.2
17.1/3	- fruits	12.9							12.9								12.9
17.1/4	- wine	31.8							31.8								31.8
17.1/5	- livestock	41.0							41.0								41.0
17.1/6	- livestock products	20.3							20.3								20.3
17.1/6/1	- milk	20.3							20.3								20.3
17.1/7	- other	6.6							6.6								6.6
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities																
18	Production from Agriculture sector '(16+17)	8,155.0	18.7	1,730.0	85.7	258.5	74.1	82.7	269.1	364.2	6,737.3	24.4	7,125.9	112.3	1,858.0	121.3	7,924.7

Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 2
VALUE OF THE GROSS PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE FROM SECTOR "AGRICULTURE" (BY MANUFACTURER PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD 2016 -2018*

(million BGN)

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereal crops	2,415.6	6.8%	2,580.3	12.6%	2,904.6
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,509.6	11.9%	1,688.7	4.0%	1,756.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,491.7	11.9%	1,669.7	4.1%	1,738.4
01.1/2	Durum wheat	17.9	6.1%	19.0	-5.3%	18.0
01.2	Rye	4.2	4.8%	4.4	-15.9%	3.7
01.3	Barley	215.8	-27.2%	157.0	-17.3%	129.9
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	10.0	-17.0%	8.3	-20.5%	6.6
01.5	Grain maize	632.8	6.4%	673.3	41.5%	952.4
01.6	Rice	25.5	12.2%	28.6	13.6%	32.5
01.7	Other cereals	17.7	13.0%	20.0	15.5%	23.1
02	Industrial crops	1,813.1	2.6%	1,859.9	-6.8%	1,732.7
02.1	Oilseeds	1,556.0	-4.0%	1,493.8	-6.5%	1,396.8
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	326.0	-3.0%	316.1	-1.7%	310.8
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,216.6	-4.3%	1,164.8	-7.3%	1,080.0
02.1/3	Соя	10.3	8.7%	11.2	-73.2%	3.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	3.1	-45.2%	1.7	76.5%	3.0
02.2	Protein crops	44.3	181.9%	124.9	-18.8%	101.4
02.3	Tobacco	66.5	-6.3%	62.3	-33.9%	41.2
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		-
02.5	Other industrial crops	146.3	22.3%	178.9	8.0%	193.3
02.5/1	Fibre crops	2.4	12.5%	2.7	-37.0%	1.7
02.5/2	Hops	1.2	-50.0%	0.6	0.0%	0.6
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	142.7	23.1%	175.6	8.8%	191.0
03	Feed crops	160.2	41.2%	226.2	-21.3%	178.0
03.1	Maize for silage	39.4	48.0%	58.3	-38.8%	35.7
03.2	Fodder roots	0.1	0.0%	0.1	300.0%	0.4
03.3	Other feed crops	120.7	39.0%	167.8	-15.4%	141.9
04	Vegetables	306.1	12.6%	344.6	10.5%	380.7
04.1	Fresh vegetables	280.9	13.8%	319.7	11.0%	354.9
04.1/2	Tomatoes	93.2	30.8%	121.9	-16.2%	102.1
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	187.7	5.4%	197.8	27.8%	252.8
04.2	Flowers	25.2	-1.2%	24.9	3.6%	25.8
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	10.4	-9.6%	9.4	-2.1%	9.2
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	14.8	4.7%	15.5	7.1%	16.6
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	52.3	55.3%	81.2	29.1%	104.8
06	Fruits	320.8	6.4%	341.4	-12.4%	299.2
06.1	Fresh fruits	220.4	9.3%	240.8	-21.3%	189.6
06.1/1	Apples	24.4	-8.6%	22.3	21.5%	27.1
06.1/2	Pears	1.8	22.2%	2.2	45.5%	3.2

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
06.1/3	Peaches	23.1	0.9%	23.3	-38.2%	14.4
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	171.1	12.8%	193.0	-24.9%	144.9
06.4	Grape-total	100.4	0.2%	100.6	8.9%	109.6
06.4/1	Table grape	7.4	60.8%	11.9	-44.5%	6.6
06.4/2	Other grape	93.0	-4.6%	88.7	16.1%	103.0
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-
09	Other plant crops	47.1	4.7%	49.3	-14.8%	42.0
09.2	Seeds	40.6	14.5%	46.5	-14.4%	39.8
09.3	Other plant products	6.5	-56.9%	2.8	-21.4%	2.2
10	Plant production (from 01 to 09)	5,115.2	7.2%	5,482.9	2.9%	5,642.0
11	Livestock	805.3	1.5%	817.0	0.6%	822.3
11.1	Large ruminants	131.5	3.8%	136.5	1.0%	137.8
11.2	Pigs	264.0	0.7%	265.9	3.5%	275.1
11.3	Horses	0.2		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	149.7	-0.2%	149.4	-8.2%	137.2
11.5	Poultry	259.9	2.0%	265.2	2.6%	272.2
11.6	Other livestock	-		-		-
12	Livestock products	981.4	5.7%	1,037.6	-4.0%	996.3
12.1	Milk	701.4	5.0%	736.6	-4.7%	702.2
12.2	Eggs	194.3	11.1%	215.8	0.5%	216.9
12.3	Other livestock products	85.7	-0.6%	85.2	-9.4%	77.2
12.3/1	Greasy wool	3.0	-6.7%	2.8	3.6%	2.9
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	82.7	-0.4%	82.4	-9.8%	74.3
13	Livestock production (from 11 to +12)	1,786.7	3.8%	1,854.6	-1.9%	1,818.6
14	Agricultural production (10+13)	6,901.9	6.3%	7,337.5	1.7%	7,460.6
15	Production of agricultural services	439.8	5.8%	465.3	7.8%	501.7
16	Production from agriculture (14+15)	7,341.7	6.3%	7,802.8	2.0%	7,962.3
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	218.8	4.5%	228.7	-15.7%	192.7
17.1	Agricultural products processing	218.8	4.5%	228.7	-15.7%	192.7
17.1/1	- cereals	29.5	75.9%	51.9	7.7%	55.9
17.1/2	- vtables	22.6	5.3%	23.8	1.7%	24.2
17.1/3	- fruits	11.8	2.5%	12.1	6.6%	12.9
17.1/4	- wine	30.5	0.3%	30.6	3.9%	31.8
17.1/5	- livestock	52.4	53.1%	80.2	-48.9%	41.0
17.1/6	- livestock products	65.6	-63.9%	23.7	-14.3%	20.3
17.1/6/1	- milk	65.6	-63.9%	23.7	-14.3%	20.3
17.1/7	- other	6.4	0.0%	6.4	3.1%	6.6
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
18	Production from Agriculture sector '(16+17)	7,560.5	6.2%	8,031.5	1.5%	8,155.0
19	Intermediate consumption	4,549.9	4.8%	4,766.4	5.4%	5,024.5
	Losses	3.9	161.5%	10.2	84.3%	18.8
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	267.2	29.2%	345.3	-22.9%	266.2
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	25.9	-1.2%	25.6	8.6%	27.8
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	168.1	1.0%	169.7	-9.8%	153.0
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	73.2	104.9%	150.0	-43.1%	85.4
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,052.2	4.2%	1,096.0	8.2%	1,186.2
19.02/1	- electricity	75.9	14.4%	86.8	8.2%	93.9
19.02/2	- gas	23.9	14.2%	27.3	8.4%	29.6
19.02/3	- other fuels	949.1	3.1%	978.2	8.2%	1,058.7
19.02/4	- other	3.3	12.1%	3.7	8.1%	4.0
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	386.9	2.1%	394.9	14.1%	450.5
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	7.1	-1.4%	7.0	8.6%	7.6
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	379.8	2.1%	387.9	14.2%	442.9
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	-		-		-
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	316.4	-5.2%	299.9	12.9%	338.7
19.05	Veterinary costs	239.5	-1.3%	236.3	5.5%	249.4
19.06	Feed supplements	913.4	3.9%	948.8	4.8%	994.3
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	268.0	-1.3%	264.5	8.5%	287.0
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	442.8	0.4%	444.6	12.5%	500.3
19.06/3	produced and consumed in the farm itself	202.6	18.3%	239.7	-13.6%	207.0
	Feed additives not included in the EAA	49.2	19.7%	58.9	-12.1%	51.8
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	302.1	-1.3%	298.2	8.5%	323.6
19.08	Building maintenance	148.2	-1.3%	146.2	8.5%	158.7
19.09	Agricultural services	439.8	5.8%	465.3	7.8%	501.7
19.10	PHYSIM	73.4	0.1%	73.5	13.1%	83.1
19.11	Other goods and services	357.7	9.8%	392.9	2.2%	401.5
	supplied by other agricultural farms	71.0	11.4%	79.1	0.0%	79.1
	purchased outside the sector	218.8	12.4%	246.0	0.9%	248.1
	produced and consumed in the farm itself	67.9	-0.1%	67.8	9.6%	74.3
20	Gross added value by producer prices (line18 - 19)	3,010.6	8.5%	3,265.1	-4.1%	3,130.5

Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 3

INTERMEDIATE CONSUMPTION, FACTOR EXPENSES, OTHER SUBSIDIES AND TAXES FOR 2018*

(million BGN)

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	18.8		18.8		
Seeds and seedling material	266.2	180.8	85.4	27.8	153.0
Fuels and oils	1,186.2	1,186.2			1,186.2
- electricity	93.9	93.9			93.9
- gas	29.6	29.6			29.6
- other fuels	1,058.7	1,058.7			1,058.7
- other	4.0	4.0			4.0
Fertilizers and soil improvers	450.5	450.5		7.6	442.9
Plant protection products and pesticides	338.7	338.7			338.7
Veterinary costs	249.4	249.4			249.4
Feed supplements	994.3	994.3	207.0	287.0	500.3
Feed additives not included in the EAA	51.8		51.8		
Maintenance and repair works	482.3	482.3			482.3
- maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	323.6	323.6			323.6
- building maintenance	158.7	158.7			158.7
Agricultural services	501.7	501.7			501.7
PHYSIM	83.1	83.1			83.1
Other goods and services	401.5	327.2	74.3	79.1	248.1
Intermediate consumption	5,024.5	4,794.2	437.3	401.4	4,185.8
Consumption of fixed capital	897.2	897.2			897.2
- equipment	740.5	740.5			740.5
- buildings	67.6	67.6			67.6
- creation and growing	18.6	18.6			18.6
- other	70.5	70.5			70.5
Compensation of the hired persons	955.7	955.7			955.7
Other taxes on production	5.5	5.5			5.5
Other subsidies on production	1,854.9	1,854.9			1,854.9
Lease	1,138.6	1,138.6			1,138.6
Interest paid	76.3	76.3			76.3
Interest received	32.2	32.2			32.2

Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 4
END PRODUCE VALUE, GROSS ADDED VALUE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INCOME IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR (UNDER CURRENT BASE PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD 2015 -2017

(million BGN)

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017*	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereal crops	2,345.8	3.9%	2,437.8	15.8%	2,823.6
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,450.5	7.3%	1,556.4	8.5%	1,688.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,433.5	7.3%	1,538.2	8.7%	1,671.3
01.1/2	Durum wheat	17.0	7.1%	18.2	-6.0%	17.1
01.2	Rye	4.1	4.9%	4.3	-18.6%	3.5
01.3	Barley	208.4	-27.4%	151.3	-17.9%	124.2
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	9.7	-19.6%	7.8	-21.8%	6.1
01.5	Grain maize	631.6	6.4%	672.0	41.1%	948.5
01.6	Rice	24.5	10.6%	27.1	13.3%	30.7
01.7	Other cereals	17.0	11.2%	18.9	17.5%	22.2
02	Industrial crops	1,931.7	1.9%	1,969.2	-7.1%	1,829.0
02.1	Oilseeds	1,553.7	-4.1%	1,489.9	-6.5%	1,392.4
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	325.8	-3.2%	315.5	-1.6%	310.4
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,214.9	-4.4%	1,161.7	-7.4%	1,076.2
02.1/3	Soy	9.9	11.1%	11.0	-74.5%	2.8
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	3.1	-45.2%	1.7	76.5%	3.0
02.2	Protein crops	70.5	106.2%	145.4	-15.6%	122.7
02.3	Tobacco	157.5	-3.9%	151.3	-20.0%	121.1
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		-
02.5	Other industrial crops	150.0	21.7%	182.6	5.6%	192.8
02.5/1	Fibre crops	6.8	4.4%	7.1	-2.8%	6.9
02.5/2	Hops	1.2	-50.0%	0.6		0.6
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	142.0	23.2%	174.9	5.9%	185.3
03	Feed crops	159.6	40.3%	223.9	-21.0%	176.8
03.1	Maize for silage	39.0	48.5%	57.9	-38.9%	35.4
03.2	Fodder roots	0.1		0.1	300.0%	0.4
03.3	Other feed crops	120.5	37.7%	165.9	-15.0%	141.0
04	Vegetables	344.9	11.4%	384.1	9.3%	420.0
04.1	Fresh vegetables	320.0	12.3%	359.3	9.7%	394.3
04.1/2	Tomatoes	94.2	30.5%	122.9	-16.9%	102.1
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	225.8	4.7%	236.4	23.6%	292.2
04.2	Flowers	24.9	-0.4%	24.8	3.6%	25.7
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	10.1	-7.9%	9.3	-2.2%	9.1
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	14.8	4.7%	15.5	7.1%	16.6
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	50.0	57.8%	78.9	28.9%	101.7
06	Fruits	358.3	19.1%	426.7	-10.1%	383.6
06.1	Fresh fruits	257.9	7.9%	278.4	-16.2%	233.2
06.1/1	Apples	24.4	-9.0%	22.2	21.6%	27.0
06.1/2	Pears	1.8	22.2%	2.2	45.5%	3.2
06.1/3	Peaches	23.1	0.9%	23.3	-38.2%	14.4
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	208.6	10.6%	230.7	-18.2%	188.6
06.4	Grape-total	100.4	47.7%	148.3	1.4%	150.4
06.4/1	Table grape	7.4	60.8%	11.9	-44.5%	6.6
06.4/2	Other grape	93.0	46.7%	136.4	5.4%	143.8
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017*	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
09	Other plant crops	45.0	3.3%	46.5	-17.6%	38.3
09.2	Seeds	38.5	13.5%	43.7	-17.4%	36.1
09.3	Other plant products	6.5	-56.9%	2.8	-21.4%	2.2
10	Production from plant growing	5,235.3	6.3%	5,567.1	3.7%	5,773.0
11	Livestock	1,061.8	-1.2%	1,048.9	5.1%	1,102.5
11.1	Large ruminants	273.4	-5.9%	257.2	13.9%	293.0
11.2	Pigs	291.8	0.6%	293.5	4.0%	305.1
11.3	Horses	0.2		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	208.3	-3.8%	200.4	-0.2%	200.0
11.5	Poultry	288.1	3.4%	297.8	2.2%	304.4
11.6	Other livestock	-		-		-
12	Livestock products	874.6	6.3%	929.8	-4.5%	887.7
12.1	Milk	654.5	4.1%	681.6	-4.2%	653.0
12.2	Eggs	153.6	12.0%	172.1	1.3%	174.3
12.3	Other livestock products	66.5	14.4%	76.1	-20.6%	60.4
12.3/1	Greasy wool	3.0	-6.7%	2.8	3.6%	2.9
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	63.5	15.4%	73.3	-21.6%	57.5
13	Livestock production (line11+12)	1,936.4	2.2%	1,978.7	0.6%	1,990.2
14	Agricultural production (line10+line13)	7,171.7	5.2%	7,545.8	2.9%	7,763.2
15	Production from agricultural services	439.8	5.8%	465.3	7.8%	501.7
16	Production from agriculture (line14+line15)	7,611.5	5.2%	8,011.1	3.2%	8,264.9
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	218.8	4.5%	228.7	-15.7%	192.7
17.1	Agricultural products processing	218.8	4.5%	228.7	-15.7%	192.7
17.1/1	- cereals	29.5	75.9%	51.9	7.7%	55.9
17.1/2	- vegetables	22.6	5.3%	23.8	1.7%	24.2
17.1/3	- fruits	11.8	2.5%	12.1	6.6%	12.9
17.1/4	- wine	30.5	0.3%	30.6	3.9%	31.8
17.1/5	- livestock	52.4	53.1%	80.2	-48.9%	41.0
17.1/6	- livestock products	65.6	-63.9%	23.7	-14.3%	20.3
17.1/6/1	- milk	65.6	-63.9%	23.7	-14.3%	20.3
17.1/7	- other	6.4		6.4	3.1%	6.6
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-
18	Production from Agriculture sector (line10 + 13 +15 +17)	7,830.3	5.2%	8,239.8	2.6%	8,457.6
19	Intermediate consumption	4,355.7	2.8%	4,479.5	7.0%	4,794.2
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	194.0	0.7%	195.3	-7.4%	180.8
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	25.9	-1.2%	25.6	8.6%	27.8
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	168.1	1.0%	169.7	-9.8%	153.0
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,052.2	4.2%	1,096.0	8.2%	1,186.2
19.02/1	- electricity	75.9	14.4%	86.8	8.2%	93.9
19.02/2	- gas	23.9	14.2%	27.3	8.4%	29.6
19.02/3	- other fuels	949.1	3.1%	978.2	8.2%	1,058.7
19.02/4	- other	3.3	12.1%	3.7	8.1%	4.0
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	386.9	2.1%	394.9	14.1%	450.5
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	7.1	-1.4%	7.0	8.6%	7.6
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	379.8	2.1%	387.9	14.2%	442.9
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	316.4	-5.2%	299.9	12.9%	338.7
19.05	Veterinary costs	239.5	-1.3%	236.3	5.5%	249.4
19.06	Feed supplements	913.4	3.9%	948.8	4.8%	994.3
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural farms	268.0	-1.3%	264.5	8.5%	287.0

Code	Products	2016	Variation 2017/2016, %	2017*	Variation 2018/2017, %	2018*
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	442.8	0.4%	444.6	12.5%	500.3
19.06/3	produced and consumed in the farm itself	202.6	18.3%	239.7	-13.6%	207.0
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	302.1	-1.3%	298.2	8.5%	323.6
19.08	Building maintenance	148.2	-1.3%	146.2	8.5%	158.7
19.09	Agricultural services	439.8	5.8%	465.3	7.8%	501.7
19.10	PHYSIM	73.4	0.1%	73.5	13.1%	83.1
19.11	Other goods and services	289.8	12.2%	325.1	0.6%	327.2
	supplied by other agricultural farms	71.0	11.4%	79.1		79.1
	purchased outside the sector	218.8	12.4%	246.0	0.9%	248.1
20	Gross added value by basic prices (line 18 - line 19)	3,474.6	8.2%	3,760.3	-2.6%	3,663.4
21	Consumption of fixed capital	860.1	1.1%	869.9	3.1%	897.2
21.1	- equipment	720.8	1.1%	729.0	1.6%	740.5
21.2	- buildings	57.6	1.2%	58.3	16.0%	67.6
21.3	- creation and growing	20.9	1.0%	21.1	-11.8%	18.6
21.4	- other	60.8	1.2%	61.5	14.6%	70.5
22	Gross added value by basic prices (line 20 - 21)	2,614.5	10.6%	2,890.4	-4.3%	2,766.2
23	Compensation of the hired persons	832.2	11.3%	926.2	3.2%	955.7
24	Other taxes on production	2.4	525.0%	15.0	-63.3%	5.5
25	Other subsidies on production	1,583.5	21.3%	1,920.3	-3.4%	1,854.9
26	Income by Factors (line 22 - 24 + 25)	4,195.6	14.3%	4,795.7	-3.8%	4,615.6
27	Operating surplus / Mixed income (line 22 — line 23 + line 25)	3,363.4	15.0%	3,869.5	-5.4%	3,659.9
28	Lease	1,017.2	8.3%	1,102.0	3.3%	1,138.6
29	Interest paid	90.6	9.5%	99.2	-23.1%	76.3
30	Interest received	29.5	55.6%	45.9	-29.8%	32.2
31	Entrepreneurial income 27 - 28 - 29 + 30)	2,285.1	18.8%	2,714.2	-8.7%	2,477.2

Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.

APPENDIX 5

END PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE (PER BASIC PRICES) - 2017 - 2018 * - VALUE AND INDECES OF CHANGE - 2018 COMPARED TO 2017

Code		Links	Current value for 2017 - million BGN	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2018 at previous year prices - (million BGN)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2018 - million BGN	Mixed index
01	Cereal crops	1=2+5+6+7+8+9+10	2,437.8	107.5	2,620.1	107.8	2,823.6	115.8
01.1	Wheat and spelt	2=3+4	1,556.4	99.1	1,542.7	109.4	1,688.4	108.5
01.1/1	Common wheat	3	1,538.2	99.1	1,523.6	109.7	1,671.3	108.7
01.1/2	Durum wheat	4	18.2	104.9	19.1	89.5	17.1	94.0
01.2	Rye	5	4.3	83.7	3.6	97.2	3.5	81.4
01.3	Barley	6	151.3	73.9	111.8	111.1	124.2	82.1
01.4	Oat and cereal feed	7	7.8	75.6	5.9	103.4	6.1	78.2
01.5	Grain maize	8	672.0	134.7	904.9	104.8	948.5	141.1
01.6	Rice	9	27.1	107.7	29.2	105.1	30.7	113.3
01.7	Other cereals	10	18.9	116.4	22.0	100.9	22.2	117.5
02	Industrial crops	11=12+17+18+19+20	1,969.2	89.2	1,757.5	104.1	1,829.0	92.9
02.1	Oilseeds	12=13+14+15+16	1,489.9	93.6	1,394.5	99.8	1,392.4	93.5
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	13	315.5	98.2	309.8	100.2	310.4	98.4
02.1/2	Sunflower	14	1,161.7	93.0	1,080.5	99.6	1,076.2	92.6
02.1/3	Soy	15	11.0	21.8	2.4	116.7	2.8	25.5
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	16	1.7	105.9	1.8	166.7	3.0	176.5
02.2	Protein crops	17	145.4	65.1	94.6	129.7	122.7	84.4
02.3	Tobacco	18	151.3	57.8	87.5	138.4	121.1	80.0
02.4	Sugar beet	19						
02.5	Other industrial crops	20=21+22+23	182.6	99.1	180.9	106.6	192.8	105.6
02.5/1	Fibre crops	21	7.1	64.8	4.6	150.0	6.9	97.2
02.5/2	Hops	22	0.6	100.0	0.6	100.0	0.6	100.0
02.5/3	Other	23	174.9	100.5	175.7	105.5	185.3	105.9
03	Feed crops	24=25+26+27	223.9	106.8	239.1	73.9	176.8	79.0
03.1	Maize for silage	25	57.9	108.1	62.6	56.5	35.4	61.1
03.2	Fodder roots	26	0.1	500.0	0.5	80.0	0.4	400.0
03.3	Other feed crops	27	165.9	106.1	176.0	80.1	141.0	85.0
04	Vegetables	28=29+32	384.1	104.7	402.0	104.5	420.0	109.3
04.1	Fresh vegetables	29=30+31	359.3	104.7	376.3	104.8	394.3	109.7
04.1/2	Tomatoes	30	122.9	93.5	114.9	88.9	102.1	83.1
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	31	236.4	110.6	261.4	111.8	292.2	123.6
04.2	Flowers and nurseries	32=33+34+35	24.8	103.6	25.7	100.0	25.7	103.6
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	33	9.3	97.8	9.1	100.0	9.1	97.8
04.2/2	Ornamental plants	34	15.5	107.1	16.6	100.0	16.6	107.1
04.2/3	Creation and growing	35						
05	Potatoes	36	78.9	113.7	89.7	113.4	101.7	128.9
06	Fruits	37=38+43	426.7	101.2	431.7	88.9	383.6	89.9
06.1	Fresh fruits	38=39+40+41+42	278.4	101.9	283.7	82.2	233.2	83.8
06.1/1	Apples	39	22.2	110.4	24.5	110.2	27.0	121.6
06.1/2	Pears	40	2.2	122.7	2.7	118.5	3.2	145.5
06.1/3	Peaches	41	23.3	79.8	18.6	77.4	14.4	61.8
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	42	230.7	103.1	237.9	79.3	188.6	81.8

Code		Links	Current value for 2017 - million BGN	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2018 at previous year prices - (million BGN)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2018 - million BGN	Mixed index
06.4	Grape-total	43=44+45	148.3	99.8	148.0	101.6	150.4	101.4
06.4/1	Table grape	44	11.9	83.2	9.9	66.7	6.6	55.5
06.4/2	Other grape	45	136.4	101.2	138.1	104.1	143.8	105.4
07	Вино	46	.	.	.	.	.	.
07.1	Table wine	47	.	.	.	.	.	.
09	Other plant crops	48=49+50	46.5	106.7	49.6	77.2	38.3	82.4
09.2	Seeds	49	43.7	107.3	46.9	77.0	36.1	82.6
09.3	Other plant crops	50	2.8	96.4	2.7	81.5	2.2	78.6
10	Production from plant growing	51=1+11+24+28+36+37+46+48	5,567.1	100.4	5,589.7	103.3	5,773.0	103.7
11	Livestock	52=53+54+55+56+57+58	1,048.9	101.6	1,065.5	103.5	1,102.5	105.1
11.1	Large ruminants	53	257.2	100.7	259.0	113.1	293.0	113.9
11.2	Pigs	54	293.5	106.5	312.7	97.6	305.1	104.0
11.3	Horses	55	0.0					
11.4	Sheep and goats	56	200.4	94.2	188.8	105.9	200.0	99.8
11.5	Poultry	57	297.8	102.4	305.0	99.8	304.4	102.2
11.6	Other livestock	58	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	Livestock products	59=60+61+62	929.8	94.9	882.6	100.6	887.7	95.5
12.1	Milk	60	681.6	94.8	645.9	101.1	653.0	95.8
12.2	Eggs	61	172.1	98.2	169.0	103.1	174.3	101.3
12.3	Other livestock products	62=63+64+65	76.1	89.0	67.7	89.2	60.4	79.4
12.3/1	Greasy wool	63	2.8	107.1	3.0	96.7	2.9	103.6
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	64						
12.3/3	Other livestock products	65	73.3	88.3	64.7	88.9	57.5	78.4
13	Livestock production	66=53+59	1,978.7	98.5	1,948.1	102.2	1,990.2	100.6
14	Production of agricultural goods	67=51+66	7,545.8	99.9	7,537.8	103.0	7,763.2	102.9
15	Production of agricultural services	68	465.3	104.6	486.6	103.1	501.7	107.8
16	Production from agriculture	69=67+68	8,011.1	100.2	8,024.4	103.0	8,264.9	103.2
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	70=71+80	228.7	81.6	186.7	103.2	192.7	84.3
17.1	Agricultural products processing	71=72+73+74+75+76+77+79	228.7	81.6	186.7	103.2	192.7	84.3
17.1/1	Cereals	72	51.9	103.7	53.8	103.9	55.9	107.7
17.1/2	Vegetables	73	23.8	100.0	23.8	101.7	24.2	101.7
17.1/3	Fruits	74	12.1	105.0	12.7	101.6	12.9	106.6
17.1/4	Wine	75	30.6	100.0	30.6	103.9	31.8	103.9
17.1/5	Livestock	76	80.2	50.2	40.3	101.7	41.0	51.1
17.1/6	Livestock products	77>=78	23.7	81.0	19.2	105.7	20.3	85.7
17.1/6/1	Milk	78	23.7	81.0	19.2	105.7	20.3	85.7
17.1/7	Other	79	6.4	98.4	6.3	104.8	6.6	103.1
17.2	Other non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	80	.	.	.	.	.	.
18	Production from Agriculture sector	81=69+70	8,239.8	99.7	8,211.1	103.0	8,457.6	102.6

Code		Links	Current value for 2017 - million BGN	Physical value index (previous year =100)	Production value for 2018 at previous year prices - (million BGN)	Price index (previous year =100)	Current value for 2018 - million BGN	Mixed index
19	Intermediate consumption	82=83+86+91+94+95+96+100+101+102+103+104	4,479.5	102.6	4,593.9	104.4	4,794.2	107.0
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	83=84+85	195.3	92.4	180.5	100.2	180.8	92.6
19.01/1	Seeds and seedling material, supplied by other agricultural farms	84	108.2	27.7	100.4	28.9	29.0	26.8
19.01/2	Seeds and seedling material, purchased outside the sector	85	169.7	90.0	152.8	100.1	153.0	90.2
19.02	Fuels and oils	86=87+88+89+90	1,096.0	96.6	1,059.1	112.0	1,186.2	108.2
19.02/1	Electricity	87	86.8	96.5	83.8	112.1	93.9	108.2
19.02/2	Gas	88	27.3	96.7	26.4	112.1	29.6	108.4
19.02/3	Other fuels	89	978.2	96.6	945.2	112.0	1,058.7	108.2
19.02/4	Other	90	3.7	100.0	3.7	108.1	4.0	108.1
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	91=92+93	394.9	88.5	349.5	128.9	450.5	114.1
19.03/1	Fertilizers supplied by other agricultural farms	92	7.0	84.3	5.9	128.8	7.6	108.6
19.03/2	Fertilizers purchased outside the sector	93	387.9	88.6	343.6	128.9	442.9	114.2
19.04	Plant protection products	94	299.9	120.5	361.5	93.7	338.7	112.9
19.05	Veterinary costs	95	236.3	107.5	254.0	98.2	249.4	105.5
19.06	Feed supplements	96	948.8	104.5	991.4	100.3	994.3	104.8
19.06/1	Feed supplements supplied by other agricultural farms	97	264.5	108.2	286.1	100.3	287.0	108.5
19.06/2	Feed supplements purchased outside the sector	98	444.6	112.2	498.9	100.3	500.3	112.5
19.06/3	Feed supplements produced and utilised in the farm	99	239.7	86.1	206.4	100.3	207.0	86.4
19.07	Maintenance and repair works of the machinery	100	298.2	120.2	358.3	90.3	323.6	108.5
19.08	Building maintenance	101	146.2	106.1	155.1	102.3	158.7	108.5
19.09	Agricultural services	102	465.3	104.6	486.6	103.1	501.7	107.8
19.10	PHYSIM	103	73.5	109.5	80.5	103.2	83.1	113.1
19.11	Other goods and services	104	325.1	97.6	317.4	103.1	327.2	100.6
20	Gross added value by basic prices	105=81-82	3,760.3	96.2	3,617.2	101.3	3,663.4	97.4

Source: NSI

* Data for 2018 is preliminary.