



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND THE FORESTRY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF

AGRICULTURE

2020 AGRICULTURAL REPORT





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AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

(2020 AGRICULTURAL REPORT)

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 2020

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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
GVA	Gross Value Added
BSS	Bulgarian State Standard
Buffaloes	Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
BNB	Bulgarian National Bank
VCU	Value for cultivation and use
BRC	Bulgarian Red Cross
Grants	Grants
RES	Renewable energy sources
VMP	Veterinary products
VOC	Verification of Official Controls Directorate General
CLLD	Community-led local development
HNV	Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high nature value
BCP	Border checkpoints
BCRP	Border crossing points
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism PG
PG	Producer Groups
FRM	Forest reproductive materials
FMPP	Forest management plans and programmes
E-Gov Agency	E-Government State Agency
SG	State Gazette
SF units	State forestry units
VAT	Value Added Tax

SSC	Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control
SSF	Scheme for small farmers
SH units	State hunting units
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
Commission	European Commission
SMNCP	Single Multiannual 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
Traffic police	Traffic police
CP	Consultancy packages
Mol	Ministry of Interior
YFS	Young Farmers Scheme
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
LAG	Local action groups
FLAG	Fisheries local action 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	Innovation and Competitiveness Operational Programme
SESG OP	Science and Education for Smart Growth Operational Programme
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
Environment OP	Environment Operational Programme
RDOP	Regional Development Operational Programme
OPDFS	Operational Programme for Fisheries Sector Development
HRDOP	Human Resources Development Operational Programme
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
Priority	European Union Priority
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
RDF	Regional Directorate of Forestry
CMD	Council of Ministers Decision
DUS	Distinctness, uniformity and stability
SAPS	Single Area Payment scheme
ESS	E-services system
SV-TCGE	Coupled Support for Vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)
SV-P	Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Pepper)
SV- POG	Coupled Support for Vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)
SV- CCWM	Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (carrots, cabbage, watermelon and melon)
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	Agriculture Academy
LDS	Local development strategies
TSP	Thematic sub-programme for small farms

PCA	Physical and chemical analysis
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
FCRAC	Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre
DOM	Digital orthophoto map
PTC	Professional Training Centre
HQ	Headquarters
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 THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

According to NSI data, in 2019 the gross domestic product generated in the country increased by 3.7% compared to the previous year in real terms¹.

The nominal value of GDP for the year reached BGN 119,772 million (EUR 61,239 million).

By the end of 2019, inflation increased by 3.8% on an annual basis and the annual average inflation rate was 3.1%.

According to Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) data, in 2019 exports amounted to BGN 56,953 million (EUR 29,119 million), which represents 47.6% of the country's GDP. Imports for the year stood at BGN 62,607 million (EUR 32,011 million) or 52.3% of the GDP. Thus, in the course of 2019 a negative trade balance for Bulgaria was formed in the amount of EUR 5,655 million (EUR 2,891 million).

In 2019, foreign direct investment in Bulgaria amounted to BGN 2,227 million (EUR 1,139 million), which represents 1.9% of GDP.

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

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
GDP at current prices, BGN million	89,362	95,131	102,345	109,743	119,772
GDP at current prices, EUR million	45,690	48,639	52,328	56,111	61,239
Annual real GDP growth rate, %	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.7
Average annual inflation, %	-0.1	-0.8	2.1	2.8	3.1
Inflation at the end of the year, %	-0.4	0.1	2.8	2.7	3.8
Trade balance, BGN million	-5,129	-1,925	-1,498	-5,278	-5,655
Trade balance, EUR million	-2,622	-984	-766	-2,699	-2,891
FDI, BGN million	3,913	1,813	3,166	1,923	2,227
FDI, EUR million	2,001	927	1,619	983	1,139

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 2019)
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.

¹ The real rate of change was calculated on the basis of comparable prices of 2010.

Gross Domestic Product

In 2019, GDP grew by 3.7% in real terms compared to the previous year. In nominal terms it came in at BGN 119,772 million (EUR 61,239 million), with a per capita amount of BGN 17,170 (EUR 8,779).

Figure I.1. GDP amount for 2015 - 2019, BGN million

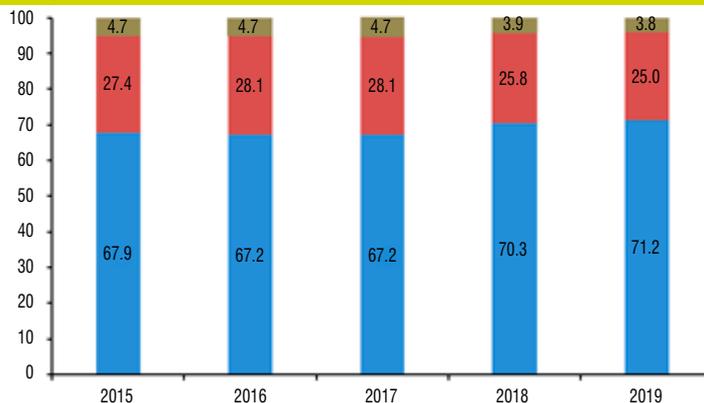


Source: NSI

Gross Value Added

The gross value added generated by the sectors of the national economy in 2019 amounted to BGN 103,383 million (EUR 52,859 million) at current prices, showing real growth of 3.3% year-on-year. The value added of the entities of the agricultural sector in 2019 amounted to BGN 3,876 million at current prices. In real terms, it rose by 4.1% on an annual basis.

Figure I.2. GVA by economic sectors for the period 2015 - 2019, %



Source: NSI

■ Services ■ Industry ■ Agriculture

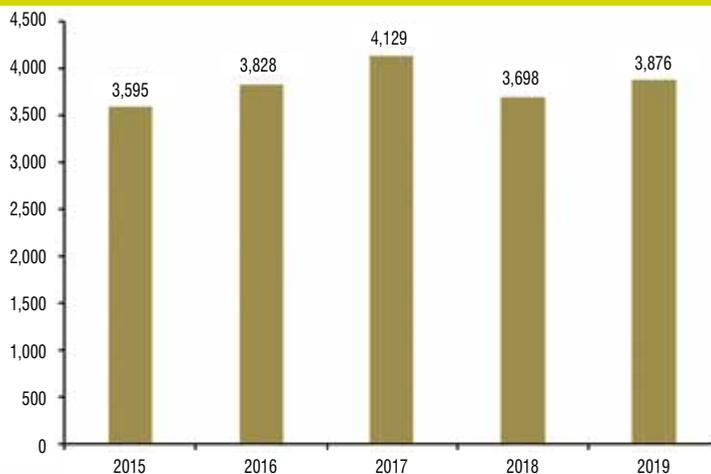
By economic sectors, the GVA for 2019 was distributed as follows:

- Industry (including construction) - 25.0%;
- Services - 71.2%;
- AFF (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) - 3.8%.

The share of the agricultural sector in total GVA decreased by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous year.

According to preliminary seasonally adjusted NSI data, in the first quarter of 2020, the total GVA for the country's economy increased by 2.3% compared to the corresponding period of 2019 in real terms, and in the second quarter it shrank by 7.8%. With regard to the GVA formed by the agricultural sector, preliminary data indicate an annual increase of 0.7% in real terms in the first quarter of 2020 and a decrease of 2.1% in the second quarter. This shows that the agricultural sector is currently relatively slightly affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Figure I.3. GVA in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2015 - 2019, BGN million

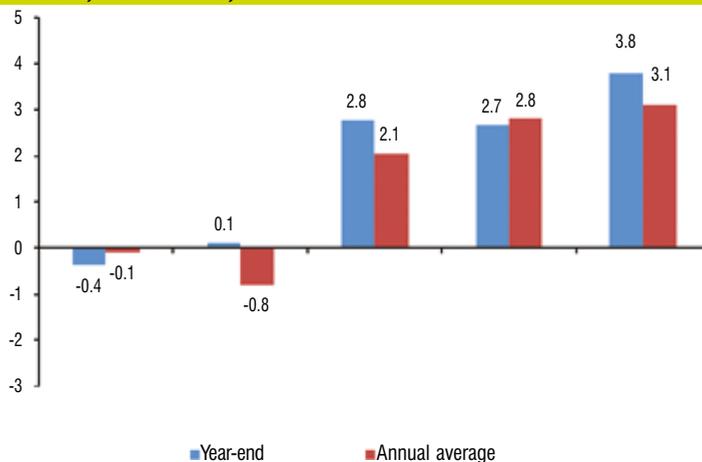


Source: NSI

Inflation

The inflation accumulated at the end of 2019 was 3.8% and the average annual inflation for the year was 3.1%. As of December 2019, food prices increased by 6.8% on annual basis, restaurant prices - by 5.8%, prices of non-food products - by 1.5%, and service prices - by 3.0%.

Figure I.4. Inflation, 2015-2019, %



Employment and unemployment

According to NSI data, the average annual number of employees aged 15 and over in 2019 was 3,233.1 thousand - representing an increase by 80.4 thousand compared to the previous year. The number of persons employed in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors decreased by 3.2% down to 214.1 thousand, leading to a slight shrinking of the sector's relative share in the employment structure by economic activities to 6.6% .

The unemployment rate decreased by 1 percentage point compared to 2018, down to 4.2%. The average annual number of unemployed persons was 142.8 thousand, down by 17.6% versus the 2018 rate.

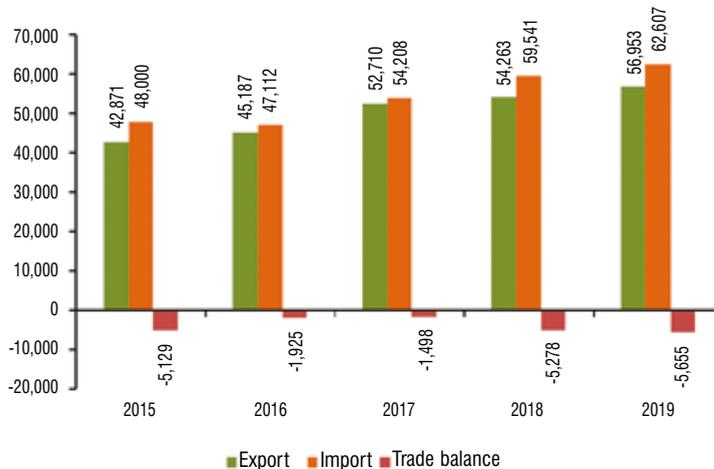
According to NSI preliminary data, in 2019 the average annual salary of employees under employment contracts was BGN 15,283 which represents an increase by BGN 1,528 or up 11,1% from the previous year. In the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors there was an increase of 10.5% on an annual basis, up to an average of BGN 11,994 per person.

Export and import

According to BNB preliminary data on the balance of payments, in 2019 Bulgaria's exports amounted to BGN 56,953 million (EUR 29,119 million) - 5% above the level of the previous year, representing 47.6% of the country's GDP. Imports registered a similar increase - by 5.1% to BGN 62,607 million (EUR 32,011 million) or 52.3% of GDP.

Thus, in 2019, Bulgaria registered a negative trade balance of BGN 5,655 million (EUR 2,891 million), compared to a deficit of BGN 5,278 million (EUR 2,699 million) for 2018.

Figure I.5. Export, import and trade balance for the period 2015 - 2019, BGN million

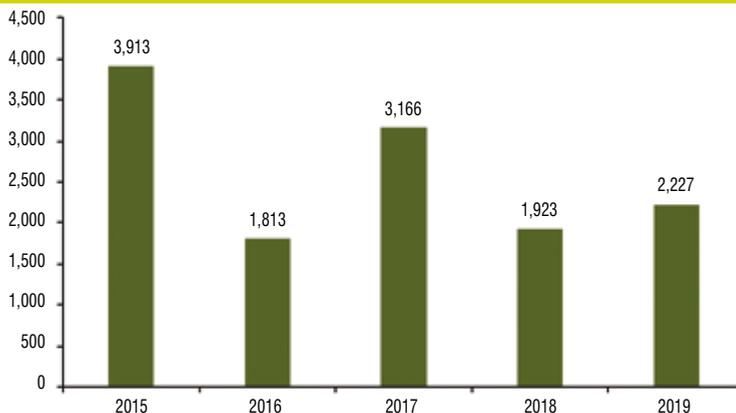


Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2019)

Foreign Direct Investment

BNB preliminary data show that the country's FDI for 2019 amounted to BGN 2,227 million (EUR 1,139 million), 15.8% below the level of the previous year. Direct investment during the year represented 1.9% of GDP, compared to 1.8% in the previous 2018.

Figure I.6. Foreign Direct Investment, 2015 - 2019, BGN million



Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2018 and 2019)

Within 2019, the largest investments were made in the Retail, Car and Motorcycle Repair sectors (EUR 492.7 million), in the Real Estate Transactions sector (EUR 219.9 million) and in the Manufacturing sector (EUR 143.2 million). Net FDI in agriculture, forestry and fisheries during the year amounted to EUR 63.6 million versus EUR 14.5 million in 2018.



II. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN 2019 AND FORECASTS FOR 2020

1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture

1.1. Use of agricultural land

The land designated for agriculture in 2019 was 5,222,925 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 2015 - 2019, ha

DESIGNATION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Wheat	1,151,225	1,215,684	1,197,768	1,237,736	1,250,478
Barley	191,433	168,244	138,122	115,773	112,264
Rye and triticale	24,190	30,909	30,639	29,767	28,163
Oat	13,329	15,675	19,730	16,886	13,866
Maize	524,121	468,762	461,085	478,357	641,555
Other cereals	31,479	21,304	19,600	24,641	26,352
Sunflower	851,245	887,845	934,715	859,910	789,604
Tobacco	17,443	13,930	10,506	8,668	4,849
Industrial oil crops	225,847	196,958	181,067	203,397	158,305
Other industrial crops	53,755	55,144	58,848	46,640	57,878
Potatoes	9,449	10,109	12,909	14,611	11,177
Peas, beans, broad beans, lentils and other legumes	24,617	33,928	78,389	103,445	42,167
Fresh vegetables	37,538	46,527	33,312	35,483	35,627
Plant nurseries	///	///	///	///	///
Annual feed crops	6,871	14,223	17,705	18,152	13,859
Meadows sown with legumes and cereals	94,682	108,793	117,951	118,619	124,333
Fallow	235,150	191,537	159,959	149,683	149,636
Greenhouses	1,314	1,419	1,520	1,606	1,503
ARABLE LAND:	3,493,688	3,480,991	3,473,825	3,463,370	3,461,615
Kitchen gardens	15,664	15,367	15,258	14,836	14,636
Orchards	68,543	77,625	84,320	88,829	90,221
Vineyards - axenic culture	54,210	52,517	53,251	53,787	53,005
Mixed perennials	8,522	8,222	8,220	8,312	7,813
Plant nurseries	2,202	2,602	2,304	2,100	1,699
Total perennials:	133,477	140,966	148,094	153,029	152,738

DESIGNATION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Greenhouses	///	///	///	///	///
Permanent grasslands and meadows with orchards	1,368,665	1,384,088	1,392,352	1,399,041	1,408,481
UTILISED AGRICULTURAL AREA:	5,011,494	5,021,412	5,029,529	5,030,276	5,037,470
Non-cultivated land	191,258	193,228	194,873	195,918	185,455
LAND DESIGNATED FOR AGRICULTURE:	5,202,752	5,214,640	5,224,402	5,226,194	5,222,925

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The **utilized agricultural area** (UAA) includes arable land, permanent crops, nurseries, permanent grassland and kitchen gardens. In 2019, it amounted to 5,037,470 ha (45% of the country's territory), with no significant change from the previous year.

Arable land includes areas where crop rotation is applied, temporary meadows with cereals and legumes, fallow land and greenhouses. In 2019 it decreased slightly (by 0.1%) compared to the previous year, to 3,461,615 ha, representing 68.7% of the utilized agricultural area.

Orchards in 2019 represented 1.8% of the UAA of the country, with the areas occupied by them being 90,221 ha or 1.6% more on an annual basis.

Vineyards - axenic culture in 2019 they occupy 53,005 ha, which is an increase of about 1.5% compared to 2018. The share of vineyards in the country's UAA is 1.1%.

Non-cultivated land includes both abandoned permanent crops and arable land, which have not been used for agricultural production for more than five years, but their operational recovery is possible with minimum resources. In 2019, non-cultivated land occupied about 1.7% of the country's area, down by 5.3% year-on-year.

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 2019, maintaining data in the LPIS covers the following activities:

- Updating of the digital orthophoto map (DOM) of the country by using airplane photography - 27.07% (30,042.3 sq. km). This update is carried out under a contract concluded within a procedure of the Public Procurement Act with Reg.

No RD 51-52 dated 03.08.2016 for DOM preparation 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 photograph physical parcels where areas beyond the borders of the parcel or outside the „Areas eligible for support“ (18,651 physical parcels with a total area of 629,147.21 ha for 2019) 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 a specialized layer „Temporary grassland“ to be used in green payment calculations.
- Creation of a specialized layer „Environmentally friendly area“ containing landscape elements in arable land for the purposes of the green payment.
- Performing quality control of LPIS data 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 to determine 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.

Keeping a register of farmers covers the registration of new farmers, re-registration and updating the information about already registered farmers and de-registration of farmers upon termination of their activity.

In the 2018/2019 marketing year the total number of farmers registered in the register under Ordinance No 3 of 1999 was 88,162; in the 2019/2020 marketing year (as of July 2020) - 80,236.

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

	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020*
Total number of registered farmers	76,408	97,266	98,303	96,476	93,023	88,162	80,236

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

** Data as of July 2020*

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 2019, leased or rented agricultural properties by the SLF to individuals and legal entities amounted to 110,085 ha.

In 2019, on the grounds of Article 24a(1) of the ALOUA and Article 47b(1) of the RIALOUA, bidding procedures were conducted for the lease and renting of available agricultural lands, part of the SLF, in the country for the 2019/2020 marketing year. Of the 644,648 decares of available agricultural land announced, 261,950 decares were contracted, under a total of 1,122 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 2019/2020 marketing year were 100,690 ha for general use and 275,642 ha for individual use. The applications submitted for distribution were 3,597 for 107,733 ha, of which 50,506 ha were allocated for general use and 80,056 ha - for pastures, grasslands and meadows for individual use. The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry issued order to designate pastures, grasslands and meadows of 30,880 ha, 204 applications were submitted for 14,702 ha, and 3,520 ha were allocated. The contracts signed for use after distribution of MLF were 2,603 for 38,363 ha, for SLF - 77 contracts for 1,415 ha. The conducted tendering procedures and concluded one-year contracts for lease of properties from MLF were 398 for 8,363 ha, for SLF - 195 for 6,914 ha.

1.4.3. Establishment of limited rights in rem over SLF lands

In 2019, more than 80 requests from mayors of municipalities, legal entities and individuals were handled in relation to investment intentions for construction or expansion of sites and/or linear sites affecting land owned by the SLF. Pursuant to Article 24c of the ALOUA, 26 preliminary consents were issued to contract the preparation 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.

Twenty-three contracts were 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 Reinstated Ownership Map and Registers Maintenance

In compliance with the provisions of the Cadastre and Property Register Act, out of a total of 4,623 lands in the country, 4,391 have an effective cadastral map and cadastral registers for non-urbanised territories and are supported by the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency (GCCA) and the regional units. The remaining 232 lands have an effective reinstated ownership map and are supported by the MAFF units.

To help farmers, the staff of 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. As of December 2019, the country's coverage in cadastral maps and registers of non-urbanised areas grew up to 95%.

In respect of lands with an active reinstated ownership map, services were provided to citizens in accordance with Ordinance No 49/2004 on their submitted applications for issuing drawings, reflecting changes in ownership, as a result of performed disposal transactions, issuing decisions on restitution of property rights, certificates of various nature, etc.

1.6. Land Relations

For the 2019/2020 marketing year, 3,672 agreements were executed for the creation or distribution of land plots for consolidated use of agricultural lands, covering an area of 28,517,650 decares, with 18,485 decares more than the previous marketing year. For plots with long-terms land use - „pastures, grasslands and meadows”, 630 agreements

or allocations on 290,072 decares were concluded. There is still a trend of increased interest of farmers in the procedures for consolidated land use of the agricultural land registered by them on a legal basis. The established areas for consolidated use include plots for which no declarations have been submitted by the owners and no contracts for their use have been concluded, the so-called „blank spots“. The total area of the „blank spots“ in the arrays was 1,249,523 decares for farmlands and 162,978 decares for pastures, grasslands and meadows. For the 'blank spot' plots, their users transfer an amount equal to the average annual rental payment for the land as per the location of the properties. The collected amounts are deposited and can be paid out to rights holders by the competent Agriculture Regional Directorate in a 10-year period. The allocation among co-owners (co-heirs) is settled by mutual consent in accordance with Article 30(3) of the Ownership Act, whereby a co-owner is entitled to receive part of the benefits from a shared property corresponding to their share in the property.

1.6.1. Consolidation of Agricultural Land

Procedures for consolidation of agricultural land started in 15 lands across the country - the village of Nikolaevo, municipality of Pleven, region of Pleven; village of Suhindol, municipality of Suhindol, region of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Fakia, municipality of Sredets, region of Burgas, village of Assenovo, municipality of Strazhitsa, region of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Lenkovo, municipality of Gulyantsy, region of Pleven; town of Ugarchin, municipality of Ugarchin, region of Lovech; village of Radyuvne, municipality of Lovech, region of Lovech; village of Dolno Yabalkovo, municipality of Sredets, region of Burgas; village of Gorno Ablanovo, municipality of Borovo, region of Russe; village of Gorsko Slivovo, municipality of Letnitsa, region of Lovech; village of Zhrebino, municipality of Elhovo, region of Yambol; village of Lalkovo, municipality of Elhovo, region of Yambol; village of Markovo, municipality of Kaspichan, region of Shumen; town of Strazhitsa, municipality of Strazhitsa, region of Veliko Tarnovo; village of Strelets, municipality of Gorna Oryahovitsa, region of Veliko Tarnovo; the applications covering about 10,000 ha.

1.7. Agricultural Land Protection Activities

In 2019, the Agricultural Land Commission handled a total of 900 proposals to modify the designation of agricultural land, issuing decisions covering a total of 1,058 ha.

The commissions in the Regional Directorates of Agriculture examined a total of 1,084 proposals to modify the designation of agricultural land, issuing decisions covering 333 ha.

In 2019, no new areas were allocated for revegetation; no revegetated terrains were accepted either to be added to agricultural lands.

2. Economic and Production Results in 2019 and forecast data for 2020

2.1. 2019 Economic Accounts for Agriculture

Table II.3 Basic economic indicators for agriculture for the period 2017 - 2019*, BGN million

	Indicators	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
1	1 Value of crop growing and livestock production (at producer prices **), including:	7,337.5	1.7%	7,460.6	2.2%	7,628.0
1.1	1.1 Crop production	5,482.9	2.9%	5,642.0	2.1%	5,760.9
1.2	1.2 Livestock production	1,854.6	-1.9%	1,818.6	2.7%	1,867.1
2	2 Agricultural services	465.3	7.8%	501.7	-1.9%	492.2
3	3 Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	228.7	-15.7%	192.7	3.2%	198.9
4	4 Value of gross production in the Agriculture sector (at producer prices**) (line 4 = line 1.1 + line 1.2 + line 2 + line 3)	8,031.5	1.5%	8,155.0	2.0%	8,319.1
5	5 Value of output of the Agriculture sector (at basic prices***)	8,239.8	2.6%	8,457.6	0.6%	8,504.6
6	6 Intermediate consumption (excluding internal turnover)	4,479.5	7.0%	4,794.2	-0.4%	4,777.4
7	7 Gross added value at basic prices	3,760.3	-2.6%	3,663.4	1.7%	3,727.2

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

*2019 data are preliminary.

** Producer prices - prices excluding subsidies by products

*** Basic prices - prices that include subsidies by products

2.1.1. Value of gross production in the Agriculture sector

The value of gross production in the Agriculture sector for 2019 at current producer prices (according to preliminary data) amounted to BGN 8,319.1 million, showing a slight increase of 2.0% compared to the previous year. It is formed by the value of:

- Crop Production - BGN 5,760.9 million (with a share of 69.3%);
- Livestock Production - BGN 1,867.1 million (with a share of 22.4%);
- Agricultural services - BGN 492.2 million (with a share of 5.9%);
- Production of inseparable secondary activities - BGN 198.9 million (with a share of 2.4%).

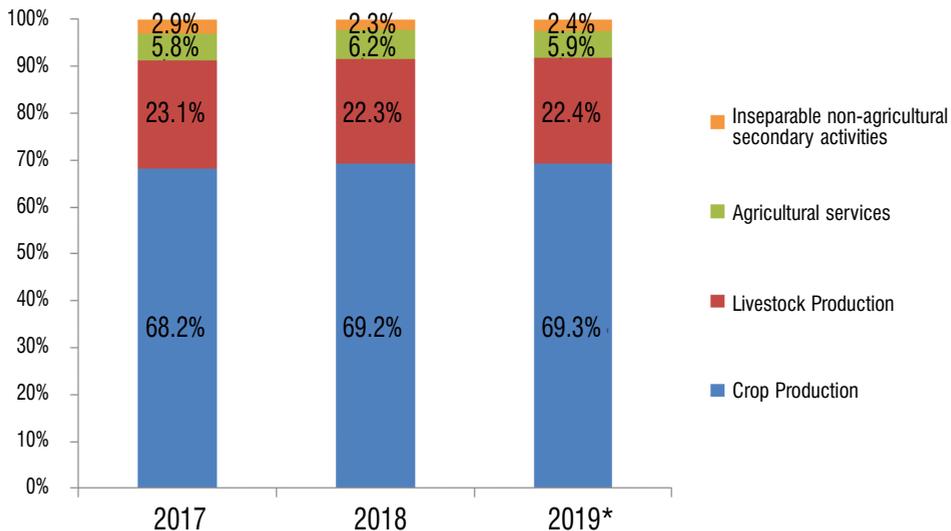
The increase in the value of gross production in the sector resulted from the growth in two subsectors - crop production and livestock breeding and the output in the non-agricultural inseparable activities. There was only a decline in agricultural services.

The Crop Production subsector recorded a 2.1% year-on-year increase (by BGN 118.9 million), affected mainly by the growth in its structure-forming Grain Production, which makes up for the decline in a number of other areas such as Industrial Crops, Protein Crops, Feed and Fruit.

The gross output in the Livestock subsector increased by 2.7% (by BGN 48.5 million) year-on-year. There was a rise in value in almost all areas of the sector. Only the milk producing area recorded a drop.

The total amount of agricultural products sold (crop and livestock products) in 2019 stood at BGN 6,921.3 mln or 83.2% of the gross output of the agriculture sector (Annex 1). The crop production sold during the year came in at BGN 5,391.8 million (64.8% of gross production), and the livestock production sold amounted to BGN 1,529.5 million (18.4% of gross production). Outside the sector, crop production and livestock production were sold for BGN 6,556.7 million (including exports), and within the framework of sales between agricultural enterprises - for BGN 364.7 million.

Figure II.1. Structure of the value of gross production in the Agriculture sector for the period 2017 - 2019*, %



Source: MAFF calculations based on NSI data

*2019 data are preliminary.

For production purpose, agricultural units used agricultural products (seeds, propagating material, feed, etc.) produced during the year amounting to BGN 557.2 million (6.7% of gross production).

Agricultural production - mainly agricultural products processed in the holding - worth BGN 273.9 million (3.3% of 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 111.9 million.

2.1.2. Final Production Value

According to preliminary data, the value of final agricultural output (value of products after deduction of internal turnover) at basic prices (prices with subsidies by products included) for 2019 amounted to BGN 8,504.6 million, up by 0.6% (by BGN 47.0 million) year-on-year (Annexes 4 and 5).

The structure of final production in agriculture for 2019 kept the formed ratios between the branches of the industry, outlined in terms of gross production. In final production, crop production had the largest relative share - 66.3%. For 2019, the relative share of livestock production was 25.6%, of agricultural services - 5.8% 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 2,933.3 million and oilseed crops - BGN 1,411.4 million) account for half (51.1%) of the value of output in the agriculture sector in 2019.

The following crop products had the most significant contribution to the formation of final production in the sector in 2019:

- Common wheat - a share of 19.6% with BGN 1,666.3 million
- The production value remained at the level of the previous year in view of a 1.0% slight rise of physical volume and the drop in prices by 1.3%.
- Sunflower - a share of 13.1% with BGN 1,118.1 million.
- In respect of sunflower, production value increased by 3.9%. Physical volume of production remained at the previous year's volume, but there is a rise in prices - by 4.0%.
- Grain maize - a share of 12.1% with BGN 1,029.5 million.

- Grain maize showed an increase in the value of final production by 8.5% on an annual basis, due to an increase in physical volume by nearly 9%.
- Rapeseed and colza - a share of 3.4% with BGN 287.3 million.

The value of output in this area dropped by 7.4% on the previous year as a result of a decline in consumption by over 9% despite the increase in prices by nearly 2%.

In 2019, the Fruits and Vegetables (including potato and vineyards) sector generated production amounting to BGN 798.0 million, down by 11.9% compared to the previous year. The sector accounted for 9.4% of final production. The production of vegetables stood at BGN 476.5 million (a share of 5.6% in final production), and of fruits - to the amount of BGN 321.5 million (share of 3.8%). Final output from the Fruits subsector decreased by 16.2% in value, while the Vegetables subsector recorded a drop of 8.7%. In general, the Vegetables subsector saw a decline in both output and prices. As for Fruits, there was a rise in physical volume in most fresh fruits, coupled with a decrease in prices. The results in the Fruits subsector are largely affected by the drop in output in wine grape (a 9.2% slide in the physical volume coupled with a drop in prices by 13.3%).

The final production of the Livestock subsector for 2019 was BGN 2,174.4 million. There was an increase by BGN 184.2 million (or 9.3% year-on-year), underpinned by a price hike.

The branches of the livestock subsector with the largest contribution to the total value of final production of the agriculture sector in 2019 were:

- Milk production - a share of 7.4% with BGN 625.3 million;

There was a decrease in milk production of 4.1% in value on an annual basis, resulting from a decrease in production volume of 6.7% and a 2.6% rise in prices.

- Sheep and goat farming - a share of 4.4% with BGN 372.5 million (a rise of 87.2% in value versus 2018 - amid an insignificant decline in physical volume by 1.1% and a substantial hike in prices by 88.4%);
- Pig farming - a share of 4.0% with BGN 336.6 million.
- The production value in pig farming increased by 10.8% on an annual basis as a result of the price increase by 13.8% despite a 3.0% drop in physical volume.
- Poultry - a share of 3.7% with BGN 315.1 million (a rise of 3.5%).

- In poultry, the output value increased on 2018 levels due to a rise in physical volume (by 2.2%) and an increase in prices (by 1.3%).
- Cattle farming - a share of 2.9% with BGN 249.6 million (a 15.4% drop in annual terms);
- The drop in output value in cattle farming results from a decline in both prices (by 8.8%) and in physical volume (by 6.6%) in this production area.
- Eggs production - a share of 2.1% with BGN 181.9 million (a 4.6% rise).

In 2019, production value increased year-on-year as a result of a substantial hike in physical volume (8.1%) despite a drop in prices (3.5%).

2.1.3. Intermediate consumption

Intermediate consumption used to generate final production in the sector in 2019 amounted to BGN 4,777.4 million, keeping the level from the previous year (there is a slight drop of 0.4% on an annual basis (Annex 3 and 4).

The largest share in its structure is occupied by fuels and oils - 22.2% (BGN 1,062.8 million), followed by feed costs - 21.0% (BGN 1,003.5 million), agricultural services - 10.3% (BGN 492.2 million), costs for fertilizers and soil improvers - 9.8% (BGN 469.5 million), costs for maintenance and repair of machinery and small inventory - 6.9% (BGN 329.0 million).

The consumption of seeds and propagating material went up by BGN 24.0 million (13.3%), fertilizers and soil improvers increased by BGN 19 million (4.2%), veterinary cost were up by BGN 10.9 million (4.4%), feed - by BGN 9.2 million (nearly 1%). The consumption of fuels and oils was down BGN 123.4 million (10.4%), of plant protection products slid by BGN 5.1 million (1.5%), of agricultural services - by BGN 9.5 million (1.9%).

In 2019, intermediate consumption represented 56.2% of production value, or 100 output units were created using 56.2 intermediate consumption units.

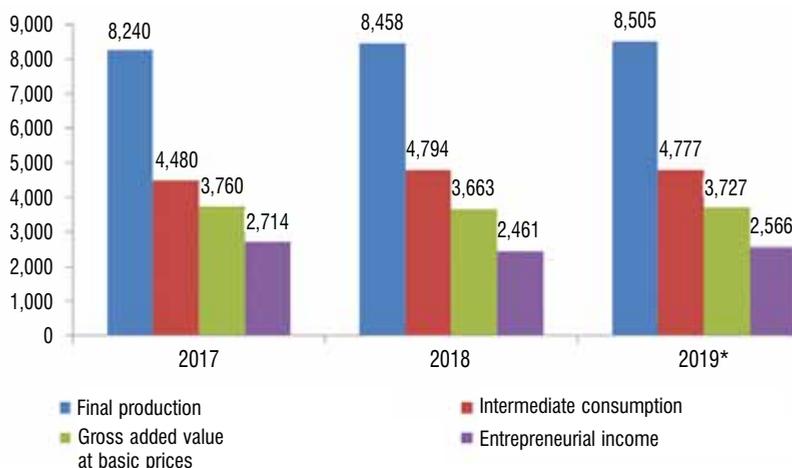
2.1.4. Gross Value Added

The gross added value of the entities of the agricultural sector in 2019 amounted to BGN 3,727.2 million (at basic prices) and went up by 1.7% (or BGN 63.8 million) on an annual basis. (Annexes 4 and 5).

2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income

For 2019, as per preliminary data, the entrepreneurial income in the sector amounted to BGN 2,565.5 million - 4.3% above the level of the previous year (Annex 4).

Figure II.2. Basic economic indicators for the Agriculture sector for the period 2017 - 2019*, BGN million



Source: NSI

*2019 data are preliminary.

2.2. Plant Production Results

In 2019 the agrometeorological conditions were marked by increased dynamic, with alternating short-term cold spells and elevated temperatures.

The critical low temperatures reported in January - March caused partial and in some places complete freezing of the fruit buds, flowers and nut sets in a number of fruit species. Due to the autumn drought, in some places part of the rapeseed failed to germinate, which required replanting of the areas.

In March and April, there were conditions for frost formation in some fields. Significant damage was reported on a number of fruit species (apricots, cherries, peaches, etc.). The widespread rainfall after the early spring drought was crucial for the development of autumn crops, in which moisture-critical phases took place. They provided moisture for the normal course of the initial phases of the vegetation of the sown spring crops.

The hail, accompanied by heavy rainfall in May, June and early August, caused serious damage to crops.

At the beginning of September 2019, the agrometeorological conditions were conditioned by dry and warm weather. The worsening drought prevented the pre-

sowing treatments of areas designated for autumn sowing. For this reason, in many places the agro-technical deadlines for sowing rapeseed were missed. At the end of September, after rains, the sowing of wheat began in some places in the Danube plain.

In October, the deepening deficit of soil moisture was a limiting factor for the development of autumn crops. This hampered the north-western regions of the country the germination of sown crops with winter cereals, and in parts of the Upper Thracian lowland the autumn drought called into question the survival of some of germinated crops of rapeseed.

In 2019, damage to crops caused by the following adverse weather events was reported: frost, torrential rain (storm), flood, hail and drought.

2.2.1. Grain production

In 2019, as a whole, there was an increase in the production of the main cereals in the country compared to the previous year, with the exception of rye. Higher average yields were reported for all cereals except for maize.

Table II.4 Grain production in 2018 and 2019 harvest years

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Wheat	1,212,012	1,198,682	-1.1%	4.81	5.14	6.8%	5,832,449	6,161,997	5.7%
Rye	8,316	6,097	-26.7%	1.66	1.93	16.7%	13,776	11,793	-14.4%
Triticale	15,171	15,199	0.2%	2.66	2.84	6.9%	40,306	43,173	7.1%
Barley	103,570	112,029	8.2%	4.22	4.89	15.6%	437,507	547,244	25.1%
Oat	11,339	12,153	7.2%	2.14	2.51	17.1%	24,308	30,518	25.5%
Grain maize	444,623	560,911	26.2%	7.82	7.11	-9.1%	3,478,013	3,990,190	14.7%
Rice	11,004	11,822	7.4%	5.76	6.04	4.8%	63,415	71,415	12.6%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Yields of Crops Survey

Wheat

Wheat production in 2019 amounted to 6,162 thousand tonnes - an increase of 5.7% compared to 2018, due to the relatively favourable climatic conditions in the process of crop development, which led to an increase in average yield (with 6.8%).

The areas sown with wheat in 2019 totalled 1,201,678 ha - down by 1.3% on an annual basis, of which 1,198,682 ha were harvested.

The relative share of harvested areas with wheat is 62% of the total harvested areas with cereals. The largest share of wheat areas is in the North-East region - 23%, followed by the North-West region with 22%.

According to data from the BSMAEC survey of the Agrostatics Department, in 2019 wheat-on-wheat rotation happened on 7.5% of the areas, versus 6.4% in 2018. On about 91.7% of the area with wheat harvest in 2019, a good crop rotation was performed. After root crops, 67.8% of the areas were sown, while in the previous year this rate was 70.4%. In the same year, 2% of fallows were included in wheat crop rotation.

Rye and triticale

The grain produced from 2019 rye harvest was 14.4% below the level of the previous year, as the decrease in the harvested areas by 26.7% was partially compensated by an increase in the average yield.

With relative retention of the harvested areas and increase of the average yield by 6.9%, triticale production increased by 7.1% on an annual basis.

Most harvested areas with rye and triticale were located in the South Central region - respectively 2,339 ha of rye and 6,478 ha of triticale.

Barley

Barley production in 2019 amounted to 547.2 thousand tonnes. This represents an increase of 25.1% on an annual basis, as a result of an increase in both harvested areas - by 8.2% and the average yield - by 15.6%.

The largest areas under barley in 2019 were located in the South-Eastern region (29.7% of the total harvested area in the country), followed by the Northwest region (18.9%).

In view of crop sequence, a good crop rotation was performed on about 74.6% of the barley area. The share of sunflower is again the highest - 36.6%. 45.3% of areas were sown with barley following root crops. The fallows included in the barley crop rotation in 2019 were 3.2%.

Oat

Oat production rose by 25.5% on an annual basis, due to the larger size of harvested areas and the higher average yields. The average yield increased by 17.3% compared to the previous year.

Most areas under oats were harvested in the North-Western Region (31.9% of the areas harvested with oats in the country.)

Grain maize

Grain maize output in 2019 increased by 14.7% compared to the previous year, to 3,990.1 thousand tonnes. This is due to an increase in harvested areas by 26.2%, while the average yield for the country decreased by 9.1%.

The areas sown with grain maize in 2019 totalled 561,972 ha, which is 25.5% above the 2018 level. Of these, 560,911 ha were harvested - 26.2% more on an annual basis.

The North-West region (37.3%) has the largest share in the total harvested areas of maize during the year, followed by the North-Central region (29.1%) and the North-East region (26.9%).

As in previous years, maize has the largest share of wheat precursor - 51.2%. Barley included in the maize crop rotation in 2019 was 3.6%.

Rice

In 2019, the country produced 71.4 thousand tonnes of rice husk - 12.6% more on an annual basis. There was an increase in both the harvested area (by 7.4%) and the average yield (by 4.8%).

2.2.2. Oilseed crops

The main oilseed crops grown in Bulgaria are sunflower and winter oilseed rape.

Table II.5 Oilseed production in 2018 and` 2019 harvest years

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Sunflower	788,656	815,561	3.4%	2.44	2.35	-3.9%	1,927,040	1,914,072	-0.7%
Rapeseed	182,619	151,174	-17.2%	2.58	2.83	9.8%	471,035	428,256	-9.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Sunflower

Sunflower production in 2019 amounted to 1,914.1 thousand tonnes. This quantity is a mere 0.7% below the level of the previous year, as the increased size of harvested areas by 3.4% largely compensates for the 3.9% decrease in average yield.

The sunflower-sown areas in 2019 were 817,112 ha, 3.3% more than the previous year.

The sunflower areas in the North-West region represent 25.5% of the total harvested areas in the country in 2019. It is followed by the North-East region with 21.9%.

The largest was the share of sunflower sown on the precursor wheat - 71.9%. Barley included in the sunflower crop rotation in 2019 was 5.5%.

Rapeseed

In 2019, the country produced 428.3 thousand tonnes of rapeseed, which is 9.1% below the 2018 level.

The areas planted with rapeseed in 2019 were 152,800 ha, of which 151,174 ha were harvested - a 17.2% drop year-on-year. On the other hand, the average yield increased by 9.8%.

The largest area with rapeseed during the year were located in the South-Eastern region (39% of the total harvested area in the country), followed by the North-Central region (23.9%).

2.2.3. Grain market monitoring

In 2019, the upward trend in both the number of grain storage facilities and the total storage capacity continued. Over the year, the Database of Grain Storage Sites in the country was updated, with 195 new grain storage facilities enrolled, a change in the circumstances of 164 of the enrolled sites and 15 sites deleted. As of 31.12.2019 the total number of grain storage facilities in the country was 4,226, with a capacity of 16,202,817 tonnes. The database on the location and capacity of grain storage sites as of 30 June and 31 December 2019 was uploaded on the Open Data Portal of the Council of Ministers.

In 2019, a total of 1,291 inspections were carried out, incl. of grain storage facilities - 648, of grain producers - 242; of grain processing holdings - 2 and of new grain storage facilities - 399. During the inspections, 125 reports of findings were drawn up to establish irregularities detected.

2.2.4. Quality Grading of Harvest 2019

Of 4,192,686 tonnes, 2,982 samples from wheat, barley, sunflower, maize and rice husk were taken and analysed for a representative qualification of the harvest 2019, which is 34.3% of the quantity obtained and meets the criteria for representativeness of the qualification.

Wheat quality in 2019 harvest

The final quality results show that 56.6% of the 2019 wheat produced has milling and baking qualities that meet the requirements of traders and processors.

The allocation of grain into groups is as follows:

- First group - 2.1%, compared to 0.8% in 2018;
- Second group - 8.5%, compared to 3.3% in 2018;
- Second Group B - 46%, compared to 12.2% in 2018;
- Third group - 40.3%, compared to 83.8% in 2018.

The average values of the main indicators that determine the quality characteristic of grain from the 2019 harvest across the country are:

- moisture content: 11.7% \pm 0.6%;
- hectolitre mass: 74.2 kg/100 dm³ \pm 2.6 kg/100 dm³;
- wet gluten yield: 25% \pm 3.4%;
- gluten release: 7.6 mm \pm 1.6 mm;
- baking strength: 54.8 cond. units \pm 5.8 cond. units;
- protein content: 12.5% v.c. \pm 1.2% v.c.;
- falling number: 355.9 sec. \pm 50.4 sec.

Barley quality in 2019 harvest

The final results show that 54% of the barley is brewed and 46% is feed.

The average values of the main quality indicators of barley harvest 2019 are:

- protein content: 12.2% \pm 1.3%;
- hectolitre mass: 62.1 kg/100 dm³ \pm 3.3 kg / 100 dm³;
- balance of lots: 85.5% \pm 12.3%;
- humidity: 12.2% \pm 1%;
- crop impurities: 1.6% \pm 1.2%;
- miscellaneous impurities: 1.1% \pm 1.6%.

Sunflower quality in 2019 harvest

The final results show that 95.1% of the samples analysed meet the requirements of the sunflower seed quality standard, compared to 81.8% in the previous year.

The average values of the main quality indicators of sunflower harvest 2019 are:

- moisture content: 5.8% \pm 0.4%;
- fat content: 45.1% \pm 2.4%;
- crop impurities: 1.4% \pm 0.8%;
- miscellaneous impurities: 3.3% \pm 1.5%.

Maize quality in 2019 harvest

The final results show that 95.2% 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 87.4% in 2018.

The average values of the main quality indicators of maize harvest 2019 are:

- moisture: 12.1% ± 0.7%;
- crop impurities: 3.6% ± 1.7%;
- miscellaneous impurities: 0.7% ± 0.3%;
- starch content: 72.2% ± 0.6%;
- hectolitre mass: 72.6 kg/100 dm³ +- 1.8 kg/100 dm³.

Husked rice quality in 2019 harvest

The average values of the main quality indicators of husked rice harvest 2019 are:

- moisture: 12.7% ± 0.5%;
- crop impurities: 0.3% ± 0.2%;
- miscellaneous impurities: 0.6% ± 0.4%;
- red grains: 0.2% ± 0.3%;
- yellowed grains: not found;
- nude grains: 2.7% ± 1.6%;
- hectolitre mass: 59.0 kg/100 dm³ +- 1.6 kg/100 dm³.

2.2.5. Industrial crops

Tobacco

In 2019, tobacco production came in at 6,481 tonnes - 25% below the 2018 level, due to a reduction in harvested areas by 39.2%. The reported average yield stood at 1.83 tonnes/ha - up 23.3% on an annual basis.

Cotton

The produced amount of fibre cotton increased by 29.9% versus 2018, to 3,099 tonnes, as a result of an increase in both harvested areas (by 9.6%) and the average yield (by 18.5%).

Fibre hemp

In 2019, the sown areas with fibre hemp in the country were 11,400 decares.

2.2.6. Medicinal and aromatic crops

In 2019, the areas occupied by basic medicinal, aromatic and essential oil crops, such as Damask rose (rose flower), lavender (fresh flower), lemon balm (dry mass),

coriander (seed), fennel (seed), milk thistle (seed)), etc., totalled 53,983 ha, which is 29.5% more than in 2018.

The harvested areas with these crops were 46,259 ha - 43% above the level of the previous year.

Table II.6 Production of essential oilseeds from harvest 2018 and 2019

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Lavender	9,695	13,693	41.2%	3.56	3.77	6.1%	34,481	51,681	49.9%
Damask rose	4,279	4,563	6.6%	3.39	2.92	-13.9%	14,483	13,306	-8.1%
Lemon balm	1,395	1,367	-2.0%	3.53	2.78	-21.2%	4,924	3,805	-22.7%
Coriander	8,197	18,202	122.1%	0.73	1.10	50.5%	5,977	19,975	234.2%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The areas planted with Damask rose increased by 5.7% versus 2018, and the harvested areas - by 6.6%. There was a decrease in the Damask rose output by 8.1% (to 13,306 tonnes), due to a decrease in the average yield by 13.9%.

The quantities of lavender flowers harvested in 2019 increased by 49.9% on an annual basis, to 51,681 tonnes, mainly due to an increase in harvested areas by 41.2%. The average yield also went up by 6.1%.

In 2019, the production of coriander reached 19,975 tonnes - more than three times above the previous year's level, on the back of a significant increase in both harvested areas (more than twice) and the average yield (by 50.5%).

In the case of lemon balm, there is a decline in the areas compared to 2018, which is significant for the sown - by 24.1% and slight for the harvested - by 2%. Combined with a 21.2% drop in average yield, this led to a reduction in production by nearly 23%.

2.2.7. Fruits

In 2019, fruit production on agricultural holdings amounted to 234,589 tonnes, up 2.7% year-on-year. Compared to 2018, there is a significant increase in the production of pears - by 61.6% and apricots - by 48.9%. The harvested quantities of peaches and nectarines, sour cherries and hazelnuts are also significantly higher - by between 7.4% and 17.3%. Meanwhile, the production of almonds shrank by 43.9% and that of apples - by 13.3%.

Fruit production occupied the leading position in the South-Eastern Region with 26.3% of total production for the year, followed by the South Central Region with 21.4%. The production of peaches (44.8%) and cherries (39%) was concentrated in the South-Eastern region, while the largest number of sour cherries (40.4%), apples (37.3%) and plums and cherry plums (23.8%) were produced in the South-Central region. The North Central region produced 85.8% of apricots in the country. The North-Eastern region was the leader in the production of raspberries.

By product type, the largest relative share of the total fruit production in 2019 was occupied by plums and cherry plums - 24%, followed by cherries - 23.4%, apples - 18.6% and peaches and nectarines - 14.4%.

The total planted areas with fruit, nuts and berry species in 2019 are 73,389 ha - 7.5% more than in 2018. Of these, 42,901 ha were harvested, which is 7.6% more than the previous year. In terms of total harvested areas, cherries had the largest share with 25.3%, followed by plums and cherry plums - 18.7% and walnuts - 14.8%. Nearly all fruit crops marked an increase in harvested areas compared to 2018, from 3% for walnuts to 58.9% for hazelnuts. A decrease was registered only for almonds (by 7.8%) and peaches and nectarines (by 8.7%). About 15% of the fruit-bearing areas with orchard species are not harvested due to climatic and other reasons.

Table II.7 Fruit production in 2018 and 2019 harvest years

Fruit crops	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Apples	3,981	4,142	4.0%	12,635	10,532	-16.6%	50,298	43,622	-13.3%
Pears	571	696	21.9%	5,881	7,795	32.5%	3,358	5,425	61.6%
Apricots	2,550	2,910	14.1%	5,330	6,957	30.5%	13,592	20,244	48.9%
Peaches and nectarines	3,521	3,214	-8.7%	8,202	10,541	28.5%	28,879	33,878	17.3%
Plums and cherry plums	7,357	8,017	9.0%	7,671	7,009	-8.6%	56,433	56,192	-0.4%
Cherries	10,049	10,837	7.8%	5,504	5,072	-7.8%	55,309	54,960	-0.6%
Sour cherries	1,184	1,328	12.2%	4,046	3,875	-4.2%	4,791	5,146	7.4%
Walnuts	6,181	6,365	3.0%	828	760	-8.2%	5,116	4,838	-5.4%
Almonds	1,091	1,006	-7.8%	1,179	718	-39.1%	1,286	722	-43.9%
Hazelnuts	799	1,270	58.9%	492	339	-31.1%	393	430	9.4%
Raspberries	2,102	2,192	4.3%	3,544	3,253	-8.2%	7,450	7,131	-4.3%
Cultivated rosehips	-	557	-	-	1,512	-	-	842	-
Other	468	367	-21.6%	-	-	-	1,596	1,159	-27.4%
Total:	39,854	42,901	7.6%	-	-	-	228,501	234,589	2.7%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Fruit Production survey, 2019 harvest

The areas under orchards not yet in production grown on farms in 2019 were 17,353 ha. The largest relative share of these is occupied by walnuts - 44.4%, followed by plums and cherry plums - 15.4%, hazelnuts - 14.3% and cherries - 8.5%. During the 2018/2019 marketing year, nut crops had a 52% share; stone fruits - 40% and 8% were pome fruits and other species. Within the nut species, the largest share is of walnuts (48.9%), followed by almonds (33.2%), and of stone fruit species - plums (54.3%) and cherries (34.5%).

In 2019, the average yields of peaches and nectarines, apricots and pears increased by 28.5% - 32.5% year-on-year. The other main fruits marked a decrease in yields by between 4.2% (sour cherries) and 39.1% (almonds).

98.5% of the fruits produced in 2019 were sold, 47.7% were placed in the trade network, 33.7% - in the processing industry and 1.6% for own consumption.

2.2.8. Vegetables

In 2019, the areas used for vegetable production, including dried legumes, on agricultural holdings were 52,539 ha, which is 55.9% less than the previous year. The open-air areas under vegetables shrank by 56.3% to 51,617 ha, mainly due to a decrease in the areas under dried legumes (chickpeas, lentils and beans). Greenhouse areas totalled 922 ha (+0.7% on an annual basis), and were used an average of 1.3 times for vegetable production.

The total production of vegetables - harvest 2019 amounted to 769 thousand tonnes - down 15.1% on an annual basis, as the production of open-air areas decreased by 13.8% to 668.2 thousand tonnes and greenhouse output went down by 23%, up to 100.8 thousand tonnes.

In 2019, potatoes recorded the largest production - 197.4 thousand tonnes (25.7% of the total production of vegetables and dried legumes), tomatoes - 145 thousand tonnes (18.9%), watermelons - 96.8 thousand tonnes (12.6%) and cucumbers - 67.8 thousand tonnes (8.8%).

The harvested area under vegetables grew by 52.1% compared to 2018, mainly as a result of the increase of the areas with dried legume crops by more than twice. By groups of crops, fresh legumes recorded an increase in harvested areas - by 72.9%, leafy or stem vegetables - by 10% and fruit vegetables - by 8.8%.

The largest relative share in the total harvested areas under vegetables in 2019 belonged to the areas occupied by chickpeas - 22%, potatoes - 18%, watermelons - 9.3%, tomatoes - 9%, etc.

Table II.8 Main areas used for vegetable production - harvests 2018 and 2019, ha

Main areas	Harvest 2018	Harvest 2019	Change 2019/2018
Open-air areas	118,191	51,617	-56.3%
Total greenhouse area	916	922	0.7%
Total area	119,107	52,539	-55.9%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department - Vegetable Production Survey and Crop Yields Survey

By types of vegetable crops, 2019 saw a significant year-on-year rise in the harvested areas under cucumbers and pumpkins for seed (nearly three times), followed by those with peas - green, lettuce, artichokes, green beans - green or ripe garlic and tomatoes - by between 19.1% and 91.9%. On the other hand, the harvested areas occupied by spinach, potatoes, gherkins, leeks, lentils and chickpeas were significantly reduced - in the range from 33.3% to 81%.

The total production of vegetables, excluding dry legumes, from open-air areas in 2019 amounted to 651.3 thousand tonnes, which is 8.3% below the previous year. Out of the more significant crops, an increase in the production was recorded for cucumbers (two and a half times), pepper (17.5%), tomatoes (12.3%) and watermelons (1.9%), and a decrease - for pumpkins (57.2%), ripe onions (24.9%), potatoes (24.5%), carrots (20.4%), melons (11.8%), aubergines and headed cabbage (1.7%).

Table II.9 Areas, production and average yields of vegetables - harvest 2019

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open-air areas (kg/ha)	
			From open-air areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019
Fruiting vegetables, including:	17,821	19,393	312,905	334,157	126,277	98,015	439,182	432,172	-1.6%	-	-
Tomatoes	3,907	4,654	85,232	95,722	62,845	49,290	148,077	145,012	-2.1%	21,815	20,568
Cucumbers	470	1,409	7,216	26,502	59,788	41,315	67,004	67,817	1.2%	15,353	18,809
Gherkins	400	260	7,006	4,913	347	236	7,353	5,149	-30.0%	17,515	18,896
Aubergines	439	383	11,246	11,053	14	125	11,260	11,178	-0.7%	25,617	28,859
Zucchini	110	111	2,894	2,453	21	c	2,915	c	-	26,309	22,099
Pumpkin and squash	1,569	1,235	23,397	10,006	-	c	23,397	c	-	14,912	8,102
Seed Pumpkins	46	120	27	61	-	-	27	61	125.9%	587	508
Melons	2,766	2,450	26,536	23,400	59	30	26,595	23,430	-11.9%	9,594	9,551

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open-air areas (kg/ha)	
			From open-air areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019
Watermelons	4,318	4,779	94,995	96,786	-	-	94,995	96,786	1.9%	22,000	20,252
Pepper (include chilli pepper)	2,854	3,058	48,755	57,263	3,203	6,719	51,958	63,982	23.1%	17,083	18,726
Sweet maize	472	510	3,507	4,274	-	-	3,507	4,274	21.9%	7,430	8,380
Okra	470	424	2,094	1,724	-	-	2,094	1,724	-17.7%	4,455	4,066
Fresh leguminous crops, including:	667	1,153	3,468	5,781	5	3	3,473	5,784	66.5%	-	-
Garden peas - green	479	919	1,707	4,618	-	-	1,707	4,618	170.5%	3,564	5,025
Garden beans - green	188	234	1,761	1,163	5	3	1,766	1,166	-34.0%	9,367	4,970
Brassica vegetables, including:	2,125	2,013	49,834	50,282	-	114	49,834	50,396	1.1%	-	-
Headed cabbage	1,961	1,770	47,240	46,449	-	114	47,240	46,563	-1.4%	24,090	26,242
Cauliflower	92	101	1,528	1,758	-	-	1,528	1,758	15.1%	16,609	17,406
Other Brassica vegetables (broccoli and Brussels sprout)	72	142	1,066	2,075	-	-	1,066	2,075	94.7%	14,806	-
Leafy or stem vegetables (excluding Brassica vegetables), including:	632	695	6,435	4,153	4,289	2,503	10,724	6,656	-37.9%	-	-
Artichoke	168	276	294	180	-	-	294	180	-38.8%	1,750	652
Salads and lettuce	54	95	1,165	1,600	4,171	2,470	5,336	4,070	-23.7%	21,574	16,842
Spinach	132	88	327	578	c	c	c	c	-	2,477	6,568
Savory	-	84	-	134	-	-	-	134	-	-	1,595
Leek	104	55	2,284	875	-	c	2,285	c	-	21,962	15,909

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open-air areas (kg/ha)	
			From open-air areas		Greenhouse production		TOTAL				
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019
Other leafy and stem vegetables (dill, parsley, green onion, asparagus, etc.)	174	97	2,365	786	c	27	c	813	-	-	-
Tuber and bulb vegetables	5,779	4,326	71,145	55,074	231	70	71,376	55,144	-22.7%	-	-
Onion - ripe	3,675	2,625	41,798	31,376	-	-	41,798	31,376	-24.9%	11,374	11,953
Carrots	1,524	1,086	25,645	20,407	-	-	25,645	20,407	-20.4%	16,827	18,791
Garlic - ripe	418	506	1,772	2,216	-	-	1,772	2,216	25.1%	4,239	4,379
Other tuber and bulb vegetables (beetroot, seed onion, turnip, radishes, etc.)	162	109	1,930	1,075	231	70	2,161	1,145	-47.0%	-	-
Potatoes	14,096	9,291	261,594	197,382	100	28	261,694	197,410	-24.6%	18,558	21,244
Strawberries	726	703	4,791	4,479	42	86	4,833	4,565	-5.5%	6,599	6,371
Total vegetables	41,846	37,574	710,172	651,308	130,944	100,819	841,116	752,127	-10.6%	-	-
Dry leguminous crops, including:	65,912	14,042	65,118	16,912	-	-	65,118	16,912	-74.0%	-	-
Beans	1,809	1,396	2,246	1,400	-	-	2,246	1,400	-37.7%	1,242	1,003
Lentils	3,179	1,273	3,209	1,386	-	-	3,209	1,386	-56.8%	1,009	1,089
Chickpeas	59,841	11,373	58,342	14,126	-	-	58,342	14,126	-75.8%	975	1,242
Other dry legumes	1,083	-	1,321	-	-	-	1,321	-	-	-	-
Total vegetables and dried leguminous crops	107,758	51,617	775,290	668,220	130,944	100,819	906,234	769,039	-15.1%	-	-

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Vegetables Production Survey and Agricultural Crops Output Survey, with – confidential data (there are fewer than 3 holdings in the category in question)

The production of fruit and vegetables from open-air areas increased by 6.8% on an annual basis, to 334.2 thousand tonnes.

There is a significant growth in fresh legumes harvested from open areas - by nearly 67%, and slightly pronounced - in Brassica vegetables (headed cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli) - by 0.9%.

The total production of dried legumes (beans, lentils and chickpeas) from open areas in 2019 is 16.9 thousand tonnes - 74% below the 2018 rate, a decrease is observed in all three main crops.

The production of open areas of leafy and stem vegetables (except for Brassica vegetables) is shrinking - by 35.5%, as well as of tubers and bulbs- by 22.6%.

The production of potatoes from open-air areas decreased by 24.5% on an annual basis, to 197.4 thousand tonnes.

Table II.10 Total production of basic vegetables from 2018 and 2019 harvests, tonnes

Types of vegetables	Harvest 2018	Harvest 2019	Change 2019/2018
Tomatoes	148,077	145,012	-2.1%
Pepper (sweet and chilli)	51,958	63,982	23.1%
Cucumbers and gherkins	74,357	72,966	-1.9%
Watermelons	94,995	96,786	1.9%
Potatoes	261,694	197,410	-24.6%
Strawberries	4,833	4,565	-5.5%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Vegetables Production Survey

In 2019, the basic vegetable crops registered different changes in the average yield per hectare compared to 2018. There is an increase in the average yield of cucumbers - by 22.5%, potatoes - by 14.5%, sweet maize - by 12.8%, eggplant - by 12.7%, carrots - by 11.7%, pepper - by 9.6%, cabbage - by 8.9% and onions - by 5.1%, and a decrease - for strawberries, tomatoes, watermelons and pumpkins - by between 3.5% and 45.7%.

Outside the basic vegetable crops, a more significant increase in the average yield per hectare compared to 2018 was observed for green peas (by 41%) and spinach (over two and a half), and a decrease - for green beans and artichokes (respectively 46.9% and 62.7%).

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 in the country is determined by several major vegetable crops - tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, pepper and gherkins. It depends on market demand, as part of the production is designated for export.

The total production of greenhouse vegetables in 2019 amounted to 100.8 thousand tonnes, which is 23% below the 2018 level.

Among the basic greenhouse vegetables, pepper doubled its output on an annual basis, and tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins, lettuce and lettuce recorded a decrease of between 21.6% and 40.8%.

Table II.11 Greenhouse production of basic vegetables from 2018 and 2019 harvests, tonnes

Types of vegetables	Harvest 2018	Harvest 2019	Change 2019/2018
Tomatoes	62,845	49,290	-21.6%
Pepper	3,203	6,719	109.8%
Cucumbers	59,788	41,315	-30.9%
Gherkins	347	236	-32.0%
Salads and lettuce	4,171	2,470	-40.8%
Other vegetables (without mushrooms)	590	789	33.7%
Total	130,944	100,819	-23.0%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, Vegetables Production Survey

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

The types of greenhouse vegetables grown have diversified. In addition to the main greenhouse crops, potatoes, onion-green, garlic-green, zucchini, melons, strawberries, etc. were also produced.

2.2.9. Forecast data for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds from the 2020 harvest

According to forecast data available at the beginning of October, production of most of the main cereals and oilseed crops is expected to fall in 2020 compared to the previous year. This is mainly due to unfavourable climatic conditions during the marketing year, which led to a reduction in average yields per unit area.

At this stage, the production of wheat, maize, sunflower and rapeseed from the 2020 harvest is expected to be down between 14.5% and 39.8% year-on-year. Only barley production is estimated to be slightly higher than in the previous year (by about 2%), as the increased harvested areas compensates for the negative effect of lower average yields.

Table II.12 Forecast for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds in 2020

Crop	Indicator/year	2019	2020 (forecast)	Change 2020/2019
Wheat	Area (thousand ha)	1,199	1,184	-1.2%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	5.14	3.93	-23.5%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	6,162	4,658	-24.4%
Grain maize	Area (thousand ha)	561	575	2.5%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	7.11	4.00	-43.7%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	3,990	2,772	-30.5%
Barley	Area (thousand ha)	112	138	23.2%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	4.88	4.00	-18.0%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	547	560	2.3%
Sunflower	Area (thousand ha)	816	810	-0.7%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.35	1.70	-27.7%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	1,914	1,636	-14.5%
Rapeseed	Area (thousand ha)	151	115	-23.9%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.83	2.20	-22.3%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	428	258	-39.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department (2020 forecast data)

2.3. Livestock Breeding Production Results

The national livestock policy aims to create conditions for the sustainable development of the sector and to protect the interests of farmers. The spread of infectious animal diseases in 2019 complicated the epizootic situation across the country and affected the sector, in particular pig farming (African swine fever) and poultry (Avian Influenza). In order to control the spread of diseases and overcome their negative impact on the development of animal husbandry, adequate actions have been taken in the short and long term to increase biosecurity on farms and a compensatory mechanism has been developed to compensate the affected farmers. Along with that, as a priority sector in the field of agriculture, livestock is supported through various financial instruments with EU funds under the two CAP pillars (for direct payments and market measures and for rural development) as well as national funds. Providing a favourable regulatory and economic environment allows more efficient farm management, improving the profitability of production, increasing safety and product quality. This contributes to guaranteeing farmers' incomes and accelerating the economic growth of the sector.

In 2019, the classification of cattle, pig and sheep (lamb) carcasses on the EU Scales continues to apply. The purpose of the classification is to improve market transparency and make meat products more competitive on the European market, as well as to provide feedback to farmers on the results of their livestock production methods.

The downward trend in the number of farms keeping farm animals continued in 2019, mainly due to the dropout of some of the small farms. The process of sector consolidation contributed to greater farm sustainability, more efficient and cost-effective production.

Compared to the previous year, livestock farms raising cattle decreased by 16.9% and those with buffalo - by 3.1%. Sheep and goat farms are 14.6% and 22.3% less on an annual basis, respectively. A dramatic decline was registered in pig farms - by 73.8%. This is explained by measures to limit the spread of African swine fever, which have led to the temporary cessation of pig farming activities not only on some industrial farms but also on a number of small farms.

At end-2019, for almost all major farm animals there was a decrease in the number on an annual basis, as follows: cattle - by 3%, sheep - by 5.1%, goats - by 15.9%, pigs - by 24.9%. At the same time, the total number of buffaloes increased by 7.1%.

In 2019, the upward trend as regards large ruminants from the meat sector continued, contributing to the deepening of the specialization of production. At the end of the year, the number of beef cows increased by 8.8% compared to the previous year, as this growth was favoured by the applied schemes for coupled support in animal husbandry (including schemes for beef cows and animals under selection control). On the other hand, the number of meat-producing ewes decreased by 5.2% during the year.

Table II.13 Number of animals in 2018 and 2019 and forecast for 2020

Type of Animal	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2020 forecast
Cattle - total, including:	526,491	510,460	-3.0%	515,000
Cows - total, including:	340,818	331,415	-2.8%	332,400
- dairy cows	234,055	215,219	-8.0%	216,000
- beef cows	106,763	116,196	8.8%	116,400

Type of Animal	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2020 forecast
Buffaloes - total, including:	15,625	16,734	7.1%	17,000
Buffalo cows	10,309	11,471	11.3%	11,500
Sheep - total, including:	1,350,033	1,280,983	-5.1%	1,300,000
Ewes - total, including:	1,119,885	1,074,644	-4.0%	1,100,000
- dairy ewes	988,385	950,019	-3.9%	975,000
- meat-producing ewes	131,500	124,625	-5.2%	125,000
Goats - total, including:	271,734	228,493	-15.9%	231,000
she-goats	231,250	193,881	-16.2%	202,000
Pigs - total, including:	654,554	491,814	-24.9%	498,000
Total sows over 50 kg	69,987	50,858	-27.3%	51,500
Poultry - total, thousands, including:	15,519	15,565	0.3%	15,600
hens and pre-laying hens	6,951	7,107	2.2%	7,100
meat chicken	6,921	6,635	-4.1%	6,700
waterfowl	1,421	1,609	13.2%	1,600
Other poultry	226	214	-5.3%	200
Bee colonies	783,348	867,561	10.8%	870,000

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics 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.

As of 31 December 2019, 15.6 thousand birds were kept in the country - 0.3% above the level of the previous year, as the increase in the number of waterfowl (by 13.2%) and hens and pre-laying hens (by 2.2%) offset the decrease in meat chickens (by 4.1%).

The total number of bee colonies increased by 10.8% on an annual basis to 867,561.

The process of consolidation of farms continued in all species and categories of farm animals. The average number of pigs per farm increased most significantly - by 187.3% up to 289.3 heads, as the increase of sows was by 69% up to 124.3 heads. This is due to the fact that the decrease in pig holdings is more marked than in the total number of animals kept on them. The annual rise in the average number of cattle in total and cows in total was almost 17%, and of sheep in general and ewes - 15.7% and 17.8%, respectively. A more moderate increase was observed in the average number of buffaloes in total - by 7.1% and female buffaloes - by 11.3%. The average number of goats in total and she-goats was 4.9% and 3.1% higher on an annual basis, respectively.

Table II.14 Milk production in the period 01.11.2018 - 31.10.2019 by planning regions, thousand litres

Regions	Total milk	including:			
		Cow's milk	Buffalo's milk	Sheep's milk	Goat's milk
North-Western	135,132	116,467	3,721	8,898	6,046
North-Central	127,656	115,323	1,097	6,664	4,572
North-Eastern	150,196	137,855	944	7,156	4,241
South-Eastern	182,685	158,739	2,770	15,183	5,993
South-Western	71,556	52,095	1064	10,086	8,311
South-Central	244,629	217,872	3,236	16,717	6,804
Total for the country	911,854	798,351	12,832	64,704	35,967
Change 2019/2018	- 8.4%	- 8.5%	12.7%	- 6.4%	-14.2%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total production of raw milk in the country in 2019 amounted to 911,854 thousand litres - 8.4% less than the previous year, as a result of the reduced number of dairy animals as a whole. A more pronounced decline was reported in the production of goat's milk - by 14.2%, and more moderate in cow's and sheep's milk - by 8.5% and 6.4%, respectively. Buffalo's milk production alone went up on an annual basis, by 12.7%, on the back of an increase in buffaloes.

The largest share in the total output of raw material is cow's milk - 87.6%, followed by sheep's milk with 7.1%. Goat's milk accounted for 3.9% and buffalo's milk for 1.4%.

The leading region in milk production in 2019 remained the South-Central Region, with a share of 26.8%, followed by the South-Eastern Region with 20% and the North-Eastern Region with 16.5%. The lowest production was recorded in the South-Western region - 7.8%.

Table II.15 Animal Production in 2018 - 2019 and a forecast for 2020

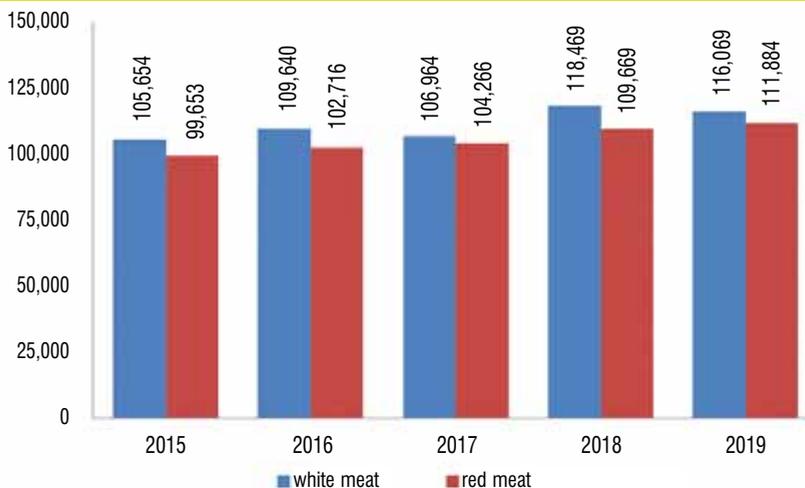
Product	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2020 forecast
1. Milk - total (thousands of litres), including:	995,023	911,854	-8.4%	929,500
Cow's milk	872,596	798,351	-8.5%	810,000
Buffalo's milk	11,389	12,832	12.7%	13,000
Sheep's milk	69,117	64,704	-6.4%	69,000
Goat's milk	41,921	35,967	-14.2%	37,500
2. Meat - total carcass weight (tonnes), including:	228,138	227,953	-0.1%	217,000
Red meat	109,669	111,884	2.0%	100,000
White meat	118,469	116,069	-2.0%	117,000

Product	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2020 forecast
3. Eggs (thousand pieces)	1,298,425	1,399,465	7.8%	1,400,000
4. Honey (tonnes)	10,338	11,518	11.4%	11,000

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2019, the total meat produced in the country amounted to 227,953 tons, which is close to the level of the previous year (-0.1%). Red meat production increased by 2% on an annual basis, to 111.9 thousand tonnes, driven by an increase in output on farms by 24.9%, while that in slaughterhouses decreased by 2.8%. The total output of white meat during the year was 116.1 thousand tonnes - 2% less than the previous year, with a decrease in both industrial production (by 1.8%) and production on farms (by 13.4%).

Figure II.3. Meat production in the period 2015 - 2019, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Honey production in 2019 stood at 11,518 tonnes - 11.4% above the level of the previous year, due to an increase of 14.5% in the number of bee colonies, with a slightly lower average output (16.4 kg per bee colony).

The output of poultry eggs increased by 7.8% on an annual basis, reaching 1,399,465 thousand. In the case of hen eggs, which form 98.3% of the total egg production over the year, an increase of 8% was reported.

Expected Data for 2020

In 2020, the total number of all categories of farm animals was expected to be around or slightly above the levels of the previous year.

According to preliminary data of the Agrostatics Department of the MAFF, in January - July 2020 a total of 105,393 tonnes of meat were produced in the country's slaughterhouses - down 10.5% on an annual basis, including: 39,273 tonnes of red meat and 66,120 tonnes of white meat. Compared to the same period of the previous year, the industrial yield of red meat decreased by 24.2% due to a decrease of 27.3% in pork, which represents about 88% of the total production of red meat. The total yield of white meat marked a slight increase on an annual basis - by 0.4%. About 76% of white meat production is formed by broiler chickens, and for the first seven months of 2020 were produced 50,492 tonnes - 2.7% less than the same period in 2019. At the same time, duck meat production rose by about 14% to 12,615 tonnes.

Total meat production in 2020 is projected to be about 5% below the level of the previous year, amounting to about 217 thousand tonnes, including 100 thousand tonnes of red meat (-10.6%) and 117 thousand tonnes of white meat (+ 0.8%).

In the first eight months of 2020, a total of 499,385 thousand litres of milk were processed in dairy companies, including 466,530 thousand litres cow's milk - up 5.2% and 5.6%, respectively on an annual basis.

With a projected slight increase in the number of dairy animals, the total production of raw milk in the country for the whole of 2020 is seen to increase by nearly 2% on an annual basis, to just under 930 thousand litres. This includes about 810 thousand litres of cow's milk, 69 thousand litres of sheep's milk, 38 thousand litres of goat's milk and 13 thousand litres of buffalo's milk, with the most significant increase expected in sheep's milk.

Egg production is expected to remain around the level of the previous year, and honey production - to fall by about 4.5% due to adverse weather conditions during the year.

2.3.1. Cattle Breeding and Buffalo Breeding

In 2019, the process of specialisation of production in cattle breeding continued, characterized by the transition from dairy to meat production.

As of 1 November 2019, the total number of cattle in the country was 3% below the level a year ago, amounting to 510,460. The number of dairy cows decreased by 8%, at the expense of the increasing number of beef cows - by 8.8%. Thus, the share of beef cows in the total number of cows reached 35% compared to 31.3% a year earlier.

Table II.16 Distribution of cattle by region in 2018 and 2019

Regions	01.11.2018				01.11.2019			
	Cattle		Cows		Cattle		Cows	
	thousand heads	share						
North-Western	62.6	11.9%	41.9	12.3%	59.7	11.7%	39.8	12.0%
North-Central	57.5	10.9%	35.7	10.5%	55.5	10.9%	33.1	10.0%
North-Eastern	66.8	12.7%	38.8	11.4%	64.0	12.5%	36.3	10.9%
South-Eastern	101.6	19.3%	65.5	19.2%	97.9	19.2%	64.3	19.4%
South-Western	72.6	13.8%	46.3	13.6%	71.0	13.9%	44.6	13.5%
South-Central	165.4	31.4%	112.6	33.0%	162.4	31.8%	113.3	34.2%
Total for the country	526.5	100%	340.8	100%	510.5	100%	331.4	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The total number of cows in 2019 fell by 2.8% compared to the previous year, to 331.4 thousand. About a third of them (113.3 thousand) are raised in the South-Central region, incl. 28.4% of dairy cows in the country and 45% of beef cows.

By the end of 2019, the total number of cow rearing holdings went down by 26.2% on an annual basis to 14,403. The steepest decrease was registered in the number of the smallest farms with 1 - 2 dairy cows - by 32.7%, as well as the animals in them - by 29.2%. The slightest decrease was recorded in the large farms with 50 and more animals and the animals raised in them, with 59% of dairy cows in the country being reared on such farms during the year.

By the end of the year, the average size of dairy farms increased to 14.9 heads (compared to 12 heads in 2018).

Table II.17 Distribution of dairy cows by number of farmed animals as of 01.11.2019

Number of farmed animals	Farms		Dairy cows	
	thousand heads	Change 2019/2018	thousand heads	Change 2019/2018
1 - 2	8.9	-32.7%	10.9	-29.2%
3 - 9	1.5	-15.8%	7.4	-14.0%
10 -19	1.1	-15.1%	15.4	-12.5%
20 -49	1.7	-13.1%	54.5	-11.4%
50 - 99	0.8	-5.5%	49.8	-5.9%
100 and more	0.4	-0.8%	77.2	-1.0%
Total	14.4	-26.2%	215.2	-8.0%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Due to the reduced number of dairy cows, cow milk production in 2019 was 8.5% down from the previous year, amounting to 798,351 thousand litres.

Traditionally, the South-Central Region accounted for the largest share of total cow milk production - 27.3%, followed by South-Eastern region - 19.9%, and North-Eastern region - 17.3%. The South-Western Region had the smallest share in cow's milk production - 6.5%.

At the end of 2019, there were 318 buffalo farms - down 5.4% year-on-year, while the number of buffaloes in them increased by 11.3%. The average size of buffalo farms increased to 38.3 heads (compared to 34.3 heads in 2018).

The decrease in the number of buffalo farms during the year is at the expense of the categories with between 10 and 19 buffaloes and with 1 - 2 animals. In the other categories of farms and the number of animals in them there was an increase compared to the previous year, which is most significant in farms with between 3 and 9 buffaloes. Nearly 90% of buffaloes in the country are raised on farms with 20 or more animals.

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

Due to the larger number of buffaloes farmed, in 2019 the production of buffalo milk increased by 12.7% compared to the previous year, reaching 12,832 thousand litres.

Table II.18 Distribution of buffaloes by region in 2018 and 2019

Regions	01.11.2018				01.11.2019			
	Buffaloes total		Buffalo cows		Buffaloes total		Buffalo cows	
	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share
North-Western	4.5	28.7%	2.9	28.6%	4.4	26.3%	3.2	27.5%
North-Central	1.4	8.9%	0.9	8.2%	1.7	10.1%	0.9	8.2%
North-Eastern	1.1	7.3%	0.8	7.6%	1.2	6.9%	0.8	6.6%
South-Eastern	3.4	21.9%	2.3	22.8%	3.5	21.2%	2.5	21.6%
South-Western	1.6	10.0%	0.9	8.3%	1.7	10.4%	1.1	10.0%
South-Central	3.6	23.2%	2.5	24.5%	4.2	25.1%	3.0	26.1%
Total for the country	15.6	100%	10.3	100%	16.7	100%	11.5	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The total beef production in the country in 2019 amounted to 16,867 tonnes expressed in carcass weight - up 4.4% on the level of the previous year, considering a growth on farms of 26.1% and a drop in abattoirs by 22.2%. Beef accounted for 15.1% of total red meat produced for the year.

Table II.19 Beef production in 2018 and 2019 (tonnes of carcass weight)

Categories of animals	In abattoirs			On farms			Total production		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2019	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Calves and young cattle	592	475	- 19.8%	6,530	5,720	-12.4%	7,122	6,195	-13.0%
Other cattle	6,665	5,168	- 22.5%	2,369	5,504	132.3%	9,034	10,672	18.1%
Total for the country	7,257	5,643	-22.2%	8,899	11,224	26.1%	16,156	16,867	4.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2019, a total of 10,953 cattle over 8 months of age were classified on the EUROP scale, which was 1.8% more than in 2018. Abattoirs that classify cattle carcasses during the year were eight.

The highest was the share of category D cows - 69.3%, followed by cattle with category A - young bull, E - heifer, B - bull, Z - animal aged 8 to 12 months and C - castrated males - 17%, 5.3%, 4.9%, 3.3% and 0.2%, respectively.

The main part of the classified beef was from dairy 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) - 44.6% and fatness class 2 (slight) - 49.7%.

2.3.2. Sheep Breeding and Goat Breeding

Appropriate natural and climatic conditions and long traditions 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 01.11.2019, a total of 1,280,983 sheep were farmed in the country - 5.1% below the level a year earlier. The decrease in the total number of ewes was 4%, as in the dairy field it was by 3.9% (to 950,019), and in meat-producing ewes - by 5.2% (to 124,625). A more significant drop was reported in the number of animals in the category of other sheep (including lambs) - by 17.5% and rams - by 12.1%.

The number of farms raising sheep and ewes at the end of 2019 decreased by 18% and 18.5% respectively year-on-year. As a result, the average number of sheep on a farm increased by 15.7%, reaching 72 heads and that of ewes - by 17.8%, up to 61.1 heads.

Traditionally, sheep breeding is mainly concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, with about 68% of the total population raised in 2019. The largest number of ewes was bred on the territory of the South-Central Region, followed by the South-Eastern and South-Western regions. Out of the northern regions, the North-Eastern remained the leading region of the country.

In 2019, the number of large sheep farms raising 300 or more ewes and flocks increased by 14.1% on an annual basis, and the number of animals in them - by 9.3%. In other farms there was a decrease, most significant in those with up to 9 ewes, which went down by 30%, and the animals on them - by 30.2%.

Table II.20 Distribution of sheep by region in 2018 and 2019 (thousand heads)

Regions	Sheep total, thousand heads			Including ewes, thousand heads		
	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)
North-Western	126.8	120.3	9.4%	109.6	103.4	9.6%
North-Central	120.6	114.9	9.0%	104.4	94.7	8.8%
North-Eastern	212.5	173.1	13.5%	161.0	145.2	13.5%
South-Eastern	300.4	289.1	22.5%	249.7	242.4	22.6%
South-Western	255.4	244.4	19.1%	211.6	195.0	18.1%
South-Central	334.3	339.2	26.5%	283.6	293.9	27.4%
Total for the country	1,350.0	1,280.9	100%	1,119.9	1,074.6	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The goats raised in the country at the end of 2019 totalled 228,493 - down almost 16% versus a year earlier, while she-goats decreased by 16.2%.

Farms breeding goats in total and she-goats decreased by 19.8% and 18.6% respectively compared to the previous year. Thus, the average size of goat herds in general increased by 4.9%, up to 23.6, and that of farms with she-goats - by 3.1%, up to 20.2.

In 2019, there was a significant drop in the largest farms with 100 or more pregnant goats - by 30.4%, and the smallest with 1 to 9 animals - by 24%. The number of animals in these categories of farms is also reduced - respectively by 24.1% and 25.1% compared to 2018. At the same time, farms keeping between 50 and 99 breeding goats and those with between 10 and 19 animals increased by 26.4%, and 19.2%, respectively, and the number of animals on them - by 18% and 13.3%.

Goat farming was concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, with over 63% of goats being kept there in 2019. The Southwestern Region with a share of 27.5% of the animals in it remains a leader. Of the northern regions, the largest number of goats were bred in the Northwestern region.

Table II.21 Distribution of goats by region in 2018 and 2019 (thousands heads)

Regions	Goats in total			incl. she-goats		
	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)
North-Western	39.9	31.7	13.9%	34.2	28.9	14.9%
North-Central	27.2	24.4	10.7%	24.4	20.4	10.5%
North-Eastern	29.0	28.7	12.6%	23.6	23.9	12.3%
South-Eastern	43.2	37.3	16.3%	37.3	32.7	16.9%
South-Western	88.1	63.0	27.5%	71.9	50.6	26.1%
South-Central	44.3	43.4	19.0%	39.9	37.4	19.3%
Total for the country	271.7	228.5	100%	231.3	193.9	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Milk produced in the country from ovine and caprine animals in 2019 went down by 9.3% on an annual basis, to 100,671 thousand litres, including: sheep's - 64,704 thousand litres and goat's - 35,967 thousand litres. Compared to the previous year, sheep's milk output fell by 6.4%, while goat's milk shrunk by 14.2%. The relative share of sheep milk in the total dairy production during the year was 7.1% and of goat milk - 3.9%.

About 65% of sheep milk and 59% of goat milk were produced in Southern Bulgaria, where most of the sheep and goats were farmed.

The total meat yield from ovine and caprine animals is 11,703 tonnes of slaughter weight, 6.2% more than in the previous year, forming a share of about 10.5% of the total volume of red meat produced during the year. The production of sheep meat increased by 5.1% on an annual basis, to 10,014 tonnes, and that of goat - by 13.7%, to 1,689 tonnes.

The classification of light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) in 2019 was applied in three abattoirs. A total of 12,035 light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) were classified - two and a half times more than in 2018. Nearly 86% of them were light carcasses (up to 13 kg), and about 78% were classified as first quality.

The largest was the share of light carcasses weighing from 10.1 kg to 13 kg - category C - 57.4%. Those weighing from 7.1 kg to 10 kg - category B, followed by 42.6%. 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 2019, were 1,692 - a 39% increase compared to the previous year.

In 2019, all classified heavy lambs were in conformation class O (fair), with the highest proportion of those classified with fatness class 2 (lean) 69.8%.

For 2020, the number of classified sheep is expected to increase compared to 2019, while maintaining the number of slaughterhouses that perform classification.

2.3.3. Pig Farming

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

Outbreaks of African swine fever in 2019 severely affected the sector, leading to a significant reduction in livestock numbers. During the year, more than 190,000 pigs died or were forcefully killed.

As of 1 November 2019, the total number of pigs in the country was 491,814 - down 24.9% year-on-year. The total number of breeding sows decreased by 27.3% to 50,858, including the main sows - by 27.5% (to 37,327). Compared to the previous year, the number of pig farms decreased by a total of 73.8%, and that of sows - by 57.1%.

Just over 68% of all pigs were concentrated in two planning regions - North-East and South-East. The smallest number of pigs are farmed in the South-West region - only 2%. In terms of the distribution of the main sows, the South-East is a leader, followed by the North-East.

Table II.22 Distribution of pigs by region in 2018 and 2019 (thousands heads)

Regions	Pigs in total			Main sows		
	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)	01.11.2018	01.11.2019	Share (2019)
North-Western	27.0	17.5	3.5%	2.6	2.5	6.6%
North-Central	197.6	70.2	14.3%	14.2	5.6	15.1%
North-Eastern	219.6	211.8	43.1%	13.2	10.1	26.9%
South-Eastern	139.4	122.8	25.0%	12.6	10.5	28.2%
South-Western	15.9	9.9	2.0%	1.5	1.3	3.5%
South-Central	55.1	59.6	12.1%	7.4	7.3	19.7%
Total for the country	654.6	491.8	100%	51.5	37.3	100%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In almost all regions of the country, except for the South-Central, there was an increase in the number of pigs farmed, compared to the previous year. The North Central region was most severely affected by African swine fever, where the number of pigs farmed went down 64.4% on an annual basis and the number of sows shrunk 60.1%.

The total number of farms raising breeding swine (over 50 kg) at the end of 2019 decreased by 50.8% compared to the previous year and the number of animals on them increased by 27.3%. The most significant decrease was marked by the number of small family farms with 1-2 animals, which were diminished by 63.5%, and sows in them - by 40%. The number of large pig farms with 200 or more female breeding pigs decreased by 13.3% on an annual basis, with 27.3% fewer animals being reared in them. About 90% of female breeding pigs in the country are concentrated in this category.

Table II.23 Distribution of breeding female swine over 50 kg according to the number of animals bred on a farm as of 01.11.2019

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Breeding females over 50 kg	
	Number	Change 2019/2018	thousand heads	Change 2019/2018
1-2	158	-63.5%	0.3	-40.0%
3-9	74	-52.9%	0.3	- 57.1%
10-49	61	-1.6%	1.4	0.0%
50-199	31	-24.4%	2.9	- 27.5%
200 and more	39	-13.3%	46.0	- 27.3%
Total	363	-50.8%	50.9	- 27.3%

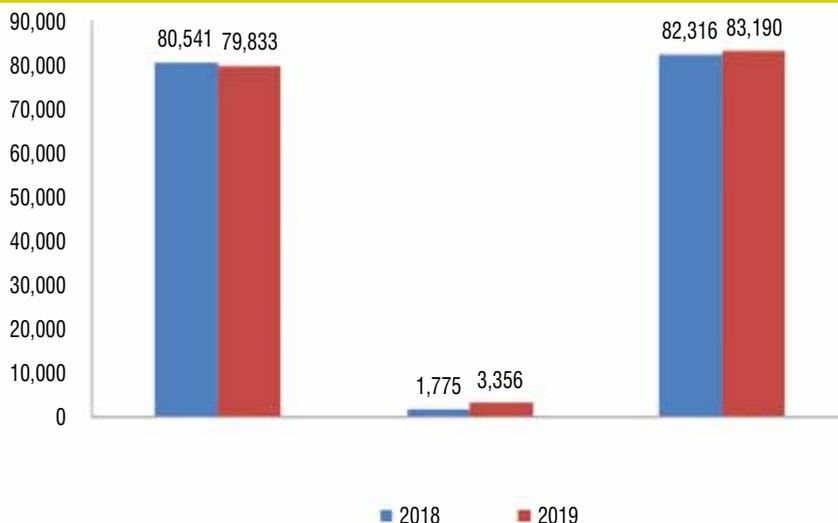
Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2019, the state aid scheme for the implementation of voluntary five-year commitments for welfare of pigs continued to apply. Subsidies were awarded annually and covered the additional costs or lost income associated with these commitments.

Pork production in 2019 increased by 1.1% year-on-year, to 83,190 tonnes, of which 79,833 tonnes - produced in slaughterhouses and 3,357 tonnes - in livestock farms. Industrial pork production was 0.9% below the level of the previous year, while production on livestock farms almost doubled due to the imposed sanitary measures due to ASF.

Traditionally, pork production occupies the largest share in the total production of red meat in the country, and in 2019 it was about 74%.

Figure II.4. Pork production in 2018 and 2019, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2019, a total of 46,758 pig carcasses were classified under the Carcass Classification Scale (S)EUROP - 52% fewer than in 2018, due to African swine fever. There are two slaughterhouses that performed classification during the year (one of which operated only in the first quarter of the year, and the other one - until July).

Slightly over 79% of pigs classified during the year ranked class E, with a lean meat content of 55% to 60% of the carcass weight, and 20.3% - with a conformation class U - from 50% to 55% content of lean meat.

Table II.24 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
2019	151	37,081	9,491	35			46,758

Source: MAFF, Livestock Directorate

With the regression equation applied in Bulgaria, only steamed pig carcasses are classified. The slaughterhouses performing classification in 2019 classified nearly 71% of the total slaughtered and steamed pigs, which form only 5.6% of the industrial production in the country.

For 2020, the number of classified pigs is expected to be around the level of 2019, since no new regression equation for the classification of skinned pigs has been developed.

2.3.4. Horse Breeding

According to expert estimates, in 2019 the number of equidae (including horses) in Bulgaria remained at about 116 thousand. Their main purpose is as draught power in agriculture.

Kabiyuk Horse Farm is the only state-owned enterprise operating in the sector, which breeds Bulgarian and foreign horse breeds, such as Karakachan horse, East Bulgarian horse, Pleven horse, Thoroughbred English horse, Thoroughbred Arabian horse, Arabian Shagia, etc. The remaining horses are bred 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 further continued 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 2019.

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.

The total number of birds farmed in the country at the end of 2019 is 15,565 thousand - 0.3% more than the previous year, including: 7,107 thousand hens and laying hens, 6,635 thousand meat chickens, 23 thousand turkeys, 1,573 thousand ducks, 36 thousand geese and 191 thousand other birds.

Compared to a year earlier, the number of hens and laying hens increased by 2.2% and that of ducks - by 11.7%. There is an even more significant increase in geese - almost three times, but this species has a small population and does not have a significant impact on the total number. A serious decrease was recorded in turkeys - by 34.3%, and a moderate slide - in meat chickens - by 4.1%.

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

Type of poultry	2017	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Adult and young laying hens	6,898	6,951	7,107	2.2%
Meat chickens	5,966	6,921	6,635	-4.1%
Turkeys	30	35	23	-34.3%
Ducks	1,666	1,408	1,573	11.7%
Geese	16	13	36	176.9%
Other poultry (quails, ostriches and guinea fowl)	180	191	191	0.0%
Total	14,756	15,519	15,565	0.3%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

The development of poultry farming is favourably influenced by the state aid scheme for the implementation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of birds (for fattening and egg production) for a period of five years, the implementation of which continues in 2019. A European Commission decision in March 2019 changed the scheme and turkeys, ducks and geese were added to the 'parents of hen type'. The change is related to a modification in the scope of support and concerns the addition of the current Measure B - Ensuring free floor space not less than 10% above the mandatory standard.

Table II.26 Number of poultry by species and regions in 2019, thousand heads

Regions	Laying hens and young laying hens	Meat chickens	Hens and chickens in total	Turkeys	Ducks	Other poultry	Poultry, total	Change 2019/2018 poultry, total
North-Western	732	480	1,212	6	109	9	1,336	-3.0%
North-Central	1,803	2,854	4,657	1	158	6	4,822	-24.0%
North-Eastern	1,667	1,342	3,009	4	77	9	3,099	20.9%
South-Eastern	1,094	1,741	2,835	4	323	58	3,220	50.0%
South-Western	c	c	506	2	2	120	630	-28.4%
South-Central	c	c	1,523	6	904	25	2,458	11.3%
Total for the country	7,107	6,635	13,742	23	1,573	227	15,565	0.3%
Change 2019/2018	2.2%	-4.1%	0.9%	-34.3%	11.7%	11.3%	0.3%	

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department, with confidential data

By the end of 2019, about 59% of laying hens, 65% of meat chickens and 48% of turkeys were raised in the northern regions of the country, and about 58% of ducks were concentrated in the South Central region.

Farms keeping egg producing birds - laying hens and young laying hens, decreased by 13.4% on an annual basis, to 50,177. There was a decrease in the number of farms keeping up to 10 thousand hens and pre-laying hens - by 13.4% and poultry in them - by 11.4%. At the same time, the number of industrial farms with between 10,000 and 99,999 and 100,000 or more birds increased by about 6% on an annual basis, and the poultry farmed on them - by 9.7% and 2.8%, respectively. At the end of 2019, nearly 87% of laying hens and young birds were raised on large farms with 10,000 or more birds.

The farming of meat chickens was also concentrated in large poultry holdings - in 2019, nearly 98% of broilers were on farms with more than 10,000 birds. During the year, the bird flu disease was registered on the territory of the country, affecting large poultry farms. This is a major factor in reducing the number of farms raising 100 thousand and more birds by 15.4% on an annual basis and the chickens on them - by 6.9%. Poultry farms with 10,000 - 99,999 birds were 7.4% more than the previous year, but there was a slight decrease of 1.6% in the number of chickens raised in them.

In 2019, the total production of eggs increased by 7.8% on an annual basis, reaching 1,399,465 thousand, including: 1,375,713 thousand of hens and 23,752 thousand of other birds. Of the total number of eggs obtained from hens, 1,153,123 thousand were for consumption, 5.5% more on an annual basis. The reported increase of the breeding eggs of the hen species is more marked - by 23.2%, to 222 590 thousand.

By planning regions, the North-East region, North-Central and South-Central regions were leaders in egg production in 2019.

Table II.27 Egg production in 2019 by planning regions, thousand

Regions	Chicken eggs	Other eggs	Total eggs	Change 2019/2018
North-Western	122,859	881	123,740	2.9%
North-Central	330,896	1,906	332,802	1.7%
North-Eastern	371,801	900	372,701	34.8%
South-Eastern	188,807	6,644	195,451	15.0%
South-Western	76,002	9,002	85,004	10.8%
South-Central	285,348	4,419	289,767	-11.6%
Total for the country	1,375,713	23,752	1,399,465	7.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2019, the country produced a total of 116,069 tonnes of poultry meat and by-products - 2% below the level of the previous year. Industrial production is 1.8% lower on an annual basis, and farm yields, which generally account for a relatively small share, fell by 13.4%. Nearly 83% of the meat produced in the country was of the chicken species.

Table II.28 Production of poultry meat and by-products during the period 2018 - 2019

	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
In abattoirs	116,537	114,396	-1.8%
On farms	1,932	1,673	-13.4%
Total	118,469	116,069	-2.0%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

2.3.6. Apiculture

The long traditions and the favourable natural, climatic and ecological conditions in Bulgaria are beneficial for the development of beekeeping. 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 1 October 2019, there are 13,771 bee farms in the country, in which 867,561 bee colonies are kept - respectively by 12.3% and 10.8% more on an annual basis. The average number of bee colonies kept on a farm during the year reached 63, compared to 63.9 in 2018.

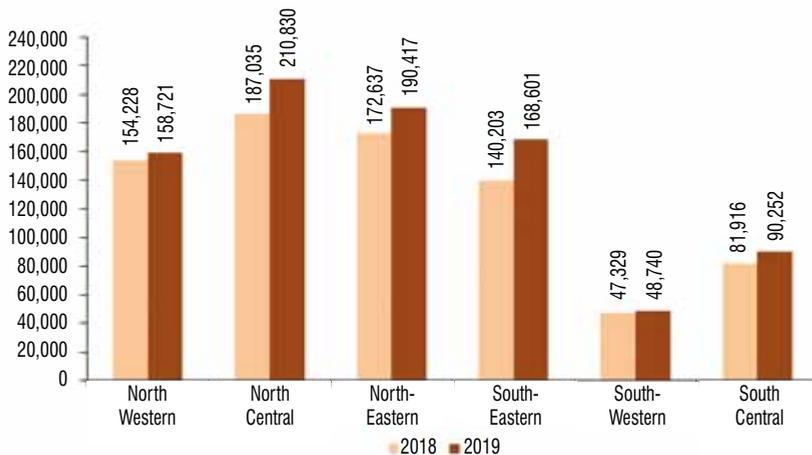
Table II.29 Number bee farms and bee colonies as of 1 October

Number of bee colonies on a farm	Number of farms			Number of bee colonies			Average number of bee colonies		
	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
from 1 to 9	2,510	2,440	-2.8%	11,550	10,450	-9.5%	4.6	4.3	-6.5%
from 10 to 49	4,584	5,678	23.9%	106,891	131,487	23.0%	23.3	23.2	-0.4%
from 50 to 149	3,526	4,093	16.1%	302,870	375,201	23.9%	85.9	91.7	6.8%
150 and more	1,640	1,560	-4.9%	362,037	350,423	-3.2%	220.8	224.6	1.7%
Total	12,260	13,771	12.3%	783,348	867,561	10.8%	63.9	63.0	-1.4%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Bee-keeping is more widespread in Northern and South-Eastern Bulgaria, where in 2019 more than 84% of bee colonies were farmed. The largest number of bee colonies were in the North Central and North-Eastern regions, followed by the South-Eastern and North-Western regions.

Figure II.5. Number of bee colonies by region in 2018 and 2019



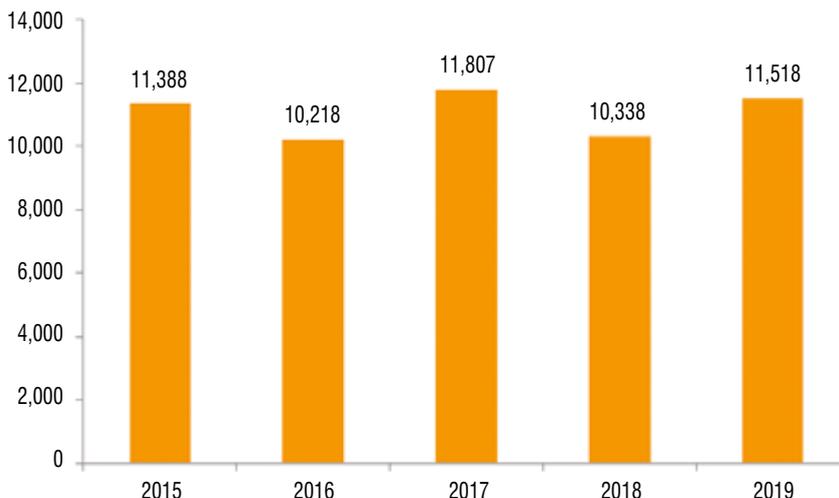
Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

In 2019, the number of bee colonies where honey was extracted reached 702,851 - 14.5% more than a year earlier. With a slight decrease in the average yield of a bee colony (16.4 kg), honey production increased by 11.4% to 11,518 tonnes.

The sales of honey and average selling prices (net of VAT) in 2019 were as follows:

- Direct sales to end consumers - 1,779 tonnes - BGN 7.13 /kg;
- Direct sales to retailers - 307 tonnes - BGN 6.21/kg;
- Sales to processing facilities - 3,734 tonnes - BGN 4.18/kg;
- Sales to the industry - 454 tonnes - BGN 4.04/kg;
- For own needs and nutrition of bees - 1,561 tonnes.

Figure II.6. Honey production in the period 2015 - 2019, tonnes



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total quantities of honey sold in 2019 decreased by 4% on an annual basis, to 7,835 tonnes. A significant decline was reported in direct sales to retailers - by 44.1%, and a more moderate in sales to processing facilities - by 11.3%. Direct sales to end consumers and those for industry increased by 16.8% and 40%, respectively, and the quantities of honey for own consumption and feeding of bees remained largely flat (+0.5%). As of 1 October 2019, the unsold quantities of honey were 5,223 tonnes, 59% more than a year earlier.

In 2019, diseases, poisoning, famine and other causes destroyed a total of 58,377 bee colonies - 15.1% more than the previous year.

Varoasis is a common disease in Europe, including Bulgaria. Its invasion significantly affects the yields and its treatment measures affect the quality of honey. In 2019, 856,699 bee colonies were treated (99% of the total number), at an average cost of one treatment BGN 5.00, which is by 2.3% less than the cost of the previous year.

The feeding of bee colonies during the year included: winter - 607,131, spring - 667,905 and autumn feeding - 610,310 bee colonies.

Farms practising mobile apiculture in 2019 decreased by 14.8% on an annual basis, down to 310 farms, and bee colonies on them - by 5.6%, down to 25,081.

Within the fourth three-year National Beekeeping Programme (NBP), applicable for the period 2017 - 2019, a budget of BGN 4,758,590 (including 50% national co-financing) was provided for the financial year 2019. The funds allocated to the beekeepers stood at BGN 3,677,335, or 77.3% of the total resource. The highest percentage of budget absorption was achieved under measure A - „Technical assistance for beekeepers and beekeepers' associations“ - 89%, followed by measure B - „Fight against aggressors and diseases in the hive, especially against varroasis“ - 78% and Measure E - „Measures to support the renewal of beehives in the European Union“ - 76%.

In 2019, the new three-year NBP 2020-2022 was developed, which was approved by the EC with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/974 of 12 June 2019.

The Programme's total budget increased by over 30% to BGN 6.4 million for each of the three years of its implementation, of which 50% from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and 50% from the national budget. For the first time, it will finance the costs of mobile beekeeping, which on the one hand will ensure diverse pastures for bee colonies and increase the yield of honey and bee products, and on the other hand will lead to the preservation of existing biodiversity of plant and tree species. Activities related to conducting training events for good practices in beekeeping have also been introduced. The 2020-2022 NBP will also support the organisation of bazaars, where local beekeepers will be able to offer their bee products in order to promote them and boost consumption. For the first time, the Programme envisages a number of other activities associated with research related to the health status of bees.

2.3.7. Rabbit Breeding

According to expert estimates, the total number of rabbits in the country in 2019 was about 115 thousand, and their breeding in recent years is more of an amateur nature.

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. Condition of Organic Farming in Bulgaria in 2019

The availability of quality land resources, climatic conditions, traditions in the development of the agricultural sector and good production experience in the crop and livestock sub-sectors underpin the development of organic farming in our country.

The sector of organic farming is dominated by a specific method of production, which maintains the environmental balances and produces in line with the principles of the ecological cycles: plants - animals - soil.

Information on the state of organic production in Bulgaria for 2019 is based on the data from the annual reports of a total of 14 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.

At the end of 2019, the total number of organic operators registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was 6,405 - down 255 year-on-year, of which 5,942 were agricultural producers, 237 processors of organic products and 226 traders (importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers).

In 2019, the number of operators in a control system in organic production represented nearly 7.3% of the total farmers registered 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 7.2%.

2.4.2. Organic plant growing

The total areas on which the methods of organic production applied (areas in transition and organic areas) in 2019 covered 226 thousand ha - up 39.2% than in 2018. Their share in the total utilized agricultural area in the country reached 4.5%, versus 3.2% in the previous year.

Table II.30 Areas in a control system (ha), including „in transition“ and „organic“ (ha)

Crop groups	2018	2019
Cereals, incl. rice	21,019.4	48,120.6
Grain legumes, protein crops for leguminous grain production	17,380.2	12,927.3
Root crops	1,366.8	539.5
Industrial crops - total	31,272.7	44,137.7
Green/Forage crops from arable land	1,119.7	439.0
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (greenhouse and field production)	5,526.8	7,905.4
Perennials	38,188.5	82,083.1
Permanent meadows and pastures	40,751.0	27,338.9
Fallow	5,707.1	2,510.1
Total Lands within Control System	162,332.4	226,001.5

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

Table II.31 Areas of organic production and areas in transition (ha)

Type of crops	Areas in transition		Areas that have passed the transition period		Total area	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Cereals, incl. rice	3,991.3	5,439.7	17,028.1	42,680.9	21,019.4	48,120.6
Industrial crops	8,707.7	7,842.1	22,565.0	36,295.7	31,272.7	44,137.7
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms	2,336.3	1,202.1	3,190.5	6,703.4	5,526.8	7,905.4
Perennials	15,408.6	18,179.9	22,779.9	63,903.1	38,188.5	82,083.1
Permanent meadows and pastures	16,100.2	7,036.2	24,650.8	20,302.7	40,751.0	27,338.9
Forage crops from arable land (Green crops)	277.5	71.8	842.3	367.2	1,119.7	439.0
Fallow	2,362.5	1,165.3	3,344.6	1,344.8	5,707.1	2,510.1

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

In 2019, the areas under cereals and perennials in the control system more than doubled compared to the previous year, amounting to 48,120.6 ha and 82,083.1 ha, respectively. In cereals, the tendency for predominant cultivation of wheat, maize, barley and oats is preserved.

There is a serious increase in the total areas in the control system occupied by industrial crops - by 12,865 ha, to 44,137.7 ha, as well as in those with fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries and cultivated mushrooms - by 2,378.7 ha, to 7,905.4 ha.

The areas under aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices (included in the group „industrial crops”) amount to 16 559.7 ha - 3 988.4 ha less on an annual basis. The largest share of them is occupied by the areas with lavender (4,434.1 ha), followed by those with coriander (4,144 ha), fennel (3,064.1 ha) and oil-bearing rose (1,506.9 ha).

As of the end of 2019, 27,338.9 ha with permanent meadows and pastures were in a control system, which is a decrease of 13,412.1 ha compared to the previous year.

2.4.3. Organic Livestock Breeding

In 2019, the trend for weaker development of the organic livestock sector in Bulgaria compared to organic crop production continued. In the country, organically raised were chiefly cattle, sheep, goats and bee colonies.

Table II.32 Farm animals in control system

	Groups of organically farmed animals		Total number of animals farmed in 2019	Share of organically farmed animals out of the total number of animals for 2019
	2018	2019		
Cattle	11,359	10,914	510,460	2.1%
Sheep	23,636	22,982	1,280,983	1.8%
Goats	9,339	9,175	228,493	4.0%
Bee colonies	264,069	239,223	867,561	27.6%

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

In 2019 there is a contraction in the number of farm animals in the control system compared to the previous year. For cattle the decrease was 445, for sheep - 654, for goats - 164, and for bee colonies - 24,846.

In 2019, 11,071.7 tonnes of raw milk, 5.4 tonnes of cream, 8.9 tonnes of butter, 246.5 tonnes of cheese, 3,000 tonnes of mussels and 3.6 tonnes of seaweed were produced organically. During the year, 3,128.3 tonnes of honey and bee products were extracted from organic beekeeping.

The quantities produced from the listed products were close to those reported in 2018.

2.4.4. Organic Products Market

The market of organic products in Bulgaria is developing at a faster pace compared to their production. The majority of organic food in our country is exported, mainly to the European market. Bulgaria is one of the largest exporters of wild dried berries

and herbs. Organic frozen fruits (strawberries, raspberries and blueberries), honey, essential oils of rose, lavender, mint, cheese, yellow cheese and jams are exported and are very successful on the international markets. Bulgarian organic products are competitive in foreign markets because they are not inferior in quality, meet all requirements and standards and are unique.

The number of specialized stores for sale of organic food is increasing, as well as the number of retail outlets involved in organic food distribution.

2.5. Viticulture and Wine-Production

2.5.1. Grapes Production

Areas

In 2019, the area of vineyards on the farms decreased by 1.2% compared to the previous year, down to 50,100 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 13,912 ha.

Table II.33 Vineyards in Bulgaria for the period 2010 - 2019

Year	Vineyards on agricultural farms, ha	Vineyards outside farms, ha	Total area of vineyards, ha
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
2019	50,100	13,912	64,012

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total area planted with vines in 2019 was 64,012 ha, by 0.6% more than the previous year.

Traditionally, the largest share of vineyards on the farms (about 71%) is in the Southern part of the country, mainly in the Southeast and South-Central regions.

Table II.34 Distribution of vineyards in 2019 by location of farms

Regions	Total area (ha)	Including harvested (ha)	Harvested,%
North-Western	4,965	2,231	45%
North-Central	2,608	1,462	56%
North-Eastern	4,238	2,515	59%
South-Eastern	16,871	10,543	62%
South-Western	2,966	2,366	80%
South-Central	18,452	10,934	59%
Total	50,100	30,051	60%

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

2019 saw a 4% year-on-year drop in the total harvested areas of vines.

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 29% and 17% respectively. At the same time, in the North-West, South-Central and North-Central regions there was an increase in the harvested areas with white wine varieties by between 12% and 35%. Red wine varieties recorded a decrease of about 4%, mainly due to smaller harvested areas in the North-East, North-West and South-East regions. In the dessert varieties of vineyards, the total harvested areas were about 4% more than in 2018, and a significant increase in these areas is reported in the North-East region - by about 57%.

Due to bad weather conditions, no production was harvested from 2,656 ha of fruit-bearing vineyards.

Table II.35 Distribution of harvested vineyards in 2018-2019 by statistical regions

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine varieties (ha)		Table varieties (ha)		Total vineyards (ha)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
North-Western	1,821	1,583	461	624	35	24	2,317	2,231
North-Central	653	720	614	690	76	52	1,343	1,462
North-Eastern	758	637	1,838	1,787	58	91	2,654	2,515
South-Eastern	4,873	4,332	6,838	5,699	565	512	12,276	10,543
South-Western	2,033	2,063	68	48	275	255	2,376	2,366
South-Central	7,917	8,005	1,508	1,853	929	1,076	10,354	10,934
Total	18,055	17,340	11,237	10,701	1,938	2,010	31,320	30,051

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Red wine varieties continued to be leaders in the structure of vineyards in 2019, with a relative share of about 58%, followed by areas with white wine varieties - about 36%, and table varieties - about 7%.

Average yields

The average yield of wine grape varieties in 2019 were 5,880 kg/ha, down 5.4% on the previous year. At the same time, the table varieties of vineyards showed a decrease in the average yield by 4.7% to 6,390 kg / ha.

Table II.36 Average yield of grapes from the vineyards - 2019 harvest

Regions	Average yield from vineyards (kg/ha)	
	White wine varieties	Table varieties
North-Western	3,944	3,375
North-Central	3,465	4,769
North-Eastern	5,726	4,044
South-Eastern	6,756	6,840
South-Western	5,356	4,690
South-Central	5,917	6,922
Bulgaria	5,880	6,390

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The highest average yields of wine varieties were reported in the South-Eastern and South-Central Regions (6,756 kg/ha and 5,917 kg/ha, respectively), and from the table varieties - in the South-Central and South-Eastern Regions (6,922 kg/ha and 6,840 kg/ha).

Production

In general, 2019 was marked by favourable agro-meteorological conditions to the development of vineyards in the country. The grape harvest in 2019 was very good in quality, but quantitatively lower than in the previous year.

In 2019, the production of grapes from vineyards dropped by nearly 9% on an annual basis, to a total of 177,721 tonnes, in the ratio of wine - 93% and table - 7%. The production of vines amounted to 813 tonnes, about 24% below the level of the previous 2018.

Traditionally, the largest production of vineyards was reported in the South-East and South-Central regions, forming about 40% and 37% of the total production, respectively.

In 2019 in most parts of the country there was a decrease in the production of grapes from vineyards, most significantly in the North-Central region - by 36%. Solely the South-Central region recorded an increase of production of about 8%.

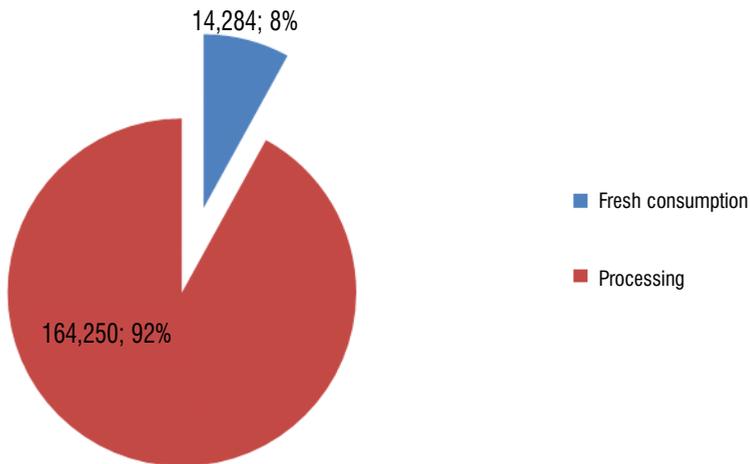
Table II.37 Grape production - 2019 harvest

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	8,705	81	8,786	-	-
North-Central	4,886	248	5,134	-	-
North-Eastern	13,879	368	14,247	-	-
South-Eastern	67,772	3,502	71,274	-	-
South-Western	11,307	1,196	12,503	-	-
South-Central	58,329	7,448	65,777	-	-
Total	164,878	12,843	177,721	813	178,534

Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

Out of the total grape quantities produced over the year, 92% were destined for processing; 8% - for fresh consumption.

Figure II.7. Distribution of grapes produced – 2019 harvest, tonnes and percentage

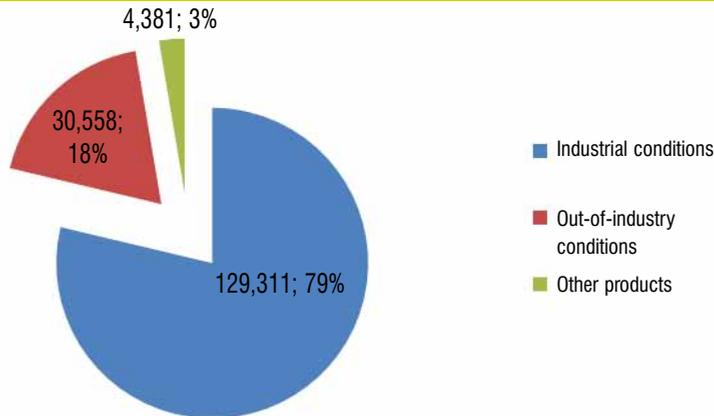


Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

According to the data of the Executive Agency for Vine and Wine, in 2019 the quantities of wine grapes purchased and processed from the wineries amounted to 129,311 tonnes, 22.6 thousand tonnes below the previous year.

The grapes intended for processing in non-industrial conditions amounted to 30,558 tonnes and 4,381 tonnes of processed grapes were needed for products other than wine and grape must.

Figure II.8. Distribution of grapes – 2019 harvest, intended for processing, tonnes and percentage



Source: MAFF, Agrostatics Department

2.5.2. Wine Production

The total production of wine from the 2019 harvest declared by registered wine producers amounted to 857,375 hectolitres. This is a 17.6% drop on the previous year, taking into account the decline in quantities of various wine categories produced. The production of white wines decreased by almost 20% on an annual basis, to 421,397 hectolitres, and that of red and rosè wines - by about 15% to 435,978 hectolitres.

Table wines (wines without protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication) had the highest share in industrial wine production - harvest 2019, was - 63%, followed by regional wines (wines with protected geographical indication) with 41.3%.

The leader in the wine industry was the South-Eastern Region with about 54% of total industrial production, followed by the South Central Region with 25%. The North - Western region held the lowest share of wine produced - 2%.

Table II.38 Quantity of wine and grape must produced by wineries, 2019 harvest

Regions	Quantity of wine and grape must produced, hectolitres								
	PDO* wines (quality)		PGI** wines (regional)		Other wines (including table wines)		Must	Total wine	
	white	red and rose	white	red and rose	white	red and rose		white	red and rose
North-Western Region	0	217	2,689	3,703	3,928	8,703	21,029	6,618	12,623
North-Central Region	0	1,807	11,962	9,342	7,693	8,141	0	19,655	19,290
North-Eastern Region	218	0	20,061	6,147	19,018	9,190	450	39,297	15,337
South-Eastern Region	620	978	77,042	99,264	191,777	90,927	8,645	269,439	191,169
South-Western Region	0	0	3,649	13,733	23,672	27,434	20,832	27,320	41,166
South-Central Region	152	1,408	22,432	83,661	36,484	71,324	8,354	59,068	156,393
TOTAL WINE:	990	4,410	137,835	215,850	282,572	215,718	59,310	421,397	435,978

Source: Executive Agency on Vine and Wine

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

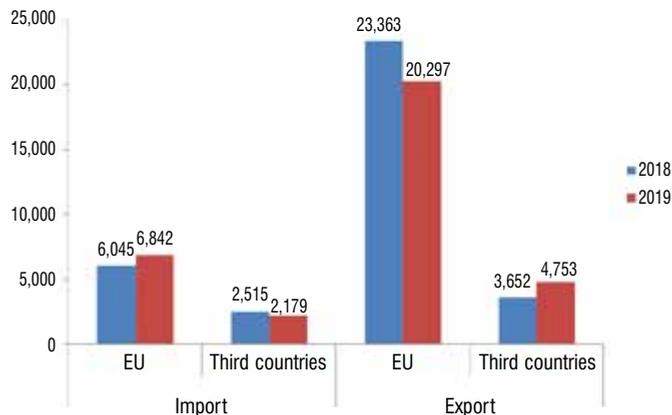
In non-industrial conditions, 147,497 hectolitres of wine were produced in 2019, compared to 129,536 hectolitres for the previous year.

Thus, the total production of wine - 2019 harvest amounted to 1,004,872 hectolitres, down 14% on 2018 harvest.

2.5.3. Export and Import of Wine

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

Figure II.9. Foreign trade in wine during the period 2018 - 2019, thousand litres



Source: NSI

Export

According to NSI data, in 2019 the export of wine amounted to 25,050 thousand litres, which is 7.3% below the level of the previous year. Due to an increase in the average export price by 17%, to EUR 1.40/litre, in value terms, exports went up by 8.5% to EUR 34,952 thousand.

The main market for Bulgarian wines in 2019 remained the European Union, where a total of 20,297,000 litres (81% of total exports) were sold - 13.1% less than in 2018. As in previous years, the largest quantities were destined for Poland - 10,144 thousand litres (50% of shipments to the EU). A multiple increase on an annual basis is reported for shipments to Croatia, Slovakia, Latvia and Italy, while a significant decrease is observed for those for Poland (by 30.1%) and France (by 91.2%).

Exports to third countries in 2019 grew by 30.2% compared to the previous year, amounting to 4,753 thousand litres. About a third of the quantity is sold in Russia. There has been a significant increase in wine exports to Japan (by 49%) and some African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Nigeria, while shipments to Russia were shrinking by 2.7%.

Table II.39 Wine Exports in 2018 and 2019, litres

Countries	2018	2019
EU, including:	23,362,784	20,297,388
Poland	14,511,504	10,144,264
Sweden	3,545,328	4,385,910
Czech Republic	1,488,892	1,718,828
United Kingdom	1,716,555	1,573,286
Belgium	495,933	564,546
Germany	352,685	381,457
Slovakia	143,836	325,005
Lithuania	304,776	319,694
Italy	18,136	237,500
Latvia	29,016	141,846
Romania	161,659	123,363
Croatia	51,160	108,744
Netherlands	113,636	98,834
Greece	102,185	81,455
France	233,482	20,576
Other	94,001	72,080

Countries	2018	2019
Third countries, including:	3,651,762	4,752,930
Russia	1,606,154	1,563,014
Japan	484,840	722,441
Nigeria	64,021	517,462
USA	356,354	485,157
China	430,370	465,826
Cote d'Ivoire	93,393	188,694
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	53,693	94,010
Benin	11,700	84,240
Canada	81,759	83,322
Kazakhstan	16,875	78,744
Ghana	0	51,354
Belarus	58,500	49,098
Switzerland	35,548	47,971
Vietnam	56,623	45,707
Hong Kong	59,914	43,745
Mongolia	76,536	10,728
Lebanon	41,256	0
Other	124,226	221,417
Total	27,014,546	25,050,318

Source: NSI.

Import

The total import of wine in 2019 amounted to 9,021 thousand litres, 5.4% more than in 2018. With a slightly lower average import price of EUR 2.30/litre, the total value of imports increased by 4.8%, to EUR 20,751 thousand.

Table II.40 Wine Imports in 2018 and 2019, litres

Countries	2018	2019
EU, including:	6,045,317	6,841,529
Italy	1,194,578	2,059,320
Spain	1,581,581	1,696,216
France	1,178,821	1,239,112
Germany	734,744	891,691
Romania	763,998	431,189
United Kingdom	49,159	122,058

Countries	2018	2019
Czech Republic	169,661	98,891
Hungary	10,472	96,000
Greece	78,326	69,456
Portugal	31,572	36,098
Belgium	29,990	26,492
Netherlands	24,997	23,790
Sweden	134,493	21,898
Denmark	4,773	12,145
Austria	26,304	7,121
Other	31,848	10,052
Third countries, including:	2,514,697	2,179,315
North Macedonia	1,557,016	1,038,248
New Zealand	543,674	630,091
Chile	232,297	262,566
Moldova	15,852	105,719
Argentina	55,174	56,448
South Africa	13,395	32,445
Georgia	22,335	24,398
Kosovo	47,100	0
Other	27,854	29,400
Total	8,560,014	9,020,844

Source: NSI.

Shipments of wine from the European Union increased by 13.2% on annual basis, to 6,842 thousand litres, accounting for 75.8% of total imports. Traditionally, the most significant quantities were imported from France, Spain and Italy, and in all three countries there was an increase compared to 2018, reaching 72.4% for Italian wines. The strong growth during the year of imports from the United Kingdom and Hungary is impressive (about two and a half times and more than nine times, respectively). On the other hand, the quantities delivered from neighbouring Romania and Greece decreased by 43.6% and 11.3%, respectively).

In 2019, a total of 2,179,000 litres of wine were imported from third countries - 13.3% less than the previous year, mainly due to a 33.3% drop in deliveries from North Macedonia. At the same time, imports from other major suppliers among non-EU countries such as New Zealand and Chile increased by 15.9% and 13% respectively. After a reported decline in the previous two years, Moldovan wine imports increased nearly sevenfold on an annual basis.



III. TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL GOODS

In 2019, the relative share of the agricultural sector in the country's total exports, imports and trade marked a slight increase compared to the previous year, to 16%, 11% and 13.4%, respectively.

Table III.1 Share of agricultural goods in Bulgaria's foreign trade in the period 2018 - 2019, EUR thousand

Year	2018		Share of agricultural sector in%	2019		Share of agricultural sector in%
	Total for the country	Agricultural sector		Total for the country	Agricultural sector	
Exports, FOB	28,647,910	4,308,917	15.0	29,889,833	4,793,065	16.0
Imports, CIF	32,147,742	3,256,142	10.1	33,740,128	3,702,996	11.0
Commodities exchange	60,795,652	7,565,059	12.3	63,629,961	8,496,061	13.4

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

1. Level and Dynamics of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods

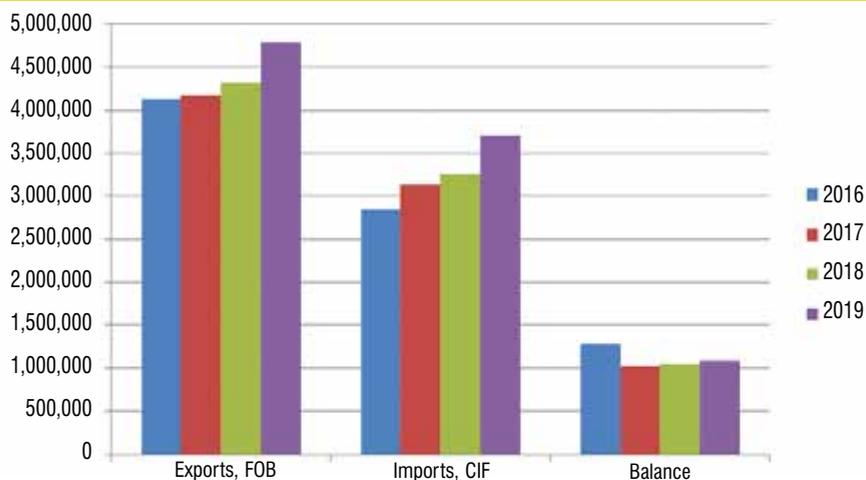
According to NSI data, in 2019 the agricultural trade of Bulgaria amounted to EUR 8,496 million, which is 12.3% more than the previous year. Exports of agricultural goods increased by 11.2% on an annual basis, to EUR 4,793 million, with the largest contribution coming from increased exports of maize and wheat. Agricultural imports also increased by 13.7% to EUR 3,703 million, mainly due to an increase in the supply of sunflower, tobacco, soft drinks and pork. Thus, in 2019 a positive trade balance for Bulgaria amounted to EUR 1,090 million, 3.5% above the 2018 level.

Table III.2 Foreign trade in agricultural goods in the period 2018 - 2019, EUR thousand

	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018	
			in value	in %
Exports, FOB	4,308,894	4,793,025	484,131	11.2
Imports, CIF	3,256,142	3,702,996	446,854	13.7
Balance	1,052,752	1,090,029	37,277	3.5
Commodities exchange	7,565,036	8,496,021	930,985	12.3

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Figure III.1. Import and export of agricultural goods during the period 2016 - 2019, EUR thousand

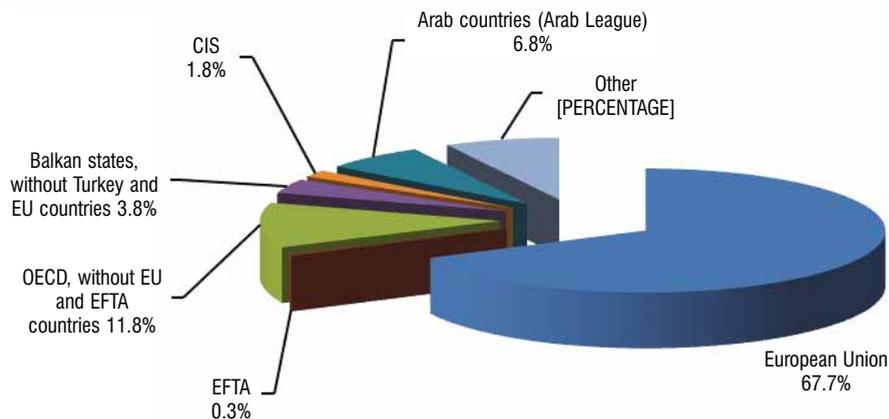


Source: NSI

2. Geographical Distribution of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods

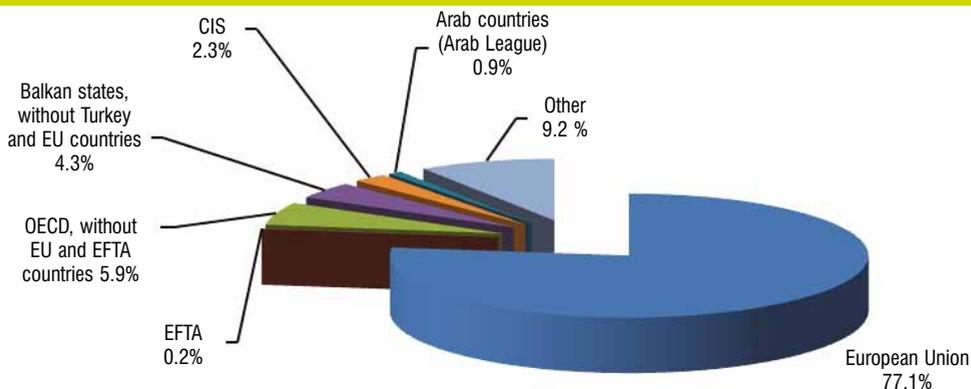
Bulgaria's main partner in trade in agricultural goods are the European Union member states. In 2019, agricultural trade with the EU increased by 4.9% compared to 2018, with trade with the Union representing 67.7% of total agricultural exports and 77.1% of total agricultural imports.

Figure III.2 Structure of agricultural exports of Bulgaria by economic communities in 2019



Source: NSI

Figure III. 3. Structure of agricultural imports of Bulgaria by economic communities in 2019



Source: NSI

Table III.3 Imports and exports of agricultural goods by economic communities and regions in 2018 and 2019, EUR million

Trade areas	2018					2019				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR mln	%	EUR mln	%	EUR mln	EUR mln	%	EUR mln	%	EUR mln
All countries, including:	4,308.9	100.0	3,256.1	100.0	1,052.8	4,793.1	100.0	3,703.0	100.0	1,090.1
European Union	3,243.7	75.3	2,572.3	79.0	671.5	3,247.2	67.7	2,854.0	77.1	393.1
EFTA*	15.6	0.4	6.3	0.2	9.4	13.1	0.3	7.0	0.2	6.1
OECD**, excluding EU and EFTA countries	388.3	9.0	215.4	6.6	172.9	563.7	11.8	219.9	5.9	343.8
including USA	70.0	1.6	23.0	0.7	47.0	107.0	2.2	22.0	0.6	85.0
Balkan region excluding Turkey and EU countries***	143.1	3.3	133.3	4.1	9.8	180.3	3.8	160.4	4.3	19.9
CIS	61.4	1.4	40.8	1.3	20.6	88.0	1.8	85.4	2.3	2.6
incl. Russia	46.0	1.1	7.0	0.2	39.0	65.0	1.4	38.0	1.0	27.0
Arab countries (League of Arab States)	271.2	6.3	32.7	1.0	238.6	328.1	6.8	34.0	0.9	294.1
Other	185.6	4.3	255.5	7.8	-69.9	372.7	7.8	342.2	9.2	30.5

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, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo

Trade with the EU

In 2019, trade in agricultural goods with EU countries amounted to EUR 6,101.2 million (71.8% of the total agricultural trade of the country), which is 4.9% above the level of 2018. Shipments of agricultural goods from Bulgaria to EU member states remained without significant change compared to the previous year (+ 0.1%), while supplies from the EU increased by 11%. As a result, the positive balance in agricultural trade with the EU shrank by 41.5% on an annual basis, to EUR 393.1 million.

Table III.4 Agricultural trade of Bulgaria with EU Member States in 2018 and 2019

Country	2018					2019				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand
Total, including:	3,243,746	100	2,557,816	100	685,930	3,247,163	100	2,854,044	100	393,119
Austria	33,993	0.8	75,145	2.3	-41,152	36,861	0.8	77,259	2.1	-40,398
Belgium	134,128	3.1	53,147	1.6	80,981	112,697	2.4	60,192	1.6	52,505
Germany	292,440	6.8	343,373	10.5	-50,933	275,572	5.7	360,033	9.7	-84,461
Greece	604,387	14.0	340,162	10.4	264,225	648,501	13.5	375,614	10.1	272,887
Denmark	11,668	0.3	33,236	1.0	-21,568	11,613	0.2	34,551	0.9	-22,938
Estonia	1,769	0.0	5,384	0.2	-3,615	1,888	0.0	6,550	0.2	-4,662
Ireland	48,618	1.1	19,475	0.6	29,143	35,755	0.7	19,929	0.5	15,826
Spain	308,567	7.2	152,656	4.7	155,911	331,868	6.9	164,955	4.5	166,913
Italy	274,612	6.4	204,879	6.3	69,733	245,446	5.1	223,532	6.0	21,914
Cyprus	47,534	1.1	4,695	0.1	42,839	48,628	1.0	4,581	0.1	44,047
Latvia	3,975	0.1	5,608	0.2	-1,633	5,705	0.1	12,894	0.3	-7,189
Lithuania	16,027	0.4	17,462	0.5	-1,435	18,455	0.4	24,412	0.7	-5,957
Luxembourg	456	0.0	2,059	0.1	-1,603	241	0.0	1,753	0.0	-1,512
Malta	2,840	0.1	439	0.0	2,401	2,847	0.1	383	0.0	2,464
Netherlands	282,050	6.5	193,135	5.9	88,915	240,068	5.0	217,928	5.9	22,140
United Kingdom	148,846	3.5	57,547	1.8	91,299	136,988	2.9	59,528	1.6	77,460
Poland	126,520	2.9	267,417	8.2	-140,897	118,729	2.5	289,816	7.8	-171,087
Portugal	33,579	0.8	4,735	0.1	28,844	80,926	1.7	6,562	0.2	74,364
Romania	509,591	11.8	401,227	12.3	108,364	540,555	11.3	498,080	13.5	42,475
Slovakia	19,629	0.5	24,613	0.8	-4,984	22,356	0.5	31,017	0.8	-8,661
Slovenia	9,793	0.2	11,088	0.3	-1,295	7,672	0.2	8,103	0.2	-431
Hungary	43,709	1.0	126,360	3.9	-82,651	47,382	1.0	147,924	4.0	-100,542
Finland	6,210	0.1	656	0.0	5,554	5,490	0.1	1,121	0.0	4,369
France	161,819	3.8	121,429	3.7	40,390	152,636	3.2	127,269	3.4	25,367
Croatia	28,107	0.7	26,941	0.8	1,166	25,455	0.5	27,101	0.7	-1,646
Czech Republic	40,826	0.9	64,948	2.0	-24,122	39,603	0.8	57,435	1.6	-17,832
Sweden	52,053	1.2	14,443	0.4	37,610	53,226	1.1	15,522	0.4	37,704

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Among the EU countries, Bulgaria's main partners in agricultural trade in 2019 were Romania, Greece, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland. The largest share of shipments of agricultural goods in value terms were destined to Greece - 20%, Romania - 16.6%, Spain - 10.2%, Germany - 8.5%, Italy - 7.6% and the Netherlands - 7.4% and the leading Union suppliers were Romania - 17.5%, Greece - 13.2%, Germany - 12.6%, Poland - 10.2%, Italy - 7.8% and the Netherlands - 7.6%. About a third of Bulgaria's agricultural trade with the EU during the year was formed by trade with neighbouring Greece and Romania, which accounted for 36.6% of shipments from Bulgaria and 30.6% of arrivals of agricultural goods from the EU.

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

Trade with the OECD, excluding the EU and EFTA countries, represented 11.8% of total agricultural exports and 5.9% of Bulgaria's total agricultural imports in 2019. With an increase in exports of agricultural goods to these countries by 45.2% and relative retention of imports (+2.1%), the positive balance for Bulgaria increased almost twice on an annual basis, to EUR 343.8 million.

Trade with the Balkan countries

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

In 2019, the exchange of agricultural goods with the Balkan countries (including those from the EU and Turkey) amounted to EUR 2,925 million (34.4% of total agricultural trade). This is 12.9% more than in 2018, with an increase in both Bulgarian exports (by 11.3%) and imports (by 15.2%). Within the year, a positive balance was formed for Bulgaria in agricultural trade with these countries in the amount of EUR 456.6 million, 2% more on an annual basis.

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 2018 and 2019, thousand EUR

Country	2018			2019		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Total, including:	1,518,709	1,071,103	447,606	1,690,762	1,234,200	456,562
Albania	20,081	5,769	14,312	21,374	5,601	15,773
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12,633	1,800	10,833	10,990	1,902	9,088
Greece	604,387	340,162	264,225	648,501	375,614	272,887

Country	2018			2019		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Kosovo	13,803	1,897	11,906	46,078	1,903	44,175
North Macedonia	46,587	38,041	8,546	49,960	44,860	5,100
Romania	509,591	401,227	108,364	540,555	498,080	42,475
Slovenia	9,793	11,088	-1,295	7,672	8,103	-431
Serbia	38,755	85,747	-46,992	40,010	106,087	-66,077
Turkey	223,779	158,427	65,352	288,318	164,893	123,425
Croatia	28,107	26,941	1,166	25,455	27,101	-1,646
Montenegro	11,193	4	11,189	11,849	56	11,793

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

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

Trade in agricultural goods between Bulgaria and the countries of the European Free Trade Association in 2019 stood at EUR 20.6 million - down 6.1% year-on-year. As a result of a combination of a 16.2% drop in Bulgarian exports to these countries and an 18.9% increase in imports from them, the positive trade balance for Bulgaria shrank by 39.5% compared to the previous year, amounting to EUR 5.7 million.

In 2019, the main EFTA partners remained Norway and Switzerland.

Table III.6 Agricultural trade with EFTA countries in 2018 and 2019, EUR thousand

Country	2018			2019		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Total, including:	15,642	6,258	9,384	13,115	7,441	5,674
Iceland	68	1,742	-1,674	9	1,692	-1,683
Liechtenstein	8	0	8	38	0	38
Norway	9,637	1,254	8,383	6,987	2,346	4,641
Switzerland	5,929	3,262	2,667	6,081	3,403	2,678

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

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

In 2019, the exchange of agricultural goods with the CIS countries increased by 69.7% on an annual basis, to EUR 173.4 million. As a result of an outstripping increase in imports from these countries (up 109.2%) compared to Bulgarian exports (up 43.3%), the positive balance in Bulgaria's agricultural trade with the CIS shrank to EUR 2.6 million, 87.3% below the reported for 2018.

The value of agricultural goods exported to Russia increased by 41.3% compared to the previous year, representing about 74% of total agricultural exports to the CIS in 2019.

Trade with Arab countries (League of Arab States)

The agricultural trade between Bulgaria and the Arab countries consists mainly of exports from Bulgaria. In 2019 the exchange of agricultural goods with these countries amounted to EUR 362.2 million - 19.2% above the 2018 level, mainly due to a 21% rise in Bulgarian exports. Imports of agricultural goods from the Arab countries also increased, but by barely 4.2%. The traditionally positive trade balance for Bulgaria widened by 23.3% compared to 2018, to EUR 294.1 million.

3. Structure and dynamics of agricultural trade by products

Export

Cereals had the largest contribution to the increase in total exports of agricultural commodities in 2019. The value of the cereals sold abroad increased by 30.2% compared to the previous year, accounting for 28.2% of the total agricultural exports.

Exports of oilseeds continued to rank second in the structure of agricultural exports with a share of 12.4%, growing by 2.2% on an annual basis.

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% and 6.7% of the value of total agricultural exports. In the first of these product groups there is a slight decrease in exports compared to 2018 by 1.1%, and in the other two - an increase of about 10%.

Among the other more significant product groups, an increase in exports compared to the previous year was observed in soft and alcoholic beverages, cocoa and cocoa products, vegetables and milk and dairy products, and a decrease - in meat and offal, tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes and fruits.

Import

In 2019, there was an increase in imports of most major groups of agricultural products.

The most significant in terms of value remains the import of meat and offal, which formed 11.6% of total agricultural imports for the year and grew by 14.8% compared to 2018.

Imports of tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes increased by 21.9% compared to the previous year, and that of fruit; milk and dairy products; oilseeds; sugar and sugar products; vegetables; cocoa and cocoa products; soft and alcoholic beverages and vinegar - by between 3.9% and 25.5%.

The value of supplies of coffee, tea and spices, live plants and mill products decreased within 3.9% - 17.9% on an annual basis.

In particular, the leading agricultural products in the country's exports and imports in 2019 are listed in Tables 8 and 9.

Table III.7 Import and export of agricultural commodities during the period 2018 - 2019

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT - CIF					Balance 2018	2019 Balance
		2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018	2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018		
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total Import of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	TOTAL:	28,647,910		29,889,833		4.3	32,147,742		33,740,128		5.0	-3,499,832	-3,850,295
	including agricultural commodities:	4,308,917	100.0	4,793,065	100.0	11.2	3,256,142	100.0	3,702,996	100.0	13.7	1,052,775	1,090,069
	SECTION I	483,820	11.2	455,146	9.5	-5.9	753,675	23.1	838,543	22.6	11.3	-269,855	-383,397
1	Livestock	45,646	1.1	40,955	0.9	-10.3	31,853	1.0	32,980	0.9	3.5	13,793	7,975
2	Meat and edible meat offal	194,248	4.5	158,959	3.3	-18.2	373,787	11.5	429,058	11.6	14.8	-179,539	-270,099
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	36,703	0.9	38,370	0.8	4.5	91,695	2.8	98,471	2.7	7.4	-54,992	-60,101
4	Milk and dairy products, poultry eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	191,245	4.4	202,075	4.2	5.7	235,812	7.2	255,273	6.9	8.3	-44,567	-53,198

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT - CIF					Balance 2018	2019 Balance
		2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018	2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018		
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total Import of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
5	Other products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	15,978	0.4	14,787	0.3	-7.5	20,528	0.6	22,761	0.6	10.9	-4,550	-7,974
	SECTION II	2,007,828	46.6	2,374,890	49.5	18.3	875,833	26.9	1,002,458	27.1	14.5	1,131,995	1,372,432
6	Live plants and flower products	9,365	0.2	12,597	0.3	34.5	30,151	0.9	27,146	0.7	-10.0	-20,786	-14,549
7	Vegetables, plants, edible roots and tubers	122,043	2.8	149,475	3.1	22.5	167,999	5.2	184,952	5.0	10.1	-45,956	-35,477
8	Edible fruits; citrus or melon peels	112,809	2.6	104,305	2.2	-7.5	200,283	6.2	208,171	5.6	3.9	-87,474	-103,866
9	Coffee, tea, maté and spices	90,190	2.1	98,545	2.1	9.3	133,440	4.1	128,180	3.5	-3.9	-43,250	-29,635
10	Wheat plants	1,039,815	24.1	1,353,945	28.2	30.2	67,188	2.1	85,790	2.3	27.7	972,627	1,268,155
11	Mill products; malt; starch; inulin; wheat gluten	48,407	1.1	56,759	1.2	17.3	32,776	1.0	26,910	0.7	-17.9	15,631	29,849
12	Oilseeds and oleaginous fruits; various types of seeds, seeds for sowing and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	582,597	13.5	595,687	12.4	2.2	218,910	6.7	313,996	8.5	43.4	363,687	281,691

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT - CIF					Balance 2018	2019 Balance
		2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018	2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018		
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total Import of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
13	Natural varnishes, glues, resins and other plant juices and extracts	2 202	0,1	3 167	0,1	43,8	24 700	0,8	26 624	0,7	7,8	-22 498	-23 457
14	Weaving materials and other products of vegetable origin, not elsewhere specified or included	400	0.0	410	0.0	2.5	386	0.0	689	0.0	78.5	14	-279
	SECTION III	326,254	7.6	322,594	6.7	-1.1	118,912	3.7	123,054	3.3	3.5	207,342	199,540
15	Fats and oils of animal or plant origin; products from their decomposition; processed fats for food; waxes of animal or plant origin	326,254	7.6	322,594	6.7	-1.1	118,912	3.7	123,054	3.3	3.5	207,342	199,540
	SECTION IV	1,491,013	34.6	1,640,434	34.2	10.0	1,507,724	46.3	1,738,942	47.0	15.3	-16,711	-98,508
16	Products of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	87,145	2.0	85,763	1.8	-1.6	57,876	1.8	61,580	1.7	6.4	29,269	24,183

Code	Sections and countries	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT - CIF					Balance 2018	2019 Balance
		2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018	2018		2019		Change 2019 /2018		
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural products in %	EUR thousand	share of total Import of agricultural products in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
17	Sugar and sugar confectionery	93,032	2.2	93,995	2.0	1.0	119,303	3.7	131,112	3.5	9.9	-26,271	-37,117
18	Cocoa and cocoa products	179,503	4.2	223,099	4.7	24.3	221,010	6.8	258,973	7.0	17.2	-41,507	-35,874
19	Food prepared from cereals, flours, starch, farina or milk; pastry confectioner	260,257	6.0	285,724	6.0	9.8	157,261	4.8	179,892	4.9	14.4	102,996	105,832
20	Food made of vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants	136,078	3.2	142,870	3.0	5.0	132,882	4.1	147,145	4.0	10.7	3,196	-4,275
21	Various types of food products	99,718	2.3	111,352	2.3	11.7	192,274	5.9	209,565	5.7	9.0	-92,556	-98,213
22	Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and types of vinegar	149,980	3.5	218,459	4.6	45.7	267,371	8.2	335,642	9.1	25.5	-117,391	-117,183
23	Residues and waste from the food industry; prepared animal feed	267,535	6.2	293,426	6.1	9.7	137,744	4.2	144,417	3.9	4.8	129,791	149,009
24	Tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes	217,765	5.1	185,746	3.9	-14.7	222,003	6.8	270,616	7.3	21.9	-4,238	-84,870

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Table III.8 Leading agricultural commodities in Bulgaria's exports in 2019

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural import (%)
Wheat and a mixture of wheat and rye	405,360	280,271	5.8
Maize	102,916	249,631	5.2
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	44,524	167,998	3.5
Sunflower oil, cottonseed oil or safflower oil	396,698	149,161	3.1
Bakery, pastry or biscuits	109,970	131,348	2.7
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	42,601	131,219	2.7
Rape or colza seeds, even crushed:	25,708	122,181	2.5
Preparations of a types used in animal feeding	553,568	107,793	2.2
Meat and edible poultry by-products	32,794	94,462	2.0
Raw or unprocessed tobaccos; tobacco wastes	23,471	89,284	1.9
Confectionery and other solid residues	37,749	78,727	1.6
Food products not elsewhere specified or included	129,941	76,334	1.6
Cheese and curd	23 471	89 284	1.9
Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit	37 749	78 727	1.6
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured, and other non-alcoholic beverages	129 941	76 334	1.6

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

Table III.9. Leading agricultural commodities for imports into Bulgaria in 2019

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural import (%)
Sunflower	624,094	245,773	6.6
Pork	119,455	240,537	6.5
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	38,426	161,968	4.4
Cigars (including cut edges), cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	14,203	151,483	4.1
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured, and other non-alcoholic beverages	197,981	131,897	3.6
Bakery, pastry or biscuits	53,147	123,672	3.3
Food products not elsewhere specified or included	30,101	115,099	3.1

Product Name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural import (%)
Meat and edible poultry by-products	111,792	113,175	3.1
Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaffeinated	40,362	107,507	2.9
Indentured ethyl alcohol	18,455	101,728	2.7
Sugar from sugar cane or from sugar beet and chemically pure sucrose in a solid form	248,437	93,092	2.5
Cheese and curd	27,239	88,414	2.4
Raw or unmanufactured tobacco	21,436	78,630	2.1
Preparations of a types used in animal feeding	79,765	76,687	2.1
Milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	34,247	52,645	1.4

Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

4. Developments in foreign trade with agricultural goods in January-June 2020

According to preliminary NSI data, in the first half of 2020 agricultural goods worth EUR 2,335.3 million were exported, which is an increase of 13.4% compared to the same period in 2019. This is largely due to the increased export of cereals and oilseeds (up 16.7% and 33.6%, respectively). The value of exported vegetable oils (up 36.7%), soft drinks (more than twice) and preparations of the types used for animal feed (up 43.5%) also increased significantly.

The leading product groups in the structure of the country's agricultural exports in the period January-June 2020 were cereals and oilseeds, followed by fats of vegetable or animal origin, residues and waste from the food industry and prepared animal feed, soft and alcoholic beverages, pasta products, etc.

Imports of agricultural goods for the first six months of 2020 marked a slightly smaller increase on an annual basis - by 9.8%, to EUR 1,860 million.

Thus, Bulgaria's positive trade balance for the first half of 2020 reached EUR 475.3 million, up 30.1% compared to the same period in 2019.

The main partners in the country's agricultural trade remained the EU countries. In the first six months of 2020, the exchange of agricultural goods with the EU increased by 4.9% on an annual basis, forming 61.7% of total agricultural exports of the country and 74.2% of total agricultural imports.

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 2019 market analyses and studies looked into the potential to export various agricultural products to trading partner countries from both the EU and third countries. They studied specificities in various agricultural sectors (laboratory tests, certificates, licences, transport, storage, customs barriers); the analysis covered also the requirements regarding sanitary and phytosanitary control, tariff and non-tariff restrictions for access, discounts, requirements for application for operators and suppliers of agricultural products.

Information was provided in connection with the intensive negotiations between the EU and third countries in 2019 on a number of comprehensive trade agreements aimed at easing administrative burdens in trade and commodities exchange. The subject of consideration are the trade and economic relations in the agricultural sector between Bulgaria and third countries, with which trade agreements are to be concluded, as well as the possibilities for export and increase of the export volumes of Bulgarian agricultural products.

In February 2019, the EU-Japan trade agreement entered into force. The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement has led to the automatic elimination (significant reduction) from day one of customs duties of more than 90% of EU agricultural exports. For Bulgaria, the agreement will further facilitate the access to the Japanese market for a larger number of Bulgarian primary and processed agricultural products.

In 2019, a free trade agreement was signed between the European Union and the Socialist Republic (SR) of Vietnam. Bulgaria has reviewed the signed agreement and its effect on Bulgaria's agricultural sector. It liberalises over 99% of mutual trade between the EU and the SR of Vietnam. Customs duties on imports into the SR of Vietnam from the EU, including Bulgaria, will be eliminated within 10 years, and customs duties on imports into the EU from the SR of Vietnam - within 7 years. These relaxed measures have a stimulating effect on increasing the export of agricultural products from Bulgaria.

Negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Australia, New Zealand and Mercosur continued during the year. The aim of the negotiations is to remove obstacles to trade in goods and services, to create opportunities for improving the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises, and to set ambitious rules in line with other EU trade agreements.

The development of negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom (UK) on reaching the most comprehensive free trade agreement after the withdrawal of the UK has been under scrutiny. Within future relations, it is essential for Bulgaria to unfold the potential for development of trade and economic relations with the United Kingdom in the field of agriculture in conditions of open market access, subject to clear rules

that would create equal conditions for the operation of economic operators in the EU and the United Kingdom, excluding opportunities for discrimination and distortion of market principles.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry traditionally ensures the country's participation in various international food industry events and exhibitions in order to promote and build a recognisable image of Bulgaria's agricultural products, as well as to support exports and develop international contacts between business operators in the sector.

In 2019, national stands of the Republic of Bulgaria with the participation of producers of honey, wine, dairy and meat products, organic products, jam, etc. took part in the Grüne Woche International Exhibition in Berlin and the Saudi AgroFood International Exhibition of Food, Ingredients and Technologies in Riyadh, and in 2020 - in the Grüne Woche International Exhibition in Berlin, and the International Cheese and dairy products „Salon du fromage“ in Paris.



IV. SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

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

1.1. Area-Based Direct Payments, National Transitional Aid and Coupled Support

Financial support through direct payments is available through the EAGF and the national budget. In the 2019 calendar year, funds for campaigns 2018 and 2019 were authorized under direct payment schemes.

2018 campaign

Table IV.1 Authorised Funds for Campaign 2018 during the 2019 calendar year

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)		Authorised payments (BGN)
			EAGF	NB	
SAPS	58,277	2,631	100	-	79,461,206
SRP	58,225	58,206	100	-	105,349,297
GDP	58,277	58,252	100	-	456,056,999
YFS	4,139	4,137	100	-	3,513,014
Cotton	109	109	100	-	4,965,068
SMLK	4,443	86	100	-	445,118
SMKH	6,011	62	100	-	354,951
SSCc-MEAT	367	7	100	-	77,489
SMR	2,636	33	100	-	47,806
SSC	2,204	22	100	-	308,720
Buffaloes	279	8	100	-	48,037
SF(main)	6,097	6,095	100	-	31,275,885
SV(main)	5,408	5,407	100	-	27,461,996
SVg	845	845	100	-	8,073,918
SPC	17,934	17,926	100	-	29,876,984
SSCc-milk	908	22	100	-	771,776
SMLK-MR	279	6	100	-	9,146
SF(other)	3,162	3,160	100	-	7,000,561
SV(other)	2,209	2,209	100	-	4,554,457
SSF	4,210	4,160	100	-	4,512,537
TMSA1	4,906	22	-	100	19,374,232
TMSA3.	7,623	22	-	100	15,811,194
TNT	41,255	41,246	-	100	80,246,000
Financial discipline	n/a	n/a	100	-	18,725,233
TOTAL:					898,321,624

Source: SFA - PA

2019 campaign

During the 2019 campaign, 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
- Payment scheme for agricultural practices that are climate and environment friendly (green direct payment)
- Scheme for redistributive 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
- Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers
- Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats in mountain regions
- Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control
- Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
- Coupled support scheme for fruit
- Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Plums and Table Grapes)
- Coupled Support for Vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)
- Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Pepper)
- Coupled Support for Vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)
- Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (carrots, cabbage, watermelons and melons)
- Coupled Support Scheme for Greenhouse Vegetables
- Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops
- Specific support for cotton

Schemes for transitional national aid:

- Transitional National Decoupled Tobacco Support Scheme

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

For the 2019 campaign, a total of 106,726 applications for support were filed under all schemes. For the convenience of farmers, from 1 December 2018 there is an E-Services System of SFA-PA, which contains both public and individual information about the submitted applications for support. Applicants can receive up-to-date information after registering there.

Part of the SEU is a reference „Declared cadastral properties on direct payments”, which contains information about the properties from the map of the restored property or from the cadastral map, falling within the registered agricultural plots for campaigns 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Table IV.2 Authorised Funds for 2019 Campaign during the 2019 calendar year

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget Allocation Percentage (%)		Authorised payments (BGN)
			EAGF	NB	
SAPS	56,830	56,523	100	-	634,851,700
SMLK	3,909	3,882	100	-	26,513,852
SMKH	5,458	5,404	100	-	17,816,775
SSCc-MEAT	418	410	100	-	3,125,134
SMR	2,313	2,308	100	-	3,699,110
SSC	2,102	2,084	100	-	22,492,788
Buffaloes	282	277	100	-	4,014,899
SSCc-milk	923	916	100	-	34,387,902
SMLK-MR	312	308	100	-	652,548
TMSA1	4,494	4,461	-	100	19,201,014
TMSA3.	6,996	6,984	-	100	28,714,718
TOTAL:					795,470,440

Source: SFA - PA

The authorization for the 2019 campaign started in October 2019 with the payment of subsidies under the transitional national aid schemes in the Livestock sector. In December, authorization was granted under the coupled production schemes in the Livestock sector, financed by the EAGF, as well as the SAPS subsidies.

Area support schemes (hectare)

For the 2019 campaign, the single area payment scheme applies at a minimum farm size of 0.5 ha, with a minimum plot size of 0.1 ha. As a tool to overcome the

structural imbalance, payments are reduced for amounts over EUR 150,000 (introduced by the 2015 campaign), taking into account employment on farms by deducting the costs of remuneration related to agricultural activity.

The submitted applications for support for the campaign totalled 56,830. The amount of support per unit area was BGN 194.58/ha, with a budget of BGN 741,021,327. As of 30 May 2020, the total amount of authorised funds was BGN 712,483,023 (96.2% of the budget).

In order to encourage the operation of more economically vulnerable small and medium-sized farms, a Redistributive Payment Scheme continues to apply. It provides a higher single payment per hectare for the first 30 hectares of each farm eligible for SAPS support. For the 2019 campaign under the scheme, with a budget of BGN 109,329,220, 56,735 farmers have applied for support. As of end-May 2020, payments of BGN 105,190,942 were authorized, which represents 96.2% of the budget.

To participate in the Payment Scheme for Climate and Environment-Friendly Agricultural Practices (Green Direct Payments), farmers eligible for SAPS support must follow practices for crop diversification, conservation of permanent grassland and maintenance of ecologically designated areas within all their hectares, depending on the structure of the agricultural holding, its size and the cultivated crops. For the 2019 campaign, the scheme had a budget of BGN 467,217,150 and 56,830 farmers applied for support. As of 30 May 2020, the authorised payments amounted to BGN 451,976,031 or 96.7% of the budget.

The scheme for young farmers aimed to support people who are not more than 40 years old and have started farming in the past 5 years. They received an increased payment of 50% of the SAPS payment for the first 30 ha. 3,876 young farmers have applied for support for the 2019 campaign. As of 30 June 2020, the funds authorized under the scheme amounted to BGN 3,701,570.

Support under the Small Farmers Scheme was provided to persons who applied in the 2015 reference year. In order to benefit from the financial assistance, these farmers must maintain at least this amount of eligible area in each year of their application, as they declared in their application for campaign 2015.

Support for small farmers replaced all payments under direct payment schemes. The financial support is formed annually and individually for each individual beneficiary, depending on the size of eligible areas, the number of eligible animals and the applied schemes, and may not exceed EUR 1,250.

For the 2019 campaign, 3,396 farmers continued to participate in the scheme. As of 30 May 2020, the payments authorised under it amounted to BGN 3,258,611.

Coupled support schemes

Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows

Under the scheme, with a budget for the 2019 campaign in the amount of BGN 30,093,539, support is provided to farms in the dairy sector to maintain the level of milk produced. Applications for support were submitted by 3,909 farmers. They receive BGN 308.69/head up to the 30th animal, including BGN 280.63/head for animals beyond the 30th. As of 30 May 2020, the funds authorized under the scheme amounted to BGN 26,709,151, which formed 88.9% of the budget.

Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control

923 young farmers applied for support for the 2019 campaign. The annual budget of the scheme amounted to BGN 36,807, and the rates set for support - BGN 515.89/head for up to 30 eligible animals and BGN 468.99/head for the animals over 30 animals. The funds authorized as of end-May 2020 stood at BGN 34,633,861 or 94.1% of the budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas

Under the scheme, with a campaign budget of BGN 681,790, support was provided to farmers breeding 5 to 9 dairy cows in mountainous areas. Applications for support were submitted by 312 beneficiaries, and as of 30.05.2020 payments in the amount of BGN 661,619 were authorized - 97% of the annual budget, at a rate of BGN 290/head.

Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers

5,458 farmers applied for the scheme for the 2019 campaign. The rate of support per animal was set at BGN 161.46/head up to the 30th animal and BGN 146.78/head over the 30th animal. As of 30 May 2020 from the annual budget amounting to BGN 18,749,713, funds in the amount of BGN 18,246,041 were authorized (97.3% absorption rate).

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

The annual budget of the scheme was set at BGN 3,249,951, which as of 30.5.2020 was utilized at 98.7%. 418 farmers applied for support. The subsidy per

animal amounted to BGN 172.56/head for up to 30th eligible animal and BGN 157/head for animals after the 30th animal.

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

The purpose of the scheme, with a budget for the 2019 campaign in the amount of BGN 24,004,232, was to support farmers who breed 50 or more ewes under selection control of one breed and/or 20 or more she-goats under selection control of one breed. Applications for support were submitted by 2,102 farmers. The support rates per animal amounted to BGN 80.11/head up to the 100th eligible animal and BGN 72.83/head beyond the 100th eligible animal. The authorized funds as of 30 May 2020 amounted to BGN 23,019,026 or 95.9% of the budget.

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

The scheme supports farmers who breed 10 to 49 ewes and/or she-goats in mountainous areas in order to maintain the level of production in this category of farms. The budget under the scheme for the 2019 campaign stood at BGN 3,803,141. 2,313 farmers filed applications under the scheme. The rate per animal amounted to BGN 58.48/ head. As of end-May 2020, payments of BGN 3,708,964 were authorized, which represents 97.5% of the budget.

Coupled support scheme for buffaloes

Support for buffalo breeding, as a vulnerable sector, is available through a separate direct payment scheme. It targets farmers who breed 10 or more animals. The annual budget under the scheme for 2019 was BGN 4,424,442, and 282 farmers applied for support. The rate per animal was set at BGN 362.36 / head. The authorized funds as of 30 May 2020 amounted to BGN 4,044,335, which represented 91.4% of the budget utilization.

Coupled support scheme for fruit

For the 2019 campaign, 6,114 farmers applied for support under the scheme. The determined budget amounted to BGN 33,892,919, and the rate per unit area was BGN 1,876.42/ ha up to the 30th hectare and BGN 1,250.95 / ha for hectares over 30. As of 30 May 2020, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 30,824,083 or 91% of the budget.

Coupled support scheme for fruit - plums and table grapes

The budget under the scheme for 2019 amounted to BGN 7,650,534. 3,337 farmers

applied for support. As of end-May 2020, BGN 6,833,542 (89.3% of the budget) was authorized, at rates ranging from BGN 1,076.93/ ha for up to 30 hectares and BGN 717.95 / ha for hectares over 30.

Coupled Support for Vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)

For the 2019 campaign, 2,116 farmers applied for support under the scheme. The set budget amounted to BGN 6,715,994, and the rate was BGN 1,415.50/ ha up to 30 ha and BGN 943.67 / ha over 30 ha. As of 30 May 2020, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 5,863,101 or 87.3% of the annual budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (Pepper)

For the 2019 campaign, 1,405 farmers applied for support under the scheme. The annual budget stood at BGN 4,619,357, and the authorized funds as of 30 May 2020 were 88.3% - BGN 4,078,044. For the first 30 ha the rate was BGN 1,996.50/ ha, and for the hectares over 30 - BGN 1,331.00 / ha.

Coupled Support for Vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)

For the 2019 campaign, the scheme had a budget of BGN 12,992,992 and 62,464 farmers filed applications. The rate per unit area for up to 30 hectares is BGN 1,402.15/ ha, and for those over 30 - BGN 934.77/ ha. As of the end of May 2020, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 11,908,087 - 91.7% of the annual budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables (carrots, cabbage, watermelons and melons)

The budget for the 2019 campaign amounted to BGN 6,426,070. 2,858 farmers applied for support. As of end-May 2020, BGN 5,744,146 (89.4% of the budget) was authorized, at rates ranging from BGN 913.19/ ha for up to 30 hectares and BGN 608.79 / ha for hectares over 30.

Coupled Support Scheme for Greenhouse Vegetables

The independent scheme introduced in the 2015 campaign with a fixed budget to support greenhouse vegetable production was available in 2019, too. Due to the specific nature of this production, eligible areas were areas with a minimum farm size of 0.5 ha, which can be combined from field and greenhouse production. 938 farmers applied for the 2019 campaign under the scheme. The budget stood at BGN 8,348,718 and the rate was BGN 4,014.48 / ha. As of 30 May 2020, BGN 7,781,698 was authorized, which represented 93.2% of the annual budget.

Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops

The purpose of the scheme was, on the one hand, to indirectly support farmers by supporting the production of protein crops for feed. On the other hand, it contributed to meeting the requirements for maintaining green areas as part of green 16,866 young farmers applied for support for the 2019 campaign. As of 30 May 2020 out of the annual budget, or BGN 31,147,758 in total, the amount of BGN 30,412,143 or 97.6% was authorized, at a rate of BGN 214.77 / ha.

Specific support for cotton

Cotton cultivation is supported by a stand-alone scheme with a specific budget. During the 2019 campaign, 114 farmers submitted applications for support, to which BGN 4,820,156 was paid.

Transitional National Support Scheme

In 2019, in line with the policy to support the Livestock and Tobacco sectors with national funds, Bulgaria continued to support through transitional national aid schemes for cattle, buffaloes, ewes and she-goats, and tobacco, subject to the national surcharge schemes applied in 2013.

Transitional national aid for cattle and buffaloes (decoupled)

The budget under the scheme for 2019 stood at BGN 35,270,799. 4,494 farmers applied for support. As of 30 May 2020, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 35,056,968 (99.4% of the budget), at a rate of BGN 175.34 / head for cattle and BGN 306.84 / head for buffaloes.

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

6,996 farmers filed an application under the scheme, with a budget of BGN 29,511,555. The rate per animal was set at BGN 37.58 / head. As of 30 May 2019, payments amounting to BGN 28,714,718 or 97.3% of the budget were authorized.

Transitional National Support Scheme for Tobacco

For the 2019 campaign, 40,520 applications for financial assistance were submitted for the quantities of tobacco delivered during the reference years. As of 30 May 2020, the funds authorized under the scheme amounted to BGN 75,678,249.

Table IV.3 Amount of support under direct payment schemes and transitional national aid for the 2019 campaign and budget utilisation as at 30.05.2020

Scheme	2019 campaign budget (BGN)	Number of valid applications submitted	2019 campaign rate (BGN/ha, BGN/head)		2019 Campaign authorised funds (BGN)	Budget utilisation (%)
SAPS	741,021,327	56,830	194.58		712,483,023	96.1%
GDP	467,217,150	56,830	122.67		451,976,031	96.7%
SRP	109,329,220	56,735	137.22		105,190,942	96.2%
YFS		3,876			3,701,570	
SSF		3,396	between EUR 500 and EUR 1,250		3,258,611	
SMLK	30,093,539	3,909	308.69	280.63	26,709,151	88.8%
EZHSK - milk	36,807,035	923	515.89	468.99	34,633,861	94.1%
SMLK - pl	681,790	312	290.00		661,619	97.0%
SMKH	18,749,713	5,458	161.46	146.78	18,246,041	97.3%
EZHSK - meat	3,249,951	418	172.56	156.87	3,206,025	98.6%
SR - pl	3,803,141	2,313	58.48		3,708,964	97.5%
SSC	24,004,232	2,102	80.11	72.83	23,019,026	95.9%
Buffaloes	4,424,442	282	362.36		4,044,335	91.4%
SF -main	33,892,919	6,114	1,876.42	1,250.95	30,824,083	90.9%
SF - other	7,650,534	3,337	1,076.93	717.95	6,833,542	89.3%
SV-TCGE	6,715,994	2,116	1,415.50	943.67	5,863,101	87.3%
SV-P	4,619,357	1,405	1,996.50	1,331.00	4,078,044	88.3%
SV-POG	12,992,992	2,896	1,402.15	934.77	11,908,087	91.7%
SV-CCWM	6,426,070	2,858	913.19	608.79	5,744,146	89.4%
SVg	8,348,718	938	14,014.48		7,781,698	93.2%
SPC	31,147,758	16,866	214.77		30,412,143	97.6%
Cotton	5,093,987	114			4,820,156	94.6%
TNT		40,520			75,678,249	
TMSA1	35,270,800	4,494	175.34	306.84	35,056,968	99.4%
TMSA3.	29,511,560	6,996	37.58		28,714,718	97.3%

Source: Direct Payments Directorate, MAFF

*Data as of 30.05.2020

2020 campaign

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

Scheme	Applications received (number)	Declared area (ha)
Single Area Payment scheme	57,822	3,841,704
Green direct payments	57,822	3,841,704
Scheme for redistributive payment	57,750	799,644
Young Farmers	3,768	57,141

Scheme	Applications received (number)	Declared area (ha)
Specific support for cotton	119	4,207
Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops	16,334	138,610
Coupled support for vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)	3,084	12,011
Coupled Support for Vegetables (Carrots Cabbage, Watermelons And Melons)	2,807	8,379
Coupled Support for Vegetables (pepper)	1,309	2,445
Coupled support for vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)	1,907	3,692
Coupled Support Scheme for Vegetables - Greenhouse Production	1,031	810
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Main Group)	5,739	20,424
Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (other)	3,228	9,328
Transitional National Support Scheme for Tobacco	39,765	

Source: SFA - PA

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	6,331	713,702
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or goats under selection control	2,087	341,340
Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows and/or Heifers	5,020	137,853
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows	3,546	108,647
Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control	931	80,520
Scheme for coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats in mountain regions	2,105	60,211
Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control	443	23,706
Coupled support scheme for buffaloes	263	13,395
Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas	318	2,472
Transitional National Support Scheme (Cattle)	4,071	184,161
Transitional National Support Scheme (Buffaloes)	76	3,472

Source: SFA - PA

1.2. Market Support Mechanisms

1.2.1. Milk Sector

Contractual relations in the milk sector

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 legislation (Ordinance No 1 of 28.01.2015 on contractual relations in the milk sector and the terms and conditions for recognition of producer organizations, their associations and intersectoral organizations in the milk and dairy products sector) allows milk producer organizations or their associations to negotiate together with a buyer of raw milk the terms of the contracts, including the price, for part or all of the milk of their members.

In 2019, 1,256 applications were submitted by purchasers for the registration of nearly 7,857 contracts/annexes for milk purchase. The contracts were reviewed, and in case of discrepancies with the applicable ordinance, notification letters were sent to the purchasers and to the milk producers for elimination of irregularities.

In the period 01.04.2019 - 31.03.2020, a total of 334 on-site inspections were scheduled based on risk analysis, of which 110 for first purchasers and 224 for producers of raw milk.

In May 2020, the State Fund for Agriculture provided a new e-service for first purchasers of raw milk - entry of contracts in the register of contracts concluded for supply of raw milk in IACS, as well as electronic submission of an application for registration. This is done in a specially developed section in the SFA Electronic Services System. It is envisaged to completely switch to e-receipt of applications for registration of contracts/ annexes/ notifications for termination of contractual relations, which will allow to avoid administrative irregularities for delays in registration, as well as to facilitate administrative procedures.

1.2.2. Fruit and Vegetables Sector

Producer groups scheme

In 2018, five groups of fruit and vegetable producers were ready with their recognition plans. In April 2019, the groups were recognized as fruit and vegetable producers' organizations and submitted payment applications for the fifth, final year of the recognition plans. Following all inspections on four of the submitted payment applications, financial assistance in the amount of BGN 3,993,388 was paid, of which BGN 1,279,125 - from the EAGF and BGN 2,714,263 - from the national budget.

Of the total funds paid in 2019, BGN 3,802,781 was for investment and BGN 190,607 - for administrative expenses.

In 2020, financial assistance for 2018 was paid to a group of producers in the amount of BGN 1,480,296, including BGN 1,448,623 for investment and BGN 31,672 for administrative expenses.

Producer Organisation Scheme

Fruit and vegetable producer groups organisations

The scheme aims to bring together producer groups in marketing organizations. It enables the implementation of operational programmes, including investments aimed at modernizing the holdings of members of producer organization, environmental costs, crisis prevention and management measures and administrative costs aimed at ensuring the management of the organizations.

Operational programmes should last from 3 to 5 years and are implemented in annual periods starting on 1 January and ending on 31 December.

In 2019, four producer organizations put in place operational programmes, with a total value of approved costs and activities amounting to BGN 10,106,858. One organization started the first year of implementation of its operational programme, one of the organizations implemented a 5-year operational programme, and the other three are implementing 3-year operational programmes.

In 2019, 4 payment requests were submitted, 3 of which pertain to the reporting of 2018, and one - to the reporting of the first half of 2019.

The paid financial aid amounts to BGN 1,757,959, of which BGN 262,256 - from EAGF and BGN 1,495,703 - from the national budget.

At the end of 2019, a producer organization submitted a notice of refusal to implement an operational programme and fully recovered the financial assistance paid so far under the scheme. The terminated operational programme is worth over BGN 2.8 million.

In 2020, three producer organizations will implement the second year of their operational programmes and one organization will roll out the first year of its operational programme.

Producer groups recognized in 2019 as fruit and vegetable producer organizations are also expected to submit operational programmes, and producer organizations whose operational programmes were finalised in 2020 will submit new ones.

As of 30 June 2020, 3 applications for payment for reporting in 2019 were being processed, with a total value of the requested financial assistance in the amount of BGN 942,294, of which BGN 280,527 - from EAGF and BGN 661,767 - from NB.

Preparations are underway for evaluation in 2020 of the implementation of the

National Strategy for Sustainable Operational Programmes of Fruit and Vegetable Producers' Organizations in the Republic of Bulgaria for 2013-2018. The evaluation will be carried out by an independent evaluator, and the report will be submitted to the European Commission.

Producer organisations and groups in other sectors

As of 31.12.2019, there were 77 recognized organizations and groups of producers of agricultural products in the country, of which: 3 PG in the Cereals sector, 1 GP in the Legumes sector, 1 PG in the Potatoes sector, 2 PG in the Industrial Crops sector, 3 PG in the Meat sector, 17 PG in the Milk sector, 1 PG in the Wine grapes sector, 3 PG in the Fruits sector, 2 PG in the Vegetables sector, 1 PG in the Fruits and Vegetables sector, 6 PG in the Medicinal and Essential Oilseeds sector, 6 OPs in the Fruits and Vegetables sector, 8 OPs in the Fruits sector, 6 OPs in the Vegetables sector, 1 OP in the Wine grapes sector, 1 OP in the Mushrooms sector, 6 OPs in the Honey and bee products sector, 4 OPs in the Milk and dairy products sector, 1 OP in the Meat and wool sector and 4 OP in the Cereals and oilseeds sector.

The largest number of associations were set up in the fruit and vegetable sector - 20 OP and 6 PG, followed by the livestock sector (milk, dairy products and meat and wool) - 4 OP and 20 PG. In terms of the number of representatives of agricultural producers with the highest degree of association, the Livestock sector stood out (milk and dairy products - 273 farmers, participating in 16 PG and 4 OPs; meat and wool sector - 148 farmers, brought together in 3 PG and 1 OP), followed by the Fruit and Vegetables sector, in which 190 farmers are united in associations.

An in-house e-system to monitor the status of all PG and OP has been set up, containing information on: year of recognition of PG and OP, number of members, turnover of PG and OP, location of plantations, arable land and crops in hectares, number of livestock sites, type of animals and number of inspections performed so far, forthcoming time inspections - as per the mandatory requirements of the current legislation. In 2020, public e-registers of the activities of PG and OP will be established.

Temporary Emergency Measures Scheme

In 2019, no admission was held under the Temporary Emergency Measures scheme in the fruit and vegetable sector. Payments in the amount of BGN 34,071 were made, related to the application of the scheme for previous years.

Scheme to supply fruits, vegetables, milk and dairy products to kindergartens and schools in Bulgaria (School Fruit Scheme and School Milk Scheme)

From the 2017/2018 academic year, the School Fruit Scheme and the School Milk

Schemes were put in place 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 were implemented across 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.

2018/2019 academic year

For the school year, 191 applicants for deliveries of fruits and vegetables to the educational establishments and 125 applicants for deliveries of milk and dairy products have been approved.

Under the School Fruit Scheme, 464,493 children in 3,405 schools received fruits and vegetables. The total budget under the scheme for the school year, which also covers costs for accompanying measures and information activities, amounted to BGN 13,651,713, of which BGN 5,067,427 - from the EU, and BGN 8,584,286 - from national co-financing. The disbursed funds amounted to a total of BGN 9,888,185, of which BGN 3,537,910 were provided by the EU and BGN 6,350,275 from the national budget.

Under the School Milk Scheme, 421,417 children in 3,405 schools received milk and dairy products. The total annual budget under the scheme amounts to BGN 15,813,412 (including: BGN 2,211,773 from the EU and BGN 13,601,639 from the national budget) and also covers expenditures for accompanying measures and information activities. The funds paid for the school year amounted to a total of BGN 13,229,672, including: from the EU budget - BGN 2,069,399 and from the national budget - BGN 11,160,273.

2019/2020 academic year

The budget set by the EAGF for the implementation of school schemes in the 2019/2020 school year amounted to BGN 5,071,299 under the School Fruit Scheme and BGN 2,261,865 under the School Milk Scheme and included costs for distribution of products accompanying educational measures and monitoring, evaluation and publicity. The national co-financing in both directions amounts to BGN 8,584,286 for the School Fruit Scheme and BGN 13,601,639 for the School Milk Scheme.

The total number of approved candidates eligible to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to kindergartens and schools in the country for the school year was 155.

Under the School Milk Scheme, 143 acts of approval were issued to 3,216 schools, including 420,187 children and students. Under the School Fruit Scheme, there were 177 acts of approval, for 3,218 educational establishments which covered 417,455 children and pupils.

1.2.3. Apiculture Sector

The support in the sector was provided through the National Beekeeping Programme, prepared in cooperation with the beekeeping organizations, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 1308/2013.

The Programme's main goal was to improve the conditions for production and trade in honey and bee products, to increase the efficiency of production, quality and competitiveness of Bulgarian honey and bee products, protection and sustainable development of the bee population, ensuring better employment and higher incomes for beekeepers.

The total financial resource under the programme for the period 2017-2019 amounted to BGN 14,275,774, including for 2017 - BGN 4,758,590, for 2018 - BGN 4,758,594 and for 2019 - BGN 4,758,590.

The interest of beekeepers to participate in the measures of the NBP is traditionally high. In the financial year 2019, 1,900 applications for support were received. 1,800 financial aid contracts were concluded, of which 1,677 (93% of all contracts) investments were implemented and payment applications were submitted. The disbursed funds totalled BGN 3,677,336, which represents over 77% of the annual budget.

The highest absorption of the budget in 2019 was achieved under measure A - Technical assistance for beekeepers and beekeepers' associations (89%), followed by measure B - Fight against varroasis (78%) and measure E - Measures to support renewal of beehives in the EU (76%).

In 2019, Bulgarian beekeepers were again assisted in the implementation of investments under the NBP through a credit scheme of the State Fund for Agriculture, which provides low-interest loans to finance measures and activities under the programme on preferential terms.

The National Beekeeping Programme for the period 2020-2022 was approved by the European Commission with Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/974 of 12 June 2019, as the total budget for Bulgaria for the entire three-year period came in at BGN 19,199,708, of which 50% - from the EU budget and 50% from the national budget. The distribution of funds by years is as follows: for 2020 - BGN 6,399,406, for 2021 - BGN 6,400,302, for 2022 - BGN 6,400,000.

Table IV.6 Budget and disbursement of financial aid under the NDP for 2019, BGN

Measure, activity	Budget	Financial Aid Paid			Budget utilisation (%)
		Total	including the EAGF	including NB:	
1. Measure A - Technical assistance to beekeepers and beekeepers' associations	353,332	316,205	158,102	158,102	89.5%

Measure, activity	Budget	Financial Aid Paid			Budget utilisation (%)
		Total	including the EAGF	including NB:	
2. Measure B - Fighting Varroasis	1,240,680	966,965	483,482	483,482	77.9%
3. Measure B - Rationalization of mobile apiculture	8,370	5,864	2,932	2,932	70.1%
4. Measure E - Measures to support the physical and chemical analysis of honey	73,705	45,046	22,523	22,523	61.1%
5. Total under Measure E - Measures to support the renewal of bee hives in the EU	3,082,503	2,343,256	1,171,628	1,171,628	76.0%
Activity 1: Purchase of new beehives to replace old beehives and / or increase the number of bee families in apiary	1,295,663	1,063,993	531,997	531,997	82.1%
Activity 2 Maintaining or increasing the number of bee colonies	1,006,782	715,413	357,707	357,707	71.1%
Activity 3 Purchasing bee queens	780,059	563,850	281,925	281,925	72.3%
TOTAL	4,758,590	3,677,336	1,838,668	1,838,668	77.3%

Source: IACS, module National Bee-keeping Programme - call 2019

Nearly 1,780 applications were received in call 2020, 1,761 of which were processed for signing of financing contracts with a total value of BGN 6,086,697. As of end-June 2020, 1,686 financial assistance contracts were signed, amounting to BGN 5,862,925.

1.2.4. Wine Sector

In 2019, under the National Programme for Support of the Grapes and Wine Sector 2019-2023, four measures were in place:

- Measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“ - with a budget of BGN 37,811,591
- 2. Measure „Promotion on third country markets“ - with a budget of BGN 195,580
- 3. Measure „Investments in enterprises“ - with a budget of BGN 12,378,258
- 4. Measure „Harvest insurance“ - with a budget of BGN 1,955,690

Due to the great interest in the measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“, with a decision of the Standing Working Group to address pending issues in the Wine sector, in 2019 measure „Green harvesting“ was not available, and the funds were transferred to the budget of measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“. In addition to the financial resource under the measure, BGN 7,962,171 were transferred from the measure „Promotion on third country markets“ and the measure „Investments in enterprises“.

Under the measure „Restructuring and conversion of vineyards“ in 2019, two applications for financial assistance were received and 118 projects were contracted. For financial 2019, funds in the amount of BGN 19,369,810 were paid or the utilization of the budget is 51.2%.

Under measure „Investments in enterprises“ there was one call, with concluded contracts for 44 projects. The paid financial aid amounted to BGN 8,534,895, which represented almost 69% of the annual budget.

Under measure „Promotion on third country markets“ in financial year 2019, 2 project proposals were submitted, which did not meet the eligibility criteria and did not receive financial assistance.

As of mid-2020, calls were opened under measure „Promotion on third country markets“ with an annual budget of BGN 5,215,467, measure „Investment in enterprises“, with an annual budget of BGN 16,329,887 and under measure „Harvest insurance“, with an annual budget of BGN 1,955,800.

In view of the emergency situation caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, for financial 2020, a call was planned for the crisis measures „Green Harvesting“ with a budget of BGN 2,562,222 and „Crisis storage of wine“ with a budget of BGN 5,000,000.

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 2019, there are no conditions for opening public intervention and private storage of products.

In 2020, COVID-19 crisis and the mass restrictions on the movement of citizens imposed by EU Member States led to a drop in demand for certain products in the dairy sector (cheese, butter, skimmed milk powder), some types of meat.

Given these circumstances and the resulting imbalance between supply and demand, the European Commission decided to provide private storage aid for these products, with specific acts published in the Official Journal of the EU on 04.05.2020. Order RD 09- 396/08.05.2020 of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry listed the products eligible under the aid scheme for private storage of certain types of cheese, taking into account that the measure is suitable for application in Bulgaria.

The State Fund for Agriculture opened the call for assistance for private storage of cheese, with a deadline of 30 June 2020. The maximum quantity of cheese stored in Bulgaria under the scheme is 889 tonnes.

1.2.6. Sugar Sector

Since 1 October 2017, EU sugar production has been 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 2019 in Bulgaria there is one enterprise for isoglucose production - Amilum Bulgaria EAD, Razgrad and a sugar refinery - Zahar EAD, Gorna Oryahovitsa.

Pursuant to Regulation No 2017/1185 and Article 10a of the Act implementing the Common Organization of Agricultural Markets of the European Union, refineries submit notifications to the MAFF for prices and stocks of sugar, and isoglucose producers - notifications for 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 organization of training events, conferences with the participation of journalists and doctors, promotions in supermarkets and shops, tastings, advertising, organization of competitions, publications in the specialized press and the 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 2019 the following programmes were underway:

- Enjoy EU Cherries - a multinational programme for information and promotion of fresh cherries. It was submitted by the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria and Group of Cooperatives for Fruit Production (Greece) and aimed at markets in Germany, Finland and Sweden. The total budget of the Programme was EUR 1,768,956 (BGN 3,459,724).
- Promotion of wines with PDO/PGI in third countries was submitted by the National Vine and Wine Chamber and aimed at markets in the US and China, with a budget of EUR 3,578,397 (BGN 6,998,629).
- Promotion of European Spirit Drinks with Geographical Indication (Burgas Muscat brandy, Pomorie grape brandy and tsipouro Tirnavou) was submitted by the Regional Vine and Wine Chamber „South Black Sea“ - Burgas and the Greek Association of Wine Producers Tirnavos. The Programme targeted markets in the US, Russia and Belarus, with a total budget of EUR 1,767,033 (BGN 3,455,964);

- Information and Promotional Programme for Fresh Cherries in Third Countries - it was submitted by the National Union of Gardeners in Bulgaria and targeted markets in Belarus, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Programme's budget stood at EUR 1,639,645 (BGN 3,206,819).

In 2019, the promotional programmes available under the legislation before the reform of the scheme paid out BGN 3,610,330 (from EAGF - BGN 2,256,456 and national co-financing - BGN 1,353,874).

In July 2019, monitoring groups were held to check a total of 7 promotional programmes implemented under the rules before the reform of legislation in this area, with the participation of representatives of the State Fund for Agriculture, the European Commission and proposing, implementing and evaluating organizations of the programmes.

The rules for the implementation of post-reform promotional programmes in 2015 are described in Regulation (EU) 2015/1831 and Regulation (EU) 1144/2014. According to the rules laid down in EU legislation, the choice of programmes for which financial support is available, is carried out annually by the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea), established for this purpose at the EU level. For Campaign 2019 Bulgaria did not have an approved promotional programme.

1.2.8. Quality Policy: Protected Designations

By Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/537 of 28 March 2019 entering a name in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications, the Commission entered the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) 'Strandzhanski manov med'/ 'Manov med ot Strandzha' in the European Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications.

In 2019, two ordinances in the field of quality policy were drafted - Ordinance No 4/28.05.2019 on the terms and conditions for the use of the optional quality term „mountain product“ and for the implementation of official control over its use and Ordinance No 5/13.08.2019 for preparation and submission of requests to the European Commission regarding agricultural products and foodstuffs with protected geographical indications and traditionally specific character, for control for compliance with the product specification and for keeping registers of producers and controllers.

In accordance with the established procedures for entry of new producers in the registers of producers of agricultural products with protected names, by an order, in 2019 the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry entered 3 new manufacturers in the register of PGI producers „Bulgarian Rose Oil“ ('Balgarsko rozovo maslo').

The register of producers of the optional quality term „mountain product“ includes 3 producers who have the right to use the name „mountain product“ in the labelling of the products for which they have applied - tomatoes, cucumbers, cherries, plums.

In 2019 and 2020, there will be a national procedure to handle the application for specifications and the supporting documentation of PDO „Bulgarian Yogurt“ ('Balgarsko kiselo mlyako') and PDO „Bulgarian White Brine Cheese“ ('Balgarsko byalo salamureno sirene') in order to send the two files to the Commission for consideration and registration of the two designations in the European Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications. On-site inspections of the members of the association „Bulgarian traditional dairy products“ are carried out in connection with the production of „Bulgarian yogurt“.

The national procedure for processing an application for entry of „Lutenitsa Parvomay“ / „Parvomayska Lutenitsa“ in the European Register of Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications is underway, and on-site inspections of the members of the association „Lutenitsa Parvomay“ have been carried out.

By publications in the Official Journal of the EU in December 2019 - March 2020, the Commission approved the requests submitted by the association „Traditional raw dried meat products“ for minor changes in the specifications of TSG „File Elena“, TSG „Role Trapezitsa“, TSG „Lukanka Panagyurska“ and TSG „Kayserovan vrat Trakia“.

1.3. Trade Mechanisms

1.3.1. Export Licensing

Scheme: Mandatory Export Licenses for Agricultural Products in calendar 2019

The products subject to compulsory export licensing to third countries, whether or not an export refund is claimed, are from the Rice sector. Mandatory licences are used for statistical purposes, to monitor the market for these sensitive products in the EU. For calendar year 2019, 143 mandatory export licences were issued for the export of 11,825 tonnes of rice in total. The implementation of the mandatory licenses is secured by 20 guarantees, at a total value of BGN 48,614.

In 2019, 21 guarantees under licences were released, at a total value of BGN 32,874, 3 fines were imposed, for a total of BGN 7,053 and 7 new beneficiaries were registered.

From 01.01.2020 to 25.06.2020 82 mandatory licences for export of rice were issued. Guarantees under mandatory licences amounting to BGN 7,654 have been established and 9 guarantees have been released, totalling BGN 21,382.

Scheme: Export licences for dairy products to Canada for calendar year 2019

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. Canada's import quota system is a mechanism to protect local production and is a combination of two instruments - quotas and import duties. For Bulgaria, the agreement entered into force immediately after its accession to the EU on 01.01.2007. The export licence to Canada entitles to a reduced duty on imports of dairy products under code 0406 of the CN, produced in a Member State of the European Union.

In 2019, 59 export licences to Canada for milk and dairy products were issued under the quota, including 21 export licences for 48,550 kg of cheese and 38 licences for export of 139,619 kg of cheese.

Compared to 2018, there is an increase in both the number of issued licences - by 118% and the exported quantities - by 98% for yellow cheese and 105.5% for cheese.

For the period from 01.01.2020 to 25.06.2020, a total of 30 licences for export of dairy products to Canada were issued, including 10 licenses for 38 505 kg of yellow cheese and 20 licenses for 179,047 kg of cheese.

Scheme: Export Licences of cheese to the USA within a quota for the 2019 calendar year

As a result of the negotiations between the USA and the European Union, conducted within the World Trade Organization, an agreement was concluded, whereby Bulgaria and Romania became part of the quota for import of EU cheese to the USA as from 2013. This quota allows imports to the USA of EU cheese within CN code 0406 with reduced import duty. For calendar year 2019, there was no interest from Bulgarian exporters to participate in the scheme, and for 2020 the call for licensing was opened on 1 September.

1.3.2. Export Licensing

Import licensing of agricultural products from third countries

In 2019, the administration of the system of licensing of imports of agricultural products is governed by the Act implementing the Common Organization of Agricultural Markets of the European Union, the Ordinance of 07.01.2014 on the terms and conditions for issuing licences and certificates in export of agricultural and processed agricultural products and control over the import and export of agricultural and processed agricultural products, Ordinance No 15 of 01.10.2012 on the procedure to provide collateral for issuing licences for import and export, advance fixing certificates

and refund certificates for agricultural products from or to third countries, Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17.12.2013 establishing a common organization of the markets in agricultural products and repealing of Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1301/2006 of 31.08 .2006 laying down common rules for the management of import tariff quotas managed through the system of import licenses, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1237, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1239 Commission and the product regulations.

According to the legislation, mandatory licensing of imports from third countries applies to the following products: rice, garlic and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

The application of the licensing regime to imports under tariff quotas and preferential arrangements covers the following groups of agricultural products: cereals, rice, sugar, olive oil and table olives, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables (garlic and canned mushrooms), beef and veal, pork, milk and dairy products, eggs and egg albumin, poultry.

In 2019, 338 applications were submitted for issuance of licences for import of agricultural products from third countries, including 23 for licence extracts. 293 licences were issued, of which 73 - under tariff quotas and preferential regimes and 220 - under general conditions.

In 2019, a company received rights to import beef and veal and a company was approved as an importer of milk and dairy products.

The guarantees in favour of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for fulfilment of the import obligation under the licences issued in 2019 amounted to BGN 50,992,346. Importers were reimbursed guarantees totalling BGN 51,077,157.

In 2019 the MAFF register featured 11 new importers of agricultural products. As of 31.12.2019 the total number of registered importers of agricultural products was 492.

2. Support under the 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.

Until 31 December 2019, there have been five amendments to the Programme. In 2019, the sixth amendment was sent for consideration by the Commission services, which was approved in the second quarter of 2020.

For the period of implementation of the RDP until 31.12.2019 the agreed funds amount to BGN 3,917,724,193 (EUR 2,003,131,298) public funds (excluding commitments under the measures with a 5-year commitment from the RDP), which represents 69% from the entire budget of the Programme. The total public funds paid came in at BGN 2,277,702,399 (EUR 1,164,588,608) or 40% of the budget.

The funds paid in calendar year 2019 amounted to BGN 844,340,089 (EUR 431,710,854).

In 2019, the following measures and sub-measures of the RDP 2014-2020 were implemented:

- Sub-measure 1.1. Vocational training and acquisition of skills
- Sub-measure 4.2.2. Investment in processing / marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic Sub-programme
- Sub-measure Start-up Aid for Small Farms Development
- Sub-measure 7.3. Broadband infrastructure including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and measures to access solutions through broadband infrastructure and e-government.
- Sub-measure 16.1. Support for the establishment and functioning of operational groups within the EMI
- Measure 10 Agri-environment and 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

Measure 1 Knowledge transfer and awareness raising actions

Sub-measure 1.1. Vocational training and acquisition of skills

The call under the sub-measure was opened in the period 2019 - 2020. 79 applications for support were received, with a subsidy value of BGN 35,008,820 public funds, which by mid-2020 are in the process of consideration and evaluation.

Measure 2 „Consultancy, farm management and farm substitution services

Sub-measure 2.1. Assistance for provision of consultancy services

The National Agricultural Advisory Service is the only advisory organization designated in Ordinance No 7 / 05.05.2016 for application of sub-measure 2.1.2 „Consulting services for small agricultural holdings“ and approved by the Commission to provide consulting services to small agricultural holdings.

In 2019, the provision of CP under sub-measure 2.1.2 of the RDP 2014-2020 continued, which includes on-site visits, assessment and analysis of the condition of agricultural holdings, as well as, where applicable, soil sampling for agrochemical analysis. and recommendations for fertilization. Small farms are provided with information, specific advice and recommendations in connection with the requested CP.

The total number of submitted applications for receiving CP under sub-measure 2.1.2 since the beginning of the provision of packages in 2016 to 31.12.2019 is 7,849, and the prepared written reports are 7,761.

In connection with the call opened on 28.06.2019 under sub-measure 6.3 „Start-up aid for the development of small farms“ of measure 6 „Development of farms and enterprises“ of the RDP 2014-2020, NAAS promptly started accepting applications for of the CP, including preparation of a business plan and basic information about the project proposal, for application under sub-measure 6.3. During the call (01.07. - 24.09.2019) 2,063 applications were received from farmers applying under sub-measure 6.3. The total number of project proposals prepared by the NAAS for farmers is 2,056.

In respect of the call launched at the end of 2019 under sub-measure 4.2.2 „Investments in processing / marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic Subprogramme“ of measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ of the RDP 2014-2020, farmers were granted a consulting package, including preparation of a business plan and basic information about the project proposal for application under the sub-measure. Three applications were submitted for preparation of project proposals, for which the relevant projects were prepared by NAAS experts - for fruit processing (juice production), for honey processing and for processing of nuts.

In 2019, under sub-measure 2.1.2, payments in the amount of BGN 2,580,680 were made, including BGN 1,399,111 for farmers and foresters and BGN 1,181,569 for small farmers. The public funds paid under Measure 2 from the beginning of its implementation until 31.12.2019 stood at BGN 13,101,612.

Measure 4 Investments in tangible assets

Sub-measure 4.1 Investments in agricultural holdings

In 2019, 7 contracts for financial assistance were concluded under the sub-measure, with an approved subsidy in the amount of BGN 6,092,865. The funds disbursed during the year amounted to BGN 113,904,939.

For the period of the RDP 2014-2020 until 31.12.2019 the active contracts under sub-measure 4.1 were 1,409, with approved financial aid in the amount of BGN 739,747,767. The total funds paid amounted to BGN 390,107,083.

The data from the concluded contracts in the 2015 and 2016 call show that young farmers were almost 1/3 of the beneficiaries supported under the sub-measure.

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 18.07.2018-22.10.2018, a call was opened through the UMIS 2020 system for project proposals with a total budget of BGN 24,447,500. 268 projects were received, with a total value of the requested grant in the amount of BGN 7,808,590. As of 31.12.2019, the project proposals were at the stage of assessment for administrative compliance and eligibility.

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

Within the call held in 2018, with a budget of BGN 166,243,000 (subsequently increased to BGN 241,188,575), 593 applications for financial assistance were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy amounting to BGN 703,676,087. 115 grant contracts were signed, with a grant value of BGN 139,122,935.

As of 31 December 2019, the active contracts were 379, with approved public funds amounting to BGN 477,667,759. For the entire period of application of the sub-measure until the end of 2019, a total of BGN 144,421,857 were paid, and for the calendar year 2019 the payments amounted to BGN 48,728,133.

Sub-measure 4.2.2. Investment in processing / marketing of agricultural products under Thematic Sub-programme

In October 2019, a procedure for selection of project proposals through UMIS was opened under the sub-measure, with available budget of BGN 3,295,760.

Within the call, 5 projects were submitted, at a total value of BGN 639,339. As of 31 December 2019, the projects were under review and evaluation.

Measure 6 Farms and enterprises development

Sub-measure 6.1. Start-up Aid for Young Farmers

Based on the principle of decentralization and to facilitate farmers and reduce the administrative burden, the implementation of the sub-measure is distributed in 28 regional directorates of the Paying Agency.

In 2018, a call for project proposals under Sub-measure 6.1 „Start-up aid for young

farmers“ with a budget of BGN 43,027,600 was launched. 1,837 project proposals were submitted, with a total value of the requested grant of BGN 89,048,049. 855 contracts were concluded, with a grant value of BGN 41,805,225. For the entire period of application of the RDP until 31.12.2019, a total of BGN 114,030,187 were paid under the sub-measure, and for the calendar year 2019 the payments made amounted to BGN 25,131,886.

During the current period, like in the previous programming period, there is a high interest on the part of young farmers in the measure. Again, a key role for its implementation is played by measure 2 of the RDP 2014-2020, which practically provides free consulting assistance in the preparation of application documents.

Sub-measure 6.3 Start-up Aid for Small Farms Development

The implementation of the sub-measure started in 2016, and in practice this is the first targeted call under the Thematic Programme for Small Farms in the RDP 2014-2020. To help farmers and reduce the administrative burden, the sub-measure is applied in a decentralised mode in the 28 districts directorates of the Paying Agency.

In 2019, a call for project proposals with an available budget of BGN 43,027,600 was announced. Within the call, 2,653 applications were received, with a total value of the requested grant in the amount of BGN 76,190,267. During the year, 55 contracts were signed, worth BGN 1,613,535, for financial support of project proposals received in the first call. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 6,704,831.

For the entire period of RDP 2014-2020 implementation until the end of 2019, a total of 3,815 project proposals were submitted under the sub-measure, of which 1,907 grant contracts were signed. The total amount of the approved financial aid stood at BGN 5 5945 659, and the amounts paid to beneficiaries under the sub-measure were BGN 70,969,582.

Sub-measure 6.4.1 „Investments in support of non-agricultural activities,,

The sub-measure started for the first time with the 2018 call, with a total budget of BGN 132,994,400 public funds, divided into three support procedures - in the production, services and crafts sectors. The total number of applications filed in the call was 826, with a value of the requested subsidy of BGN 220,848,690 in public funds.

The budget for the call in „Investments aimed at the development of crafts“ amounted to BGN 5,867,400. 29 project proposals were received, with a total value of the requested grant of BGN 6,026,013. 25 project proposals were eligible for assessment of administrative compliance and eligibility and technical and financial assessment.

Under the procedure „Development of services in all sectors and other non-agricultural activities“, with a budget for the call in the amount of BGN 68,453,000,507,

the applications had a total value of requested grant in the amount of BGN 133,461,838. As the total amount of the requested financial assistance under the submitted project proposals exceeded the available budget under the procedure, a preliminary evaluation of 471 project proposals was performed.

Under „Production of products not included in Annex I of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union“ 290 applications were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 81,360,838, which exceeded the available budget for the call - BGN 58,674,000. A preliminary evaluation of 269 project proposals was performed.

At end-2019, no support contracts have been concluded under the sub-measure, and the submitted project proposals are in the process of consideration 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 2019, no call was held under the sub-measure. 322 contracts for calls from previous years were concluded, at a total value of BGN 220,178,490. The payments made over the year amounted to BGN 277,981,002.

For the period of application of the RDP until 31.12.2019, the total number of grant contracts concluded was 647, with the value of the agreed subsidy in the amount of BGN 1,033,635,826. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 321,810,980.

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.

The sub-measure fulfils the objectives not only of the RDP, but also those set in the National Plan for Development of e-Government. It is also coordinated with the National Strategy for Development of Broadband Access in Bulgaria and supports the implementation of the activities of the State Agency for E0Government, which is its sole beneficiary.

As of 31.12.2019, a call was opened under the sub-measure (at the end of May 2019), which was subsequently terminated in order to specify the set parameters.

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

In 2019, no call was opened under the sub-measure. From the beginning of the RDP 2014-2020 implementation until 31 December 2019, a total of 89 contracts were concluded, with a total value of BGN 50,418,101, and the paid public funds amounted to BGN 35,667,734, of which in 2019 - BGN 16,432,424.

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 2018, under the sub-measure, a call for projects was opened through UMIS for the first time, with a budget of BGN 33,363,992. 37 project proposals were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 57,690,674. In 2019, the projects were under review and evaluation.

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

In 2018, the first call for projects through UMIS under the sub-measure was opened, with a available budget of BGN 15,646,400. 14 applications for support were submitted, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 5,946,658. In 2019, the project proposals 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

The first call under the sub-measure was announced in 2018, through the UMIS system, with a certain budget in the amount of BGN 35,204,400. 197 project proposals were received, with a total value of the claimed subsidy of BGN 79,373,910. At the end of 2019, the projects were under review and evaluation.

Measure 9: Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations

The measure aims to establish groups and organizations of producers in the agricultural sector, supporting production management and supply of high quality agricultural products that meet EU standards and market requirements and improve market access for small and medium-sized farms.

Within the 2018 call, with a budget of BGN 14,793,044, a total of 44 project proposals were submitted.

In 2019, 16 grant contracts were concluded, with a total amount of the agreed subsidy of BGN 7,408,513. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 748,632.

For the period of application of the RDP 2014-2020 until the end of 2019 under measure 9, 23 contracts were concluded, with a value of the approved grant in the amount of BGN 12,846,827. The funds paid for the period amounted to BGN 1,080,207.

Measure 10 Agri-environment and climate

During the period 2015 - 2019, the measure was applied in full scope in the following fields:

- 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.

For the entire period of application until 31.12.2019, under measure 10, a total of BGN 281,211,261 public funds were paid, of which BGN 58,999,670 in 2019.

Measure 11 Organic farming

The measure covers the implementation of two sub-measures - „Payments for the transition to organic farming“ and „Payments for the maintenance of organic farming“, with support in three areas - organic crop production, organic beekeeping and organic livestock.

In 2019, a total of BGN 43,971,851 were paid under the measure, and in the period 2015-2019 the public funds paid to organic producers amounted to BGN 207,602,377.

Measure 12 Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments

The rate of absorption of funds under the measure is even, as the number of beneficiaries managing agricultural lands in Natura 2000 protected areas who participate annually remains largely unchanged. The measure is partially implemented through sub-measure 12.1. Compensatory payments for agricultural areas in Natura 2000 network

In 2019, payments in the amount of BGN 45,779,391 were made, and the total public funds paid for the period from the beginning of the implementation of the measure until 31 December 2019 amounted to BGN 181,634,138.

Measure 13 Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

Measure 13 with its 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“ have been applied since 2015.

For the entire period of implementation until the end of 2019, a total of BGN 449,557,040 have been paid under the measure, of which in 2019 - BGN 182,698,674.

Measure 14 Animal Welfare

Measure 14 „Animal welfare“ was first launched in 2017 and is applied 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“.

For the period 2017-2019, a total of BGN 7,540,959 were paid under the measure. Payments in 2019 amounted to BGN 3,655,542.

Measure 16 Cooperation

Sub-measure 16.1. Support for the establishment and functioning of operational groups within the EMI

The call for the sub-measure was opened for project proposals in 2019. 48 projects were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy amounting to BGN 34,422,080 in public funds. As of 31 December 2019, the projects were under review and evaluation.

Measure 19 Community-led local development

Sub-measure 19.1 Aid for preparatory activities

For the period of application of the sub-measure until 31.12.2019, 100 grant contracts were concluded, at a total value of BGN 5,077,786, under which 180 municipalities, covering a population of 2,300,000 inhabitants and a territory of 74,433 sq. km (78% of the country 's rural area).

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

The total value of the funds paid under the sub-measure for the entire period of implementation until the end of 2019 was BGN 3,934,791 in public funds, of which in 2019 - BGN 48,722.

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

For the period of implementation of the measure, 64 CLLD strategies were approved, with a total amount of financial assistance of BGN 364,547,800.

For 2019 in UMIS, in the status „Completed“, 203 procedures under the sub-measure were received, with a value of the submitted project proposals amounting to BGN 505,260,153.

The submitted project proposals for the procedures for implementation of measures included in the LAG strategies for 2019 were 782.

In 2019, no payments were made under the sub-measure.

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

In August 2018, under sub-measure 19.3, a call for project proposals was opened, divided into two procedures - „Selection of project proposals for preparatory activities for 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.

For the period of application until the end of 2019, no payments were made under the sub-measure.

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

Pursuant to Article 12(1) of Ordinance No 1 of 2016 on the implementation of sub-measure 19.4 annually by 30 September, the local action groups submit an application for approval of planned activities and expenditures for the next calendar year. BGN 8,750,590 was paid for the reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the LAG in 2019, and for the entire period of application of the measure until 31 December 2019 the disbursed funds amounted to BGN 20,026,116.

Measure 20 Technical Assistance

For the period from the beginning of application of the RDP 2014-2020 to the end of 2019 under measure 20, 127 applications for support were approved, at a total value of BGN 46,743,620. Expenditures paid for the same period amounted to BGN 33,060,888 in public funds, of which in 2019 - BGN 8,217,834.

Both in programming period 2007-2013 and in the period 2014-2020, the measure played a key role in implementing the RDP. Activities underway aimed at ensuring information and publicity of the Programme, conducting analyses, studies, research and evaluations, as well as technical support and remuneration for the MA and RA.

Table IV.7 Funds paid under RDP measures and sub-measures in 2019, BGN

Measure/ Sub-measure	Title of Measure	Funds paid
2.1.2	Consultancy services for farmers and forest holders	1,399,111
2.1.2	Consultancy services for small farms	1,181,569
4.1	Investment in farms	113,904,939
4.2	Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products	48,728,133
6.1	Start-up aid for young farmers	25,131,886

Measure/ Sub-measure	Title of Measure	Funds paid
6.3	Start-up aid for small farms development	6,704,831
7.2	Investments in Creation, Improvement or Expansion of All Types of Small-Scale Infrastructure	277,981,002
7.6	Surveys and Investments for Maintenance, Restoration and Improvement of Villages' Cultural and Natural Heritage	16,432,424
8.1	Investing in the development of forest areas and forests	5,288
9	Establishment of Producer Groups and Organisations	748,632
10	Agri-environment-climate	58,999,670
11	Organic farming	43,971,851
12	Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments	45,779,391
13	Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints	182,698,674
14.	Animal Welfare	3,655,542
19.1	Community-led local development	48,722
19.4	Running Costs and Popularization for strategy for Community-led local development	8,750,590
20	Technical assistance	8,217,834
	Total	844,340,089

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 Aid

The MAFF policy regarding the support with state aid in the Agriculture sector is focused primarily on small and medium-sized agricultural holdings. It complies with the relevant European Union's policy, in order to promote and develop sustainably small and medium-sized businesses, improve the economic efficiency and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in agriculture, as well as the living standards of employees in the sector.

The provision of state aid to Bulgarian agriculture has a positive impact on the sector, leading to increased competitiveness of small and medium-sized farms. Measures are in place designed to improve the efficiency of farms and ensure better products, take preventive action and compensate for damage from natural disasters and adverse climatic events, provide assistance in the prevention of plant and animal

diseases, protection of genetic resources in plant and animal husbandry, promotion of animal welfare, to encourage participation in exhibitions to promote Bulgarian agricultural production and exchange of experience.

As an instrument for support in the agricultural sector of the country, state aid is planned, developed and directed to the priority needs of Bulgarian agriculture, in compliance with EU legislation.

The total value of state aid in the Agriculture sector in 2019 amounted to BGN 278.1 million, of which:

- BGN 154.2 million under the State aid and de minimis aid schemes administered by the SFA;
- BGN 123.9 million under 2 tax relief schemes (corporate tax reduction for tax year 2018 and reduced rate of excise duty on gas oil).

During the year, state aid was provided in the following areas:

1) Investment aid - aimed at small and medium-sized agricultural holdings in order to increase investment activity

In 2019, the European Commission approved 4 new investment schemes for state aid. The schemes target primarily the implementation of small projects with low ceilings of investment costs, thus providing an opportunity for even the smallest farms to carry out technological modernization. The aid is as follows:

- „Aid for investments in tangible assets in agricultural holdings related to the primary production of crop products“

The aid is granted as a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs of investments in machinery, equipment and lines for preparation, cooling and storage of primary agricultural products.

- „Investments for the purchase or construction of facilities for handling and/or processing of raw milk“

The aid is granted as a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs for investment in the construction of a facility for handling and/or processing of raw milk with the necessary equipment (mini dairies) or for the purchase of a temporary retail facility for dairy products (including the purchase of the necessary equipment) in which raw milk is processed and/or handled, in accordance with Ordinance No 26 of 14.10.2010 on the specific requirements for direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food of animal origin.

- „Investments in the purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities to feed newborn animals with milk“

The aid is granted as a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs of an investment in the purchase of raw milk production and storage facilities and facilities to feed newborn animals with milk.

- „Investments in the construction of slaughterhouses“

In June 2020, the guidelines for implementation in 2020 were approved and applications are to be accepted. The aid will be provided as a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs for the investment in the construction of points for production and cutting of meat from own large ruminants (LR) and small ruminants (SR) on the farm and/or the purchase of mobile ones (mobile equipment that can be transported by vehicle).

The state aid for „Investments in the construction of commercial premises and the purchase of commercial equipment for farmers carrying out direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food from farm animals“, launched in 2015, continues to apply.

2) Risk and crisis management - aimed at counteracting and compensating for damage in case of natural disasters or adverse weather conditions, as well as in case of animal and plant diseases

- State aid to offset losses suffered by farmers for damage to crops caused by adverse climate events that can be assimilated to natural disasters;

The support under the scheme is direct aid, which amounts to 80% of the average production costs for growing a crop during the relevant marketing year.

- State aid to offset material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives;

The aid is paid in the form of direct aid up to 100% of the average market prices of farm animals by species and category.

- Aid to compensate the costs of farmers related to the implementation of measures under the National Pest Control Programme in perennials during the winter;
- Aid to compensate farmers for the costs related to the implementation of measures under the National Programme of Measures for Control of Soil Pests on Potatoes of the Wireworm Family (Elateridae);

- Aid to compensate farmers for the implementation of measures under the National Programme of Measures for the Control of Tomato Leaf Miner - *Tuta absoluta* Meyrick (Lepidoptera);
- 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

State aid to co-finance insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production;

- State aid to compensate costs for removing and disposal of dead livestock.
- 3) Aid aimed at ensuring the use of quality seed in crop production, maintaining a high level of breeding activity in animal husbandry and optimizing the process of production of quality agricultural products**

- 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.
- Aid for certification of holdings in the fruit and vegetables sector under the GLOBALG.A.P standard.

4) Aid aimed at improving the quality of food and raw materials of animal origin by paying particular attention to animal welfare

- State aid to implement voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs;
- State aid to implement voluntary commitments for the welfare of poultry.

5) Aid for participation in exhibitions

The support of this 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 Crop Production, Livestock and Processing of Agricultural Products sectors.

6) De Minimis Aid

De minimis aid is granted subject to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2019/316 of 21 February 2019. The de minimis rule applies to aid which, due to the small amount, does not endanger competition and can be provided by Member States without the need for approval by the European Commission. At present, the maximum amount of de minimis aid in the agricultural production sector is set at EUR 25,000 per holding for three consecutive tax years.

In 2019, under developed de minimis schemes for animals and bee colonies, support amounting to a total of BGN 36.4 million was provided.

7) Tax reliefs (administered under another procedure)

- State aid for investments in agricultural holdings by transferring the corporate tax

The aid is administered by the National Revenue Agency. Under the aid, the tax declared for transfer for tax year 2018 was BGN 40.3 million from 2,340 farmers. According to preliminary data of the National Revenue Agency, the tax requested for transfer for tax year 2019 is BGN 32.4 million.

- State aid „Aid in the form of a rebate on the value of excise duty on gas oil used in primary agricultural production“

Under the aid, for the 2019 campaign, nearly BGN 83.6 million were paid to 11,450 farmers.

Table IV.8 State aid in agriculture in 2019

State Aid	Utilized financial resource - BGN	No 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	13,243,937	86,800
Aid for creation and maintenance of a herd book and for determination of the productiveness and the genetic properties of the animals	7,156,294	5,200
Aid to offset material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives and bee colonies	25,946	4
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	69,034	6
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs	32,417,563	78
Aid for implementing voluntary commitments for the welfare of poultry	34,429,270	214
Aid for compensating costs for removing and disposal of fallen stock	14,639,045	3
Support „Investments in the purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities to feed newborn animals with milk“	0	0
Support „Investments in the construction of slaughterhouses“	0	0
Support „Investments for the purchase or construction of facilities for handling and/or processing of raw milk“	47,500	1
Aid to compensate for crop damage caused by adverse climatic events that can be equated with natural disasters (damages in 2018 - BGN 1,858,477 for 240 beneficiaries and damages in 2019 - BGN 2,109,466 for 240 beneficiaries)	3,967,923	480

State Aid	Utilized financial resource - BGN	No of beneficiaries
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	5,568,484	5,809
Aid to compensate farmers for the implementation of measures under the National Programme of Measures for the Control of Tomato Leaf Miner	130,261	27
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 Wireworms	1,627,069	287
Aid for co-financing of insurance premiums in relation with insurance of agricultural production	1,078,529	403
Aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of seeds and seedlings.	1,098,210	427
„Aid for investments in tangible assets in agricultural holdings related to the primary production of crop products“	115,483	5
Aid for participation in exhibitions	2,129,631	675
Aid for certification of holdings in the fruit and vegetables sector under the GLOBALG.A.P standard.	21,226	21
De Minimis aid	36,411,764	23,836
Aid in the form of reduced excise duty on gas oil used for primary farm production	83,580,834	11,450
Aid for investments in agricultural holdings through a corporate tax reduction - for 2018	40,326,938	2,340
Total state aid and de minimis aid, administered by SFA	154,177,169	
TOTAL under state aid schemes (including through tax relief) and de minimis	278,084,941	

Source: Source: SF Agriculture, National Revenue Agency, Customs Agency

Date for the January - June 2020 period

For 2020, the resources allocated for state aid within state aid schemes and de minimis aid in agriculture, applied by the SFA, stood at BGN 155.6 million. As of 24.06.2020, by its decisions, the SFA Management Board approved BGN 118.1 million under state aid schemes.

3.2. Short-term lending

In 2019, the State Fund for Agriculture provided a total of BGN 84,000 in the form of short-term loans to farmers (compared to BGN 2,228,659 in 2018). The amount was paid under a contract concluded in 2018 for a targeted loan for the purchase of mineral fertilizers and/or seeds and the use of non-permanently certified own seeds for wheat production, harvest 2019. In 2019 the SFA Board did not issue decisions to provide short-term loans.

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 2019, 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 Beekeeping Programme for the three-year period 2017-2019 (NBP)

This credit scheme has been available for the seventh consecutive year, contributing to a significant increase in the funds utilising under the National Beekeeping 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 NBP - 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 NBP, and the interest rate is 3% annual interest.

Within the deadline of the call under the scheme, 144 credit applications were submitted, all of which were processed and financed. The amount of the provided funds was BGN 813,323.27.

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

Credit scheme of SF Agriculture for investments in agriculture

Credit scheme of SF Agriculture for investments in agriculture there are three main directions - Crops, 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 MB of SF Agriculture for 2019 - 3% 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 2019, 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 in place.

The scheme provides an 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 2020

In 2020, the SFA continued to apply the above-mentioned three investment credit schemes to farmers.

The annual interest rate for new loans financed directly by the SFA under the crediting scheme for investments in agriculture was 3%.

By the end of the year investment credits of up to BGN 500 million are expected to be provided under the credit scheme to persons with approved NBP projects. As of June 2020, 81 credit applications amounting to BGN 320,000 were submitted under the scheme, and 14 credits amounting to BGN 42,973 were funded from them.



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 database 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 2019, a total of 24,338 agricultural and forestry machinery units were registered across the country, of which 7,709 or about one-third was new machines.

Table V.1. Registered agricultural and forestry machinery in 2019

Machine type	Total	incl. new machines
Caterpillar tractors	151	19
Wheeled tractors	7,645	1,229
Self-propelled chassis	115	0
Other self-propelled equipment	4,208	1,095
Tractor trailers	2,517	666
Harvesting and threshing machinery	1,033	187
Self-propelled forage harvesters	31	2
Other self-propelled machinery	112	20
Sowing and planting machines	1,045	585
Fertilizing and plant protection machines	1,006	611
Fodder harvesters and fodder processors	2,342	1,277
Soil cultivators	2,856	1,601
Dryers and more	13	7
Grain and seed cleaners	15	9
Irrigating machines	66	25
Forestry equipment	1,183	376
Total	24,338	7,709

Source: MAFF

1.2. Technical Inspection of 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.

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 2019, 76 permits were issued for training for obtaining legal licence to operate agricultural and forestry machinery; 335 exams were conducted; a total of 7,844 new and renewed certificates of competence were issued.

1.4. Testing and Certification of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery

In 2019, the centres for testing and certification in Ruse and Plovdiv carried out 1,680 tests of used agricultural and forestry machinery and earth-moving machinery.

2. Hydromelioration

2.1. Sites for protection against the harmful effects of water

Irrigation Systems EAD provides a public service for protection against the harmful effects of water, operation and maintenance of water management facilities for protection against the harmful effects of water: protective dikes, Danube dikes, river bed adjustments, drainage systems - public state property, as per the Water Act. The sites for protection from the harmful impact of water - owned by the MAFF, for which the company performs a public service under a contract, are located across the country, and protect against flooding settlements, agricultural land, roads, industrial enterprises, other engineering infrastructure and important national sites.

The final statement of operating expenses in 2019 reported a total of BGN 24.178 million, including expenses for activities performed by the units of Irrigation Systems EAD. 27 sites (compromised sections of river bed adjustments and drainage canal) have been restored with outsourcing based on procedures under the Public Procurement Act (PPA) and concluded contracts for repair and restoration works, as well as pre-investment studies of the sites in the municipality of Bregovo.

The activities under the contract for sites for protection from the harmful impact of water, related to the maintenance of sites for protection from the harmful effects of water, ensuring their conductivity, restoration of damaged sections of dikes, berms and river adjustments, etc. in certain cases are carried out using external contractors under the Public Procurement Act and the requirements of the relevant contract.

For the period 01.01. - 31.05.2020, the expenses incurred by Irrigation Systems EAD

to carry out activities under the contract for sites for protection from the harmful impact of water amounted to BGN 7,872 154 34 million with VAT. Four sites were restored (compromised sections of river corrections) with the use of an external contractor based on the Public Procurement Act and contracts for repair and restoration works.

The 2020 programmes envisage further restoration of compromised sections of dikes, river adjustments and other activities, as well as the initial stage of assignment and preparation of working designs for compromised sites, with a view to their subsequent restoration. The costs for the activities under the contract for sites for protection from the harmful impact of water for 2020 are expected to exceed BGN 20 million.

The priority goal in 2021 is to continue the restoration of compromised sections of dikes, river adjustments and other relevant activities, as well as the first-stage assignment and preparation of working designs of compromised sites for the purpose of their subsequent restoration. This will reduce the risk of new accidents and destruction on existing sites that we operate under the contract and will reduce the risk of emergencies.

The company drains 1.486 million decares and maintains over 3,202 km of river adjustments, 255 km of Danube dikes, 277 km of safety dikes, 74 drainage pumping stations and a number of other facilities, concentrating forces and activities annually depending on problems at risk. and compromised sections and facilities.

Irrigation Systems EAD plans to incur costs for activities under the contract for 2021 in the amount of about BGN 25 million for repair and restoration works on sites for protection against the harmful effects of water, in order to take timely action in case of disasters, reducing the risk of floods and disturbances on the hydro-ameliorative and other infrastructure.

2.2. Irrigation

Irrigation Systems EAD owns and operates dams 189 in total, of which 21 complex and significant dams (CSD) - public state property - have been provided for use, including the management, maintenance, operation, protection and monitoring.

At the end of January 2019, the total inflow to the CSD amounted to 88.477 million cu m, 33% less than in 2018.

Table V.2 Total inflow to complex and significant dams at the end of January, million cu m

2017	2018	2019
58.388	131.586	88.477

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

Given the annual spring snowmelt, the inflow was expected to increase, reaching maximum values by end-April and early May, showing that 2019 was over 40% drier than in 2018, and the data reported at the end of May 2020 indicate a similar trend.

Table V.3. Total inflow to complex and significant dams at the end of May, million cu m

2017	2018	2019	2020
178.332	178.227	103.930	104.731

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

In 2019, the CSD realized water masses as follows:

- Drinking and household needs - 30.111 million cu m;
- Irrigation - 278.063 million cu m;
- Industrial needs - 69.721 million cu m;
- Hydropower - 295.139 million cu m;
- Environmental goals - 340.364 million cu m;
- Other needs (boiling, evaporation, filtration, etc.) - 73.706 million cu m.

The estimated volume of the dams in question has been calculated through the flow of water from the CSD in 2019 and the available data as of end-January 2020, which show that the inflow to the dams is analogous to the monthly inflow in the previous year. Based on these calculations, it can be assumed that the 2020 irrigation season (September) would be guaranteed for all dams.

However, in case of shortage, it could be compensated by including alternatives for the supply of the necessary water masses from different water sources (if any) with the possibility of supplying water masses for the needs of the respective irrigation system.

In 2019, Irrigation Systems EAD irrigated a total of 245,693 decares, for which it used water masses of 293,063 thousand cu m, including 115,270 decares of rice with 275,358 thousand cu m of water masses.

Table V.4 Areas watered and water masses used by Irrigation Systems EAD in 2019 by crop type

	TOTAL		Maize		Tobacco		Vegetables		Perennials		Rice		Other plant crops	
	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied										
	decares	000 cu m	decares	000 cu m										
Burgas	8,038	520	0	0	0	0	76	5	5,115	382	0	0	2,847	133

	TOTAL		Maize		Tobacco		Vegetables		Perennials		Rice		Other plant crops	
	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied										
	decares	000 cu m	decares	000 cu m										
Vidin	3,233	177	3,233	177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gorna Tundzha	17,910	32,941	1,399	132	1,554	186	1,054	119	369	24	13,533	32,479	0	0
Lower Danube	7,142	1,670	730	201	0	0	586	194	61	11	0	0	5,764	1,264
Maritsa	96,619	162,433	12,390	1,375	3,725	436	687	110	2,836	247	67,087	159,719	9,894	547
Mizia	1,588	173	40	4	1,253	141	77	23	218	5	0	0	0	0
Sofia	4,535	576	0	0	0	0	3,324	471	1,021	85	0	0	190	20
Middle Danube	11,154	1,635	2,027	130	476	122	5,630	1,192	522	40	0	0	2,500	151
Middle Tundzha	20,871	2,891	14,639	2,190	0	0	1,605	140	2,221	212	0	0	2,407	350
Struma-Mesta	8,433	1,140	2,261	201	209	19	4,147	514	1,156	126	0	0	659	281
Topolnitsa	57,864	87,067	14,361	2,372	2,326	496	3,174	590	2,954	275	34,650	83,160	399	174
Haskovo	4,132	883	784	60	540	26	1,864	545	710	187	0	0	234	65
Black Sea	1,601	319	307	73	0	0	859	191	221	22	0	0	214	33
Shumen	2,573	638	1,200	324	0	0	426	134	4	1	0	0	944	179
TOTAL	245,693	293,063	53,371	7,240	10,084	1,426	23,508	4,226	17,409	1,615	115,270	275,358	26,051	3,197

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

In 2020, the prices at which Irrigation Systems EAD provided the „water supply for irrigation“ service were differentiated by region and by delivery method, unchanged from 2019.

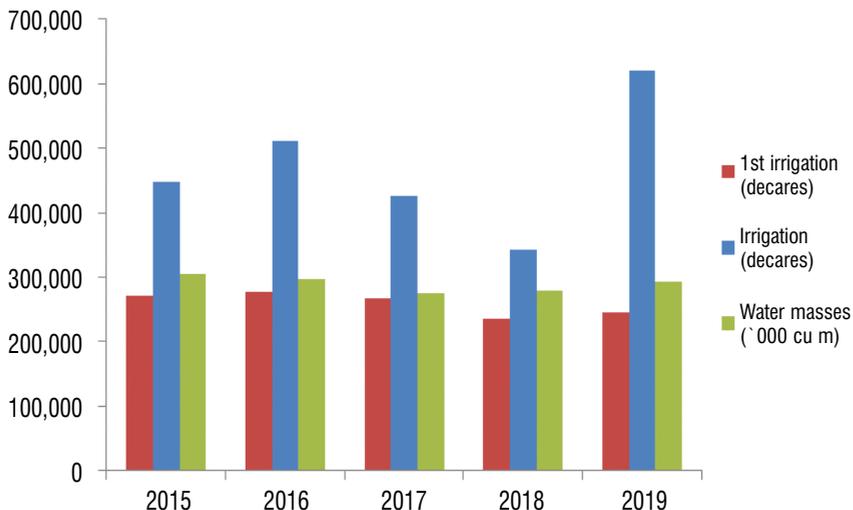
Table V.5. Summary for Irrigation by Irrigation Systems EAD for the period 2017-2019

	2017			2018			2019		
	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses
	decares	decares	000 cu m	decares	decares	000 cu m	decares	decares	000 cu m
Burgas	6,896	10,041	498	9,732	11,209	356	8,038	13,228	520
Vidin	3,170	9,210	156	60	60	1	3,233	6,466	177
Gorna Tundzha	16,359	19,620	25,161	16,600	18,963	30,346	17,910	19,781	32,941

	2017			2018			2019		
	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses
	decares	decares	000 cu m	decares	decares	000 cu m	decares	decares	000 cu m
Lower Danube	9,332	32,173	1,445	8,229	38,177	1,598	7,142	40,365	1,670
Maritsa	100,694	116,293	152,378	95,457	102,647	152,279	96,619	309,770	162,433
Mizia	2,805	3,308	171	1,285	2,500	165	1,588	4,018	173
Sofia	5,376	9,587	540	1,326	2,423	121	4,536	10,152	576
Middle Danube	10,977	33,214	1,076	9,427	27,089	893	11,154	57,535	1,635
Middle Tundzha	30,340	58,587	4,211	21,472	33,768	2,362	20,871	35,898	2,891
Struma-Mesta	6,720	12,910	945	5,518	12,981	927	8,433	15,972	1,140
Topolnitsa	60,792	81,088	85,759	58,336	69,372	88,312	57,864	74,688	87,067
Haskovo	5,993	21,628	1,058	4,302	13,208	667	4,132	18,191	883
Black Sea	4,256	12,788	589	1,851	5,051	204	1,601	6,707	319
Shumen	3,001	6,040	425	2,613	5,747	366	2,573	7,038	638
TOTAL	266,711	426,487	274,412	236,207	343,195	278,597	245,693	619,808	293,063

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

Figure V.1. Irrigation by Irrigation Systems EAD for the period 2015-2019



Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

2.3. Activities under sub-measure 4.3 Investments for development, modernization or adaptation of agricultural and forestry infrastructure of RDP 2014-2020

In 2019, Irrigation Systems EAD carried out repair works on the irrigation infrastructure for over BGN 600,000 thousand.

In order to permanently provide a better service and reduce the quantities of water needed for irrigation systems, it is necessary to provide significantly more funds. In this regard, Irrigation Systems EAD has been given the opportunity to apply under the procedure „Project proposals from Irrigation Systems EAD for restoration of existing hydro-ameliorative irrigation facilities“ under sub-measure 4.3 „Support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernization or the adaptation of agriculture and forestry“ of measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ of the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020.

Support under the sub-measure will target the reconstruction / rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation facilities used only for agricultural purposes, outside agricultural holdings, in order to reduce water losses and adapt agriculture to the effects of climate change. Support under the sub-measure will ensure efficient use of water resources through the introduction of new technologies that lead to a real reduction in the quantities of water needed for flood irrigation systems, reducing water consumption in agriculture, increasing competitive advantages and reducing the pressure on water bodies, which in turn leads to potential water savings.

The company has prepared a total of 26 investment proposals for support, which were selected to include sections of the most intensively used irrigation facilities with a primary need for rehabilitation, located across the country. After their approval and inclusion in the programme by the evaluating bodies, the repair and restoration works may start after the end of the irrigation season for the current year, respectively - before the beginning of the next irrigation season, and the deadline for their implementation is 2023.

The implementation of the 26 investment proposals will result in potential water savings, while also providing an opportunity for farmers to increase irrigated areas by at least 200,000 decares.

3. Plant protection and phytosanitary control

3.1. Plant protection

- **Plant protection in cereals**

Within 2019, the general phytosanitary condition of cereals was good.

Weed Control

Throughout the year, herbicides were applied to a total of 1,299.212 thousand ha with winter crops, including 1,193.004 thousand ha of wheat and 108.196 thousand ha

of barley. Treatment against broadleaf weeds was carried out on 610.925 thousand ha. Anticereal herbicides were administered on 194.919 thousand ha, and herbicides against cereals and broadleaf weeds - on 387.160 thousand ha.

Soil herbicides of 268.878 thousand ha were injected on the sown areas with maize. A total of 317.867 thousand ha were treated with vegetation herbicides against cereal and broadleaf weeds.

Pests and Diseases Control

Sunn pest Eurygaster integriceps

The total areas infested by the adult sunn pests was 160.185 thousand ha and treatment was made on 98.305 thousand ha.

Treatment against the larvae of the enemy was carried out on 116.441 thousand ha, with attacked 143.631 thousand ha, as the treated areas were 58% more than in the previous 2018.

Cereal Leaf Beetle (Oulema melanopa (L.))

In 2019, 194.722 thousand ha were treated against the larvae of common wheat leeches, with 218.912 thousand ha attacked (almost twice as many as in the previous year).

Powdery Mildew

In 2019, the infested areas with powdery mildew were 447.043 thousand ha, treatment was carried out on 608.613 thousand ha. Very early chemical treatments were carried out, and in a large part of the treated areas the fungicides used were combined with the application of vegetation herbicides.

Septoria

An attack of the disease was reported on 255.859 thousand ha, and treatment was carried out on 371.679 thousand ha.

- **Plant protection in industrial crops**

Weed Control

In 2019, soil herbicides were imported on 465.527 thousand ha of sunflower, and 406.755 thousand ha were treated vegetatively.

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 65.609 thousand ha. Vegetation herbicides were applied on 72.435 ha.

During the year, soil herbicides were administered on 2.327 thousand ha of tobacco, with vegetation herbicides 0.830 thousand ha were treated.

Chemical control of weeds in potatoes was carried out by the application of soil and vegetative herbicides. Soil herbicides were applied to 7.235 thousand ha., and the vegetative herbicides were applied to 3.816 thousand ha.

Control of diseases and pests

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

In 2019, 39.060 thousand ha were treated against foma (compared to 10.650 thousand ha in 2018) and 36.785 thousand ha against fomopsis. The treatments are mainly preventive.

Mildew on Sunflower

The total area affected by the disease is 12.600 thousand ha compared to only 0.10 thousand ha in the previous 2018. The cause of the mildew was *Plasmopara helianthi*. The control measures for the pathogen are: observance of 7-8 year crop rotation with cereals; deep plowing after harvest, sowing of resistant varieties and hybrids; mandatory destruction of self-seeding; decontamination of seeds before sowing.

Meligethes aeneus

In April and May 2019, treatments against rapeseed were carried out on 127,444 thousand ha of rapeseed.

Ceutorhynchus napi

In 2019, 43,185 thousand ha of rapeseed were treated against the pest.

• Vegetables Protection

Pest Control

Tuta Absoluta

In 2019, most of the country's greenhouses did not allow the reproduction of the pest. From 1 to 8 sprays of insecticides were applied to 1.207 thousand ha.

Under field conditions, 1 to 10 treatments against the *Tuta absoluta* were applied to an area of 1.973 thousand ha.

In 2019, a call for applications for support to farmers with state aid under the „National Programme of Control Measures for *Tuta Absoluta*“ was reopened. Beneficiaries of the aid are farmers growing tomatoes in greenhouses, as well as peppers, aubergines, potatoes grown in greenhouses on areas larger than 1 decare. During the year, 78 farmers applied under the Programme.

- **Plant protection in orchard crops**

Pests and Diseases Control

Leaf-feeding Caterpillars

The common species in orchards are: *Lymantria dispar* L.; *Euproctis chrisorrhoea* L.; Geometridae; *Hyphantria cunea* Drury. In 2019, the pests were in low population density and degree of attack. The harmful activity and spread of leaf-bites is limited by the treatment of other pest. Treatment of the main leaf-eating species of 10.932 thousand ha of orchards was carried out, including 2.366 thousand ha of seed and 8.566 thousand ha of stone orchard species, combined with spraying.

Tortricidae and Temetocera ocellana F. and Hedya nubiferana Haw.

Treatment against pests was carried out on 2.152 thousand ha of seed fruit species.

Aphididae

In 2019, aphids infest was found everywhere in all fruit crops. Mass harmful activity and high population density were reported. 4.194 thousand ha of seed and 14,165 thousand ha of stone fruit species were treated, from 2 to 6 times.

Quadrastidiotus perniciosus Comst.

A total of 2.326 thousand ha of orchards were treated against California aphids.

Parthenolecanium corni Bouche

During the year, 1.690 thousand ha of plums out of a total of 7.855 thousand ha of plum orchards were treated, mainly with combined spraying against plum fruit worm.

Rhagoletis cerasi L.

In 2019, a higher number of flies caught on the sticky boards is reported due to the heavy rainfall during the ripening of cherries. The percentage of worming is also higher, in Sliven district up to 10% was reported, and in Targovishte district up to 15% of fruit worming. 7.524 thousand ha were treated.

Hoplocampa minuta Christ.

During the year, 4.928 thousand ha of plum plantations were treated.

Fruit worms (Laspeyresia)

In 2019, 4.478 ha of apple orchards were treated against apple fruit worm, 6.670 thousand ha of plum orchards against plum fruit worm and 5.824 thousand ha against eastern fruit worm for peaches and apricots.

Peach-twig borer (Anarsia lineatella Zell.)

During the year, 5.400 thousand ha of peach and apricot trees were treated.

Leucotera (Cemiostoma) scitella Zell. on apple trees

In Pazardzhik district an increased population density is found in isolated gardens. 0.329 thousand ha were treated against roundworm moth.

Apple scab and pear scab

The rainfall in June favoured the development and spread of scabbing and sharply increased the rate of attack on leaves and fruits. In the Plovdiv district during vegetation, 13 incubation periods were reported, of which 4 were of mixed type with medium and strong degree of attack. In 2019, 5.142 thousand ha were treated against apple and pear scab.

Apple Powdery Mildew

During the year, 4.352 thousand ha of apple and pear orchards were sprayed against powdery mildew.

Early Brown Rot

In Targovishte district there were up to 10% of damaged flowers reported. In 2019, 1 to 12 treatments against early brown rot were carried out on 17.704 thousand ha of managed stone crops.

Late Brown Rot

In June, high humidity and frequent showers provoked the first signs of the fruit disease.

Peach Powdery Mildew

During vegetation, 1 to 7 sprays were carried out. 1.595 thousand ha of peach orchards were treated.

Peach Leaf Curl

1 to 4 treatments were carried out on 3.806 thousand ha of peaches.

Cherry leaf spot (Blumeriella jaapii) on cherries and sour cherries

Frequent rainfall in July favoured the spread of the fungal disease. The degree of manifestation varied greatly depending on the sensitivity of cherry varieties - from mild to moderate.

During the year, 1 to 6 treatments were performed on an area of 6.207 thousand ha of cherries and sour cherries.

• Vineyards Protection

Weed Control

Within 2019, soil herbicides were applied on 3.130 thousand ha and vegetation herbicides on 29.796 thousand ha of the managed areas occupied by vineyards.

Pests and Diseases Control

European Grapevine Moth (Lobesia botrana Schiff.)

In 2019, 27.931 thousand ha were treated against European grapevine moth out of a total of 44.965 thousand ha.

Schizotetranychus viticola Reck.

Treatment was carried out on 7.155 thousand ha of vineyards, from 1 to 5 times.

Grapevine Downy Mildew (Plasmopara viticola)

From 1 to 10 treatments were carried out on 54.835 thousand ha of vineyards.

Powdery Mildew (Oidium)

From 1 to 10 treatments were carried out on 54.835 thousand ha of vineyards.

Gray mould rot (botrytis)

The areas treated against gray mould rot were 33.705 thousand ha, from 1 to 4 treatments were carried out.

• Plant Protection against Omnivorous Pests

Common Vole (Microtus arvalis)

In the spring of 2019 the total number of winter crops infested by common vole was 30.904 thousand ha, chemical control was applied to 27.500 thousand ha.

Wireworms

During the year, state aid was granted to compensate the costs of agricultural producers related to the implementation of measures under the „National Programme of Measures for Control of Soil Pests on Potatoes from the Wireworm Family“. The aid consisted of compensation for the purchase of plant protection products, for the control of soil pests on potatoes from the wireworm family.

In 2019, 249 declarations for 2.363 thousand ha of potatoes were submitted to the Regional Directorates for Food Safety. Chemical treatment was performed on 4.089 thousand ha.

Maize Leaf Weevil (Tanymecus dilaticollis Gyll.)

The pest is widespread across the country, but its highest density is in the Danube plain, Ludogorie and Dobrodzha, causing the most serious damage during the germination of maize and sunflower.

In 2019, chemical control was carried out against Maize Leaf Weevil (*Tanymecus dilaticollis* Gyll.) on 40.515 thousand ha of maize and 28.650 thousand ha of sunflower.

In the spring of 2019, the population density and the degree of attack increased, and the range was preserved.

3.2. Phytosanitary Control

The priority actions to achieve the main operational objective in the field of phytosanitary control in 2019 were:

- Legislation harmonized with the EU's plant health regime;
- Effective control on import of plants and plant products from third countries on the territory of the country and the EU, as an external border of the Union;
- Ensuring the export of plants and plant products according to the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country and the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention);
- Production control on the territory of Bulgaria with a view to timely detection and prevention of the spread of quarantine pests on plants and plant products;
- Carrying out phytosanitary monitoring Programmes 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 sites and observations on the territory of the country in relation to quarantine pests in 2019 complied with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act and Ordinance No 8 on phytosanitary control, introducing relevant EU regulations in national phytosanitary legislation and Commission Implementing Decisions as regards emergency measures to prevent the introduction into the EU and the spread of quarantine and new pests in the EU, and since 14 December 2019 has been carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on plant protection measures against pests and Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

The Regulation entered into force on 13 December 2016 and its application started from 14 December 2019.

These rules represent the new plant health regime in the EU, part of the EC's „Smart Rules for Safer Food“ package and include a number of new delegated and implementing acts.

The new rules aim to modernize the phytosanitary regime by strengthening more effective protection measures across the Union and its plants, ensuring safe trade and mitigating the effects of climate change on crop and forest health. This new approach

to protection is beneficial for various stakeholders and the plant health system of the Republic of Bulgaria is being prepared for its implementation.

The Central Laboratory for Plant Quarantine (CLPQ) is connected with the BFSA activity of phytosanitary control, and is designated as the National Reference Laboratory for plant pests - insects and mites, nematodes, bacteria, fungi and omycetes and for viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas.

CLPQ prepares methodological manuals to carry out observations for detection, sampling and testing of quarantine pests on plants, identifies pests new for the country and laboratory analyzes to establish the health status of sowing and planting material, in accordance with the Seeding and Planting Material Act. CLPQ experts participate in the development, validation and standardization of international diagnostic protocols for pests and in suitability tests for all five groups of pests, as required by EU Regulation 2017/625 on official controls.

Table V.6. Number of samples and analyses carried out by type at CLPQ in 2019

Analysis types	From import	In EU movement	Domestic	Other	Total
Sample number	583	35	4,243	832	5,693
Herbological analyses			124		124
Entomological analyses	298	4	871	53	1,226
Nonmatological analyses	305	70	1,952	1,032	3,359
Mycological analyses	340	35	1,544	234	2,153
Bacteriological analyses	605	22	2,951	201	3,779
Virusological analyses	214	-	1,558	137	1,909

Source: BFSA

It conducts training events for inspectors on phytosanitary control (two national training events for phytosanitary inspectors on legislation and new pests) and publishes visual materials for detection of pests and raising awareness.

In 2019, 3,197 persons were registered in the official register for phytosanitary control (including producers, importers, processors, warehouses, forwarding centres, markets and shops handling plants and plant products).

The 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.

In 2019, 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 quarantine pests by forest species;
- Calendar plan for monitoring of plants and plant products not included in monitoring programmes but subject to control.

During the observations under the monitoring programmes on the territory of the country 168,367 sites were controlled; 6,870 inspections were documented; 2,294 samples were analyzed in the regional diagnostic laboratories for plant health.

Timely detection of pests enables phytosanitary inspectors to take timely and adequate action to locate outbreaks and eradicate them where possible.

Specialized potato laboratory - Samokov carries out tests of 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 and the region of Smolyan.

During the year, 2,625 plant passports of locally produced goods for the country and the EU and 56 health certificates were issued.

3.2.2. Phytosanitary control at export

In 2019, 13,587 inspections of 33,562 consignments of plants and plant products designated for export were carried out in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. 4,211 samples were taken for analysis. 21,421 phytosanitary certificates for export and 163 for re-export were issued, in accordance with the requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM).

The main export goods are: timber, wood packaging material, coriander, sunflower, grain, herbs and spices. Timber exports were mainly destined to Turkey, North

Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Israel, China, the UAE and Argentina, and timber packaging exports to the United States, Japan, Canada, Nigeria, Indonesia, Serbia, Russia, Belarus and Australia. The most significant exports were coriander to Mexico, Libya, India, Thailand, South Africa, Israel and Sri Lanka, and sunflower (peeled and black) - to the United States, Turkey, Macedonia, Canada, Israel, China and Japan.

3.2.3. Phytosanitary control at import

In 2019, 520 operators were registered in the official register of phytosanitary control of importers of plants and plant products. 866 lots were checked and 290 imported samples were analyzed.

223 plant passports (PP) and 222 plant health documents (PHD) were issued.

3.3. Plant Protection Products and Fertilizers Control

The 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 over the marketing of plant protection products (PPPs) and fertilizers is to ensure the marketing, storage, repackaging and production of permitted, usable, efficient, maximally safe for human and animal health, gentle environmental PPPs and fertilizers that meet the legal requirements for packaging and labelling. The scope of controls covers 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. The scope of controls involves farmers who apply plant protection products and fertilisers in the production of crop products for food or feed.

The control over the plant protection products is performed on the basis of risk categorization, based on the control activity from previous years.

In 2019, 157 plant protection products were authorized to be placed on the market and in use, in accordance with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.

75 authorizations of plant protection products were revoked or terminated, 151 PPPs were amended, 1 refusal was granted on an application for restricted and controlled use and 1 for renewal of an authorization of a plant protection product.

3.3.1. Results of control activities on the marketing of PPPs

On the territory of the country were registered 1,300 objects, including 879 for trade in an agricultural pharmacy, 406 warehouses for storage and wholesale (own warehouses and cells for rent), 13 sites for repackaging and 2 manufacturing companies.

In 2019, 1,706 inspections were carried out, of which 1,035 in agricultural pharmacies, 549 in warehouses, 18 in repackaging sites, 4 in PPP production sites and 100 in unregulated sites (municipal markets, shops, etc.). 269 prescriptions were issued, including 213 in agricultural pharmacies, 43 in warehouses for trade, 1 in PPP production sites and 100 in unregulated sites. 20 acts for administrative violation and 16 penal decrees were drawn up.

During the year, a total of 405 certificates were issued, including 272 certificates for trade in PPPs, 2 for repackaging and 131 certificates for change of circumstances.

According to the received applications, 41 certificates for extension of the shelf life of PPP were issued.

In 2019, 99 control samples for compliance and 13 samples for alerts were taken, and in 4 irregularities were found.

A total of 3,443.6 kg and 3,463.8 litres of PPP were seized or confiscated from the sites for trade, production and repackaging and left for safekeeping. 784.15 kg and 2,231.41 l of unauthorized PPPs were seized or confiscated at the border checkpoint.

According to data from the border checkpoint, the imported PPP in 2019 was a total of 4,887,041 kg and 1,870,105 litres.

3.3.2. Results of control activities on the use of PPPs

In 2019, 7,164 inspections of the use of PPP were carried out, incl. 4,919 documentary inspections at the RFSD, 2,017 documentary inspections during a visit to a farm, 46 during air spraying, 11 during fumigation, 37 during decontamination of seeds and 134 during treatment with ground equipment.

The prescriptions issued during the year were 1,361. 52 acts of administrative offence and 35 criminal decrees were drawn up.

Across the country, 241 inspections were carried out on alerts or complaints regarding the use of PPP, 38 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up and 32 penal decrees were issued.

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

In 2019, 71 samples were taken for pesticide residues. Samples of lettuce taken by RFSD Pazardzhik detected 3 irregularities.

To identify the PPPs used, 57 leaf samples were taken and analyzed in an external laboratory. For the unauthorized use of PPPs, 10 acts and 1 prescription were drafted.

Samples of plants and plant products under the National Programme for Control of Contaminants in Food (nitrates and heavy metals - lead and cadmium)

8 samples for nitrate content and 17 samples for heavy metals - lead and cadmium were taken and analyzed, and all samples are compliant.

Plant samples for analysis of GMO content

Genetically modified DNA was not detected from the 12 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 2019

Alerts, complaints and orders resulted in the issue of 92 protocols for taking a control sample, a laboratory analysis of 82 samples was performed and 15 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up.

Permits issued for the application of PPPs by aerial spraying

The issued permits for air spraying are 155, including 143 on agricultural areas, 12 on forest areas. 638,777 decares of agricultural areas, 27,500 decares of forest areas were treated.

Inspections of agricultural farms carried out to comply with the rules of Good Agricultural Practice - Nitrates (Agroecology)

During the year, 876 inspections were performed and 54 prescriptions were made.

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

110 The total number of inspections related to monitoring compliance with the Programme of Measures in Nitrate Vulnerable Areas is 829, with 153 prescriptions made.

4. Fertilizers

4.1. Registration of Fertilizers

In 2019, a total of 72 new products were registered - organic, non-organic, organo-mineral, microbial fertilizers and soil improvers and biologically active substances.

4.2. Control of fertilizers upon their placing on the market

In connection with the control of fertilizers carried out by BFSA, a total of 894 inspections took place in the country in 2019. 46 prescriptions have been issued with a specified deadline. Two acts of administrative offence were drawn up. 96 fertilizer samples were taken and analysed in implementation of the National plan for control of fertilisers, soil improvers, bioactive substances and nutrients. 7 irregularities were detected.

Table V.7 Control over fertilisers in the period 2017 - 2019

Activities	2017	2018	2019
Number of fertilizers registered	88	96	72
Number of on-site inspections	960	795	894
Samples taken from fertilizers for analyses	97	101	96
Acts of infringement	2	2	5

Source: BFSA

Information of imports of fertilisers to the Republic of Bulgaria in 2019

In the course of 2019, a total of 144,632,771 kg and 65,760 l of fertilizers were imported to Bulgaria through the border checkpoints.

Use of sludge in agriculture

In 2019, 51 permits were issued for the utilization of sewage sludge in agriculture, on fields with a total area of 6,635 decares. The total amount of recovered sludge, expressed as dry matter, was 13,974 tonnes for the following crops: barley, wheat, sunflower and maize.

5. Variety testing, Approbation and Seed Control

The 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 for 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 2019, 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).

During the year, an Act amending the Seed and Propagating Material Act was passed in order to align the business services provided by EAPVTASC with the Act on Restricting Administrative Regulation and Administrative Control over Economic Activity (ARARACEA) and facilitate business operators.

In order to meet 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 active ISO 9001: 2008 quality management systems, as per the standard of the International Association of Seed Testing Laboratory (ISTA) and by the European Plant Variety Office. The agency has been authorised by the EU as an CPVO to carry out expert assessments on its behalf in terms of distinctness, uniformity and stability of new varieties, to provide legal protection in the EU.

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 2019 EAPVTASC provided services to farmers related to:

- field inspection of seed crops and common nursery 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 guarantees higher quality of the produced seeds and planting material from the following groups of crops: cereals, fodder, oilseeds, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, certified and CAC fruit seedlings, certified and standard vine seedlings and certified and standard vegetable seeds.

The total value of the services provided by EAPVTASC under this scheme in 2019 amounted to BGN 1,098,210.

State aid is a prerequisite for achieving significant added value in the use of certified seeds. The aid recipients are slightly over 500, but the positive effect of producing more and better quality products per unit area and improving the agri-environment of agricultural production are beneficial for the whole society.

Publication of an official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria

In 2019, EAPVTASC regularly exchanged 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. 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.

In 2019, the official variety list included 1,176 varieties (compared to 1,277 in 2018) of the following types of agricultural plants: field species - 762, vegetable species - 243, fruit species - 12, vine - 111, tobacco - 29, medicinal and aromatic species - 15 and ornamental species - 4 varieties.

Of these, 376 varieties are protected in the country with a certificate of legal protection issued by the Patent Office, as follows: 250 field species, vegetable species - 70, vine - 23, tobacco - 29, ornamental species - 4 varieties.

The listed varieties of fruit, medicinal and aromatic plant species are not protected.

Carrying out variety testing for distinctness, uniformity, stability (DUS) and value for cultivation and use (VCU) of new plant varieties

In 2019, a total of 1,100 varieties, hybrids and lines were set and tested (compared to 881 for 2018), as 294 of them were under contracts for variety testing (compared to 317 for 2018) and 806 - similar varieties and comparative collection for proving the distinctiveness of the applied new varieties and for preparation of own variety descriptions from foreign varieties, recognized by other testing offices (at 564 for 2018). The comparative variety collection (seeds, material of vegetatively propagating plant species and official varietal descriptions) maintained by EAPVTASC counted 7,104 (compared to 6,821 for 2018) varieties of 72 crop species. For the purpose of the comparative collection for DUS, seeds of 1,578 varieties of 22 crop species were requested. Seeds of 695 varieties of the same crop types were obtained.

At the request of the European Plant Variety Office, 8 final DUS reports were submitted, and at the request of other variety testing offices - 23 (respectively 10 and 20 for 2018).

In order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the country, 26 papers were prepared and sent to the Patent Office (compared to 35 for 2018), final reports and official variety descriptions, as well as 28 negative reports.

During the year, 3 varieties of sunflower, assigned by a contract from the CPVO, were tested for DUS. At the request of the Slovenian Office, for the purposes of entry in the national variety list of Slovenia, 1 variety of multicoloured beans was tested.

By variety of crops, the variety testing for DUS is distributed as follows:

- 20 types of arable crops (18 in 2018);
- 10 vegetable crops (compared to 11 in 2018);
- 3 types of fruit and vines (3 for 2018);
- 2 types of essential oil plants.

In 2019, 1,109 soil control samples were set (compared to 1,089 for 2018) from 38 types of agricultural crops, of which 1,073 were approved. 38 plans were prepared with a total of 361 standard samples.

The total number of varieties, without variety standards, which are set and tested for value for cultivation and use (VCU) for inclusion in the „A“ list of the Official Variety List and in preliminary tests, according to concluded contracts, was 1 949, with 328 more compared to 2018.

Of these, 1,725 varieties were set and tested in a preliminary tests (compared to 1,392 in 2018), with 23.9% more hybrids of maize, sunflower, rapeseed and varieties of common wheat and barley, and for VCU a total of 224 varieties (compared to 232 in 2018).

The varieties of standards included in the VCU trials were 77. The number of varieties of standards represented 3.95% of the total number of varieties in field trials (compared to 3.86% in 2018). The varieties of standards and their number in the trials for VCU was in compliance with the methodological requirements for the respective types of agricultural crops.

The total number of observed and reported varieties applied for variety testing for VCU and preliminary testing, together with the variety standards was 2,026 (versus 1,686 for 2018), which is the full volume of the variety testing for VCU and preliminary testing.

Of the tested varieties for VCU and preliminary testing, 1,754 were foreign selection (nearly 90%, compared to 95.2% in 2018), and 195 - Bulgarian selection (10%, compared to 4.8% in 2018). Compared to 2018, there was an increase in the

number of Bulgarian selection varieties due to an increase in requests from private selection experts.

During the year, 1,034 assessments were performed (compared to 937 in 2018): 213 phytopathological, 114 for cold resistance and 707 chemical-technological. From the preliminary experiments, 867 average samples for chemical-technological assessments were prepared and submitted to the applicants, with 9.8% more compared to 2018.

146 final DUS reports and 57 VCU reports were prepared, with final results of a 2-3-year variety testing.

There were 13 expert committee meetings held to discuss the results of the testing of new varieties by group of crops (3 for DUS and 10 for VCU) and decisions were made for listing of A and B of the Official Variety lists. Of the varieties recognized for inclusion in „A“ list of the official variety list, 32.7% were Bulgarian selection and 67.3% foreign selection.

In 2019, 145 contracts for varietal testing were concluded, with an increase of 6% compared to 2018.

9 varieties were applied for by the CPVO for testing in order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the EU and 1 variety from the Slovenian Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (UVHVVR).

179 files of newly applied varieties were prepared and 363 varieties and names were checked in the CPVO database. There were 155 applications in the EAPVTASC system for DUS testing - „iasasdu“.

During the year 36 permits were issued and 1 permit was updated, under Article 39a of the Law on Seed Production and in accordance with Commission Decision 2004/842/EC, which supports the business in terms of production and trade in seeds in the agricultural sector.

The iasasdu system has updated and introduced the DUS methods for common wheat, barley, hemp, lavender, Cucurbita maxima x Cucurbita moschata rootstocks and Prunus rootstocks. Projects to update and review VCU methodologies of wheat, soybeans, peanuts, potatoes and hemp have been developed and approved.

Registration and maintenance of databases for producers, traders and sellers of seed and seedling material, under Article 28(4) of LSS

In order to regulate the trade in seeds and planting material, EAPVTASC maintains a public register of persons who trade in seeds and/or planting material, which enables users and other administrative units to find information quickly on registered persons by crop groups.

In 2019, a total of 231 trade certificates were issued (30 more than in 2018), of which 164 were for initial registration and 67 were reissued.

Certification of seeds and propagating material

Certification of seed and planting material 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“.

In 2019, applications for certification were received for 29,840 ha of seed production crops from different crop groups (compared to 32,025 ha for 2018).

The total area of the inspected crops of field and vegetable crops by EAPVTASC inspectors came in at 29,840 ha (by 294.8 ha more than in 2018), and by inspectors who have received a permit under Article 6 of the Seed and Planting Material Act - on 168 ha. Of the inspected species of agricultural plants, the largest share is occupied by the group of cereals - 28,002 ha (93.8%), followed by fodder - 911 ha (3.1%), oil and fiber - 681 ha (2.3%), potatoes - 201 ha (0.7%), vegetable species - 40 ha (0.2%), tobacco - 4 ha and beets - 1 ha.

The inspected crops of cereals increased by 3.9% than the previous year, and those with potatoes - by 10.5%. Decrease on an annual basis was reported for seed production crops of vegetable species - by 32.1%, fodder - by 35.8%, oil and fiber - by 25.91% and tobacco - by 18.75%. No rye and chickpea seed production crops have been declared.

After carrying out the field inspections, 46 ha (0.1%) were declassified in the lower category than stated for certification, and 26 ha (0.1%) were rejected due to lower indicators than required under the ordinances under Article 29(6) of the LSS.

For the purposes of certification, 4,533 samples of homogeneously prepared batches of seed were taken. There were 543 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.

In 2019, 51 ha of vine nurseries, 48 ha of nursery vineyards and 20 ha of nursery rows were inspected.

A total of 3,856,955 vine planting material was qualified, of which 1,097,635 improved vines, 2,207,122 rootstock cuttings and 552,198 graft cuttings.

The Central Laboratory performed 4,596 analyses to determine the sowing qualities of the seeds (compared to 3,943 for 2018), including 1,477 for analytical purity, 1,833 for germination and 1,286 for moisture content in the seeds.

The Central Laboratory, accredited by the International Association of Seed Laboratories (ISTA), has successfully participated in two round international tests for feed and rapeseed. The third round test for barley is about to be completed.

During the year, 101 „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 248 ISTA certificates (including originals, duplicates and intermediate certificates) were issued.

The laboratory has issued 139 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 2019, 273,208 official labels were issued (compared to 295,939 in 2018).

In connection with the implementation of Measure 10 „Agri-environment and 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 2019, more than 900 document and on-the-spot checks were carried out. GMO inspections did not detect the presence of GMOs in conventional batches of seed.

Effective control has been exercised in the harvesting and marketing of seeds and seedlings. During inspections performed, 447 samples were taken from the inspectors for control analysis. The results of the analyses show that the seeds meet the minimum germination requirements.

For violation of the provisions of the Law on Administrative Offences, 1 act for establishing an administrative violation has been drawn up.

At the request of producers, 108 samples were taken from hemp plants for quantitative determination of the content of tetrahydrocannabinol in hemp varieties as per applications of producers and during variety testing.

Expected Data for 2020

In the first half of 2020 the following regulatory acts were promulgated in the State Gazette:

- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 3 of 2010 on trade in fruit seedlings and fruit plants intended for fruit production on the market of the European Union (promulgated, SG, issue 30 and issue 63 of 2020);
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 7 of 2013 on the terms and conditions for variety testing, recognition, entry and deregistration of plant varieties in and from the official variety list of the Republic of Bulgaria (promulgated, SG No. 40 of 2020);

- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 96 of 2006 on trade in vegetable seed on the EU market (promulgated, SG, issue 17 and issue 63 of 2020);
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 99 of 2006 on trade in seed material of fodder crops on the market of the European Union (promulgated, SG, issue 57 of 2020).

In 2020, EAPVTASC continued to provide services related to the application of state aid for the participation of farmers in a quality scheme for the production of seeds and propagating material. The estimated maximum annual aid budget for 2020 was BGN 1.2 million.

Applications for certification of spring and perennial seed and planting material was registered on time.

In 2020, a total of 32,138 ha were ticked for a field inspection.

Of the declared seed production crops, the largest share was occupied by the group of cereals - 30,085 ha (93.6%), followed by oil and fiber - 927 ha (2.9%), fodder - 875 ha (2.7%) and potatoes - 188 ha (0.6%). Seed production crops from vegetable crops - 60 ha, tobacco - 2 ha and beetroot - 1 ha are also declared.

25 ha nursery vine plantations have applied for certification/approval.

The Agency continues to control the harvesting and marketing of seedling and propagating material. Seeds below the minimum germination requirements are suspended from marketing.

The variety testing contracts concluded for the marketing year 2020 were 150, up 3% compared to 2019. 7 varieties from the CPVO have applied for testing in order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the EU and 3 varieties from the National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH) - Hungary.

In 2020, the number of varieties declared for DUS testing will decrease by about a quarter on an annual basis - from 294 to 218.

Variety testing for VCU for the purpose of inclusion in list „A“ of the Official Variety List of the country decreased by 10.3%. The number of varieties declared and included in VCU trials was 201, compared to 224 for 2019.

Varieties in preliminary testing also decreased compared to 2019 - from 1,725 to 924.

Of the varieties included in VCU testing and preliminary testing in 2020, 1,754 were foreign selection (nearly 94.9%, versus 90% in 2019), and 57 - Bulgarian selection (5.1%, at 10% for 2019).

6. Food Chain Safety

EU food safety policy aims 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 and EU policy in the field of food safety and animal health and through its specialized administration.

The Agri-Food Chain Policies Directorate assists the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in the development, coordination and implementation of the state policy in the field of quality and safety of food and feed, animal health, plant health and plant propagating material and border safety control of the food chain. An important part of this policy is to limit the spread of genetically modified organisms throughout the food chain.

The regulatory framework in the field of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, plant propagating material and plant protection products continued to be optimized in 2019.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Authority (BFSA) conducts official farm-to-table control of food, in line with the 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.

6.1. Animal Healthcare and Welfare.

Animal health

The BFSA priorities in this area are:

- protection of animal health in the country;
- protection of the health of farm animals against dangerous viral infections associated with major economic losses;
- ensuring the production of eligible raw cow's milk in accordance with EU legislation;
- 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 2019, 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.

In 2019, 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 2019 - 2021 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 programmes are in place, namely:

- programme for surveillance of avian influenza in poultry and wild birds;
- programme for control and eradication of rabies;
- programme for supervision of bluetongue in ruminants;
- programme for supervision and eradication of classical swine fever;
- programme for the control of salmonella in laying hens, broilers, breeding flocks and turkeys;
- Programme for the Supervision of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE);
- Programme 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 programmes are co-financed by the European Commission.

In 2019, the following standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed, approved and issued with orders to the Executive Director of BFSA:

- SOP „Measures for immediate application in case of suspicion or positive result for Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies”;
- 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 Article 259 and Article 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”.

During the year, the BFSA information system was upgraded to electronically service the entire process of taking, sending, testing and reporting the results of samples taken for African swine fever (ASF) and trichinosis - the so-called „Hunting Module“.

16,325 inspections were carried out in relation to the Programme for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Elimination of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses, etc., and more than 1,000 prescriptions were handed over, more than 100 acts for established administrative irregularities were drawn up.

In 2019, the following major diseases were identified in the country, included in the list of priority diseases of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on communicable animal diseases and amending and repealing certain animal health legislation (Animal Health Legislation): highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease, West Nile fever virus, bovine anthrax, bovine tuberculosis and small ruminant Q fever.

No positive samples were found for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in animals in 2019.

Given the outbreaks of bluetongue in 2014 and contagious nodular dermatitis in 2016, in order to protect animals susceptible to these diseases and protect livestock in the country in 2019, vaccination against bluetongue, serotype 4 and against infected nodular dermatitis.

The measures imposed by the BFSA, as well as the strategy and the results of the supervision were regularly communicated with the Commission and the EU Member States during the monthly meetings of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) at the EC, as well as through official letters.

In February 2019, an outbreak of anthrax was found in cattle in Targovishte district, and immediate actions were taken by the BFSA.

Outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis were registered during the year in the districts of Plovdiv (3), Pazardzhik (2), Kardzhali, Stara Zagora and Gabrovo.

In 2019, 45 outbreaks of African swine fever were registered in domestic pigs (8 industrial and 3 family farms, 25 private farms and 8 pigs of the Eastern Balkan breed) and 210 cases in wild boar.

In connection with the complicated epizootic situation with regard to African swine fever in Europe and the outbreaks identified in 2019 in Bulgaria, the following measures were taken in accordance with Council Directive 2002/60/EC, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2014/709, EU Strategy for ASF control - SANTE/7113/2015 - Rev 10:

- Surveillance programme;
- Control of movement of people, animals, products, incl. 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, EAF, 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 wild boar from other EU Member States and on imports from third countries;
- Training of hunters for ASF issues, sampling, biosecurity, including material development;
- Construction of special pits for carcasses and animal by-products for each hunting holding;
- 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 spread in transport and tourism;
- Additional national requirements.

The costs for the implementation of the measures under the National Programme for Prevention, Control, Surveillance and Eradication of Diseases and Zoonoses in the Republic of Bulgaria, which are included in surveillance and eradication programmes but are not co-financed by the EC, are provided as assistance to farmers by the SFA.

Animal Welfare

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency monitors compliance with the animal health and welfare requirements and the implementation of the applicable EU and national legislation in these fields.

The Regional Food Safety Directorates (RFSD) across the country carry out inspections for compliance with the requirements for animal welfare, including compliance with the rules of veterinary practice, extraction and storage of embryonic products, disposal and storage of animal by-products and products derived from them.

On the basis of an analysis of the risks related to the welfare and protection of animals identified during the previous inspections, the inspections for the official controls of animal welfare and protection are planned.

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 for the inspections carried out at production sites, for the observance of the requirements for animal welfare and the established irregularities, various corrective actions were taken in number and severity. The irregularities found were mainly related to untrained staff, lack of records, lack of tests for the average level of hemoglobin in calves, keeping animals tied up (calves). Prescriptions were issued to address these irregularities.

There has been a steady trend of improvement in poultry farms. In 2019, out of the 22 inspected livestock farms for free-range laying hens, no irregularities were found.

In 2019, there was an improvement in the conditions of animal husbandry in terms of providing food and water suitable for the species, freedom of movement, inspections, automatic and mechanical equipment. The irregularities found with regard to these indicators in laying hens kept in enlarged cages and pigs are drastically reduced.

There is a slight increase in the number of non-conformities in some sectors, which can be attributed to the strict controls exercised by the RFSD during the inspections carried out in all livestock industries.

Licensing of drivers of vehicles transporting live animals continues, which ensures

compliance with the rules of animal welfare and protection during transport. For 2019, 110 licences for short trips and 29 for long trips were issued.

Over the year, the interaction continues with the submission of alerts from the BFSA and to other contact points regarding the detected infringements of the requirements for animal welfare during transport.

In 2019, 36 notifications of infringements of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 were sent to the contact points of other Member States. The main types of the infringements were: non-observance of the guarantees under Article 21(1)(e) of Regulation (EC) 1/2005; scarce and/or insufficient bedding; unapproved object of final destination.

In 2019, a total of 22,689 inspections were performed.

Official controls carried out on farms and during the transport of live animals are improved on the basis of periodic training of official veterinarians, as well as a result of joint meetings with all stakeholders on animal welfare issues.

The European Commission has taken various initiatives to assist Member States in the correct implementation of animal welfare legislation through various instruments: training events, conferences, guidelines, etc. The newly established Welfare Platform and the newly established Transport Subgroup provide opportunity to discuss and find solutions to a number of problems encountered by Member States.

In order to ensure the welfare of animals transported from Bulgaria to Turkey, the BFSA requires that all means of transport used be approved and meet the requirements for animal transport lasting more than 8 hours, even if the required transport time is less than 8 hours.

In relation to the infringements found, periodic inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, as well as retrospective assessments of consignments of live animals destined for Turkey. There is a trend to improve the effectiveness of controls.

Pursuant to Article 155(7) of the Veterinary Activity Act in 2019 a total of 43 permits for use of animals in experiments were issued, compared to 39 in 2018. In accordance with EU legislation, a register of permits issued for use of animals in experiments was published on the BFSA website.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency continues to work towards the implementation of the provisions of the current legislation, which is expressed in the subsequent

monitoring to find solutions to a number of problems encountered by the Member States in connection with the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, which would lead to a significant decrease in the irregularities found during the transport of live animals.

6.2. Controls of identification of animals and veterinary activities

BFSA integrated information system for identification and registration of animals and traceability of their movement

The BFSA activities 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 Programme for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal and Zoonotic Diseases in Bulgaria;
- Conducting training events with a focus on animal identification, registration of livestock farms and veterinary activities;
- 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 Fund Agriculture;
- Performing checks under cross compliance with statutory requirements for animal identification management.

In this respect, work was underway in 2019 on the development of the existing ones and the addition of new functionalities and references in IIS of 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 17.01.2020, the amended Ordinance No 44 of 20.04.2006 on the veterinary medical requirements for livestock farms entered into force. It sets out the new requirements for livestock farms.

As of 23.02.2018, amendments were introduced to the Veterinary Activities Act, in particular with regard to the registration of animal breeding sites under Article 137 of the law.

In 2019, active work continued to ensure the identification of farm animals and bee colonies.

During the year, the BFSA carried out a large number of inspections 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 as follows:

Table V.8 Number of inspections carried out and administrative prescriptions and acts issued in the period 2018 - 2019

Scope of inspections	2018			2019		
	Inspections	Requirements	Administrative offence act	Inspections	Requirements	Administrative offence act
Registration of livestock facilities	4,480	873	116	4,718	762	199
Identification of animals	11,107	967	834	10,420	1,105	1,040
Animal movement	6,287	93	346	11,887	70	439
Control of the activity of registered veterinarians	1,940	114	32	2,247	121	65
Inspections of veterinary establishments	1,118	148	20	1,257	120	13

Source: BFSA

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in the prescriptions issued at the expense of a rise in the administrative offence acts.

Throughout the year, the BFSA carried out cross compliance checks on observing the animal identification and registration requirements.

Table V.9. Cross-compliance checks under SMR in the field of animal identification and veterinary activity in the period 2018 - 2019

Under the SMR	Number of farms to inspect	
	2018	2019
6.1.	115	30
6.2.	115	31

Under the SMR	Number of farms to inspect	
	2018	2019
6.3.	111	23
6.4.	112	29
7.1.	1,051	592
7.2.	1,049	592
7.3.	1,028	571
7.4.	1,039	573
7.5.	1,036	570
8.1.	677	457
8.2.	676	457
8.3.	659	428
8.4.	670	445

Source: BFSA

The performed cross-compliance inspections under SMR 6.1., 6.2., 6.3. and 6.4. are fewer than the others under the SMR. This is due to the fact that, in connection with the outbreaks of African swine fever, inspections of all holdings with available pigs were suspended. However, the percentage of inspections carried out in the country on all sub-SMRs concerning the identification of animals covers the statutory requirements.

At the end of 2019, an audit was carried out by DG AGRI of the European Commission under No XC/2019/004/BG regarding cross compliance.

In 2020, 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 Programme for the prevention, control, control and eradication of animal and zoonotic diseases in Bulgaria.
- Providing identification with individual bee plates of apiary families in apiaries whose owners or users participate for support under measures „Agri-environment and climate”, „Organic farming“ from RDP 2014-2010 and „Agri-environmental 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 Integrated Information System - VetIS.
- The fulfilment of these goals will be achieved through:
 - Carrying out checks for compliance with the requirements of the legislation related to the identification and registration of animals, their traceability, the activity of veterinary specialists, including in veterinary establishments, on the basis of risk criteria and prepared sample, as periodically in the sample;
 - Training events for employees of the Regional Directorates for Food Safety;
 - Preparation of drafts for amending regulatory acts;
 - Improvement of individual controls in BFSA - VetIS IIS.

6.3. Control activities

6.3.1. Food Safety

The BFSA methodically guides and coordinates the activities of the RFSDs in the implementation of the safety and quality control of: raw materials, foods, including protected geographical indications, organic 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 programmes for laboratory control as follows:

- National Programme for Control of Pesticide Residues in or on Foods of Plant and Animal Origin (NPCPR);
- National Programme for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF);
- National programme for control of food and materials and articles in contact with food for additives, chemical and microbiological contaminants and control of food treated with ionizing radiation;
- Programme for monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commensal bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- National Monitoring Programme for the Control of Residues from Veterinary Medicinal Products and Environmental Pollutants (NMVEC).
- National Programme for Control of Food Quality Characteristics (NPCFQC).

The official food control in Bulgaria is carried out adequately, in full compliance with the requirements of EU and national legislation.

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 2019 was 189,143.

Based on a risk analysis, effective official control over food safety is carried out in food production, wholesale and retail establishments with food and public catering establishments. Additional thematic inspections (winter and summer tourist season, official and religious holidays, etc.) and inspections in response to alerts have been carried out.

Table V.10 Official control carried out in 2019

Inspections	2019
1. Sites for food production and wholesale	48,959
1.1 Audits	1,710
1.2 Inspection	47,249
1.2.1 Inspections traceability (Regulation 178/2002)	13,450
1.2.2 General Hygiene Requirements Inspection (Regulation 852/2004)	20,935
1.2.3. Inspections specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (Regulation 853/2004)	7,405
1.2.4 Animal by-products inspections (Regulation 1069/2009)	5,459
2. Retail and catering establishments	104,238
Total number of inspections (scheduled, thematic, by alert)	173,078
3. Measures taken by the official controls	
3.1 Issued NEAO/notice establishing administrative offence (number)	2,029
3.2 Instructions (number)	9,933
3.3 Foreclosed and discarded foods (kg/l)	215 825 kg/644 l/424 /4 923 641 eggs
3.4 Closed sites (number)	76

Source: BFSA

In 2019, a total of 173,078 official control inspections were carried out in establishments for production, wholesale and retail in food and catering establishments, thematic inspections, unscheduled inspections and inspections in response to alerts and complaints.

The irregularities detected were:

- Structural non-conformity concerning the premises and equipment in the sites;

- Operational non-conformity regarding the implementation of activities related to product safety;
- Non-conformities related to the own-check systems of business operators;
- Labelling;
- Traceability;
- Foods that do not meet statutory safety requirements.

The analysis of the average values of the effectiveness of the official control performed in 2019 shows as follows: on average, every 17th inspection resulted in issuing a Prescription (as in 2018); on average, every 85th inspection resulted in an act establishing an administrative infringement (versus every 94th for 2018).

The outcome of official inspections shows that a risk-based approach to planning and implementation of official inspections is appropriate and effective in detecting non-conformities and ensuring food safety.

In 2019, the procedure for obtaining information on pending outsourced training events, sports camps, outdoor schools, excursions and camps for children from kindergartens and schools, introduced in 2013, continues to operate. Checks under Ordinance No 8 of 04.12.2018 for the specific requirements to the safety and quality of food offered in kindergartens, school canteens and retail outlets on the premises of schools and kindergartens, as well as to food offered at organized events for children and students aim to ensure the safe nutrition of children in kindergartens, schools and at outdoor events (camps, outdoor schools, etc.).

Implementation of official laboratory control programmes.

National Programme for Control of Quality Characteristics of Foods (NPCQCF) 2019

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 2019, the number of food producing facilities by standard was as follows:

- Approved standard „Stara Planina“ - 77;
- Approved standard „Bulgaria“ - 90;
- Sectoral standard „Lutenitsa“ - 12;
- Sectoral standard „Refined Sunflower Oil“ - 6;

- Bulgarian national standard for dairy products - 59.
- According to the Annual Plan for the analysis of commercially available products, manufactured in line with national and industry standards for 2019, 341 samples were tested as follows:
 - Approved standard „Stara Planina“ - 80 samples;
 - Approved standard „Bulgaria“ - 100 samples;
 - Sectoral standard „Lutenitsa“ - 20 samples;
 - Sectoral standard „Refined Sunflower Oil“ - 6 samples;
 - BDS 15: 2010 „Bulgarian white brine cheese“ - 35 samples;
 - BDS 14: 2010 „Bulgarian yellow cheese“ - 35 samples;
 - BDS 12: 2010 Bulgarian Yoghurt - 47 samples.

Of these, 44 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 accurate information about the food they buy and consume and in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, in 2019 the BFSA organised controls of dairy products on the market for unregulated consumption of non-milk fats and for compliance with physicochemical parameters, by taking samples from the retail network.

Sampling was carried out with the participation of the dairy industry organisations and the Consumer Protection Commission. In 2019, 242 samples were taken from the retail network, and in two of them the use of non-milk fats was found, and deviations from the physicochemical parameters set in the TD were found in 9 samples by indicator of fat content in dry matter, in one sample by indicator water content and in one sample by salt.

National Programme for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods (NPCPR) 2019

In 2019, a total of 339 food samples were taken, of which 167 under Regulation (EC) 2018/555, of which 245 were of non-animal origin, 24 of animal origin, 10 infant formulas and 60 leaf samples. From the mandatory matrices under Regulation 2018/555, one sample of organic food was taken - 12 samples in total, of which only 4 samples were performed, and the remaining 8 were not taken due to lack of such products on the market. They were taken in a conventional mode. Inconsistent results were found in 3 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 programme for control of food and food contact materials and additives, chemical and microbiological contaminants and control of food treated with ionizing radiation 2019

In 2019, a total of 41,862 samples of food of plant and animal origin were taken under the programme (including 507 samples - add hoc), and 58,381 indicators were tested, of which positive results were noted for 361 indicators.

Corrective action has been taken to identify any non-compliant results.

Monitoring and Reporting Programme for Antimicrobial Resistance to Zoonotic and Commensal Bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria (AMR) 2019

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 AMR monitoring in 2019, 155 samples of caecal content from pigs and 300 samples from the retail network of pre-packaged, chilled pork and large ruminants were taken.

National Programme for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPCGMF) 2019

In 2019, 78 samples were planned for laboratory testing of raw materials, ready-to-eat foods, foods for infants and young children based on soy and/or maize, infant formula and rice and rice products.

No non-compliant food samples were found in the laboratory.

National Monitoring Programme for Residue Control (NMPRC) 2019

The official control of VMP residues and contaminants in live animals and food of animal origin is carried out through the implementation of the National Monitoring Programme for Residue Control (NMRC) for 2019, approved by the European Commission (EC) and is implemented in the period from April 2019 to March 2020. The programme examined 2,506 samples and identified three non-conformities, and the sites were subjected to enhanced control for six months with sampling at the expense of the operator.

Audit of official controls in 2019

In 2019, we were involved in the preparation and conduct of the following audits by DG SANTE of the European Commission:

- Audit by DG (SANTE)/2019-6660 to evaluate the official control system for food improvers (food additives).
- Audit by DG SANTE 2019-6858 to assess the implementation of measures against African swine fever (ASF). At the closing meeting of the audit, the main conclusion was that the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency had taken reliable measures to eliminate the potential spread of the ASF virus through food and by-products.
- Audit by DG (SANTE)/2019-6634 to assess the implementation of measures to monitor and eradicate bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), feed prohibition rules and corrective measures taken to address the recommendations of previous audits of BSE and animal by-products.
- Audit by DG (SANTE) 2019-6869, EC in Bulgaria to assess the control system for organic production and labelling of organic products. At the closing meeting, the auditors assessed positively the procedures for control of the BFSA in the retail network.
- Audit by DG (SANTE)/2019-6869, EC in Bulgaria for cross compliance.
- General Audit of DG (SANTE) 2019-6585 EC, in Bulgaria. The implementation of the recommendations given in the reports of three audits carried out in 2017 and 2018 was checked. The audit team found the available evidence for the measures taken in the reports of the three audits to be satisfactory.
- Internal audit to assess the functioning of the system for inspection of laboratories for official control of the accredited veterinary laboratories for testing of raw milk, established in line with the requirements of Article 37 of the VMA and of Article 7 of Ordinance No 2 of 23.02.2017 on the specific requirements for production, collection, transportation and processing of raw cow's milk, the marketing of milk and dairy products and their official control.

Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

RASFF is a system to notify direct or indirect risks to human health arising from food, food contact materials or feed. It was established by Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and extended by Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The system operation is governed by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components

(the so-called „Regulation IMSOC”), which assists Member States in their actions by allowing a rapid exchange of information on the risks arising from food or feed and on the measures taken or to be taken to address those risks.

The continuous exchange of information under the RASFF system is still underway.

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 view of the operation of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019, the total number of notifications sent by the European Commission contact point to the Member States' contact points was 4,012, and the necessary actions were taken in response to them. The breakdown of notifications for the European Union (EU) is as follows: a total of 3,515 notifications were received for the Food sector, 325 notifications for the Feed sector and 172 notifications for the Food Contact Materials sector.

By the types, the breakdown of RASFF notifications in the EU was as follows:

- Alert notifications - 1,147;
- Border rejection notifications - 1,480;
- Information for attention notifications - 844;
- Information for follow-up notifications - 523;
- Information notifications - none;
- News notifications - 18.

The notifications sent by the Commission contact point under the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019, where actions were taken by Bulgaria, totalled 183. The breakdown was as follows: for the Food sector - 171, the Feed sector - 5 and the Food contact materials sector - 7.

- Alert notifications - 42;
- Information for attention notifications - 16;
- Information for follow-up notifications - 15;
- Border rejection notifications - 107;

- Non-conformity notifications - 2;
- News Notifications - 1.

The follow-up notifications, prepared by other RASFF members, where Bulgaria was an affected country and for which it was notified by the Commission to take the necessary measures and actions, were a total of 69, and their breakdown was as follows:

- Alert notifications - 40;
- Information for attention notifications - 14;
- Information for follow-up notifications - 12;
- Non-conformity notifications - 2;
- News notifications - 1.

All notifications were sent to the contact points of the BFSA and the Ministry of Health to take the necessary measures and actions.

In 2019, the Republic of Bulgaria was an affected country in 5 incoming notifications concerning the feed sector, where investigations were carried out and follow-up actions were taken. The information was provided through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed and was validated by the Commission.

The largest percentage of notifications was issued by EU border inspection points. The second group, with a large number of notifications sent through the RASFF system, was official controls in the Member States.

In order to inform the general public, the Commission also maintains an additional panel to the RASFF system - RASFF-Consumers Portal.

6.3.2. Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System

The European Commission's Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (APS) system was introduced by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1918, which regulates its rules of operation and serves to exchange information between the competent authorities of the Member States and between the Commission, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2017/625. Administrative assistance can include the exchange of information, documents, investigations and joint on-the-spot checks and is an important tool to maximise the efficiency of available resources in the Member States. In early 2019, the European Commission merged the RASFF and AAC systems into one common system - RASFF-AAC, through the IMSOC Regulation.

In 2019, the total number of notifications in the APS system for the entire European Union was 1,698. The notifications in the APS system where Bulgaria was an affected country were 488. Bulgaria prepared 229 initial notifications.

6.3.3. Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System - Food Fraud Network

The increase in food fraud cases at EU level requires adequate and timely measures to optimize the control system and to strengthen in a timely manner its ability to assess at an early stage the potential vulnerability to fraud in different parts of the food supply chain and the ability to national authorities to detect and prevent potential fraud.

In 2019, the total number of cases for the entire European Union generated by the system was 292. Of these, 42 cases were „closed“ and 252 remained „pending“. 11 cases were sent to Bulgaria, of which 2 were for information and 5 replies were prepared. The cases opened by Bulgaria for 2019 were 2.

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 was 13.

Since the system was set up, there has been an increase in the number of created and sent 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 food. However, the system is relatively new to Member States and there are currently no clear criteria to define food fraud at national level and an established algorithm to investigate food fraud.

6.3.4. IMSOC system

One of the Commission's priorities in 2019 was the integration of the RASFF, AAC, AAC-FF and TRACES systems into a common system called IMSOC. IMSOC is a tool for the electronic application of most of the provisions of the new Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and for the exchange among Member States of information and documents necessary for the timely conduct of official controls; a means of implementing administrative assistance and cooperation and unifying systems with regard to risks to human, plant, animal and animal welfare; facilitating communication to/from third countries, etc.

The adoption of the IMSOC Regulation merges the existing systems in the EU - EUROPHYT, BOVEX, TRACES, ADNS, AAC and RASFF.

The operation of the IMSOC system is governed by Commission Regulation (EU) No 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the official control information system and its components (the so-called „IMSOC Regulation”).

6.3.5. Control of Veterinary Activities, Veterinary Medicinal Products and Feeds, Border Control

6.3.5.1. Control of Veterinary Activity

The inspections for efficiency (verification) of the official control carried out by RFSD are carried out according to the approved Programme of DG“ Verification of Official Control at the BFSA Central Office for inspections for the effectiveness of the official control performed by RFSD in accordance with Article 8(3) of Regulation (EC) (882/2004 and Council Directive 2000/29).

In 2019, 9 scheduled inspections of the activities of the RFSD were carried out: Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Kyustendil, Targovishte, Lovech, Yambol, Haskovo and Sliven.

The plans/programmes to verify official controls of the RFSD are prepared mainly on a rotational basis, but also in view of the number and nature of non-conformities 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 (field visit, on-site).

During the year, all 16 audits of the official control planned for 2019 were performed.

The audit process assesses border control, the food chain: from animal health and welfare to food control, retail control and catering and raw milk 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 audits conducted in 2019 detected most often non-conformities related to the documentation of the control and the measures applied by the official control, non-conformities related to the consistency, quality and effectiveness of the official control and the verification of the effectiveness of the control.

The approval, introduction and implementation of documented procedures, guidelines, instructions at the central level, which prescribe rules for official control of inspectors in the district structures, conducting specialized training within the audited organizations, continues to be reported as a positive trend, improving the quality of official controls.

In 2020, 15 audits were planned. By March, three of the planned audits had been carried out. In the period March-May, the programme implementation was suspended due to the restrictive measures introduced in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme was reviewed and updated, and another 12 audits were planned for the period from June to December 2020.

A new three-year programme for 2021-2023 is to be prepared in 2021. The programme will be prepared after a new risk assessment of the activities in the various sectors with the publicly approved procedure to carry out audits of official controls.

6.3.5.2. Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products

The control of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) is carried out in accordance with the Veterinary Medicine Act. It relates to licensing for the use of immunological and medicinal VMPs, renewal of marketing authorizations, issuance of addenda, 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 licences for use of the VMP, etc.

In 2019, 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 supporting documentation and conditions at the sites under procedures for issuance/ renewal of licences for wholesale and retail of narcotic drugs for veterinary purposes from the Lists under Article 3(2)(2)-(3) of the Narcotic Drugs and Precursors Control Act and changes in the circumstances.

The public registers of licences issued for wholesale trade in VMPs, retail trade in VMPs, production of VMPs and licences 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 World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) based on formats approved by the ESVAC (European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption) and OIE. The data provided in 2019 by BFSA are included in the Annual Report of ESVAC and OIE on the use of antimicrobial agents for animals in the EEA.

The official VMP controls are carried out by BAFS staff at central and local level.

By an order of the Executive Director of the BFSA of April 2017, a Quality Control Programme for the commercially available VMPs was approved and implemented. The purpose of the Programme 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. It makes sure to:

- verify VMP quality at each stage of the distribution chain during the shelf life of the product;
- guarantee that control methods are satisfactory;
- study suspected deviations in VMP quality;
- identify counterfeit VMPs.

The Programme 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 Programme of the European Medicines Agency.

The Programme does not apply to laboratory testing of the quality of VMPs during the procedure for granting a marketing authorization for VMPs.

The BAFS drafts and puts in place an Annual Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection Plan of VMP manufacturers / importers. Each inspection is carried out on the basis of an order of the Executive Director of the BFSA and complies with the risk assessment criteria for each manufacturer, taking into account the implemented Quality Management System at the site, the nature of the production process and the characteristics of the products.

During the year, an Internal Audit Plan is implemented, which includes an inspection of the functioning of certain sections of the quality system.

Cross-compliance checks are carried out to monitor compliance with statutory management requirements (SMR) in accordance with EU law and compliance with standards for good agricultural and environmental condition regarding animal health and welfare.

The scope of control as regards veterinary medicinal products covers: manufacturers of VMPs, wholesalers of VMPs and/or active substances, retailers of VMPs (veterinary pharmacies), livestock holdings and veterinary practices.

The frequency of inspections is determined on the basis of a risk assessment.

In 2019, three alerts were received for non-compliance of the data on the packaging and the leaflet for use of VMPs with the licence for use and Ordinance No 62 on the requirements for data on packaging and leaflets and unregulated trade in VMPs (including online trade in unlicensed VMPs for bees). In this regard, the necessary measures have been taken, ordered and the relevant inspections have been carried out.

Most often, non-conformities with the requirements of the Veterinary Medicine Act and the by-laws regarding the marketing and use of VMPs are found during inspections of livestock holdings and veterinary establishments.

Non-conformities 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;
- Unregulated use of VMP in animals from which products intended for human consumption by persons without the necessary qualifications are obtained;
- Failure to observe the withdrawal periods after the use of the VMPs for which they are required;
- Use of VMP in violation of the conditions under which the licence for use was issued, as well as in violation of the requirements of Ordinance No 62/09.05.2006 on the requirements for the data on the packaging and in the leaflet for use of VMP.
- Storage of VMP in breach of the manufacturer's requirements.

As a result of non-conformities found during the inspections of the sites for trade and use of VMPs in 2019, 347 prescriptions were issued and 46 acts for establishing an administrative infringement were drawn up.

The inspections performed at the sites subject to control by the RFSD include, in addition to the minimum set, according to the BFSA Inspection Programme for 2019, additional inspections in connection with submitted alerts and complaints, based on risk assessment for each site and joint inspections with employees of the BFSA Central Office in connection with the verification of the effectiveness of the official control and the application of a methodology for carrying out cross-compliance inspections. The inspections which detected non-conformities and where inspectors issued prescriptions were about 13% of the total number of inspections, which is insignificantly more than in 2018. Acts for establishing an administrative infringement were drawn up in about 1% of the inspections, which is close to those in 2018.

The number, frequency and sequence of inspections carried out at sites are not always based on a preliminary risk assessment for each site, which reduces the effectiveness of inspections.

Depending on the degree of significance or criticality of the established non-conformities with the statutory requirements, which regulate the trade and use of VMP, the BFSA undertakes the actions provided for in the VMA.

In respect of the control over the trade and use of VMPs in 2019, it has done as follows: it issued 7 licences for wholesale trade in VMPs; changes to 14 licenses for wholesale trade in VMPs were approved; 11 VMP retail trade licences were issued; changes were approved to 14 issued licenses for retail trade in VMPs; 12 VMP retail licences were terminated; changes/ addenda issued / renewal of 5 licences for trade in narcotic substances were approved. No licences for wholesale trade in narcotic substances were issued during the year.

In 2019, the inspections carried out by the RFSD in connection with the official control over the trade, storage and use of VMPs totalled 3,800, of which: 136 inspections of wholesale sites; 347 inspections of retail outlets; 893 inspections of veterinary medical establishments; 2,366 inspections of livestock holdings and 58 inspections of pet stores, beekeeping shops, etc.

2 cross-compliance inspections were performed to check the compliance with the requirements for control of the use of VMPs, observing the sequence specified in the approved instructions for inspections in livestock holdings, to control the use of VMPs and medicated feed. A report is drawn up on the results of each inspection.

6.3.5.3. Border control

Border control includes border veterinary control, border phytosanitary control and border health control.

Border veterinary control verifies the compliance with the requirements of EU 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 passengers in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 206/2009; pets entering the country accompanying third country passengers - according to Regulation (EC) 576/2013.

The official control of the commercial consignments of products of animal origin, feed and live animals is governed by Commission Decision 2007/275/EU. The control is carried out by official veterinarians at 8 EC-approved „Border Inspection Posts“ (BIP): Port of Varna-West; Port of Burgas; Kapitan Andreevo; Zlatarevo-highway; Gyueshevo - highway; Kalotina-highway; Sofia Airport; Bregovo-highway. In addition to the approved BIP, control of personal luggage of passengers and pets is carried out at entry points: Malko Tarnovo, Lesovo, Logodazh, Strezimirovtsi, Varna Airport, Burgas Airport.

In order to limit the introduction and spread on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and other Member States of quarantine pests for the Union, the official control is carried out in accordance with EU legislation in the field - Council Directive 2000/29/EC, introduced into our national legislation by the Plant Protection Act and Ordinance No 8 of 2015 on phytosanitary control, Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, delegated and implementing acts thereto, as well as implementing decisions and ad hoc measures. This ordinance sets out the protective measures against the introduction and spread of pests on the territory of the country and the EU, as well as the application of adequate and effective control measures.

Border health controls on imports of „high-risk“ food of non-animal origin in accordance with the requirements of EU legislation, which are carried out at certain import posts (IPs), certain border inspection posts (BIPs) and control posts (CPs) designated by the competent authority and notified to the European Commission. The designated border crossing points for official controls over the import of food of non-animal origin are: Kapitan Andreevo, Port of Burgas, Port of Varna, Port of Varna - West, Sofia Airport.

The Kapitan 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 monitoring of imports of fresh fruits and vegetables originating in third countries and final destination of the Republic of Bulgaria are included in the report on the implementation of the Single Multiannual National Control Plan for Food, Feed, Animal Health, Welfare and Plant Protection for 2019, prepared in accordance with Article 44 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

In 2019, RASFF notifications for consignments rejected at the border were 10 more than in 2018. Official inspectors from the Border Control Directorate prevented the introduction and distribution of non-compliant goods by 190 tonnes more than 2018. The reasons for suspended, destroyed or returned consignments are non-conformities in documentary, identification and physical checks.

6.3.5.4. Feed controls

In 2019, the strategic goals set in the Single Multiannual National Control Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria for food, feed, animal health, animal welfare and plant protection (January 2018 - December 2020) were put in place to achieve the strategic goal „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.

Feed control in 2019 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. The goal is to ensure customers' informed decision-making;
- 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 the observance of the feed prohibitions defined in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009
 - and in Article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

Registration and approval of facilities in the feed sector

In accordance with the requirements of the Feed Act and in conjunction with Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, activities carried out in the Feed sector take place at sites and operators approved or registered by the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety.

As of 31 December 2019, the total number of sites/operators registered and approved on the territory of the country was 12,054, which are distributed by activities as follows:

Table V.11 Number of facilities registered and approved in the Feed Sector under Article 9 and Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (as of 31.12.2019)

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
I. Registered sites under Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	3,692	
1. Manufacturers of supplements	3	
2. Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	2	
3. Manufacturers of compound feed	279	
4. Operators involved in cutting, packaging, repackaging and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	64	
5. Packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	7	
6. Grinding, packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	9	
7. Manufacturers of feed materials	374	
8. Feed traders	2,269	

Activity declared	Number of registered sites	Number of approved sites
9. Operators transporting feeds	619	
10. Operators offering warehouses for rent	66	
II. Registered sites at the level of primary production of agricultural crops intended for feed under Article 9 operating under Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) 183/2005 [1]	8,210	
1. Registered sites of farmers producing primary feed at the location of the property	5,637	
2. Registered sites of farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	514	
3. Registered sites of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixes, using supplementary feed	2,045	
4. Registered sites of farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for their own farm	14	
III. Approved sites under Article 10, operating under Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005		142
1. Manufacturers of feed additives		7
2. Manufacturers of premixes, based on feed additives		4
3. Manufacturers of compound feed		43
4. Traders in feed additives and premixes		80
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]		4
IV. Approved sites of Article 55 of the Feed Act		10
1. Manufacturers of medicated feed		10
Total registered and approved sites/operators which carry out activities under Articles 9 and 10 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005		12,054

Source: BFSA

¹ The information is provided by the Directorate for Direct Payments and Identification of Agricultural Parcels, MAFF

² There are three approved operators performing the activity „Blending of fats”, but one of them carries out in the same site activities „Processing of crude vegetable oil with the exception of sites that are registered under the Food Act”; „Production of fatty acids through the processing of vegetable oils and animal fats, production of biodiesel and blending of fats” and „Production of biodiesel”. 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 operators performing activities „Processing of crude vegetable oil with the exception of sites registered under the Food Act” and „Production of fatty acids through the processing of vegetable oils and animal fats, production of biodiesel and blending of fats” are five, but one of them carries out other activities in the same site; „Fat blending” and „Biodiesel production”. 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.

The BFSA maintains and updates 7 national registers of approved and registered sites/operators in the feed sector for the activities specified in Articles 9 and 10 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005. They are public and are available to users on the BFSA website: http://www.babh.government.bg/bg/Object/site_register/view/8

Pursuant to Article 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.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/establishments/feed_list_en.html

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.

Operators in the Feed sector are registered and/or approved for all sites under their control, for each activity performed by them. The registration and approval of sites in the Feed sector is a dynamic process.

Table V.12. Number of sites registered and approved in Feed Sector in 2018 and 2019

Nº	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2018	Number of sites as of 31.12.2019	Change in %
1.	Registered operators under Article 15(1) of the Feed Act	3,581	3,692	+3.1 %
1.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	259	279	+7.7%
1.2.	Operators involved in cutting, packaging, repackaging, labelling and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	66	64	-3.0%
1.3.	Packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds		-3.0%	-12,5%
1.4.	Grinding, packaging, labelling, storage and marketing of feeds	8	7	-12.5%
1.5.	Manufacturers of supplements	10	9	-10.0%
1.6.	Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	3	3	-
1.7.	Manufacturers of feed materials	2	2	-
1.8.	Feed traders	387	374	-3.4%
1.9.	Operators transporting feeds	2,214	2,269	+2.9%
1.10.	Operators offering warehouses for rent	577	619	+7.3%

Nº	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2018	Number of sites as of 31.12.2019	Change in %
2.	Registered operators under Article 15(3)-(4) of the Feed Act	55	66	+2.2 %
2.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	42	43	+2.4%
2.2.	Manufacturers of feed additives	6	7	+16.7%
2.3.	Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	5	4	-20.0%
2.4.	Traders in feed additives and premixes	79	80	+1.3%
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	3	4	+33.3%
2.6.	Operators carrying out decontamination of feed	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 Article 55b(1) of the Feed Act	10	10	-
4.	Registered farmers exercising activities under Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005	7,587	8,210	+8.2%
4.1.	Registered farmers producing primary feed	5,192	5,637	+8.6%
4.2.	Registered farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	559	514	-8.1%
4.3.	Registered sites of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixes, using supplementary feed	1,816	2,045	+12.6%
4.4.	Registered farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for their own farm	20	14	-30.0%
	Total number	11,317	12,054	+6.5%

Source: BFSa and MAFF

Manufacturing of compound feed

According to data from the producers of compound feed, provided under Article 14b of the Feed Act, in 2019 the country produced a total of 1,116,259.15 tonnes of compound feed, which is 0.3% more than the previous year.

Table V.13. Production of compound feed in 2019 by types of animals, tonnes

Type of Animal	For the market	For own farms	Total
Ruminants	131,564.37	44,858.37	176,422.73
Pigs	166,947.01	155,659.78	322,606.79
Poultry	416,995.97	148,898.05	565,894.02
Other animals	29,154.21	22,181.40	51,335.61
Total	744,661.55	371,597.60	1,116,259.15

Source: BFSA

Medicated feed production

Like in the previous years, in 2019 the country produced medicated feed only for pig farming. The quantities produced amounted to 35,830 tonnes, down 4.6% on the year. The share of production of medicated feed for the needs of livestock breeding holdings was 57.2%, and the quantities produced for the market - 42.8% (versus 59.8% and 40.2% for 2018).

Table V.14. Medicated feed production in 2019 by regional areas

District	For the market	For own farms	Total
Varna	7,339	11,200	18,539
Razgrad	0	2,295	2,295
Ruse	254	5,129	5,383
Stara Zagora	0	403.8	403.8
Shumen	7,006	1,449.7	8,455.7
Yambol	753.5	0	753.5
Total	15,352.5	20,477.5	35,830

Source: BFSA

Official feed control

During the year, the operational objectives set in the Framework Plan for Feed Control for 2019 were met. The control covers both sites in the feed sector and livestock holdings, incl. and establishments which produce fodder or only feed animals which are kept for food production and their production is intended for human consumption.

In 2019, feed control followed the defined main specific operational objectives related to the strategic objectives set in the SMNCF of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2018 - 2020, namely: to ensure that the feed meets the safety requirements; to verify compliance with the requirements of the legislation on the placing on the market and use of feed (labelling).

In accordance with Article 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 2019, the 'Feed Control Framework Plan for 2019' 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, suspicions and investigations (alerts, complaints, notifications under the RASFF system, etc.), checks on applications for feed exports to third countries, TRACES checks, etc.

The feed control framework plan covers three control systems: „Animal feed and nutrition“, „Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products“ and „Veterinary medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products“. The inspections carried out in 2019 and the samples taken for feed analysis were evenly distributed in the period and covered 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 was assessed as positive. As of 31.12.2019, the number of inspections set in the Framework Plan for Control 2019 was performed at 95.6%, which is due to the dissolution/ suspension of registration / approval of sites / operators in the sector that were planned for control in the period, as well as the insufficient provision of human resources in some RFSDs in the calendar year. The performed planned inspections in 2019 were 4,122 - down by 50 or by 1.2% compared to 2018. During the year a total of 4,883 audits and inspections were performed (planned, follow-up, investigative and in response to an alert).

During the inspections, non-conformities with the requirements of the legislation applicable in the sector were found; as a result 1,964 prescriptions were issued. Compared to 2018, the number of prescriptions increased by 440 or by 28.9%, with a total of 4,883 inspections performed (including scheduled, follow-up, investigative and in response to an alert) in 2019.

Prescriptions were made for the inconsistencies found, with specific deadlines for their elimination.

No serious non-conformities were observed with regard to feed tested which would result in animal or public health hazards. The type of non-conformities identified did not pose a potential risk to animals.

The non-conformities identified and the type of operators identified were taken into account in the risk assessment when planning the 2020 framework plan.

In terms of the type of site where non-conformities were found, the largest number of prescriptions given during inspections in livestock farms. 1,415 prescriptions were given during inspections in livestock farms, which is 72% of the total number of prescriptions given in 2019 (1,964). The identified non-conformities were mainly related to the requirements for hygiene, own-checks of operators and traceability of feed. Non-conformities with regard to hygiene requirements mainly concerned deficiencies in the cleaning procedures and their implementation. Non-conformities in own-checks related largely to non-sampling of feed for own-check. Incomplete / irregular record keeping was the main part of non-conformities found in traceability requirements.

The most common reasons for non-conformities were: unawareness of operators' liability 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 2019, 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 2019 was 2,532, of which:

- 445 samples of the nutritional composition (19 inconsistent results were obtained - 4.3% of the analyses performed, which is an increase of 2 compared to 2018);
- 270 samples for feed additives, with fixed maximum content, including permitted coccidiostats (discrepancies were found in 21 analyses - 7.8% of the performed analyses, which is a decrease of 18 or 46.2%, compared to 2018);
- 1,260 samples for undesirable substances, including mycotoxins (6 non-compliant results were obtained - 0.5% of the analyses, which is 2 pieces or 33.3% more than in 2018). All non-conformities were found in the analysis of feed samples for residues of pesticide active substances.

In 2019, in implementation of the Framework Plan for Feed Control, a total of 140 feed samples were analyzed for mycotoxin content, or 10 fewer than in 2018. The smaller number of planned and performed analyses was based on risk analysis of the activity of the operators and the lack of non-compliant results of laboratory analysis of feed samples for mycotoxin content in 2018.

In 2019, the following were taken:

- 29 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. Although the maximum levels as well as the thresholds laid down in Directive 2002/32/EC were not exceeded, the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls in relatively constant values ranging from 0,09 to 0,33 ng/kg was detected in the samples analysed;
- 48 analyses for banned medicinal substances, such as feed additives and for inevitable transfer into non-target feed. 1 non-compliant result was obtained, which represents 2.1% of the performed analyses;
- 202 samples for microbiological contamination - presence of salmonella. 9 non-compliant analyses or 4.5% of the analyzed samples were identified, which is 2 more (or 28.6%) compared to 2018;
- 24 samples of feed for the presence of GMOs in which the presence of unauthorized genetically modified feed has not been established.

There were 56 cases where non-conformity of feed with the requirements of the applicable legislation in 2019 was established, compared to 69 in 2018. This is indicative of the effectiveness of the official control of feed.

Feed control under the control system „Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products“

The observance of feed prohibitions by operators from the feed sector, as set out in Article 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) (1069/2009.

In the course of the documentary and physical inspections in 2019, no infringements of the requirements of Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 on intra-species feed prohibition were found.

During the documentary and physical inspections carried out in 2019, the inspectors responsible for the official control of feed found infringements of Article 7 and Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 in 2 farms (pig farm and broiler farm), whereof all necessary administrative and punitive measures were taken.

The feed samples taken in 2019 for the presence of ingredients of animal origin in the implementation of the feed control framework plan are 384, including 327 samples in the implementation of the feed control framework plan, 56 feed samples for export and 1 sample taken in connection with a non-compliant result of analysis and performed research.

Proteins of animal origin are at risk for contamination with microorganisms (Salmonella and other bacteria of the family Enterobacteriaceae), which is why feed

samples are taken for the presence of microbiological contamination. In 2019, 73 feed samples were analyzed for the presence of *Salmonella* spp., incl. 42 samples in implementation of the Framework Plan for Feed Control under the TSE and by-products control system, 28 samples of feed intended for export and 3 samples taken during a study. During the performed laboratory control a positive result of laboratory analysis for the presence of salmonella in feed (a registered producer of feed material obtained in processing of by-products category 3) was established, in connection with which a study was performed. 62 feed samples were analyzed for the presence of enterobacteria, incl. 27 samples in implementation of the Framework Plan for Feed Control under the TSE and by-products control system, 28 samples of feed intended for export and 7 samples taken during studies (in connection with the presence of enterobacteria in compound feed for non-ruminants and feed materials used in laboratory tests). The performed laboratory control revealed positive results from laboratory analysis for the presence of enterobacteria in feed at three operators, producers of compound feed for the needs of their own livestock farms. As in 2018, non-compliant samples were taken from feed intended for feeding pigs. Studies have been carried out to identify inconsistencies.

In audit No DG (SANTE) 2019-6634 carried out by the European Commission, to assess the implementation of measures for monitoring and eradication of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), feed prohibition rules and corrective measures taken to address recommendations from previous BSE and animal by-products audits, the audit team concluded that the feed sector was the only area covered by this audit where official controls were adequate to verify the correct application of the ban on animal nutrition and controls were effectively implemented for the last six consecutive years (from 2013 to 2019).

Feed control under the „Veterinary medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products“ control system

As of 31.12.2018, 10 sites for production of medicated feed and/or intermediates under Article 55(1) of the Feed Act were approved.

In 2019, a total of 17 inspections of approved operators performing the activity „Production of medicated feed“ were carried out, of which 10 scheduled inspections, 4 follow-up inspections and 3 investigative inspections. During the inspections, 4 prescriptions were given to two operators, which represent 22.2% of the inspected total of 9 operators. Compared to 2018 (9), in 2019 there was a decrease in the number of prescriptions by 6 or by 66.6% to 3. Regarding the number of manufacturers of

medicated feed, to which the prescriptions were given, in 2019 (2) a decrease of 50% was established, compared to 2018 (4 pieces.)

In 2019, a total of 12 samples of feed were taken and analyzed under the control system (6 samples for quantitative determination of active drug substance used in the production of medicated feed and for the inevitable transfer of the same in non-target feed). 3 results of laboratory analysis were obtained, according to which the result of the analysis does not correspond to the declared by the manufacturers amount of active drug substance used in the production of medicated feed. According to the results of analysis in 2 (two) of the samples from non-target feed, analyzed for unavoidable transfer of active drug substance, the presence of cross-contamination with the same was detected. In connection with the obtained non-compliant results of the analyzes, all necessary measures and actions have been taken in accordance with the legislation.

Audits of Feed Business Operators

In accordance with the requirements of Article 6 and Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 and in connection with Article 26(2) of the Feed Act, feed business operators carrying out activities other than those at the primary feed production level are required to put in place procedures developed and implemented based on HACCP principles - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point.

In 2019, 277 audits of feed business operators and 21 ex-post audits were carried out to check the implementation of audit recommendations.

It can be concluded that the operators have developed, implemented and put in place adequate procedures to meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005. For some operators it was found that procedures based on HACCP principles were not up to date at the time of the audit. For all identified non-conformities, recommendations were given and the operators have taken corrective action in response to them. They have been checked for their implementation and are closed.

In 2019, the number of audits performed increased by 44 or 18.9% compared to the previous year, and the number of recommendations made - by 26 or 61.9%. This is indicative of the effectiveness of the official feed controls over the years.

During the year, 40 acts for established administrative infringements were drawn up - down 8 or 16.7% compared to 2018. The most common infringements by the operators in the Feed sector, for which acts were issued were non-compliance with the

requirements of Article 48(1) (11 acts) and Article 25(1) (5 acts) 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.

6.4. Risk analysis along the food chain

The Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre (FCRAC) is a competent authority within the meaning of Article 22(7) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

One of the main functions of the FCRAC is to protect and strengthen consumer confidence in the safety and security of the entire food chain by conducting independent scientific risk assessments, scientific opinions and information related to the food chain on issues that directly or indirectly affect food safety, animal and plant health, plant products, plant and animal propagating material. The scientific assessments are non-binding and are prepared in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and the FCRAC Act by direct assignment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) through its focal point for Bulgaria, which is part of the FCRAC, state competent bodies and institutions: the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Economy, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, other natural or legal persons in the field of production and trade in food and food products or producers and traders of food, feed or their derivatives across the food chain.

Another key priority is the evaluation of plant protection products in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, as well as the collection, processing and provision of information to EFSA on approved good agricultural practices of permitted plant protection products in Bulgaria in connection with the review of maximum residue limits.

Through its independent, scientifically based assessments, the FCRAC helps consumers make informed decisions on the one hand and the competent control authorities assess the impact of risk management measures taken along the food chain on the other. In addition, the risk assessments prepared by the FCRAC provide a basis for further analysis and assessment of the benefit/risk balance in the future.

In 2019, the Centre continued to fulfil its main goal - preparation of scientific opinions and publication of scientific reviews/ analyses and information in the field of health and animal welfare, biological and chemical hazards in the food chain, zoonoses, genetically modified organisms, food contact materials, plant health, pesticide residues in food, food additives, dietary products, nutrition and allergens.

Particular attention is paid to reviewing and monitoring the African swine fever situation. The Centre has prepared timely information on the ongoing spread of the disease and has taken part in the awareness raising campaign on the significance of the disease and the measures to be taken in the fight against it. Together with the BFSa, epizootic studies have been conducted in some of the large pig farms affected by the disease in the country.

In general, for the period 2012 - 2019 there was a gradual increase in the number of assessments prepared by the FCRAC - from 11 in 2012 to 59 in 2019.

Figure V.2. Number of assessments drafted by FCRAC in 2012-2019



Source: FCRAC

As a result of the FCARC activities related to plant protection products, active substances, antidotes and synergists, in 2019, 172 PPP evaluation reports were completed and submitted to the BFSa for approval.

In 2020, the FCARC continues to prepare and update risk assessments in the following areas:

- African swine fever in Bulgaria, Europe and the world;
- Avian influenza;
- Additional prepared materials for topical animal diseases or with increased risk of entering the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Animal welfare;
- Residues from PPP, VMP and environmental pollutants;
- Packaging and food contact materials;
- Allergens, dietary foods, novel foods and foods with health claims, allergens, food supplements, novel foods, safety assessment of traditional foods.

Given the dynamics of processes such as climate change (natural disasters), combined with political and social crises and globalization, a change in the priorities for risk assessment and management is expected in view of the onset of emerging risks related to food, feed, which requires their detailed planning. This is also included in the European Green Deal published in 2020, setting out a new, sustainable and inclusive growth strategy to stimulate the economy, improve people's health and quality of life, take care for nature and the interests of all are taken into account.

Based on the objectives of the European Green Deal, and in particular the Farm-to-Table strategy, which is at the heart of the Green Deal, as well as the challenges of population growth, climate change, the search for new food sources for people and animals, food waste, new biotechnologies, animal cloning and, more recently, cloning of human embryos, nanotechnologies, it is necessary to include the impact on the economy and climate in the risk assessment of the agri-food chain in order to improve health and quality of life for people and animals, to care for nature and to take into account the interests of all, taking into account increased public expectations for broader, sustainable levels of protection of human, animal, plant and environmental health.

This requires continuous improvement and openness on the part of FCARC experts to adequately respond to the constantly changing environment of action in the face of new threats and challenges. These priorities are also highlighted in the EFSA research commissioned by the European Commission on the future of food and nutrition safety, new risks and dangers in food production will continue to emerge in the coming years, increasing the need for data, methodologies and expertise. and scientific advice on new and complex food safety issues.

To meet these major challenges, the FCRAC plans to develop standard operating procedures to assess risks associated with the agri-food chain and climate change, drawing on international best practices and experience in close cooperation with EFSA and peer risk assessment institutions in Germany - BfR, France - ANSES, Austria - AEGES, etc.

Demographic change - an ageing population, increasing migration flows and changes in consumer attitudes towards food will also lead to an additional need for expert assessments.

These priorities are analyzed on an annual basis and are reflected in the work plan of the FCRAC for the respective year.

In 2020, the FCRAC continued to conduct an in-depth scientific analysis of problems related to the risks in the agri-food chain and to provide this information to stakeholders (producers, processors, traders, consumers, scientific organizations under Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 178/2002, the competent risk management bodies, ministries, parliament and parliamentary committees.

In view of the above main goals, in 2020 the Centre worked on the formation, together with the scientific organizations under Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, of scientific groups of highly qualified experts in various areas of activity (panels) for preparation and/or updating of scientific risk assessments and expertise, emphasizing the following priorities:

- protecting public health and strengthening consumer confidence in the safety and security of the whole food chain by carrying out an independent scientific risk assessment, opinions and information related to the food chain, directly outsourced by the European Food Safety Authority, MAFF, BFSA or other state bodies, individuals and legal entities for the preparation of scientific risk assessment through an independent, transparent and impartial manner on issues that directly or indirectly affect the health of animals and plants, plant products, plant and animal reproductive material and food and feed safety throughout the food chain. These assessments, opinions and information are used for decision-making for risk management in the food chain;
- data collection, including from structures outside the MAFF, necessary for risk assessment along the food chain; if necessary, for the purposes of risk assessment, conducting research and collecting information in the field;
- communication of risk and exchange of information with all institutions and persons involved in food chain safety and study of information needs to carry out an objective risk assessment;

- communication and exchange of scientific information with EFSA and other international and national food chain risk assessment organizations, maintenance of a national database of experts in various fields of the food chain and implementation of scientific cooperation through coordination of activities, development of and implementation of joint projects, exchange of experience and best practices in the areas of competence of EFSA under Article 36 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002;
- approval, renewal and review of the approval of active substances, antidotes and synergists in their capacity of competent and coordinating body within the meaning of Article 75(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC;
- carrying out an assessment with an assessment report upon authorization, renewal, amendment and revocation of a permit for placing on the market and use of plant protection products, as a competent authority within the meaning of Article 75(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

6.5. Legislative amendments in the field of food chain safety

In 2019, the optimization of the regulatory framework in the field of animal health, food safety and quality continued, as part of the drafts were adopted in 2020:

- Agri-food chain management Act, which brings together all activities in the agro-food chain, clearly identifies its individual elements in their entirety as a continuous process, with a clear delineation of the competencies of the bodies carrying out risk assessment in the agri-food chain, policy and control over them. and the activities related to them (promulgated SG, issue 51 of 05.06.2020);
- New Food Act, meant to simplify the legal framework, to ensure consumer protection by offering safe food on the market and reduce the gray sector in food production, processing and distribution (promulgated SG, issue 52 of 09.06.2020);
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 4 of 2014 on the specific requirements for the production of raw materials and food of animal origin in slaughterhouses, transportation and placing on the market (promulgated SG, issue 37 of 21.04.2020);

- 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 issue45 of 07.06.2019);

In connection with the spread of African swine fever in 2019 and the identified gaps in the legislation, the legislation was updated in order to take action to limit the spread of the disease and to ensure its gradual eradication in the country. Drafts were prepared for:

- Act amending and supplementing the Veterinary Medicine Act;
- Plan for control and prevention of the spread of the African swine fever disease in Bulgaria in 2020;
- Ordinance on the terms and conditions for spending the funds for compensation of animal owners in the cases under Article 47(1) of the Veterinary Medicine Act (promulgated SG, issue 40 of 05.05.2020).

Priority activities in 2020

One of the main priorities in the first half of 2020 were the activities related to the preparation and finalization of draft regulations issued on the basis of the Veterinary Medicine Act. The finalization of the completely new regulatory acts is forthcoming: draft Ordinance on the measures for prevention, limitation and liquidation of the anthrax disease in animals and on the terms and its implementing rules, draft Ordinance on the terms and conditions for disinfection, disinsection, deratization and devastation in limiting and eradicating animal diseases, on the grounds of Article 117(6) of the Veterinary Medicine Act and a draft Ordinance for the veterinary medical requirements and the measures for biosecurity to the animal breeding sites for fish and other aquatic organisms.

Efforts started to draft an Ordinance on the terms and conditions for conducting postgraduate training and an Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 61 of 9 May 2006 on the terms and conditions for official identification of animals for which no requirements are provided in a regulation of the European Union (title amended, SG No. 90/2013, effective 15.10.2013).

Another important priority in 2020 is to analyze and start work on a draft new Veterinary Medicine Act, fully compliant with the framework and provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health and amending and repealing certain acts in the field of animal health and the delegated acts applicable to it from 21 April 2020.

In 2020, the priority in the field of food will be the adoption of bylaws on the implementation of the Agri-Food Chain Management Act and the Food Act.

- **Agri-Food Chain Management Act**

Pursuant to §12 of the Final Provisions of the Agri-Food Chain Management Act, within 6 months from the entry into force of the law the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Economy and the Minister of Environment and Water issue the bylaws on its implementation.

The Agri-Food Chain Management Act contains three legal grounds for issuing by-laws. In this regard, two existing ordinances should be reissued on a new basis, and one should be developed and issued.

- **Food Act**

Pursuant to §8, para. 1 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Food Act, the by-laws on its implementation shall be adopted, respectively issued, within 6 months from the entry into force of the law.

The Food Act contains eleven legal grounds for the issuance of by-laws, and some of the grounds include the issuance of several ordinances.

In this regard, twenty-two existing ordinances should be reissued on a new basis, and four ordinances should be developed and issued.

7. Livestock Selection and Reproduction

7.1. 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 2019, 6 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 EASRAB coordinates the creation of new breeds and hybrids of animals by administering the activities of the State Commission on Animal Breeds (SCAB) and performs the necessary expert assessments on the merits at all levels. Until the end

of 2019, the SCAB had not received any applications from the Patent Office for expert assessments on merits.

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 Article 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.

EASRAB experts 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 2019, it determined the breed belonging of: 104 cattle, 413 sheep and 218 goats. All animals are registered as breeding in the integrated information system VetIS of the BFSA. During the year, 934 cattle, 2,045 sheep and 2,051 goats were entered in herd books, with data on origin, entry of offspring and registration of dropping out and the reasons for this.

In 2019, 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 28 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 „Agri-Environment and Climate“ of the RDP for the period 2014 – 2020.

In 2019, there were no breeds with reduced endangered status and extinct breeds. Only the Pleven Horse breed - a breed with the smallest number - can be defined as an endangered breed. Of the autochthonous breeds, the condition of the Local Stara Zagora sheep, Byala Marishka, Local Karnobat sheep and Sakarska sheep is alarming, and of the commercial breeds - Karnobatska and Trakiyska fine-wooled sheep, of the East Bulgarian horse, Danube horse and Danube white pig. In 2019, measures to restore two national breeds continued - the Bulgarian brown cattle and the Bulgarian red cattle. A breeding programme has been developed for the Bulgarian Brown cattle and since 2018 the Association for Breeding of Bulgarian Brown Cattle has taken over the breeding activity. A breeding plan was elaborated for the development of the Bulgarian Red Cattle and was implemented in 2019.

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 EFABIS and the latter - to the World Food Organisation (FAO) DAD-IS information system. This integration enables the transfer of data from national to EU and global information systems, with information updated in 2019.

EASRAB manages and maintains a National Gene Bank with two repositories (Sofia and Sliven), which stores cryopreserved semen from different species and breeds of animals.

As of the end of 2019, the National Gene Bank stored a total of 1,916,833 doses of deep-frozen semen from 327 breeders, as follows: from 285 cattle breeders of 22 breeds, 22 buffalo breeders of 4 breeds, 13 goats of 6 breeds of sheep, 4 rods of two breeds of goats and 3 stallions of 3 breeds of horses.

The Agency also maintains a National Genetic Reserve as a separate part of the National Gene 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 of 31 December 2019, the National Genetic Reserve of the country kept in stock 391,339 doses of frozen semen from: 428 cattle and 28 buffalo breeders, from 54 rams, 7 he-goats and 18 stallions. The doses are from 27 breeds of cattle (15 dairy and 12 beef cattle), 4 breeds of buffalo, 20 breeds of sheep and 10 breeds of horses. In 2019, the National Genetic Reserve was enriched with 11,200 new doses of frozen semen from 40 nurseries.

To ensure higher biosecurity, frozen semen from the National Genetic Reserve is stored in two cryo- storage facilities - Sofia and Sliven.

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.

At end-2019, 13 breeders of the following breeds are bred in SATIS Sliven: Bulgarian Red Cattle, Montbeliard, Holstein Red, Jersey, Simmental, Aberdeen Angus and Bulgarian Murrah.

In 2019, 20,025 doses of frozen semen in the form of sequins were produced from the available breeding centres at the Sliven SATIS.

A horse breeding depot is maintained in SATIS Sofia, where the EASRAB keeps horses and these are provided under contracts for joint activity by the Association for Restoration and Development of the Pleven Horse and Hydran breeds. In 2019, 103 ejaculates were received from the bred stallions (of the Thoroughbred Arabian, Anglo Arabian and Pleven horse breeds) at the station and 3,723 doses were produced. Compared to the previous year, the ejaculates produced were 51 fewer and the cryopreserved doses - 1,196 more.

In the field of sheep and goat breeding in implementation of the Conservation Programme for ex situ management of genetic resources in the Republic of Bulgaria 2015 - 2024, from mid-2018 SATIS Sofia breeds rams and he-goats. The selection of male breeders is carried out jointly with the Breeding Organizations. In 2019, 129

ejaculates were received at SATIS Sofia and 3,195 doses of semen from the available rams and he-goats were frozen, which is down 35 and 302, respectively, compared to 2018.

In 2019, the EASRAB took preventive measures for the protection and conservation of the East Balkan pig breed in connection with the African swine fever disease. In order to prevent the risk of loss of valuable genetic resources, a response system has been set up in the event of natural disasters, epidemic, industrial accidents or other unforeseeable causes, with severe consequences for animal populations. After a clinical examination of a pig farm, which is under selective control by the Association for Breeding and Conservation of the Eastern Balkan Pig, 6 sows and 4 boars were selected, which are housed for breeding in SATIS Sliven.

EASRAB assists the activity of the breeding organizations in the implementation of their breeding programmes, ensuring the correct assessment of the selection traits and assessment of the breeding value by: providing an opportunity for research of the quality indicators of the controlled traits in its laboratories; breeding of male animals and production and storage of semen; proving the origin of breeding animals in its laboratory.

To this end, the Agency manages and maintains a milk productivity control laboratory and a wave productivity control laboratory.

In 2019, the state laboratory for determining the physico-chemical composition of milk in Sliven analyzed a total of 19,564 samples of cow's and sheep's milk, with 2,197 more than the previous year. Of these, 18,849 samples were provided by the Association for Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle and Jersey - Smolyan, 608 by the National Association for Breeding Cattle of the breeds Montbeliard and Simmental - Pleven and 107 - from animals controlled by EASRAB.

The laboratory for testing rams on own productivity (Shumen), servicing the selection in fine-wool sheep breeding, makes it possible to determine the size of some selection traits and the quality of the wool in terms of physical and mechanical properties, yield and the quantities of pure fiber. In 2019, 998 wool samples were tested therein, with 125 fewer than in 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 2019, 9 beef breeders, 18 rams, 12 he-goats, and 17 stallions and mares were raised in cooperative reproductive contracts at the EASRAB bases.

In 2019, the activity of the National Genetic Laboratory continued to ensure reliable, scientifically based determination of the breed affiliation of animals at a modern level, recognized by the international community and allows the performance

of reference DNA analyses. This provides an opportunity to control both the activities of the Breeding Organizations and the implementation of coupled support schemes in the field of animal husbandry. The performed DNA analyses also reveal new regularities necessary for the development of breeding strategies and programmes for the conservation of national genetic resources in animal husbandry. In 2019, the National Genetic Laboratory performed DNA analysis to prove the origin of 3,500 samples (including: 3,450 samples with isolated DNA and re-analysis of 50 samples). The registered samples are as follows: 2,480 cattle, 920 sheep and 50 goats.

Through EASRAB, Bulgaria is a full member of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR). With the help of IACR, our breeding organizations in the field of dairy and beef cattle, dairy and beef sheep, goat and buffalo become members of ICAR, and as such gain access to significant technical information, the opportunity to use existing contacts with other international organizations, expert assistance in accrediting 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 10 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 2019, a total of 36,053 doses of semen were sold, with 1,784 doses less than the previous year. About 34% of the total doses delivered were from Bulgarian cattle and buffalo breeds. Of the 28,984 doses of semen from dairy breeds of cattle sold, the largest share is occupied by those from the Bulgarian Rhodope cattle - 24.8%, followed by those from Holstein - 20.2%, Bulgarian black and white cattle - 19.5% and Simmental - 16.3%. Of the meat-producing breeds with the largest share of the realized doses are the breeds Aberdeen Angus - 54.2% and Limousin - 41%.

The station for assessment of young bulls for own productivity in Sliven breeds young breeding animals, as of 31.12.2019 there were 5 calves of the breeds Jersey, Rhodope shorthorn cattle, Holstein black, Aberdeen angus red and two cubs - Bulgarian Murrah.

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 Programme 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 3 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. At end-2019 the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed had 22 animals. 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. Due to the narrow genetic diversity and the impossibility of further breeding of the breed in pure condition, in 2019 a refined cross with bulls from the breeds Angler and Danish red cattle started, as both breeds have participated in the production process.

Pursuing to the programmes for rescue and restoration of the Danube, Pleven Horse and Bulgarian Heavy Horse breeds, the contracts signed by the Agency for Restoration 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. As of the end of 2019, 6,082 doses of horse semen were delivered to the NGB and NGR, 1,663 more than in 2018.

In order to promote the national genetic resources and the breeding activity, in 2019 EASRAB organized and held the following exhibitions, financed by the State Fund for Agriculture under the state aid schemes: 15th Jubilee National Exhibition of Animal Husbandry, Sliven; The First National Exhibition of French Breeds in Bulgaria and the Tenth National Exhibition with a competition for the Ile de France breed (together with the Ile de France Breeding Association in Bulgaria); Specialized exhibition of riding horses.

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 2019, 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.

7.2. Control and Coordination of Breeding Activities

In 2019, the EASRAB carried out control by conducting an inspection of the activities of breeding organizations that received support under the state aid scheme „Aid for keeping a herd book and for determining the productivity and genetic qualities of animals“ for animals that applied for 2018. In accordance with the requirements of the scheme, the inspections carried out cover animal breeding as follows: 1,754 farms with 120,855 cattle, 258 farms with 9,969 buffaloes, 2,194 farms with 363,997 sheep, 343 farms with 22,981 the number of goats, 50 farms with 43,952 pigs, 6 farms with 776,628 birds, 511 owners with 9,670 horses, 98 apiaries with 21,457 bee families, 16 owners with 320 dogs and 7 farms with 1,507 rabbits.

In 2019, the EASRAB carried out inspections of declared circumstances in accordance with the terms and conditions for recognition of breeding organizations and for approval of breeding programmes of 4 breeding organizations.

During the year, the Agency carried out routine inspections of the activities of 42 breeding organisations, as well as 3 ad hoc inspections.

The Agency carried out checks on the compliance of the breeding programme by the beneficiaries, subsidized under the heading „Conservation of endangered local breeds“ under measure 214 „Agri- environmental payments“ and measure 10 Agri-environment and climate of the RDP. Based on the results of the 2,041 farms inspected, the corresponding payments were made.

During the year, two zootechnical inspections of horse herds were conducted at the State Enterprise Kabiyuk and the Institute of Animal Sciences, Kostinbrod.

In 2019, the Agency carried out inspections of 28 exhibitions and exhibitions by breeding organisations.

An assessment was performed based on the Methodology for assessment of breeding animals, as follows: the type of horses - 2 animals; the type of cattle - one animal of the breed BRG; of 13,167 pigs of commercial breeds and 158 of the breed East Balkan pig.

Due to the lack of approved breeding organizations in the country for certain breeds, in 2019 EASRAB continued to carry out selection activities by species and breeds as follows:

- Cattle breeding - with 959 cattle of the following breeds: Galloway - 672 animals, Charolais - 118 animals, Jersey - 156 animals and Bulgarian red cattle - 13 animals;
- Sheep breeding - with 2,045 sheep, distributed by breeds as follows: Avasi - 1,405 animals, Mouton Wendeen - 246 animals, Chios - 291 animals and Romanovska - 103 animals;
- Goat breeding - with 2,051 goats of the breeds: Alpine - 1,723 animals and Boer - 328 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 the register of pedigree certificates issued by the EASRAB in 2019, 698 zootechnical certificates for goats, 686 certificates for sheep, 174 new certificates for cattle and 36 reissued were introduced.

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 2019, the EASRAB entered in the VetIS system: 119,636 cattle of 20 breeds; 335,668 sheep of 33 breeds; 30,606 goats of 9 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 of 31 December 2019, the Register of Male Breeding Animals included: 1,663 beef bulls, 205 buffalo bulls, 7,950 goats, 750 rods, 369 stallions, 374 boars, 117 dogs and 208 rabbits.

In the Register of Breeding information is entered as follows: cattle breeding - 1,662 herds with 118,367 animals, buffalo breeding - 269 herds with 12,540 animals, sheep breeding - 2,177 herds with 335,668 animals, goat breeding - 521 herds with 30,158 animals, pig breeding - 41 herds with 46,573 animals, horse breeding - 1,029 owners with 12,402 animals, poultry - 14 herds with 1,244,962 birds. The register also includes 161 apiaries with 21,953 bee colonies, 39 owners of dogs of breed dogs with 458 animals, and 9 owners of rabbits with 1,497 animals.

In 2019, 1 importer was registered in the register of importers of organic products, with 4 notifications submitted, of which 3 for intra-Community trade and 1 for imports from third countries. 17,864 doses of deep-frozen semen from 41 beef breeders were imported. The registered doses are from the breeds Holstein, Brown Cattle, Simmental, Jersey, Hereford, Limousin, Aberdeen Angus, Belgian Blue, Charolais and Vagu.

8. Agricultural Science, Training and Advisory Activities

8.1. Agricultural Scientific Research and Scientific Service Activities Provided by the Agricultural Academy

The research activity of the Agricultural Academy (AA) is related to the development of projects of national and pan-European importance in the field of agriculture and food industry, based on research based on the agri-environmental conditions of the country, the needs of the population and environmental protection.

In 2019, a total of 234 research projects were developed in the structural units of the AA. Of these, 119 projects are funded by the budget of the Academy; 57 projects - from the Research Fund (RF) and 59 projects - from international organizations and agencies.

AA researchers have been involved in the development of 42 research projects focusing on soil resources and agroecosystems, climate change mitigation, technology and innovation in conventional and organic farming.

In the field of genetic and selection research to create new varieties with increased productivity and quality, adapted to the market and climate change, incl. 34 projects have been developed to preserve genetic diversity.

In the field of animal farming, fisheries and aquaculture, feed quality, reduction of damage from gas emissions to the environment and maintenance of genetic resources, 30 research projects have been developed.

In the areas: traditional and new foods and beverages, durability and quality storage of food products, 9 research projects have been developed.

Analyses and strategies for viable rural areas have been developed, and 4 research projects monitor and evaluate the implementation of various programmes and schemes of the MAFF for rural development.

An important aspect of the activity of the Academy in 2019 was its participation in three projects for modernization of the scientific infrastructure.

AA participates with over 200 researchers in 4 national research programmes funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (NRP „Healthy foods for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life”, NRP „Reproductive biotechnology in animal husbandry in Bulgaria”, NRP „Environmental Protection and reducing the risk of adverse events and natural disasters”; NRP „Young Researchers and Postdoctoral Students”).

In 2019, there was an increase in projects funded by competitive national (MES and RF) and international programmes (Horizon 2020, COST, FAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

8.1.1. Scientific Outputs Rolled out in Production

In 2019 a total of 269 varieties of AA were registered in the Official List of Plant Varieties in the country, issued annually by EAPVTFISC. List A (cereals, feed, oil crops and industrial crops, beets, potatoes and fruit plants) includes 216 varieties and List B (vegetables, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic crops and vines) - 53 varieties.

There were 11 scientific outputs that received legal protection in 2019, including: 4 varieties of fruit crops; 3 varieties of cereals; 2 varieties of vineyards and 2 varieties of industrial crops.

In 2019, the AA received one patent for an invention and 6 certificates for registered utility models from the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Academy holds and maintains 365 certificates for protection of plants and animals, which represents about 85% of all certificates for varieties, hybrids, plant lines and animal breeds in Bulgaria. There are 13 supported certificates for animal breeds (7 certificates for silkworm breeds, 2 for sheep breeds, 2 for cattle breeds and 2 for carp breeds).

8.1.2. Transfer of knowledge and scientific outputs and vocational training

In 2019, in the created 29 demonstration fields and farms, 35 open days were organized to acquaint farmers with innovative plant protection and agro-technical practices, new varieties of plants and breeds of animals.

During the year, 42 scientific-practical conferences, seminars, symposia and round tables were held on problems of modern agriculture, economics and marketing. A large number of consultations were conducted related to the technologies in plant growing, the varietal structure for the respective regions, the profitability of the different types of production, etc.

AA researchers have participated in 18 short-term training courses for agricultural professionals and farmers. They have taken part in 49 national and international exhibitions and fairs. They have provided expert assistance to national and international institutions, governing bodies (MAFF, MoD, MoEW, EU, WHO, Bulgarian Institute for Standardization). They have prepared a variety of printed materials, presentations, thematic exhibitions. Demonstrations and workshops were held in the field of agriculture and agroecology.

8.1.3. Transfer of knowledge and scientific outputs and vocational training

In 2019, 498 scientists worked at the AA. The distribution of researchers by academic positions and scientific degrees was as follows: professors - 74; associate professors - 172; chief assistants - 134; assistants - 118; Doctors of Science - 12, with educational and scientific degree of „Doctor“ - 407. During the year 33 scientists have improved their qualification and received a higher academic position. Of these, 13 received a habilitation, with two acquiring the academic position of „Professor“ and 11 - „Associate Professor“. 30 assistants have been appointed and 20 assistants have acquired the academic position of Chief Assistant.

A total of 80 doctoral students were trained in 2019, and 25 doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations and received doctoral diplomas. The training of doctoral students takes place at 21 scientific institutes of the Academy under 30 doctoral programmes (a total of 58 accreditations), from 9 professional fields in 4 scientific fields, approved by the National Agency for Training and Accreditation (NATA).

In 2019, there were 11 new doctoral students enrolled at the AA, of which 4 full-time students, 2 part-time and 5 - in independent training.

8.1.4. Specialized scientific journals

In 2019, there was an increase in the number of scientific articles and citations in journals with impact factor and impact rank (indexed in the global databases Web of Science and Scopus), which is evidence of increased publication activity and better recognition of scientific results of the AA in the global scientific space. 715 scientific articles have been published, of which 183 in journals with impact factor and impact rank, 532 articles in peer reviewed foreign and Bulgarian journals with scientific review, 11 monographs and book chapters. The number of citations was 2,090.

8.1.5. International cooperation in the field of agricultural science

Under the Horizon 2020 programme, AA scientists have implemented a total of 8 projects, including: „Linking genetic resources, genomes and phenotypes of Solanum crops“ (G2P-SOL); „A holistic and diverse approach to the design of new tomato varieties and management practices to improve yields and quality in the face of climate change“ (TomGEM); „Establishment of a Centre for Biology and Biotechnology of Plant Systems for conducting basic research in sustainable bio-based technologies in Bulgaria“ (PlantaSYST); „Structural transformation to achieve responsible bioscience“ (STARBIOS2); „Promoting a sustainable circular bioeconomy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe“ (BIOEASTsUP).

In 2019, under the Erasmus+ Programme, 107 mobility trips of Academy employees were carried out in higher education institutions and research institutes in France, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Finland, the Czech Republic, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, Romania, Slovakia and the Republic of North Macedonia.

AA continues to be a member of prestigious international scientific organizations, such as: International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (I.C.G.E.B.); European Plant Science Organization (EPSO); European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB); European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); European Network of State Laboratories for Tobacco and Tobacco Products (GoToLab); European Association for the Selection of Cultivated Plants (EUCARPIA); European Soil Conservation Association (ESSC); European Environmental Education Foundation (FEEE); Balkan Ecological Association

(B.EN.A.); International Association of Water and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC); International Horticultural Society (SHS); Global Soil Partnership (GPS); European Cooperation Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR); European Integrated Genetic Resources System (AEGIS), etc.

In 2019, a Bulgarian-Chinese research centre for agricultural development was established (by scientists from the Institute of Agrarian Economics in Bulgaria and scientists from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in the People's Republic of China), which provides more opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, coordinating the work of many scientists, practitioners and entrepreneurs.

During the year, 80 licensing, distribution and trade agreements were realized between AA and partners from Bulgaria, Turkey, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, etc.

8.2. 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. In 2019, the experts from the Territorial Regional Offices of NAAS provided free of charge to candidates under sub-measure 6.3. „Start-up aid for the development of small holdings“ and sub-measure 4.2.2 „Investments in processing / marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic Subprogramme“ of the RDP 2014-2020 consulting and technical assistance in submitting their project proposals in UMIS 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 2019, 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 Centre 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. There are also more and more e-services and digital tools (online information meetings, seminars, demonstrations, including trainings) for communication with farmers, which prove to be particularly effective.

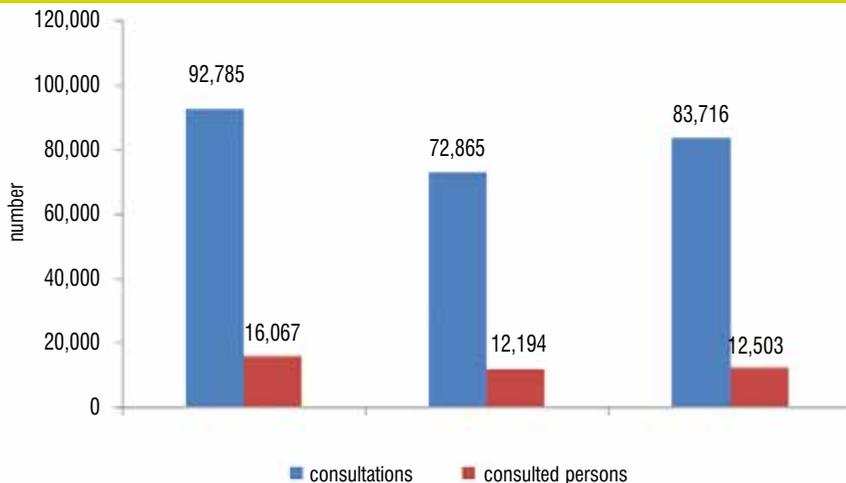
The NAAS disseminates useful information to farmers and promotes good practices in applying and implementing RDP projects.

All consultations provided by the NAAS are free of charge to farmers.

In 2019, a total of 12,503 individuals received 83,756 consultations from NAAS experts. Compared to the previous year, the number of consulted persons increased by 3%. Each consultation also covers the completion of the documents and their submission to UMIS 2020, due to lack of experience on the part of farmers to work with information systems. There is an increase in the consultations given by NAAS in the office and on site in agricultural holdings by 15% compared to 2018. Experts from NAAS have made 3,516 on-site visits to agricultural holdings, which is 34% more than in 2018. Most of the persons who received consultations benefit from the complete package of advisory services offered by the NAAS.

The NAAS target groups are mainly: farmers who have already started their agricultural activity (this group is dominated by small farms); persons who want to start an agricultural activity; persons living in rural areas, including forest owners.

Figure V.3. Total number of consultations and consulted people at the office and on site for 2017 – 2019

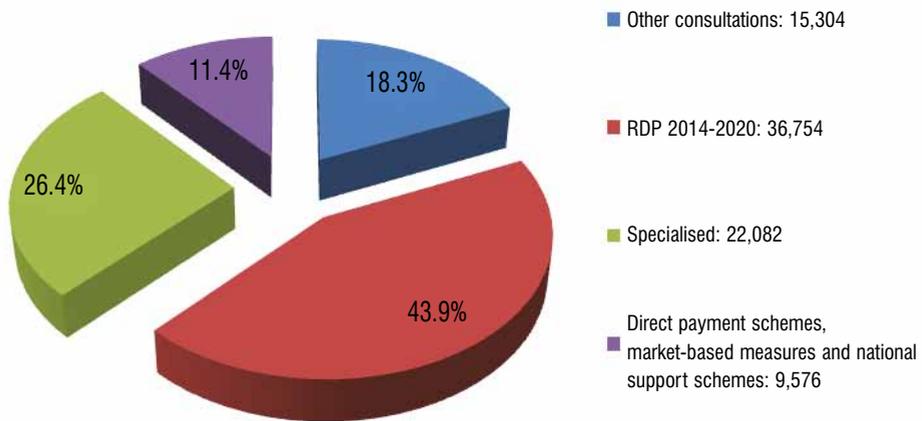


Source: NAAS

In 2019, NAAS experts provided 7,554 consultations on topics related to the third National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) for the period 2013 - 2020. 4,631 people were consulted - 4.5% more than in 2018, on topics concerning different types of activities with a direct or indirect effect on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The largest share last year was occupied by consultations under the RDP 2014-2020 - 36,754 (43.9%) or 26% more than in 2018. They were mainly related to options for support under sub-measure 6.3 „Start-up aid for the development of small holdings“ of measure 6 „Development of farms and enterprises“ and sub-measure 4.2.2 „Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic subprogramme“ of measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ under RDP 2014 - 2020

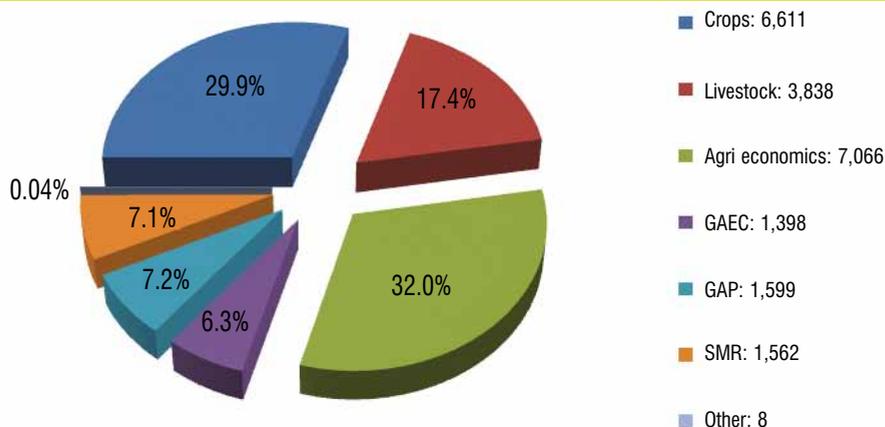
Figure V.4. Consultations provided by type in 2019



Source: NAAS

In second place are the specialized consultations with 22,082 (26.4%), and compared to 2018 they have decreased by 2%. In 2019, specialized consultations were provided in the thematic areas: crops growing (including organic farming) - a total of 6,611; animal husbandry (incl. organic animal husbandry) - 3 838; agrarian economy - 7,066; statutory management requirements (SMR); rules for good agricultural practice (GAP); conditions for maintaining land in good agricultural and ecological condition (GAEC).

Figure V.5. Distribution of specialized consultations provided in 2019 by type



Source: NAAS

The number of consultations regarding direct payments for 2019 was 9,576, 20% more than in the previous year.

The consultations from the group „others“ also increased - by 16%, to 15,304. This includes consultations on the registration and re-registration of farmers under Ordinance 3 of 1999, other registration, permit and licensing regimes related to agriculture and those with safe working conditions.

8.3. Vocational Training

The NAAS Centre for Vocational Training (CVT) 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. The professions and vocations offered at the CVT are in the field of: „Agriculture, forestry and fisheries“, including the professional fields: „Plant and animal farming“; „Landscaping“ and „Forestry“.

8.4. In 2019, 21 farmers were trained on Agri-Environment at CVT.

Improving the Link „Scientific Research - Consulting in Agriculture - Agricultural Business“

In 2019, 108 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 2019, with

participation of scientists and experts from NAAS, AA, Agrarian University - Plovdiv, Thracian University - Stara Zagora, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, BFSA Regional Directorates, General Labour Inspectorate and other organisations.

Conducting information seminars with demonstrations on the farms of NAAS clients continued as a good practice. There were 29 seminars with demonstrations for 2019.

More than 2,600 farmers took an interest in the information events in 2019. These joint activities and events, by their very nature, constituted specialized training, fully geared to the needs of farmers.

8.5. Information support

In 2019, NAAS experts participated in 341 information events (173 information meetings, 88 seminars, 29 demonstration seminars and 51 other events). 138 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 2019, 1,041 outgoing reception rooms were held and 3,088 persons were consulted.

8.6. 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 2019, the laboratory received 1,823 soil samples from 986 individuals, on the basis of which 1,447 samples were made for 7,348 determinations (analyses). Based on the performed analyses, 880 recommendations for fertilization were prepared.

The main soil samples received in 2019 were related to the provision of consulting packages under sub-measure 2.1.2 „Consulting services for small farms“ of measure

2 „Consulting services, farm management services and farm replacement services“ of the RDP 2014 - 2020.

NAAS activity under measure 2 „Consulting services, farm management services and farm replacement services“ of the 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 2.1.2 NAAS provides six basic advisory packages entirely free of charge to small farms, contributing to both economic development and the strengthening of small farms through modernisation and technological renewal as sustainable and viable units and to improving environmental protection and combat climate change.

The total number of applications for the advisory package under sub-measure 2.1.2 in 2019 was 2,470. In over 98% of these cases, the farmers were provided with the requested consulting packages.

8.7. NAAS activity under measure 6 „Development of farms and enterprises“ from RDP 2014 - 2020

In 2019, the NAAS launched a call for applications for a consulting package, including the preparation of a business plan and basic information for the project proposal for application under sub-measure 6.3 „Start-up aid for the development of small holdings“ of measure 6 „Development of farms and enterprises“ from the RDP 2014 - 2020.

During the call under sub-measure 6.3, 2,063 applications were submitted, on the basis of which the NAAS experts prepared 2,056 project proposals, including assistance to the applicants for submission of their project proposals in UMIS 2020. Of the project proposals, 408 were filed by holdings which farm crops or animals organically or are in transition to organic production.

8.8. NAAS activity under measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ from RDP 2014 - 2020

At the end of 2019, a call was opened under sub-measure 4.2.2 „Investments in processing/ marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic Subprogramme“ of

measure 4 „Investments in tangible assets“ of the RDP 2014 - 2020. At this stage the interest in sub-measure 4.2.2 among small farmers is not high - only three applications were submitted, on the basis of which project proposals were prepared and submitted to UMIS 2020 by NAAS experts for: fruit processing (juice production), processing of honey and processing of nuts.

8.9. Common Agricultural Policy 2021 - 2027

According to the legislative proposals presented by the European Commission, one of the main ways to achieve the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy in new programming period 2021-2027 will be through the widespread use of knowledge and innovation. These activities will be supported in the Member States through the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), in order to interact between people and organizations, promote mutual learning, generate, share and use knowledge and information related to agriculture. The systems should include a wide variety of actors - farmers, advisers, researchers, educational and training institutions, raw material suppliers, retailers, media representatives, ministries, as part of national or regional AKIS systems. These persons may be contacted by the advisory services in each Member State.

9. Hail Suppression

The country's geographical position and orography position Bulgaria as one of the countries in Europe with high frequency and power of hail processes.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the frequency and 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 hail processes persists, despite the observed fluctuations in the degree of urban activity over the years.

The territory protected by the Hail Suppression Executive Agency (HSEA) in 2019 is 2,180,000 ha, of which 1,333,000 ha are arable land, permanent crops and mixed-use areas in highly urbanized areas in Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Haskovo and Sliven.

HSEA's activities are related to the prevention of the formation of large hailstones 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. Hailstones, 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 hailstones.

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:

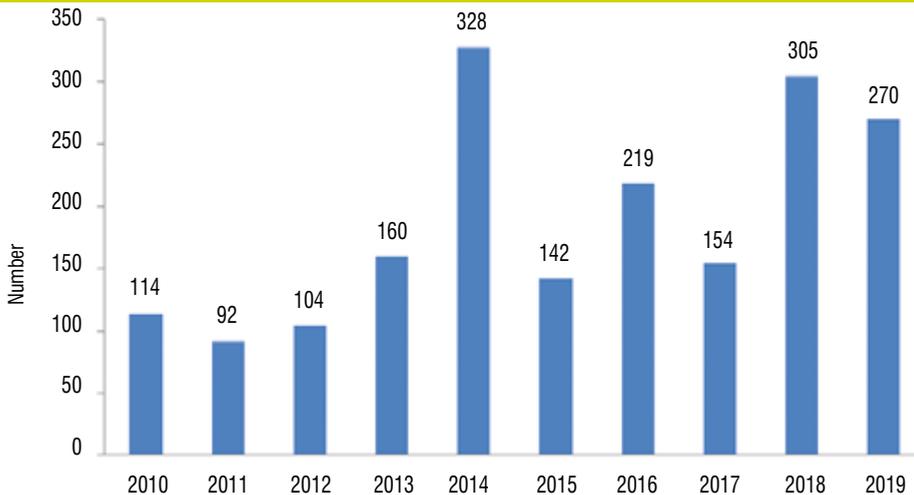
- cloud cells with high hail parameters and formed hailstones, which makes it impossible to compete;
- hurricane-force winds at speeds up to 40 m/s leading to a decrease in the concentration of the reagent in the seeding area;
- reduced concentration of artificial competitive ice nuclei in fast growing 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.

HSEA 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 other service. Meteorological information is constantly provided through the Agency's website.

HSEA teams in conjunction with the Regional Directorates of Agriculture conduct surveys of damage in the protected areas after each impact. The agency receives

information about the sown areas, the condition and the phase of development of crops, harvested areas, average yield, etc. Based on weather forecasts and the phase of development of agricultural crops in the protected areas, HSEA issues an order to start and close the active season for hail protection.

Figure V.6. Actions of the anti-hail system during the period 2010 – 2019



Source: HSEA

The preparation for the active season involves activities for preparedness of the radar, communication and anti-hail equipment and for conducting refresher courses for specialized administration and training courses for candidates for rocket launchers.

In 2019, the active season for anti-hail protection work across the country was opened on 27 April and closed on 5 October..

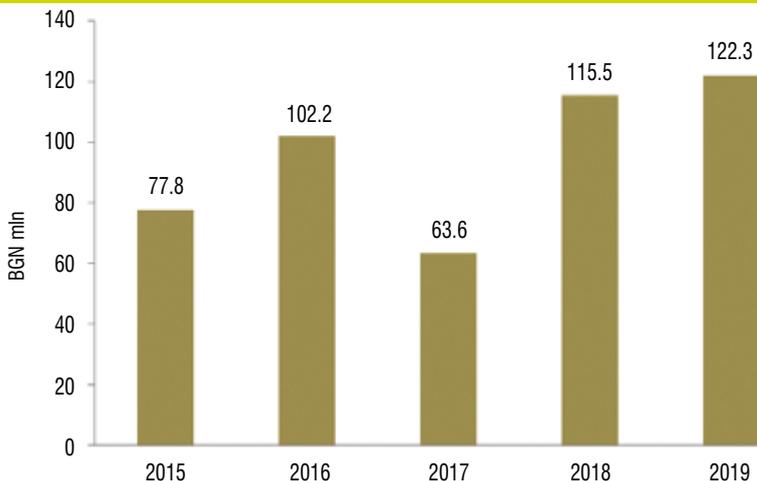
The 2019 season is classified with a „high degree of hail activity“ for southern and northern Bulgaria. During the year, 270 actions were carried out in 59 days and 1,241 hail hazard cells were treated.

The last ten days of April 2019 were marked by the development of powerful hail clouds in northern and southern Bulgaria, which is not typical for spring in recent years. In May 2019, the incidence of hailstorms was high. Then 50 actions were carried out in 15 days. In June, 148 actions were conducted in 28 days, with the frequency of hail hazards being the highest in the last 11 years. In July there was a drop in the incidence of processes compared to previous months. Then 39 actions were carried out in 10 days. During the period August-September, the frequency of hail hazards decreased, with 18 impact actions being implemented on 3 dates.

Throughout the season of active actions, crop-affecting hail occurred only from 19 cells, affecting 33,035 acres with an average injury rate of 22.24%.

According to the adopted Methodology to value the economic effectiveness of anti-hail protection, in 2019 the value of the saved production as a result of active impacts carried out by HSEA was estimated at BGN 122.3 million.

Figure V.7 Value of production saved from hail in 2015-2019



Source: HSEA

In 2020, a meteorological Doppler radar station will be installed in the radar centre built in 2019 in Shumen, which will provide detailed radar monitoring of the atmosphere above Bulgaria, necessary for the implementation of the two methods of impact on hazardous clouds - rocket and airplane.

In connection with the strategy for development of anti-hail protection, envisaging the expansion of its scope, in 2020 it is planned to implement a pilot project to counter hail by air, covering the territory not protected by rockets in Northern Bulgaria.

In 2021, in addition to the development of the aircraft method and respectively expansion of the hail-protected area, it is planned to continue the activities related to the introduction of mutual financing of hail protection activities in Bulgaria, as expected result is the inclusion of farmers and insurance companies in the process of raising funds for hail protection in general.

10. Reducing the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Businesses

In the context of the initiative of the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden for businesses and citizens, in early 2020 the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry made an annual review of regulatory regimes in place in 2019. The review aimed to identify opportunities to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for businesses and citizens, create better conditions for business development by improving access and improving the quality of public services, and achieve higher efficiency of public expenditure.

The main mechanism to achieve this goal is to remove unnecessary regulatory regimes and streamline their implementation procedures, introduce administrative e-services and increase the volume of publicly available information for business operators and citizens.

10.1. Review of the Applied Regulatory Regimes in the MAFF system

Following the review of the regulatory regimes in the MAFF system, as of 1 January 2019, 172 regimes related to the regulation of economic activity in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forests were identified, including:

- Licensing - 10;
- Registration - 68;
- Permits - 83;
- Certifying - 2;
- Notifying - 3;
- Coordination - 6.

Of the total number of regulatory regimes, 44 were administered by the MAFF - Headquarters and the remaining 128 by various structures within the Ministry's system.

10.2. Measures taken in 2019 to Reduce the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Businesses

In 2019, a number of actions were taken in the MAFF system aimed at easing existing regulatory regimes in order to create an optimal business environment. Amendments and supplements to normative acts regulating economic relations in

the sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forestry were adopted, which have eased 14 regulatory regimes by eliminating the requirement to submit documents that are publicly available or can be obtained ex officio.

The legislative changes removed the requirement for submission of 28 documents.

In connection with the implementation of measures to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for businesses and citizens, in 2019 amendments to the Livestock Breeding Act were adopted, two new ordinances were passed, as well as amendments to 7 ordinances along with one implementing regulation.

10.3. Risk and Crisis Management in Agriculture

In the context of constant changes and growing threats from the negative impact of climatic, sanitary and economic factors affecting production and trade in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, in 2019 the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry approved a new Risk and Crisis Management Programme in the Agriculture Sector. It defines the main types of risks in the agricultural sector, the tools for their management and a plan for overcoming the negative consequences in case of possible realization of any of the identified risks.

Risk management through the implementation of impact and prevention measures to eliminate or limit the negative consequences of the various factors related to production processes and trade are essential for the development of individual sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Bulgaria.

In 2019, the funds spent on risk management measures and activities in agriculture aimed to prevent 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 EU funds and the national 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 2019, there were local sanitary crises in the Livestock Sector in several areas of the country, related to avian influenza, African swine fever and crises caused by natural disasters - adverse weather events.

Expenditures to overcome the sanitary crises that occurred during the year increased by 73.6% compared to the previous 2018, which is due to the significantly higher amount of funds provided for the fight against African swine fever.

In 2019, crisis situations for the Crop Farming Sector were announced on almost the entire territory of the country, caused by unfavourable climatic conditions and natural disasters - frost, flood/ overwetting of agricultural land, hail and drought.

During the period 2011 - 2019 with the largest relative share of manifestations are the climatic events frost / - 61.15% and hail - 21.67%.

In order to overcome the negative impact of the crisis situations, as well as to reduce the material damages for farmers, in 2019 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) No 1408/2013.





VI. FORESTRY

1. Characteristics of Forest Areas

The total area of forest territories in Bulgaria as at 31 December 2019 stood at 4,149,351 ha. The inventoried areas classified as a forest on agricultural land were 114,979 ha. The state forest territories cover an area of 3,096,056 ha (74.6% of the total area), of which: 2,912,371 ha (70.2%) - managed by the state enterprises referred to in Article 163 of the Forestry Act, 172,417 ha (4.2%) - forests in the national parks, reserves and maintained reserves managed by the MoEW, including Rila National Park, Pirin National Park and Central Balkans National Park) and 11,268 ha (0.3%) - forest territories provided for management of Training and Experimental Forestry Units. The non-state forest territories cover an area of 1,053,295 ha, of which 561,595 ha - municipal, 424,252 ha - property of individuals, 67,448 ha - property of legal entities, including 19,195 ha - property of religious communities.

Compared to 2018, the total area of forest territories has increased by 8,917 ha, mainly due to the arrangement of previously undeveloped forests. This area does not include the inventoried areas that have been classified as a forest on agricultural land. Forests in agricultural areas decreased by 1,787 ha to 114,979 ha. An upward trend of these areas is due to newly developed agricultural areas, which have acquired the characteristics of forest, and downward trend is because of their assignment to forest areas with declarations and orders for change.

The afforested area increased by 12,196 ha, to 3,789,195 ha, which is mainly due to an inventory of previously uninventoried forests and self-afforested plantations between the last two inventories.

The non-timber production area increased by 4,352 ha, reaching 305,427 ha. There was a decrease in the area of post-fire areas, barns, clearings, rocks, rivers, screes and other non-timber forest areas, and an increase - in meadows, roads and fire-breaks due to new inventory.

Despite the emergence of self-afforested areas, the afforested area of coniferous forests decreases by 631 ha, which is due to the continuing increase of mixed coniferous-deciduous plantations obtained after the creation and subsequent management of coniferous stands, established with the inventory of forest areas in forestry and hunting farms in recent years, as well as the policy over recent years for the transformation of coniferous plantations and stands created outside their natural range.

The deciduous high-stem forests increased by 6,351 ha due to the conversion of shoot stands to high-stem ones, afforestation of post-fire areas, windfalls, etc., self-

afforestation in independent territories, reassessment of coniferous stands and low-productivity plantations and transformation of some coniferous forests into deciduous. Coppice forests for conversion increased by 12,458 ha, as a result of the incorporation into the forest territories of plantations, currently referred to the category of so-called „undeveloped forests“ and the revaluation of coniferous stands mixed with deciduous coppice species.

The area of low-stemmed forests was 7,244 ha less than in the previous year, due to the reassessment of part of the Robinia and Oriental hornbeam plantations, which were dominated by other shoots and/or high-stem tree species.

The total harvesting of forests in thinnings and regeneration logging in 2019 amounted to 8,007,915 cubic meters of standing wood, which is equal to 91.8% of the forestry management plan- 8,719,757 cubic meters of standing wood.

Of these, 3,627,126 cubic meters were from regenerative felling (45.3% of the total harvesting and 41.6% provided for in the forestry management project). The implementation of the regeneration felling compared to the planned ones according to the forestry management plan (4,645,648 cubic meters) is 78.1%. 4,380,789 cubic meters were extracted from thinnings, which represented 54.7% of total harvesting and 50.2% of the planned forestry management project. The fulfilment of thinnings versus the planned ones according to the forestry plan (4,074,109 cubic meters) was 107.5%.

Annual harvesting in the state-owned forest territories was 6,024,166 cubic meters of standing wood, which equals 92.4% of the projected forestry management plan - 6,517,850 cubic meters of standing wood.

The actual annual harvesting of forests provided for training forestry units was 46,592 cubic meters (approximately 101.6% of the plan); from the municipal forest territories - 863,777 cubic meters of standing wood (73.3% of the foreseen), and that of forests - owned by natural and legal persons - 1,067,664 cubic meters of standing wood (109.1% of forecast).

2. Changes of Forest Areas

The following changes occurred in the country's forest territories in 2019:

- 9 administrative acts were issued under Article 14 of the Forestry Act (repealed) to modify the purpose of properties in forest territories with a total area of 7.23 ha, with a price change of BGN 1,035,179. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set in the amount of BGN 10,249.09. 5 administrative acts were issued to terminate administrative proceedings. Two of the issued orders have expired due to unpaid price within the statutory term. A total of 7 administrative acts

came into force and modified the purpose of 6.36 ha, and funds in the amount of BGN 640,599 were paid for the change of purpose and BGN 6,379.88 for compensatory afforestation;

- 35 administrative acts were issued for preliminary approval of a change of the purpose of properties in forest territories, with a total area of 52 ha, under Article 75(3) of the Forestry Act;
- 38 administrative acts were issued under Article 77 of the Forestry Act to modify the purpose of properties in forest territories with a total area of 552.4 ha, with a change price of BGN 10,809,327.08. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set in the amount of BGN 1,276,503.16. Four of the issued decisions have expired rights due to unpaid price within the statutory term. A total of 34 decisions for change of use of 547.3 ha came into force, under which BGN 10,540,947.08 were paid for change of use and BGN 1,237,626.94 for compensatory afforestation;
- The purpose of nearly 96.7 ha of forest territories was changed free of charge, in accordance with Article 73(5) of the Forestry Act on the construction of 6 national sites and 14 municipal sites of paramount importance, 20 administrative acts were issued declaring rights and obligations arising;
- 1 administrative act was issued for acquisition of ownership on 1.75 ha of adjacent undeveloped part of land to buildings and facilities owned by organizations under § 12 as per the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Act on ownership and use of agricultural land located in state-owned forest areas, under the procedure of § 48(3) of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Act amending the Forestry Act is with a total price for sale of the land properties of BGN 34,432.30 and overheads in the amount of BGN 688.65;
- 1 administrative act was issued to replace an ideal part of a land property in a forest territory - private state property, with a land property in a forest territory - property of a legal entity, on the grounds of Article 35(3)(1) of the Forestry Act. The price to acquire ownership over 7,570/19,570 ideal parts of a land property in forest territories through swap, was set at BGN 23,211 and overheads in the amount of BGN 939.62;
- 10 administrative acts were issued to change the purpose of land properties from agricultural to forest territory on a total area of 13.44 ha. The change was free of charge;
- 29 administrative acts were issued pursuant to Article 55 of the FA to give pre-approval of the right of construction on state-owned forest territories, with a total area of 0.97 ha;

- 23 administrative acts were issued to permit construction in accordance with Article 56 of the FA on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 24.3 ha, with a total price for the right in rem: BGN 79,392.72 and BGN 2,610.38 overhead costs. The present value of the standing wood at the present age for the estimated plantations was BGN 4,442. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set at BGN 13,571.71;
- 39 administrative acts were issued under Article 62 of the FA to grant pre-approval to establish easement on state-owned forest territories with a total area of 8.7 ha;
- 28 administrative acts were issued to permit construction in accordance with Article 63 of the FA on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 222.7 ha, with a total price for the property right: BGN 7,979,405.80 and BGN 159,543.12 overhead costs. The present value of the standing wood at the present age for the estimated plantations was BGN 1,387,185.06. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set at BGN 2,316,523.52;
- 2 administrative acts were issued under Article 64 of the Forestry Act to establish easement of an energy site on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 0.95 ha, with a price for the right in rem of BGN 82,269.00 and BGN 1,645.38 of overheads. The present value of the standing wood at the present age for the estimated plantations was BGN 5,836.26. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set at BGN 10,766.20;
- 9 administrative acts were issued to grant the right of construction in accordance with Article 70 of the FA on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 2.3 ha, with a total price for the right in rem: BGN 3,350.00 and BGN 67.01 overhead costs. The present value of the standing wood at the present age for the estimated plantations was BGN 5,336.26. Funds for compensatory afforestation were set at BGN 18,551.10;
- One administrative act was issued to grant the right of use and easements in accordance with Article 16 of the FA (repealed) on state-owned forest territories, with an area of 0.81 decares, with a price for the right in rem BGN 6,393.00 and overhead costs of BGN 127.86;
- 7 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 state-owned forest areas.

3. Management of Forest Territories

The management, harvesting and protection of forests targets 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 2019, EFA's activities in this area were focused mainly on the following areas:

- Implementation of the goals and indicators set out in the EFA programme and budget;
- Fulfilment of Bulgaria's obligations arising from EU membership in the field of forest reproductive materials (FRM);
- Approval and registration of basic sources for FRM, registration of suppliers of FRM, testing and qualification of seeds and improving the condition of the forest seed production base;
- Maintenance of a database of inventories of the created forest stands; of existing post-fire areas, unrestored clearings and forests destroyed by other natural impacts; the renewal in all vacated areas in the state and municipal forest territories; of the available large-sized fortification facilities; of the performed activities for compensatory afforestation, of the registered forest nurseries in the country;
- Performing control activities;
- Coordination of projects for biological reclamation in forest areas, preparation of replies and opinions;
- Preparation of drafts of normative documents.

Table VI.1. Activities carried out to create forests in 2019

Nº	Type of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2019
1.	Collected and harvested seeds by TD SF/SH	kg	33,076
2.	Produced saplings in state forest nurseries thousand	thousand	10,506.6
3.	Forested areas, including	ha	1,712.3
	- State-owned enterprise	ha	1,529.7
	- municipalities	ha	182.6
4.	Developing stands in state forest territories	ha	488.6
5.	Growing stands in state forest territories	ha	11,569.1

Nº	Type of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2019
6.	Average percentage of survival of planted trees		
	a) state-owned		
	annual	%	72.1
	- biennials	%	81.4
	- triennials	%	79.9
	b) municipal property annual		
	annual	%	64.2
	- biennials	%	80.4
	- triennials	%	56.2

Source: EFA

The following activities were carried out in 2019:

- A national list of approved and registered sources for the production of FRM was drawn up;
- 199 new basic sources in the category „selected“ for the production of FRM were approved and registered, meeting the minimum requirements of Directive 1999/105/ES and 55 basic sources were revoked;
- RFD and FSCS issued 167 certificates to identify FRM origin;
- In the seed control laboratories of the forest seed control stations (FSCS) in Sofia and Plovdiv, seed control certificates were issued for 258 batches of seeds of deciduous and coniferous species and 88 notification letters for harvest suitability were sent;
- 905 controls of the condition and the activities in the registered basic sources for FRM were performed by forest seed control experts;
- 10 projects for recultivation of destroyed terrains in forest areas were agreed;
- Reports have been prepared, with a database, for the inventories of created forest stands; of existing post-fire areas, unrestored clearings and forests destroyed by other natural disasters; the renewal in all vacated areas in the state and municipal forest territories; of the available large-sized fortification facilities and recommendations are given to address shortcomings and mistakes;
- The price of compensatory afforestation has been determined and orders have been issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Director of EFA;
- 703.8 kg of seeds from 214 lots of conifers and 164.9 kg from 16 lots of deciduous species are stored in the long-term storage facility of Plovdiv FSCS;

- For its Gene Bank, Sofia FSCS keeps a seed collection of 8.1 kg of seeds of different origins from 12 tree and shrub species, and Plovdiv FSCS keeps 17.5 kg of 8 tree species;
- The public register of forest nurseries in the country has been updated;
- Specialists from Plovdiv FSCS have conducted soil surveys of 11 forest nurseries across the country;
- A joint project of Sofia FSCS and Blagoevgrad SWSE Life 16 NAT/BG/000817 „Restoration and improvement of the conservation status of priority forest habitats within Bulgarian Natura 2000 network“ has been implemented.

The afforested area of the state-owned forest territories in 2019 covered 1,529.7 ha, of which 444 ha (29%) were afforested as protection against erosion and torrents. There was a slight increase of 1.4% compared to the total area afforested by the State Enterprise in the previous year. To protect the forest territories, 30 sq. m of masonry have been built and two barrages have been repaired.

In 2019, an inventory of the natural regeneration was made in all areas cut down in the period 2015-2016 in state forest territories, which are not artificially regenerated, and very good results were reported in terms of natural regeneration. The average percentage of natural regeneration of the 3,733 ha of vacant areas inventoried for the country was 96% (3,599 ha).

The total number of saplings produced in the state forest nurseries in 2019 was 10,506.6 thousand.

BGN 16 million was spent on afforestation activities in the state forest territories.

3.2. Logging in forests

In 2019, 40,924 ha were harvested in state forests to regulate the tree composition and improve the growing conditions, which represented 62.4% of the FMP projections. Of these, 45.2% were in coniferous forests, 34.8% in deciduous high-stemmed forests and 20% in coppice forests for conversion to seed. The performance of thinnings without harvesting of 3,729.1 ha was 64.6% of the FEP/FMP projections. By type of felling, the FEP/FMP implementation was 62.8% for thinning, 42.4% for clearings, 55.4% for cleaning and 70.5% for restoration thinning.

During the year, selection fellings were carried out in the state forests on an area of 925.3 ha, whereby FEP/FMP projections were fulfilled at 81.2%.

In 2019, restoration thinnings were carried out in forests up to 40 years of age on a total area of 19,882.4 ha, with 2,414.5 ha more than in 2018.

The area of cultivated young plantations without material yield stood at 3,681.7 ha, of which 31 ha are stands where the Saarland method of high-quality wood harvesting applied.

In 2019, restoration thinning in non-state forests covered 9,251.4 ha, of which 5,694.6 ha in municipal forests, 2,810.9 ha in forests, owned by individuals, 405.2 ha in forests, owned of legal entities and 340.7 ha in forests owned by religious organisations.

In 2020, it is planned to support natural regeneration on 5,412.3 ha of state forest territories.

In 2019, the state enterprises spent a total of BGN 5.4 million on activities related to the management of state-owned forest territories.

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 1,544.6 ha, with 1,293.9 ha more than the FEP/FMP projections. The natural regeneration on an area of 5,713.6 ha (52.8% of the projections of the forestry management plans) was supported, with 73.5 ha more than in the previous year. A logging fund of 6,045,026 cubic meters of standing wood was marked, with 62,864 cubic meters less than in 2018.

4. Use of Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products

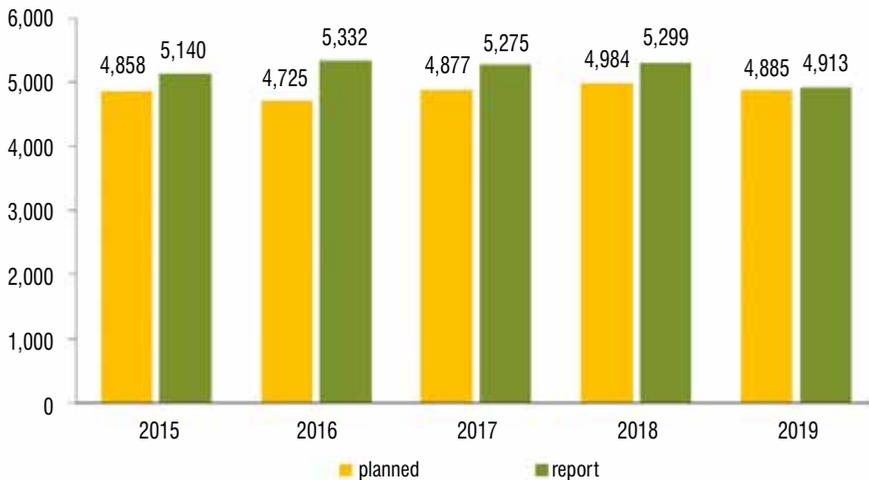
4.1. Use of Timber

In 2019, the EFA and the Regional Forest Directorates carried out constant monitoring of the issued logging permits and the drafted protocols for logging sites through the EFA information system. Felling permits were issued for 8,941,227 cubic meters of harvested wood, and as of 04.05.2020 protocols were drawn up for certification of the fellings for 6,692,001 cubic meters of harvested wood.

During the year, state enterprises sold a total of 4,912,801 cubic meters of timber from the state-owned forest territories or 101% of the planned quantities. The sold wood was 386 thousand cubic meters (7.3%) below that in 2018. The sold wood, affected by abiotic and biotic factors, stood at 548 thousand cubic meters, or 11% of all sales, more than twice less than the previous year.

The reported total revenues from the sale of wood in 2019 were BGN 300,207 thousand, 2% less than in 2018. The total costs for the use of wood amounted to BGN 105,166 thousand (4% below the reported in 2018), as they also included the deductions from the sale price of the wood to the fund „Investments in forests“ in the amount of BGN 27,351 thousand.

Figure VI.1. Planned and actual timber sales from state-owned forest areas for 2015 – 2019, thousand cu m



Source: MAFF

In 2019, 57.3% of total timber sales were carried out through the sale of harvested timber from a warehouse. The remaining 42.7% was sold as standing wood to individuals for personal use and to legal entities after tendering. To meet the needs of individuals, a total of 632 thousand cubic meters of timber was sold, priced primarily for firewood, which is 65 thousand cubic meters or 9% less than in 2018.

The volume of timber granted under long-term contracts from state-owned enterprises in 2019 is 271 thousand cubic meters of standing timber and 244 thousand cubic meters of harvested timber. The total quantity represents 10% of the sold wood, as compared to the previous year an increase of 15% is reported.

Following electronic auctions during the year, contracts were concluded for the sale of 812 thousand cubic meters of wood from state forests, with 98 thousand cubic meters more than in 2018.

The weighted average reported sale prices of timber from state-owned forest territories from warehouse and as standing wood, were respectively BGN 75.27/cu m and BGN 43.29/cu m and were 7-8% or BGN 5.39/cu m and BGN 2.76/cu m higher than reported in 2018, due in part to the reduced share of damaged wood. The

average costs for timber extraction were close to those reported in the previous year - BGN 24.81/cu m.

According to the financial plans of the state enterprises for 2020, the total use of wood is envisaged to be 4,854,012 cu m.

Table VI.2. Use of timber from forest territories, managed by SOEs and revenues from sales in 2019

Method of use and sale	2018		2019			
	Quantities (cu m)	Value (BGN thousand)	Quantity		Value	
			cu m	Change versus 2018 (%)	thousand BGN	Change versus 2018 (%)
Revenues from timber sale (1+2+3+4):	5,298,755	306,977	4,912,802	-7%	300,217	-2%
1. Sale of standing wood	2,053,102	83,202	2,089,668	2%	90,461	9%
1.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	290,579	3,215	248,443	-15%	3,814	19%
2. Sale of harvested timber	3,169,010	221,447	2,744,877	-13%	206,612	-7%
2.1. incl. according to price list to individuals for personal use	407,065	28,007	384,178	-6%	27,876	0%
3. Timber use under Art. 116b of FA	6,376	x	6,063	-5%	x	x
4. Timber use under Art. 193 of FA	70,267	1,812	72,193	3%	1,957	8%
II. Total costs, quality (I.1.+ II.1.), value II.(1+2+3):	5,303,441	109,680	4,957,474	-7%	105,166	-4%
1. Costs for timber harvesting - in total:	3,250,339	78,612	2,867,806	-12%	71,160	-9%
2. Costs for making roads and routine repair of forest roads for vehicles	x	5,685	x	x	6,655	17%
3. Deductions for fund „Investments in forests“	x	25,383	x	x	27,351	8%

Source: MAFF

4.2. Auxiliary Activities and Use of Non-Timber Forest Products

In 2019, state enterprises reported income from auxiliary activities and non-timber forest products amounting to BGN 15,947 thousand in total and corresponding costs of BGN 10,713 thousand, which represented a 14.9% increase in revenues and a 12.1% rise in costs compared to 2018.

5. Protection of Forest Territories

5.1. Protection of Forest Territories from Diseases, Pests and Other Damage

In 2019, attacks were found on an area of 49,724.5 ha. The most seriously affected territories were of Blagoevgrad RFD - 9,286 ha, followed by Kyustendil RFD with 7,566.3 ha, Smolyan RFD with 6,424.5 ha, Kardzhali RFD with 6 337.5 ha,

Pazardzhik RFD with 5,614.8 ha, etc. The reports of the stations for 2019 show that 65% of the submitted alerts referred to insect pests in forests - a total area of 32,465 ha (65.3%). By comparison, in 2018 the abiotic factors had the greatest impact on the health of forests in the country - a total area of 38,378.6 ha.

Table VI.3. Conducted forest protection campaigns in 2019

Exercise	Forecast 2019 (ha)	Actual 2019 (ha)	Implementation (%)	Funds spent net of VAT (BGN)
Aerial fighting	2,088	1,450	69%	84,177
incl. aero-chemical	1,089.6	480	44%	15,005
aero-biological	998.4	970	97%	69,172
Land-based chemical and biological fighting	394.9	594.5	150%	20,571
Mechanical fighting	70.4	174.1	247%	8,366
Integrated fighting	19.3	-	-	-
Salvage logging	35,769.8	25,728.5	72%	488
Total:	38,342.4	27,947.1	73%	113,602

Source: EFA

The aerial application conducted in 2019 covered a total area of 1,450 ha, versus an estimate of 2,088 ha. In the spring of 2019, aerial application was carried out in deciduous forests against Cheimatobia (Hibernia) and Tortrix moths on a total area of 580 ha. The exercise resulted in 73% caterpillar mortality.

In the autumn of 2019, aerial application was carried out in coniferous forests against a pine processionary on a total area of 870 ha. The effect of air spraying was between 84% and 99% caterpillar mortality.

A ground chemical control was carried out on a total area of 594.5 ha in forest nurseries and poplar stands, as well as against the mass weeds in the territorial scope of Varna unit.

A mechanical application was carried out on an area of 174.1 ha, mainly against pine processionary.

Logging has been done at 72% versus the forecast for 2019.

The costs for activities for protection against diseases, pests and other damages in the forest territories managed by state enterprises amounted to BGN 167 thousand, down 7.4% on an annual basis.

5.2. Forest Fire Protection

In 2019, 668 fires in the forest territories were registered in the EFA database, affecting 5,619.6 ha. Of these, 419.1 ha were affected by crown fires. The largest forest areas burned were on the territory of Lovech RFD - 1,485.5 ha, Berkovitsa RFD - 692.5 ha, Kardzhali RFD - 588.4 ha, Sliven RFD - 483.4 ha and Stara Zagora RFD - 428.8 ha.

The direct damages from fires in forest territories during the year were estimated at BGN 2,071,115 at average values of about BGN 5 million for the last decade.

The excellent results in the protection of forest areas against fires in recent years are due to both the preventive activity and the financial resources invested by the state enterprises and the Ministry of Interior for specialized equipment, training and creation of voluntary formations. Good example is given by state enterprises in southern and north-eastern Bulgaria, which have invested significant financial and organisational resources to provide off-road vehicles, monitoring tools and to ensure the safety of their forest fires teams.

The positive trends in recent years are a consequence of the timely and strict implementation of the annually signed plans for interaction between EFA and Directorate-General of the Fire Safety and Population Protection. By conducting joint inspections by EFA and DG FSPP of the actions, measures and activities in the state enterprises, municipal and other units, has led to timely implementation of fire-fighting measures, as well as compliance with the requirements for protection of forest areas from fires. The role of the 112 hotline at EFA is also very important. The 2,846 alerts for fires in or near forest areas were timely transmitted to the specialized groups of the state enterprises and the relevant Regional Forestry Directorates that carry out on-site inspections. As a result of the immediate response, fire was not allowed in the vast majority of cases in the forest areas.

To carry out activities for protection of forest territories from fires in 2019, the state enterprises spent a total of BGN 2.1 million. The main part of the reported costs were for preventive activities, including the construction and maintenance of 2,075,133 m of mineralized strips and 895,555 m of forest barriers. Only 1.7% (BGN 35,000) of the total costs were for extinguishing forest fires.

6. Protected Areas

The Protected Areas Act designates 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 have been established for the management of nature parks - specialized territorial units at EFA: Belasitsa Nature Park, Bulgarka Nature Park, Vitosha Nature Park, Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park, Golden Sands Nature Park, Persina Nature Park, Sinite Kamani Nature Park, Strandzha Nature Park, Rusenski Lom Nature Park, Rila Monastery Nature Park and Shumen Plateau Nature Park.

The activities for the management of protected areas and the natural landmarks in forest territories are carried out by the state forestry and hunting units, depending on the territorial scope of the territory. Regardless of the status of the protected area and ownership, all forest resources in the protected areas are managed by the MAFF through the state enterprises and the respective state forestry and hunting units.

In 2019, the directorates of nature parks and state-owned enterprises carried out joint activities on the basis of cooperation agreements concluded and plans for joint work. Such agreements have been concluded between Blagoevgrad South-Western State Enterprise and Belasitsa Nature Park Directorate (NPD), Vitosha NPD and Rila Monastery NPD, Gabrovo North-Central State Enterprise and Rusenski Lom NPD and between Shumen North-Eastern State Enterprise and Shumen Plateau NPD. The agreements for joint activity aim to solve problems of mutual interest in the following areas: sustainable management and protection of natural resources, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, environmentally friendly land management in protected areas and protected territories under the Biodiversity Act, staff training, preparation, application and implementation of projects related to forests and protected areas.

During the year, repair and restoration works were carried out on the existing tourist infrastructure - bridges, interpretive trails, shelters, gazebos, recreation areas, fountains, etc. Information boards, marking of hiking trails, etc. have been renewed and restored.

During the year, the tourist infrastructure in Igljikina area was cleaned and renovated on the territory of Vitosha Nature Park, and a wooden information board with double-sided media was made and installed at the Bear Museum. With the help of volunteers in the park, many elements of the park infrastructure and markings were renewed, repaired and restored. 45 volunteer actions were carried out, and the total number of participants in them was over 1,500 people. In 2019, Vitosha Nature Park was awarded a certificate for „Successful Cooperation“ during the Annual Awards ceremony of the Sofia Library.

All nature park directorates have continued their active work with volunteers, with the help of which a number of measures for restoration and maintenance of the tourist infrastructure, cleaning of the park territories, renewal of the tourist marking, afforestation measures, etc. have been carried out.

The reintroduction of endangered and rare species and maintenance of their populations continued. Food was regularly placed at the bird feeder sites.

The Vrachanski Balkan NPD continued the activity of restoring the population of Rock Partridge. Since 2019 there has been a closed cycle of production of birds of the species. By mid-2020, 90 birds were spending the winter in the specially created parks for the species.

The park continued its activities to feed the Egyptian vulture and to reintroduce the griffon vulture. In 2019, about 50-70 griffon vultures were observed in the area every month, a total of 15 pairs have formed, which have successfully hatched and raised 13 chickens.

Bulgarka NP has continued the activities to restore and cultivate rare and endangered species of flora and fauna in the base near the village of Potok.

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. Educational events were held with children and pupils from local schools - study trips, contests and sports holidays. Information campaigns were organised to mark nature protection dates, and a number of activities have been implemented with eco-clubs and schools in the settlements near the parks.

Park staff guide groups along hiking trails, green camps, as well as give open-air lessons and talks for students and pupils.

Golden Sands NPD for another year participated in events of schools operating under the international programme „Eco-schools“ and „Learning about the forest“.

The Persina Nature Park organized Children's Eco Vacation 2019, whereby a visitor centre for the Persina Nature Park held activities for children during the summer holidays. For the International Forest Day, Golden Sands NPD, together with the Bulgarian Blue Flag Movement, organized and held a National contest for a video „You are my beautiful forest“ and participated in the organization and implementation of sports festivals held in the park.

The established training and interpretation centres in the parks have continued their activities, periodically welcoming groups of students and children from the country.

In 2019, 11 green schools of between 3 and 5 days were organized in the Youth Eco Camp - Ochin Dol village, Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park. Natura Nature Protection Centre was visited by over 10,000 students, tourists and guests of the city.

The park directorates worked actively to support local initiatives and the development of a volunteer network, organized and participated in volunteer actions to clean the park and in the traditional campaign of BTV „Let's clean Bulgaria for a day“.

During the Forest's Week the NPD, together with the Regional Forestry Directorates and state enterprises organized and conducted a „Forest Holiday - Forester for a day.,,

For another year, NPDs organized a Festival of periwinkle; Chestnut Festival; Green Suns and Golden Autumn. The events were also supported by the state enterprises, where the respective nature parks are located. A number of contests for children's creativity, art studios etc took place.

Belasitsa NPD hosted the Eco-School - 2019 of the Youth Parliament for Water. Belasitsa NPD is a partner in the project „Clean nature today - health and recreation tomorrow“, implemented jointly with PGIT „Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov“ - Petrich and is funded by the Donation Campaign of Raiffeisenbank „Choose to Help“. The project involves cleaning, protection and restoration, as well as unfolding the potential for tourism development in Belasitsa Nature Park. The park directorate participates in the development of a site for foreign tourists. The monitoring of conservation-significant species of plants and animals included in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System continues, filling in the necessary forms and sending them for introduction into the EEA system.

In 2019, Vitosha, Vratsa Balkan, Golden Sands and Rila Monastery Nature Parks continued the implementation of projects under operational programme Environment 2014-2020 related to the improvement of the conservation status of species and natural habitats in the nature parks.

Belasitsa NPD took part in organizing and conducting a practical lesson on a course in Botany for amateurs and mountain guides in the Belasitsa Nature Park. As usual, the park management participated in the celebrations of the Green Belt Day, which was held for the fourth consecutive year across Europe.

The Rila Monastery NPD, in partnership with the Pirin Tourism Forum, the German Bureau of Ecological Communication and Regional Development „Terolog“, started the implementation of the project „Guides in the Protected Areas of Bulgaria“, funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation - DBU and which targets nature parks in Bulgaria.

Persina NPD is involved in the Lower Danube project, which improves the management of wetlands in Persina Nature Park, funded through a donor programme of the Coca-Cola Company. The Park Directorate continued the implementation of the project „Linking the protected areas along the Danube in a Green Corridor of habitats“, under the cross-border cooperation programme Danube 2014 - 2020 “. In 2019, the project „Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican on the Black Sea - Mediterranean

Migration Route” was launched, funded by the Life programme.

Rusenski Lom NPD continued work on the project „Forest Monitoring System for early detection and assessment of fires in the Balkans - Mediterranean” and the project „Green Management”, funded by Interreg VA Romania - Bulgaria 2014 - 2020.

Nearly 100 children from 2 Sofia-based schools took part in the initiative dedicated to the Forest's Week. The event was held with the assistance of experts from Vitosha Nature Park, Vratsa Balkan Nature Park and students from the University of Forestry. Apart from the Forest's Week, events on the methodology of Forest Pedagogy were held during the other months of the school year by the directorates of all nature parks.

In 2019, the EFA participated in the following procedures to change protected areas under the Protected Areas Act:

- To expand protected area of the Swamp Snowdrop locality in the Blatoto;
- To designate protected area „Manastirska Stalba”;
- To reduce the protected area „Manastirska Korja”;
- To expand the protected area „Propadnalo Blato”;
- To change the modes of activity of PT Dark Hole cave;
- To re-categorise a natural landmark Locality of urum tulip in Lalikoto locality;
- To change the modes of activity of natural landmark „Kozhuha”;
- Interinstitutional commission to handle the documentation on a proposal made by the Municipality of Shabla to designate natural landmark „Skalnia Most”;
- To declare a natural landmark in the land of the village of Ostar Kamak;
- To reduce the area of Persina Nature Park by excluding additional properties owned by NEK EAD and representing the Belene NPP site;
- To designate protected area „Livadi Moryantsi”;
- To re-categorise the natural landmark „Koriyata century-old oak elm forest”;
- To expand protected area „Thin-leaved peony”.

7. Forest certification

The certified forest territories in Bulgaria are certified under the FSC certificate (Forest Stewardship Council). According to the FSC annual bulletin, the area of certified forests as of December 2019 was 1,454,068 ha, which represents 35% of the total forest area in the country, and the certified units were 25. 482 certified units hold FSC - Chain of Custody.

The area of the certified state forest territories managed by state enterprises was 1,438,694.9 ha, equivalent to 50% of the total territory managed by them in the country, and the certified units are 23.

According to the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) e-portal, 19 certified units hold the PEFC - Chain of Custody certificate.

8. Inventory and Planning in Forest Territories

The following activities were carried out in 2019:

- Meetings of the commissions under Article 34(1) of Ordinance No 18/07.10.15 on inventory and planning in forest areas for inventory of forest areas and development of forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires in 2019/2020 for territorial divisions State Forest Units (SFU) Borino, Dospat, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv region), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad region), Katuntsi, Garmen and Pirdop and for Rakitovo. All these divisions, with the exception of Parvomay SFU (Blagoevgrad region), were subject to field inspections by experts in the department, in order to prevent and control the quality of the inventory;
- Prepared documentation for open public procurement procedures for inventory of forest areas and development of forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires in the period 2020/2021 for territorial divisions SFU Elhovo, Tvarditsa, Dobrinishte, Blagoevgrad, Rila Monastery, Smolyan, Sredets, Silistra, Smyadovo, Varbitsa and Ihtiman, and for territorial divisions State Hunting Units (SHU) Mazalat, Sherba, Trakia and Cherni Lom. The procedures will be carried out by the individual state enterprises and RFDs in 2020. Documentation has been prepared for an open public procurement procedure for inventory of forest areas and preparation of forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires during the period 2020/2021 for the territorial division of SFU Acad. Nikolay Haitov, village of Hvoyna for the part of the merged territorial division SFU Chepelare;
- Expert councils were held for the adoption of business classes and the quantities for annual harvesting for 2018/2019, for territorial divisions SFU Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovtsi, Tervel, Nova Zagora and Chirpan and for territorial divisions SHU Nessebar, Trakia, for the part of the merged TD SFU Krichim, Osogovo, Izvora, for the merged TP SFU Devin and Shiroka Polyana;
- Meetings of the commissions under Article 37(3) of Ordinance No

18/07.10.15 for inventory and planning in the forest territories, to adopt the performed inventory of the forest territories and the prepared forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of the forest territories from fires, in 2018/2019 for territorial divisions SFU Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovtsi , Tervel, Nova Zagora and Chirpan, and for territorial divisions SHU Nessebar, Trakia, for the part of the merged TD SFU Krichim, Osogovo, Izvora, for the merged TD SFU Devin and Shiroka Polyana;

- Expert councils were held to adopt the minutes of the commissions under Article 37(3) of Ordinance No 18/07.10.15 for inventory and planning in the forest territories, for acceptance of the performed inventory of the forest territories and the developed forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of the forest territories from fires in 2018/2019 for territorial divisions SFU Berkovitsa, Simitli, Kresna, Petrich, Smilyan, Plovdiv, Kyustendil, Sofia, Slivnitsa, Godech, Plachkovtsi, Tervel, Nova Zagora and Chirpan, and for territorial divisions SHU Nessebar, Trakia, for the part of the merged TD SFU Krichim, Osogovo, Izvora, for the merged TD SFU Devin and Shiroka Polyana;
- Expert councils were held to adopt terms of reference for the forthcoming inventory of forest territories in 2020/2021 and the joint development of forest management maps, forest management plans, plans for hunting and fire protection activities, for territorial divisions SFU Elhovo, Tvarditsa, Dobrinishte, Blagoevgrad, Rila Monastery, Smolyan, Sredets, Silistra, Smyadovo, Varbitsa and Ihtiman, and for territorial divisions SHU Mazalat, Sherba, Trakia and Cherni Lom;
- A digital orthophoto map was provided to the companies performing the inventory of forest territories and producing forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires for the period 2019/2020;
- 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 units subject to inventory and forestry planning in 2019/2020 is provided;
- The balance of the forest territories as of 31.12.2017 was adopted and submitted to the NSI.
- BFSAs set out the preparation of graphical representation of areas hit by African swine fever;

9. Hunting Units

In 2019, 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 HGPA at the National Assembly;
- Drafting 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 furred and feathered game in livestock holdings, according to its physiological and behavioural features;
- The Nature, Hunting and Fishing 2019 exhibition was organized in Plovdiv;
- It took part in hunting exhibitions in Dortmund and Salzburg, where a number of agreements were reached for hunting tourism during the hunting season 2019/20;
- Meetings of interministerial working groups were held jointly with MOEW and NGOs regarding the implementation of the Bear and Chamois Management Plan in the country;
- Meetings of experts from EFA, state enterprises, hunting associations, BFSA and the Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre were held to discuss issues related to the prevention of the spread of African swine fever, as well as compliance with biosecurity measures;
- Joint training events for hunters, held by RFD and BFSA, on limiting the spread of African swine fever and compliance with biosecurity measures;
- Areas infected with ASF have been identified, according to orders of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- More than 17 thousand sets for sampling of hunted wild boars, provided under Council of Ministers Decree No 130 / 05.07.2018 were distributed and transported;
- Searches were carried out for the carcasses of wild boars;
- 3 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 and reports were prepared to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on the outcome of inspections on the implementation of contracts for management and use of the game in 18 SHU and 28 game breeding sections at the SHU;

- 8 research and development licenses have been issued;
- Courses and examinations were held for the acquisition of hunting rights in 84 hunting associations;
- Courses and examinations were conducted for the acquisition of the right to selective hunting in 16 hunting associations;
- 3,936 certificates and duplicates were issued for the right to selective hunting;
- 40 certificates for hunting guides have been issued;
- 37 certificates for „Trained person“ have been issued;
- 251 hunting tickets issued to foreign nationals;
- 18 hunting bases have been categorized in the SHU and SFU;
- 10 permits have been issued for shooting, moving or capturing and marking with collars equipped with a radio transmitter and a device for global geographical positioning of a brown bear;
- Thematic and specialized inspections were carried out on the implementation of the hunting activities and the implementation of the contracts in the hunting associations.
- Field inspections were carried out and expert councils were held for the adoption of hunting development projects.

During the year in the state-owned forest territories, a feed base was established and maintained, game was nurtured, biotechnical facilities were built and maintained - waiting spots, feeders, traps, mud pits, and intensive game management facilities were built and repaired.

The total revenues from the hunting in state-owned forest territories reported in 2019, amounted to BGN 8,856 thousand, which is by BGN 46 thousand more compared to 2018. The revenues from organized hunting and other types of tourism totalled BGN 5,007 thousand, which is a decrease of BGN 318 thousand. Revenues from contracts concluded under HGPA in the form of annual instalments for game management in game breeding areas and annual rental prices of hunting tourism facilities of SHE amounted to BGN 3,279 thousand, up 7.2% on the year. BGN 15,393 thousand was spent on the planned hunting and fishing activities, which was BGN 206 thousand more than in 2018.

10. Protection of Forest Territories and Control

In 2019, the employees of RFD and state enterprises under Article 163 of the Forestry Act performed a total of 539,187 inspections. There were 96,988 inspections

of timber production sites, 24,957 inspections of sites under Article 206 of the FA, 147,629 vehicles, 182,790 hunters, 14,807 fishermen and 72,102 others.

The tendency for increase in the number of performed inspections is maintained, both by EFA and its units (by 18%) and by other persons designated to ensure protection of forest territories (by 9%).

During the year an Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 1 of 2012 on the control and protection of forest territories was promulgated in the State Gazette. The implemented changes aim to improve and increase the efficiency of the controls carried out by the employees of EFA and its units along the whole chain - from the temporary warehouse in the forest, through the transportation of harvested timber, its receipt by wood processors and traders and the subsequent processes of its transportation to the end user.

Infringements detected

In 2019, a total of 16,842 infringement of forest legislation were found, or 1,209 fewer than in 2018. 11,590 acts for establishing administrative infringement were drawn up, which were 1,352 below those in 2018. The perpetrators of 2,647 offences were not found, and for some of the established infringements, in accordance with the terms under Administrative Infringement and Penalties Act, an administrative offence act will be drawn up in 2020.

Most infringements established by acts were found in RFD Lovech - 1,625 acts, followed by RFD Varna - 1,135 acts, RFD Berkovitsa - 1,067 acts, RFD Sliven - 1,049 acts, RFD Sofia - 991 acts and RFD Burgas - 980 act.

The regional directorates with the fewest acts were RFD Smolyan - 67 acts, RFD Kyustendil - 231 acts, RFD Pazardzhik - 265 acts and RFD Plovdiv - 293 acts.

In terms of ownership, in state-owned forest territories 5,117 infringements were detected, in municipal forests - 754 infringements, in private property - 1,850 infringements, the other infringements were established without knowing where the wood was extracted or concerning other provisions.

11,324 acts have been drawn up under the Forestry Act, 157 acts under the HGPA, and 109 acts under the LDA and CLA.

RFD staff issued 89 acts for infringements committed by employees of the territorial units of State Forestry Units/State Hunting Units, 261 acts to foresters practising private forestry practice and 36 acts to persons involved in management and protection of municipal forest territories.

In 2019, 26 coercive administrative measures were imposed under Article 253 of the Forestry Act.

8,891 penal decrees were issued by the RFD directors, of which 7,014 entered into force.

2,762 files were sent to the Prosecutor's Office, of which 425 were pending, 2,213 were returned for administrative proceedings, and 124 pre-trial proceedings were instituted.

422 files were appealed, of which 39 were modified, 68 were cancelled and 39 upheld.

In 2019, a total of 7,014 penal decrees came into force, imposing fines and sanctions amounting to BGN 1,180,547. BGN 368,703 were collected under penal decrees that entered into force, which represented a 31.2% collection rate. Overall, the collection rate remains low. In the collected amounts, RFD reported paid penal decrees from previous years. Most re-offenders fail to pay their dues.

In 2019, acts and reports of findings established illegal logging of 18,451 cubic meters, with 568 cubic meters less than in 2018.

Revenues from sales of seized wood during the year amounted to BGN 189,240.

A large part of the seized wood was made available under Article 273(2) and (5) of the Forestry Act.

Activity of the regional forestry directorates

In 2019, the forest inspectors of RFDs carried out 240,181 inspections, of which 29,209 at sites for timber extraction, 24,957 at sites under Article 206 of the FA, 80,221 of motor vehicles, 48,258 of hunters, 14,552 of fishermen and 43,008 of natural persons.

4,550 acts have been drawn up.

Activities of the teams of senior experts and chief specialists at EFA

In 2019, a total of 3,475 inspections were carried out, of which 540 at sites under Article 206 of the FA, 420 in timber extraction sites, 1,501 vehicles, 710 hunters, 5 fishermen and 299 individuals.

EFA issued 97 acts and 218 prescriptions to RFDs.

Illegally felled timber of 1,059 cubic meters was found.

Implementation of Regulation 995/2010

In 2019, the EFA participated in two meetings of the FLEGT/EUTR Committee on issues related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.

To ensure effective control, during the year RFDs carried out 1,699 inspections of 315 operators and traders.

Interaction with other institutions

In 2019, EFA continued its active cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the National Revenue Agency, the Customs Agency, the Automobile Administration Executive Agency, the General Labour Inspectorate and other institutions engaged in the prevention and detection of illegal actions in forests.

As a result of the agreements for cooperation and interaction and the annual plan of the Ministry of Interior to counter infringements related to forest, game and fish resources, in 2019 a total of 11,047 joint inspections were carried out, of which 782 on sites under Article 206 of the Forestry Act, 463 in timber harvesting sites, 1,738 of motor vehicles, 6,209 of hunters, 29 of fishermen and 1,826 of natural persons.

435 acts and 81 statements of findings were drawn up.

Illegally felled wood of 352 cubic meters was found.

11. Strategic Planning, Improvement of the Regulatory Framework and International Activities

In 2019, a draft Strategy to strengthen the role of the agricultural sector in the bioeconomy was prepared.

At a meeting of the National Council for Biological Diversity at the Ministry of Environment and Water, an Action Plan for the Lesser Spotted Eagle for the period 2019-2028 was adopted.

In 2019, the following regulatory documents were prepared and adopted:

- Ordinance on the terms and conditions to assign and put in place activities in state-owned and municipal forestry territories and for the harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products (promulgated SG, issue 26 of 29.03.2019);
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 4 of 2012 on the terms and conditions for registration of forest nurseries, as well as for production of saplings in forest nurseries - state property (promulgated SG, issue 35 of 30.04.2019);
- Draft Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 14 of 27.10.2005 on the conditions and procedure to issue 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 (prom. SG 39 of 14.05.2019);
- Draft Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 21 of 2012 on the conditions and procedure to determine, approve, register and cancel sources of forest seed production base, collecting and extracting forest reproductive materials, their qualification, trade and import (prom. SG 53 of 05.07.2019);

- Draft Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No 1 of 30.01.2012 on the control and protection of forest territories (prom. SG 89 of 12.11.2019);
- Council of Ministers Decree No 285 of 18.11.2019 amending and supplementing the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Forest Agency (promulgated SG, issue 92 of 22.11.2019);
- Ordinance for protection of forest territories from diseases, pests and other damages (promulgated SG, issue 98 of 13.12.2019, in force from 14.06.2020);
- Draft Rules on Health and Safety at Work in Forest Areas (prom. SG issue 38 of 2019);
- Council of Ministers Decree No 67 of 02.04.2019 amending and supplementing the implementing rules of HGPA.

Implementation of strategic activities and priorities in the forestry sector through projects funded by the EU and other international donors

In 2019, at meetings of the Commission and the Standing Working Group to discuss project ideas and project proposals at EFA, a total of 11 project ideas and proposals submitted by the EFA units were considered. Relevant letters of rejection or support were drafted.

The options for joint work with BAS and other external partners to find adequate EU funding for the construction of a single geographical information system for forests were approved.

The potential implementation of projects for the EFA units under the Good Governance operational programme 2014-2020 was studied on a regular basis.

During the year the process of evaluation of project proposals of RFD, related to the establishment of a single national system for monitoring, early detection and notification of forest fires with funds from the RDP 2014 - 2020 continued.

The work on development of a project proposal under the forthcoming procedure „Support for development and management of ecosystem services and assessment of the condition of the elements of green infrastructure“ under OPE 2014 - 2020 was coordinated.

In 2019, the following projects were underway:

„Increasing the capacity of the EFA employees to perform control functions in forest management“ under the Good Governance Operational Programme, co-financed by the European Social Fund.

„Regional policies for sustainable bioenergy - BIO4ECO“ under the INTERREG EUROPE programme.

The implementation of three projects was completed:

„Restoration and conservation of alluvial forests from habitat 91E0* in Natura 2000 protected areas and model territories in Bulgaria,,- LIFE13 NATBG000801.

„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.

„Conservation of key forest habitats of the Aquila pomarina in Bulgaria“ under the EU LIFE programme.

12. Financing and Investments in Forest Territories

12.1. Executive Forest Agency

In 2019, the Executive Forest Agency reported revenues totalling BGN 15,870,653.

Funds amounting to BGN 26,975,000 were approved for implementation of budget programmes „Specialized Activities in Forest Territories“ and „Planning, Protection against Intrusions, Fires and Forest Protection“ in 2019 under the budget of the EFA. The expenses incurred as of 31.12.2019 according to the specified plan were BGN 26,811,334 and according to the report amounted to BGN 27,122,648.

During the reporting period, investments (capital expenditures) in the amount of BGN 523,940 were made as follows:

- Acquisition of other equipment, machines and facilities - BGN 71,242;
- Acquisition of vehicles - BGN 292,500;
- Construction of infrastructure - BGN 5,900;
- Acquisition of business inventory - BGN 10,255.

For the implementation of project activities in 2019, the funds transferred to beneficiaries in the country amounted to BGN 78,318, and abroad to BGN 109,111.

Funds of BGN 371,708 were provided to beneficiaries for co-financing of project activities from the EFA budget, and as a budget loan from EFA

EFA - CA, RFD Ruse, RFD Plovdiv and FSCS Sofia are beneficiaries under the LIFE/NAT/14; RFD Burgas, RFD Kardzhali, RFD Sliven, Persina NPD, Vrachanski Balkan NPD and Rusenski Lom NPD are beneficiaries of territorial cooperation programmes INTERREG 2014 - 2020 at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

Vitosha NPD, Vrachanski Balkan NPD, Golden Sands NPD and Rila Monastery NPD have implemented activities under OPE projects financed by the ERDF to improve the conservation status of Natura 2000 habitats.

12.2. State forestry units

The reported revenues from the overall activity of the state enterprise for 2019 were BGN 353,118 thousand, and the total expenses - BGN 346,186 thousand. Compared to 2018, the revenues of enterprises decreased by BGN 2,634 thousand and the expenses - by BGN 1,371 thousand.

The total financial result of the enterprises from their operating activity in 2019 was positive at BGN 6,932 thousand before taxation, which was an increase of BGN 1,263 thousand compared to 2018.

The investments made by the six state enterprises in 2019 stood at BGN 49,074 thousand, by BGN 968 thousand less than the previous year. Of these, 68.5% were implemented with funds from the Forest Investment Fund to carry out the following activities, spending a total of BGN 33,656 thousand, or BGN 5,010 thousand more than in 2018:

- design of 58.8 km new roads and overhaul of existing forest roads - BGN 368 thousand;
- construction and overhaul of 107 km of forest roads and transport technical infrastructure - BGN 20,294 thousand;
- design and construction of 11 technical and fortification facilities - BGN 1,128 thousand;
- for afforestation activities - BGN 6,866 thousand.

The proceeds from the economic activity financed the purchase of 133 vehicles and 17 specialized equipment units, 6 buildings and the renovation of 58 buildings.

13. Administrative Services

In 2019, 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 Article 235 and Article 214 FA in 2019 held 23 meetings, as a result of which 458 individuals were certified and issued certificates for forestry practice. Certificates of 390 traders for carrying out activities in the forest territories were registered and issued.

During the year, 49 traders were deregistered from the public register under Article 241(1) of the FA, and 44 natural persons were deregistered from the register under Article 235 of the FA. 23 natural persons and 3 traders were denied entry in the registers under Articles 235 and 241 of the FA.

As of 31.12.2019, the total number of registered natural persons for forestry practice was 11,672, and of the registered traders - 4,209.

Further to changes in the requirements for registration of individuals, to organisation of exams was governed by Article 236a of FA. Eighteen exams took place, with a total of 831 applicants, of which 346 passed.

In 2019, more than 1,374 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.



VII. FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

1. Catch and Production of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

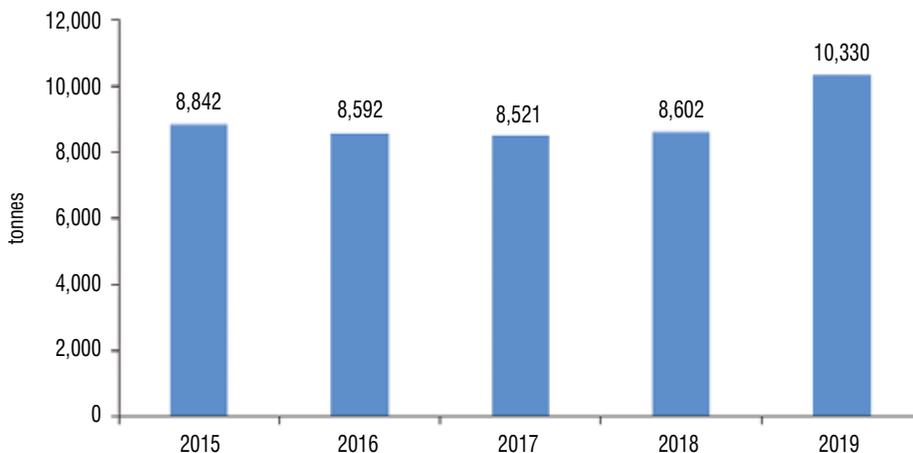
Catch of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

According to data from the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFSA), in 2019 the total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing in the country stood at 10,330.4 tonnes, of which 10,269.7 tonnes - in the Black Sea and 60.8 tonnes - in the Danube River. The total quantity was 20.1% above the level of 2018, with catches in the Black Sea increasing by 20.2% and that in the Danube - by 8.9%.

The total quantities of saltwater fish species caught in 2019 came in at 5,513.3 tonnes, 25.2% more than in 2018. Traditionally, the most significant catch was sprat, which increased by 43.8% on an annual basis to 4,584.74 tonnes.

Among other Black Sea fish species, significant catches are reported for Black Sea mullet (554.2 tonnes), horse mackerel (101.6 tonnes), anchovies (70.6 tonnes) and turbot (55.1 tonnes).

Figure VII.1. Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in the country, tonnes



Source: EAFSA

Catches of rapana, which account for the bulk of catches of aquatic organisms in the Black Sea, increased by 2.2% on an annual basis. Catches of black mussels doubled to 25.7 tonnes, while white mussels decreased by 15.4% to 507.8 tonnes. The sand shrimp recorded a catch of 0.442 tonnes, half the quantities in 2018.

In 2019, the catch of diadromous fish species (Pontic shad) in the Black Sea amounted to 25.6 tonnes, which was 136.9% more than the previous year.

Table VII.1. Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in the country by water basins, tonnes

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Catch in the Black sea - total, incl.	8,540.0	8,467.1	8,546.7	10,269.7	20.2%
- saltwater species	4,473.9	4,007.1	4,403.9	5,513.3	25.2%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	15.6	10.3	10.8	25.6	136.9%
- veined rapa whelk, mussels and shrimps	4,050.5	4,449.6	4,132.0	4,222.9	2.2%
Catch in the Danube - total, incl.	52.2	53.5	55.7	60.8	8.9%
- freshwater fish	50.2	49.1	54.3	57.4	5.8%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	1.1	0.5	1.0	2.6	156.6%
- other aquatic organisms	0.9	4.0	0.5	0.7	49.2%
Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms	8,592.2	8,520.6	8,602.4	10,330.5	20.1%

Source: EAFA

In 2019, the catch in the Danube River increased by 8.9% compared to the previous year, to 60.8 tonnes, mainly freshwater fish (57.4 tonnes).

The largest catches in the Danube during the year were reported for common barbel (8.8 tonnes), common bream (7.2 tonnes), silver caracuda (6.6 tonnes), carp (6.4 tonnes), Vimba vimba (5 tonnes), bighead carp (5.8 tonnes), wels catfish (4.7 tonnes) and silver carp (4.1 tonnes).

There was a significant increase in catches of silver caracuda - 73.5%, Vimba vimba - by 51.1%, common bream - 37.8%, grass carp - 23.6%, while catches of barbel, carp, bighead carp decreased, respectively by 23.9%, 6.8% and 2.4%.

In 2019, the quantities of Pontic shad caught in the Danube River were more than twice as much as in the previous year.

Table VII.2 Catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from basins for commercial fishing in 2019

	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
A. The Danube River		
1	Common Roach /Rutilus rutilus/	0.008
2	Danube bleak /Chalcalburnus chalcoides/	0.287
3	Grass carp /Ctenopharingodon idella/	2.359
4	Silver carp /Hypophthalmichthys molitrix/	4.094
5	White barbel /Barbus barbus/	8.817
6	Zander /Sander lucioperca/Stizostedion lucioperca/	2.365
7	Zingel (Zingel zingel)	0.007
8	Pontic shad /Caspialosa pontica/Alosa pontica/	2.566
9	Tench /Tinca tinca/	0.010

	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
10	/Vimba vimba/	4.997
11	Ide /Leuciscus idus/	0.015
12	White-eye bream /Ballerus sapa/	0.056
13	Common bream /Abramis brama/	7.198
14	Bighead carp /Aristichthys nobilis/	4.884
15	Asp /Aspius aspius/	1.062
16	European chub / Leuciscus cephalus/	0.013
17	European perch /Perca fluviatilis/	0.012
18	Ziege /Pelecus cultratus/	0.002
19	Nase /Chondrostoma nasus/	1.423
20	Wels catfish /Sillurus glanis/	4.690
21	Prussian carp /Carass/us sp./	6.568
22	Common bleak./Albumus albumus/	1.313
23	Common rudd /Scardinius erythrophthalmus/	0.044
24	Carp /Cyprinus carpio/	6.403
25	Northern pike /Esox lucius/	0.816
26	Other	0.746
	Total for the Danube River	60.755
	B. The Black Sea	
27	Atherina /Atherina spp./	8.986
28	Striped red mullet /Mullus surmuletus/	0.054
29	Sand gaper /Mya arenaria/	507.812
30	Sea bed worm	0.038
31	Garfish /Belone belone/	3.976
32	Leaping mullet /Liza saliens/	2.275
33	Turbot /Psetta maxima/	55.164
34	Pontic shad /Caspialosa pontica/Alosa pontica/	25.589
35	Mugil (Mugil soiuy)	0.482
36	Bluefish /Pomatomus saltatrix/	23.955
37	Common stingray /Dasyatis pastinaca/	2.583
38	Thornback ray /Raja clavata/	9.147
39	Angler /Lophius piscatorius/	0.055
41	Flathead grey mullet /Mugil cephalus/	2.914
42	Prawns /Leander spp./	0.440
43	Eriphia verrucosa	0.098
44	Belted bonito /Sarda sarda/	3.650
45	Flounder /Platichthys flesus luscus/	0.043
46	Golden gray mullet /Liza aurata/	0.618
47	Gobiidae	31.251
48	European brown shrimp /Crangon sp./	0.442
49	Rapana spp.	4,222.050

	Type of fish/aquatic organism	Quantity (tonnes)
50	European pilchard /Sardina pilchardus/	0.071
51	Mediterranean horse mackerel /Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus/	101.570
52	Spicara spp.	0.012
53	Anchovy /Engraulis encrasicolus ponticus/	70.592
54	Sprat / /Sprattus sprattus sulinus/	4,584.745
55	Mediterranean mussel /Mytilus galloprovincialis/	25.748
56	Mullus barbatus ponticus	554.229
57	Squalus /Squalus acanthias/	16.840
58	Merlangius merlangus /Merlangius merlangus euxinus/	14.229
59	Other	0.031
	Total for the Black Sea	10,269.7
	Total for the Black Sea and the Danube	10,330.9

Source: EAFA

As of 31.05.2020 the reported total commercial catch of fish and other aquatic organisms stood at 1,885.47 tonnes - down 53.1% compared to the first five months of 2019. The catch in the Black Sea shrank by 53.5% compared to the same period last year, to 1,863.50 tonnes, while that in the Danube River increased by 30.8%, to 21.97 tonnes.

Production of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

According to EAFA, the total number of active fish farms at the end of 2019 was 700, down from 764 a year earlier. Of these, 675 are for freshwater aquaculture and 25 are for saltwater aquaculture.

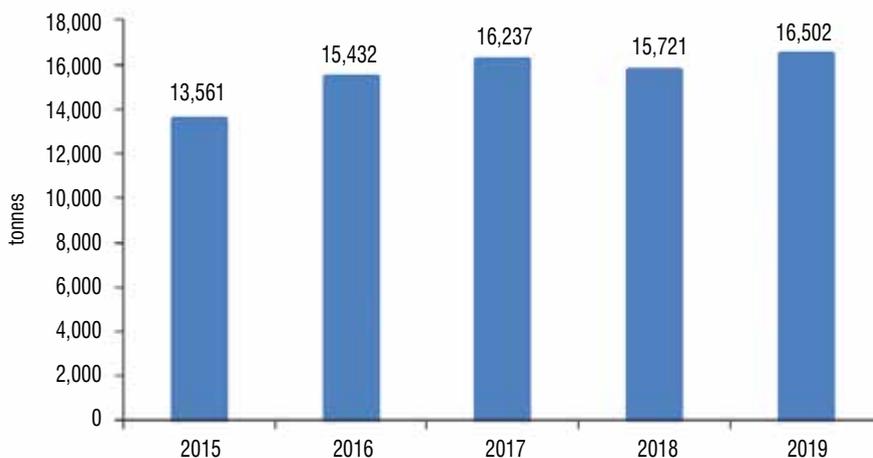
In 2019, the total production of aquaculture (stocking material, fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption) in specialized fish farms came in at 16,502.3 tonnes - 4.7% more than the previous year, taking into account an increase in the production of stocking material and that of fish for consumption.

Production of fish species that are by-catches in extensive and semi-intensive hot water farms - bream (*Abramis brama*), bleak (*Alburnus alburnus*), perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and red perch (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) was reported. These species are not subject to targeted breeding and farming in aquaculture production.

The production of stocking material in fish farms in 2019 totalled 2,448.6 tonnes, an increase of 23.3% over the previous year. This was mainly due to the higher production of stocking material from two of the main species of fish farmed in the country - rainbow trout (986.9 tonnes) and carp (684.69 tonnes). The production of stocking material from bighead carp (up to 497.6 tonnes), catfish (up to 81.3 tonnes) and Russian sturgeon (59.4 t) also increased. The production of stocking material for white fish (*sulka*) was substantially lower.

In 2019, the fish farms produced 14,053.4 tonnes of fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption - 2.3% more on an annual basis

Figure VII.2. Production of fish and other organisms in specialized fish farms in 2015-2019, tonnes



Source: EAFA

Traditionally, the largest is the production of fish for consumption of rainbow trout, carp and bighead carp.

Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the production of bighead carp - by 16.5%, carp - by 6.8%, silver carp - by 21.0%, grass carp - by 67.4%, etc.

Among the most significant commercial fish species, a decrease compared to 2018 was marked in the production for consumption of rainbow trout - by 17.2%, channel (American) catfish - by 63.7%, Siberian sturgeon - by 74.9% and Russian sturgeon - by 24.3%.

The main species of saltwater aquaculture farmed in the coastal waters of the country is the Blue mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*. In 2019, its production for consumption increased by 15.7% on an annual basis, reaching 2,928.9 tonnes. The production of lake crayfish for consumption was also higher, by 58.9%.

Table VII.3 Production of aquaculture stocking material, fish and aquatic organisms in the fish farms, tonnes

No	Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
		2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
1	Brown trout	7.80	8.53	6.39	22.90	14.19	31.44
2	Rainbow trout	845.72	986.88	3,828.14	3,170.03	4,673.86	4,156.90
3	Brook trout	0.41	0.89	0.41	7.21	0.81	8.10

No	Common and local names	Aquaculture breeding stock		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
		2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
4	Pike	2.09	3.83	9.91	13.02	11.99	16.85
5	Tench	2.97	0.10	3.14	21.52	6.11	21.62
6	<i>Bleak</i>	0.00	0.00	2.79	3.05	2.79	3.05
7	<i>Bream</i>	0.00		31.72	11.06	31.72	11.06
8	<i>Nase</i>	0.00		0.00	0.60	0.13	0.60
9	<i>Carp</i>	659.56	684.69	3,897.48	4,163.57	4,557.04	4,848.26
10	<i>Crucian carp</i>	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.73	0.45	0.73
11	<i>Prussian carp</i>	3.62	7.61	220.13	266.36	223.74	273.96
12	Silver carp	4.55	22.06	184.38	142.63	188.93	164.68
13	<i>Bighead carp</i>	333.37	497.58	1,708.29	1,990.21	2,041.66	2,487.79
14	<i>Grass carp</i>	79.20	65.45	212.20	355.16	291.40	420.61
15	<i>Black carp</i>	0.00	0.00	1.52	0.50	1.52	0.50
16	<i>Catfish</i>	22.51	81.28	222.90	236.38	245.41	317.66
17	<i>Channel catfish</i>	0.21	2.10	19.42	7.05	19.63	9.15
18	<i>Sulka</i>	4.17	1.72	48.17	49.98	52.34	51.70
19	<i>Common perch</i>	0.01	0.05	1.91	1.61	1.92	1.66
20	<i>Sterlets</i>	0.00	0.35	2.18	1.48	2.18	1.83
21	Beluga	0.00	0.00	17.37	11.31	17.37	11.31
22	<i>Starry sturgeon</i>	0.00	0.00	2.36	0.95	2.36	0.95
23	<i>Russian sturgeon</i>	10.89	59.37	247.52	187.48	258.41	246.86
24	<i>Blue mussel</i>	0.00	0.00	2,531.12	2,928.91	2,531.12	2,928.91
25	<i>Other</i>	0.00	0.00	2	6.10	2.05	6.10
26	<i>Lake salmon</i>	0.88	10.56	0.00	30.92	0.88	41.48
27	<i>Paddlefish</i>	6.04	14.00	59.71	129.14	65.74	143.14
28	<i>Green algae</i>	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.22	0.14	0.22
29	<i>Rudd</i>	0.00	0.15	7.25	5.32	7.25	5.47
30	<i>Common Roach</i>	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.90	0.73	0.90
31	<i>African catfish</i>	0.63	0.09	280.23	202.59	280.86	202.68
32	<i>Siberian sturgeon</i>	0.35	0.57	108.52	27.28	108.87	27.85
33	<i>Crayfish</i>	0.60	0.06	4.65	7.39	5.25	7.45
34	<i>Bester (Huso huso x Acipenser ruthenus)</i>	0.00	0.00	4.43	0.92	4.43	0.92
35	<i>Other hybrids of Sturgeon Family</i>	0.11	0.72	64.66	42.52	64.77	43.24
36	<i>Tilapia</i>	0.35	0.00	3.14	2.93	3.49	3.23
37	<i>Pacific oyster</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	0.00	3.50
	Total	1,986.02	2,448.63	13,735.38	14,053.41	15,721.52	16,502.34

Source: EFAA (The data are up-to-date as of 30.06.2020)

Aquaculture production is expected to increase in 2020. The development of the sector is prompted by the establishment of new farms, and upgrade and expansion of production facilities.

2. Import and export of fish and fish products

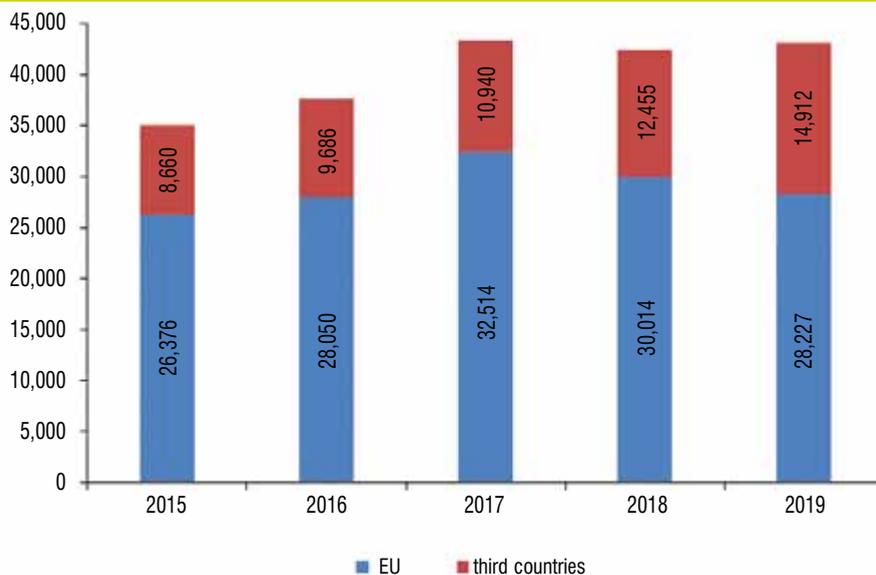
Import

According to NSI data, in 2019 a total of 43,139 tonnes of fish and fish products were imported to the country. This was 1.6% more than in the previous year, with the supply of fresh and chilled fish, fillets, crustaceans and ready-made foods and canned fish increasing, while those of frozen fish, aquatic invertebrates, salted and dried fish and processed aquatic organisms on the decrease.

About two thirds of the total imported fish and fish products in 2019 were from EU Member States. Deliveries from the Union shrank by 6% on an annual basis to 28,227 tonnes, with the main partners being Romania (5.3 thousand t), the Netherlands (3.3 thousand t), Spain (3.1 thousand t), Denmark (3.1 thousand t), Greece (3 thousand t), Poland (1.7 thousand t) and Germany (1.5 thousand t).

Imports of fish and fishery products from third countries increased by nearly 20% on an annual basis, reaching 14,912 tonnes. During the year, the most significant imports were from Canada (2.9 thousand t), China (1.9 thousand t), Morocco (1.5 thousand t), Faroe Islands (1.3 thousand t), Norway (1.3 thousand t) and Iceland (1.0 thousand t).

Figure VII.3. Import of fish and fish products from EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI

Traditionally, frozen fish had the largest share in total imports of fish, aquatic organisms and fish products. In 2019 the imported frozen fish, with the exception of fillets was 17,823 tonnes, which was 3.2% less than the previous year. As in previous

years, the most significant was the import of frozen mackerel, which decreased by 1.5% on annual basis to 10,606 tonnes. The imported quantities of frozen fish of the following species were relatively large: sardines - 944 t; herring - 852 t; hake - 1,372 t; salmon - 161 t; shark - 251 t; horse mackerel - 423 t, trout - 230 t.

Table VII.4 Import of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes

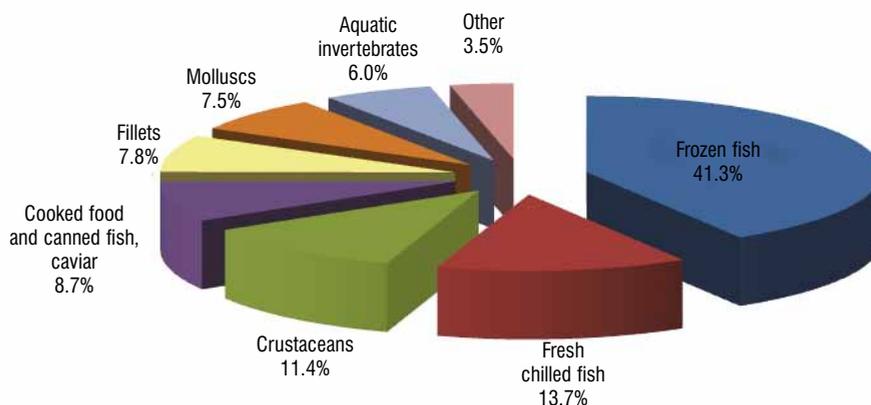
Products	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	42,468	43,139	1.6%
Live fish - freshwater and saltwater	240.9	193.4	-19.7%
Fish - fresh or chilled, except fillets	4,818.2	5,908.4	22.6%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	18,405.8	17,823.2	-3.2%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or chilled, frozen	2,751.3	3,380.5	22.9%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	769.3	509.7	-33.7%
Crustaceans	4,658.3	4,918.8	5.6%
Molluscs*	3,429.3	3,244.7	-5.4%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	2,916.5	2,599.6	-10.9%
Ready-made foods and tinned fish; caviare	3,472.6	3,762.4	8.3%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	1,005.8	798.6	-20.6%

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 year-on-year decrease was observed in the import of aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs - by 10.9% and 5.4%, respectively. On the other hand, the supply of fillets, chilled fish, crustaceans and ready-made foods and canned fish increased by between 5.6% and 22.9%.

Figure VII.4. Structure of import of fish and fish products in 2019



Source: NSI

According to preliminary NSI data, in the first six months of 2020 the total imports of fish, other aquatic organisms and processed fishery products amounted to 17,836 tonnes, 8.7% below the same period in 2019. There was a decrease of imported quantities both from the EU - by 4.3%, down to 10,700 tonnes, and from third countries - by 14.6%, down to 7,136 tonnes.

Export

According to NSI data, in 2019 the total exports of fish, other aquatic organisms and fishery products stood at 15,890 tonnes, which is a decrease of 4.9% compared to 2018. The decline was mainly due to reduced exports of molluscs (fresh, frozen or dried).

Table VII.5 Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tons

Products	2018	2019	Change 2019/2018
Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, incl.:	16,709	15,890	-4.9%
Live fish - freshwater and saltwater	1,414	1,299	-8.2%
Fish - fresh or chilled, except fillets	2,347	2,964	26.3%
Fish - frozen, except fillets	1,980	2,263	14.3%
Fillets and other fish meat, fresh or cooled, frozen	360	555	54.2%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	745	727	-2.4%
Crustaceans	120	84	-29.8%
Molluscs*	3,545	1,772	-50.0%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	240	147	-38.5%
Ready-made foods and tinned fish; caviar	2,653	2,927	10.3%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	3,306	3,153	-4.6%

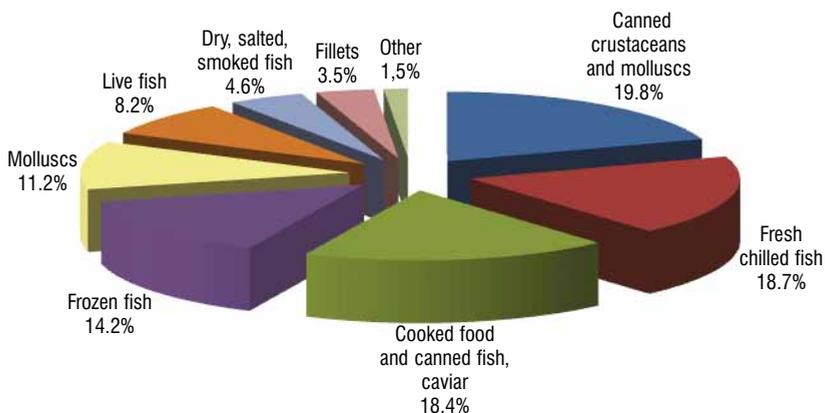
Source: NSI data, processed by MAFF.

** Note: Including also some terrestrial molluscs, which cannot be distinguished*

In 2019, shipments of fish and fishery products to the EU stood at 12,505 tonnes, 4.6% less than the previous year, accounting for about 79% of total exports. The largest quantities were for Romania (6.8 thousand t) and Sweden (2.5 thousand t), followed by those for Greece (0.8 thousand t), Belgium (0.6 thousand t) and the Netherlands (0.5 thousand t).

Exports of fish and fishery products to third countries also decreased on an annual basis - by 5.9%, to 3,385 tonnes, sold mainly to Serbia (1,112 t), Japan (732 t), South Korea (503 t), Bosnia and Herzegovina. Herzegovina (331 t), China (205 t) and North Macedonia (148 t).

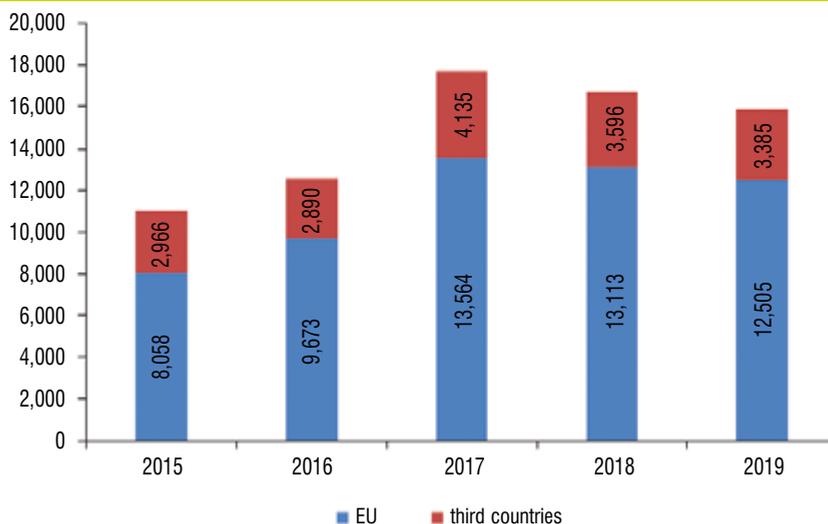
Figure VII.5. Structure of exports of fish and fish products in 2019



Source: NSI

Among the groups of products exported in larger quantities, a significant increase on an annual basis was observed in the export of fish fillets - by 54.2%, and its was more moderate for fresh and chilled fish, frozen fish (mainly sprat) and ready-made foods and canned fish and caviar - within 10.3% - 26.3%. On the other hand, exports of molluscs are halved, and those of canned crustaceans and molluscs, live fish and dried fish fell by between 2.4% and 8.2%.

Figure VII.6 Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, to the EU and third countries, tonnes



Source: NSI

Preliminary NSI data show that in the first half of 2020 a total of 7,578 tonnes of fish and fish products were exported, which was a 4.8% drop on an annual basis. Shipments to the EU shrank by 8.3% to 5,955 tonnes, while exports to third countries rose by nearly 11% to 1,623 tonnes.

3. Operational Programme for Fisheries Sector Development /2007-2013/

The strategic goal of the Operational Programme for 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 for Fisheries Sector Development (OPFSD) 2007-2013 was BGN 163.72 million, 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 the Managing Authority (MA) of the OPFSD 2007-2013.

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 2019 under the OPRD. Funds paid for 2019 totalled BGN 78,645.91 Funds paid for 2019 came in at BGN 156,021,874.31.

Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 31 May 2020:

- Total number of registered projects: 609;
- Total number of signed contracts/approved projects: 318;
- Total number of cancelled agreements: 81;
- Total funds contracted: BGN 176,820,381.15 (108.00% from the Programme's budget);
- Total funds disbursed to beneficiaries: BGN 165,227,779.33 (100.92%);
- Total funds certified: BGN 156,021,874.31.

Table VII.6 Financial implementation of OPFSD as of 31 May 2020

Axis/ Measure	Budget for the OPFSD	Funds agreed, BGN			Actually paid funds, BGN			Certified funds	
	Total, BGN	Number	Total public expenses	% Implementation	Number of payments	Total public expenses	% Implementation	Total, BGN	% Implementation
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/ Measure	Budget for the OPFSD	Funds agreed, BGN			Actually paid funds, BGN			Certified funds	
	Total, BGN	Number	Total public expenses	% Implementation	Number of payments	Total public expenses	% Implementation	Total, BGN	% Implementation
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	50,963,216.70	108.60	45,250,491.56	96.43
Measure 2.2	76,281.45	1	76,281.43	100	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	15,611,673.95	104.79	15,065,087.51	101.10
Measure 2.7	11,496,570.10	1	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	78,329,445.88	106.71	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	330	36,174,242.67	94.97	34,864,544.63	91.53
AXIS 4**	38,090,383.82	6	41,434,169.59	108.78	330	36,174,242.67	94.97	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	805	165,227,779.33	100.92	156,021,874.31	95.30

Source: EFAA

Notes: (1) Cases where the amounts actually paid exceed 100% are the result of financial corrections imposed and bad debts recovered.

(2) In presenting the financial information and calculating the amounts in BGN for the implementation of the OPFSD for the purposes of this report, we applied the BNB exchange rate of BGN 1.9558/EUR.

Under Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and in view of the audit findings, available in the reports of inspections carried out by the control bodies in respect of the implementation of projects financed under the OPFSD, EFAA, as the MA under the OPFSD, carried out on-the-spot checks and on-the-spot inspections of the projects financed under the Programme with contracts concluded by December 2015.

At present, the MA oversees OPFSD projects by monitoring the implementation of obligations under grant agreements.

In 2019, the Certifying Authority of the OPFSD - SF Agriculture updated and kept the book of debtors under the programme, in connection with the irregularities detected in the monitoring inspections performed by the MA of the OPFSD on the implementation of projects by beneficiaries and the procedures for closing the OPFSD.

4. Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020

In 2019, the Maritime and Fisheries Programme 2014-2020 (MFP) opened calls for 45 measures (including 31 measures from the approved strategies of 9 fisheries local action groups under the Community-led local development approach (CLLD)), broken down as follows by EU priorities:

- ***Union Priority No. 1: Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries***

Under Union Priority 1 (UP 1) - at Programme level there are 8 measures. As a result of calls opened in 2018 and 2019 under 4 measures under UP 1, 11 contracts were concluded in 2019:

Measure 1.1 „Diversification and new forms of income“ - with a budget of BGN 3,519,919.89 in grant. The call under the measure was opened on 1 March 2019. No contracts have been concluded.

Measure 1.2 „Health and Safety“ - with a budget of BGN 452,456.82 grant. The call under the measure was opened on 27 June 2019, and no contracts have been signed.

Measure 1.6 „Conservation and restoration of biodiversity“ - with a budget of BGN 3,702,848.09 in grants. The call under the measure was opened on 13.12.2018 until 13.03.2019. Under the measure 3 contracts were concluded at a grant value of BGN 728,770.

Measure 1.7 „Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches“ - with a budget of BGN 5,580,449.22 in grant. The first call under this measure was opened on 27 February 2019, and the second - on 18 October 2019, with a deadline of 16 January 2020. 4 contracts worth BGN 228,360.00 in grant were concluded.

Under Measure 1.8 „Fishing ports, landing berths, fish markets and covered moorings“ - the call was held in 2018 and 4 contracts were concluded in 2019 worth BGN 16,051,632.00 in grant.

The overall progress under UP 1 in terms of the contracted funds in 2019 was BGN 17,008,762.00 in grants or 44.00% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 1 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 583,212.23 in grants or 1.51% of the priority budget.

The total funds contracted amounted to BGN 26,645,269.00 in grants.

Funds certified for 2019 totalled BGN 4,501,070.71 in grants.

- ***Union Priority 2: Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture***

There are 5 measures envisaged under UP 2 - at Programme level. In 2019 under UP 2, 5 calls were opened under 3 measures.

Measure 2.2 „Productive investments in aquaculture“ had a budget of BGN 10,865,290.62 in grants. The call under the measure was opened on 27.02.2019 for Small Projects and on 02.08.2019 for Large Projects. Three contracts were signed worth BGN 142,416.00 in grants.

Under Measure 2.2 „Productive investments in aquaculture“, sector „Small projects“ - call under the measure was opened in 2018. 8 contracts were concluded in 2019 worth BGN 313,446.00 in grants.

Under Measure 2.2 „Productive investments in aquaculture“, sector „Large projects“, whose call was carried out in 2018, 16 contracts were concluded in 2019 worth BGN 5,311,680.00 in grants.

Measure 2.3 „Promoting new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture“ had a budget of BGN 14,125,186.27 in grants. The first call under this measure was opened on 6.3.19, and the second - on 4.11.19, with a deadline of 3.2.20. 7 contracts worth BGN 4,603,552.00 in grant were concluded. In the second call, 15 project proposals were submitted, which are under evaluation.

Measure 2.5 „Aquaculture providing environmental services“ has a budget of BGN 6,204,870.67 in grant. The call under the measure was opened on 24 June 2019. 4 contracts were concluded in the amount of BGN 1,709,397.00 in grant.

The planned expenditures under UP 2 for 2019 amounted to BGN 31,195,347.56 in grants, which was 46.85% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures from the EMFF were 46.85% of the total budget of expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 2 in terms of the contracted funds in 2019 was BGN 12,080,491.00 in grants or 18.14% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 2 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 602,692.78 in grants or 0.91% of the priority budget. The total funds contracted amounted to BGN 37,300,133.00 in grants. Funds certified for 2019 totalled BGN 11,818,926.90 in grants.

- ***Union Priority 3 Fostering the implementation of the CFP***

There are 2 measures envisaged under UP 3 - at Programme level. In 2019 under

UP 3, 2 calls were opened under 2 measures.

The call under **Measure 3.1 „Control and Implementation“** was opened in 2017 and ends in 2020, with a total budget of BGN 14,542,924.06 in grants. Seven contracts were signed worth BGN 1,880,585.00 in grants.

Measure 3.2 „Data collection“ - with a budget of BGN 5,000,000.00 in grants. The call under the measure was opened in 2017 and closed on 31.12.2019. 1 contract was concluded in the amount of BGN 1,688,547.00 in grant.

The planned expenditures under UP 3 for 2019 amounted to BGN 19,542,924.06 in grants, which was 86.12% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures from the EMFF were 86.89 % of the total budget of expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 3 in terms of the contracted funds in 2019 was BGN 3,569,132.00 in grants or 15.73% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 3 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 1,472,493.52 in grants or 6.49% of the priority budget.

The total funds contracted under UP 3 amounted to BGN 16,307,378.00 in grants.

Funds certified for 2019 totalled BGN 6,452,615.29 in grants.

- **Union Priority 4 Increasing employment and territorial cohesion**

There are 2 measures envisaged under UP 4 - at Programme level. In 2019, 1 grant agreement and 1 CLLD strategy management contract were concluded for BGN 3,911,660.00.

In 2019, calls were opened for 31 measures of the approved 9 CLLD strategies of the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs). 69 project proposals have been submitted. In 2019, no grant agreements were signed under the CLLD strategies of FLAGs.

The planned expenditures under UP 4 for 2019 amounted to BGN 16,481,057.00 in grants, which was 44.44% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures from the EMFF were 44.44% of the total budget of expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 4 in terms of the contracted funds in 2019 was BGN 3,911,660.00 in grants or 10.55% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 4 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 196,074.47 in grants or 0.53% of the priority budget.

The total funds contracted amounted to BGN 35,751,983.00 in grants.

Funds certified for 2019 totalled BGN 1,439,854.06 in grants.

- **Union Priority 5 Fostering marketing and processing**

There are 4 measures envisaged under UP 5 - at Programme level. In 2019 under UP 5, 5 procedures were opened under 3 measures.

Measure 5.1 „Plans for production and marketing“ had a budget of BGN 356,662.43 in grants. The call under the measure was first opened on 9 November 2018 with a deadline in 2019 and it was re-opened on 22 August 2019. No contracts were concluded in 2019.

Measure 5.3 „Measures for marketing“ with a budget of BGN 1,411,157.00 in grant. The call under the measure was first opened on 04.12.2019 with a deadline in 2020 and it was re-opened on 17.12.2019 with a deadline in 2020. 8 contracts worth BGN 332,027.00 in grant were concluded.

Measure 5.4 „Processing of fishery and aquaculture products“ with a budget of BGN 2,765,145.00 grant. The call under the measure was opened on 30.7.2019. Under the measure 12 contracts were concluded at a grant value of BGN 8,012,245.00.

The planned expenditures under UP 5 for 2019 amounted to BGN 4,532,964.43 in grants, which was 20.52% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures from the EMFF were 20.52% of the total budget of expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 5 in terms of the agreed funds in 2019 amounted to BGN 8,344,272.00 in grants or 37.77% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 5 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 935,173.91 in grants or 4.23% of the priority budget.

The total funds contracted amounted to BGN 18,502,389.00 in grants.

Funds certified for 2019 totalled BGN 3,859,032.17 in grants.

- **Union Priority 6 Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy**

There are 3 measures envisaged under UP 6 - at Programme level.

In 2019, one measure was opened under UP 6 - **Measure 6.3 „Raising awareness of the marine environment“** with a budget of BGN 637,920.76 grant. The call under the measure was opened on 26.11.19 with a deadline in 2020. Under the measure 2 contracts were concluded at a grant value of BGN 877,823.00.

The planned expenditures under UP 6 for 2019 amounted to BGN 637,920.76 (EUR 326,168.71), which is 10.52% of the total budget of the programme, and the planned expenditures by the EMFF are 10.52% of the total budget of the expenses under the EMFF.

The overall progress under UP 6 in terms of the contracted funds in 2019 was BGN 877,823.00 in grants or 14.48% of the priority budget.

Overall progress under UP 6 in terms of public expenditure paid by the beneficiaries in 2019 stood at BGN 0.00 in grants or 0.00% of the priority budget.

The total funds contracted amounted to BGN 877,823.00 in grants.

No funds were certified in 2019 under UP 6.

In 2019, 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 Authority (CA) of the MFP 2014-2020 for costs incurred by the beneficiaries and paid for the execution of the operations.

Certified public expenditures as of 31.12.2018 for the MFP stood at BGN 29,804,857.08, of which BGN 23,290,009.65 was co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and BGN 6,514,847.43 are the funds from the National Budget and included costs declared by beneficiaries in 101 payment claims in total.

Since the launch of the programme until 31.12.2019, the CA cumulatively certified BGN 43,390,964.02 in public funding, of which BGN 33,895,013.46 under the EMFF and BGN 9,495,950.56 in national co-financing. The budget of the MFP was implemented at 21.28%, which was 15.16 percentage points above the 2018 level.

Table VII.7. Expenditure certified under MFP priority axes 2014-2020 as at 31.12.2019 (BGN)

Priority axis	Total budget of MFP 2014-2020	Costs certified			Budget implementation rate
		EU co-financing	National co-financing	Total public funds	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Priority Axis 1 - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	38,659,427.26	3,910,884.39	1,580,658.76	5,491,543.15	14.20%
Priority Axis 2 Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	66,579,539.18	10,183,616.03	3,394,539.13	13,578,155.16	20.39%

Priority axis	Total budget of MFP 2014-2020	Costs certified			Budget implementation rate
		EU co-financing	National co-financing	Total public funds	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Priority Axis 3 Fostering the implementation of the CFP	22,691,856.78	9,416,912.92	1,398,763.52	10,815,676.44	47.66%
Priority Axis 4 Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	37,089,249.21	2,162,473.20	381,613.30	2,544,086.50	6.86%
Priority Axis 5 Fostering marketing and processing	22,092,677.68	5,295,621.74	1,765,207.31	7,060,829.05	31.96%
Priority Axis 6 Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6,062,980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Priority axis 7 Technical assistance	10,756,900.00	2,925,505.18	975,168.54	3,900,673.72	36.26%
Total:	203,932,630.11	33,895,013.46	9,495,950.56	43,390,964.02	21.28%

Source: SFA

In 2019, the SFA - PA paid BGN 32,573,991.86 in total under measures of MFP 2014-2020, of which BGN 25,337,396.07 in EU funding and BGN 7,236,595.79 - in national co-financing.

Table VII.8. Projects paid under measures of MFP 2014-2020 in the period 01.01.2019 - 31.12.2019 (BGN)

Measure	Amount paid	National co-financing	EU financing
1.1.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.Final discontinuation of fishing activities	0.00	0.00	0.00
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

Measure	Amount paid	National co-financing	EU financing
1.7. Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	242,011.84	64,713.96	177,297.88
1.8. Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve landing berths. Construction or modernization of shelters Final discontinuation of fishing activities	7,229,811.59	1,933,251.61	5,296,559.98
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	10,974,359.20	2,743,589.86	8,230,769.34
2.3. Encouraging new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture	623,552.38	155,888.09	467,664.29
3.1. Control and implementation	5,567,307.06	556,730.71	5,010,576.35
3.2. Collection of data	885,308.23	177,061.64	708,246.59
4.1. Preparatory support for strategies of CLLD, including establishment of National fishing net	41,420.99	6,213.15	35,207.84
4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies	1,534,085.78	230,112.99	1,303,972.79
5.3. Creation of producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or intersectoral organisations. Searching for new markets and improving conditions for the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products	183,581.78	45,895.45	137,686.33
5.4. Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	3,875,061.07	968,765.26	2,906,295.81
6.1. Encouraging the implementation of the IMP	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.1. Technical Assistance	1,417,491.94	354,373.07	1,063,118.87
Total:	32,573,991.86	7,236,595.79	25,337,396.07

Source: SFA

In fulfilment of activities of the MFP 2014-2020, on 09.04.2019, the European Commission approved the Annual Financial Report for the period from 01.07.2018 to 30.06.2019 in accordance with Article 126(b) and in conjunction with Article 138 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

The total amounts reimbursed from the EMFF as at 31.12.19 for the MFP were BGN 25,579,716.19, and the appropriations for 2019 amounted to BGN 14,903,691.05 and represented an annual reconciliation of the Programme accounts and recovered interim payments.

Overall progress in the implementation of the Maritime and Fisheries Programme (2014 - 2020), as of 26.06.2020

Union Priority 1 Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries

Measure 1.1 „Diversification and new forms of income“ - Approved projects - 2 of a total grant value of BGN 15,762.40.

Measure 1.2. „Final discontinuation of fishing activities“ - Approved Projects - 8 of a total grant value of BGN 483,173.09. Payments made - 8 with a total grant value of BGN 483,173.09.

Measure 1.7 „Value added, product quality and use of unwanted catches“ - Approved projects - 2 of a total grant value BGN 245,383.46. Payments made - 2 with a total grant value of BGN 242,011.84.

Measure 1.8 „Investments for improvement of infrastructure in fishing ports, investments for improvement of landing berths. Construction or modernization of shelters“ - Approved projects - 5 of a total grant value of BGN 23,845,200.55. Payments made - 10 of a total grant value of BGN 7,889,710.89.

Union Priority 2 Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture

Measure 2.2 „Product investment in aquaculture“ - Approved projects - 62 of a total grant value of BGN 20,502,457.60. Payments made - 68 of a total grant value of BGN 13,786,376.99.

Measure 2.3 „Encouraging new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture“ - Approved projects - 6 of a total grant value of BGN 3,304,542.86. Payments made - 6 of a total grant value of BGN 1,289,219.63.

Measure 2.5. Aquaculture providing environmental services - Approved projects - 4 of a total grant value of BGN 1,709,397.32.

Union Priority 3 Fostering the implementation of the CFP

Measure 3.1 „Control and Implementation“ - Approved projects - 25 of a total grant value of BGN 13,134,317.85. Payments made - 24 of a total grant value of BGN 7,643,717.74.

Measure 3.2. „Data collection“ - Approved projects - 3 of a total grant value of BGN -4,852,711.24. Payments made - 6 of a total grant value of BGN 3,171,958.70.

Union Priority 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 of a total grant value of BGN 571,950.01. Payments made - 13 of a total grant value of BGN 508,957.74.

Measure 4.2. „Implementation of Community-led Local Development Strategies“ - Approved Strategies - 9 of a total grant value of BGN 35,204,940.00. Payments made - 81 of a total grant value of BGN 3,547,147.36.

Union Priority 5 Fostering marketing and processing

Measure 5.1 „Plans for production and marketing“ - Approved projects - 1 of a total grant value of BGN 55,500.00.

Measure 5.3 „Creating producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or intersectoral organisations. Searching for new markets and improving the conditions for placing fishery and aquaculture products on the market,- Approved projects - 6 of a total grant value of BGN 295,257.44. Payments made - 6 of a total grant value of BGN 257,865.78.

Measure 5.4 „Processing of fishery and aquaculture products“ - Approved projects - 26 of a total grant value of BGN 18,751,777.54. Payments made - 17 of a total grant value of BGN 7,903,062.52.

Union Priority 7 „Technical Assistance“ - Approved projects - 10 of a total grant value of BGN 6,402,509.19. Payments made - 33 of a total grant value of BGN 4,277,405.25.

Table VII.9. Projects paid under measures of the MFP 2014-2020 as of 26.6.2020 (BGN)

Measure	Amount paid	National co-financing	European financing
1.1. 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. Final discontinuation of fishing activities	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
1.7. Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	242,011.84	64,713.96	177,297.88
1.8. Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve landing berths. Construction or modernization of shelters Final discontinuation of fishing activities	7,889,710.89	2,109,708.69	5,780,002.20
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	13,786,376.99	3,446 594.60	10,339,782.39
2.3. Encouraging new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture	1,289,219.63	322,304.91	966,914.72
3.1. Control and implementation	7,643,717.74	764,371.79	6,879,345.95
3.2. Collection of data	3,171,958.70	634,391.74	2,537,566.96

Measure	Amount paid	National co-financing	European financing
4.1. Preparatory support for strategies of CLLD, including establishment of National fishing network	508,957.74	76,343.70	432,614.04
4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies	3,547,147.36	532,072.34	3,015,075.02
5.3. Creation of producer organisations, associations of producer organisations or inter-sectoral organisations. Searching for new markets and improving conditions for the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products	257,865.78	64,466.45	193,399.33
5.4. Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	7,903,062.52	1,975,765.68	5,927,296.84
6.1. Encouraging the implementation of the IMP	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.1 Technical Assistance	4,277,405.25	1,069,351.44	3,208,053.81
Total:	51,000,607.53	11,301,671.85	39,698,935.68

Source: SFA

Projections for 2020

In 2020, we expect to send to the European Commission four interim payments claims in total under MFP 2014-2020. The estimated costs expected to be certified under the EMFF for 2020 amount to BGN 31,270,907.13, and the first costs of beneficiary projects are expected to be certified in implementation of the CLLD strategies of FLAGs and the costs on the special measures for mitigation of the impact of the COVID-19 on the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country.

Table VII.10. Forecast payments for the 2014-2020 MFP for 2020

Union Priorities	Union Priority measure(s)	Total for 2020		
		EMFF	National co-financing	Funds - total
Priority 1 Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries	Measure 1.2. Health and safety - -73.26%	11,548.06	4,214.34	15,762.40
	Measure 1.6. Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fisheries- -73.26%	533,921.19	194,849.01	728,770.20
	Measure 1.7. Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	167,303.95	61,055.84	228,359.79
	Measure 1.8. Investments to improve infrastructure in fishing ports, investments to improve landing berths. Construction or modernization of shelters	5,992,027.67	2,186,728.46	8,178,756.13
	Measure 1.9. Temporary suspension of fishing amid COVID 19	1,493,908.54	545,186.46	2,039,095.00

Union Priorities	Union Priority measure(s)	Total for 2020		
		EMFF	National co-financing	Funds - total
Priority 2 Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture	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	4,581,290.46	1,527,096.82	6,108,387.28
	Measure 2.3 Encouraging new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture - 75%	482,844.76	860,948.25	1,343,793.01
	Measure 2.5 Aquaculture providing environmental services	232,563.11	77,521.04	310,084.15
	Measure 2.6. Support for the aquaculture sector for temporary suspension or downsize in production amid COVID 19	3,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
Priority 3 Fostering the implementation of the CFP	Measure 3.1 Control and implementation	2,641,612.75	293,512.53	2,935,125.28
	Measure 3.2. Data collection - 80%	477,384.00	119,346.00	596,730.00
Priority 4 Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	Measure 4.2. Implementing community-led local development strategies -85%	2,886,926.09	509,457.55	3,396,383.64
Priority 5 Fostering marketing and processing	Measure 5.1 Production and marketing plans	41,250.00	13,750.00	55,000.00
	Measure 5.4 Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures- 75%	7,444,658.34	2,481,552.78	9,926,211.12
	Measure 5.3 Marketing	355,432.35	118,477.45	473,909.80
Priority 6 Integrated Maritime Policy	Promoting the implementation of integrated maritime policy (IMP) - Article 80(1)(3) of Reg.508/2014 508/2014	658,367.00	219,455.67	877,822.66
Technical assistance	75%	1,332,548.65	444,182.88	1,776,731.53
Total:		32,333,586.91	10,657,335.08	42,990,921.99

Source: MAFF, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate

Table VII.11 Upcoming MPF 2014-2020 calls by end-2020

Measure	Scheduled calls in 2020	Total budget under the measure (BGN)	Application deadline
Мярка 1.1 Diversification and new forms of income	1st quarter	439,435.70	90 days as of the date of the opening of the call
Measure 1.2 Health and safety	1st quarter	74,723.50	90 days as of the date of the opening of the call
Measure 1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection	1st quarter	260,454.14	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 1.9 „Support for fishing vessel owners and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of COVID-19 due to the temporary suspension of fishing activities“	2nd quarter	2,039,095.7	30 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 1.6. Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fisheries	1st quarter	1,446,811.76	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 1.8 Fishing ports, landing berths, fish markets and covered moorings	4th quarter	3,553,298.98	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 2.2 Productive aquaculture investments - Small Projects Sector	4th quarter	500,000	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 2.2 Productive aquaculture investments - Large Projects Sector	4th quarter	2,812,998.59	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 2.6 Measures in public health	2nd quarter	10,503,348.65	30 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 5.1 Production and marketing plans	1st quarter	123,329.84	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 5.4 Processing of the products from fishing and aquacultures	4th quarter	5,900,000.00	90 days as of the opening of the call
Measure 5.4 Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to overcome the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, measure 5.4 „Processing of fishery and aquaculture products“, Article 69(3) of Regulation (EU) 508/2014	2nd quarter	4,785,625.22	30 days as of the opening of the call

Source: MAFF, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate

5. Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) sets out rules for the management of EU

fishing fleets and the conservation of fish stocks, measures and actions to promote environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries and aquaculture.

The Common Market organisation (CMO) for fisheries and aquaculture products is one of the CFP pillars 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 intersectoral organisations.

Ordinance No 7 of 2018 on the conditions and procedure for recognition of fishery and aquaculture producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and intersectoral organisations in the fisheries sector, and the approval of production plans and marketing (promulgated, SG, issue 99 of 2018) set out 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.

In 2019, an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry recognized two fisheries organizations: one producer organization in the areas of coastal fishing, deep-sea fishing and fishing in EU maritime areas in Black Sea waters, for some species of fishery products (Black Sea Sunrise Association) and an inter-sectoral organization in the fisheries sector in the field of production (of fishery or aquaculture products), processing and trade (Association of Fishery Producers BG FISH). In accordance with the legal requirements, the first plan for production and marketing of the recognized producer organization was approved during the year.

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 were introduced in 2019. 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.

With regard to fishing in the Black Sea, in 2019, the 43rd session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean adopted a number of measures aimed at the sustainable management of marine biological resources, addressing problems, threats identified or scientific advice, including: establishing a multi-annual management plan for turbot fishery in the Black Sea, mapping the measures applicable in fishing restricted areas, strengthening the conservation of cetaceans, providing up-to-date and complete information on the fleet, including the fishing gear, with a view to facilitating data collection activities and better characterization of small-scale coastal fishing, etc.

In April 2019, the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Council was held with the participation of representatives from the sectoral organisations, scientific

institutes and public administrations. Important topics for the sector were discussed, such as results in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing), control of fish production and its transportation; improving the efficiency of control and the legislative basis in aquaculture by initiating changes in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act and its regulations; the current situation with the infectious disease Cyprinid herpesvirus; the national position on the revision in 2019 of the approach to setting TACs and quotas for turbot in the Black Sea; possible devices for catching white mussels and introducing a catch limit during spring breeding; lack of monitoring of Black Sea waters for microbiological and biotoxin status.

Activities in 2020:

- A temporary ban on fishing at the fisheries sites under Article 3(1)(1) and (2) of the LDA during the breeding period of the fish (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests);
- A 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 optimum conditions for their natural reproduction (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry);
- A ban on the use of beam trawl in the internal sea waters and territorial sea of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Byala-Obzor zone;
- Designation of fishery sites for recreational fishing during the dark part of the day;
- A meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Council at the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- Preparation for the 44th annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which is expected to take place in the first half of 2021, and to adopt recommendations directly affecting the Republic of Bulgaria, such as the establishment of conservation and management measures the Black Sea prickly shark, redfish and sprat, mitigation of the impact of fishing on cetaceans and sturgeons in the Black Sea, the balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities, minimum rules for recreational fishing, etc.;
- Approval of the first Annual Report on the implementation of the plan for production and marketing of the recognized producer organization in the fisheries sector;
- Preparation of a bill to amend the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act;
- Preparation of a draft Ordinance on the procedure for keeping the diary of sales/marketing of aquaculture products and the procedure for issuing declarations of origin for sales/marketing of aquaculture products;
- Adoption of an Ordinance on veterinary requirements and biosecurity measures for livestock farms for fish and other aquatic organisms.

SECTION B

PRIORITIES AND POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, MEASURES AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THEM IN 2021

The state policy in the agricultural sector aims to enhance the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture, sustainable development of the fisheries and forestry sectors, to improve working conditions and quality of life in rural areas, to use EU funds effectively, to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and compliance with high food safety standards. The policy priorities and objectives in the agricultural sector, the measures and actions to achieve them in 2021, set in this section, comply with the Government Management Programme of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2017-2021 and with the ones approved by Council of Ministers Decision No 33 of 20.01.2020 outlining the vision, priorities and objectives of National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030. The crisis arising in 2020 with the spread of COVID-19 required urgent measures to preserve the agricultural sector, limiting the losses of agricultural producers, creating normal conditions for the functioning of the chain of sale of Bulgarian agricultural products and food. Next year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry will continue its efforts to address the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic in the sector.

PRIORITY 1:

SUSTAINABLE, COMPETITIVE AND MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE

OBJECTIVE 1: TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH A FOCUS ON SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES AND INCENTIVES FOR REVENUE-GENERATING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EQUALITY ON THE MARKET

MEASURE:

Maximum utilisation of EU 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 Programme for 2021, shortening 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 conditions for successful Campaign 2021 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:

Maintaining existing ones and introducing new state support schemes and providing financial resources for the implementation of transitional national aid schemes in crop and livestock production

ACTIONS:

- Review of the state aid in place and assessment of the suitability and necessity of providing public resources in various sectors.
- Development and implementation of new state aid schemes, in line with the changes in EU and national legislation in the field of state aid, in force since 2021.
- Provision of financial resources for the implementation of transitional national aid schemes in crop production and animal husbandry.

OBJECTIVE 2: TO CONTINUE 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:

- Adoption of 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:**

- Rehabilitation and modernization of the existing main infrastructure through the implementation of investments financed under the RDP 2014-2020 (measure 4.3. „Support for investments in infrastructure related to the development, modernization or adaptation of agricultural and forestry infrastructure”)
- 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.

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 Farming 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.

MEASURE:**Strengthening official controls to ensure effective enforcement of the legislation in the field of agricultural production****ACTIONS:**

- Effective implementation and enforcement of national and EU legislation regarding official controls in agricultural production and the use of plant protection products.

OBJECTIVE 3: TO PUT IN PLACE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RISK AND CRISIS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**MEASURE:****Climate risk prevention in agriculture****ACTIONS:**

- Establishing an appropriate legal framework to ensure the effective functioning of the system for the prevention of adverse climatic events in agriculture.
- Further strengthening of the anti-hail protection system

MEASURE:

Use of the State aid system to offset losses to farmers as a result of adverse climatic and economic conditions

ACTIONS:

- Development and implementation of State aid schemes to limit the losses of farmers due to adverse climatic events and the spread of plant and animal diseases.

OBJECTIVE 4: HIGH LEVEL OF ANIMAL PROTECTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION**MEASURE:**

Strengthening 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.
- Exercising 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 high-level control for compliance with the requirements of the legislation and the implementation of the measures of the National Programme for Prevention, Control, Surveillance of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses for the period 2019-2021 and timely preparation and approval of the programme for the period 2022-2024.
- Implementation of the measures set in the plan for control and prevention of the spread of the African swine fever in Bulgaria in 2020, for effective limitation of its spread and its gradual eradication.

- 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.
- Support under RDP 2014-2020, Measure 14 Animal Welfare.

MEASURE:

Provision of an adequate system for 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 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THE INTELLECTUAL CENTRE OF THE BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES

MEASURE:

Making national agricultural scientific units a driving force for innovation in agricultural business

ACTIONS:

- Modernisation of scientific infrastructure.
- Increasing the innovativeness of agricultural research:
 - ✓ Selection of new varieties of cultivated plants and animal breeds;
 - ✓ Development of traditional and new technologies to grow plants and farm 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.

- Encouraging participation in EU and national funding programmes 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:

Improving professional skills and knowledge of farmers

ACTIONS:

- Organizing and conducting specialized training events for farmers through long-term and short-term courses and information activities, incl. under Measure 1 „Transfer of knowledge and information for action“ under the RDP 2014 - 2020;
- Supporting the transfer of innovative technologies and practices by disseminating the results of research projects and the development of new products and techniques
- Dissemination of important agricultural information and innovations in the field of agriculture among farmers through the organization of information and training events of the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) with scientific institutes, scientific and applied organizations and other institutions and experts.
- Providing specialized advice to farmers in various areas - creation and management of the farm, implementation of national legislation and EU standards, integrated plant protection, climate and environment, etc.

MEASURE:

Improving the efficiency of the agricultural advisory system

ACTIONS:

- Increasing the activity and contribution of the established „farming circles“ to the regional offices of NAAS, with the participation of active farmers, in the process of dissemination of useful information in the field of agriculture and to promote good practices in applying for and implementing RDP projects.

- Active operation of regional advisory councils for agriculture advice with the participation of NAAS representatives, MAFF regional units, universities, scientific institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and farmers.
- Active use of various communication channels to provide advisory services, incl. organizing and conducting consultative days/ information meetings in localities and municipalities in the respective area, especially in settlements remote from the regional centres.
- Enhancing the use of e-services and the use of various digital tools to provide advisory services, incl. for online information meetings, seminars, demonstrations and other training events for farmers.
- Facilitating access to agricultural advice for farmers, especially from settlements remote from the regional centres, by increasing the capacity of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, including at the municipal level.

MEASURE:

Improving the functioning and interaction between the participants in the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)

ACTIONS:

- Identification of the main elements and creation of a database with information about the activities of the participants in AKIS related to knowledge and innovation sharing. Processing of information and preparation of analyzes for the state of AKIS in Bulgaria.
- Establishment of an advisory body for AKIS, incl. with the participation of agricultural scientific organizations and universities, NAAS, farmers, agricultural companies, farmers' organizations, public bodies related to knowledge and innovation in agriculture.

OBJECTIVE 6: ENSURING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND DIGITALISATION OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE SECTOR TO FACILITATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND ENSURE TRANSPARENT, SIMPLE, OBJECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF 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 an Integrated Information System for Spatial and Register Data.
- Electronic identification and electronic animal health.

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:

- Preparation of the by-law for application of the requirements of the new Food Act and the Agri-Food Chain Management Act adopted by the National Assembly in 2020.

OBJECTIVE 2: SUSTAINABLE MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

MEASURE:

Strengthening the role of producers in the food supply chain

ACTIONS:

- Encouraging the use of raw materials produced across the country.
- Increasing the share of commercially produced foods in Bulgaria, promoting good practices and limiting unfair commercial practices in the food supply chain.
- More options to present and offer in 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 to establish more farmers' markets in 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).
- Campaigns to clarify the benefits of quality schemes.
- Supporting the activities of producer organisations and producer groups through EU and national funding.
- Implementation of European School Milk and Fruit Schemes.
- Promoting the opportunities offered by the promotional Programmes for the promotion and entry of Bulgarian products into new markets.

PRIORITY 3:

SUSTAINABLE AND MULTI-FUNCTIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: SUSTAINABLE WOOD HARVESTING

MEASURE:

Keeping a higher rate of mature forest stocks

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of draft amendments to Ordinance No 8 of 2011 on logging in forest;
- Shift from short-term gradual logging to long-term gradual logging

OBJECTIVE 2: DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED FOREST AREAS AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN FOREST AREAS

MEASURE:

Improvement of conditions for development of small and medium-sized businesses in the forestry industry (logging and wood processing)

ACTIONS:

- Further 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.

- Increasing the share of timber sales from public forests through electronic auction.

OBJECTIVE 3: SUSTAINABLE MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND INCREASE OF FOREST RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY

MEASURE:

Maintenance of the healthy status of forests

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of a reliable forecast for expected attacks of diseases and pests in forests.
- Timely issue of prescriptions for sanitary and forest protection measures and activities.
- Increasing the control in the selection of tree species for regeneration, in accordance with the ecological conditions and the type of habitat.

MEASURE:

Improving fire safety in forests

ACTIONS:

- Implementation of investment projects financed under sub-measure 8.3 „Prevention of forest damage from forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events“ of the RDP 2014 - 2020

MEASURE:

Restoration of vulnerable and damaged forest areas

ACTIONS:

- Analysis of the effectiveness of joint inspections carried out with DG FSPP for protection of forest areas from fires and preparation of recommendations for improvement of activities.
- Analysis of the inventoried damaged areas and taking appropriate actions for restoration
- Implementation of investment projects financed under sub-measure 8.1. „Afforestation and maintenance“ of the RDP 2014-2020 in order to increase forest area, limit erosion and preserve the quality of land, improve the water balance in the supported areas, increase carbon sequestration and improve the fight against climate change;
- Implementation of investment projects with financial support under sub-measure 8.4 of the RDP 2014-2020 „Restoration of damage to forests from forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events.“

OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS 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-owned forests by investing in state-of-the-art nature conservation equipment, enhancing research and introducing innovative technologies in the forestry sector

ACTIONS:

- Launch of 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.

PRIORITY 4:

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND PREVENTION OF OVEREXPLOITATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HIGHLY SOCIAL FUNCTION OF COASTAL FISHING

OBJECTIVE 1: CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES AND PRESERVATION OF ECOSYSTEMS IN THE BLACK SEA

MEASURE:

Preparation and implementation of a research programme 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:

- Taking 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 programme 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:

- Incentives to diversify incomes and providing opportunities to step up 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:**

- Meetings of the Advisory Council on Fisheries and Aquaculture of 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-sectoral organisations****ACTIONS:**

- Arranging and ensuring effective administration of the recognition procedures for fishery and/or aquaculture producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and inter-sectoral organisations in the fisheries sector (professional organisations);
- Efficient 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: TO DIVERSIFY RURAL ECONOMY AND HIGH EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL POPULATION

OBJECTIVE 1: TO DIVERSIFY 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.

OBJECTIVE 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 2021, 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 programme 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 Programme 2014 - 2020, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Despite state budget constraints, sustainable agricultural development will also be promoted with national resources - through transitional national aid schemes, complementing support from European CAP pillar funds and state aid.

In total for the 2014-2020 programming period, the country is expected to absorb about EUR 7.5 billion in the agricultural sector. Over EUR 5 billion of EU funds will be made available in the form of direct payments to support farm incomes over the current programming period. Over EUR 2.2 billion will be spent on rural development and investment in agriculture under the Rural Development programme 2014-2020.

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.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

GROSS AND FINAL PRODUCTION FROM THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR FOR 2019* (AT PRODUCER PRICES)

(BGN mln)

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processed by producers	Own consumption	Sales			Total sales	Production of goods from core capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement	Other			In the sector	Outside the sector	abroad					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
a	b																
01	Cereals	3,145.4	2.2	787.1	183.3	76.0	26.6	0.7	15.5	182.0	2,596.0	7.1	2,787.1	841.1	54.1	2,933.3	
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,830.4	1.4	309.9	147.5	28.4	2.1	0.4	10.8	117.4	1,467.4	5.3	1,590.1	359.6	49.8	1,679.4	
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,817.0	1.4	306.1	147.2	28.2	2.1	0.3	10.6	113.1	1,456.1	5.3	1,574.5	358.8	52.8	1,666.3	
01.1/2	Durum wheat	13.4		3.8	0.3	0.2		0.1	0.2	4.3	11.3		15.6	0.8	-3.0	13.1	
01.2	Rye	3.4		0.6	0.1	0.8		0.1	0.3	0.1	2.1		2.2	0.5	-0.1	3.3	
01.3	Barley	157.3	0.1	14.4	5.5	6.6	0.2	0.1	1.4	8.8	131.3	0.2	140.3	17.5	3.1	151.5	
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	9.7		3.4	0.5	2.7			0.2	0.8	2.6		3.4	6.3	3.0	9.2	
01.5	Grain maize	1,082.0	0.4	419.5	27.8	26.3	24.3	0.1	2.5	54.1	932.8	1.6	988.5	431.6	12.1	1,029.5	
01.6	Rice	41.3		30.5	1.8						50.0		50.0	20.0	-10.5	39.5	
01.7	Other cereals	21.3	0.3	8.8	0.1	11.2			0.3	0.8	11.8		12.6	5.6	-3.3	20.9	
02	Industrial crops	1,651.6	3.7	547.5	4.3	5.1	3.2	4.3	6.3	57.4	1,706.0	11.0	1,774.4	387.8	-149.5	1,640.4	
02.1	Oilseeds	1,415.9	2.3	414.5	1.4	2.3	0.8	1.7	1.4	51.7	1,458.5	6.9	1,517.1	303.4	-110.8	1,411.4	
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	287.8	0.4	2.6	0.1	0.2			0.1	10.9	277.8	0.1	288.8	0.8	-1.8	287.3	
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,122.0	1.9	408.6	1.3	2.0	0.7	1.7	0.8	40.7	1,175.4	6.8	1,222.9	289.3	-109.2	1,118.1	
02.1/3	Soy	4.1		1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1			0.1	3.2		3.3	1.6	0.7	4.0	
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	2.0		2.3					0.5		2.1		2.1	1.7	-0.5	2.0	
02.2	Protein crops	37.8	0.8	73.8	2.9	2.8	0.5		0.6	5.1	47.7		52.8	51.2	-22.6	33.6	
02.3	Tobacco	32.5	0.1	33.6							40.8	1.1	41.9	24.1	-9.5	32.4	

Code	Products	Current prices																
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processed by producers	Own consumption	Sales			Total sales	Production of goods from core capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production	
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement	Other			in the country	Outside the							abroad
											In the sector	in the sector						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
a	b	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
02.4	Sugar beet																	
02.5	Other industrial crops	163.4	0.5	25.6			1.9	2.6	4.3	0.6	159.0	3.0	162.6		19.1	-6.6	163.0	
02.5/1	Fibre crops	2.1		1.8							1.4	2.1	3.5		0.4	-1.5	2.1	
02.5/2	Hops	0.5		0.3							0.1		0.1		0.7	0.4	0.5	
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	162.8	0.5	23.5			1.9	2.6	4.3	0.6	157.5	0.9	159.0		18.0	-5.5	160.4	
03	Feed crops	146.4		99.3		133.0	3.1	12.1	1.3	14.0	8.5	0.7	23.2		73.0	-26.3	143.3	
03.1	Maize for silage	36.7				14.9	0.6	10.7	0.6	5.0	4.9		9.9				36.1	
03.2	Fodder roots			0.1		0.1										-0.1		
03.3	Other feed crops	109.7		99.2		118.0	2.5	1.4	0.7	9.0	3.6	0.7	13.3		73.0	-26.2	107.2	
04	Vegetables	389.4	0.4	17.1		0.6	0.2	2.3	1.4	12.1	378.5	3.3	393.9		7.7	-9.4	388.8	
04.1	Fresh vegetables	362.3	0.3	10.4		0.6	0.2	2.3	1.4	4.3	356.0	3.2	363.5		4.4	-6.0	361.8	
04.1/2	Tomatoes	106.4								2.5	103.5	0.4	106.4				106.4	
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	255.9	0.3	10.4		0.6	0.2	2.3	1.4	1.8	252.5	2.8	257.1		4.4	-6.0	255.4	
04.2	Flowers	27.1	0.1	6.7						7.8	22.5	0.1	30.4		3.3	-3.4	27.0	
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.6	0.1	6.1						5.1	7.1	0.1	12.3		3.3	-2.8	9.5	
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	17.5		0.6						2.7	15.4		18.1			-0.6	17.5	
04.2/3	Creation and growing																	
05	Potatoes	91.2	0.9	31.8	4.3	0.3			1.0	7.7	84.9	0.1	92.6		23.9	-7.9	86.0	
06	Fruits	294.4		6.0		0.2	0.4	5.7	0.7	13.3	267.4	8.1	288.8		4.6	-1.4	294.0	
06.1	Fresh fruits	199.9		6.0		0.2	0.4	5.0	0.6	12.9	174.1	8.1	195.1		4.6	-1.4	199.5	

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processed by producers	Own consumption	Sales			Total sales	Production of goods from core capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement	Other			in the country	Outside the sector	abroad					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
a	b																
06.1/1	Apples	21.9		4.1													
06.1/2	Pears	4.3															
06.1/3	Peaches	17.3															
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	156.4		1.9													
06.4	Grape-total	94.5															
06.4/1	Table grapes	8.8															
06.4/2	Other grapes	85.7															
07	Wine																
07.1	Table wine																
09	Other plant crops	42.5	2.3	24.3	4.9	2.5											
09.2	Seeds	40.0	2.2	24.3	4.9	2.5											
09.3	Other plant products	2.5	0.1														
10	Crop production (from 01 to 09)	5,760.9	9.5	1,513.1	196.8	217.7	33.5	25.1	26.4	290.3	5,071.3	30.3	5,391.8	1,373.2	-199.6	5,521.1	
11	Livestock	872.8		268.0													
11.1	Cattle	144.6		162.1													
11.2	Pigs	304.0		29.0													
11.3	Horses																
11.4	Sheep and goats	143.5		33.6													
11.5	Poultry	280.7		43.3													
11.6	Other animals																

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processors	Own consumption	Sales			Total sales	Production of goods from core capital at	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement	Other			In the country	Outside the sector	abroad					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
a	b																
12	Livestock production	994.3	89.2		43.5	65.7	10.4	48.6	74.4	742.0		816.4		98.9	9.7	885.1	
12.1	Milk	665.7			40.5		10.0	19.9	27.8	567.5		595.3				625.2	
12.2	Eggs	226.4		3.1	0.1	44.4	0.4	21.6	33.1	124.9		158.0		5.0	1.9	181.9	
12.3	Other livestock products	102.2		86.1	2.9	21.3		7.1	13.5	49.6		63.1		93.9	7.8	78.0	
12.3/1	Greasy wool	3.0								3.0		3.0				3.0	
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons																
12.3/3	Other livestock products	99.2		86.1	2.9	21.3		7.1	13.5	46.6		60.1		93.9	7.8	75.0	
13	Livestock production (11+12)	1,867.1	357.2		43.5	65.7	57.1	48.6	74.4	1,455.1		1,529.5		368.0	10.9	1,757.9	
14	Agricultural production (10+13)	7,628.0	9.5	1,870.3	196.8	99.2	82.2	75.0	364.7	6,326.4	30.3	6,921.3		1,741.2	-428.7	7,279.0	
15	Production of agricultural services	492.2								492.2		492.2				492.2	
16	Production from agriculture (14+15)	8,120.2	9.5	1,870.3	196.8	99.2	82.2	75.0	364.7	7,018.6	30.3	7,413.5		1,741.2	-428.7	7,771.2	
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	198.9						198.9								198.9	
17.1	Agricultural products processing	198.9						198.9								198.9	

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross production	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processors	Own consumption	Sales			Total sales	Production of goods from core capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
					Seeds and seedling material	Feed supplement	Other			in the country	Outside the sector	abroad					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
a	b																
17.1/1	- зърнени	62.0					62.0										62.0
17.1/2	- зеленчуци	24.9					24.9										24.9
17.1/3	- плодове	13.3					13.3										13.3
17.1/4	- вино	33.1					33.1										33.1
17.1/5	- животни	44.0					44.0										44.0
17.1/6	- животински продукти	14.9					14.9										14.9
17.1/6 ¹	- мляко	14.9					14.9										14.9
17.1/7	- друга	6.7					6.7										6.7
17.2	Други неотделени второстепенни дейности																
18	Продукция от отрасъл „Селско стопанство“ (16+17)	8 310.1	9.5	1 870.3	196.8	261.2	99.2	82.2	273.9	364.7	7 018.6	30.3	7 413.5	111.9	1 741.2	-128.7	7 970.1

Source: NSI
*2019 data are preliminary.

ANNEX 2

**VALUE OF GROSS PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE
FROM THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR (AT PRODUCER PRICES)
FOR THE PERIOD 2017 - 2019**

(BGN mln)

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereals	2,580.3	12.6%	2,904.6	8.3%	3,145.4
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,688.7	4.0%	1,756.4	4.2%	1,830.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,669.7	4.1%	1,738.4	4.5%	1,817.0
01.1/2	Durum wheat	19.0	-5.3%	18.0	-25.6%	13.4
01.2	Rye	4.4	-15.9%	3.7	-8.1%	3.4
01.3	Barley	157.0	-17.3%	129.9	21.1%	157.3
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	8.3	-20.5%	6.6	47.0%	9.7
01.5	Grain maize	673.3	41.5%	952.4	13.6%	1,082.0
01.6	Rice	28.6	13.6%	32.5	27.1%	41.3
01.7	Other cereals	20.0	15.5%	23.1	-7.8%	21.3
02	Industrial crops	1,859.9	-6.8%	1,732.7	-4.7%	1,651.6
02.1	Oilseeds	1,493.8	-6.5%	1,396.8	1.4%	1,415.9
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	316.1	-1.7%	310.8	-7.4%	287.8
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,164.8	-7.3%	1,080.0	3.9%	1,122.0
02.1/3	Soy	11.2	-73.2%	3.0	36.7%	4.1
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.7	76.5%	3.0	-33.3%	2.0
02.2	Protein crops	124.9	-18.8%	101.4	-62.7%	37.8
02.3	Tobacco	62.3	-33.9%	41.2	-21.1%	32.5
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		0.0
02.5	Other industrial crops	178.9	8.0%	193.3	-14.4%	165.4
02.5/1	Fibre crops	2.7	-37.0%	1.7	23.5%	2.1
02.5/2	Hops	0.6	0.0%	0.6	-16.7%	0.5
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	175.6	8.8%	191.0	-14.8%	162.8
03	Feed crops	226.2	-21.3%	178.0	-17.8%	146.4
03.1	Maize for silage	58.3	-38.8%	35.7	2.8%	36.7
03.2	Fodder roots	0.1	300.0%	0.4	-100.0%	0.0
03.3	Other feed crops	167.8	-15.4%	141.9	-22.7%	109.7
04	Vegetables	344.6	10.5%	380.7	2.3%	389.4
04.1	Fresh vegetables	319.7	11.0%	354.9	2.1%	362.3
04.1/2	Tomatoes	121.9	-16.2%	102.1	4.2%	106.4

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	197.8	27.8%	252.8	1.2%	255.9
04.2	Flowers	24.9	3.6%	25.8	5.0%	27.1
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.4	-2.1%	9.2	4.3%	9.6
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	15.5	7.1%	16.6	5.4%	17.5
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	81.2	29.1%	104.8	-13.0%	91.2
06	Fruits	341.4	-12.4%	299.2	-1.6%	294.4
06.1	Fresh fruits	240.8	-21.3%	189.6	5.4%	199.9
06.1/1	Apples	22.3	21.5%	27.1	-19.2%	21.9
06.1/2	Pears	2.2	45.5%	3.2	34.4%	4.3
06.1/3	Peaches	23.3	-38.2%	14.4	20.1%	17.3
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	193.0	-24.9%	144.9	7.9%	156.4
06.4	Grape-total	100.6	8.9%	109.6	-13.8%	94.5
06.4/1	Table grapes	11.9	-44.5%	6.6	33.3%	8.8
06.4/2	Other grapes	88.7	16.1%	103.0	-16.8%	85.7
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-
09	Other plant crops	49.3	-14.8%	42.0	1.2%	42.5
09.2	Seeds	46.5	-14.4%	39.8	0.5%	40.0
09.3	Other plant products	2.8	-21.4%	2.2	13.6%	2.5
10	Crop production (from 01 to 09)	5,482.9	2.9%	5,642.0	2.1%	5,760.9
11	Livestock	817.0	0.6%	822.3	6.1%	872.8
11.1	Cattle	136.5	1.0%	137.8	4.9%	144.6
11.2	Pigs	265.9	3.5%	275.1	10.5%	304.0
11.3	Horses	-		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	149.4	-8.2%	137.2	4.6%	143.5
11.5	poultry	265.2	2.6%	272.2	3.1%	280.7
11.6	Other animals	-		-		-
12	Livestock production	1,037.6	-4.0%	996.3	-0.2%	994.3
12.1	milk	736.6	-4.7%	702.2	-5.2%	665.7
12.2	Eggs	215.8	0.5%	216.9	4.4%	226.4
12.3	Other livestock products	85.2	-9.4%	77.2	32.4%	102.2

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
12.3/1	Greasy wool	2.8	3.6%	2.9	3.4%	3.0
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	82.4	-9.8%	74.3	33.5%	99.2
13	Livestock production (11+12)	1,854.6	-1.9%	1,818.6	2.7%	1,867.1
14	Agricultural production (10+13)	7,337.5	1.7%	7,460.6	2.2%	7,628.0
15	Production of agricultural services	465.3	7.8%	501.7	-1.9%	492.2
16	Production from agriculture (14+15)	7,802.8	2.0%	7,962.3	2.0%	8,120.2
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	228.7	-15.7%	192.7	3.2%	198.9
17.1	Agricultural products processing	228.7	-15.7%	192.7	3.2%	198.9
17.1/1	- cereals	51.9	7.7%	55.9	10.9%	62.0
17.1/2	- vegetables	23.8	1.7%	24.2	2.9%	24.9
17.1/3	- fruits	12.1	6.6%	12.9	3.1%	13.3
17.1/4	- wine	30.6	3.9%	31.8	4.1%	33.1
17.1/5	- livestock	80.2	-48.9%	41.0	7.3%	44.0
17.1/6	- livestock products	23.7	-14.3%	20.3	-26.6%	14.9
17.1/6/1	- milk	23.7	-14.3%	20.3	-26.6%	14.9
17.1/7	- other	6.4	3.1%	6.6	1.5%	6.7
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-
18	Production from Agriculture sector '(16+17)	8,031.5	1.5%	8,155.0	2.0%	8,319.1
19	Intermediate consumption	4,766.4	5.4%	5,024.5	2.0%	5,126.3
	Losses	10.2	84.3%	18.8	-49.5%	9.5
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	345.3	-22.9%	266.2	50.9%	401.6
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	25.6	8.6%	27.8	1.4%	28.2
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	169.7	-9.8%	153.0	15.4%	176.6
	produced and consumed on the farm	150.0	-43.1%	85.4	130.4%	196.8

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,096.0	8.2%	1,186.2	-10.4%	1,062.8
19.02/1	- electricity	86.8	8.2%	93.9	-10.4%	84.1
19.02/2	- gas	27.3	8.4%	29.6	-10.5%	26.5
19.02/3	- other fuels	978.2	8.2%	1,058.7	-10.4%	948.5
19.02/4	- other	3.7	8.1%	4.0	-7.5%	3.7
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	394.9	14.1%	450.5	4.2%	469.5
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	7.0	8.6%	7.6	1.3%	7.7
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	387.9	14.2%	442.9	4.3%	461.8
	produced and consumed on the farm	-		-		-
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	299.9	12.9%	338.7	-1.5%	333.6
19.05	Veterinary costs	236.3	5.5%	249.4	4.4%	260.3
19.06	Feed supplements	948.8	4.8%	994.3	0.9%	1,003.5
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	264.5	8.5%	287.0	1.7%	291.8
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	444.6	12.5%	500.3	-1.2%	494.1
19.06/3	produced and consumed on the farm	239.7	-13.6%	207.0	5.1%	217.6
	Feed supplements not included in EAA	58.9	-12.1%	51.8	-15.8%	43.6
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	298.2	8.5%	323.6	1.7%	329.0
19.08	Building maintenance	146.2	8.5%	158.7	1.6%	161.3
19.09	Agricultural services	465.3	7.8%	501.7	-1.9%	492.2
19.10	FISIM	73.5	13.1%	83.1	-3.4%	80.3
19.11	Other goods and services	392.9	2.2%	401.5	19.3%	479.1
	supplied by other agricultural holdings	79.1	0.0%	79.1	0.0%	79.1
	purchased outside the sector	246.0	0.9%	248.1	21.3%	301.0
	produced and consumed on the farm	67.8	9.6%	74.3	33.2%	99.0
20	Gross added value at producer prices (lines 18 - 19)	3,265.1	-4.1%	3,130.5	2.0%	3,192.8

Source: NSI

*2019 data are preliminary.

ANNEX 3

**INTERMEDIATE CONSUMPTION, FACTOR EXPENSES,
OTHER SUBSIDIES AND TAXES FOR 2019***

(BGN mln)

Elements of intermediate consumption	For creating gross output at producer prices	For creating final production at basic prices	produced and consumed on the farm	Purchase of goods and services for intermediate consumption	
				from other agricultural units	from units outside the sector
a	1	2	3	4	5
Losses	9.5		9.5		
Seeds and seedling material	401.6	204.8	196.8	28.2	176.6
Fuels and oils	1,062.8	1,062.8			1,062.8
- electricity	84.1	84.1			84.1
- gas	26.5	26.5			26.5
- other fuels	948.5	948.5			948.5
- other	3.7	3.7			3.7
Fertilizers and soil improvers	469.5	469.5		7.7	461.8
Plant protection products and pesticides	333.6	333.6			333.6
Veterinary costs	260.3	260.3			260.3
Feed supplements	1,003.5	1,003.5	217.6	291.8	494.1
Feed supplements not included in EAA	43.6		43.6		
Maintenance and repair	490.3	490.3			490.3
- maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	329.0	329.0			329.0
- building maintenance	161.3	161.3			161.3
Agricultural services	492.2	492.2			492.2
FISIM	80.3	80.3			80.3
Other goods and services	479.1	380.1	99.0	79.1	301.0
Intermediate consumption	5,126.3	4,777.4	566.5	406.8	4,153.0

Consumption of fixed capital	910.3	910.3			910.3
- equipment	732.6	732.6			732.6
- buildings	80.9	80.9			80.9
- creation and growing	22.5	22.5			22.5
- other	74.3	74.3			74.3
Remuneration of workers	1,007.9	1,007.9			1,007.9
Other taxes on production	9.9	9.9			9.9
Other subsidies on production	1,977.1	1,977.1			1,977.1
Lease	1,166.3	1,166.3			1,166.3
Interest paid	73.0	73.0			73.0
Interest received	28.6	28.6			28.6

Source: NSI

*2019 data are preliminary.

ANNEX 4

**VALUE OF FINAL PRODUCTION, GROSS ADDED
VALUE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INCOME IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR
(AT CURRENT BASIC PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2019***

(BGN mln)

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereals	2,437.8	15.8%	2,823.6	3.9%	2,933.3
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,556.4	8.5%	1,688.4	-0.5%	1,679.4
01.1/1	Common wheat	1,538.2	8.7%	1,671.3	-0.3%	1,666.3
01.1/2	Durum wheat	18.2	-6.0%	17.1	-23.4%	13.1
01.2	Rye	4.3	-18.6%	3.5	-5.7%	3.3
01.3	Barley	151.3	-17.9%	124.2	22.0%	151.5
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	7.8	-21.8%	6.1	50.8%	9.2
01.5	Grain maize	672.0	41.1%	948.5	8.5%	1,029.5
01.6	Rice	27.1	13.3%	30.7	28.7%	39.5
01.7	Other cereals	18.9	17.5%	22.2	-5.9%	20.9
02	Industrial crops	1,969.2	-7.1%	1,829.0	-5.5%	1,728.1
02.1	Oilseeds	1,489.9	-6.5%	1,392.4	1.4%	1,411.4
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	315.5	-1.6%	310.4	-7.4%	287.3
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,161.7	-7.4%	1,076.2	3.9%	1,118.1
02.1/3	Soy	11.0	-74.5%	2.8	42.9%	4.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.7	76.5%	3.0	-33.3%	2.0
02.2	Protein crops	145.4	-15.6%	122.7	-72.6%	33.6
02.3	Tobacco	151.3	-20.0%	121.1	-5.0%	115.1
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		-
02.5	Other industrial crops	182.6	5.6%	192.8	-12.9%	168.0
02.5/1	Fibre crops	7.1	-2.8%	6.9	2.9%	7.1
02.5/2	Hops	0.6		0.6	-16.7%	0.5
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	174.9	5.9%	185.3	-13.4%	160.4
03	Feed crops	223.9	-21.0%	176.8	-18.9%	143.3
03.1	Maize for silage	57.9	-38.9%	35.4	2.0%	36.1
03.2	Fodder roots	0.1	300.0%	0.4	-100.0%	
03.3	Other feed crops	165.9	-15.0%	141.0	-24.0%	107.2

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
04	Vegetables	384.1	9.3%	420.0	-7.4%	388.9
04.1	Fresh vegetables	359.3	9.7%	394.3	-8.2%	361.9
04.1/2	Tomatoes	122.9	-16.9%	102.1	4.3%	106.5
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	236.4	23.6%	292.2	-12.6%	255.4
04.2	Flowers	24.8	3.6%	25.7	5.1%	27.0
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	9.3	-2.2%	9.1	4.4%	9.5
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	15.5	7.1%	16.6	5.4%	17.5
04.2/3	Creation and growing	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	78.9	28.9%	101.7	-13.9%	87.6
06	Fruits	426.7	-10.1%	383.6	-16.2%	321.5
06.1	Fresh fruits	278.4	-16.2%	233.2	-14.5%	199.5
06.1/1	Apples	22.2	21.6%	27.0	-20.4%	21.5
06.1/2	Pears	2.2	45.5%	3.2	34.4%	4.3
06.1/3	Peaches	23.3	-38.2%	14.4	20.1%	17.3
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	230.7	-18.2%	188.6	-17.1%	156.4
06.4	Grape-total	148.3	1.4%	150.4	-18.9%	122.0
06.4/1	Table grapes	11.9	-44.5%	6.6	33.3%	8.8
06.4/2	Other grapes	136.4	5.4%	143.8	-21.3%	113.2
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-
09	Other plant crops	46.5	-17.6%	38.3	-5.0%	36.4
09.2	Seeds	43.7	-17.4%	36.1	-5.8%	34.0
09.3	Other plant products	2.8	-21.4%	2.2	9.1%	2.4
10	Crop production	5,567.1	3.7%	5,773.0	-2.3%	5,639.1
11	Livestock	1,048.9	5.1%	1,102.5	15.5%	1,273.8
11.1	Cattle	257.2	13.9%	293.0	-15.4%	249.6
11.2	Pigs	293.5	4.0%	305.1	10.8%	336.6
11.3	Horses	-		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	200.4	-0.2%	200.0	87.3%	372.5
11.5	poultry	297.8	2.2%	304.4	3.5%	315.1

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
11.6	Other animals	-		-		-
12	Livestock production	929.8	-4.5%	887.7	1.5%	900.6
12.1	milk	681.6	-4.2%	653.0	-4.1%	625.3
12.2	Eggs	172.1	1.3%	174.3	4.6%	181.9
12.3	Other livestock products	76.1	-20.6%	60.4	54.6%	93.4
12.3/1	Greasy wool	2.8	3.6%	2.9	3.4%	3.0
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	73.3	-21.6%	57.5	57.2%	90.4
13	Livestock production (lines 11 + 12)	1,978.7	0.6%	1,990.2	9.3%	2,174.4
14	Agricultural production (lines 10 + 13)	7,545.8	2.9%	7,763.2	0.6%	7,813.5
15	Production of agricultural services	465.3	7.8%	501.7	-1.9%	492.2
16	Production from agriculture (lines 14 + 15)	8,011.1	3.2%	8,264.9	0.5%	8,305.7
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	228.7	-15.7%	192.7	3.2%	198.9
17.1	Agricultural products processing	228.7	-15.7%	192.7	3.2%	198.9
17.1/1	- cereals	51.9	7.7%	55.9	10.9%	62.0
17.1/2	- vegetables	23.8	1.7%	24.2	2.9%	24.9
17.1/3	- fruits	12.1	6.6%	12.9	3.1%	13.3
17.1/4	- wine	30.6	3.9%	31.8	4.1%	33.1
17.1/5	- livestock	80.2	-48.9%	41.0	7.3%	44.0
17.1/6	- livestock products	23.7	-14.3%	20.3	-26.6%	14.9
17.1/6/1	- milk	23.7	-14.3%	20.3	-26.6%	14.9
17.1/7	- other	6.4	3.1%	6.6	1.5%	6.7
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-
18	Production from Agriculture sector '(10+13+15+17)	8,239.8	2.6%	8,457.6	0.6%	8,504.6
19	Intermediate consumption	4,479.5	7.0%	4,794.2	-0.4%	4,777.4
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	195.3	-7.4%	180.8	13.3%	204.8
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	25.6	8.6%	27.8	1.4%	28.2

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	169.7	-9.8%	153.0	15.4%	176.6
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,096.0	8.2%	1,186.2	-10.4%	1,062.8
19.02/1	- electricity	86.8	8.2%	93.9	-10.4%	84.1
19.02/2	- gas	27.3	8.4%	29.6	-10.5%	26.5
19.02/3	- other fuels	978.2	8.2%	1,058.7	-10.4%	948.5
19.02/4	- other	3.7	8.1%	4.0	-7.5%	3.7
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	394.9	14.1%	450.5	4.2%	469.5
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	7.0	8.6%	7.6	1.3%	7.7
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	387.9	14.2%	442.9	4.3%	461.8
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	299.9	12.9%	338.7	-1.5%	333.6
19.05	Veterinary costs	236.3	5.5%	249.4	4.4%	260.3
19.06	Feed supplements	948.8	4.8%	994.3	0.9%	1,003.5
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	264.5	8.5%	287.0	1.7%	291.8
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	444.6	12.5%	500.3	-1.2%	494.1
19.06/3	produced and consumed on the farm	239.7	-13.6%	207.0	5.1%	217.6
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	298.2	8.5%	323.6	1.7%	329.0
19.08	Building maintenance	146.2	8.5%	158.7	1.6%	161.3
19.09	Agricultural services	465.3	7.8%	501.7	-1.9%	492.2
19.10	FISIM	73.5	13.1%	83.1	-3.4%	80.3
19.11	Other goods and services	325.1	0.6%	327.2	16.2%	380.1
	supplied by other agricultural holdings	79.1		79.1		79.1
	purchased outside the sector	246.0	0.9%	248.1	21.3%	301.0
20	Gross added value at basic prices (lines 18-19)	3,760.3	-2.6%	3,663.4	1.7%	3,727.2
21	Consumption of fixed capital	869.9	3.9%	903.7	0.7%	910.3
21.1	- equipment	729.0	1.8%	741.9	-1.3%	732.6
21.2	- buildings	58.3	26.1%	73.5	10.1%	80.9
21.3	- creation and growing	21.1	-18.5%	17.2	30.8%	22.5
21.4	- other	61.5	15.6%	71.1	4.5%	74.3

Code	Products	2017	Change 2018/2017 %	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019*
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
22	Net added value at basic prices (lines 20 - 21)	2,890.4	-4.5%	2,759.7	2.1%	2,816.9
23	Remuneration of workers	926.2	4.3%	966.2	4.3%	1,007.9
24	Other taxes on production	15.0	-52.7%	7.1	39.4%	9.9
25	Other subsidies on production	1,920.3	-3.4%	1,854.9	6.6%	1,977.1
26	Income by Factors (lines 22 - 24 + 25)	4,795.7	-3.9%	4,607.5	3.8%	4,784.1
27	Operating surplus / Mixed income (lines 22-23+ 25)	3,869.5	-5.9%	3,641.3	3.7%	3,776.2
28	Lease	1,102.0	3.3%	1,138.6	2.4%	1,166.3
29	Interest paid	99.2	-22.4%	77.0	-5.2%	73.0
30	Interest received	45.9	-24.2%	34.8	-17.8%	28.6
31	Entrepreneurial income (lines 27 - 28 - 29 + 30)	2,714.2	-9.3%	2,460.5	4.3%	2,565.5

Source: NSI

*2019 data are preliminary.

ANNEX 5

**FINAL PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE
(AT BASIC PRICES) - 2018 - 2019* -
VALUE AND INDICES OF CHANGE - 2019 VERSUS 2018**

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2018 - BGN mln	Physical volume index (previous year = 100)	Production value for 2019 at previous year prices - (BGN mln)	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2019 - BGN mln	Mixed index
01	Cereals	1=2+5+6+7 +8+9+10	2,823.6	104.5	2,951.1	99.4	2,933.3	103.9
01.1	Wheat and spelt	2=3+4	1,688.4	100.7	1,700.2	98.8	1,679.4	99.5
01.1/1	Common wheat	3	1,671.3	101.0	1,688.0	98.7	1,666.3	99.7
01.1/2	Durum wheat	4	17.1	71.3	12.2	107.4	13.1	76.6
01.2	Rye	5	3.5	85.7	3.0	110.0	3.3	94.3
01.3	Barley	6	124.2	123.8	153.7	98.6	151.5	122.0
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	7	6.1	134.4	8.2	112.2	9.2	150.8
01.5	Grain maize	8	948.5	108.8	1,031.5	99.8	1,029.5	108.5
01.6	Rice	9	30.7	112.4	34.5	114.5	39.5	128.7
01.7	Other cereals	10	22.2	90.1	20.0	104.5	20.9	94.1
02	Industrial crops	11=12+17+18 +19+20	1,829.0	96.5	1,765.6	97.9	1,728.1	94.5
02.1	Oilseeds	12=13+14+15+16	1,392.4	98.0	1,364.2	103.5	1,411.4	101.4
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	13	310.4	90.9	282.2	101.8	287.3	92.6
02.1/2	Sunflower	14	1,076.2	99.9	1,075.3	104.0	1,118.1	103.9
02.1/3	Soy	15	2.8	160.7	4.5	88.9	4.0	142.9
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	16	3.0	73.3	2.2	90.9	2.0	66.7
02.2	Protein crops	17	122.7	49.0	60.1	55.9	33.6	27.4
02.3	Tobacco	18	121.1	87.0	105.3	109.3	115.1	95.0
02.4	Sugar beet	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
02.5	Other industrial crops	20=21+22+23	192.8	122.4	236.0	71.2	168.0	87.1
02.5/1	Fibre crops	21	6.9	115.9	8.0	88.8	7.1	102.9
02.5/2	Hops	22	0.6	100.0	0.6	83.3	0.5	83.3
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	23	185.3	122.7	227.4	70.5	160.4	86.6
03	Feed crops	24=25+26+27	176.8	71.3	126.1	113.6	143.3	81.1
03.1	Maize for silage	25	35.4	82.5	29.2	123.6	36.1	102.0
03.2	Fodder roots	26	0.4	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
03.3	Other feed crops	27	141.0	68.7	96.9	110.6	107.2	76.0

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2018 - BGN mln	Physical volume index (previous year = 100)	Production value for 2019 at previous year prices - (BGN mln)	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2019 - BGN mln	Mixed index
04	Vegetables	28=29+32	420.0	96.1	403.8	96.3	388.9	92.6
04.1	Fresh vegetables	29=30+31	394.3	95.6	376.8	96.0	361.9	91.8
04.1/2	Tomatoes	30	102.1	95.0	97.0	109.8	106.5	104.3
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	31	292.2	95.8	279.8	91.3	255.4	87.4
04.2	Flowers	32=33+34+35	25.7	105.1	27.0	100.0	27.0	105.1
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	33	9.1	104.4	9.5	100.0	9.5	104.4
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	34	16.6	105.4	17.5	100.0	17.5	105.4
04.2/3	Creation and growing	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
05	Potatoes	36	101.7	71.9	73.1	119.8	87.6	86.1
06	Fruits	37=38+43	383.6	98.9	379.2	84.8	321.5	83.8
06.1	Fresh fruits	38=39+40+41+42	233.2	103.6	241.6	82.6	199.5	85.5
06.1/1	Apples	39	27.0	85.9	23.2	92.7	21.5	79.6
06.1/2	Pears	40	3.2	156.3	5.0	86.0	4.3	134.4
06.1/3	Peaches	41	14.4	116.7	16.8	103.0	17.3	120.1
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	42	188.6	104.2	196.6	79.6	156.4	82.9
06.4	Grape-total	43=44+45	150.4	91.5	137.6	88.7	122.0	81.1
06.4/1	Table grapes	44	6.6	106.1	7.0	125.7	8.8	133.3
06.4/2	Other grapes	45	143.8	90.8	130.6	86.7	113.2	78.7
07	Wine	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
07.1	Table wine	47	-	-	-	-	-	-
09	Other plant crops	48=49+50	38.3	91.6	35.1	103.7	36.4	95.0
09.2	Seeds	49	36.1	90.9	32.8	103.7	34.0	94.2
09.3	Other plant products	50	2.2	104.5	2.3	104.3	2.4	109.1
10	Crop production	51=1+11+24+28+36+37+46+48	5,773.0	99.3	5,734.0	98.3	5,639.1	97.7
11	Livestock	52=53+54+55+56+57+58	1,102.5	97.8	1,078.5	118.1	1,273.8	115.5
11.1	Cattle	53	293.0	93.4	273.8	91.2	249.6	84.6
11.2	Pigs	54	305.1	97.0	295.9	113.8	336.6	110.8

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2018 - BGN mln	Physical volume index (previous year = 100)	Production value for 2019 at previous year prices - (BGN mln)	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2019 - BGN mln	Mixed index
11.3	Horses	55	-	-6.6		-8.8	-	
11.4	Sheep and goats	56	200.0	98.9	197.7	188.4	372.5	187.3
11.5	poultry	57	304.4	102.2	311.1	101.3	315.1	103.5
11.6	Other animals	58	-		-		-	
12	Livestock production	59=60+61+62	887.7	97.4	864.2	104.2	900.6	101.5
12.1	milk	60	653.0	93.3	609.4	102.6	625.3	95.9
12.2	Eggs	61	174.3	108.1	188.5	96.5	181.9	104.6
12.3	Other livestock products	62=63+64+65	60.4	109.8	66.3	140.9	93.4	154.6
12.3/1	Greasy wool	63	2.9	100.0	2.9	103.4	3.0	103.4
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	64	-		-		-	
12.3/3	Other livestock products	65	57.5	110.3	63.4	142.6	90.4	157.2
13	Livestock production (lines 11+12)	66=53+59	1,990.2	97.6	1,942.7	111.9	2,174.4	109.3
14	Agricultural production (lines 10+13)	67=51+66	7,763.2	98.9	7,676.7	101.8	7,813.5	100.6
15	Production of agricultural services	68	501.7	95.3	478.3	102.9	492.2	98.1
16	Production from agriculture (lines 14+15)	69=67+68	8,264.9	98.7	8,155.0	101.8	8,305.7	100.5
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	70=71+80	192.7	97.4	187.7	106.0	198.9	103.2
17.1	Agricultural products processing	71=72+73+74+75+76+77+79	192.7	97.4	187.7	106.0	198.9	103.2
17.1/1	- cereals	72	55.9	100.9	56.4	109.9	62.0	110.9
17.1/2	- vegetables	73	24.2	100.0	24.2	102.9	24.9	102.9
17.1/3	- fruits	74	12.9	100.0	12.9	103.1	13.3	103.1
17.1/4	- wine	75	31.8	100.0	31.8	104.1	33.1	104.1
17.1/5	- livestock	76	41.0	101.0	41.4	106.3	44.0	107.3
17.1/6	- livestock products	77>=78	20.3	71.4	14.5	102.8	14.9	73.4
17.1/6/1	- milk	78	20.3	71.4	14.5	102.8	14.9	73.4
17.1/7	- other	79	6.6	98.5	6.5	103.1	6.7	101.5

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2018 - BGN mln	Physical volume index (previous year = 100)	Production value for 2019 at previous year prices - (BGN mln)	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2019 - BGN mln	Mixed index
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities	80	-		-			
18	Production from Agriculture sector '(10+13+15+17)	81=69+70	8,457.6	98.6	8,342.7	101.9	8,504.6	100.6
19	Intermediate consumption	82=83+86+91+94+95+96+100+101+102+103+104	4,794.2	97.8	4,690.3	101.9	4,777.4	99.6
19.01	Seeds and seedling material	83=84+85	180.8	111.1	200.9	101.9	204.8	113.3
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	84	27.8	99.6	27.7	101.8	28.2	101.4
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	85	153.0	113.2	173.2	102.0	176.6	115.4
19.02	Fuels and oils	86=87+88+89+90	1,186.2	90.1	1,069.2	99.4	1,062.8	89.6
19.02/1	- electricity	87	93.9	90.1	84.6	99.4	84.1	89.6
19.02/2	- gas	88	29.6	89.9	26.6	99.6	26.5	89.5
19.02/3	- other fuels	89	1,058.7	90.1	954.3	99.4	948.5	89.6
19.02/4	- other	90	4.0	92.5	3.7	100.0	3.7	92.5
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	91=92+93	450.5	98.8	445.0	105.5	469.5	104.2
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	92	7.6	96.1	7.3	105.5	7.7	101.3
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	93	442.9	98.8	437.7	105.5	461.8	104.3
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	94	338.7	99.4	336.7	99.1	333.6	98.5
19.05	Veterinary costs	95	249.4	99.1	247.2	105.3	260.3	104.4
19.06	Feed supplements	96	994.3	98.8	981.9	102.2	1,003.5	100.9
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural holdings	97	287.0	99.5	285.5	102.2	291.8	101.7
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	98	500.3	96.6	483.5	102.2	494.1	98.8
19.06/3	produced and consumed on the farm	99	207.0	102.9	212.9	102.2	217.6	105.1

Code	Products	Links	Current value for 2018 - BGN mln	Physical volume index (previous year = 100)	Production value for 2019 at previous year prices - (BGN mln)	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2019 - BGN mln	Mixed index
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment	100	323.6	100.8	326.1	100.9	329.0	101.7
19.08	Building maintenance	101	158.7	99.3	157.6	102.3	161.3	101.6
19.09	Agricultural services	102	501.7	95.3	478.3	102.9	492.2	98.1
19.10	FISIM	103	83.1	93.9	78.0	102.9	80.3	96.6
19.11	Other goods and services	104	327.2	112.9	369.4	102.9	380.1	116.2
20	Gross added value at basic prices (lines 18-19)	105=81-82	3,663.4	99.7	3,652.4	102.0	3,727.2	101.7

Source: NSI

*2019 data are preliminary.



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