



**Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry**

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

***(AGRICULTURAL REPORT `2021)***

Table of content	6
List of abbreviations used	6
SECTION A	10
I. STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK. PLACE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY	10
II DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 2020 AND FORECASTS FOR 2021	15
1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture	15
1.1. Use of agricultural land	15
1.2. Use of agricultural parcels	16
1.2.1. Land Parcel Identification System	16
1.3. Registration of farmers	17
1.4. Participation of the State Land Fund (SLF) in land relations in Bulgaria	17
1.4.1. Provision of SLF own terrains SLF for rent or lease	17
1.4.2. Distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows, part of a state and municipal land fund pursuant to art. 37 and the ALOUA 17	17
1.4.3. Establishment of limited rights in rem in SLF lands	17
1.5. Consolidation of agricultural land	18
1.6. Agricultural Land Protection Activities	18
2. Economic and Production results in 2020 and forecast data for 2021	18
2.1. Economic Accounts for Agriculture for 2020	18
2.1.1. Value of gross production of the Agriculture sector	19
2.1.2. Final Production Value	20
2.1.3. Intermediate consumption	22
2.1.4. Gross value added	22
2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income	22
2.2. Plant Growing Production Results	23
2.2.1. Grain production	23
2.2.2. Oilseed crops	25
2.2.3. Grain market monitoring	25
2.2.4. Quality grading of harvest 2020	25
2.2.5. Industrial Crops	27
2.2.6. Medicinal and aromatic plants	27
2.2.7. Fruits	28
2.2.8. Vegetables	29
2.2.9. Forecast data for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds from the harvest '2021	33
2.3. Livestock Breeding Production Results	33
2.3.1. Cattle breeding and buffalo breeding	37
2.3.2. Sheep and goat breeding	39
2.3.3. Pig breeding	41
2.3.4. Horse breeding	43
2.3.5. Poultry farming	44
2.3.6. Beekeeping	46
2.3.7. Rabbit breeding	48
2.4. State of organic production in Bulgaria in 2020	48
2.4.1. Control System Operators	49

2.4.2.	Organic plant growing .....	49
2.4.3.	Organic Livestock Breeding .....	50
2.4.4.	Organic products market .....	51
2.5.	Viticulture and wine production .....	51
2.5.1.	Grapes production .....	51
2.5.2.	Wine production .....	55
2.5.3.	Export and Import of Wine.....	55
III.	TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL GOODS.....	59
1.	Level and Dynamics of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods .....	59
2.	Geographical Distribution of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods .....	60
3.	Structure and Dynamics of Agricultural Trade in Products.....	64
4.	Development of foreign trade in agricultural goods in January - June 2021 .....	68
5.	Activities to support the export of agricultural products .....	68
IV.	SUPPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY .....	69
1.	Support under the First Pillar of CAP .....	69
1.1.	Area-Based Direct Payments, Transitional National Aid and Coupled Support .....	69
1.2.	Market support mechanisms .....	76
1.2.1.	Milk sector .....	76
1.2.2.	Fruit and Vegetable Sector.....	77
1.2.3.	Beekeeping sector .....	79
1.2.4.	Wine sector .....	80
1.2.5.	Public Intervention and Private Storage .....	81
1.2.6.	Sugar sector .....	82
1.2.7.	Promotional programs .....	82
1.2.8.	Quality Policy - Protected Designations .....	82
1.3.	Trade mechanisms .....	83
1.3.1.	Export licensing .....	83
1.3.2.	Import licensing of agricultural products from third countries .....	84
2.	Support under the Second Pillar of CAP .....	84
3.	Additional state support .....	94
3.1.	State aid .....	94
3.2.	Short-term credits.....	98
3.3.	SFA investment credit schemes .....	99
V.	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES .....	100
1.	Control of agricultural and forestry machinery.....	100
1.1.	Registration of agricultural and forestry machinery .....	100
1.2.	Technical inspection of the equipment .....	101
1.3.	Qualification to work with machinery and issuance of certificates.....	101
1.4.	Testing and certification of used agricultural and forestry machinery.....	101
2.	Hydromelioration .....	102
2.1.	Sites for protection against the harmful effects of water.....	102
2.2.	Irrigation .....	102
2.3.	Activities under sub-measure 4.3 "Investments for development, modernization or adaptation of agricultural and forestry infrastructure" of the RDP 2014-2020 .....	104

3.	Plant protection and phytosanitary control .....	104
3.1.	Monitoring the development of economically important pests and plant protection .....	104
3.2.	Plant protection .....	104
3.3.	Phytosanitary Control .....	108
3.3.1.	Production control of the territory of Bulgaria and movement of plants, plant products and other objects within the EU .....	109
3.3.2.	Phytosanitary control at export .....	110
3.3.3.	Phytosanitary control at import .....	110
3.4.	Control of plant protection products and fertilizers .....	110
3.4.1.	Results of the control activity on the marketing of PPPs .....	111
3.4.2.	Results of the control activity on the use of PPP .....	111
4.	Fertilizers .....	112
4.1.	Registration of fertilizers .....	112
4.2.	Control of fertilizers upon their placing on the market .....	112
5.	Variety testing, approbation and seed control .....	113
6.	Food chain safety .....	118
6.1.	Animal health and welfare. ....	118
6.2.	Control of animal identification and veterinary activities .....	122
6.3.	Control activities .....	123
6.3.1.	Food Safety .....	123
6.3.2.	Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN (RASFF + AAC)) .....	127
6.3.3.	Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System - Food Fraud Network (FFN) .....	129
6.3.4.	IMSOC system .....	129
6.3.5.	Control of veterinary activities, veterinary products and feed, border control .....	130
6.3.5.1.	Control of veterinary medical activity .....	130
6.3.5.2.	Control of veterinary medicinal products and in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products .....	131
6.3.5.3.	Border control .....	133
6.3.5.4.	Feed control .....	134
6.4.	Risk chain analysis .....	141
6.5.	Legislative changes in the field of food chain safety .....	144
7.	Livestock Selection and Reproduction .....	146
7.1.	Livestock Selection and Reproduction .....	146
7.2.	Control and coordination of breeding activities .....	150
8.	Agricultural Science, Training and Advisory Activities .....	151
8.1.	Agricultural Scientific Research and Scientific Service Activities Provided by the Agricultural Academy .....	151
8.1.1.	Created scientific products, implemented in production .....	152
8.1.2.	Transfer of knowledge and scientific products and vocational training .....	152
8.1.3.	Qualification structure of scientists and training of doctorate students .....	153
8.1.4.	Specialized scientific journals .....	153
8.2.	Implementation of National Science Programs in the Field of Agriculture and Agricultural Sciences, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) .....	153
8.3.	Advisory activities .....	156
8.4.	Vocational training .....	159
8.5.	Improving the "research - advice in agriculture - agricultural business" link .....	159
8.6.	Information support .....	160

8.7.	Agrochemical analyses .....	160
8.8.	NAAS activity under sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small farmers" .....	160
8.9.	Activity of the NAAS under measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" of the RDP 2014 - 2020 .....	160
8.10.	NAAS activity under measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" of the RDP 2014 - 2020 .....	161
8.11.	Common Agricultural Policy 2021 - 2027 .....	161
9.	Hail Suppression .....	161
10.	Reducing the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business .....	163
10.1.	Review of the Applied Regulatory Regimes in the MAFF System.....	164
10.2.	Measures Taken in 2020 to Reduce the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Businesses .....	164
11.	Risk and crisis management in agriculture .....	164
VI.	FORESTRY .....	166
1.	Characteristics of Forest Areas .....	166
2.	Changes of Forest Areas .....	168
3.	Management of Forest Areas .....	169
3.1.	Afforestation and Protection against Erosion and Torrential Rains .....	169
3.2.	Logging in Forests .....	171
4.	Use of Wood and Non-wood Forest Products .....	171
4.1.	Use of Wood.....	171
4.2.	Auxiliary Activities and Use of Non-Wood Forest Products.....	173
5.	Protection of Forest Territories .....	173
5.1.	Protection of Forest Territories from Diseases, Pests and Other Damages.....	173
5.2.	Forest Fire Protection .....	174
6.	Protected Areas.....	175
7.	Forest certification .....	177
8.	Inventory and planning in forest areas .....	177
9.	Hunting Units .....	178
10.	Protection of Forest Territories and Control .....	179
11.	Strategic Planning, Improvement of the Regulatory framework and International Activities .....	181
12.	Financing and investments in forest areas .....	182
12.1.	Executive Forest Agency.....	182
12.2.	State forest enterprises .....	182
13.	Administrative service .....	183
VII.	FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE.....	183
1.	Catch and production of fish and other aquatic organisms .....	183
2.	Import and export of fish and fish products .....	188
3.	Operational Program for Development of the Fisheries 2007-2013.....	192
4.	Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014 - 2020 .....	192
5.	Common Fisheries Policy.....	204
	SECTION B.....	207
	PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2022 .....	207
	ANNEXES.....	216

List of abbreviations used

AGC	Administrative Grant Contracts
AEP	Agri-environmental payments
AACS	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
GVA	Bulgarian State Standard
Buffaloes	Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
BNB	Bulgarian National Bank
BEP	Biological and economic properties
BRC	Bulgarian Red Cross
Grants	Grants
RES	Renewable energy sources
VMP	Veterinary medicinal products
VOC	Verification of Official Controls Directorate General
CLLD	Community-led local development
HNV	Restoration and maintenance of grasslands of high natural value
BIP	Border inspection posts
BCRP	Border crossing points
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
PG	Producer Groups
FRM	Forest reproductive materials
FMPP	Forestry management plans and programs
E-Gov Agency	E-Government State Agency
SG	State Gazette
SF units	State forestry units
VAT	Value Added Tax
SSC	Coupled support scheme for ewes and/or she - goats under selection control
SSF	Scheme for small farmers
SHU	State hunting units
SE	State 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-RA	State Fund Agriculture - Paying Agency
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
SSCc-MILK	Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control
SSCc-MEAT	Scheme for coupled support for meat-breed cows under selection control
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
EC	European Commission
SMNCP	Single Multiannual National Plan for Foods, Animal Feed, Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EERP	European Economic Recovery Plan
EU	European Union
ESF	European Social Fund
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund

EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GMOA	Genetically Modified Organisms Act
AFM	Agricultural and forestry machinery
PGI	Protected geographical indication
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 Organization 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	Utilized 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 2020
Traffic police	Traffic police
CP	Consulting packages
CN	Combined Nomenclature
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 Research Veterinary Institute
NDT	Transitional National Decoupled Tobacco Support Scheme
NMP	National Monitoring Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods of Plant Origin
NMPRC	National Monitoring Program for Residue Control
NPCGMF	National Program for Control of Genetically Modified Foods
NPCPR	National Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods
NBP	National Bee-keeping Program
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	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMO	Common Markets Organization
PO	Producer organizations
OPIC	Operational Program Innovation and Competitiveness
SESG OP	Science and Education for Smart Growth Operational Program
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
EOP	Environment Operational Program
RDOP	Regional Development Operational Program
OPDFS	Consulting packages
HRDOP	Human Resources Development Operational Programme
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
Cotton	Special 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	Electronic 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
SP-other	Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Plums and Table Grapes)
SP-main	Coupled Support Scheme for Fruits (Main Group)
SPC	Coupled Support Scheme for Protein Crops
SRP	Scheme for redistributive payment
AA	Agricultural Academy
LDS	Local development strategies
TSP	Thematic sub-program for small farms
FCA	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 Center
DOM	Digital orthophoto map
PTC	Professional Training Center
HQ	Headquarters
CPVO	Community Plant Variety Office
ESVAC	European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption
OIE	International Office of Epizootics
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 2020 the gross domestic product generated in the country shrank by 4.4% compared to the previous year in real terms.

The nominal volume of GDP for the year is worth BGN 119,951 million (EUR 61,330 million).

By the end of 2020, inflation increased by 0.1% on an annual basis, and the average annual inflation was 1.7%.

According to BNB data on the country's balance of payments, in 2020 exports amounted to BGN 53,339 million (EUR 27,272 million), which represents 44.5% of the country's GDP. Imports for the year amounted to BGN 57,144 million (EUR 29,217 million) or 47.6% of the GDP. Thus, in the course of 2020, a negative trade balance for Bulgaria amounting to BGN 3,805 million (EUR 1,945 million) was formed.

In 2020, foreign direct investment in Bulgaria amounted to BGN 4,445 million (EUR 2,273 million), which represents 3.7% of GDP.

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

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP at current prices, BGN million	95,390	102,741	109,964	120,395	119,951
GDP at current prices, EUR million	48,772	52,530	56,224	61,557	61,330
Annual real rate of change in GDP, % *	3.0	2.8	2.7	4.0	-4.4
Average annual inflation, %	-0.8	2.1	2.8	3.1	1.7
Inflation at the end of the year, %	0.1	2.8	2.7	3.8	0.1
Trade balance, BGN million	-1,941	-1,512	-5,293	-5,688	-3,805
Trade balance, EUR million	-992	-773	-2,706	-2,908	-1,945
FDI, BGN million	1,838	3,140	1,892	3,206	4,445
FDI, EUR million	940	1,606	968	1,639	2,273

**Source:** NSI - GDP (revised data for 2020) and inflation; BNB - data on trade balance and FDI, compiled in accordance with the sixth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (preliminary data for 2020)

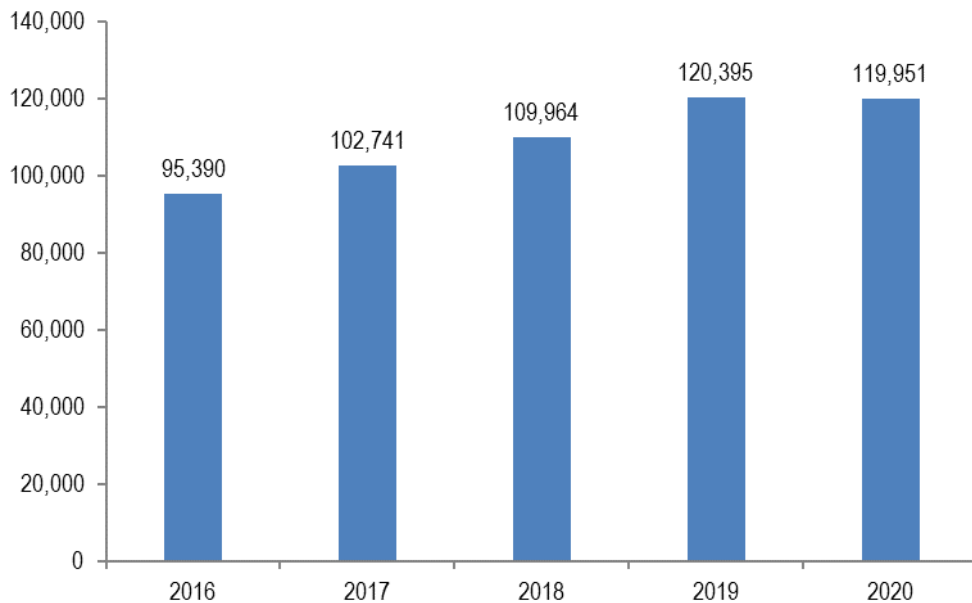
\* The real rate of change was calculated at comparable prices in 2015.

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

#### **Gross Domestic Product**

The data for 2020 show a decline in GDP of 4.4% on an annual basis in real terms. The main factor for this is the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy, including in Bulgaria. At current prices, the GDP for the year amounted to BGN 119,951 million (EUR 61,330 million), with BGN 17,299 (EUR 8,845) per capita.

**Figure I.1. Amount of GDP for the period 2016 - 2020, BGN million**

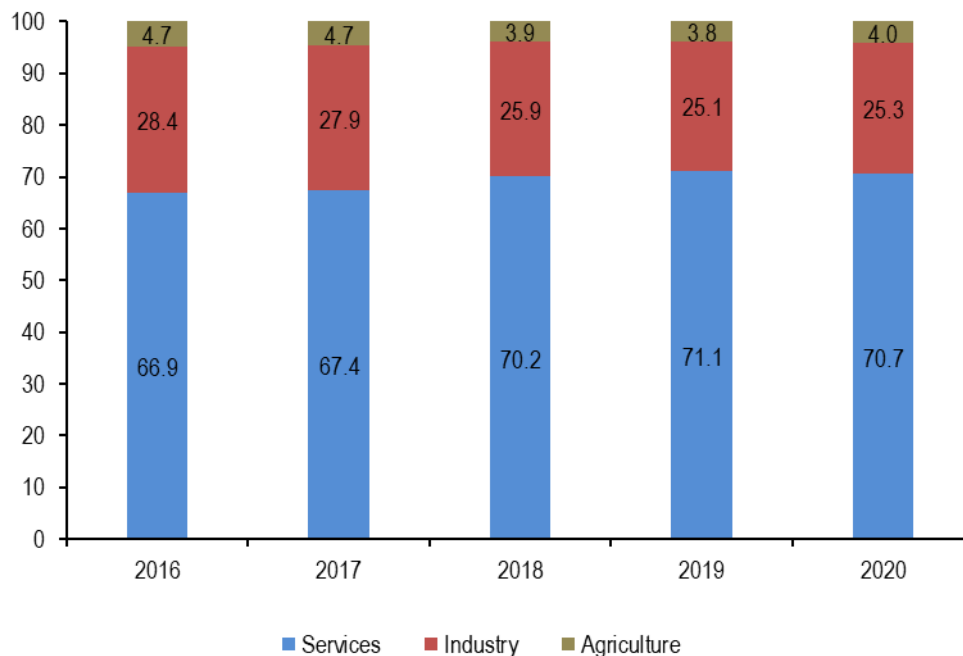


Source: NSI

**Gross value added**

The gross value added generated by the sector of the national economy in 2020 amounted to BGN 103,977 million (EUR 53,162 million) at current prices, showing a real decline of 4.5% compared to the previous year. The added value of the entities from the agricultural sector in 2020 amounted to BGN 4,205 million at current prices. In real terms, it shrank by 3.3% on an annual basis.

**Figure I.2. GVA by economic sectors for the period 2016 - 2020, %**



Source: NSI

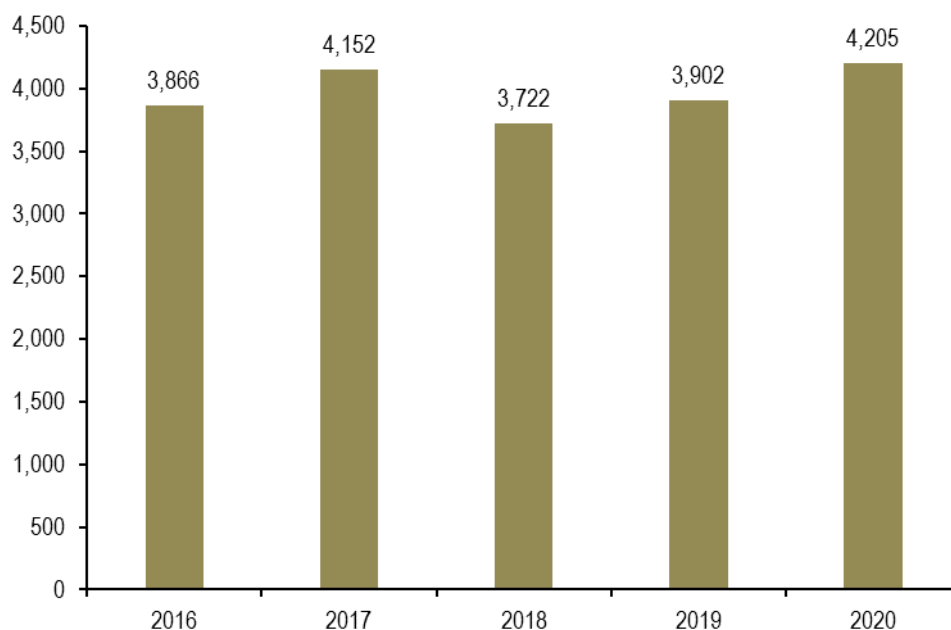
By economic sectors, the GVA for 2020 is distributed as follows:

- Industry (including construction) - 25.3%;
- Services - 70.7%;
- Agricultural (agriculture, forestry and fisheries) - 4.0%.

The share of the agricultural sector in total GVA increased by 0.2 percentage points compared to the previous year.

According to seasonally adjusted NSI data, in the first quarter of 2021 the total GVA for the country's economy shrank by 1.1% compared to the corresponding period of 2020 in real terms, and in the second quarter - it increased by 5.2%. Regarding the GVA formed by the agricultural sector, the data indicate an annual decrease of 10.2% in real terms in the first quarter of 2021 and an increase of 3.1% in the second quarter.

**Figure I.3. GVA in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sector, 2016 - 2020, BGN million**

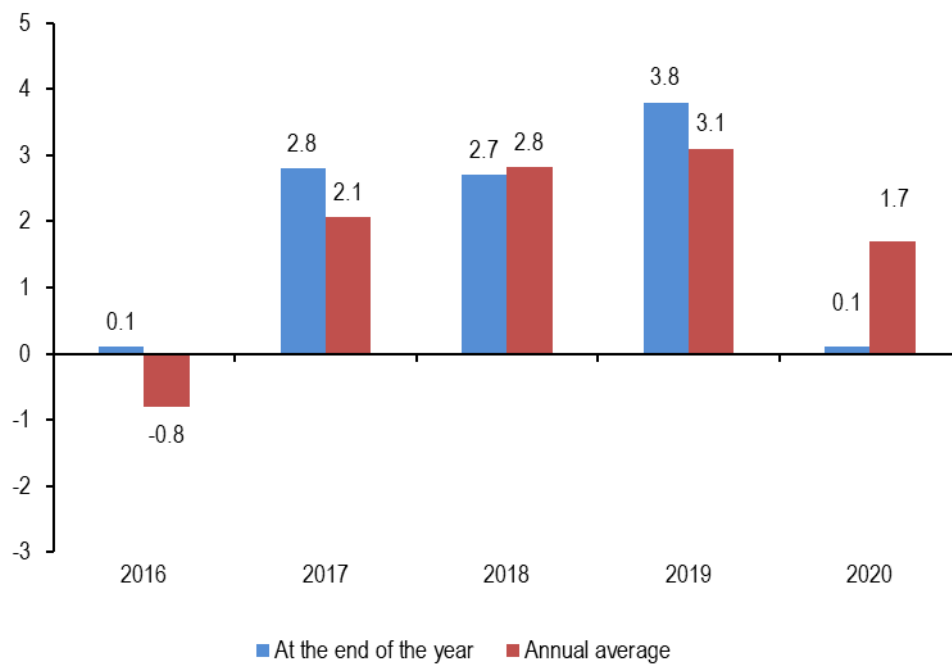


Source: NSI

### **Inflation**

The annual inflation for December 2020 compared to the same month of 2019 was 0.1%, and the average annual inflation for 2020 was 1.7%. As of December 2020, food prices increased by 1.9% on an annual basis, catering prices - by 3.8%, and service prices - by 1.4%. Only in the prices of non-food products there was a decrease compared to a year earlier, by 3.1%.

**Figure I.4. Inflation, 2016 - 2020, %**



Source: NSI

### **Employment and unemployment**

According to NSI data, the average annual number of employees aged 15 and over in 2020 was 3,121.7 thousand - 111.4 thousand less than the previous year. The number of persons employed in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector decreased by 4% down to 205.6 thousand, while observing preservation of the relative share of the sector in the employment structure by economic activities around 6.6%.

The unemployment rate increased by 0.9 percentage points compared to 2019, to 5.1%. The average annual number of unemployed persons was 168.6 thousand, 18.1% above the 2019 level.

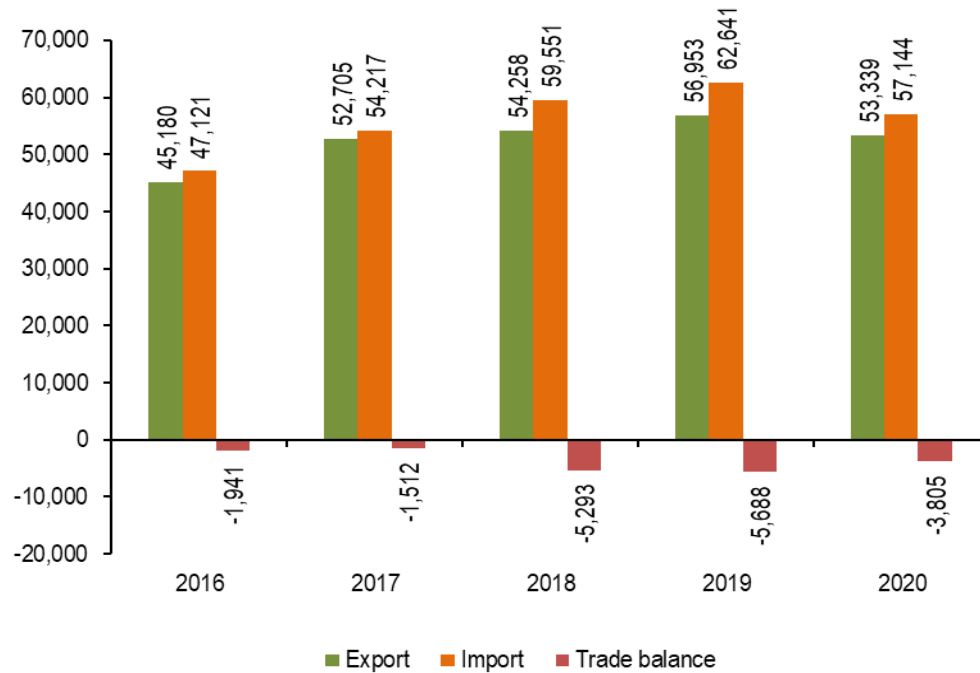
According to preliminary NSI data, in 2020 the average annual salary of employees under employment contracts was 16,642 leva, which is BGN 1,433 or 9.4% more than the previous year. In the sector of agriculture, forestry and fisheries there was a smaller increase on an annual basis - by 2.2%, up to an average of BGN 11,807 per person.

### **Export and import**

According to preliminary data of BNB on the balance of payments, in 2020 Bulgaria's exports amounted to BGN 53,339 million (EUR 27,272 million) - 6.3% below the level of the previous year, representing 44.5% of the country's GDP. A decrease by 8.8% to BGN 57,144 million (EUR 29,217 million) or 47.6% of GDP, was reported also in imports.

Due to the more significant decrease in imports compared to exports, in 2020 the negative trade balance for Bulgaria shrank to BGN 3,805 million (EUR 1,945 million), compared to a deficit of BGN 5,688 million (EUR 2,908 million) for 2019.

**Figure I.5. Export, import and trade balance for the period 2016 - 2020, BGN million**

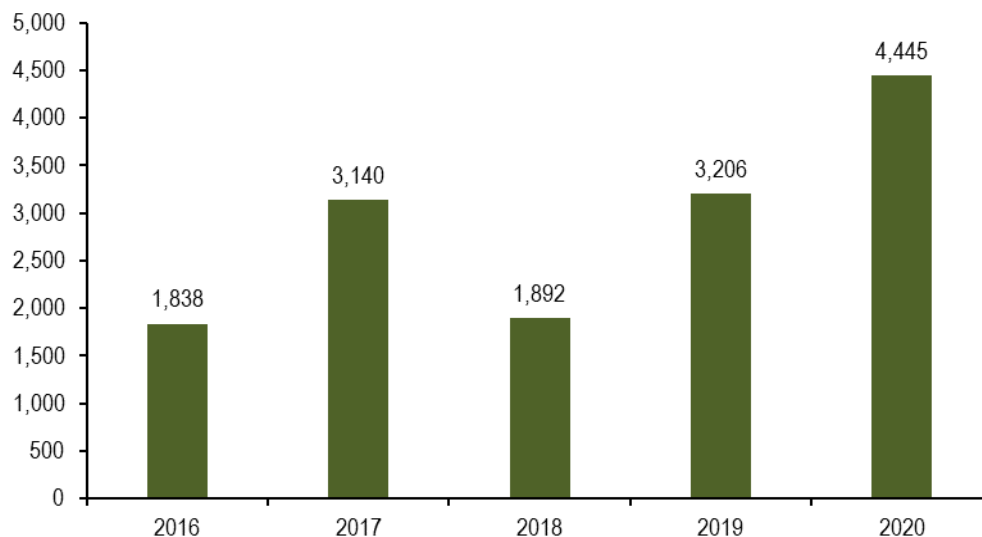


Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2020)

### **Foreign Direct Investment**

According to preliminary data of the BNB, foreign direct investment in the country in 2020 amounted to BGN 4,445 million (EUR 2,273 million), showing an increase of 38.6% on an annual basis. Direct investment during the year represented 3.7% of GDP, compared to 2.7% in 2019.

**Figure I.6. Foreign Direct Investment, 2016 - 2020, BGN million**



Source: BNB (preliminary data for 2020)

Within 2020, the largest investments were attracted in the sectors "Professional activities and research" (EUR 1,271 million), "Financial and insurance activities" (EUR 802 million), "Transport, storage and post" (EUR 160 million) and "Production and distribution of electricity and heat and gaseous fuels" (EUR 123 million). Net foreign investment in agriculture, forestry and fisheries shrank to EUR 1.8 million during the year, from EUR 34.2 million in 2019.

## II DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 2020 AND FORECASTS FOR 2021

### 1. Use of agricultural land and structures in agriculture

#### 1.1. Use of agricultural land

The area designated for agriculture in 2020 was 5,227,902 ha, which is about 47% from the territory of the country.

**Table II.1. Arable land, utilized agricultural area and land designated for agriculture for the period 2016 - 2020, ha**

OCCUPANCY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
wheat	1,215,684	1,197,768	1,237,736	1,250,478	1,203,964
barley	168,244	138,122	115,773	112,264	131,340
rye and triticale	30,909	30,639	29,767	28,163	25,875
oats	15,675	19,730	16,886	13,866	11,386
corn	468,762	461,085	478,357	641,555	642,373
other cereals	21,304	19,600	24,641	26,352	22,757
sunflower	887,845	934,715	859,910	789,604	888,200
tobacco	13,930	10,506	8,668	4,849	5,440
industrial oilseed crops	196,958	181,067	203,397	158,305	120,055
other industrial crops	55,144	58,848	46,640	57,878	65,209
potatoes	10,109	12,909	14,611	11,177	11,524
peas, beans, broad beans, lentils and other legumes	33,928	78,389	103,445	42,167	24,989
fresh vegetables	46,527	33,312	35,483	35,627	25,705
nurseries	///	///	///	///	///
annual forage crops	14,223	17,705	18,152	13,859	8,345
meadows sown with legumes and cereal grasses	108,793	117,951	118,619	124,333	127,286
fallow land	191,537	159,959	149,683	149,636	161,565
greenhouses	1,419	1,520	1,606	1,503	1,502
<b>ARABLE LAND:</b>	3,480,991	3,473,825	3,463,370	3,461,615	3,477,514
<b>Kitchen gardens</b>	15,367	15,258	14,836	14,636	14,231
Orchard	77,625	84,320	88,829	90,221	91,339
vineyards - axenic culture	52,517	53,251	53,787	53,005	51,356
mixed perennials	8,222	8,220	8,312	7,813	7,120
nurseries	2,602	2,304	2,100	1,699	1,703
<b>Total perennials:</b>	140,966	148,094	153,029	152,738	151,518
Greenhouses	///	///	///	///	///
<b>Permanent grasslands and meadows-orchards</b>	1,384,088	1,392,352	1,399,041	1,408,481	1,403,988
<b>UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA:</b>	5,021,412	5,029,529	5,030,276	5,037,470	5,047,252
<b>Non-cultivated land</b>	193,228	194,873	195,918	185,455	180,651
<b>LAND DESIGNATED FOR AGRICULTURE:</b>	5,214,640	5,224,402	5,226,194	5,222,925	5,227,902

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The **utilized agricultural area (UAA)** is formed by arable land, permanent crops, nurseries, permanent grasslands and kitchen gardens. In 2020 it amounted to 5,047,252 ha, which was 45.5% of the country's territory. Compared to the previous year, UAA increased by 0.2%.

The **arable land** includes the areas where crop rotation is applied, the temporary meadows with cereals and legumes, the fallow land and the greenhouses. In 2020, the arable land increased by 0.5% compared to the previous year, to 3,477,514 ha, which represents 68.9% of the utilized agricultural area.

**Orchards** in 2020 represented 1.8% of the UAA of the country, with the areas occupied by them being 91 339 ha or 1.2% more than the previous year.

**Vineyards - axenic culture** - in 2020 they occupied 51 356 ha, which was 3.1% less than in 2019. The share of UAA vineyards in the country was 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 minimal resources. In 2020, the non-cultivated land decreased by 2.6% on an annual basis, to 180,651 ha.

## **1.2. Use of agricultural parcels**

### **1.2.1. Land Parcel Identification System**

The Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is a main part of the Integrated Administration and Control System, on the basis of which the declaration of the areas for support takes place and the control of eligibility for payment of the declared areas is carried out. Therefore, the data in it must be as up-to-date and reliable as possible.

In 2020, the maintenance of LPIS data covers the following activities:

- Update of the digital orthophoto map (DOM) of the country based on aerial photography - 31.19% (34,618 sq. km), and in 2021 it is projected to be 33.12% (36,761.04 sq. km). The update is carried out within the framework of a contract concluded pursuant to the Public Procurement Act with reg. No RD51-54 dated 19.05.2020 for photographing and DOM preparation in the period 2020-2022, with contractor "EURO GEO SENSE 2019" DZZD;
- Update of the physical blocks as per the new DOM - borders, long-term use, layer "Areas eligible for support" according to the changes that have occurred in the use of agricultural areas and their condition;
- Carrying out field inspections, using GPS devices, to measure and survey the inspected physical blocks in which areas outside the block boundaries or outside the layer "Areas eligible for support" (13,434 physical blocks with a total area) have been declared for support 461,727.94 ha for 2020);
- 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 Directorate of the Paying Agency in the LPIS databases;
- Update of a specialized layer "Temporary grassland", used in the green payment calculations;
- Updating of a specialized layer "Environmentally friendly areas", containing landscape elements in the arable lands for the needs of green payments;
- Performing quality control of the LPIS data and preparation of 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 make administrative checks in order to determine area-related payments;
- Updating of a specialized layer "Permanent grassland" by issuing orders on individual applications.



### 1.3. Registration of farmers

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

The activity on keeping of a register of farmers covers registration of new farmers, re-registration and updating of the data for already registered ones, and deregistration of farmers upon termination of their activity.

In the 2019/2020 business year, the total number of farmers registered in the register under Ordinance No. 3/1999 was 80,905, and in the 2020/2021 business year (as of June 2021) - 76,372.

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

	2014/ 2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021*
Total number of registered farmers	97,266	98,303	96,476	93,023	88,162	80,905	76,372

Source: MAFF, LPIS

\* Data as of June 2021

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

#### 1.4.1. Provision of SLF own terrains SLF for rent or lease

Agricultural lands from the SLF are provided for lease and rent following a tender procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act (ALOUA) and the Rules for implementation of the ALOUA. As of 2020, the total amount of agricultural properties provided for rent or lease by the SLF to individuals and legal entities amounted to 113,682 ha.

In 2020, based on the provisions of Art. 24a, para. 1 of the ALOUA and Art. 47b, para. 1 of the RIALOUA, tenders were held for renting and leasing of available agricultural lands from the SLF in the country for business year 2020/2021 business year. Of the announced 53,534 ha of available agricultural land, 20,346 ha were contracted, and a total of 1,121 lease/rental agreements were concluded.

#### 1.4.2. Distribution of pastures, grasslands and meadows, part of a state and municipal land fund pursuant to art. 37 and the ALOUA

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

The areas of the Municipal Land Fund (MLF) designated for the business year 2020/2021 were 111,841 ha for general use and 308,169 ha for individual use, the submitted applications for distribution were 5,397 for 110,887 ha, 58,405 ha of which were allocated for total use and 95,700 ha of which were allocated for individual use -pastures, grasslands and meadows. The pastures, grasslands and meadows of the SLF announced by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry amounted to 29,050 ha, 240 applications were submitted for 17,740 ha, and 3,468 ha were allocated. The concluded contracts for use, after distribution of OPF, are 3 092 pieces for 50 199 ha, for VPF - 75 pieces for 1 847 ha. The conducted tender procedures and concluded one-year lease contracts for lease of properties from MLF are 535 for 9 486 ha, for SLF - 204 for 6 574 ha.

#### 1.4.3. Establishment of limited rights in rem in SLF lands

In 2020, more than 75 requests from mayors of municipalities, legal entities and individuals were considered in relation to investment intentions for construction or expansion of site and/or linear sites affecting lands owned by the SLF, were considered. Pursuant to Art. 24c of the ALOUA, 27 preliminary consents were

prepared for assigning the elaboration of a detailed development plan for the design of sites and routes in connection with the construction of water supply and sewage networks, routes of power lines and elements of the technical infrastructure.

12 contracts for establishment of limited rights in rem in lands from the state land fund were concluded on the grounds of art. 24, para. 1 of the ALOUA, Art. 47, para. 20 and para. 21 of the RIALOUA.

### 1.5. Consolidation of agricultural land

Procedures for consolidation of agricultural lands started in 15 lands on the territory of the country - Nikolaevo village, Pleven municipality, Pleven province; Suhindol village, Suhindol municipality, Veliko Tarnovo province; Fakia village, Sredets municipality, Burgas province; Asenovo village, Strazhitsa municipality, Veliko Tarnovo province; Lenkovo village, Gulyantsi municipality, Pleven province; Ugyrchin town, Ugyrchin municipality, Lovech province; Radyuvene village, Lovech municipality, Lovech province; Dolno Yabalkovo village, Sredets municipality, Burgas province; Gorno Ablanovo village, Borovo municipality, Ruse province; The village of Gorsko Slivovo, Letnitsa municipality, Lovech province; Zhrebino village, Elhovo municipality, Yambol province; Lalkovo village, Elhovo municipality, Yambol province; Markovo village, Kaspichan municipality, Shumen province; Strazhitsa town, Strazhitsa municipality, Veliko Tarnovo province; Strelets village, Gorna Oryahovitsa municipality, Veliko Tarnovo province, with applications covering about 10,000 ha.

### 1.6. Agricultural Land Protection Activities

In 2020, the Agricultural Land Commission considered a total of 790 proposals for changing the designation of agricultural land, issuing decisions for a total area of 562 ha.

The commissions of the Regional Directorates of Agriculture considered a total of 959 proposals for changing the designation of agricultural land, and decisions have been made for an area of 281 ha.

In 2020, 430 ha of new areas were allocated for reclamation. No reclaimed land was accepted to be added to lands for agricultural use.

## 2. Economic and Production results in 2020 and forecast data for 2021

### 2.1. Economic Accounts for Agriculture for 2020

**Table II.3. Main economic indicators for agriculture for the period 2018 - 2020, BGN million**

	Indicators	2018	Change 2019/2018%	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
1	Value of crop and livestock production (at producer prices *), including:	7,460.60	2.2%	7,628.00	-6.5%	7,131.90
1.1.	Crop production	5,642.00	2.1%	5,760.90	-9.5%	5,212.30
1.2.	Livestock production	1,818.60	2.7%	1,867.10	2.8%	1,919.60
2	Agricultural services	501.70	-1.9%	492.20	-6.1%	462.00
3	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	192.70	3.2%	198.90	2.6%	204.10
4	Value of gross production from the Agriculture sector (at producer prices *) (line 4 = line 1.1 + line 1.2 + line 2 + line 3)	8,155.00	2.0%	8,319.10	-6.3%	7,798.00
5	Value of final production from the Agriculture sector (at basic prices **)	8,182.80	0.6%	8,234.80	-4.5%	7,866.10

	Indicators	2018	Change 2019/2018%	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
6	Intermediate consumption (excluding internal turnover)	4,794.20	-0.4%	4,777.40	-6.9%	4,446.60
7	Gross value added at basic prices	3,388.60	2.0%	3,457.40	-1.1%	3,419.50

**Source:** NSI data processed by the MAFF

\* *Producer prices - prices not including subsidies on products*

\*\* *Basic prices - prices including subsidies on products*

### 2.1.1. Value of gross production of the Agriculture sector

The value of the gross production of the Agriculture sector for 2020 at current producer prices (according to final data) amounted to BGN 7,798.00 million, showing a decrease of 6.3% compared to the previous year. It is formed by the value of:

- Crop production - BGN 5,212.30 million (with a share of 66.8%);
- Livestock production - BGN 1,919.60 million (with a share of 24.6%);
- Agricultural services - BGN 462.00 million (with a share of 5.9%);
- Production from inseparable secondary activities - BGN 204.10 million (with a share of 2.6%).

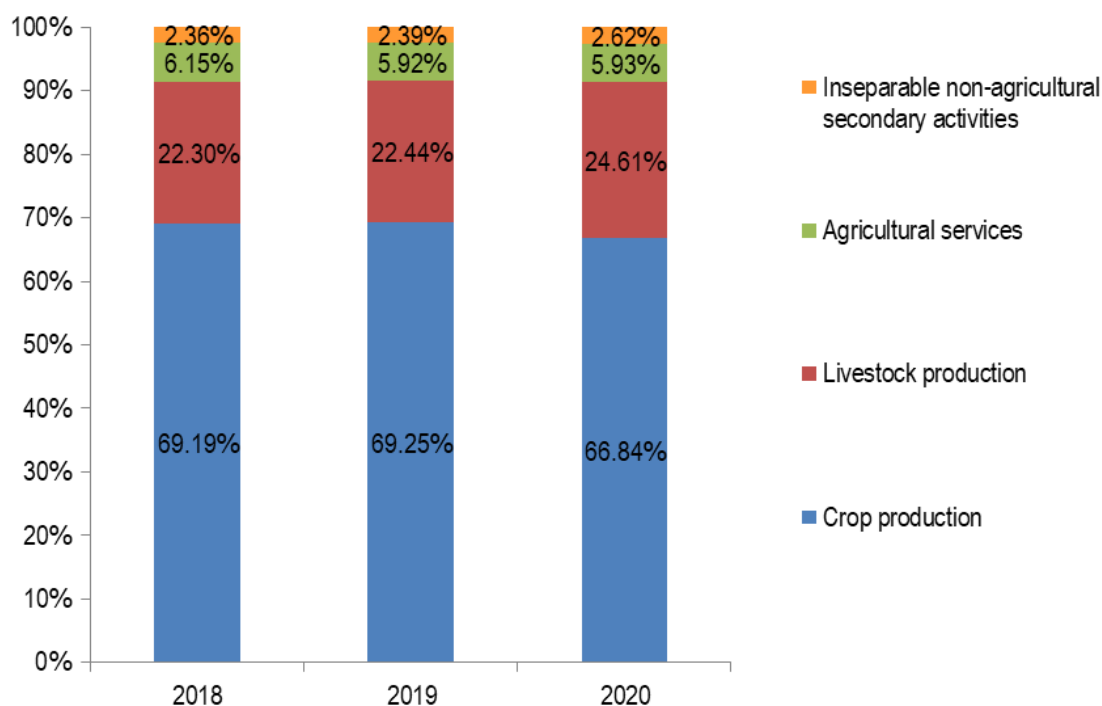
The decrease in the value of gross production in the sector resulted from the decrease in the production of the Crop production subsector (by BGN 548.6 million or by 9.5% compared to the previous year). A decrease was also observed in the provided agricultural services (by BGN 30.2 million or by 6.1% on annual basis).

Most of the main divisions of the crop production subsector showed shrinking of the production value compared to the previous 2019 - grain production (by BGN 459.6 million or 14.6%), vegetable production, incl. potatoes (by BGN 73.4 million or 15.3%) and technical crops (by BGN 10.4 million or 0.6%). In almost all subdivisions of industrial crops there was a decrease (in rapeseed by BGN 93.8 million or 32.6%, in protein crops by BGN 18.1 million or 47.9%, in tobacco by BGN 10.9 million. BGN or 33.5%). An exception is the sunflower, where there is an increase (by BGN 126.7 million or 11.3%). In 2020, a positive development was registered in fruit production (increase in the value of production by BGN 7.7 million or 2.6%).

Gross production of the Livestock subsector increased by 2.8% (by BGN 52.5 million) on annual basis, with an increase in value in almost all subsectors (cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, milk production). A drop is observed only in the production of poultry and eggs and other livestock products.

The total amount of agricultural products sold (crop and livestock products) in 2020 amounted to BGN 6,393.1 million or 82.0% of the gross production of the Agriculture sector (Annex 1). The crop production sold during the year amounted to BGN 4,835.2 million (62.0% of the gross production), and the sold livestock production - amounted to BGN 1,557.9 million (20.0% of the gross production). Outside the sector, crop and livestock production were sold for BGN 5,914.8 million (including export), and within sales between agricultural enterprises - for BGN 478.3 million.

**Figure II.1. Structure of the value of gross production from the Agriculture sector for the period 2018 - 2020, %**



Source: MAFF calculations based on NSI data

The agricultural units used for production purposes agricultural products (seeds, planting material, fodder, etc.) produced during the year in the amount of BGN 387.7 million (5.0% of gross production).

Agricultural products, - mainly agricultural products processed on the farm, amounting to BGN 282.4 million (3.6% of gross production) were used for own needs on the farms.

Produced goods - fixed capital (production of productive animals/livestock) for own needs amounted to BGN 156.8 million (2.0% of gross production).

### 2.1.2. Final Production Value

According to final data, the value of final production from agriculture (value of production after deducting internal turnover) at basic prices (prices including subsidies by products) for 2020 amounted to BGN 7,866.1 million and showed a drop of 4, 5% (by BGN 368.7 million) compared to the previous year (Appendices 4 and 5).

The structure of the final production in agriculture for 2020 preserved the formed ratios between the branches of the sector, outlined in terms of the gross production value. And in the final production the relative share of the crop production is the largest - 66.6%. For 2020, the relative share of livestock production was 24.9%, of agricultural services - 5.9% and of the production of inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities - 2.6%.

Cereals and oilseed crops remain with the largest share in the final production value in the sector. The two groups of crops together (respectively cereals - amounting to BGN 2,608.5 million and oilseed crops - BGN 1,444.0 million) account for more than half (51.5%) of the value of production in the Agriculture sector in 2020.

The following crop products had the greatest contribution to the formation of the final production in the sector in 2020 have:

- Soft wheat - a share of 18.7% with BGN 1,474.6 million.

The production value decreased by 11.5% compared to the previous year, due to the significant decrease in physical volume by 19.9%, despite the rising prices (by 10.5%).

- Sunflower - a share of 15.8% with BGN 1,244.7 million.

The physical volume of sunflower production decreased by 9.8% on annual basis. In terms of value, the subdivision showed a growth of 11.3%, influenced by the significant increase in prices by 23.4% compared to the previous year.

- Grain maize - a share of 11.4% with BGN 893.7 million.

In the case of grain maize, there was a decrease in the final production value by 13.2%, due to the decrease in physical volume on annual basis by 21.1%, despite the increase in prices (by 10.1%).

- Rapeseed and colza - share of 2.5% with BGN 193.5 million

The value of production in this area of production decreased significantly - by 32.6% compared to the previous year, as a result of shrinking production by 36.2%, which could not be offset by the rising prices (by 5.6%).

In 2020, the Fruits and Vegetables (including potato production and vineyards) sector generated production amounting to BGN 790.4 million, 6.6% less than the previous year. The sector forms a share of 10.0% in the final production value. The production of vegetables (including potatoes) amounted to BGN 446.9 million (share of 5.7% in the value of the final production), and of fruits - in the amount of BGN 343.5 million (share of 4.4%). The final production from the Fruits subsector increased by 3.0% in value, while the Vegetables subsector (including potatoes) decreased by 12.7%.

As for fruits, there was shrinking of the physical volume in all production subdivisions, incl. and wine grapes. However, this was accompanied by an increase in prices, which lead to a positive change in the value of production on annual basis. As for vegetables in general, there was a slight increase in prices, which could not offset the drop in production in the formation of the final production value in the subsector.

The final production of the Livestock subsector for 2020 amounted to BGN 1,962.0 million. There was an increase of BGN 51.9 million (or 2.7% compared to the previous year), due to the growth of the physical volume of production.

The divisions of the livestock subsector with the largest contribution to the total value of final production from the Agriculture sector in 2020 were:

- Milk production - share of 9.3% with BGN 733.6 million.

In milk production there was an annual increase of 6.8% in value - resulting from the growth of the physical volume by 6.5%.

- Pig farming - a share of 4.1% with BGN 319.4 million.

The pig farming production value increased by 5.1% on annual basis, under the influence of higher prices (by 6.5%). The physical volume reached almost the same level as the previous year;

- Birds - share of 3.6% with BGN 279.3 million (decrease of 0.5%).

In poultry farming there was a slight fluctuation in the physical volume (downward) and the prices (upward) compared to the previous year. As a result, the production decreased by 0.5% in value.

- Sheep and goat farming - share of 2.5% with BGN 200.5 million

The physical volume of the production from the subsector remained at the level of the previous year. Prices decreased by almost 5%, which led to a drop in production in terms of value by 5.2% on annual basis.

- Cattle breeding - share of 2.4% with BGN 189.0 million.

For 2020, the subsector registered a growth of 13.2% on annual basis, as a result of an increase in both physical volume (by 9.9%) and prices (by 2.9%).

- Egg production - share of 2.2% by BGN 176.7 million (decrease of 2.9%).

The physical volume of production remained at the level of the previous year. In terms of value, there was a decrease of 2.9% in this sub-area of production compared to the previous year as a result of lower prices (by 3%).

### 2.1.3. Intermediate consumption

The intermediate consumption used to generate the final production in the sector in 2020 amounted to BGN 4,446.6 million, showing a decrease by 6.9% on annual basis (Appendices 3 and 4).

The largest share in its structure is occupied by the costs for fodder - 20.7% (BGN 918.4 million), followed by the costs for fuels and oils - 20.4% (BGN 907.5 million), agricultural services - 10, 4% (BGN 462.0 million), the costs for fertilizers and soil improvers - 10.2% (BGN 455.0 million), the costs for maintenance and repair of machinery and small inventory - 7.6% (338, BGN 1 million).

There is an increase in the consumption of seeds and planting material by BGN 11.7 million (by 5.7%) and the costs for maintenance and repair of machinery and small equipment (by 2.8%).

The other components of intermediate consumption registered a decrease compared to 2019.

The most significant is the decrease in the consumption of fuels and oils - by 14.6% (BGN 155.3 million), fodder - by 8.5% (BGN 85.1 million), agricultural services - by 6.1% (BGN 30.2 million), plant protection products and pesticides - by 4.2% (BGN 13.9 million).

In 2020, intermediate consumption represented 56.5% of the production value, or 100 final production units were created with the use of 56.5 intermediate consumption units.

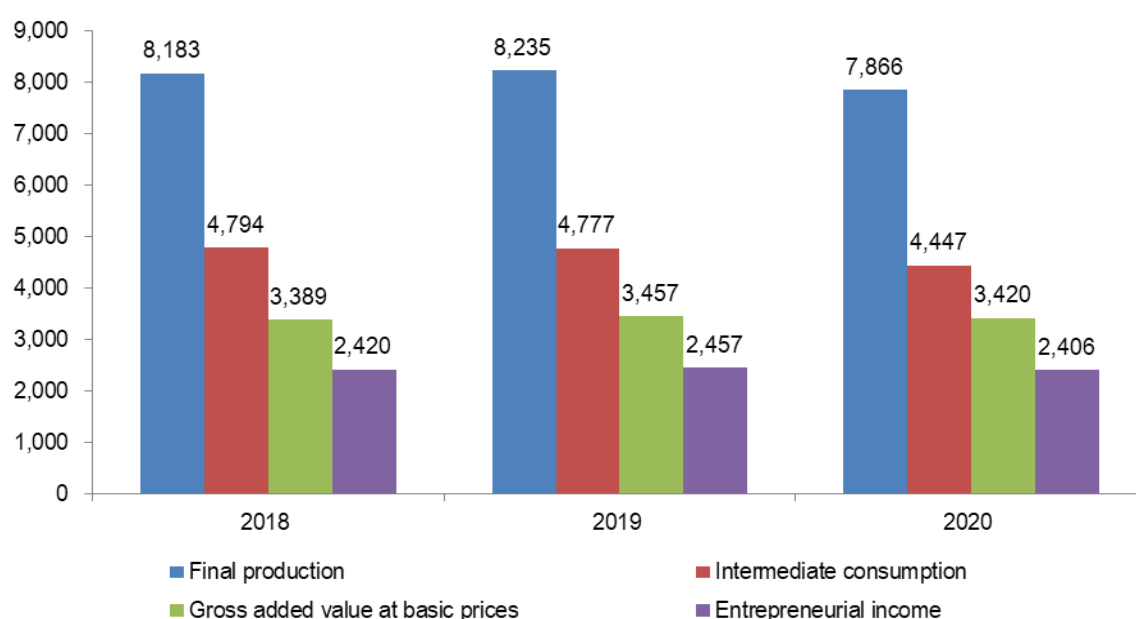
### 2.1.4. Gross value added

The gross value added created in the agriculture in 2020 amounted to BGN 3,419.5 million (at basic prices), decreasing by 1.1% (by BGN 37.9 million) on annual basis (Annexes 4 and 5).

### 2.1.5. Entrepreneurial income

For 2020, the entrepreneurial income in the sector amounted to BGN 2,405.7 million - by 2.1% below the level of the previous year (Annex 4).

**Figure II.2. Basic economic indicators for the Agriculture sector for the period 2018 - 2020, BGN million**



Source: NSI

## 2.2. Plant Growing Production Results

The reporting year 2020 is characterized by dynamic agro-climatic conditions.

In the winter months and the beginning of spring 2020, there were periods of low temperatures, followed by rising temperatures, combined with scarce rainfall in northeastern Bulgaria. The lack of precipitation in combination with high daytime temperatures in some areas led to deepening of the soil moisture deficit. This had an adverse impact on the wheat development - yellowing and drying of the leaf mass, flagellum leaf torsion, formation of fewer fruit flowers in the inflorescence, etc. In early spring in some fields there were conditions for frost formation. Serious damage to fruit species (apricots, cherries, plums, etc.) in the flowering phase has been reported.

The hailstorms, accompanied by heavy rains, caused severe damage to agricultural crops in May and June.

Excessive temperatures and deepening drought in July and August in northeastern Bulgaria were the reason for poorly grained and sterile maize cobs and premature drying of the leaf mass in the lower parts of plants. Some of the maize crops were ensiled before completing the reproductive stage of their development. In the eastern regions, the precipitation, with few exceptions, was of no economic significance.

In September, the agrometeorological conditions in Western Bulgaria differed significantly from those in the eastern regions of the country. In Eastern Bulgaria they were characterized by excessive temperatures and lower precipitation. In the first ten days of September, precipitation of economic importance was reported in the western half of the country. They had a beneficial effect on second crops and late maize hybrids.

In October, the agrometeorological conditions were characterized by temperatures above the norm and precipitation in most of the agrarian regions above the climatic norms for the month. The fallen rains in most of the field regions improved the conditions for the initial phases of the vegetation of winter cereals and rapeseed.

In 2020, damage to agricultural crops caused by the following adverse climatic conditions was reported: freezing/frosting/frost, pelting/ torrential rain, continuous rain/flood, hail and drought (dry spells).

### 2.2.1. Grain production

In 2020 as a whole there was a decrease in the production of the main cereals in the country compared to the previous year, with the exception of barley. Lower average yields were reported for all cereals except triticale.

**Table II.4. Grain production in 2019 and 2020 harvest years**

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes / ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2019	2020	Amend. 2020/2019	2019	2020	Amend. 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Wheat	1,198,682	1,200,175	0.1%	5.14	3.93	-23.7%	6,161,997	4,710,993	-23.5%
Rye	6,097	5,352	-12.2%	1.93	1.84	-5.1%	11,793	9,823	-16.7%
Triticale	15,199	13,559	-10.8%	2.84	2.95	4.0%	43,173	40,049	-7.2%
Barley	112,029	130,757	16.7%	4.89	4.20	-14.0%	547,244	549,079	0.3%
Oat	12,153	13,397	10.2%	2.51	2.27	-9.6%	30,518	30,426	-0.3%
Grain maize	560,911	581,532	3.7%	7.11	5.11	-28.2%	3,990,190	2,969,210	-25.6%
Rice	11,822	12,349	4.5%	6.04	5.72	-5.4%	71,415	70,597	-1.1%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

## **Wheat**

Wheat production in 2020 amounted to 4,711 thousand tonnes - a decrease of 23.5% compared to 2019, due to unfavorable climatic conditions in the process of crop development, which led to a decrease in average yield (with 23.7%).

The areas sown with wheat in 2020 were 1 207 994 ha - 0.5% more on an annual basis, of which 1 200 175 ha were harvested.

The relative share of the harvested areas with wheat from the total harvested areas with cereals is 61%. The largest share of wheat is in the North-East region - 22.2%, followed by the North-West region with 22%.

According to data from BSMAEC survey of the Agrostistics Department, in 2020 wheat-on-wheat is grown on 6.5% of the area, compared to 7.5% in 2019. A good crop rotation was performed on about 93% of the area with wheat harvest in 2020. After root crops, 74.3% of the areas were sown with wheat, compared to 67.8% in the previous year. The wheat crop rotation in 2020 includes 1.7% of fallow land.

## **Rye and triticale**

The rye grain produced in 2020 was 16.7% below the level of the previous year, as a result of a decrease in both the harvested area (by 12.2%) and the average yield (by 5.1%).

Triticale production shrank by 7.2% compared to 2019, as the reported higher average yield (by 4%) partially offset the negative effect of the reduction in harvested areas (by 10.8%).

Most harvested areas with rye and triticale are observed in the South Central region - respectively 1,997 ha of rye and 5,513 ha of triticale.

## **Barley**

In 2020, the country produced 549.1 thousand tonnes of barley. This represents a slight increase of 0.3% on an annual basis, with harvested areas increasing by 16.7% but the average yields decreased by 14%.

The largest area of barley during the year was in the Southeast region (26.9% of the total harvested area in the country), followed by the Northeast region (19.9%).

In view of crop sequence, a good crop rotation was performed on 75.1% of the areas with barley in 2020. The share of sunflower is the highest again - 40.3%. After root crops, 55.3% of the areas were sown with barley, and the fallow lands included in the crop rotation of barley were 2.3%.

## **Oat**

Despite the increase in harvested areas by just over 10%, oat production was 0.3% below the level of the previous 2019, due to the lower yields per hectare.

Most areas with oat were harvested in the Southwest region (30.9% of the total harvested area in the country).

## **Grain maize**

In 2020, grain maize production decreased by 25.6% compared to the previous year, to 2,969.2 thousand tonnes. This is due to a decrease in the average yield by 28.2% as a result of the permanent drought in the main production areas.

The areas sown with maize for grain in 2020 were 586,933 ha, which is 4.4% above the level of 2019. Of these, 581,532 ha were harvested - 3.7% more on an annual basis.

The Northwestern region (34.7%) has the largest share in the total harvested areas of maize during the year, followed by the North-Central region (31.5%) and the North-East region (26.5%).

As in previous years, maize has the largest share of wheat precursor - 53.5%. The share of barley included in the maize crop rotation is 3.6%.



## Rice

In 2020, the country produced 70.6 thousand tonnes of rice husk - 1.1% less on an annual basis. There was an increase in harvested areas by 4.5%, while the average yield decreased by 5.4%.

### 2.2.2. Oilseed crops

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

**Table II.5. Production of oilseed crops in 2019 and 2020 harvest years**

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes / ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Sunflower	815,561	821,922	0.8%	2.35	2.09	-10.8%	1,914,072	1,720,299	-10.1%
Rapeseed	151,174	119,137	-21.2%	2.83	2.32	-18.0%	428,256	276,846	-35.4%

*Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department*

### Sunflower

Sunflower production in 2020 amounted to 1,720.3 thousand tonnes. The amount is 10.1% below the level of the previous year, which is due to a decrease in the average yield by 10.8%.

The areas sown with sunflower during the year were 824 244 ha, of which 821 922 ha were harvested, respectively 0.9% and 0.8% more compared to 2019.

The areas with sunflower in the North-West region represent 26.3% of the total harvested areas in the country in 2020, followed by the North-East region with 22.6%.

The share of sunflower located on wheat precursor is the largest - 69.3%. Barley included in the sunflower crop rotation in 2020 was 5.7%.

### Rapeseed

In 2020, oilseed rape production shrank by 35.4% on an annual basis, to 276.8 thousand tonnes, as a result of a decrease both in the harvested areas (by 21.2%) and the average yield (by 18%).

The most harvested areas with rapeseed during the year were in the Southeast region (52.4% of the total harvested areas in the country).

### 2.2.3. Grain market monitoring

In 2020 there was an increase in the total grain storage capacity in Bulgaria.

During the year the Register of grain storage sites in the country was updated, as 70 new grain storage sites were entered, 69 circumstances of the registered sites were changed and 12 were deleted. As of 31.12.2020 the total number of active grain storage sites was 4,118, with a capacity of 16,639,943 tonnes.

### 2.2.4. Quality grading of harvest 2020

In order to perform representative qualification of wheat, barley, sunflower, maize and rice harp of the 2020 harvest, 3,168 samples of 3,609,105 tonnes were taken and analyzed, which is 39.6% of the obtained quantity and meets the criteria for representativeness of the qualification.

### Wheat quality in 2020 harvest

The final quality results show that 55.9% of the wheat produced in 2020 has milling and baking qualities that meet the requirements of traders and processors.

The allocation of grain in groups is as follows:

- First group - 5.6%, compared to 2.1% in 2019;
- Second group - 11.6%, compared to 8.5% in 2019;
- Second B group - 38.7%, compared to 46% in 2019;
- Third group - 43.8%, compared to 40.3% in 2019.

The average values of the main indicators that determine the quality characteristics of the grain from the 2020 harvest for the country are:

- moisture content:  $11.4\% \pm 0.5\%$ , compared to  $11.7\% \pm 0.6\%$  in 2019;
- hectolitre mass:  $75.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 3.20 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$ , at  $74.2 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.57 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$  for 2019;
- wet gluten yield:  $26.3\% \pm 4.6\%$ , compared to  $25\% \pm 3\%$  in 2019;
- gluten release:  $7.5 \text{ mm} \pm 1.7 \text{ mm}$ , at  $7.6 \text{ mm} \pm 1.6 \text{ mm}$  for 2019;
- baking strength:  $58.5 \text{ cond. units} \pm 6.9 \text{ cond. units}$ , at  $54.8 \text{ cond. units} \pm 5.8 \text{ cond. units}$  for 2019;
- protein content:  $13.1\% \text{ v.c.} \pm 1.8\% \text{ v.c.}$ , at  $12.5\% \text{ v.c.} \pm 1.2\% \text{ v.c.}$  for 2019;
- falling number:  $348.7 \text{ sec.} \pm 46.9 \text{ sec.}$ , At  $355.9 \text{ sec.} \pm 50.4 \text{ sec.}$  for 2019.

#### **Barley quality in 2020 harvest**

According to the final results obtained, 63.1% of the barley harvested in 2020 was brewed and 36.9% - feed (compared to 53.9% and 46.1% in 2019, respectively).

The average values of the main quality indicators of barley harvest 2020 were as follows:

- protein content:  $12\% \pm 0\%$ , compared to  $12.2\% \pm 1.3\%$  in 2019;
- hectolitre mass:  $62.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 2.3 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$ , compared to  $62.1 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 3.3 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$  for 2019;
- equality of batches:  $82.8\% \pm 7.7\%$ , compared to  $85.5\% \pm 12.3\%$  in 2019;
- humidity:  $11.8\% \pm 0.5\%$ , compared to  $12.2\% \pm 1\%$  in 2019;
- crop impurities:  $1.6\% \pm 1.3\%$ , compared to  $1.6\% \pm 1.2\%$  in 2019;
- other impurities:  $1.1\% \pm 1\%$ , compared to  $1.1\% \pm 1.6\%$  in 2019.

#### **Sunflower quality in 2020 harvest**

The final results show that 58.8% of the analyzed samples meet the requirements of the sunflower seed quality standard, compared to 70.5% in the previous year.

In 2020, the share of the sunflower batch with high technological qualities was high. Taking into consideration that in case of deviation from the basic norms it is mandatory to make refractive adjustment in case of impurities, and respectively allowance in case of moisture, the obtained results show that 78.6% of the analyzed sunflower grain meet the requirements of the fat content standard, at 95.1% in 2019.

The average values of the main quality indicators of sunflower harvest 2020 are:

- moisture content:  $6\% \pm 0.4\%$ , compared to  $5.8\% \pm 0.4\%$  in 2019;
- fat content:  $43.3\% \pm 2.4\%$ , compared to  $46\% \pm 2\%$  in 2019;
- crop impurities:  $1.3\% \pm 0.6\%$ , compared to  $1.4\% \pm 0.8\%$  in 2019;
- other impurities:  $3.9\% \pm 2\%$ , compared to  $3.3\% \pm 1.5\%$  in 2019.

### **Maize quality in 2020 harvest**

The final results show that 88.9% of the analyzed batch meets the requirements of the maize grain quality standard in terms of moisture and impurities, compared to 95.2% in 2019.

A total of 50.4% of the analyzed amount of maize grain meet the criteria for starch content and the minimum limits laid down in the standard for moisture content and impurity content, compared to 66.5% in 2019.

The average values of the main quality indicators of maize harvest 2020 are:

- moisture:  $12.3\% \pm 0.7\%$ , compared to  $12.1\% \pm 0.7\%$  in 2019;
- crop impurities:  $3.0\% \pm 1.2\%$ , compared to  $3.6\% \pm 1.7\%$  in 2019;
- other impurities:  $1\% \pm 0.4\%$ , compared to  $0.7\% \pm 0.3\%$  in 2019;
- starch content:  $72.2\% \pm 0.7\%$ , compared to  $72.2\% \pm 0.6\%$  in 2019;
- hectolitre mass:  $71.7 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 1.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$ , compared to  $72.6 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 1.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$  in 2019.

### **Rice husk quality in 2020 harvest**

The average values of the main quality indicators of rice husk harvest 2020 are:

- moisture:  $12.9\% \pm 1.1\%$ , compared to  $12.7\% \pm 0.5\%$  in 2019;
- crop impurities:  $1.2\% \pm 0.7\%$ , compared to  $0.3\% \pm 0.2\%$  in 2019;
- other impurities:  $0.8\% \pm 0.6\%$ , compared to  $0.6\% \pm 0.4\%$  in 2019;
- red grains:  $0.4\% \pm 0.5\%$ , compared to  $0.2\% \pm 0.3\%$  in 2019;
- yellowed grains - no as in 2019, 2018 and 2017, at  $0.3\% \pm 0.1\%$  in 2016;
- bare grains:  $1.1\% \pm 0.6\%$ , compared to  $2.7\% \pm 1.6\%$  in 2019;
- hectolitre mass:  $57.8 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 1.9 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$ , at  $59.0 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3 \pm 1.6 \text{ kg} / 100 \text{ dm}^3$  in 2019.

## **2.2.5. Industrial Crops**

### **Tobacco**

Tobacco production in 2020 amounted to 5,443 tonnes - 16% less than in 2019, due to a decrease both in the harvested areas (by 9.9%) and the average yield (by 6.8%).

### **Cotton**

The total amount of fiber cotton harvested in 2020 decreased by 19.2% on an annual basis, to 2,503 tonnes. The harvested areas amounted to 3,280 ha - 5.2% less than in 2019. There was a decrease in the average yield - by 14.7%, to 763 kg/ha.

### **Fiber hemp**

In 2020, the areas sown with fiber hemp in the country were 679 ha. 1,650 tonnes of fiber were produced, with an average yield of 2,692 kg/ha.

## **2.2.6. Medicinal and aromatic plants**

In 2020, the areas occupied by basic medicinal, aromatic and essential oil plants, such as Damask rose (rose flower), lavender (fresh flower), balm (dry mass), coriander (seed), fennel (seed), milk thistle (seed), etc., amounted to 57,983 ha, which is 7.4% more than in 2019. Harvested areas with these crops amounted to 53,140 ha, 14.8% above the level of the previous year.

The areas planted with oil-bearing roses during the year amounted to 5,087 ha, of which 4,807 ha were harvested (respectively 3% and 5.3% more on an annual basis). With 4.1% higher average yield, the production of rose flowers increased by 9.6% compared to the previous 2019, to 14,587 tonnes.

The quantity of lavender flowers harvested in 2020 increased by 18.3% on an annual basis to 61,157 tonnes. This was due to an increase in the harvested areas by 38.4%, while the average yield decreased (by 15.5%).

**Table II.6. Production of basic essential oil crops from harvests `2019 and` 2020**

Crop	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (tonnes / ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Lavender	13,693	18,949	38.4%	3.77	3.23	-14.5%	51,681	61,157	18.3%
Oil-bearing rose	4,563	4,807	5.3%	2.92	3.04	4.1%	13,306	14,587	9.6%
Lemon balm	1,367	658	-51.9%	2.78	2.51	-9.7%	3,805	1,653	-56.6%
Coriander	18,202	21,589	18.6%	1.10	0.95	-13.1%	19,975	20,579	3.0%
Fennel	4,061	2,775	-31.7%	0.62	0.56	-10.4%	2,533	1,550	-38.8%

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2020, coriander production reached 20,579 tonnes - 3% above the level of 2019. Harvested areas were nearly 19% more than the previous year, and the average yield - 13.1% lower.

A significant reduction of the areas with lemon balm compared to 2019 - by 46.9% of the sown areas and by 51.9% of the harvested areas, was reported. Combined with a 9.7% lower average yield, this led to a reduction in production by 56.6% on an annual basis, to 1,653 tonnes.

The harvested production of fennel in 2020 amounted to 1,550 tonnes - 38.8% less than the previous year, with a decrease both in the harvested areas and the average yield.

### 2.2.7. Fruits

In 2020, 202,579 tonnes of fruit were produced on agricultural holdings - 13.6% less on an annual basis. Compared to 2019, an increase was reported in the production of hazelnuts - by 96.7%, cultivated rose hips - by 31.4% and plums and cherry plums - by 6.8%. The production of other observed fruits decreased by between 1.8% (walnuts) and 53% (apricots).

The South-East and South-Central regions, forming respectively 26.9% and 26.8% of the total production for 2020, occupied the leading position in the fruit production. The production of peaches (66.7%) and cherries (40, 3%) was concentrated in the South-East region while the largest amount of apples (38.2%), plums and cherry plums (30.4%) and cherries (28.6%) was produced in the South-Central region. 72.1% of the apricots for the country were produced in the North Central region, and 35.8% of the raspberries were produced in the Northeast region.

The largest relative share of the total fruit production in 2020 was occupied by plums and cherry plums - 29.6%, followed by cherries - 25.8%, apples - 18.7% and peaches and nectarines - 10.2%.

The total area planted with pome and stone fruits, nut crops and berry plants in the country in 2020 were 64,915 ha, which is 11.5% below the level of 2019. Of these, 41,385 ha were harvested - 3.5% less on an annual basis. The largest share in the total harvested areas was occupied by cherries - 25.7%, followed by plums and cherry plums - 20.7%. In 2020 there was an increase in the harvested areas with hazelnuts, plums and cherry plums, walnuts and cultivated rose hips - by between 5.3% and 25.5%. A decrease in the range from 1.9% for cherries to 36.8% for apricots was registered for all other monitored crops. About 15.3% of the fruit-bearing areas with fruit species were not harvested due to climatic and other reasons.

**Table II.7. Fruit production in 2019 and 2020 harvest years**

Fruit crops	Harvested areas (ha)			Average yield (kg/ha)			Production (tonnes)		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Apples	4,142	3,555	-14.2%	10,532	10,654	1.2%	43,622	37,874	-13.2%
Pears	696	503	-27.7%	7,795	5,626	-27.8%	5,425	2,830	-47.8%
Peaches and nectarines	3,214	2,775	-13.7%	10,541	7,474	-29.1%	33,878	20,740	-38.8%
Apricots	2,910	1,838	-36.8%	6,957	5,177	-25.6%	20,244	9,516	-53.0%
Plums and cherry plums	8,017	8,573	6.9%	7,009	7,002	-0.1%	56,192	60,024	6.8%
Cherries	10,837	10,631	-1.9%	5,072	4,922	-3.0%	54,960	52,326	-4.8%
Sour cherries	1,328	1,101	-17.1%	3,875	4,368	12.7%	5,146	4,809	-6.5%
Walnuts	6,365	7,097	11.5%	760	669	-12.0%	4,838	4,750	-1.8%
Almonds	1,006	928	-7.8%	718	510	-29.0%	722	473	-34.5%
Hazelnuts	1,270	1,337	5.3%	339	633	86.7%	430	846	96.7%
Raspberries	2,192	1,829	-16.6%	3,253	3,372	3.7%	7,131	6,167	-13.5%
Cultivated rose hips	557	699	25.5%	1,512	1,582	4.6%	842	1,106	31.4%
Other fruit species	367	519	41.4%	-	-	-	1,159	1,118	-3.5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>42,901</b>	<b>41,385</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>234,589</b>	<b>202,579</b>	<b>-13.6%</b>

**Source:** MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The areas with non-fruiting orchards grown on farms in 2020 were 13,092 ha. The largest relative share of them was occupied by walnuts - 46.9%, followed by plums and cherry plums - 14.7% and hazelnuts - 13.2%.

53% of the newly planted crops in the business year 2019/2020 were nut species, 38% - stone species and 9% - pome fruits and other species. From the nut species, the share of walnuts (51.3%) was the largest, followed by almonds (29.2%), and from the stone fruits – the share of plums (50.3%) and cherries (29.7%).

Compared to the previous 2019, the average yield of hazelnuts increased by 86.7%, and that of apples, raspberries, cultivated rose hips and cherries - by between 1.2% and 12.7%. At the same time, for the other main fruits there was a decrease in the average yields from 0.1% for plums and cherry plums to 29.1% for peaches and nectarines.

A total of 97.2% of the produced fruits - harvest 2020 were sold. 39.5% of the fruits were directed to the trade network, 34.9% to the processing industry and 1.8% for own consumption. About 23.8% of the production was designated for direct retail sales, allocated as rent and other payments in kind or exported from the country.

## 2.2.8. Vegetables

In 2020, the main areas used for vegetable production on agricultural holdings were 36.5 thousand ha, which was 8.6% less than the previous year. The open areas planted with fresh vegetables, strawberries, potatoes and legumes shrank by 8.8%, to 35.6 thousand ha, and the greenhouse areas - by 2.6%, to 898 ha.

The total production of vegetables - harvest 2020 amounted to 651.6 thousand tonnes - 13.4% below the level of 2019. The production of open areas decreased by 14.2% on an annual basis to 559 thousand tonnes, and the greenhouse one - by 8.1%, up to 92.6 thousand tonnes.

In 2020, the production of potatoes - 192.3 thousand tonnes (29.5% of total vegetable production) was the largest, tomatoes - 115.8 thousand tonnes (17.8%), pepper - 51 thousand tonnes (7.8%) and cucumbers - 50.2 thousand tonnes (7.7%).

The harvested open areas with vegetables during the year were 10.3% less than in 2019. By groups of crops, a decrease was registered in the harvested areas with fruit vegetables (by 18.8%), vegetables of the genus Brassica (by 16.7%). %, tuber and onion vegetables (by 14.2%) and fresh legumes (by 5.3%). At the same time, an increase in the harvested areas was reported for leafy or stem vegetables (by 14.4%), potatoes (by 7%) and strawberries (by 4%).

The areas occupied by potatoes - 29.5% are with the largest relative share of the total harvested open areas with vegetables in 2020, followed by those with watermelons - 13.1%, onions - ripe - 7.8%, tomatoes - 7.7%, melons - 6.7% and others.

**Table II.8. Main areas used for vegetable production - harvests `2019 and` 2020, ha**

Main areas	Harvest `2019	Harvest `2020	Change 2020/2019
Open areas with fresh vegetables, strawberries, potatoes and legumes	39,033	35,605	-8.8%
Total greenhouse area	922	898	-2.6%
<b>Total area</b>	<b>39,955</b>	<b>36,503</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>

*Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department*

By types of vegetable crops, in 2020 there was a significant increase on an annual basis in the harvested areas with zucchini and leeks (about two times), spinach (by 63.6%), seed pumpkins (by 58.3%), salads and lettuce (by 35.8%) and cauliflower (by 33.7%). On the other hand, the areas with tomatoes, carrots and cucumbers decreased significantly (by between 44.4% and 65.2%).

**Table II.9. Areas, production and average yields of vegetables - harvests `2019 and` 2020**

Crops	Open harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open areas (kg/ha)	
			From open areas		Greenhouse production		Total				
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020
Fruit and vegetables, including:	19,393	15,751	334,157	276,317	98,015	92,187	432,172	368,504	-14.7%	-	-
Tomatoes	4,654	2,586	95,722	69,515	49,290	46,275	145,012	115,790	-20.2%	20,568	26,881
Cucumbers	1,409	490	26,502	8,352	41,315	41,850	67,817	50,202	-26.0%	18,809	17,045
Gherkins	260	206	4,913	3,386	236	48	5,149	3,434	-33.3%	18,896	16,437
Eggplants	383	369	11,053	9,921	125	c	11,178	c	-	28,859	26,886
Zucchini	111	220	2,453	4,315	c	c	c	c	-	22,099	19,614
Pumpkins and gourds	1,235	1,516	10,006	13,751	c	-	c	13,751	-	8,102	9,071
Seed pumpkins	120	190	61	183	-	-	61	183	200.0%	508	963
Melons	2,450	2,242	23,400	25,453	30	c	23,430	c	-	9,551	11,353
Water melons	4,779	4,421	96,786	87,251	-	c	96,786	c	-	20,252	19,736
Pepper (incl. hot pepper)	3,058	2,597	57,263	47,319	6,719	3,673	63,982	50,992	-20.3%	18,726	18,221
Sweet corn	510	414	4,274	4,895	-	-	4,274	4,895	14.5%	8,380	11,824
Okra	424	500	1,724	1,976	-	-	1,724	1,976	14.6%	4,066	3,952

Crops	Open harvested areas (ha)		Production (tonnes)							Average yield from open areas (kg/ha)	
			From open areas		Greenhouse production		Total				
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020
Fresh legumes, including:	1,153	1,092	5,781	5,258	3	1	5,784	5,259	-9.1%	-	-
Peas - green	919	870	4,618	3,444	-	-	4,618	3,444	-25.4%	5,025	3,959
Garden beans - green	234	222	1,163	1,814	3	1	1,166	1,815	55.7%	4,970	8,171
Vegetables of the genus Brassica, including:	2,013	1,677	50,282	34,242	114	6	50,396	34,248	-32.0%	-	-
Headed cabbage	1,770	1,460	46,449	32,060	114	6	46,563	32,066	-31.1%	26,242	21,959
Cauliflower	101	135	1,758	1,580	-	-	1,758	1,580	-10.1%	17,406	11,704
Broccoli and Brussels sprouts	142	82	2,075	602	-	-	2,075	602	-71.0%	-	-
Leafy or stem vegetables (excluding vegetables of the genus Brassica)	695	795	4,153	6,387	2,503	315	6,656	6,702	0.7%	-	-
Artichoke	276	275	180	654	-	-	180	654	263.3%	652	2,378
Salads and lettuce	95	129	1,600	2,201	2,470	227	4,070	2,428	-40.3%	16,842	17,062
Spinach	88	144	578	844	c	65	c	909	-	6,568	5,861
Leek	55	113	875	1,389	c	-	c	1,389	-	15,909	12,292
Savory	84	51	134	76	-	-	134	76	-43.3%	1,595	1,490
Other leafy or stem vegetables (dill, parsley, green onions, asparagus, etc.)	97	83	786	1,223	27	23	813	1,246	53.3%	-	-
Tuber and onion vegetables, including:	4,326	3,712	55,074	40,319	70	1	55,144	40,320	-26.9%	-	-
Onions - ripe	2,625	2,620	31,376	28,443	-	-	31,376	28,443	-9.3%	11,953	10,856
Carrots	1,086	591	20,407	8,702	-	-	20,407	8,702	-57.4%	18,791	14,724
Garlic - ripe	506	369	2,216	1,600	-	-	2,216	1,600	-27.8%	4,379	4,336
Other tuber and onion vegetables s (beetroot, seed onion, turnips, radishes, etc.)	109	132	1,075	1,574	70	1	1,145	1,575	37.6%	-	-
Potatoes	9,291	9,946	197,382	192,331	28	-	197,410	192,331	-2.6%	21,244	19,338
Strawberries	703	731	4,479	4,176	86	96	4,565	4,272	-6.4%	6,371	5,713
Total vegetables	37,574	33,704	651,308	559,030	100,819	92,606	752,127	651,636	-13.4%	-	-

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

c - confidential data (there were less than 3 farms in the category under consideration)

The total production of vegetables from open areas in 2020 amounted to 559 thousand tonnes, which was 14.2% less than the previous year.

In almost all groups of vegetables there was a decrease in the harvested quantities produced from open areas compared to the previous year, reaching 26.8% for tuber and onion vegetables. There was an increase in production by 53.8% only for the group of leafy and stem vegetables (excluding vegetables of the genus Brassica).

Among the more significant crops, a significant increase in the production was reported for zucchini (by 75.9%), pumpkins (by 37.4%), sweet corn (by 14.5%) and melons (by 8.8%), and a decrease was reported for cucumbers (by 68.5%), carrots (by 57.4%), gherkins (by 31.1%), cabbage (by 31%), tomatoes (by 27.4%), pepper (by 17.4%) and ripe onions (by 9.3%). The production of potatoes and strawberries from open areas shrank by 2.6% and 6.8% respectively on an annual basis.

**Table II.10. Total production of basic vegetables from harvests `2019 and` 2020, tonnes**

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2019	Harvest `2020	Change 2020/2019
Tomatoes	145,012	115,790	-20.2%
Pepper (sweet and hot)	63,982	50,992	-20.3%
Cucumbers and gherkins	72,966	53,636	-26.5%
Potatoes	197,410	192,410	-2.5%
Headed cabbage	46,563	32,066	-31.1%
Onions ripe	31,376	28,443	-9.3%
Strawberries	4,565	4,272	-6.4%

**Source:** MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2020, the main vegetable crops will experience significant changes in the average yields per hectare compared to 2019, mostly downward. Higher average yields were registered for pumpkins (by 12%), melons (by 18.9%) and tomatoes (by 30.7%), and lower - for watermelons, peppers, eggplants, potatoes, onions, cabbage and carrots (between 2.5% and 21.6%).

Outside the main vegetable crops, a significant increase compared to 2019 was observed for the average yields of artichokes (over three times) and seed pumpkins for seed (by 89.6%), and a decrease - those of leeks (by 22.7%) and cauliflower (by 32.8%).

The higher average yields of some of the main vegetable crops were the result of the use of certified seeds by farmers and the adherence to vegetable growing technologies with an emphasis on the application of environmentally friendly techniques.

The greenhouse production in the country was determined by several major vegetable crops - tomatoes, cucumbers, salads and lettuce, peppers and gherkins. Its development is determined on the basis of market demand. Part of the production is intended for export.

The total production of greenhouse vegetables in 2020 amounted to 92.6 thousand tonnes, which was 8.1% less than in the previous 2019.

For almost all main greenhouse vegetables, a decrease in production on an annual basis, ranging from 6.1% (tomatoes) to 79.8% (gherkins), was reported. An exception was the production of greenhouse cucumbers, which increased by 1.3%.

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



**Table II.11. Greenhouse production of basic vegetables from harvests `2019 and `2020, tonnes**

Types of vegetables	Harvest `2019	Harvest `2020	Change 2020/2019
Tomatoes	49,290	46,275	-6.1%
Pepper	6,719	3,673	-45.3%
Cucumbers	41,315	41,850	1.3%
Gherkins	238	48	-79.8%
Other vegetables (excluding mushrooms)	3,259	760	-76.7%
Total	100,819	92,606	-8.1%

**Source:** MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

A diversification of the types of vegetable crops grown in greenhouses is observed. In addition to the main greenhouse crops, potatoes, green onions, green garlic, zucchini, melons, strawberries, raspberries and others were also produced.

### 2.2.9. Forecast data for the production of basic cereals and oilseeds from the harvest `2021

The forecast data available at the end of October 2021 show an increase in the production of all major cereals and oilseeds compared to the previous year. The main factor for this are the favorable agro-climatic conditions during the business year, which led to an increase in the average yields per unit area.

At this stage, wheat production is expected to grow by 52% on an annual basis, to the record 7.2 million tonnes. The estimated production of grain maize is 7.8% above the level of 2020, and that of barley - by 27.3%. For oilseeds, the expected increase in production is 11.6% for sunflower and 35.8% for rapeseed.

**Table II.12. Forecast for the production of major cereals and oilseeds in 2021**

Crop	Indicator / year	2020	2021 (forecast)	Change 2021/2019
Wheat	Areas (thousand ha)	1,200	1,204	0.3%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	3.93	5.90	50.3%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	4,711	7,160	52.0%
Grain maize	Areas (thousand ha)	582	574	-1.3%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	5.11	5.60	9.7%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	2,969	3,200	7.8%
Barley	Areas (thousand ha)	131	131	0.0%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	4.20	5.40	28.6%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	549	699	27.3%
Sunflower	Areas (thousand ha)	822	837	1.8%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.09	2.30	9.9%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	1,720	1,920	11.6%
Rapeseed	Areas (thousand ha)	119	133	11.6%
	Average yield (tonnes/ha)	2.32	2.80	20.5%
	Production (thousand tonnes)	277	376	35.8%

**Source:** MAF, Agrostatistics Department (forecast data for 2021).

## 2.3. Livestock Breeding Production Results

The state policy in the field of livestock breeding is aimed at creating conditions for sustainable development of the sector and protection of the interests of farmers.

In 2020, the global pandemic of COVID-19 affected all sectors of the economy in the country, including agriculture and in particular livestock breeding.

As a priority sector, livestock continues to be supported through various financial instruments with European budget funds under the two pillars of the CAP (for direct payments and market measures and for rural development), as well as with national funds.

At the same time, in connection with the introduced emergency situation and anti-epidemic measures, in 2020 the eligible farmers were supported to compensate for the increased costs under measure 21 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers and small and medium enterprises, which are particularly affected by the crisis caused by COVID-19" of the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, including sub-measures 21.1 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers COVID 1" covering the Livestock sector (cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats), 21.2 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers COVID 2" (pigs and poultry) and 21.3 "Extraordinary temporary support for small and medium-sized enterprises and recognized producer groups and organizations COVID 3".

Financial resources were allocated under the de minimis aid to cover the costs of slaughter, transport and administrative documents in the Beef sector, which aims to help Bulgarian producers sell their cattle. De minimis aid was also approved for beekeepers to recover losses from low yields due to bad weather, the state of emergency, as well as due to problems with bee poisoning during plant protection activities.

In 2020, the classification of carcasses of cattle, pigs and sheep (lambs) according to the EU Scales continued to be applied. The classification aims to improve market transparency and increase the competitiveness of meat products on the European market, as well as to provide feedback to farmers on the results of their livestock production methods.

Unlike previous years, in 2020 there was an increase in the number of farms breeding all types of farm animals. The highest growth on an annual basis is reported in buffalo farms - by 50%, followed by those breeding cattle - by 25.2% and pigs - by 23.5%. Sheep and goat farms were 10.7% and 6.2% higher, respectively, than in 2019.

Towards the end of 2020, there was an increase in the number of almost all basic farm animals on an annual basis, as follows: cattle - by 11.4%, buffaloes - by 20.6%, sheep - by 2.1%, goats - by 10.9% and pigs - by 20.4%. The number of bee colonies remained around the level of a year ago (-0.5%), a more significant decrease - by 10.3%, is reported only in poultry.

The trend of intensification of the specialization of production continues, with an increase in the area of meat-producing animals. By the end of 2020, in the country there were 20.3% more beef cows than a year earlier. The applied schemes for coupled support in livestock breeding (including schemes for beef cows and animals under selective control) have a favorable effect on this growth. A more moderate increase was recorded in the number of meat sheep - ewes during the year - by 4.5%.

**Table II.13. Number of animals in 2019 and 2020 and forecast for 2021**

Type of animals	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	For 2021 forecast
Cattle - total, including:	510,460	568,726	11.4%	565,000
cows - total, including:	331,415	367,529	10.9%	362,000
- milk cows	215,219	227,795	5.8%	224,000
- beef cows	116,196	139,734	20.3%	138,000
Buffaloes - total, including:	16,734	20,179	20.6%	20,000
female buffaloes	11,471	14,147	23.3%	14,100
Sheep - total, including:	1,280,983	1,307,771	2.1%	1,310,000
ewes - total, including:	1,074,644	1,105,776	2.9%	1,110,000
- milk sheep - ewes	950,019	975,531	2.7%	978,000

Type of animals	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	For 2021 forecast
- meat sheep - ewes	124,625	130,245	4.5%	132,000
Goats - total, including:	228,493	253,401	10.9%	250,000
she-goats	193,881	207,714	7.1%	205,000
Pigs - total, including:	491,814	592,097	20.4%	600,000
total breeding sows over 50 kg	50,858	65,769	29.3%	67,000
Poultry - total, thousand, including:	15,565	13,964	-10.3%	14,000
hens and pre-laying hens	7107	7062	-0.6%	7,000
meat chicken	6,635	5349	-19.4%	5,300
waterfowl	1,609	1,368	-15.0%	1,500
other poultry	214	185	-13.6%	200
Bee colonies	867,561	863,283	-0.5%	865,000

**Source:** MAF, Agrostistics Department (data for 2019 and 2020) and Livestock Directorate (forecast for 2021)

**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.

In general, in 2020 shrinking of the average size of livestock farms was observed, which is explained by the larger number of farms. The decrease in the average number of female buffaloes raised on one farm - from 38.3 in 2019 to 28.2 in 2020 or 26.4% less – was the biggest. The annual decrease of the average number of buffaloes was by 19.4%, of cattle - by 11%, of cows - by 9.5%. The average number of ewes and sows was 7.8% and 7.1% below the levels of one year ago, and in the case of sows and sows in general - by 2.5% and 6.5%. On the other hand, the average number of goats in total and female goats bred on a farm increased by 4.4% and 0.8%, respectively.

**Table II.14. Milk production for the period 01.11.2019 - 31.10.2020 by planning regions, thousand liters**

Regions	Total milk	Including:			
		Cow milk	Buffalo milk	Sheep milk	Goat milk
Northwestern	147,959	126,202	4,746	10,548	6,463
North Central	149,779	134,849	1,877	7,313	5,740
Northeastern	152,459	138,870	989	8,817	3,783
Southeastern	196,557	175,422	2,581	14,213	4,341
Southwestern	79,881	59,706	1,305	13,403	5,467
South central	249,175	221,032	3,937	19,603	4,603
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>975,810</b>	<b>856,081</b>	<b>15,435</b>	<b>73,897</b>	<b>30,397</b>
<b>Change 2020/2019</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>-15.5%</b>

*Source: M3XF, Department of Agrostistics*

The total production of raw milk in the country in 2020 reached 975 810 thousand liters - 7% more than the previous year, resulting from the increased number of dairy animals. A more significant increase was observed in the production of buffalo milk - by 20.3%, and more moderate in sheep and cow's milk - by 14.2% and 7.2%, respectively. Only goat milk production decreased on an annual basis by 15.5%.

Traditionally, the largest share in the total production of raw milk belongs to the cow's milk - 87.7%. Sheep milk accounts for 7.6%, goat's for 3.1% and buffalo's for 1.6%.

The South Central region, with 25.5% of the total volume remained the leading region in the milk production, followed by the Southeastern region with 20.1%. The lowest production was reported in the Southwestern region - 8.2%.

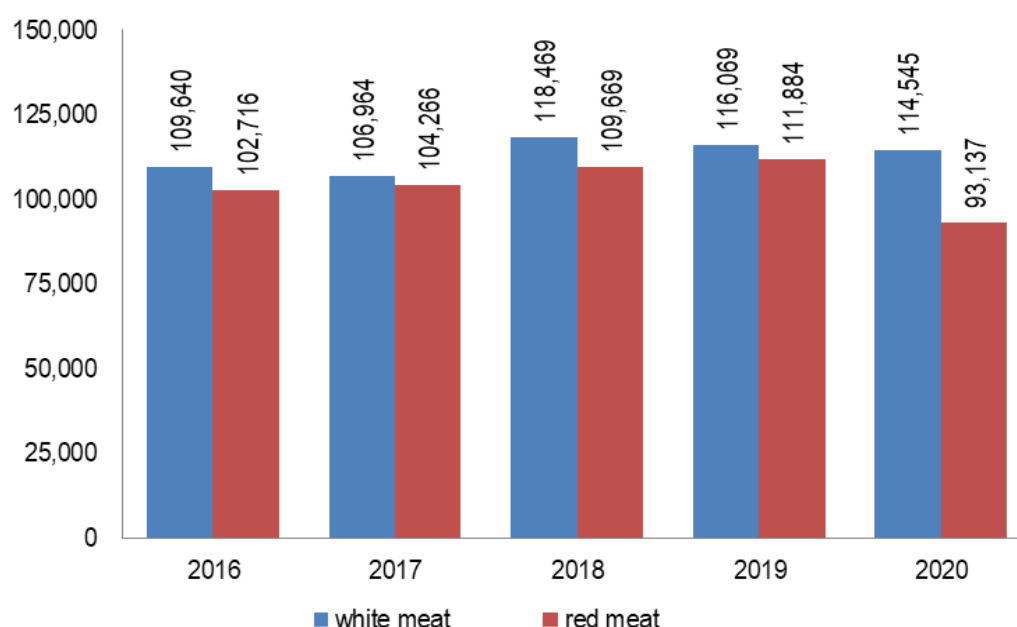
**Table II.15. Animal production in 2019 - 2020 and forecast for 2021**

Product	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2021 forecast
1. Milk - total (thousand liters), including:	911,854	975,810	7.0%	980,000
Cow milk	798,351	856,081	7.2%	860,000
Buffalo milk	12,832	15,435	20.3%	15,000
Sheep milk	64,704	73,897	14.2%	75,000
Goat milk	35,967	30,397	-15.5%	30,000
2. Meat - total carcass weight (tonnes), including:	227,953	207,682	-8.9%	209,000
Red meat	111,884	93,137	-16.8%	94,000
White meat	116,069	114,545	-1.3%	115,000
3. Eggs (thousand pieces)	1,399,465	1,382,372	-1.2%	1,390,000
4. Bee honey (tonnes)	11,518	9,066	-21.3%	9,500

**Source:** 2019 and 2020 - Agrostistics Department, MAFF; forecast for 2021 - Livestock Directorate, MAFF.

The total meat production in the country in 2020 shrank by 8.9% on an annual basis, to 207,682 tonnes, mainly due to a drop in red meat. The production of red meat amounted to 93,137 tonnes - 16.7% less than in 2019, as the production in slaughterhouses decreased by 17.1% and that in farms - by 15.4%.

The produced white meat amounted to a total of 114,545 tonnes - 1.3% below the level of the previous year, due to a decrease in industrial production by 1.4%, while production on farms increased by 3.8%.

**Figure II.3. Meat production in the period 2016 - 2020, tonnes**

**Source:** MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2020, 9,066 tonnes of bee honey were produced in the country. The amount is 20.3% less on an annual basis, as a result of unfavorable weather conditions during the year, leading to a decrease in the average yield of bee colonies to 13.3 kg (from 16.4 kg in 2019).

The production of poultry eggs decreased by 1.2% compared to the previous year, to 1,382,372 thousand.

### Expected data for 2021

In 2021, no significant change in the total number of farm animals by individual categories is expected.

The total meat production during the year is expected to amount to about 209 thousand tonnes, of which 94 thousand tonnes of red meat and 115 thousand tonnes of white meat.

In the first seven months of 2021, a total of 440,435,000 liters of milk were processed in dairy enterprises - 0.6% more than in the same period of 2020, incl. 410 758 thousand liters of cow's milk.

For the whole of 2021, a slight increase in the yield of raw milk, up to about 980 million liters, is forecast. This includes about 860 million liters of cow milk, 75 million liters of sheep milk, 30 million liters of goat milk and 15 million liters of buffalo milk.

Egg production is expected to increase by about 1% on an annual basis, and bee honey production - by nearly 5%.

#### 2.3.1. Cattle breeding and buffalo breeding

The process of specialization of production in cattle breeding continues, which is characterized by the transition from dairy to meat production.

As of November 1, 2020, a total of 568,726 cattle heads were bred in the country - 11.4% more than a year earlier. The total number of cows increased by 10.9% on an annual basis (up to 367,529), as the increase was less pronounced in dairy cows - by 5.8% and more significant in beef cows - by 20.3%. Thus, the share of cows for meat in the total number of cows reached 38%, compared to 35% in 2019.

**Table II.16. Distribution of cattle by regions in 2019 and 2020**

Regions	11/1/2019				11/1/2020			
	Cattle		Cows		Cattle		Cows	
	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share
Northwestern	59.7	11.7%	39.8	12.0%	62.7	11.0%	42.5	11.6%
North Central	55.5	10.9%	33.1	10.0%	64.8	11.4%	36.6	10.0%
Northeastern	64.0	12.5%	36.3	10.9%	66.3	11.7%	38.1	10.4%
Southeastern	97.9	19.2%	64.3	19.4%	110.3	19.4%	71.3	19.4%
Southwestern	71.0	13.9%	44.6	13.5%	85.3	15.0%	56.7	15.4%
South central	162.4	31.8%	113.3	34.2%	179.3	31.5%	122.2	33.3%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>510.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>331.4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>568.7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>367.5</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Cattle breeding is concentrated in Southern Bulgaria, and in 2020 one third of the total number of cows in the country were bred in the South-Central region, incl. 28.2% of dairy cows and 41.5% of beef cows.

By the end of 2020, the number of dairy farms increased by 22.3% compared to the previous year, to 17,612. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of small farms with 1-2 animals by 31.8% (up to 11,730 or 67% of dairy cow farms), as the number of animals raised in them increased by 32.1%. There are significantly more farms with 3-9 animals - by 18.2%, and the animals in them - by 17.6%. The least is the increase in large farms with 100 and more dairy cows - by 1.1%, where nearly 35% of all dairy cows in the country are raised.

**Table II.17. Distribution of dairy cows by number of farm animals on a farm as of 01.11.2020**

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Dairy cows	
	heads	Change 2020/2019	thousand heads	Change 2020/2019
1 - 2	11,730	31.8%	14.4	32.1%
3 - 9	1,859	18.2%	8.7	17.6%
10 -19	1,056	-5.2%	14.5	-5.8%
20 -49	1,764	4.7%	56.4	3.5%
50 - 99	820	9.0%	54.3	9.0%
100 and more	383	1.1%	79.5	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,612</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>227.8</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The higher number of dairy cows contributed to the growth of cow's milk production by 7.2% compared to the previous year, to 856,081 thousand liters.

Traditionally, the South Central region accounted for the largest share of total cow mil production - 25.8%, followed by the Southeastern region with 20.5%. The share of cow milk produced in the Southwestern region is the smallest - 7%.

By the end of 2020, the farms breeding female buffaloes grew by 53.1% on an annual basis, to 487, and the number of the female buffaloes in them – increased by 23.3%. An increase in all categories of farms and the number of animals in them is observed. The largest increase is in the number of the smallest farms with 1-2 buffaloes - almost three times, and the animals in them - almost four times. The farms with 20-99 animals are 39.6% more, and the female buffaloes raised in them - 39% more. About half of the buffaloes are concentrated in this category of farms.

Leading in buffalo breeding in 2020 remain the regions Northwestern, South Central and Southeastern.

**Table II.18. Distribution of buffaloes by regions in 2019 and 2020**

Regions	11/1/2019				11/1/2020			
	Buffaloes total		Female buffaloes		Buffaloes total		Female buffaloes	
	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share	thousand heads	share
Northwestern	4.4	26.3%	3.2	27.5%	5.8	28.6%	4.5	32.0%
North Central	1.7	10.1%	0.9	8.2%	2.2	10.9%	1.2	8.7%
Northeastern	1.2	6.9%	0.8	6.6%	1.7	8.5%	1.0	7.1%
Southeastern	3.5	21.2%	2.5	21.6%	4.3	21.3%	3.1	21.5%
Southwestern	1.7	10.4%	1.1	10.0%	1.5	7.3%	1.0	7.3%
South central	4.2	25.1%	3.0	26.1%	4.7	23.4%	3.3	23.4%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

Due to the higher number of buffaloes raised, in 2020 the production of buffalo milk increased by 20.3% compared to the previous year, reaching 15,435,000 liters.

The Northwestern region remains a leader in buffalo milk production, accounting for one-third of the total quantity for the country. It is followed by the South Central and Southeastern regions, with a share of 25.5% and 16.7%, respectively.

**Table II.19. Beef production in 2019 and 2020 (tonnes of carcass weight)**

Categories of animals	In slaughterhouses			In farms			Total production		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Calves and young cattle	475	657	38.3%	5,720	6,858	19.9%	6,195	7,516	21.3%
Other cattle	5,168	5,580	8.0%	5,504	3,591	-34.8%	10,672	9,170	-14.1%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>5,643</b>	<b>6,237</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>11,224</b>	<b>10,449</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>16,686</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

*Source: MAFD, Department Agrostatistics*

In 2020, a total of 16,686 tonnes of beef were produced in the country - 1.1% less on an annual basis, as the production in slaughterhouses increased by 10.5%, while that on farms shrank by nearly 7%. Beef accounts for about 18% of the total red meat produced during the year.

In 2020, a total of 11,254 bovine animals over 8 months of age were classified as per the (S)EUROP Classification Scale, which is 2.7% more than in 2019. Slaughterhouses classifying bovine carcasses were seven during the year.

The highest was the share of category "D" cows - 63%, followed by cattle with category "A" - young bull (19.5%), "B" - bull (6.8%), "E" - heifer (6.2%), "Z" - an animal aged 8 to 12 months (4.6%), "C" - a castrated male animal (0.05%).

The main part of the classified beef was from dairy-purpose animals, whose carcasses have a low yield and poorly developed conformation. Therefore, the largest was the share of classified carcasses of cattle with conformation class P (poor) - 47.9%, followed by O (fair) - 35.9%, class R (good) - 15.7 % and U (very good) - 0.5%. When determining the classes by fat cover, the largest is the number of carcasses class 2 (slight) - 49.2%, class 3 (average) - 24.9%, class 1 (low) - 22.7%, class 4 (high) - 3.1% and class 5 (very high) - 0.04%.

### **2.3.2. Sheep and goat breeding**

Appropriate natural and climatic conditions and long-standing traditions favor the development of sheep breeding in the country. It is widespread in the plains as well as in the mountainous and semi-mountainous areas, providing livelihood for a large part of the population in rural areas.

The total number of sheep in the country as of November 1, 2020 amounted to 1,307,771 - 2.1% above the level a year ago. The increase in the total number of ewes was by almost 3%, as in the dairy sector it was by 2.7% (up to 975,531), and in the meat sector - by 4.5% (up to 130,245).

Traditionally, sheep breeding is concentrated mainly in southern Bulgaria, where 66% of the total population was raised in 2020. The South Central region is leading, with the largest number of bred ewes, followed by the Southeastern and Southwestern regions. From the northern regions of the country, the Northeast remains the leading region.

By the end of 2020, the number of farms raising sheep and ewes increased by nearly 11% compared to a year earlier. Thus, the average number of sheep on a farm decreased by 7.8% to 66.4, and that of ewes - by 7.1% to 56.7.

**Table II.20. Distribution of sheep by regions in 2019 and 2020 (thousand)**

Regions	Sheep total, thousand heads			Including ewes, thousand heads		
	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)
Northwestern	120.3	145.1	11.1%	103.4	124.6	11.3%
North Central	114.9	113.2	8.6%	94.7	95.2	8.6%
Northeastern	173.0	185.3	14.2%	145.2	152.5	13.8%
Southeastern	289.1	265.8	20.3%	242.4	227.8	20.6%
Southwestern	244.4	245.2	18.8%	195.0	200.2	18.1%
South central	339.2	353.2	27.0%	293.9	305.5	27.6%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>1,280.9</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,074.6</b>	<b>1,105.8</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department*

In 2020, the number of farms with inseminated sheep and one-year-old sheep increased by 11.2% on an annual basis, and the number of animals in them - by 1.6%. There was an increase in the number of smaller (with 1 - 9 animals) and medium-sized farms (with 10 - 19 and 20 - 49 animals) by between 12% and 33%, as well as in the number of animals kept in them (from 21.5 % to 25.2%). Unlike the previous year, the number of large farms with 300 or more ewes and one-year-old sheep decreased by 16.7% and the number of animals in them - by 12.1%.

**Table II.21. Distribution of goats by regions in 2019 and 2020 (thousand)**

Regions	Goats total			Including she-goats		
	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)
Northwestern	31.7	39.3	15.5%	28.9	34.9	16.8%
North Central	24.4	34.1	13.5%	20.4	26.3	12.7%
Northeastern	28.7	28.0	11.0%	23.9	22.7	10.9%
Southeastern	37.3	41.7	16.4%	32.7	35.8	17.2%
Southwestern	63.0	65.7	26.0%	50.6	48.5	23.4%
South central	43.4	44.6	17.6%	37.4	39.5	19.0%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>228.5</b>	<b>253.4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>207.7</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department*

Towards the end of 2020, there was an increase in the number of goats raised in the country by almost 11% on an annual basis, to 253,401, including 207,714 she-goats - 7.1% more. Over 70% growth, reaching 29,737, was registered in the number of goatlings.

The farms breeding goats in general and she-goats were about 6% more than in 2019, and the animals in them - 10.9% and 7.1% more, respectively. The average size of goat farms increased by 4.4% compared to the previous year, to 24.6.



In 2020, the number of large farms with 100 or more pregnant goats increased by 11.1% on an annual basis, and the number of animals in them - by 9.7%. About 50% of the pregnant goats in the country are raised in these farms. Smaller growth was registered by small farms with 1 to 9 animals and with 10 to 19 - by 6.4% and 7.8%, respectively, as the number of animals in these categories of farms increased by 7.1% and 10.3%. At the same time, medium-sized farms (with 20-49 and 50-99 animals) decreased by between 1% and 3.2%.

About 60% of the goat herds in 2020 was bred in the southern regions of the country. The Southwestern region with a share of 26% of the total number of goats and 23.4% of she-goats remains the leading region.

In 2020, 104,294,000 liters of milk from small ruminants were produced in Bulgaria, including: 73 897 thousand liters - sheep milk and 30 397 thousand liters – goat milk. Compared to the previous year, the production of sheep milk increased by 14.2%, while goat milk production decreased by 15.5%. The relative share of sheep milk in the total volume of raw milk produced during the year was 7.6%, and the one of goat milk - 3.1%.

About 64% of sheep milk and 47% of goat milk was produced in the territory of Southern Bulgaria, where most of the ewes are reared.

The meat produced from small ruminants in 2020 amounted to 9,817 tonnes (10.5% of total red meat production) - 16.1% less on an annual basis, of which 2,184 tonnes in slaughterhouses and 7,633 tonnes - on farms. The total production of sheep meat decreased by 14.3% compared to the previous year, to 8,584 tonnes, and that of goat meat - by 27%, to 1,233 tonnes.

In 2020, the classification of light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) is applied in three slaughterhouses. A total of 13,097 light and heavy carcasses of sheep (lambs) were classified, which was 8.8% more than in 2019. Nearly 98% were light carcasses (up to 13 kg), and about 82% were classified as first quality.

The share of light carcasses weighing from 10.1 kg to 13 kg - category C - 56.4%, was the largest. It was followed by those weighing from 7.1 kg to 10 kg - category B with 43.6%. As in the previous year, in 2020 there were no lambs classified in category A.

The carcasses of sheep aged under 12 months and over 13 kg classified in 2020 were 301 pieces - 82% less than the previous year, as mainly lamb from young animals was consumed at the Bulgarian market.

In 2020, all classified heavy lambs were of a class of conformation O (fair), and the share of those classified with fat content 2 (slight) 71.6% was the largest.

In 2021, the number of classified sheep is expected to continue to grow.

### **2.3.3. Pig breeding**

The pig sector in the country is well structured and specialized, which is a prerequisite for sustainable development. This allows the sector to overcome the effects of African swine fever in 2019 and the emergency situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic relatively quickly.

As of November 1, 2020, a total of 592,097 pigs were bred in the country, which is an increase of 20.4% on an annual basis. The total number of breeding sows increased by 29.3% to 65,769, incl. of the main sows - by 24.7% (up to 46,546).

Compared to the previous year, the total number of farms breeding swine and sows increased by 23.5% and 33.3% respectively.

About 64% of all pigs raised during the year were concentrated in two planning regions - the Northeastern and the Southeastern. The least number of pigs is bred in the Southwestern region - only 1.6%. In terms of the distribution of the main sows, the North Central region is leading, followed by the Northeastern region.

**Table II.22. Distribution of pigs by regions in 2019 and 2020 (thousand)**

Region	Pigs total			Main sows		
	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)	11/1/2019	11/1/2020	Share (2020)
Northwestern	17.5	22.6	3.8%	2.5	2.0	4.2%
North Central	70.2	119.5	20.2%	5.6	12.1	26.0%
Northeastern	211.8	225.6	38.1%	10.1	10.8	23.2%
Southeastern	122.8	154.2	26.0%	10.5	9.8	21.0%
Southwestern	9.9	9.3	1.6%	1.3	2.3	4.9%
South central	59.6	60.9	10.3%	7.3	9.6	20.7%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>491.8</b>	<b>592.1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The total number of farms raising breeding sows (over 50 kg) at the end of 2020 increased by 4.4% compared to a year earlier, and the number of animals in them increased by 29.3%. The number of large farms with 200 and more female pigs is growing most significantly - by 23.1%, where 93% of all breeding sows in the country are concentrated. During the year, the number of animals raised in them increased by 33.5%, reaching 61.4 thousand.

**Table II.23. Distribution of breeding sows over 50 kg according to the number of animals bred on a farm as of 01.11.2020**

Number of animals on a farm	Farms		Breeding sows over 50 kg	
	Heads	Change 2020/2019	Thousand heads	Change 2020/2019
1-2	147	-7.0%	0.2	-33.3%
3-9	87	17.6%	0.4	33.3%
10-49	70	14.8%	1.4	0.0%
50-199	27	-12.9%	2.4	-17.2%
200 and more	48	23.1%	61.4	33.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>29.3%</b>

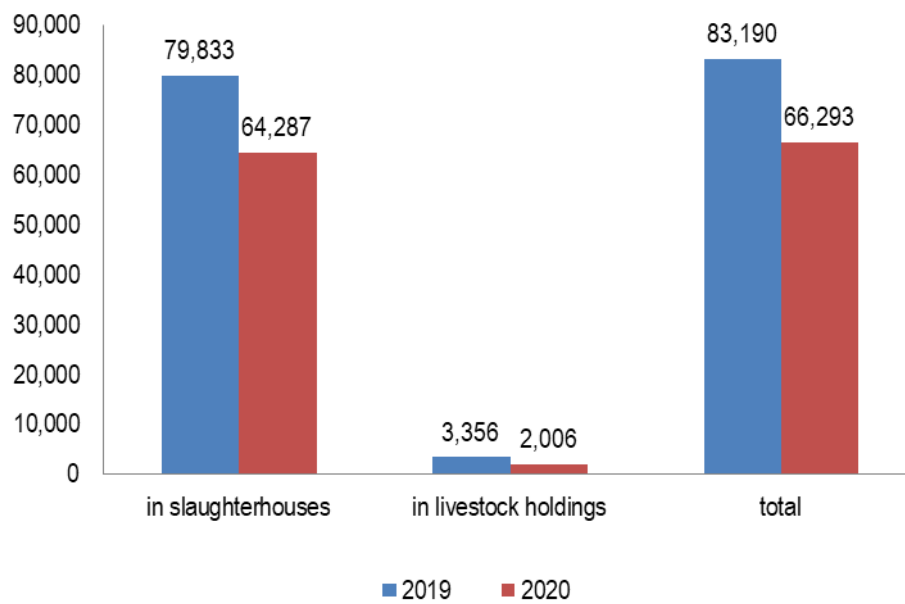
Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2020, the state aid scheme for implementation of the five-year voluntary commitments on swine welfare will continue to apply. Subsidies are granted annually and cover the additional costs or lost income related to these commitments.

Traditionally, pork production occupies the largest share in the total production of red meat in the country, as in 2020 it was about 71% (compared to 74% in 2019).

The total production of pork in 2020 amounted to 66,293 tonnes - 20.3% less on an annual basis, with production in slaughterhouses shrinking by 19.5% to 64,287 tonnes, and that in livestock farms - from 40.2% to 2,006 tonnes.

**Figure II.4. Pork production in 2019 and 2020, tonnes**



Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

In 2020, a total of 40,321 pig carcasses were classified according to the Scale of Carcasses Classification (S) EUROP - 13.8% less than in 2019. There were two slaughterhouses that carried out classification during the year (both of them operating only in the first quarter of the year due to repair activities).

Over 82% of the pigs classified during the year were of class E, with a lean meat content of 55% to 60% of the carcass weight, and 18% of the other classified pigs were of conformation class U - from 50% to 55% content of lean meat.

According to the regression equation applied in Bulgaria, only steamed pig carcasses were classified. Slaughterhouses performing classification in 2020 classified nearly 67% of the total slaughtered and steamed pigs, which form only 5.3% of the industrial production in the country.

For 2021, the number of classified pigs is expected to be slightly above the 2020 level.

**Table II.24. Classified pig carcasses by lean meat content**

year	S 60% and more	E from 55 to 60%	U From 50 to 55%	R from 45 to 50%	Oh from 40 to 45%	P 40% less	Total (heads)
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	0	0	89,762
2019	151	37,081	9,491	35	0	0	46,758
2020	161	33,079	7,050	31	0	0	40,321

Source: MAF, Animal Husbandry Directorate

#### 2.3.4. Horse breeding

According to expert estimates, in 2020 the number of equidae (including horses) in Bulgaria remained at about 116 thousand. Their main purpose is as draught power in agriculture.

Kabiyuk stud is the only state-owned enterprise operating in the sector, which breeds Bulgarian and foreign tribal horse breeds, such as Karakachan horse, East Bulgarian horse, Pleven horse, Thoroughbred English horse, Thoroughbred Arabian horse, Arabian Shagia and others. The remaining horses are bred in the private sector.

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

The work related to the conservation and development of genetic resources in horse breeding continued in 2020.

### 2.3.5. Poultry farming

Poultry farming is one of the most intensive sectors in livestock breeding, characterized by widespread mechanization and automation of production processes, which ensures highly efficient industrial production.

Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the country in 2019 and early 2020 affected the sector. The forced extermination of poultry in order to limit the spread of the disease led to a reduction in all categories of farmed birds. As of 31.12.2020 the total number of poultry was 13 964 thousand - by 10.3% below the level of one year ago, including: 7,062 thousand hens and laying hens, 5,349 thousand chickens for meat, 21 thousand turkeys, 1,360 thousand ducks, 8 thousand geese and 164 thousand other poultry.

The drop in the total number of poultry was mainly due to a decrease in chickens for meat (hen species) by 19.4%. Raised ducks were 13.5% less on an annual basis, and turkeys - by 8.7%. The most significant percentage reduction was reported in geese - over 70%, but this species has a small population and does not significantly affect the total number of poultry.

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

Type of poultry	2018	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
Adult and young laying hens	6,951	7,107	7,062	-0.6%
Chickens for meat	6,921	6,635	5,349	-19.4%
Turkey	35	23	21	-8.7%
Ducks	1,408	1,573	1,360	-13.5%
Geese	13	36	8	-77.8%
Other poultry (quail, ostriches and guinea fowl)	191	191	164	-14.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,519</b>	<b>15,565</b>	<b>13,964</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics Department

**Table II.26. Number of poultry by species and regions in 2020, thousand heads**

Region	Adult and young laying hens	Chickens for meat	Hens and chickens total	Turkey	Ducks	Other poultry	Birds in total	Change 2020/2019 poultry total
Northwestern	689	519	1,208	6	219	5	1,438	7.6%
North Central	1,805	2,785	4,590	1	188	6	4,785	-0.8%
Northeastern	1,746	1,662	3,408	1	66	7	3,482	12.4%

Region	Adult and young laying hens	Chickens for meat	Hens and chickens total	Turkey	Ducks	Other poultry	Birds in total	Change 2020/2019 poultry total
Southeastern	1,246	251	1,497	4	214	33	1,748	-45.7%
Southwestern	c	c	355	2	2	99	458	-27.3%
South central	c	c	1,353	7	671	22	2,053	-16.5%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>7,062</b>	<b>5,349</b>	<b>12,411</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>13,964</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>
<b>Change 2020/2019</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>-19.4%</b>	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>	<b>-24.2%</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>	

Source: MAF, Agrostatistics Department, confidential data

By the end of 2020, about 59% of the poultry were raised in the North Central and Northeastern regions.

Farms, raising laying hens, decreased by 18.9% on an annual basis, with the largest drop observed in small poultry farms (with 1 to 99 birds) - by 19.1%, and in the poultry raised in them - by 19.7%. At the same time, the number of farms raising between 100 and 9,999 heads of poultry increased by 72.5%, and the laying hens in them - by 40.7%. The increase in the number of industrial poultry farms and the poultry in them (100,000 and more) is more moderate - by 5.3%.

In 2020, the number of meat chicken farms increased by 19.7% compared to the previous year, while the number of poultry in them decreased by 19.4%. Nearly 99% of chickens for fattening were concentrated in industrial poultry farms with over 10,000 heads of poultry. Although the number of small farms (with 1 - 199 birds) increased by 29.7%, the number of chickens in them decreased by 3.8%.

As a result of the reduced number of poultry, the total egg production in 2020 shrank by 1.2% compared to the previous year, to 1,382,372 thousand. 1,360,803,000 (98%) of those were hen eggs, incl. 217 839 thousand - breeding and 1 142 910 thousand - for consumption. Eggs for consumption decreased by 0.9% on an annual basis, and breeding eggs - by 2.1%.

By planning regions, the leader in egg production in 2020 was the Northeast region with a share of 26.5% of total egg production in the country, followed by the North Central and South Central regions, respectively with a share of 23.9% and 20.2%.

**Table II.27. Egg production in 2020 by planning regions, thousand pieces**

Region	Eggs from hens	Other eggs	Total eggs	Change total eggs 2020/2019 *
Northwestern	117,622	618	118,240	-4.4%
North Central	327,494	2,260	329,754	-0.9%
Northeastern	366,261	429	366,690	-1.6%
Southeastern	209,166	7,245	216,411	10.7%
Southwestern	63,607	7,997	71,604	-15.8%
South central	276,653	3,020	279,673	-3.5%
<b>Total for the country</b>	<b>1,360,803</b>	<b>21,569</b>	<b>1,382,372</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2020, a total of 114,545 tonnes of poultry meat and by-products were produced in the country - 1.3% below the level of the previous year. Industrial production was 1.4% lower on an annual basis, while on-farm production, which generally accounts for a small share of total volume, increased by 3.8%. Over 80% of the meat produced in the country was of the chicken species.

**Table II.28. Production of poultry meat and by-products in the period 2019 - 2020**

Production:	Slaughtered poultry - thousand heads			Total meat and by-products - tonnes		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
In slaughterhouses	59,943	59,569	-0.6%	114,396	112,809	-1.4%
In farms	817	937	14.7%	1,673	1,736	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,760</b>	<b>60,506</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>116,069</b>	<b>114,545</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The development of poultry farming in recent years is due to the state aid scheme for implementation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of birds (for fattening and egg production) for a period of five years, the implementation of which continued in 2020. By European Commission Decision, in March 2019 the scheme was changed and in addition to the parents of the hen species included so far, turkeys, ducks and geese were added. The change is related to a change in the scope of support and concerns the addition of the current measure to ensure a free floor area of not less than 10% above the mandatory standard.

### 2.3.6. Beekeeping

The long traditions and the appropriate natural, climatic and ecological conditions in Bulgaria favor the development of beekeeping. Given the irreplaceable medicinal properties of bee honey and bee products, there is increased interest and demand from consumers, and the good quality parameters of Bulgarian honey make it largely export-oriented.

Beekeeping is an alternative employment for the population in underdeveloped rural areas, providing additional income.

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

Number of bee colonies on a farm	Number of farms			Number of bee colonies			Average number of bee colonies		
	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
from 1 to 9	2,440	1,968	-19.3%	10,450	10,678	2.2%	4.3	5.4	25.6%
from 10 to 49	5,678	3,689	-35.0%	131,487	91,884	-30.1%	23.2	24.9	7.3%
from 50 to 149	4,093	4,273	4.4%	375,201	384,015	2.3%	91.7	89.9	-2.0%
150 and more	1,560	1,696	8.7%	350,423	376,706	7.5%	224.6	222.1	-1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>11,626</b>	<b>-15.6%</b>	<b>867,561</b>	<b>863,283</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>17.9%</b>

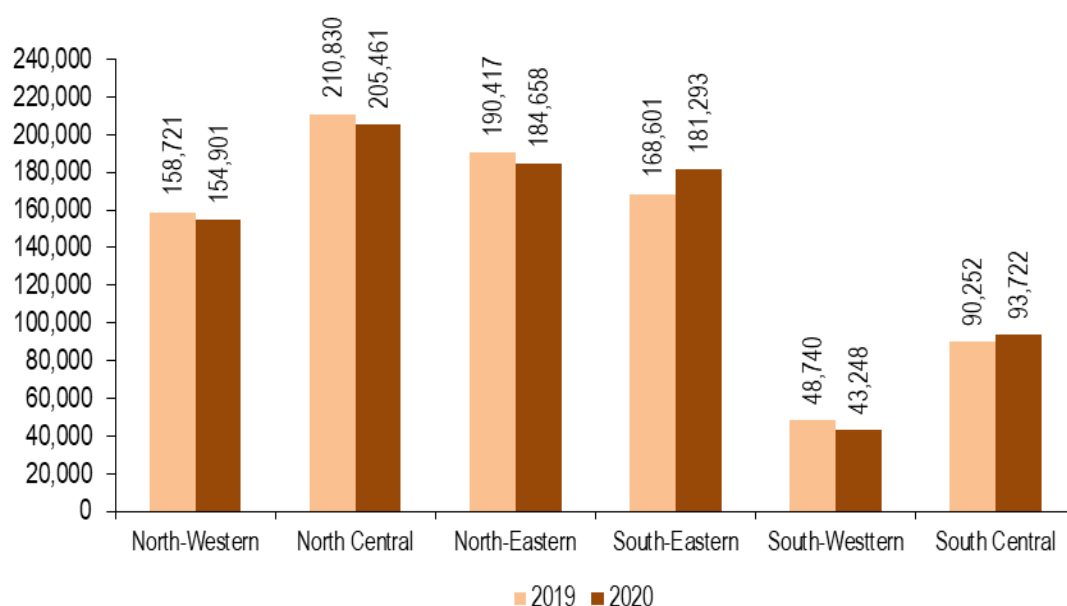
Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The sector was positively affected by the already implemented for the fifth consecutive three-year National Beekeeping Program, which is being developed with the broad participation of branch beekeeping organizations.

As of October 1, 2020, there were 11,626 bee farms in the country, which raised 863,283 bee colonies - respectively 15.6% and 0.5% less on an annual basis. The average number of bee colonies on a farm increased by nearly 18%, reaching 74.3.

Beekeeping is more widespread in Northern and Southeastern Bulgaria, where 84% of bee colonies were raised in 2002. The largest number of bee colonies was located in the North Central region, followed by the Northeastern, Southeastern and Northwestern regions.

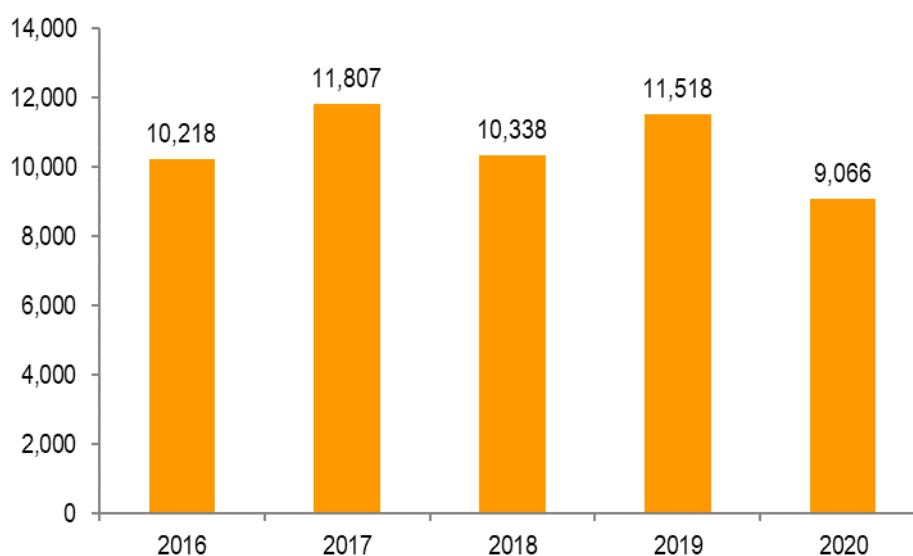
**Figure II.5. Number of bee colonies by regions in 2019 and 2020**



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

In 2020, the number of bee colonies from which honey was extracted was 680,266 - 3.2% less than the previous year. Due to unfavorable weather conditions, the average yield was 18.9% lower than in 2019, amounting to 13.3 kg per bee colony. This lead to a decrease in bee honey production by 21.3% to 9,066 tonnes.

**Figure II.6. Production of honey in the period 2016 - 2020, tonnes**



Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The sales of honey and the average selling prices (excluding VAT) in 2020 were as follows:

- Direct sales to the end user - 1,800 tonnes - 7.76 BGN /kg;
- Direct sales to retailers - 448 tonnes - 5.93 BGN /kg;
- Sales to processing enterprises - 4,894 tonnes - BGN 4.27/kg;

- Sales for industry - 634 tonnes - 4.06 BGN /kg;
- For own consumption and nutrition of bees - 1 399 tonnes.

Despite the lower yield during the year, an increase in bee honey sales was observed. The largest increase on an annual basis was in direct sales to retailers - by 45.9%. Sales to the industry and the ones to processing enterprises increased by 39.6% and 31.1%, respectively. At the same time, the quantities of honey set aside for own consumption and feeding of bees decreased by 10.4%. As of October 1, 2020, the unsold quantities of honey in the country were 1,931 tonnes, 63% less than a year earlier.

As a result of poisoning, diseases, famine and other causes, in 2020 a total of 44,150 bee colonies were destroyed - 24.4% less than in 2019, including: 12,473 - from poisoning, 9,705 - from disease, 6,813 - from hunger and 15,159 - from other causes.

Varroasis is a common disease in Europe, including Bulgaria. Its invasion significantly affects the yields, and the treatment measures against it affect the quality of honey. In 2020, 842,234 bee colonies were treated (97.6% of their total number), with an average price of BGN 5.00 per treatment.

The nutrition of bee colonies during the year includes: autumn - 595 510, winter - 546 940 and spring feeding - 623 817 bee colonies.

In 2020, the number of farms practicing in mobile beekeeping decreased by 16.1% on an annual basis, to 260, and the number of bee colonies in them - by 10.6%, to 22,415. The value of transport costs and veterinary certificates during the year was BGN 9.50/bee colony, 8.7% lower than in 2019.

The fifth three-year National Beekeeping Program (NBP) 2020-2022 was implemented in 2020. A budget of BGN 6,399,307 (including 50% national co-financing) was provided for the financial year 2020,. The funds utilized by the beekeepers amounted to BGN 4,938,010, or 77% 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 E "Measures to support the renewal of beehives in the European Union" - 78% and measure D "Measures to support laboratories for analysis of bee products" - 72%. A new approach to the method of financing some of the measures and activities, setting a fixed amount of aid, is adopted in the NBP 2020-2022.

#### **2.3.7. Rabbit breeding**

In recent years, rabbit breeding in the country was rather a hobby. According to expert estimates, the total number of rabbits in 2020 was about 115 thousand.

Despite the good natural and climatic conditions and the presence of traditions in breeding, the development of rabbit breeding 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, which often exceed purchase prices;
- Lack of stable strategic export markets and partners;
- Strong dependence of rabbit meat exports on the situation on foreign markets;
- Lack of direct subsidies for rabbit farmers;
- Insufficiently developed scientific potential to provide the sector;
- Insufficient marketing and management on the Bulgarian market.

#### **2.4. State of organic production in Bulgaria in 2020**

Organic production is a process in which the final products are obtained by applying environmentally friendly and socially acceptable agricultural practices. The development of organic production in Bulgaria is



favored by the availability of quality land resources, climatic conditions, traditions in the agricultural sector and good production experience in the crop and livestock subsectors.

The specific method of production, which maintains ecological balances and produces products covering the principles of plants - animals - soil ecological cycles, is determinative for the organic agriculture sector.

The information on the state of organic production in Bulgaria in 2020 is based on the data from the annual reports of a total of 17 controllers of organic production, 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 is done within the calendar year.

At the end of 2020, the total number of biological operators registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was 5,844 - 561 less than a year earlier, of which 5,417 were agricultural producers, 220 processors of organic production and 207 traders (importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers).

In 2020, the number of biological operators in a control system represented 7.2% of the total number of registered farmers under Ordinance No. 3 of 29 January 1999 on the establishment and maintenance of a register of farmers. There is a relative preservation of the level of the previous year, when this share was slightly below 7.3%.

#### **2.4.2. Organic plant growing**

The total areas on which the methods of organic production were applied (transitional areas and organic areas) in 2020 amounted to 116.2 thousand ha, 1.3% less than in 2019 and represented 2.3% of the used agricultural area in the country.

The areas in the control system for cereals (including rice) in 2020 decreased by 12.8%, representing 2,294.9 ha less sown areas compared to 2019. The cultivation of wheat, barley, corn and oat, occupying a total of 11,728.1 ha, remained predominant in 2020.

The areas with industrial crops in a control system (including areas with oil-bearing rose, aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices), which were 1.2% below the level of the previous year, remained relatively constant. The areas with aromatic crops, medicinal plants and spices amounted to 16,841.3 ha, which was 281.6 ha more than in 2019. The areas with coriander (6,022 ha) have the largest share of these group of crops, followed by those with lavender (4,478.2 ha), fennel (2,502.2 ha) and oil-bearing rose (1,337.8 ha).

The areas with permanent crops in a control system decreased by 1,673.6 ha or 6.3% compared to 2019, and those with fresh vegetables, melons and strawberries shrank by 540.5 ha or 20.4%.

An increase compared to the previous year was reported with regard to the areas with permanent meadows and pastures - by 2 814.9 ha (10.3%), fodder crops from arable land (green crops) - by 32.6 ha (7.5%) and fallow land - with 681.7 ha (27.2%).

**Table II.30. Areas under a control system, including "in transition" and "organic" (ha)**

Type of crops	2019	2020
Cereals, incl. rice	17,845.2	15,550.3
Cereals, protein crops for grain production	12,380.4	12,245.4
Root crops	539.5	433.4
Industrial crops - total	27,578.0	27,253.1
Green/Forage crops from arable land	436.1	468.7

Type of crops	2019	2020
Fresh vegetables, melons, strawberries, cultivated mushrooms (greenhouse and field production)	2,648.3	2,107.8
Perennials	26,502.9	24,829.3
Permanent meadows and pastures	27,338.9	30,153.8
Fallow land	2,510.1	3,191.8
<b>Total areas in a control system</b>	<b>117,779.4</b>	<b>116,233.5</b>

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

**Table II.31. Areas of organically grown crops and areas in transition (ha)**

Type of crops	Areas in transition		Areas that have passed the transition period		Total area	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Cereals, incl. rice	2,025.0	1,144.6	15,820.2	14,405.7	17,845.2	15,550.3
Industrial Crops	4,648.2	3,877.6	22,929.8	23,375.5	27,578.0	27,253.1
Fresh vegetables, melons and strawberries	361.2	209.9	2,287.1	1,897.8	2,648.3	2,107.8
Perennials	5,558.4	3,870.8	20,944.5	20,958.5	26,502.9	24,829.3
Permanent meadows and pastures	7,036.2	7,918.6	20,302.7	22,235.2	27,338.9	30,153.8
Fodder crops from arable land (green crops)	71.8	27.1	364.3	441.6	436.1	468.7
Fallow land	1,165.3	1,400.0	1,344.8	1,791.9	2,510.1	3,191.8

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

### 2.4.3. Organic Livestock Breeding

In 2020, the trend of weaker development of the organic livestock sector in Bulgaria compared to organic crop production continued. Mainly sheep, cattle, goats and bee colonies are raised organically in the country.

In 2020, a decrease in the number of farm animals in a control system compared to the previous year is observed. The number of cattle decreased by 571, the number of sheep - by 3,892, the number of goats - by 879, and the number of bee colonies - by 16,072.

**Table II.32. Farm animals in a control system (including animals in transition)**

	Number of organically raised animals		Total number of animals bred in 2020	Share of organically raised animals from the total number of animals in 2020
	2019	2020		
Cattle	10,914	10,343	568,726	1.8%
Sheep	22,982	19,090	1,307,771	1.5%
Goats	9,175	8,296	253,401	3.3%
Bee colonies	239,223	223,151	863,283	25.8%

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

In 2020, 11,673.6 tonnes of raw milk, 24.9 tonnes of cream, 144.9 tonnes of cheese and 2.5 thousand tonnes of mussels were produced by organic means. During the year, 2,293.8 tonnes of honey and beekeeping products were produced from organic beekeeping.

Compared to 2019, there was a certain increase in the organic production of milk and cream and a decrease in that of cheese, mussels and bee products.

#### 2.4.4. Organic products market

The market of organic products in Bulgaria is developing at a faster pace compared to their production. The prevailing part of the 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. Frozen fruits (strawberries, raspberries and blueberries), honey, essential oils of rose, lavender, mint, cheese, yellow cheese and jams are exported and are very well received 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 importers of organic products included in a control system for 2020, the specialized stores for sale of organic food, as well as the retail outlets that are involved in the distribution of organic food is increasing.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry carries out effective supervision and control in the field of organic farming, which makes Bulgarian organic products legitimate on the EU common market. The development of the sector is encouraged through information and awareness-raising activities on the benefits and advantages of organic farming. The efforts are also directed towards Bulgarian producers to work for the Bulgarian market, so that the majority of the high quality products produced reach Bulgarian consumers.

Stimulating small organic producers and processors is one of the main priorities in the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production. The priority goal is to provide targeted funding for promotional campaigns that contribute to the more efficient sale of organic products.

#### 2.5. Viticulture and wine production

##### 2.5.1. Grapes production

###### Areas

In 2020, the areas of vineyards on the farms decreased by 6.2% compared to the previous year, to 47,001 ha, and nearly 14,000 ha were not taken care of, mainly due to economic and social reasons. About 3% of the areas on the farms were young, at non-fruiting age.

The non-cultivated vineyards, as well as those of small and fragmented plots outside the agricultural farms, were 16,646 ha.

**Table II.33. Vineyards in Bulgaria for the period 2011 – 2020**

Year	Vineyard areas on agricultural farms, ha	Vineyards outside farms , ha	Total areas of vineyards, ha
2011	52,567	25,901	78,468
2012	62,701	14,640	77,341
2013	58,236	4,900	63,136
2014	52,587	10,298	62,885
2015	50,705	12,086	62,791
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
2020	47,001	16,646	63,647

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

The total area of vineyards in 2020 amounted to 63,647 ha, 0.6% below the level of the previous year.

About 77% of the vineyards on the farms are located in the southern part of the country, mainly in the Southeastern and South-Central regions.

**Table II.34. Distribution of vineyard areas in 2020 by location of farms**

Regions	Total area (ha)	of which harvested (ha)	Harvested, %
Northwestern	4,133	1,875	45%
North Central	2,490	1,241	50%
Northeastern	4,303	2,524	59%
Southeastern	15,345	9,907	65%
Southwestern	3,122	2,380	76%
South central	17,608	10,817	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,001</b>	<b>28,744</b>	<b>61%</b>

**Source:** MAF, department "Agrostatistics"

The total harvested areas with vines in 2020 were about 4% less on an annual basis. The decrease for the red grape wine varieties was a total of 7% for the country, most significantly in the North Central and North-West regions, respectively 28% and 24%. The harvested areas with white grape wine varieties shrank by a total of 5% for the country, most significantly in the Southeast region - by 11%. At the same time, in the South-West region there was an increase in the harvested areas with white grape wine varieties more than twice, and in the South-Central region - by 11%. In the table vine varieties the total harvested areas were about 8% more than in 2019. Increase of these areas was reported in the Southwest, North Central, South Central and Northeast regions - within 5% - 14%, and decrease - in the Northwest and Southeastern regions - by 17% and 2%, respectively.

Due to bad weather conditions, out of 2,395 ha of fruit-bearing vineyards, no produce was harvested.

**Table II.35. Distribution of harvested vineyards in 2019 - 2020 by statistical regions**

Regions	Red wine varieties (ha)		White wine varieties (ha)		Table varieties (ha)		Total vineyards (ha)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Northwestern	1,583	1,199	624	656	24	20	2,231	1,875
North Central	720	522	690	660	52	59	1,462	1,241
Northeastern	637	668	1,787	1,760	91	96	2,515	2,524
Southeastern	4,332	4,327	5,699	5,076	512	504	10,543	9,907
Southwestern	2,063	1,928	48	161	255	291	2,366	2,380
South central	8,005	7,561	1,853	2,062	1,076	1,194	10,934	10,817
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,340</b>	<b>16,205</b>	<b>10,701</b>	<b>10,375</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>30,051</b>	<b>28,744</b>

**Source:** MAFF, Agrostatistics Department

The leading place in the structure of vineyards in 2020 continued to be occupied by red wine varieties, with a relative share of about 56%, followed by areas with white wine varieties - about 37% and table wine varieties - about 8%.

### Average yields

In 2020 there was a decrease in the average yields from vineyards compared to the previous year both in wine varieties - by about 6%, up to 5,501 kg/ha, and in table varieties - by nearly 10%, up to 5,783 kg/ha.

The highest average yields of wine varieties were reported in the Northeastern and Southeastern regions (6,390 kg/ha and 6,135 kg/ha, respectively), and of table varieties - in the Southeastern region (8,792 kg/ha).

**Table II.36. Average yields of grapes from vineyards - harvest `2020**

Regions	Average yields from vineyards (kg/ha)	
	Wine varieties	Table varieties
Northwestern	5,590	4,500
North Central	4,528	5,881
Northeastern	6,390	4,521
Southeastern	6,135	8,792
Southwestern	5,393	4,096
South central	4,784	5,043
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>5,783</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

### Production

The total production of grapes in the country in 2020 amounted to 159,097 tonnes, which is nearly 11% less on an annual basis. The grape harvested from vineyards amounted to 158,736 tonnes - 10.7% below the level of the previous year, in the ratio of wine variety- 92% and table variety - 8%. The production of grapes from vine-arbors decreased by 56% to 361 tonnes.

Traditionally, the largest production of vineyards was reported in the Southeastern and South Central regions, where about 72% of all production is concentrated.

Compared to 2019, in the South-Central and South-Eastern regions there was a significant decrease in grape production from vineyards - by 21% and 13%, respectively, while in the North-Western, North-Eastern and North-Central regions there was an increase in production within 11% - 19%.

**Table II.37. Grape production - harvest `2020**

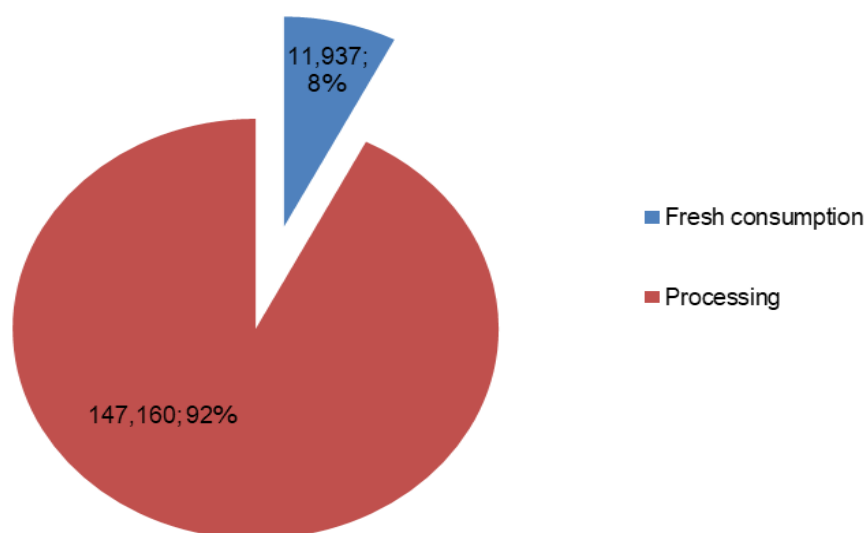
Regions	Grapes from the vineyards			Grapes from arbors (tonnes)	Total grapes produced (tonnes)
	Wine grape (tonnes)	Table grape (tonnes)	Total grapes produced from vineyards (tonnes)		
Northwestern	10,369	90	10,459	-	-
North Central	5,352	347	5,699	-	-
Northeastern	15,515	434	15,949	-	-
Southeastern	57,686	4,431	62,117	-	-
Southwestern	11,267	1,192	12,459	-	-
South central	46,032	6,021	52,053	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,221</b>	<b>12,515</b>	<b>158,736</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>159,097</b>

Source: MAFF, Agrostistics Department

Out of the total grape produced during the year, 92% were destined for processing and 8% - for fresh consumption.

According to the data of the Executive Agency for Vine and Wine, in 2020 the quantity of wine grapes purchased and processed by wine enterprises amounted to 114,336 tonnes, which is 17.9 thousand tonnes less than the previous year.

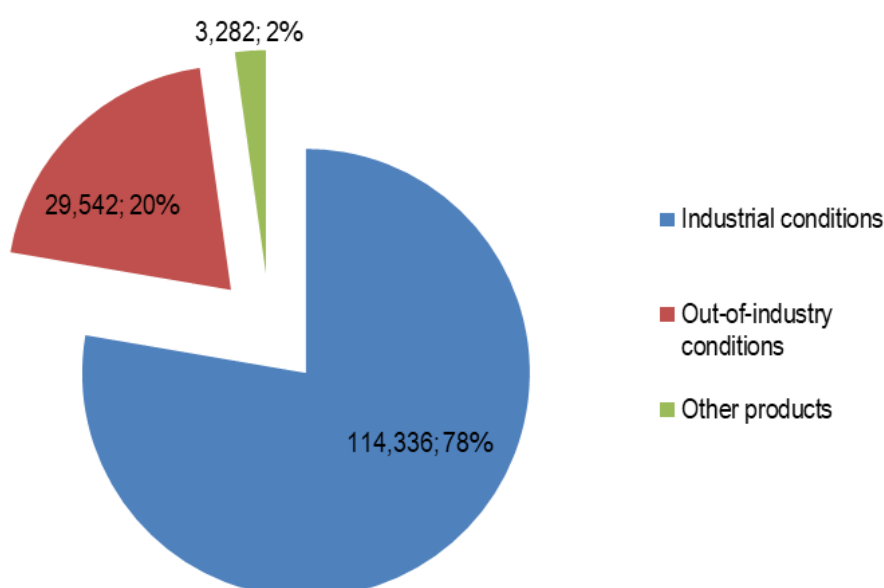
**Figure II.7. Distribution of grapes produced - harvest `2020, tonnes and percentage**



*Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department*

Grapes intended for processing in non-industrial conditions amounted to 29 542 tonnes and 3 282 tonnes of processed grapes were used for products other than wine and grape must.

**Figure II.8. Distribution of grapes - harvest `2020, intended for processing, tonnes and percentage**



*Source: MAFF, Agrostatistics Department*

## 2.5.2. Wine production

The total production of wine from the 2020 harvest, declared by the registered wine producers, amounted to 756,225 hectoliters. This is 11.8% less than the previous year, with a decrease in the quantities produced for all categories of wines. The production of white wines decreased by nearly 8% on an annual basis, to 388,478 hectoliters, and that of red wines and roses - by about 16%, to 367,747 hectoliters. The main reason for the drop in wine and must production from the 2020 harvest were the unfavorable climatic conditions (drought and high temperatures) during grape ripening.

Table wines (wines without protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication) had the highest share in industrial wine production - 57%, followed by regional wines (wines with a protected geographical indication) with 43%.

**Table II.38. Quantity of wine and grape must produced by wine-producing enterprises, harvest `2020**

Region	Quantity of wine and grape must produced, hectoliters								
	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
Northwestern region	0	198	4,593	6,027	4,117	8,555	32,641	8,710	14,781
North Central Region	0	1,707	11,763	16,398	9,625	9,698	0	21,388	27,802
Northeastern region	93	0	27,971	9,367	26,107	8,529	490	54,170	17,896
Southeastern region	480	1,104	65,844	77,430	169,254	89,204	6,183	235,578	167,738
Southwestern region	0	0	4,072	8,911	22,907	23,936	18,930	26,978	32,847
South central region	0	175	22,507	68,629	19,148	37,880	8,425	41,654	106,684
<b>TOTAL WINE:</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>3,184</b>	<b>136,749</b>	<b>186,761</b>	<b>251,157</b>	<b>177,801</b>	<b>66,668</b>	<b>388,478</b>	<b>367,747</b>

Source: Executive Agency on Vine and Wine

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

Traditionally, the leader in wine production was the Southeastern region with about 53% of total industrial production, followed by the South Central region with nearly 20%. The share of wine produced in the North-West region was the smallest - 3%.

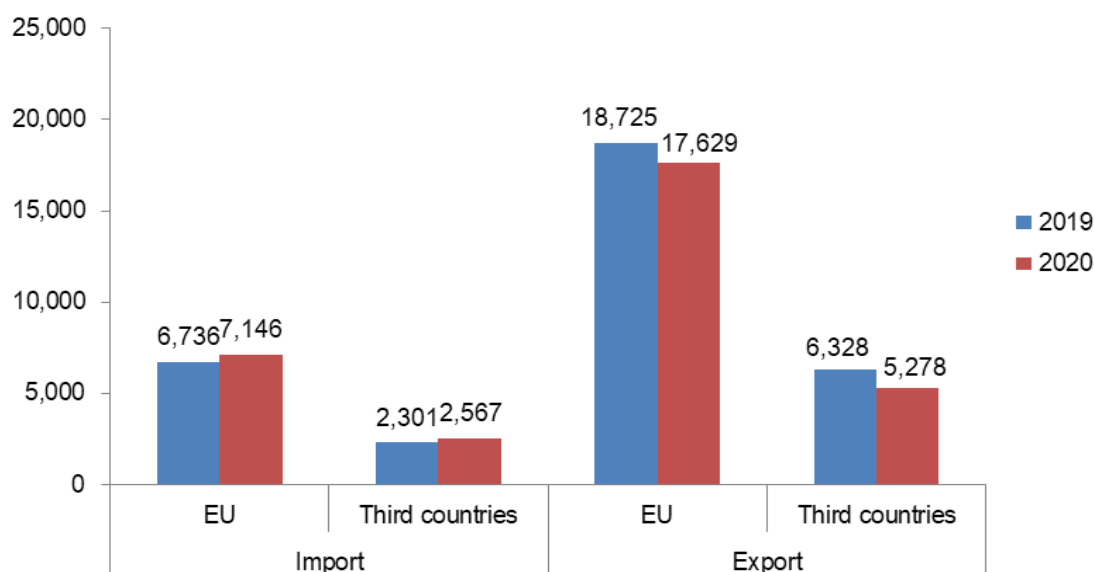
135,792 hectoliters of wine were produced in non-industrial conditions in 2020, compared to 147,497 hectoliters for the previous year.

Thus, the total production of wine - harvest `2020 amounted to 892 017 hectoliters, 11% less than the harvest` 2019.

## 2.5.3. Export and Import of Wine

The export of wine from Bulgaria traditionally exceeds the import in the country.

**Figure II.9. Foreign trade in wine during the period 2019 - 2020, thousand liters**



Source: NSI

### Export

According to NSI data, in 2020 the export of wine amounted to 22,907 thousand liters - 8.6% below the level of the previous year. In value terms, exports decreased slightly more seriously - by 12.1%, to 30,730 thousand euros, due to a decrease in the average export price by 3.9% to 1.34 euros/liter.

The main destination for Bulgarian wines in 2020 remained the countries of the European Union, where a total of 17,629,000 liters (77% of total exports) were sold - 5.9% less on an annual basis. The largest were the shipments to Poland - 8,431 thousand liters, although shrinking by nearly 17% compared to 2019. Significant quantities were also directed to Sweden and the Czech Republic, taking into account export growth for both countries, respectively by 3.8% and 23.8%. Among the other major partners within the EU, exports to Italy (by 46%), France (by 81%) and Denmark (over three times) increased significantly on an annual basis, while those to Germany decreased by 34%. 5%) and to Romania (by 56.7%).

Wine exports to third countries in 2020 shrank by 16.6% compared to the previous year, to 5 278 thousand liters. There was a decrease in the quantities sold in most leading markets, including in the United Kingdom - by 13.5%, Russia - by 15.1% and China - by 65.4%. This is partially offset by an increase in shipments to Benin, Brazil, Mongolia and Switzerland and exports to Rwanda (in the absence of such in 2019).

**Table II.49. Wine Exports in 2019 and 2020, liters**

Countries	2019	2020
<b>EU, including:</b>	<b>18,724,519</b>	<b>17,628,587</b>
Poland	10,144,267	8,431,391
Sweden	4,385,910	4,553,136
Czech Republic	1,718,835	2,127,459
Belgium	564,551	675,884
Italy	237,503	346,821
Slovakia	325,011	311,009
Lithuania	319,695	284,073
Germany	381,465	249,832



Countries	2019	2020
The Netherlands	98,841	147,014
Latvia	141,847	120,608
Greece	81,455	111,161
Croatia	108,744	106,176
Romania	123,369	53,462
France	20,577	37,240
Denmark	5,552	20,275
Luxembourg	14,180	10,629
Others	52,717	42,417
<b>Third countries, including:</b>	<b>6,327,950</b>	<b>5,278,221</b>
United Kingdom	1,573,298	1,361,095
Russia	1,563,041	1,326,501
Japan	722,443	661,269
Nigeria	517,464	503,987
United States of America	485,162	469,503
China	465,832	161,046
Benin	84,240	146,790
United Arab Emirates	94,010	91,668
Cote d'Ivoire	188,694	81,896
Brazil	31,506	58,799
Mongolia	10,728	56,754
Switzerland	47,981	54,888
Ghana	51,354	51,102
Rwanda	0	43,605
Canada	83,322	43,439
Kazakhstan	78,744	29,867
Hong Kong	43,747	27,949
Belarus	49,100	22,824
Norway	29,925	5,760
Vietnam	45,710	0
Central African Republic	29,817	0
Others	131,832	79,479
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,052,469</b>	<b>22,906,807</b>

Source: NSI

### Import

In 2020, a total of 9,713 thousand liters of wine were imported into the country, which is 7.5% more than in 2019. Due to the reported 9.4% lower average import price of 2.08 euro/liter, the value of imports decreased by 2.6% to 20,238 thousand euro.

**Table II.40. Wine imports in 2019 and 2020, liters**

Countries	2019	2020
<b>EU, including:</b>	<b>6,735,500</b>	<b>7,146,293</b>
Spain	1,711,880	2,110,735
Italy	2,059,572	2,088,536
France	1,239,166	1,175,691
Germany	891,729	1,021,708
Romania	431,189	174,983
Hungary	96,000	160,056
Sweden	21,899	130,119
Czech Republic	98,893	107,487
Greece	69,460	85,320
The Netherlands	23,794	40,439
Portugal	36,103	16,144
Belgium	26,496	9,009
Others	29,320	26,067
<b>Third countries, including:</b>	<b>2,301,409</b>	<b>2,566,879</b>
Northern Macedonia	1,038,253	1,542,483
New Zealand	630,095	422,994
Moldova	105,721	212,387
Chile	262,572	98,082
South Africa	32,446	97,957
Argentina	56,450	85,724
Ukraine	2,111	37,790
Georgia	24,400	26,078
United Kingdom	122,063	20,433
Russia	10,703	10,260
Others	16,595	12,691
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,036,910</b>	<b>9,713,172</b>

Source: NSI

EU wine supplies increased by 6.1% on an annual basis to 7,146,000 liters, representing nearly 74% of total imports for the year. Spain and Italy remained leading suppliers, and in both countries there was an increase compared to 2019, respectively by 23.3% and 1.4%. At the same time, imports from traditional counterparties such as France and Romania shrank by 5.1% and 59.4% respectively. Impressive is the almost sixfold increase in wine imports from Sweden during the year, although the quantity is not so large.

Imports of wine from non-EU countries in 2020 amounted to 2,567 thousand liters - 11.5% above the level of the previous year, mainly due to the reported growth of 48.6% of supplies from northern Macedonia, forming about 60% of all imports from third countries. Imports from Moldova, South Africa and Ukraine also increased significantly, while those from New Zealand, Chile and the United Kingdom dropped by between 32.9% and 83.3%.

### III. TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL GOODS

In 2020, the agricultural sector retained its importance in the country's foreign trade, forming, according to preliminary NSI data, 15.0% of total trade for the year, including 17.1% of total exports and 13.0% of total imports.

**Table III.1. Relative share of agricultural goods in Bulgaria's foreign trade in the period 2019 - 2020, thousand EUR**

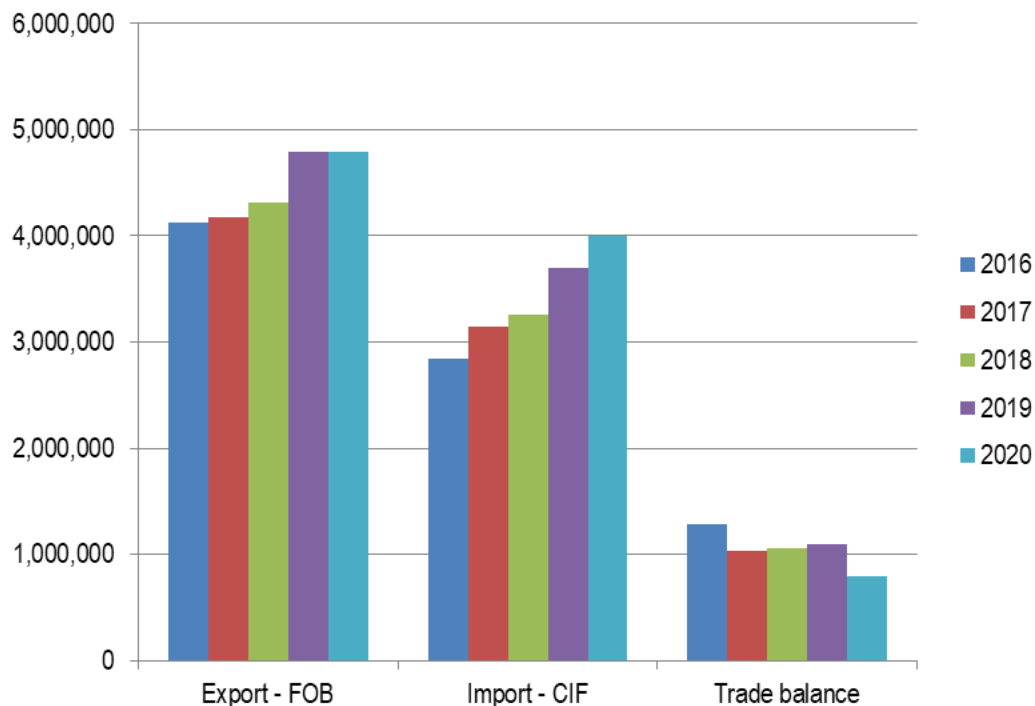
	2019		Share of the agricultural sector in %	2020		Share of the agricultural sector in %
	Total for the country	Agricultural sector		Total for the country	Agricultural sector	
Export, FOB	29,889,870	4,793,068	16.0	28,008,269	4,786,078	17.1
Import, CIF	33,740,273	3,702,998	11.0	30,742,702	3,998,845	13.0
Commodity exchange	63,630,143	8,496,066	13.4	58,750,971	8,784,923	15.0

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

#### 1. Level and Dynamics of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods

According to NSI data, in 2020 the agricultural trade of Bulgaria amounted to EUR 8,784.9 million, which is 3.4% more on an annual basis. Exports of agricultural goods decreased slightly by 0.1% compared to the previous year, to EUR 4,786.1 million. At the same time, agricultural imports increased by 8% to EUR 3,998.8 million, mainly due to the increased supplies of sunflower, which can be explained by the lower harvest in the country. Thus, in 2020 there was a positive trade balance for Bulgaria amounting to EUR 787.2 million, 27.8% less than in 2019.

**Figure III. 1. Import and export of agricultural goods in the period 2016 - 2020, EUR thousand**



Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

**Table III. 2. Foreign trade in agricultural goods in the period 2019 - 2020, EUR thousand**

Year	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019	
			in value	in %
Export - FOB	4,793,068	4,786,078	-6,990	-0.1
Import - CIF	3,702,998	3,998,845	295,847	8.0
Balance	1,090,070	787,233	-302,836	-27.8
Commodity exchange	8,496,066	8,784,923	288,857	3.4

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

## 2. Geographical Distribution of Foreign Trade in Agricultural Goods

In recent years, Bulgaria's main partner in trade in agricultural goods are the countries of the European Union. Data for 2020 show a relative preservation of agricultural trade with the EU-27 (excluding the United Kingdom) around the level of 2019, as the Union's share of total agricultural exports is 63.5% and that of total agricultural imports - 72.1%.

The total exchange of agricultural goods with third countries increased by 10.4% on an annual basis. Expanded trade with Russia and the United States has made a major contribution to this.

**Table III. 3. Imports and exports of agricultural goods by economic communities and regions in the period 2019 - 2020, EUR million**

Trade areas	2019					2020				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	(EUR million)	%	(EUR million)	%	(EUR million)	(EUR million)	%	(EUR million)	%	(EUR million)
<b>All countries, including:</b>	<b>4,793.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,703.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,090.1</b>	<b>4,786.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,998.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>787.2</b>
EU-27	3,110.4	64.9	2,794.7	75.5	315.8	3,041.3	63.5	2,883.5	72.1	157.8
EFTA**	13.1	0.3	7.4	0.2	5.7	17.7	0.4	9.6	0.2	8.1
OECD excluding EU and EFTA countries***	700.7	14.6	279.4	7.5	421.2	705.6	14.7	297.0	7.4	408.6
including USA	107.1	2.2	22.4	0.6	84.8	147.4	3.1	21.9	0.5	125.5
Balkan region excluding Turkey and the EU countries****	180.3	3.8	160.4	4.3	19.9	175.7	3.7	153.9	3.8	21.8
CIS	88.0	1.8	85.4	2.3	2.6	79.3	1.7	172.3	4.3	-93.0
including. Russia	64.7	1.3	37.6	1.0	27.0	57.9	1.2	143.5	3.6	-85.6
Arab countries (League of the Arab states)	328.1	6.8	34.0	0.9	294.1	326.6	6.8	31.0	0.8	295.5
Other	372.7	7.8	341.8	9.2	30.9	440.0	9.2	451.4	11.3	-11.4

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

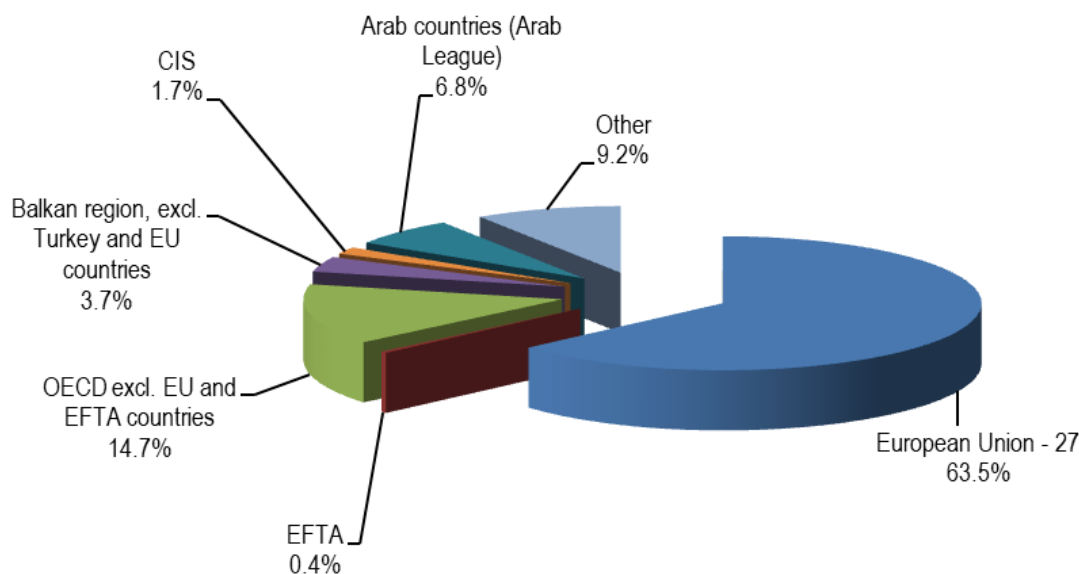
\* Includes 27 Member States of the European Union (excluding the United Kingdom)

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

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

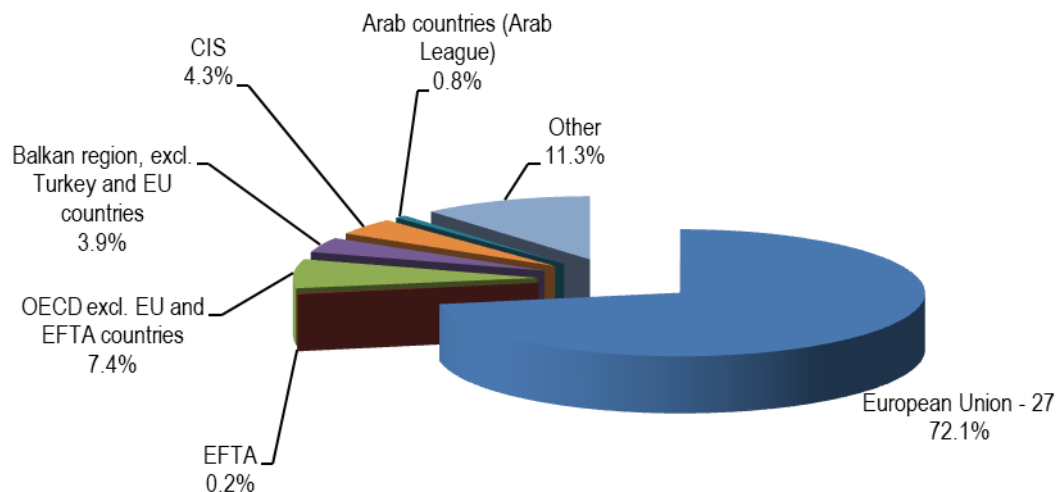
\*\*\*\*Includes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo

**Figure III.2. Structure of Bulgaria's Agricultural Exports by Economic Communities and Regions in 2020**



Source: NSI

**Figure III.3. Structure of Bulgaria's Agricultural Imports by Economic Communities and Regions in 2020**



Source: NSI

### Trade with the EU

In 2020, trade in agricultural goods with EU countries amounted to EUR 5,924.8 million - 0.3% above the level of the previous year forming 67.4% of total agricultural trade. The value of shipments of agricultural products from Bulgaria to EU member states decreased by 2.2% on an annual basis, while supplies from the EU increased by 3.2%. As a result, the positive balance for Bulgaria decreased by half compared to 2019, to EUR 157.8 million.

**Table III.4. Trade of Bulgaria in Agricultural Goods with EU Member States in 2019 and 2020**

Country	2019					2020				
	Export		Import		Balance	Export		Import		Balance
	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand	%	EUR thousand
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,110,175</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,794,516</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,090,069</b>	3,041,289	<b>100</b>	2,883,503	<b>100</b>	157,786
Austria	36,861	1.2%	77,259	2.8%	-40,398	34,564	1.1%	75,734	2.6%	-41,170
Belgium	112,697	3.6%	60,192	2.2%	52,505	103,214	3.4%	85,822	3.0%	17,392
Germany	275,572	8.9%	360,033	12.9%	-84,461	317,935	10.5%	405,995	14.1%	-88,060
Greece	648,501	20.9%	375,614	13.4%	272,887	584,939	19.2%	389,799	13.5%	195,140
Denmark	11,613	0.4%	34,551	1.2%	-22,938	10,823	0.4%	36,716	1.3%	-25,893
Estonia	1,888	0.1%	6,550	0.2%	-4,662	1,452	0.0%	6,920	0.2%	-5,468
Ireland	35,755	1.1%	19,929	0.7%	15,826	28,431	0.9%	19,769	0.7%	8,662
Spain	331,868	10.7%	164,955	5.9%	166,913	259,483	8.5%	141,108	4.9%	118,375
Italy	245,446	7.9%	223,532	8.0%	21,914	286,179	9.4%	243,705	8.5%	42,474
Cyprus	48,628	1.6%	4,581	0.2%	44,047	44,760	1.5%	2,759	0.1%	42,001
Latvia	5,705	0.2%	12,894	0.5%	-7,189	7,832	0.3%	6,629	0.2%	1,203
Lithuania	18,455	0.6%	24,412	0.9%	-5,957	21,109	0.7%	28,532	1.0%	-7,423
Luxembourg	241	0.0%	1,753	0.1%	-1,512	339	0.0%	369	0.0%	-30
Malta	2,847	0.1%	383	0.0%	2,464	4,091	0.1%	725	0.0%	3,366
The Netherlands	240,068	7.7%	217,928	7.8%	22,140	251,270	8.3%	228,051	7.9%	23,219
Poland	118,729	3.8%	289,816	10.4%	-171,087	121,013	4.0%	270,153	9.4%	-149,140
Portugal	80,926	2.6%	6,562	0.2%	74,364	41,587	1.4%	6,795	0.2%	34,792
Romania	540,555	17.4%	498,080	17.8%	42,475	578,028	19.0%	512,439	17.8%	65,589
Slovakia	22,356	0.7%	31,017	1.1%	-8,661	26,837	0.9%	31,079	1.1%	-4,242
Slovenia	7,672	0.2%	8,103	0.3%	-431	7,282	0.2%	9,130	0.3%	-1,848
Hungary	47,382	1.5%	147,924	5.3%	-100,542	49,286	1.6%	155,038	5.4%	-105,752
Finland	5,490	0.2%	1,121	0.0%	4,369	5,641	0.2%	1,509	0.1%	4,132
France	152,636	4.9%	127,269	4.6%	25,367	137,369	4.5%	123,693	4.3%	13,676
Croatia	25,455	0.8%	27,101	1.0%	-1,646	27,719	0.9%	36,002	1.2%	-8,283
Czech Republic	39,603	1.3%	57,435	2.1%	-17,832	37,433	1.2%	52,959	1.8%	-15,526
Sweden	53,226	1.7%	15,522	0.6%	37,704	52,673	1.7%	12,073	0.4%	40,600

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

Bulgaria's main partners in trade in agricultural goods among EU countries in 2020 were Romania, Greece, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Poland. The largest share of shipments of agricultural goods in value terms were destined to Greece - 19.2%, Romania - 19%, Germany - 10.5%, Italy - 9.4%, Spain - 8.5% and the Netherlands - 8.3% and the leading suppliers from the Union were Romania - 17.8%, Germany - 14.1%, Greece - 13.5%, Poland - 9.4%, Italy - 8.5% and the Netherlands - 7, 9%. More than a third of agrarian trade with the EU is formed by trade with neighboring Greece and Romania.

### Trade with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Countries

Trade with the OECD, excluding the EU and EFTA countries, represented 14.7% of total agricultural exports and 7.4% of Bulgaria's total agricultural imports in 2020. With relative preservation of agricultural exports to these countries and an increase in imports by 6.3%, the positive balance for Bulgaria shrank by 3% on an annual basis to EUR 408.6 million.

### Trade with the Balkan countries

In 2020, the exchange of agricultural goods with the Balkan countries (including those of the EU and Turkey) amounted to EUR 2,974.8 million (33.9% of total agricultural trade). This is 1.7% more than in 2019, with a slight decrease of 0.5% in Bulgarian exports and an increase of 4.7% in imports. The positive trade balance for Bulgaria in agricultural trade with these countries amounted to EUR 391.2 million, 14.3% below the level of the previous year.

Bulgaria's main trade partners among the Balkan countries were Romania, Greece and Turkey. In all countries in the region, with the exception of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia, the agricultural exports from Bulgaria exceeded the imports from the country.

**Table III.5. Trade in Agricultural Goods with the Countries of the Balkan Region in 2019 and 2020, thousand EUR**

Country	2019			2020		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Albania	21,374	5,601	15,773	20,964	4,037	16,927
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10,990	1,902	9,088	19,604	1,294	18,309
Greece	648,501	375,614	272,887	584,939	389,799	195,140
Kosovo	46,078	1,903	44,175	35,449	2,815	32,634
Northern Macedonia	49,960	44,860	5,100	48,432	29,220	19,212
Romania	540,555	498,080	42,475	578,028	512,440	65,588
Slovenia	7,672	8,103	-431	7,282	9,130	-1,848
Serbia	40,011	106,088	-66,077	44,206	116,450	-72,244
Turkey	288,318	164,894	123,424	309,318	190,498	118,819
Croatia	25,455	27,101	-1,646	27,719	36,002	-8,283
Montenegro	11,849	56	11,793	7,048	126	6,922
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,690,762</b>	<b>1,234,200</b>	<b>456,562</b>	<b>1,682,989</b>	<b>1,291,808</b>	<b>391,181</b>

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 EFTA countries in 2020 amounted to EUR 27.3 million - 33% more than the previous year. The outpacing rate of increase of Bulgarian exports (by 35%) compared to imports (by 29.5%) contributes to the expansion of the positive trade balance for Bulgaria to EUR 8.1 million - 42.1% more than reported for 2019. In 2020, the main EFTA partners remained Norway and Switzerland.

**Table III.6. Trade in Agricultural Goods with the EFTA countries in 2019 and 2020, thousand EUR**

Country	2019			2020		
	Export	Import	Balance	Export	Import	Balance
Iceland	9	1,693	-1,683	47	2,588	-2,541
Liechtenstein	38	0	38	30	0	30
Norway	6,987	2,346	4,641	7,845	2,184	5,661
Switzerland	6,081	3,403	2,678	9,780	4,867	4,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,115</b>	<b>7,441</b>	<b>5,674</b>	<b>17,701</b>	<b>9,639</b>	<b>8,062</b>

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

### **Trade with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)**

The exchange of agricultural goods with the CIS countries in 2020 increased by 45.1% on an annual basis to EUR 251.6 million. A negative balance for Bulgaria in the trade in agricultural goods with the CIS in the amount of EUR 93 million was formed within the year. This is due to the twofold increase in total agricultural imports from these countries (mainly due to an increase in sunflower supplies from Russia), combined with a 9.9% shrinking of Bulgarian exports.

The value of agricultural goods exported to Russia decreased by 10.5% compared to 2019, representing about 73% of total agricultural exports to the CIS.

### **Trade with Arab countries (League of Arab States)**

The trade in agricultural goods between Bulgaria and the Arab countries consists mainly of exports from Bulgaria. In 2020, agricultural trade with these countries amounted to EUR 357.6 million - 1.2% below the level of the previous year, with a slight decrease in both Bulgarian exports - by 0.5% and imports - by 8.7%. The positive trade balance for Bulgaria remained close to the one reported in 2019, amounting to EUR 295.5 million.

## **3. Structure and Dynamics of Agricultural Trade in Products**

### **Export**

The slight decrease in total exports of agricultural goods in 2020 was mainly due to shrinking sales of cereals outside the country. Although it decreased by 13.5% on an annual basis, the value of exported cereals continues to form the largest share of total agricultural exports - 24.5%.

The group of oilseeds and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder, with an increase of 3.2% compared to 2019, continued to rank second in the structure of agricultural exports with a share of 12.8%.

Next is the export of fats and oils of vegetable or animal origin; food industry leftovers and prepared animal food; soft drinks and alcoholic beverages and vinegar; food products prepared on the base of cereals, flour, starch, milk and cocoa and cocoa products, representing between 5.1% and 9.1% of total agricultural exports. In most of these groups there was an increase in exports on an annual basis ranging from 9.7% to 34.9%. An exception was the export of cereal-based food products, which shrank by 5.9%.

Among the other more significant product groups, an increase compared to 2019 was observed in the export of processed fruits and vegetables; fresh fruits; various types of food and coffee, tea and spices, and a decrease - in that of meat and offal; milk, dairy products, eggs and honey; vegetables and tobacco and processed tobacco substitutes.



## Import

In 2020, the supply of oilseeds and fruits increased by 66.7% on an annual basis in value terms, which ranks this group first in the structure of agricultural imports with a share of 13.1%.

Among the more important groups of agricultural products, a significant increase was observed in the import of fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin - by 43%, and more moderate - in that of vegetables; fruits; wheat plants; coffee, tea, maté and spices; soft drinks and alcoholic beverages and vinegar; fruit and vegetable foods; various types of food products; residues from the food industry and prepared animal feed - within 3.1% - 7.8%.

On the other hand, the value of imported milk and dairy products; meat and offal; tobacco and processed tobacco and fish substitutes, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates dropped by between 2.9% and 15.3%.

In particular, the leading agricultural products in exports and imports of the country in 2020 are listed in Tables III.8 and III.9.

**Table III.7. Import and Export of Agricultural and Processed Goods in the period 2019 and 2020**

Code	Sections	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					BALANCE 2019	BALANCE 2020
		2019		2020		Change 2020/2019	2019		2020		Change 2020/2019		
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural goods in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural goods in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total imports of agricultural goods in %	EUR thousand	share of total imports of agricultural goods in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
	a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	29,889,870		28,008,269		-6.3	33,740,273		30,742,702		-8.9	-3,850,403	-2,734,433
	including agricultural goods:	4,793,068	100	4,786,078	100	-0.1	3,702,998	100	3,998,845	100	8.0	1,090,070	787,234
	<b>SECTION I</b>	<b>455,147</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>402,952</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>838,542</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>781,666</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>-383,395</b>	<b>-378,714</b>
1	Live animals	40,956	0.9	40,940	0.9	0	32,980	0.9	31,070	0.8	-5.8	7,976	9,870
2	Meat and edible offal	158,959	3.3	115,472	2.4	-27.4	429,058	11.6	399,762	10.0	-6.8	-270,099	-284,290
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	38,370	0.8	34,030	0.7	-11.3	98,471	2.7	83,400	2.1	-15.3	-60,101	-49,370
4	Milk and milk products; poultry eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	202,075	4.2	200,193	4.2	-0.9	255,272	6.9	247,913	6.2	-2.9	-53,197	-47,720
5	Other products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	14,787	0.3	12,317	0.3	-16.7	22,761	0.6	19,521	0.5	-14.2	-7,974	-7,204
	<b>SECTION II</b>	<b>2,374,890</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>2,186,160</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>1,002,459</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>1,246,744</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>1,372,431</b>	<b>939,416</b>
6	Live plants and flower products	12,597	0.3	18,928	0.4	50.3	27,146	0.7	26,901	0.7	-0.9	-14,549	-7,973
7	Edible vegetables, plants, roots and tubers	149,475	3.1	114,674	2.4	-23.3	184,953	5.0	191,647	4.8	3.6	-35,478	-76,973
8	Edible fruits; citrus or melon peels	104,305	2.2	104,476	2.2	0.2	208,171	5.6	228,487	5.7	9.8	-103,866	-124,011
9	Coffee, tea, maté and spices	98,545	2.1	101,866	2.1	3.4	128,180	3.5	134,776	3.4	5.1	-29,635	-32,910
10	Wheat plants	1,353,945	28.2	1,171,708	24.5	-13.5	85,790	2.3	94,179	2.4	9.8	1,268,155	1,077,529

Code	Sections	EXPORT-FOB					IMPORT-CIF					BALANCE	BALANCE
		2019		2020		Change 2020/2019	2019		2020		Change 2020/2019	2019	2020
		EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural goods in %	EUR thousand	share of total exports of agricultural goods in %	%	EUR thousand	share of total imports of agricultural goods in %	EUR thousand	share of total imports of agricultural goods in %	%	EUR thousand	EUR thousand
11	Milling products; malt; starch and starch; inulin; wheat gluten	56,759	1.2	56,090	1.2	-1.2	26,910	0.7	25,953	0.6	-3.6	29,849	30,137
12	Oilseeds and oleaginous fruits; various types of seeds, seeds for sowing and fruits; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	595,687	12.4	614,719	12.8	3.2	313,996	8.5	523,281	13.1	66.7	281,691	91,438
13	Natural varnishes, glues, resins and other plant juices and extracts	3,167	0.1	2,443	0.1	-22.9	26,624	0.7	20,681	0.5	-22.3	-23,457	-18,238
14	Weaving materials and other products of vegetable origin, not elsewhere specified or included	410	0.0	1,256	0.0	206.3	689	0.0	839	0.0	21.8	-279	417
	<b>SECTION III</b>	<b>322,594</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>435,048</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>123,054</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>175,958</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>199,540</b>	<b>259,090</b>
15	Fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin; products from their decomposition; processed fats for food; waxes of animal or vegetable origin												
	<b>SECTION IV</b>	<b>1,640,437</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>1,761,918</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1,738,943</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>1,794,476</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-98,506</b>	<b>-32,558</b>
16	Products of meat, fish or crustacean products, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	85,762	1.8	92,984	1.9	8.4	61,580	1.7	66,940	1.7	8.7	24,182	26,044
17	Sugar and sugar confectionery	93,996	2.0	94,340	2.0	0.4	131,113	3.5	133,817	3.3	2.1	-37,117	-39,477
18	Cocoa and cocoa products	223,100	4.7	244,761	5.1	9.7	258,973	7.0	263,828	6.6	1.9	-35,873	-19,067
19	Food prepared from cereals, flour, starch, farina or milk; pastry confectionery	285,724	6.0	268,973	5.6	-5.9	179,892	4.9	188,206	4.7	4.6	105,832	80,767
20	Food products from vegetables, fruits or other parts of plants	142,870	3.0	157,551	3.3	10.3	147,145	4.0	157,041	3.9	6.7	-4,275	510
21	Various types of food products	111,352	2.3	134,905	2.8	21.2	209,564	5.7	221,729	5.5	5.8	-98,212	-86,824
22	Non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and vinegars	218,460	4.6	271,417	5.7	24.2	335,643	9.1	346,189	8.7	3.1	-117,183	-74,772
23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal feed	293,426	6.1	334,110	7.0	13.9	144,417	3.9	155,693	3.9	7.8	149,009	178,417
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	185,747	3.9	162,877	3.4	-12.3	270,616	7.3	261,033	6.5	-3.5	-84,869	-98,156

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

**Table III.8. Leading Agricultural Goods in Bulgaria's Exports in 2020**

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (thousand EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural exports
Wheat and a mixture of wheat and rye	3,230,283	613,592	12.8%
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	818,423	468,562	9.8%
Maize	2,593,043	441,201	9.2%
Sunflower oil, cottonseed oil or safflower oil	524,522	399,005	8.3%
Bakery, pastry or biscuit products, empty capsules of medicine dough, sealing dough, dry dough sheets	95,530	232,104	4.8%
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	49,598	192,220	4.0%
Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	131,666	165,553	3.5%
Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included	35,781	117,760	2.5%
Meat and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of vegetable fats or oils (excluding soybean and peanut oil)	570,857	115,249	2.4%
Raw or unprocessed tobacco; tobacco waste	22,933	109,326	2.3%
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, sweetened or flavored, and other non-alcoholic beverages	154,612	99,615	2.1%
Poultry meat and offal, fresh, chilled or frozen	32,329	94,759	2.0%
Fruit, nuts and other parts of plants, prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit	46,147	92,681	1.9%
Cheese and cottage cheese	23,379	90,577	1.9%
Coffee and coffee substitutes containing coffee	17,923	80,606	1.7%

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

**Table III.9. Leading agricultural goods in imports in Bulgaria in 2020**

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (thousand EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural imports
Sunflower seeds, even crushed	1,020,753	436,913	10.9%
Pork, fresh, chilled or frozen	126,381	243,597	6.1%
Cigars, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes	14,565	165,900	4.1%
Chocolate and other food products containing cocoa	38,450	164,421	4.1%
Waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, sweetened or flavored, and other non-alcoholic beverages	221,432	150,122	3.8%
Bakery, pastry or biscuit products, empty capsules of medicine dough, sealing dough, dry dough sheets	50,918	123,481	3.1%
Food preparations not elsewhere specified or included	26,366	123,373	3.1%

Product name	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (thousand EUR)	Relative share of total agricultural imports
Coffee and coffee substitutes containing coffee	39,984	115,230	2.9%
Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	232,259	94,408	2.4%
Poultry meat and offal, fresh, chilled or frozen	99,515	90,033	2.3%
Cheese and cottage cheese	28,139	88,740	2.2%
Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; distillates, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages	16,520	88,165	2.2%
Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding	86,047	85,343	2.1%
Citrus fruits, fresh or dried	122,766	62,031	1.6%
Raw or unprocessed tobacco; tobacco waste	18,153	57,771	1.4%

Source: NSI data processed by MAFF

#### 4. Development of foreign trade in agricultural goods in January - June 2021

According to preliminary NSI data, in the first six months of 2021 the export of agricultural goods amounted to EUR 2,640.6 million, an increase of 12.6% compared to the same period in 2020. The increased exports of fats and oils of vegetable or animal origin (mainly sunflower oil) and oilseeds (by 61.1% and 28% respectively) has the largest contribution to that. There was also a significant increase in the value of exported cereals (by 6.1%), vegetables (by 23.8%), cocoa products (by 9.8%), food products prepared on the basis of cereals (by 10.8%). ) and other.

The leading product groups in the structure of the agricultural exports of the country during the period January-June 2021 were cereals and oilseeds, followed by fats of vegetable or animal origin, residues and waste from the food industry and prepared animal feed, food products prepared on based on cereals, cocoa products, soft drinks, etc.

Imports of agricultural goods for the six months of 2021 reported a slightly smaller increase on an annual basis - by 7.6% to EUR 2,004.2 million.

As a result, the positive trade balance for Bulgaria for the first half of 2021 reached EUR 636.4 million, up 31.8% from the same period in 2020.

Main partners in the country's agricultural trade remain the EU countries. In the first six months of 2021, the exchange of agricultural goods with the EU increased by 16.1% on an annual basis, forming 63.5% of total agricultural exports and 74.3% of total agricultural imports.

#### 5. Activities to support the export of agricultural products

One of the main mechanisms to support exports is the collection and provision of information on potential markets for agricultural products produced in the country. In this regard, upon receipt of specific inquiries in 2020, market analyses and studies on the opportunity of exporting various agricultural products to trading partners from both the EU and third countries were conducted. The specifics in the different agricultural sectors were studied, the requirements regarding sanitary and phytosanitary control, tariff and non-tariff restrictions for access, reliefs, the requirements for applying for operators and suppliers of agricultural products were analyzed.

Information was provided in connection with the intensive negotiations between the EU and third countries in 2020 on a number of free trade agreements (FTAs) aimed at easing administrative burdens in trade and trade. 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.

The negotiations for concluding FTAs between the EU and Australia, New Zealand, Mercosur, Chile and Mexico, as well as the ongoing Brexit preparations, continued in 2020.

In the Airbus-Boeing case, the most affected by the additional tariffs on imports of European agricultural goods in the United States were the cheeses (mostly from cow milk), as there are no additional tariffs on the main tariff item under which sheep cheese is imported from Bulgaria. Bulgaria) and processed cherries. An agreement was reached between the EU and the US on 15 June 2021, according to which "each party intends to suspend application of its countermeasures for a period of 5 years".

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

In 2020, national stands of Bulgaria with the participation of producers of honey, wine, dairy and meat products, organic products, jam and other attended the Grüne Woche International Exhibition in Berlin and the Salon du fromage International Cheese and Dairy Salon in Paris.

Given the complicated situation following the Covid-19 pandemic, no such events took place in the first half of 2021.

#### IV. SUPPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

##### 1. Support under the First Pillar of CAP

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

Financial support through direct payments is provided by the EAGF and the National Bank. During the calendar year 2020, funds for direct payments were authorized for the 2019 and 2020 campaigns.

##### Campaign `2019

**Table IV.1. Authorized Funds for the 2019 campaign in the calendar year 2020**

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget allocation by source (%)		Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	NB	
SAPS	56,830	248	100	-	78,455,836
GDP	56,830	56,760	100	-	454,180,558
SRP	56,735	56,665	100	-	105,444,334
YFS	3,876	3,866	100	-	3,713,062
Cotton	114	113	100	-	4,820,156
SMLK	3,909	17	100	-	235,385
SMKH	5,458	46	100	-	496,941
SSCc-meat	418	8	100	-	86,740
SMR	2,313	5	100	-	9,854
SSC	2,102	10	100	-	526,239
Buffaloes	282	4	100	-	41,277
SF (main)	6,114	6,105	100	-	32,425,800
SV (main)	2,896	2,890	100	-	12,545,431
SVg	938	937	100	-	8,256,414
SPC	16,866	16,828	100	-	30,453,667
SMLK-milk	923	6	100	-	263,987
SMLK-MR	312	4	100	-	9,643

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget allocation by source (%)		Authorized payments (BGN)
SF (other)	3,337	3,314	100	-	7,223,881
CV-CCWM	2,858	2,850	100	-	6,112,089
CV-TCGE	2,116	2,102	100	-	6,240,871
SV-P	1,405	1,395	100	-	4,363,007
SSF	3,396	3,396	100	-	3,746,080
TMSA1	4,494	22	-	100	15,924,739
TMSA3	6,996	9	-	100	87,199
TNT	40,520	40,518	-	100	75,791,948
Financial discipline		36,059	100	-	18,967,914
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>870,423,051</b>

Source: SFA-RA

### Campaign 2020

During the `2020 campaign, farmers were supported under the following direct payment schemes, financed by European and national funds:

#### Direct payment schemes

- Single area payment scheme
- Payment scheme for climate and environmentally friendly agricultural practices - green direct payments
- 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 beef cows and/or heifers
- Coupled support scheme for beef cows under selection control
- Coupled support scheme for ewes and she-goats in mountain areas
- Coupled support scheme for ewes and she-goats under selection control
- Coupled support scheme for buffaloes
- Coupled support scheme for fruits
- Coupled support for fruit (plums and table grapes)
- Coupled support scheme for vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplants)
- Coupled support 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 for protein crops
- Special payment for cotton
- Transitional national aid schemes
- Transitional national aid scheme for tobacco
- Transitional National Decoupled Support Scheme for Cattle and Buffaloes
- Transitional National Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and She-goats

For the 2020 campaign, a total of 102,808 applications for support were accepted under all schemes. For convenience of farmers, the SFA-RA Electronic Services System, which contains both public and individual information about the submitted applications for support has been in operation since December 1, 2018. Applicants can obtain up-to-date information after registering.

Part of the ESS is reference "Declared cadastral properties by direct payments", which publishes information about the properties from the map of the restored property or the cadastral map, falling within the registered agricultural plots for campaigns 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The authorization for the `2020 campaign started in October 2020 with the payment of subsidies under the transitional national support schemes in livestock breeding. In December, payments were made under the coupled production schemes in the Livestock sector and under the single area payment scheme financed by the EAGF.

**Table IV.2. Authorized funds for the `2020 campaign in the calendar year 2020**

Scheme	Number of valid applications submitted	Number of applications with authorized payments	Budget allocation by source (%)		Authorized payments (BGN)
			EAGF	NB	
SAPS	54,984	54,759	100	-	683,361,861
SMLK	3,540	3,192	100	-	28,270,425
SMKH	5,002	4,498	100	-	16,744,496
EJSC meat	443	419	100	-	2,997,978
SMR	2,082	1,702	100	-	3,310,520
SSC	2,085	1,949	100	-	22,977,550
Buffaloes	263	217	100	-	3,925,387
SSCc-milk	930	894	100	-	38,673,023
SMLK-MR	317	260	100	-	662,999
TMSA1	4,128	4,104	-	100	17,474,467
TMSA3	6,327	5,937	-	100	24,650,787
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>843,049,493</b>

Source: SFA-RA

#### **Area-based support schemes (hectare)**

During the 2020 campaign, the single area payment scheme was applied with a minimum eligible farm size of 0.5 ha and a minimum parcel size of 0.1 ha. As a tool for overcoming the structural imbalance, the reduction of SAPS payments introduced by the 2015 campaign for amounts over EUR 150,000 was made, taking into account employment on farms by deducting the costs of agricultural work remuneration before the reductions in payments.

The applications for support for the 2020 campaign were 57,791. As of June 30, 2021, the total amount of authorized funds is BGN 772,953,917, with payment per unit area of BGN 212.48/ha. The utilization of the budget, amounting to BGN 807,424,649, is 95.7%.

The payment scheme for agricultural practices that are favorable for the climate and the environment (green direct payments) has been in force since 2015. Farmers eligible for SAPS payment must follow practices for crop diversification, preservation of permanently grassed areas and maintaining of ecologically oriented areas within all their hectares, depending on the structure of the agricultural holding, its size and the cultivated crops. For the 2020 campaign, the scheme, with a budget of BGN 508,539,293, was applied for by 57,791 farmers. As of 30.06.2021, at a support rate of BGN 133.82/ha, payments in the amount of BGN 489,394,005 were authorized, which represents a budget utilization of 96.2%.

The redistributive payment scheme aims to promote more economically vulnerable small and medium-sized farms by applying a higher single payment per hectare for the first 30 ha of each farm eligible for SAPS support. For the 2020 campaign, the scheme had a budget of BGN 118,998,173 and there were support applications by 57,719 farmers. As of the end of June 2021, the budget was used at 95.7%, with an amount of payment per unit area of BGN 150.80/ha. The authorized funds amounted to BGN 113,934,703.

Farmers who were not more than 40 years old in 2020 and had started farming in the last 5 years received an increased payment of 50% of the SAPS payment for the first 30 ha under the Young Farmers Scheme. 3,765 young farmers applied for support for the 2020 campaign. As of June 30, 2021, BGN 2,974,250 were authorized under the scheme.

2,808 farmers applied for the 2020 scheme under the Small Farmers Scheme. The funds authorized as of 30.06.2021 amounted to BGN 3,197,558. Application for participation in the scheme was only possible in the reference year 2015. Beneficiaries who had submitted SAPS applications for the current campaign were eligible for support and they had to meet the minimum requirements for receiving direct payments. In order to benefit from the financial aid, each year of their application they have to maintain at least the amount of eligible areas declared in their 2015 campaign application.

Support for small farmers replaced all payments under direct payment schemes. The financial support is set up 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.

### **Coupled support schemes**

#### *Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows*

The scheme, with a budget of BGN 33,637,998, is aimed at supporting farms in the dairy sector to maintain the level of milk produced. 3,502 farmers applied for support for the 2020 campaign. The set support rate is BGN 368.85/head up to the 50th animal and BGN 295.08/head over the 50th animal. As of the end of June 2021, BGN 29,801,144 or 88.6% of the budget were authorized under the scheme.

#### *Scheme for coupled support for dairy cows under selection control*

930 farmers applied for support for the 2020 campaign. The annual budget of the scheme amounted to BGN 41,142,221, and the set support rates set were - BGN 610.50 head up to the 50th eligible animal and BGN 488.40/head over the 50th eligible animal. The authorized funds as of 30.06.2021 amounted to BGN 39,698,091, which represents 96.5% of the budget.

#### *Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows in Mountain Areas*

The budget of the scheme for the 2020 campaign amounted to BGN 829,187. 318 farmers applied to participate. At a rate of BGN 348 / head, payments in the amount of BGN 751,333 or 90.6% of the budget were authorized.

#### *Coupled support scheme for beef cows and/or heifers*

5,017 farmers applied for the 2020 campaign under the scheme with an annual budget of BGN 18,749,713. The support rate was BGN 160.50/head for animals up to the 50th eligible animal and BGN



128.40/head for over the 50th animals. As of June 30, 2021, BGN 17,734,729 were authorized under the scheme - 94.6% of the budget.

*Coupled support scheme for beef cows under selection control*

The budget of the scheme for the 2020 campaign was BGN 3,249,951. 443 applications for support were submitted. At rates of BGN 152.19/head to the 50th eligible animal and BGN 121.75/head over the 50th eligible animal, as of the end of June 2021, BGN 3,127,102 or 96.2% of the annual budget were authorized.

*Coupled support scheme for ewes and/or she-goats in mountain areas*

The scheme aims to maintain the level of production on farms keeping 10 to 49 ewes and or she-goats in mountain areas. The budget for the 2020 campaign amounted to BGN 4,183,987. 2,104 farmers applied to participate. The rate for one animal amounted to BGN 70.17/head. As of June 30, 2021, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 3,857,986, which is 92.2% of the scheme's budget.

*Coupled support scheme for ewes and or she-goats under selection control*

The scheme supports 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. The budget under the scheme for the 2020 campaign amounted to BGN 24,004,232. Applications for support were submitted by 2,087 farmers. The support rates for one animal were BGN 80.50/head up to the 200th eligible animal and BGN 64.40/head over the 200th eligible animal. The authorized funds as of 30.06.2021 amounted to BGN 23,949,770, which forms 99.8% utilization of the budget.

*Coupled support scheme for buffaloes*

Support for buffalo breeding, as a vulnerable sector, is provided through a separate direct payment scheme. The support is aimed at farmers who breed 10 or more buffaloes. 263 farmers applied under the scheme, with a budget for the 2020 campaign in the amount of BGN 4,424,442. The support rates for one animal were BGN 463.94 head up to the 50th eligible animal and BGN 371.15/head over the 50th eligible animal. Authorized funds in the first six months of 2021 amounted to BGN 4,315,270 or 97.5% of the budget.

*Coupled support scheme for fruits (main group)*

For the `2020 campaign, applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 5,739 farmers. The annual budget amounted to BGN 35,765,153, and the set rates amounted to BGN 2,252.97/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 1,501.98/ha for areas over 30 ha. In the first half of 2021, 95.7% of the budget was used, with authorized funds amounting to BGN 34,234,051.

*Coupled support scheme for fruit - plums and table grapes*

The budget under the scheme for the 2020 campaign was BGN 8,011,465. 3,225 farmers applied for support. As of the end of June 2021, payments in the amount of BGN 7,679,592 (95.9% budget utilization) were authorized, at rates of BGN 1,150.19/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 766.79/ha for areas over 30 ha.

*Coupled support scheme for vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplants)*

For the `2020 campaign, applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 1,904 farmers. The set budget amounted to BGN 4,768,894, and the set rates were - BGN 2,090.37/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 1,393.58/ha for areas over 30 ha. As of June 30, 2021, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 4,366,831 or 91.6% of the budget.

*Coupled support for vegetables (pepper)*

Under the scheme, with a budget for the 2020 campaign in the amount of BGN 5,163,433, 1,317 farmers participated. At rates of BGN 2,926.65/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 1,951.1 /ha for areas over 30 ha, as of the end of June 2021 the authorized funds amounted to BGN 4,817,828 or the achieved utilization is 93.3%.

*Coupled support for vegetables (potatoes, onions and garlic)*

For the `2020 campaign, applications for support under the scheme were submitted by 3,083 farmers. The set budget amounted to BGN 19,073,537, and the rate was BGN 2,161.49/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 1,440.99/ha for areas over 30 ha. In the first six months of 2021, funds in the amount of BGN 17,733,557 or 93% of the budget were authorized.

*Coupled support scheme for vegetables (carrots, cabbage, watermelons and melons)*

The budget set for the 2020 campaign amounted to BGN 7,182,941. Applications for support were submitted by 2,807 farmers. As of the end of June 2021, payments in the amount of BGN 6,675,153 (92.9% utilization of the budget) were authorized, at rates of BGN 1,245.98/ha for areas up to 30 ha and BGN 830.65/ha for areas over 30 ha.

*Coupled support scheme for greenhouse vegetables (SVg)*

The independent scheme introduced in the 2015 campaign, with a fixed budget to support greenhouse vegetable production, was available in 2020 too. Due to the specific nature of this production, eligible areas were areas with a minimum farm size of 0.5 ha, which could be combined from field and greenhouse production. 1,031 farmers applied for the 2020 campaign under the scheme. The budget amounted to BGN 10,179,829, and the rate per unit area was BGN 16,985.92 / ha. As of June 30, 2021, funds in the amount of BGN 9,607,638 were authorized, which represents 94.9% of the annual budget.

*Coupled support for protein crops*

The scheme was implemented for the first time during the 2015 campaign. The aim of the scheme was, on the one hand, to indirectly support livestock farmers by supporting the production of protein crops for feed. On the other hand, it contributed to the fulfillment of the requirements for maintaining of ecologically oriented areas, as part of the green requirements. 16,332 farmers applied for support for the 2020 campaign. As of the end of June 2021, from the annual budget in the amount of BGN 33,902,620, funds in the amount of BGN 32,784,219 were authorized, which represents an utilization rate of 96.70%. The rate per unit area set for the campaign was BGN 259.22/ha.

*Special payment for crop cotton (cotton)*

During the `2020 campaign, cotton was supported through a stand-alone scheme with a specific budget. Applications for support were submitted by 119 farmers, to whom BGN 3,862,304 were paid in the first half of 2021.

**Transitional national aid**

In 2020, applying consistency in 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 of the national surcharge schemes applied in 2013.

*Transitional national aid for tobacco*

For the 2020 campaign, 39,756 farmers applied for support for the quantities of tobacco delivered during the reference years. As of June 30, 2021, the authorized funds amounted to BGN 71,279,713.

*Transitional national aid for cattle and buffaloes (decoupled)*

The budget of the scheme for 2020 amounted to BGN 32,064,360. 4,128 farmers applied for support. The set rate for cattle was BGN 170.92/head, and for buffaloes - BGN 299.11/head. As of the end of June 2021, funds in the amount of BGN 31,981,145 (99.7% of the budget) were authorized.

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

6,327 farmers applied for the scheme, with a budget of BGN 26,828,690. The support rate was BGN 37.93/head. As of 30.06.2021, a financial resource in the amount of BGN 24,824,393 or 92.5% of the provided budget was authorized.

**Table IV.3. Amount of support under direct payment and Transitional national aid schemes for the 2020 campaign and budget utilization as of 30.06.2021**

Scheme	Budget campaign `2020 (BGN)	Number of valid applications submitted	Campaign rate `2020 (BGN/ha, BGN/head)		Authorized funds for the `2020 campaign (BGN)	Budget utilization (%)
			up to (ha/no.)	over (ha/no.)		
SAPS	807,424,649	57,791	212.48		772,953,917	95.7%
GDP	508,539,293	57,791	133.82		489,394,005	96.2%
SRP	118,998,173	57,719	150.80		113,934,703	95.7%
YFS		3,765			2,974,250	
SSF		2,808	between € 500 and € 1,250		3,197,558	
SMLK	33,637,998	3,542	368.85	295.08	29,801,144	88.6%
EJSC - milk	41,142,221	930	610.50	488.40	39,698,091	96.5%
SMLU- MR	829,187	318	348.00		751,333	90.6%
SMKH	18,749,713	5,017	160.50	128.40	17,734,729	94.6%
EJSC - meat	3,249,951	443	152.19	121.75	3,127,102	96.2%
DPZh - Sq	4,183,987	2,104	70.17		3,857,986	92.2%
SSC	24,004,232	2,087	80.50	64.40	23,949,770	99.8%
Buffaloes	4,424,442	263	463.94	371.15	4,315,270	97.5%
SP - main	35,765,153	5,739	2252.97	1,501.98	34,234,051	95.7%
SP - others	8,011,465	3,225	1,150.19	766.79	7,679,592	95.9%
NW - DKKP	4,768,894	1,904	2,090.37	1,393.58	4,366,831	91.6%
NW - P	5,163,433	1,317	2,926.65	1,951.10	4,817,828	93.3%
NW - CLC	19,073,537	3,083	2,161.49	1,440.99	17,733,557	93.0%
NW - MZDP	7,182,941	2,807	1,245.98	830.65	6,675,153	92.9%
SVg	10,179,829	1,031	16,985.92		9,607,638	94.4%
SPC	33,902,620	16,332	259.22		32,784,219	96.7%
Cotton	5,093,987	119			3,862,304	75.8%
TNT		39,756			71,279,713	
TMSA1	32,064,360	4,128	170.92	299.11	31,981,145	99.7%
TMSA3	26,828,690	6,327	37.93		24,824,393	92.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,753,218,755</b>				<b>1,755,536,282</b>	

Source: Direct Payments Directorate, MAFF (data as of 30.06.2021)

### The 2021 campaign

**Table IV.4. Declared data on support schemes per unit area and per head of animal for campaign `2021**

Scheme	Number applications	Declared areas (ha) / number of animals
Single area payment scheme	56,425	3,842,276
Green direct payments	56,425	3,842,276
Redistributive payment scheme	56,353	796,336
Young farmers	3,768	58,539
Small farmers	2,253	3,854
Coupled support for dairy cows	3,243	100,366

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Number applications</b>	<b>Declared areas (ha) / number of animals</b>
Coupled support for beef cows and/or heifers	4,790	140,262
Coupled support for beef cows under selection control	488	27,474
Coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats in mountain areas	1,979	57,990
Coupled support for ewes and/or she-goats under selection control	2,070	357,334
Coupled support for buffalo	256	13,778
Coupled support for dairy cows under selection control	921	83,060
Coupled support for dairy cows in mountain areas	327	2,569
Coupled support for fruits	5,862	21,429
Coupled support for vegetables - greenhouse production	2,907	11,739
Tied support for vegetables - greenhouse production	1,135	819
Coupled support for protein crops	16,303	137,743
Coupled support for fruits	3,400	9,578
Coupled support for vegetables (carrots, cabbage, watermelons and melons)	2,869	9,018
Coupled support for vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, gherkins and eggplant)	1,727	2,743
Coupled support for vegetables (pepper)	1,237	2,375
Specific support for cotton	77	2,816
Transitional national aid scheme for ewes and/or she-goats linked to production	5,582	617,097
Transitional national aid - cattle	3,691	170,706
Transitional national aid - buffaloes	73	3,376
Transitional national aid - tobacco	38,804	

**Source:** SFA-RA

## **1.2. Market support mechanisms**

### **1.2.1. Milk sector**

#### **Contractual relations in the dairy sector**

The main objectives of the scheme are aimed at achieving a real improvement in the ability of milk producers to negotiate with processors, which in turn will lead to a fairer distribution of value added in the supply chain.

After the abolition of the quota regime for the production of raw cow milk in Bulgaria on 31.03.2015, a regime of mandatory contractual relations between producers of raw milk of all types (cow, goat, sheep and buffalo) and the first buyer the milk is delivered/supplied, is being applied. Following the introduction of the regulatory regime, several changes have been made in the legislation concerning the scheme in order to alleviate the administrative burden as well as the administrative registration and control procedures. In May 2020, electronic registration of contracts by the first buyer, aimed at improving the business environment, was introduced. The deadlines for registration of contracts have been optimized (from 14 days the term has been increased to 30 days), the penal thresholds of fines/sanctions for non-compliance with the provisions of the registration regime have been reduced through changes in the regulations.

In 2020, 256 inspections of manufacturers and 197 of purchasers were appointed. 51 AEAV were issued, the criminal proceedings on which resulted in the issuance of 27 penal rulings. Property sanctions in the amount of BGN 173,000 and fines in the amount of BGN 1,500 were imposed under penal rulings. By the end of December 2020, BGN 19,000 were paid voluntarily.

More than 1,256 applications were accepted and processed under the scheme, of which 32 applications - electronically, relating to 6,954 contracts between producers and first buyers of raw cow, sheep, goat and buffalo milk.

In connection with the ongoing reform of the EU's Common Organization of Agricultural Markets, changes concerning the regulatory regime "Contractual relationships in the dairy sector" are envisaged.

### **1.2.2. Fruit and Vegetable Sector**

#### **Producer groups scheme**

In 2020, the last financial aid payment under the Producer Groups scheme in the amount of BGN 1,480,296 was made for implemented investments and activities from the last year, 2018, of the plan for recognition of one group of producers - including BGN 1,448,623 for investment costs and BGN 31,672 - for administrative costs.

#### **Producer organization scheme**

##### ***For producer organizations in the fruit and vegetables sector***

The scheme supports the implementation of operational programs, including investments aimed at modernizing the holdings of members of the producer organization, environmental costs, crisis prevention and management measures and administrative costs aimed at supporting the activities of the organizations.

In order to receive financial support, the organization of fruit and vegetable producers shall be recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, it shall prepare and submit for approval an operational program lasting up to 3 years and to establish an operational fund.

In 2020, three producer organizations put in place operational programs, with a total value of approved costs amounting to BGN 6,284,572 for the entire period of implementation. Financial assistance amounting to BGN 983,897 was paid, BGN 292,019 - from the EAGF and BGN 691,878 - from the National Bank.

Three new operational programs with an implementation period of 2021-2023 were submitted for approval, and for two producer organizations this was the second operational program. The programs envisaged the implementation of investments, costs and activities in the total amount of BGN 5,660,585. The agreed financial aid for 3 years amounted to a total of BGN 3,323,445, of which BGN 966,392 from the EAGF and BGN 2,357,053 from the National Bank.

In 2021, four producer organizations are implementing operational programs and two of the organizations are completing their programs. In the period July 1 - September 1, 2021, a new operational program with an implementation period of 2022-2024 was submitted for approval.

The expected value of the financial aid, which will be paid by the end of 2021 for implemented investments, costs and activities in 2020 and for the period January - September 2021, is BGN 846,755, of which BGN 246,224 from the EAGF and BGN 600,531 from the National Bank.

##### ***Producer organizations and groups in other sectors***

As of 31.12.2020 the total number of recognized organizations and groups of producers of agricultural products in the country was 64, of which: 2 PGs in the Cereals sector, 1 PGs in the Potatoes sector, 1 PGs in the Industrial crops sector, 3 PGs in the Meat sector, 12 PGs in the Milk sector, 1 PGs in the Wine grapes sector, 2 PGs in the Fruits sector, 1 PGs in the Vegetables sector, 1 PGs in the Fruits and vegetables sector, 6 PGs in the Medicinal and essential oils sector, 6 POs in the Fruits and vegetables sector, 8 POs in the Fruit sector, 5 OPs in the Vegetables sector, 1 POs in the Wine grapes sector, 1 POs in the Mushrooms sector, 5 POs in the Honey and bee products sector, 3 POs in the Milk sector and dairy products', 1 PO in the Meat and Wool sector and 4 POs in the Cereals and Oilseeds sector.

The largest number of associations was set up in the Fruit and vegetable sector - 19 POs and 4 PGs, followed by those in the livestock sector (milk, dairy products and meat) - 4 POs and 15 GPs. 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 - 238 PA, participating in 12 GPs and 3 POs; Meat and wool sector - 148 APs, included in 3 GPs and 1 PO), followed by the Fruits and vegetables sector, in which 174 agricultural producers were united in associations.

### **Temporary Emergency Measures Scheme**

In 2019, there were no calls under the Temporary Emergency Measures scheme in the fruit and vegetable sector.

### **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 school year, the School Fruit and School Milk schemes were implemented as a single scheme for the supply of fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products to kindergartens and schools. It aims to improve children's eating habits. 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. Children and students can benefit from the aid only during school days. Financial aid is provided for supply of products accompanying educational measures and monitoring, evaluation and publicity.

#### **2019/2020 academic year**

For the school year, 146 applicants for deliveries of fruits and vegetables to educational institutions and 114 applicants for deliveries of milk and dairy products were approved.

Under the School Fruit Scheme, 430,247 children in 3,270 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 13,655,507, of which BGN 5,071,299 - from the EU and BGN 8,584,286 - from national co-financing. The disbursed funds amounted to a total of BGN 8,098,882, of which BGN 5,013,342 were provided by the EU and BGN 3,085,540 - from the national budget.

Under the School Milk Scheme, 430,176 children in 3,251 schools received milk and dairy products. The total annual budget under the scheme amounted to BGN 15,863,469 (including: BGN 2,261,865 from the EU and BGN 13,601,639 from the DB) and also covers costs for accompanying measures and information activities. The funds paid for the school year amounted to a total of BGN 9,887,886, including: from the European budget - BGN 2,175,001 and from the national budget - BGN 7,712,885.

#### **2020/2021 academic year**

The EU budget for the implementation of school schemes in the 2020/2021 school year amounted to BGN 5,011,201 under the School Fruit Scheme and BGN 2,241,094 under the School Milk Scheme and included costs for distribution of products accompanying educational measures and monitoring, evaluation and publicity measures. The national co-financing in both directions amounted to BGN 8,584,286 for the School Fruit Scheme and BGN 13,601,639 for the School Milk Scheme.

Under the School Milk Scheme, 112 acts of approval were issued to 3,448 schools, including 434,031 children and students. Under the School Fruit Scheme, there were 121 acts of approval, for 3,362 educational institutions, which covered 430,513 children and students.

By Decree No. 125 of 10.05.2020 amending and supplementing the Ordinance on the terms and conditions for implementation of schemes for provision of fruits and vegetables and milk and dairy products in schools - School Fruit Scheme and School Milk Scheme for the school year 2020/2021 it is envisaged in addition to conventional, also organically produced fresh fruits, vegetables and milk and dairy products to be provided to children and students. Organically produced bee honey was delivered 3 to 6 times during the school year as part of the obligatory accompanying educational measures.

The period for deliveries under the scheme was extended - from September 15 to July 31.

The changes in the legislation governing the approval of applicants for school schemes are aimed primarily at providing greater flexibility to educational institutions in their participation in the schemes. The selection of the applicant is planned to be carried out entirely by the kindergarten/the school, and the selected applicant in turn has the commitment to submit an application for approval to the Agriculture State Fund.

### **1.2.3. Beekeeping sector**

The support in the sector was provided through the National Beekeeping Program, prepared in cooperation with the beekeeping organizations, in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 1308/2013. The main goal of the Program 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 and to ensure better employment and higher incomes of beekeepers.

With decision 2019/974 of the EC of 12.06.2019 the national beekeeping programs of the Member States were approved and the amount of the EU participation in the programs for the period 2020-2022 was determined. The available budget under the program for Bulgaria was in the amount of BGN 19,199,412 (up BGN 5 million compared to the previous three-year period), including BGN 6,399,307 for 2020, BGN 6,400,203 for 2021 and BGN 6,399,902 for 2022.

In addition to the measures implemented in the previous program, the new NBP includes new measures and activities to support beekeepers and their associations related to exchange of knowledge and good technological practices for beekeeping, organizing bazaars to promote Bulgarian bee products, reimbursement of the costs for mobile beekeeping, testing for resistance of the causative agent to varroasis control agents, testing of bee colonies for presence of nosematosis and its spread in the country, testing of samples of food stocks of bee colonies for pesticide residues above the limit norms, as well as three new topics under the measure for applied research programs in the field of beekeeping and bee products.

For the period 2020-2022 a new approach to financing is applied - setting financial ceilings for the measures, ensuring their more flexible and effective implementation and automation of inspections. The aim is to reduce the administrative burden and to increase the efficiency of the control.

In order to support the implementation of investments, Bulgarian beekeepers can use the credit scheme of the Agriculture State Fund, which provides low-interest loans to finance measures and activities under the NBP under preferential terms.

The interest of beekeepers in the NBP measures continues to be high, as in the financial year 2020 nearly 1,790 applications for support were accepted. 1,709 financing contracts under the terms of the program were concluded, 1,643 of which (96%) were implemented and payment applications were submitted. For another year there was a very high percentage of completed contracts, and in 2020 this indicator was the highest since the beginning of the program.

The financial aid paid in the first year of implementation of the National Beekeeping Program for the period 2020-2022 amounted to BGN 4,938,010, which represents 77% of the annual budget. The allocation of the funds by measures and activities is presented in the table below.

1 976 applications for support were submitted under the NBP for the financial year 2021, 1,889 contracts with the amount of financial aid of BGN 7,725,824 were concluded.

Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 (Transitional Regulation) provided a legal basis for extending the national beekeeping programs 2020-2022 from 1 August to 31 December 2022. Payments for the activities performed during the extended period will be carried out in the period from 16.10.2022 to 15.10.2023.

The annual financial participation of the Union in the NBP for Bulgaria increased from BGN 3,200,101 to BGN 4,036,546. Thus, the total annual budget, together with national co-financing (50%), reached BGN 8,073,092.6.

**Table IV.5. Budget and paid financial aid under the NBP for 2020, BGN**

Measure / activity	Budget	Paid financial aid	Budget utilisation (%)
<b>Measure A - Technical assistance - total, including:</b>	<b>2,470,366</b>	<b>2,193,689</b>	<b>89%</b>
Activity 1 - Support for the purchase of technical equipment for the primary extraction and processing of bee products	2,447,838	2,188,078	89%
Activity 2 - Exchange of knowledge and good technological practices for beekeeping	11,535	2,901	25%
Activity 3 - Promotion of Bulgarian bee products by organizing bazaars in which local beekeepers participate	10,993	2,710	25%
<b>Measure B - Fight against aggressors and diseases in the hive, especially against varroasis - in general, including:</b>	<b>957,805</b>	<b>502,530</b>	<b>52%</b>
Activity 1 - Purchase of VMPs against varroasis	957,805	502,530	52%
Activity 3 - Study of bee colonies for the presence of nosematosis and its distribution in the country	0	0	0%
<b>Measure C - Rationalization of mobile beekeeping - general, including:</b>	<b>211,589</b>	<b>87,384</b>	<b>41%</b>
Activity 1 - Support for the purchase of new attachment equipment mobile beekeeping	7,699	5,264	68%
Activity 2 - Reimbursement of mobile beekeeping costs in terms of the movement of bee colonies;	203,890	82,120	40%
<b>Measure D - Measures to support laboratories for analysis of bee products - total, including:</b>	<b>72,156</b>	<b>51,701</b>	<b>72%</b>
activity 1 - PCA of honey;	72,156	51,701	72%
<b>Measure E - Measures to support the renewal of beehives in the EU - total, including:</b>	<b>2,687,390</b>	<b>2,102,706</b>	<b>78%</b>
Activity 1 - Purchase of new hives	1,297,682	1,034,526	80%
Activity 2 - Purchase of nucleus colonies	721,631	534,975	74%
Activity 3 - Purchase of queen bees	668,078	533,205	80%
<b>Measure E - cooperation with specialized bodies for implementation of research programs in the beekeeping and bee products sectors</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,399,307</b>	<b>4,938,010</b>	<b>77%</b>

Source: IACS, module National Beekeeping Program - Call '2020

#### 1.2.4. Wine sector

The National Program for Support of the Grapes and Wine Sector 2019-2023 includes 6 measures:

- Measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 17,287,198;
- Measure "Promotion on third country markets", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 87,060;
- Measure "Investments in enterprises", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 25,448,840;
- Measure "Harvest Insurance", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 1,955,800;
- Measure "Harvesting on the green", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 2,562,222;
- "Crisis storage of wine", with a budget for 2020 in the amount of BGN 5,000,000.

Under measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards" in 2020, one call for applications for support was held, within which 61 projects were contracted, with a total value of financial aid of BGN 16,397,730. Payments in the amount of BGN 8,605,547 were made, which represents 49.8% of the budget of the measure.

Under measure "Promotion on third country markets" in 2020, 3 project proposals were submitted, one of which met the eligibility criteria. A contract for the provision of financial assistance in the amount of BGN 1,270,724 was concluded.



Under measure "Investments in enterprises" two calls were held, with 37 projects concluded with a total value of financial aid of BGN 24,315,748. Funds in the amount of BGN 13,144,666 or 51.7% of the annual budget were paid.

Under measure "Green Harvesting" one call was held and 20 projects were contracted, with a total value of financial assistance amounting to BGN 1,549,503. BGN 1,737,889 were paid - 67.8% of the budget set for the year. This was a crisis measure, and in 2020 its implementation was justified by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure is aimed at grape growers who find it difficult to find a market for their products, and the support is provided per hectare of green vineyards.

Under measure "Harvest Insurance" one reception was held, with 31 support contracts concluded, with a total value of financial aid of BGN 207,085. The payments made amounted to BGN 220,215 or 11.3% of the annual budget.

Under measure "Crisis storage of wine" one reception was held, within which 46 projects were agreed, with a total value of financial assistance of BGN 2,887,498. The funds paid in 2020 amounted to BGN 2,887,478, which is 57.7% of the funds provided for the year. The measure was of an extraordinary nature, related to overcoming the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and was aimed at financial support to wine producers for storage of quantities of wine, which due to difficult trade processes, could not be realized on the market.

Another crisis measure in the wine sector in 2020, concerning the financial aid contracts concluded between 4 May and 15 October 2020, was the increased amount of aid for all measures of the program, as follows:

- Measure "Restructuring and conversion of vineyards" - from 75% to 90% of the costs incurred;
- Under measures "Promotion of third country markets", "Investment in enterprises", "Harvest insurance" and "Green harvesting" - from 50% to 70% of the costs incurred;
- "Crisis storage of wine" - the increase did not affect this measure, the support under it was extraordinary for the year and amounted to BGN 0.04 per liter of stored wine for a period of 1 month.

#### **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 2020, there were no conditions for opening a public intervention.

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

Given these circumstances and the resulting imbalance between supply and demand, the EC decided to provide aid for private storage of these products with specific acts published in the Official Journal of the EU on 04.05.2020. By Order No. RD 09-396/08.05.2020 of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, a call with a deadline until 30 June 2020 was determined for a temporary emergency aid scheme for private storage of certain cheeses, which are suitable for -continued storage after the ripening period. The aid applied only to cheeses produced in the country that met the requirements for dairy cheese, according to the Ordinance on specific requirements for dairy products. The maximum quantity of cheeses stored in Bulgaria under the scheme was 889 tonnes. During the reception, 1 application under the extraordinary measure for private storage of cheese was registered. After a carried out on-the-spot check, it was established that the declared product had passed a ripening period, with a completed technological process, it was meeting the microbiological and organoleptic parameters, but it had not reached the required degree of maturity, therefore the aid was not paid.

### **1.2.6. Sugar sector**

As of 1 October 2017, the production in the Sugar sector in EU has been liberalized and is not subject to a quota regime. Thus, from the 2017/2018 marketing year, there are no longer restrictions on the production of sugar from sugar beet, isoglucose and inulin syrup.

In 2020 on the territory of Bulgaria there was one enterprise for production of isoglucose - Amilum Bulgaria EAD, town. Razgrad and a sugar refinery - Zahar EAD, Gorna Oryahovitsa town.

Pursuant to Regulation No. 2017/1185 and Article 10a of the Law on the Implementation of 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 programs**

Promotional programs cover activities aimed at providing information about the product presented and facilitating its marketing. The programs may include organization of trainings, 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 promotional programs contributes to increasing the market share and the demand of the products in the target countries, improves the image of products compared to other similar products, and at the same time increases the consumption of promoted products.

The rules for implementation of promotional programs after the 2015 reform are described in Regulation (EU) 2015/1831 and Regulation (EU) 1144/2014. According to the rules laid down in the European legislation, the selection of the 2020 programs, for which financial support is available, is made by the EU-Chafea Executive Agency for Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food (CHAFEA) established for this purpose. For the 2020 Campaign, Bulgaria had no approved promotional program.

### **1.2.8. Quality Policy - Protected Designations**

In the field of implementation of the European quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs there is an increase in the number of new producers entered in the registers of Bulgarian products with protected names maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. In 2020, there were 35 economic operators producing products with PDO/ PGI/TSG.

In 2020, stages (processing of documentation, on-site inspections) of the national review and approval procedure for sending to the European Commission of the applications of the Bulgarian dairy products - "Bulgarian yogurt" and "Bulgarian white brined cheese", applying for registration as protected designations of origin, were conducted. The procedure was successfully completed in 2021 and the package of documents was submitted for consideration by the EC.

In 2020, the national procedure for Lutenitsa Parvomay, applying for registration as a protected geographical indication, has been finalized and the national procedure for review and approval for sending to the EC of the applications for Lukanka Troyanska and Sudzhuk Tarnovski, applying for registration of food of a traditionally specific nature is nearing completion.

During the year there was a significant increase in the number of producers of the Protected Designation of Origin "Strandzhanski manov med", to which the provided state financial aid to cover the costs of certification, as well as the explanatory campaign conducted after the registration of the product, contributed.

The number of producers of the Protected Geographical Indication "Bulgarian Rose Oil" is also growing, which is a guarantee for its high quality and contributes to its protection on foreign markets. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry fully assisted the producers of PGI "Bulgarian Rose Oil" to submit an application to the European Commission for International Registration of PGI "Bulgarian Rose Oil" in the register of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Treaty maintained by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization. The planned supervisory inspections by the MAFF over the controllers,

who effectively monitor compliance with the specifications, were carried out.

In 2020 new producers of cherries, plums, apples, potatoes and honey and in 2021 three new producers of honey were entered in the "mountain product" register.

In 2021, two new applications for registration of products as protected designations of origin are being processed - for "Bulgarian yellow cheese" and "Strandzha herbal tea".

In order to protect the interests of Bulgarian producers in the Dobrudja region, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry has sent an objection to the EC in connection with the product "Dobrudzha banitsa", applying for registration as a PGI from Romania.

In the course of the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development in the next programming period it is envisaged to include an intervention to encourage the participation of farmers in quality schemes.

### **1.3. Trade mechanisms**

#### **1.3.1. Export licensing**

##### **Scheme Mandatory export licenses for agricultural products for the calendar year 2020**

The products subject to compulsory export licensing to third countries, whether or not an export refund is claimed, are from the Rice sector. Mandatory licenses are used for statistical purposes, to monitor the market for these sensitive products in the EU.

For the calendar year 2020, 172 mandatory export licenses were issued, of which 18 - for 2 717 tonnes of husked rice, falling within CN code 1006 20, and 154 - for 5 322 tonnes of semi-milled or milled rice, falling within CN code 1006 30.

The implementation of the mandatory licenses is secured by guarantees. For 2020, 11 guarantees were accepted and processed, at a total value of BGN 16,715, and 9 guarantees were released, with a total amount of BGN 21,382. Two new beneficiaries were registered.

For the period from 01.01.2021 to 25.06.2021 57 mandatory licenses for export of rice were issued. 3 guarantees amounting to BGN 7,629 were established.

##### **Scheme Export licenses for dairy products to Canada for the calendar year 2020**

According to the Agreement between the European Community and Canada, signed in 1995, in order for the traders to benefit from the reduction of customs duties on imports of cheese and yellow cheese in Canada, an export license issued within the quota is mandatory. The import quota system in Canada 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 the accession of our country to the EU on 01.01.2007 and interest in this scheme became apparent immediately after its launch. The export license to Canada entitles to a reduced duty on imports of dairy products under code 0406, produced in a member state of the European Union.

In 2020, 80 licenses for the export of milk and dairy products to Canada were issued under the quota, including 26 export licenses for 96,873 kg of yellow cheese and 54 export licenses for 475,553 kg of cheese. Compared to the previous year, the export of cheese under the quota increased by nearly 66%.

In the first half of 2021, a total of 46 licenses were issued for the export of dairy products to Canada, including 17 licenses for 48,844 kg of yellow cheese and 29 - for the export of 308,439 kg of cheese.

##### **Scheme: Export Licences for cheese to the USA within a quota for the 2020 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 2020, there was no interest from Bulgarian exporters to participate in the scheme.

For 2021, the call for applications for licensing was opened on September 1 of this year.

### **1.3.2. Import licensing of agricultural products from third countries**

In 2020, the administration of the system of licensing of imports of agricultural products was conducted in compliance with the provisions by the Act implementing the Common Organization of Agricultural Markets of the European Union; the Ordinance 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 116 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; hemp seeds for sowing; hemp seeds not intended for sowing; unprocessed or melted hemp and ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

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

In 2020, 424 applications were submitted for issuance of licenses for the import of agricultural products from third countries, including 24 for license extracts. 385 licenses were issued, of which 151 under tariff quotas and preferential regimes and 234 under general conditions.

The guarantees established in favor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for fulfillment of the import obligation under the licenses issued in 2020 amounted to BGN 130,239,587. Guarantees in the total amount of BGN 130,133,871 were reimbursed to importers.

In 2020, 4 new companies of importers of agricultural products were entered in the MAFF register . As of 31.12.2020 the total number of registered importers of agricultural products was 496.

## **2. Support under the Second Pillar of CAP**

### **Rural Development Program 2014 - 2020**

The Rural Development Program for the period 2014-2020 had a total budget of BGN 5,706,727,515 (EUR 2,917,848,203) public funds, allocated among 17 measures and a Thematic sub-program for development of small farms.

By the end of 2020, nine amendments to the Program were approved. In 2020, the seventh, eighth and ninth amendments were sent for consideration by the EC services, the last of which was approved in the fourth quarter of the year.

As of 31.12.2020 the agreed public funds under the RDP 2014-2020 (excluding future and transitional commitments under the measures with a 5-year commitment) amounted to BGN 4,343,352,414 (EUR 2,220,754,890) or 76.7% of the budget. The paid subsidies for the period from the beginning of the implementation of the Program until the end of 2020 amounted to BGN 3,092,517,430 (EUR 1,581,203,308), which represents 54.6% of the budget. Within the calendar year 2020, BGN 815,195,914 (EUR 416,809,446) of public funds were paid.

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

- Sub-measure 1.1. "Vocational training and acquisition of skills";

- Sub-measure 4.1.2. "Investment in processing/marketing of agricultural products under the Thematic Sub-program";
- Sub-measure 4.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings", targeted call for farmers in the "Livestock sector";
- Sub-measure 4.3 "Support for infrastructure investments related to the development, modernization or adaptation of agriculture and forestry";
- Sub-measure 5.1 "Support for investments in preventive measures aimed at mitigating the consequences of probable natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events";
- Sub-measure 5.2 "Investments for restoration of agricultural land potential and agricultural production potential disturbed by natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events";
- Sub-measure 6.3 "Starting Aid for Development of Small Farms";
- Sub-measure 7.6. "Studies and investments related to the maintenance, restoration of the cultural and natural heritage of villages";
- Sub-measure 8.1 "Afforestation and maintenance";
- Measure 10 "Agri-Environment-Climate";
- Measure 11 "Organic Farming";
- Measure 12 "Natura 2000 payments and the Water Framework Directive";
- Measure 13 "Payments for areas facing natural or other specific constraints";
- Measure 14 "Animal Welfare";
- Sub-measure 16.1. "Support for the establishment and functioning of operational groups within the EMI";
- Sub-measure 16.4 "Support For Horizontal And Vertical Cooperation Between Participants In The Supply Chain";
- Sub-measure 19.1 "Support for preparation activities" in the part of small projects of measure 19 "Community-led local development";
- Sub-measure 19.3 "Preparation and implementation of activities for cooperation of local action groups";
- Sub-measure 21.1 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers COVID 1";
- Sub-measure 21.2 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers COVID 1";
- Sub-measure 21.3 "Extraordinary temporary support for small and medium-sized enterprises and recognized producer groups and organizations COVID 3".

#### **Measure 1 "Knowledge transfer and information actions"**

##### ***Sub-measure 1.1. "Vocational training and skills acquisition" of measure 1 "Knowledge transfer and information actions"***

The support under Sub-measure 1.1. "Vocational training and skills acquisition" is aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills of farmers and foresters and employees on their farms, by achieving an appropriate level of technical and economic training and increasing the capacity for access to knowledge and information in the field of agriculture and forestry. Financial aid is provided for conducting training courses and seminars presented by universities, vocational high schools, vocational training centers and research institutes and experimental stations in the field of agriculture and forestry.

The first call under the sub-measure started in 2019 and ended in 2020. 79 applications, with the value of the requested subsidy BGN 38,605,496 public funds, were submitted. By the end of 2020, the

projects were in the process of evaluation.

As of 30.06.2021, 41 financial aid contract, at a total value of BGN 12,156,377 were concluded under sub-measure 1.1, under which no payments were made.

### **Sub-measure 2.1 "Assistance for provision of consultancy services"**

Sub-measure 2.1. is applied in two sub-measures (originally called "operations"): Sub-measure 2.1.1 "Consultancy services for farmers and forester holders" and Sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small farmers". For the period of application of the sub-measure until 31.12.2020 the public resource paid under it amounted to BGN 16,214,699.

#### ***Sub-measure 2.1.1. "Consultancy services for farmers and forester holders"***

Sub-measure 2.1.1. "Consultancy services for farmers and forester holders " aims to provide advisory services to farmers, young farmers and foresters for improvement of the economic and environmental performance, as well as climate resilience and climate change resilience on their farms.

The implementation of the sub-measure started in 2015. In the first call period, the National Agricultural Advisory Service was designated as the only beneficiary of the financial aid to be provided to farmers, applicants under sub-measure 6.1. "Start-up aid for young farmers" of the RDP 2014 - 2020 consulting services under the A2B package.

In 2020, CP A2B was not provided directly, but methodological assistance was provided to young farmers who applied in 2018 under sub-measure 6.1 "Start-up assistance for young farmers" of the RDP 2014-2020.

The total public funds paid under sub-measure 2.1.1 "Aid for provision of consultancy services" as of 31.12.2020 amounted to BGN 3,237,461, which are assigned to priority 2C "Facilitating the entry of farmers with appropriate qualifications in the agricultural sector, and in particular intergenerational continuity". In 2020, no payments were made under the sub-measure.

#### ***Sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small farmers".***

Sub-measure 2.1.2. "Consultancy services for small farms" is aimed at providing quick and easy access of small farms to quality consultancy services and meeting their needs to improve their skills and management skills, viability, awareness, knowledge of environmental protection, climate change adaptation and risk management improvement.

In 2016, the NAAS started providing six main completely free consulting packages for small agricultural holdings under sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small agricultural holdings". The provision of CP includes on-site visits, assessment and analysis of the condition of farmers' holdings, as well as where soil sampling for agrochemical analysis and preparation of recommendations for fertilization is applicable. NAAS experts provide information and specific advice and recommendations to small farms in connection with the requested CP.

In connection with the selection procedure launched in March 2020 under sub-measure 6.3 "Start-up aid for the development of small farms" of measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" of RDP 2014 - 2020, NAAS launched a call for applications for receipt of consulting package TP 5.1, including preparation of a business plan and basic information about the project proposal for application under sub-measure 6.3. During the call period for applications under sub-measure 6.3, the total number of project proposals prepared by NAAS to farmers, applicants under the sub-measure, was 173.

In July 2020, a call as per a selection procedure under sub-measure 4.1.2 was launched. "Investments in agricultural holdings under the Thematic sub-program for development of small farms", for which NAAS provided consulting package TP 5.2a, including preparation of a business plan and basic information about the project proposal, to 208 applicants under the sub-measure.

In 2020, 1,134 applications for receiving the CP were received and 5 applications for payment at a total value of BGN 3,119,933 were submitted.

For the entire period of application of sub-measure 2.1.2 until the end of 2020, the submitted applications for CP were 8 983. The paid public funds amounted to BGN 12,977,238.

#### **Measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets"**

##### **Sub-measure 4.1 "Investment in agricultural holdings"**

The implementation of the sub-measure started in 2015, and the first call period was set before the official approval of the RDP 2014-2020. The second call for applications for support took place in 2016.

In 2020, a third call was conducted electronically through the UMIS 2020 system, which was targeted at farmers in the Livestock sector under sub-measure 4.1 "Investment in agricultural holdings". 689 project proposals were received, with a requested amount of grant BGN 157,540,890.41, with a budget of BGN 58,674 million for the call. By the end of 2020, the projects submitted under the third call were in the process of review and evaluation.

In 2020, 6 support contracts amounting to BGN 2,920,579.77 were concluded and payments amounting to BGN 90,323,428 were made.

For the entire period of application of sub-measure 4.1 until the end of 2020, a total of 1,346 contracts for financial assistance were concluded, with value of the approved public expenditures in the amount of BGN 706,065,909.54. The total public funds paid amounted to BGN 480,430,511.

##### **Sub-measure 4.1.2: "Investments in agricultural holdings under a Thematic sub-program for development of small farms"**

The support under sub-measure 4.1.2 "Investments in agricultural holdings under a Thematic subprogram for development of small holdings" is aimed at improving the economic sustainability and performance of small farms by restructuring and developing the available material capacity in the farms, encouraging the introduction of new processes and technologies for enhancing the quality of the production, protecting the components of the environment, complying with the standards of the European Union and improving the conditions in the farms.

In 2020, there was a second call for project proposals, with 286 project proposals received at a total value of BGN 7,266,755.34. A total of 554 projects were received for the two implemented calls (the first - in 2018) under the sub-measure, with a total amount of the requested public resource of BGN 8,011,969.48. As of 31.12.2020, all submitted project proposals were in the process of review and evaluation.

##### **Sub-measure 4.2.2: "Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products under a Thematic Subprogram"**

The support under sub-measure 4.2.2 "Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products under a Thematic Subprogram" is aimed at increasing competitiveness, improving the efficiency of production and marketing, introducing innovations, improving food quality and safety, environmental protection, improving the working conditions and hygiene of small farms by investing in tangible and intangible assets to add value to the products they produce.

In 2019, there was a call under the sub-measure, within which 5 project proposals were received, with a value of the requested subsidy of BGN 383,603.10. As of 31.12.2020 the projects were in the process of assessment for administrative compliance and eligibility.

##### **Sub-measure 4.2 "Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products"**

Under the measure, two calls for support were held (2015 and 2018), within which 1,135 project proposals were submitted for review, with a total value of the requested subsidy amounting to BGN 1,454,868,092.10. As of 31.12.2020 the concluded contracts were 367, with a total amount of the agreed subsidy of BGN 453,491,212.76. Out of these, 22 projects with a total amount of the subsidy of BGN 30,334,974.67 were contracted in 2020.

For the period of application of the measure the total funds paid under it amounted to BGN 209,837,408, and in 2020 payments in the amount of BGN 65,415,551 were made.

By applying selection criteria, the aid was targeted at the processing of raw materials from sensitive sectors (Livestock, Fruit and Vegetables and Essential Oilseeds), organic production, additional employment, the Northwestern region and areas with natural and other constraints.

Nearly 72% of the approved projects include investments for introduction of new and energy-saving technologies and innovations in the processing industry. 68 projects in the field of processing of biological raw materials and production of organic products were contracted. 78 financial aid contract for project proposals, envisaging cooperation or integration between farmers and enterprises from the processing industry, were concluded.

#### **Sub-measure 4.3 "Support for investments in infrastructure related to the development, modernization or adaptation of agriculture and forestry"**

The support under the sub-measure is aimed at reconstruction/rehabilitation and modernization of hydro-ameliorative 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.

In 2020, two procedures through selection of project proposals for provision of grants were organized, within which 32 projects were received, with a value of the requested subsidy of BGN 126,838,393. By the end of 2020, the projects were under evaluation.

#### **Measure 5 "Restoration of agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introduction of appropriate preventive measures"**

##### ***Sub-measure 5.1 "Support for investment in preventive measures aimed at mitigating the effects of likely natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events"***

The investments in preventive measures aimed at reducing the risk and mitigating the effects of contagious animal diseases on animals contribute to the protection of agricultural production from the effects of natural disasters, limit the possibility of spreading ASF and other contagious diseases observed in birds and small ruminants. Actions related to improving hygiene and the biological environment of livestock farms are encouraged in order to minimize the risk of contagious diseases of the animals bred.

Within the framework of the call under the sub-measure opened in 2020, 46 project proposals were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 25,256,217.05. The processing of the project proposals was at the stage of assessment for administrative compliance and eligibility and technical and financial assessment for public entities.

##### ***Sub-measure 5.2 "Investments to restore the potential of agricultural land and agricultural production potential affected by natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events"***

In 2020, there was a call for project proposals under the sub-measure, within which 3 project proposals were received with a total value of the requested grant, amounting to BGN 1,903,599.96.

#### **Measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises"**

##### ***Sub-measure 6.1 "Start-up aid for young farmers"***

Young farmers show great interest in applying for the sub-measure. A key role for its successful implementation is played by measure 2 "Consulting services, farm management and on-farm replacement services" of the RDP 2014-2020, which practically provides free consulting assistance in the preparation of application documents.

For the period 2015-2020 two applications for support applications and project proposals were received under the sub-measure. 4,323 project proposals were submitted for review, with a total amount of the requested subsidy of BGN 211,373,085.00. As of the end of 2020, the contracts concluded under the two calls were 2,161 with a total amount of approved public funds of BGN 105,662,095. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 117,362,476.

In 2020, 93 contracts were concluded with a grant value of BGN 4,547,235.



### ***Sub-measure 6.3 "Start-up aid for development of small farms"***

In 2020, there was a third call under the sub-measure, within which 214 project proposals were received, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 6,155,181.16. As of 31.12.2020 the projects were in the process of review and evaluation.

For the entire period of application of sub-measure 6.3, 6,488 applications for support and project proposals were submitted for review, with a total amount of the requested subsidy of BGN 190,215,519. As of 31.12.2020 the projects in implementation were 1 878, and the funds paid for them amounted to BGN 71 526 147.

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

The support under sub-measure 6.4.1 "Investments in support of non-agricultural activities" is aimed at tangible and intangible long-term investments that lead to improved economic sustainability and results of micro-enterprises, craftsmen and farmers.

In 2018, there was a call, with 770 projects submitted for review, with a value of the requested subsidy of BGN 211,423,007.52 public funds.

As of the end of 2020, 108 grant agreements were concluded, with the amount of the approved subsidy BGN 30,159,705.81. In 2020, no payments were made under the sub-measure.

### ***Measure 7 "Main services and renovation of villages in the rural regions"***

#### ***Sub-measure 7.2 "Investment in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small-scale infrastructure"***

No call under the sub-measure was opened in 2020. For the period of its implementation until the end of 2020, 1,457 project proposals were submitted for review, with a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 2,486,420,708.01. 690 contracts for financial assistance were concluded, with the amount of the approved subsidy BGN 1,065,728,094.17. Out of these, 43 support contracts with a subsidy value of BGN 37,251,254.09 were concluded in 2020.

As of 31.12.2020, payments in the total amount of BGN 608,727,619 were made under sub-measure 7.2.

#### ***As of 31.12.2020, payments in the total amount of BGN 608,727,619 were made under sub-measure 7.3. "Support for broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and measures to access solutions through broadband infrastructure and e-government"***

The support under sub-measure 7.3 is aimed at building broadband infrastructure, which will be used by the population in settlements that are white and/or gray areas on the territory of municipalities in rural areas. It fulfills the objectives not only of the RDP, but also of the National Plan for Development of e-Government. The only beneficiary of the sub-measure is the State Agency for Electronic Government, which receives financial aid for implementation of activities related to the operation of the passive broadband infrastructure for access of new generation and aggregating active equipment.

The sub-measure started in 2019. No project proposals were received within the announced call.

#### ***Sub-measure 7.6. "Surveys and investments for maintenance, restoration and improvement of the cultural and natural heritage of the villages"***

2 calls for applications for support and project proposals under sub-measure 7.6 were held in the period 2016-2020. A total of 481 project proposals with a requested subsidy in the amount of BGN 285,956,247.46 were submitted for review. 86 contracts for financial assistance with a value of the public resource of BGN 48,864,126.20 were concluded. The total amount of the disbursed funds amounted to BGN 41,693,688.

Within the framework of call 2020, 139 project proposals with a total value of the requested grant in the amount of BGN 79,701,632.79 were received, which by the end of 2020 were in the process of evaluation.

## **Measure 8 "Investments in the development of forest regions and improvement of the forest viability"**

### ***Sub-measure 8.1 "Afforestation and maintenance"***

The support is targeted at projects that contribute to increasing the forest cover in lowland areas, limiting erosion and preserving land quality, improving water balance and adapting to climate change. Individuals, sole traders, local branches of religions, municipalities and legal entities, owners of agricultural or non-agricultural land are eligible for support.

The sub-measure was launched for the first time in 2020 with electronic call through the UMIS 2020 system. 22 project proposals, with value of the requested subsidy BGN 3,179,551.10 were received. By the end of 2020, the projects were in the process of evaluation.

### ***Sub-measure 8.3 "Prevention of damage to forests by forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events"***

The support under sub-measure 8.3 "Prevention of damage to forests by forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events" is aimed at introducing and improving preventive activities to reduce the risk of forest fires and the risk of pests, diseases, natural disasters and catastrophic events in forest areas.

In 2018, there was a call for applications for support, within which 31 project proposals were received for review, with amount of the requested subsidy of BGN 51,335,531.48

As of the end of 2020, 18 contracts for financial aid with value of the approved subsidy of BGN 29,189,898.21 were concluded, under which no payments were made.

### ***Sub-measure 8.4 "Recovery from damage to forests from forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events"***

The support under the sub-measure is aimed at restoring forests affected by forest fires, natural disasters, catastrophic events, diseases and pests, as well as protecting the environment and adapting to climate change.

Within the framework of the call held in 2018, 14 project proposals with a value of the requested public resource of BGN 5,946,658.17 were accepted for review.

As of 31.12.2020, 12 financial aid contracts with a subsidy value of BGN 4,673,237.75 were concluded, for which no payments were made.

### ***Sub-measure 8.6 "Investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilization and trade in forest products"***

Sub-measure 8.6 aims to improve the competitiveness and to create new jobs by promoting the processing and marketing of forest products, as well as improving the condition of forests, their protection and sustainable management.

In 2018, a call was opened, in which 197 project proposals with a value of the requested subsidy of BGN 77,849,664.88 were received. By the end of 2020, the projects were in the process of evaluation.

## **Measure 9: "Establishment of producer groups and organizations."**

The support under measure 9 "Establishment of producer groups and organizations" is aimed at the establishment of producer groups and organizations in the agricultural sector.

Within the call held in 2018, 38 projects with amount of the requested subsidy BGN 32,228,354.72 were received. As of 31.12.2020 the concluded contracts were 30 with a total amount of the approved subsidy of BGN 16,507,571.04. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 2,369,282. A total of 286 registered members of producer groups and organizations were supported through the sub-measure.

In 2020, 7 support contracts with a total value of the agreed subsidy of BGN 3,417,994.80 were concluded.

## **Measure 10 "Agri-Environment-Climate"**

During the period 2015 - 2019, the measure provided support in the following areas:

- restoration and maintenance of permanent grasslands of high nature value;
- maintenance of the habitats of the wintering species of geese and Montagu's harrier in arable lands of ornithological significance;
- maintenance of the habitats of the Imperial Eagle and the Egyptian Vulture in arable lands of ornithological significance;
- soil erosion control;
- traditional practices for seasonal grazing (pastoralism);
- preservation of endangered local breeds important for agriculture;
- conservation of endangered local varieties important for agriculture.

For the entire period the total paid public funds amounted to BGN 343,235,732. In 2020, funds for the 2019 campaign in the amount of BGN 62,190,853 were authorized.

## **Measure 11 "Organic Farming"**

The measure covers the application of two sub-measures: Sub-measure 11.1 "Payments for transition to organic farming" and Sub-measure 11.2 "Payments for maintenance of organic farming", with envisaged support in three areas - organic crop production, organic beekeeping and organic livestock.

As of 31 December 2020, the total financial resource paid under Measure 11 amounted to BGN 249,773,313. In 2020, the funds for the 2019 campaign in the amount of BGN 41,854,847 were authorized.

## **Measure 12 "Natura 2000 Payments and the Water Framework Directive"**

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 - only sub-measure 12.1. Compensatory payments for agricultural land in Natura 2000. As of 31 December 2020, payments were made for the commitments announced in the campaigns from 2015 to 2019 in the total amount of BGN 227,522,676.

In 2020, BGN 45,928,968 were authorized for the 2019 campaign under Measure 12.

## **Measure 13 "Payments for areas facing natural or other specific constraints"**

Measure 13 started in 2015 with two sub-measures - sub-measure 13.1 "Compensation payments in mountain areas" and sub-measure 13.2 "Compensation payments for other areas affected by significant natural constraints". In 2020, for the first time, a third sub-measure - 13.3 "Compensatory payments for UAA in other areas with significant natural constraints", was applied. The sub-measure was introduced in the framework of the seventh amendment of the RDP 2014-2020, in connection with the provisions of Regulation 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013, according to which each Member State is obliged in 2019 at the latest, to determine a new scope of the regions, different from the mountainous regions, with significant natural constraints, according to art. 32, para. 3, using the biophysical criteria listed in Annex III of the Regulation, at the set threshold.

As of 31.12.2020 the total paid public resource for the period 2015-2020 under Measure 13 amounted to BGN 550,659,763. In 2020, funds for the 2019 campaign in the amount of BGN 100,902,230 were authorized.

## **Measure 14 "Animal Welfare"**

Measure 14 "Animal Welfare" was first launched in 2017, with the application of two sub-measures - sub-measure 14.1 "Animal Welfare in the large ruminant sector" and sub-measure 14.2 "Animal welfare in the small ruminant sector".

As of 31.12.2020 the funds paid under the two sub-measures amounted to 12,941,956 public funds. In 2020, a financial resource for call 2019, amounting to BGN 5,400,997, was paid.

### **Measure 16 "Cooperation"**

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

The support under sub-measure 16.1 is aimed at the functioning of task forces set up to implement a specific innovative project to achieve the objectives of the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

Two calls were held in the period 2019-2020, with a total of 48 project proposals received and a total value of the requested subsidy of BGN 34,456,481. As of the end of 2020, 18 financial aid contracts with a total value of the subsidy of BGN 10,672,223 were concluded, for which no payments were made.

#### ***Sub-measure 16.4 "Support for Horizontal and Vertical Cooperation between Participants in the Supply Chain"***

The support is provided for creation and development of short supply chains and of local markets. It covers only short supply chains, which include not more than one intermediary between the farmer and the consumer. Local markets are markets within a radius of 75 km from the holding of origin of the product, within which both the processing of the product and its sale to the final consumer must take place.

The implementation of the sub-measure started with a call held in 2020. 2 projects with a total amount of the subsidy of BGN 293,370 were received. In November 2020, a second call under sub-measure 16.4 with a budget of BGN 13,690,600 and a deadline for submitting project proposals on 1 February 2022 was announced. The received project proposals from the first and second calls are in the process of review and evaluation.

### **Measure 19 "Community-led local development "**

The support under measure 19 "Community-led local development" is aimed at stimulating local development in rural areas and receives support from the RDP, OPIC, HRDOP, EOP, SESG OP, one or more priorities of the relevant program or programs, in accordance with the rules for these funds. Community-led local development is carried out through integrated and multi-sectoral local development strategies, based on the characteristics of the specific territory and developed on the basis of local needs and potential.

In the programming period 2014-2020, the LEADER/CLLD approach included 64 local initiative groups, including the territory of 117 municipalities, with a population of 1,646,496 people and an area of 53,828 sq. km.

The support for Community-led local development covers the following sub-measures:

- Sub-measure 19.1 "Aid for preparatory activities";
- Sub-measure 19.2 "Implementation of operations within community-led local development strategies";
- Sub-measure 19.3 "Preparation and implementation of LAG cooperation activities";
- Sub-measure 19.4. "Running Costs and Popularization for strategy for Community-led local development".

#### **Sub-measure 19.1 "Aid for preparatory activities"**

The implementation of sub-measure 19.1 started in 2015 with the holding of two calls of applications for support, within which a total of 133 applications were received. 100 contracts at a total value of EUR 2.60 million were concluded, under which 180 municipalities covering a population of 2,309,619 inhabitants and a territory of 74,433 sq. km, representing 78% of the rural area of the country were involved in the implementation of activities under the sub-measure. About 1,200 public events (conferences, seminars, meetings, trainings, etc.) were organized and held by the beneficiaries through the implemented activities.

In June 2020, under the sub-measure, in the part of the small pilot projects of measure 19 "Community-led local development", a call for project proposals with a budget of BGN 1,752,106.25 was opened. In November 2020, a new call with a budget of BGN 176,022 was opened, under which no support contracts were concluded.

Funds in the amount of BGN 3,934,791 were paid for the entire period of application of the sub-measure. No payments were made in 2020.

#### ***Sub-measure 19.2 "Implementation of operations within community-led local development strategies"***

The implementation of sub-measure 19.2 aims to expand the scope of the territories that will be supported by the CLLD approach by supporting as many local action groups as possible.

In 2016 and 2017, two calls for applications for LAG selection and approval of CLLD strategies were held. Within the framework of the calls, 64 LAGs, operating in 117 municipalities, covering an area of 53.8 thousand sq. km. and a population of 1.65 million, were approved.

As of December 31, 2020, 267 contracts with a total value of BGN 29,724,348.90 were concluded. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 327,752 public funds, and under 127 contracts the recipients were municipalities.

#### ***Sub-measure 19.3 "Preparation and implementation of LAG cooperation activities"***

The sub-measure supports projects for preparation and implementation of internal and transnational cooperation.

For the period of application of the measure 27 project proposals have been received, with the amount of the requested subsidy BGN 1,996,128. 21 financial aid contracts at the value of BGN 1,171,922 were concluded. The payments made amounted to BGN 554,133.

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

Sub-measure 19.4 aims to provide the LAG with the necessary financial resources for the effective implementation of the strategies and their promotion. This in turn aims to lead to the development of LAGs as strong and efficient partnerships and operating structures.

As of 31.12.2020 under the sub-measure a total of public funds in the amount of BGN 29,406,332 were reimbursed by the Paying Agency of the LAG, as the funds paid only in 2020 amounted to BGN 9,380,216 million.

### **Measure 20 "Technical Assistance"**

Measure 20 "Technical Assistance" has a key role in the implementation of the RDP, by supporting the implementation of activities aimed at ensuring information and publicity of the Program, conducting analyses, studies, research and evaluations, as well as technical support and remuneration for MA and RA.

As of the end of 2020, the concluded contracts and the performed activities under the measure were 134, at a total value of BGN 57,872,447. The disbursed funds amounted to BGN 42,909,232.

### **Measure 21 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises particularly affected by the crisis caused by COVID-19"**

The measure was introduced with the eighth amendment of the RDP on 23.07.2020. In 2020, a number of changes were made to the conditions for its implementation, aimed at the right targeting of the support to those particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis, farmers and SMEs, processing agricultural products and recognized producer groups and organizations.

#### ***Sub-measure 21.1 "Extraordinary temporary support for COVID 1 farmers"***

Farmers operating in the "Crop" sector for the crops under Annex No. 1 of Ordinance No. 2 of 05.08.2020 on the application of measure 21, and/or the "Livestock" sector (cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats)

and/or "Beekeeping" are supported under this sub-measure. In 2020, 30,406 farmers received financial aid, amounting to a total of BGN 71,247,364.

### ***Sub-measure 21.2 "Extraordinary temporary support for COVID 2 farmers"***

The support under the sub-measure is targeted at farmers operating in the Crop sector for agricultural crops other than those in Annex No. 1 and/or the Livestock sector (pigs and poultry). As part of the 2020 call, 1,166 farmers applied for support. The financial aid received by 671 beneficiaries amounted to a total of BGN 960,329.

### ***Sub-measure 21.3 "Extraordinary temporary support for small and medium-sized enterprises and recognized producer groups and organizations COVID 3"***

Beneficiaries under sub-measure 21.3 are micro, small and medium-sized enterprises processing agricultural products listed in Annex I to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as well as recognized producer groups and organizations.

During the call period, 211 enterprises and producer organizations applied for support. By the end of 2020, the applications were being processed and no payments were made.

## **3. Additional state support**

In addition to the support under the two pillars of CAP, the agricultural sector in Bulgaria receives financial support from national funds under state aid schemes, short-term and investment loans granted by the State Fund "Agriculture".

### **3.1. State aid**

The policy of the MAFF regarding the support with state aid in the Agriculture sector is implemented in accordance with the legislation of the European Union in the field of state aid and the Law on State Aid.

State aid support is targeted primarily at small and medium-sized agricultural holdings. The measures applied are aimed at: improving the efficiency of farms and production of better quality products; taking preventive actions and compensating for damage from natural disasters and adverse climatic events; assistance in the prevention of plant and animal diseases; conservation of genetic resources in crop and livestock production; promoting animal welfare; stimulating the participation in exhibitions for popularization of the Bulgarian agricultural production and for exchange of experience.

The state aid initiative usually comes from the branch concerned (Crop, Livestock, Agricultural Processing), which is involved in developing the measure.

The total value of state aid support in the Agriculture sector in 2020 amounted to BGN 349.5 million, of which:

- BGN 238.8 million under state aid and de minimis aid schemes administered by the SFA;
- BGN 110.7 million under 2 tax relief schemes (assignment of corporate tax for the tax year 2020 and reduced excise rate 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:

- Aid for investment in tangible assets of agricultural holdings related to the primary production of agricultural crop production

The aid is granted in the form of a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs of investing in machinery, equipment and lines for preparation, cooling and storage of primary agricultural products, as well as machinery, equipment and facilities for protection against frost and hail, necessary for the production of own primary agricultural production in the Crop sector.

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

The aid is provided in the form of a capital subsidy to cover part of the investment costs for construction of a facility for processing 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 processed, according to 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 for purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities for feeding newborn animals with milk

The aid is provided in the form of a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs of the investment in the purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities for feeding newborn animals with milk.

- Investments for construction of slaughterhouses

The aid is granted in the form of a capital subsidy to cover part of the costs of investing in the construction of points for production and cutting of meat from own large ruminants and small ruminants on the farm and/or the purchase of mobile ones (movable objects that can be transported by vehicle).

- Investments for construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers carrying out direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food from farm animals

The aid has been in force since 2015.

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

- Aid to compensate for damage to crops caused by adverse climatic events that can be equated to natural disasters

The support under the state aid scheme is direct aid amounting to up to 80% of the average production costs of growing a crop during the relevant marketing year.

- Aid to compensate for 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 Program in perennials during the winter;
- Aid to compensate the costs of agricultural producers related to the implementation of measures under the "National program of measures for control of soil pests on potatoes from the Wireworms (Elateridae) Family;
- Aid to compensate farmers for the implementation of measures under the National Program of Measures for Control of Tomato Leaf Miner - *Tuta absoluta* Meyrick (Lepidoptera);
- Aid to compensate farmers for costs related to implementation of measures under the State Prophylactic Program and the Programs for the Surveillance and Eradication of Animal Diseases;
- Aid for co-financing of insurance premiums for insurance of agricultural products;
- Aid to compensate for the costs of disposing and destroying of dead animals.

**3) Aid aimed at ensuring the use of quality seed in crop production, maintaining a high level of breeding activity in livestock breeding and optimizing the process of producing quality agricultural products:**

- Aid for the participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of quality seeds and propagating material;

- Aid for keeping a herd book and determining the productivity traits of animals;
  - 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:**

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

**5) Aid for participation in exhibitions**

This type of support contributes to the promotion of Bulgarian agricultural products on the market, as well as to the promotion of profitable plant varieties, animal breeds, innovative and effective technologies and practices among Bulgarian farmers. It is applied in the "Crop production", "Livestock breeding" and "Processing of agricultural products" sectors.

**6) Minimum de minimis aid**

De minimis aid is granted subject to the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 1408/2013 and Regulation (EU) 1407/2013. The de minimis rule applies to aid which, due to its small size, does not endanger competition and can be granted by Member States without the need for approval by the European Commission.

In 2020, support amounting to a total of BGN 66.3 million was provided under developed de minimis schemes.

**7) State aid in the form of tax relief (administered under another procedure)**

- Aid for investment in agricultural holdings by transfer of the corporate tax.

The aid is administered by the National Revenue Agency. According to preliminary data of the National Revenue Agency as of mid-June 2021 (with an extended deadline for filing tax returns until June 30, 2021), the tax declared for transfer for the tax year 2020 was BGN 26.7 million.

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

Nearly BGN 84 million were paid to 12,576 farmers under the aid in 2020.

**Table IV.6. State aid in agriculture in 2020**

Item No.	State aid	Utilized financial resource - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
1	Aid to compensate farmers for costs related to implementation of measures under the State Prevention Program and the Programs for the Surveillance and Eradication of Animal Diseases* (indicate the number of organizations that provide the subsidized service to farmers)	18,438,179	2,757
2	Aid for creation and maintenance of a herd book and for determination of the productivity and genetic traits of animals	7,368,749	5,542
3	Aid to compensate for material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives and bee colonies	3,585	1
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 - paid resource from call 2019.	9,800	1



Item No.	State aid	Utilized financial resource - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
5	Assistance in the implementation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs	19,255,304	64
6	Assistance in the implementation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of birds	37,050,948	226
7	Aid to compensate for the costs of disposing and destroying of dead animals* (indicate the number of organizations providing the subsidized service to farmers)	15,133,356	2
8	Aid "Investments for purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities for feeding newborn animals with milk" - for projects from calls 2019 and 2020.	913,038	56
9	Aid "Investments for construction of slaughterhouses" - projects under review	0	0
10	Assistance "Investments for purchase or construction of facilities for handling and/or processing of raw milk" - projects from call 2019 were paid for.	411,666	10
11	Aid to compensate for damage to crops caused by adverse climatic events that can be equated to natural disasters	5,370,074	519
12	Aid for compensating the costs of farmers related to implementation of measures under the National Program for Pest Control in Perennials during the winter period	5,942,175	3,476
13	Aid to compensate farmers for the implementation of measures under the National Program of Measures for Control of Tomato Leaf Miner	184,119	78
14	Aid to compensate the costs of agricultural producers related to the implementation of measures under the "National program of measures for control of soil pests on potatoes from the Wireworms family	1,789,794	279
15	Aid for co - financing of insurance premiums for insurance of agricultural production	897,393	357
16	Aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of seeds and propagating material	1,152,670	423
17	Aid "Investments in tangible assets in agricultural holdings related to primary production of crop products" - for projects call 2019 and 2020	5,620,726	89
18	Aid for participation in exhibitions	402,600	72
19	Aid for certification of holdings in the fruit and vegetables sector under the GLOBALG.A.P standard	29,790	23
20	Aid to support the liquidity of farmers engaged in primary agricultural production in order to overcome the effects of the negative economic impact of COVID-19	52,555,823	2,785
21	De minimis aid (Regulation (EU) 1407/2013 and Regulation (EU) 1408/2013)	66,279,406	37,757
<b>Tax measures</b>			

Item No.	State aid	Utilized financial resource - BGN	Number of beneficiaries
22	Aid for investment in agricultural holdings by transferring the corporate tax - tax 2020 (not final information for 2020)	26,724,643	1,538
23	Aid in the form of a rebate on the value of excise duty on gas oil used in primary agricultural production	83,985,752	12,576
	<b>Total state aid administered by SFA</b>	<b>238,809,195</b>	
	<b>TOTAL state aid (including through tax measures)</b>	<b>349,519,590</b>	

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

\* The aid is provided to farmers in the form of subsidized services. The column "Number of beneficiaries" indicates the number of organizations (veterinarians, laboratories, incinerators, etc.) through which the relevant service is provided to farmers..

### **Data for 2021**

For 2021, the allocated resource for state aid in agriculture, applied by the SFA, was BGN 165,350,000. As of 01.06.2021, a resource in the amount of BGN 159,752,880 was approved by decisions of the SFA Management Board under state aid schemes.

In the period 01.01 - 30.06.2021 the following funds were paid under the applied state aid of investment nature:

- BGN 3,633,078 for implementation of 49 projects under the state aid scheme "Investments in tangible assets in agricultural holdings related to primary production of plant agricultural products";
- BGN 278,479 for implementation of 8 projects under the state aid scheme "Investments for purchase or construction of facilities for processing and/or processing of raw milk";
- BGN 90,000 for implementation of 1 project under the state aid scheme "Investments for construction of slaughterhouses";
- BGN 278,479 for implementation of 42 projects under the state aid scheme "Investments for purchase of facilities for extraction and storage of raw milk and facilities for feeding newborn animals with milk".

It is expected that by the end of 2021 a new call under the state aid scheme "Investments for purchase of facilities for production and storage of raw milk and facilities for feeding newborn animals with milk" will be opened. The set budget of the aid for 2021 is BGN 2,500,000, which will be allocated until it is exhausted according to the application procedure.

In the period 01.01.-30.06.2021 the State Fund Agriculture transferred tranches of payments due for 2020 to 11,600 beneficiaries in the total amount of BGN 10,964,422 under the state aid in the form of a rebate on the value of excise duty on gas oil used in primary agricultural production, in which excise duty can be claimed for refund on invoices for purchased gas oil for 2020.

It is expected that in September 2021 a new call under the scheme will be opened and state aid in the amount of up to BGN 89,035,578 will be provided. The aid will be paid to farmers who have incurred costs to purchase gas oil in 2020.

### **3.2. Short-term credits**

In 2020, the State Fund for Agriculture provided a total of BGN 5,677,155 in the form of short-term credits to farmers. The funds were paid under a short-term credits to farmers for production of field and greenhouse vegetables and/or fruit, harvest 2020 and a targeted loan for purchase of mineral fertilizers and/or seeds and the use of non-permanently certified own seeds for wheat production, harvest 2021.

During the year, credits for livestock breeders, poultry farmers and pig farmers received in the period 2008-2012 were deferred.

### **3.3. SFA investment credit schemes**

In 2020, the SFA applied the following credit schemes for the investment intentions of farmers:

- Scheme for crediting with funds from State Fund Agriculture to persons with approved projects under the National Beekeeping Program for the three-year period 2020 - 2022;
- Credit scheme of the State Fund Agriculture for investments in agriculture;
- Scheme for crediting state aid projects "Investments for construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers producing direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and foodstuff of animal origin".

#### **Scheme for crediting with funds from the State Fund Agriculture to persons with approved projects under the National Beekeeping Program for the three-year period 2020 - 2022 (NBP)**

The credit scheme contributes to a significant increase in the absorption of funds under the National Beekeeping Program.

Under the terms of the scheme, a larger number of agricultural producers is given the opportunity to provide the necessary financial resources for implementation of approved projects under Measures A, B, C and E of the NBP - purchase of new hives, swarms, queen bees, veterinary medicines beekeeping equipment and attached equipment for mobile beekeeping, by using credit.

The maximum amount of the loan is up to 95% of the amount of the due grant under measures A, B, C and E of the NBP, calculated on the basis of the actually agreed costs under concluded contracts for purchase and sale of assets, at 3% annual interest.

Within the term of the call under the scheme, 125 credit applications were submitted, all of which were processed and financed. The amount of the provided funds was BGN 522,793.51.

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

#### **Credit scheme of the State Fund Agriculture for investments in agriculture**

There are three main directions has three main areas - Crop, Livestock Breeding and Technical Support, in the credit scheme of the State Fund Agriculture for investments in agriculture. The scheme aims to encourage the investment process, to increase the competitiveness and quality of agricultural products by facilitating the access to credit.

The activities and sites envisaged for financial support are:

- creation, restoration and cultivation of perennial crops and investments in greenhouse production;
- establishing and equipping of livestock farms and purchase of purebred, hybrid and market animals;
- purchase of machinery, equipment and inventory used in agriculture.

The credits under the scheme have a repayment term from 12 to 114 months, depending on the type of investment, which includes grace periods in terms of repayment of the principal.

The investment projects are financed at an annual interest rate equal to the reference interest rate applicable on the date of concluding the credit agreement, but not lower than the one determined by the Management Board of SF Agriculture for 2020 - 3% for direct crediting and up to 7% for refinancing through commercial banks. For credits financed directly by the State Fund for Agriculture, the processing and management fee is 0.5%.

Under the credit scheme of the State Fund "Agriculture" for investments in agriculture in 2020, there have been 2 applications for credit in the field of "Livestock" and 1 application for a loan in the field of

"Technical Support". The total amount of the requested credit resource amounted to BGN 141,460. As of 31.12.2020, one credit application in the amount of BGN 49,900 was financed.

**Credit scheme for projects under state aid "Investments for construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers carrying out direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food from farm animals".**

In 2020, the state aid scheme "Investments for construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment for farmers engaged in direct deliveries of small quantities of raw materials and food from farm animals" was implemented for the ninth consecutive year. The scheme provides an option for reimbursement of 50% 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 food of animal origin. In order to secure the financing of these projects, farmers have the opportunity to use crediting with funds from the State Fund Agriculture, as the application for an investment credit is made simultaneously with the one for state aid. The deadline for implementation of the credit scheme is 31.12.2020.

### **Data for 2021**

In 2021, the SFA will implement the Credit Scheme for Investments in Agriculture and the Credit Scheme for Persons with Approved Projects under the National Beekeeping Program for the Three-Year Period 2020-2022 (NBP) for Investment credit to farmers.

The annual interest rate for new credits financed directly by the SFA under the credit scheme for investments in agriculture is 2.5%. As of June 2021, a credit resource for implementation of an investment project in the field of "Technical Support" in the amount of BGN 49,500 was provided.

It is expected that by the end of the year investment credits up to BGN 1,100,000 to be provided under the credit scheme for persons with approved NBP projects. As of June 2021, 188 credit applications amounting to BGN 937,000 were submitted under the scheme, of which 169 credits amounting to BGN 831,000 were financed.

## **V. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Control of agricultural and forestry machinery**

#### **1.1. Registration of agricultural and forestry machinery**

The registration of agricultural and forestry machinery allows to monitor the technical condition of each machine, to control their safety at work and transport, to maintain a database of all machines in the country, to track the dynamics of renewal of machinery and tractor fleet.

In 2020, a total of 21,647 agricultural and forestry machinery were registered in the country, of which 6,546 or just over 30% were new machinery.

**Table V.1. Registered agricultural and forestry machinery in 2020**

<b>Machine type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>including new machines</b>
Caterpillar tractors	104	10
Wheeled tractors	6,582	936
Self-propelled chassis	99	3
Other self-propelled equipment	4,344	1,150
Tractor trailers	2,127	578
Combine harvesters	815	153
Self-propelled forage harvesters	43	1
Other self - propelled machines	98	23

Machine type	Total	including new machines
Sowing and planting machines	942	488
Fertilizer and plant protection machines	895	516
Fodder harvesters and fodder processors	1,981	995
Soil cultivators	2,447	1,308
Dryers and others	7	0
Grain and seed cleaners	9	7
Irrigating machines	32	13
Forestry equipment	1,122	365
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21,647</b>	<b>6,546</b>

Source: MAFF

## 1.2. Technical inspection of the equipment

The effective control of the technical condition and safety of equipment ensures protection of life and health of workers with agricultural and forestry equipment and reduction of accidents at work and victims of road accidents associated with equipment malfunctions.

In 2020, the regional directorates of Agriculture conducted 121,509 technical inspections of agricultural and forestry machinery.

## 1.3. Qualification to work with machinery and issuance of certificates

After on-site inspections of the facilities and the training documentation, in 2020 72 certificates for registration of educational forms were issued for training of the candidates for acquiring qualification to work with agricultural and forestry equipment on 32 training forms for 72 categories. 12 corrections were made to permits and certificates for registration of educational forms due to change of the circumstances.

**Table V.2. Issued permits and qualification certificates by categories in 2020**

Category	Number of permits issued	Number of qualification certificates issued
tracked and wheeled tractors and machinery attached thereto	26	3,504
specialized and special agricultural machinery	25	1,426
specialized and special self-propelled reclamation equipment (earthmoving machines).	10	393
specialized and special self-propelled forestry equipment (hydraulic cranes and jaw loaders).	3	121
chainsaws and brushcutters	7	1,314
log bandsaw	0	29
cableways	1	32
Change of circumstances	12	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5,819</b>

Source: MAFF

## 1.4. Testing and certification of used agricultural and forestry machinery

In 2020, 1,530 tests of used agricultural and forestry machinery and earthmoving machinery were performed at the testing and certification centers in Ruse and Plovdiv.

## 2. Hydromelioration

### 2.1. Sites for protection against the harmful effects of water

Pursuant to § 4a, para. 1 of the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Water Act 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 corrections, drainage systems - public state under contract No. RD50-23/05.04.2019 with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

In 2020, the final statement on the operating expenses of Irrigation Systems EAD amounted to a total of BGN 20,341,301, including expenses for activities performed by the company's branches. 11 sites (compromised sections of river corrections and drainage canals) were restored by outsourcing in compliance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) and concluded contracts for repair and restoration works.

For the period 01.01 - 31.05.2021, the expenses incurred by Irrigation Systems EAD for carrying out the activities under the contract amounted to a total of BGN 9,050,846 with VAT, and 8 sites (compromised sections of river corrections and drainage canals) were restored by outsourcing under the Public Procurement Act and concluded contracts for repair and restoration works.

The programs for 2021 envisage further restoration of compromised sections of dikes, river corrections and other, as well as the assignment and preparation of detailed designs for compromised sites, with a view to their subsequent restoration. The costs for the activities under the contract for 2021 are expected to exceed BGN 20 million.

During the period January - March 2021, emergency rescue and repair works were carried out at 7 sites (sections of corrections of the Struma and Mesta rivers), which suffered damage from floods and high waters in January 2021.

### 2.2. Irrigation

The dams owned and operated by Irrigation Systems EAD are 189, of which are provided for use, including management, maintenance, operation, protection and monitoring, 21 complex and significant dams - public state property.

With RMS 938 of 17.12.2020 Aheloy and Poroy reservoirs were provided to the regional governor of Burgas province.

In 2020, Irrigation Systems EAD irrigated a total of 273,118 decares, supplying water masses in the amount of 301,506 thousand m<sup>3</sup>, incl. 116 899 decares of rice with 278 769 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of water masses. The total irrigated areas were over 10% more than in 2019.

In 2021, the prices at which Irrigation Systems EAD performs the service "supply of water for irrigation" are differentiated by regions and depending on the method of supply, and have not changed compared to 2020.

**Table V.3. Watered areas and supplied water masses by Irrigation Systems EAD in 2020 by types of crops**

	TOTAL		Maize		Tobacco		Vegetables		Perennials		Rice		Other crops	
	Irrigated areas	Supplied water masses	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied
	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>
Burgas	4,891	256					71	7	969	73			3,851	176
Vidin	1,066	206	1,066	206										
Gorna Tundzha	19,432	31,807	2,293	339	2,067	314	1,222	256	598	36	12,839	30,813	413	49

	TOTAL		Maize		Tobacco		Vegetables		Perennials		Rice		Other crops	
	Irrigated areas	Supplied water masses	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied	Irrigated areas	Water masses supplied
	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>
Lower Danube	7,896	1,858	900	88			498	154	73	17			6,425	1,599
Maritsa	101,752	167,523	21,461	2,640	3,420	350	1,189	169	2,354	220	68,809	163,682	4,519	462
Mizia	853	103			636	51	208	50	5	1			4	1
Sofia	4,951	765					4,858	756					93	9
Middle Danube	16,545	2,196	5,006	327	381	100	5,593	1,514	577	62			4,988	193
Middle Tundzha	36,027	4,930	19,345	3,384	140	42	2,202	230	3,585	417			10,755	857
Struma-Mesta	8,328	1,246	2,593	270	238	20	3,591	561	1,013	106			893	289
Topolnitsa	60,647	88,706	16,309	2,822	1,618	368	4,569	819	2,511	250	35,251	84,274	389	173
Haskovo	4,645	1,070	1,514	301	721	82	1,666	572	509	34			235	81
Black sea	2,322	377	653	26			1,064	282	173	21			432	48
Shumen	3,763	463	2,936	278			170	49	13	1			644	135
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273,118</b>	<b>301,506</b>	<b>74,076</b>	<b>10,681</b>	<b>9,221</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>26,901</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>12,380</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>116,899</b>	<b>278,769</b>	<b>33,641</b>	<b>4,072</b>

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

**Table V.4. Summary for Irrigation by Irrigation Systems EAD for the period 2018 - 2020**

	2018			2019			2020		
	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses	1st irrigation	Irrigated decares	Water masses
	decares	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>	decares	decares	thousand m <sup>3</sup>
Burgas	9,732	11,209	356	8,038	13,229	520	4,891	5,578	255
Vidin	60	60	1	3,233	6,466	177	1,066	5,267	206
Gorna Tundzha	16,600	18,963	30,346	17,910	19,781	32,941	19,432	26,753	31,807
Lower Danube	8,229	38,177	1,598	7,142	40,365	1,670	7,896	44,059	1,859
Maritsa	95,457	102,647	152,279	96,619	106,429	162,433	101,753	113,941	167,523
Mizia	1,285	2,500	165	1,588	4,038	173	853	3,009	103
Sofia	1,326	2,423	121	4,535	10,152	576	4,951	12,399	765
Middle Danube	9,427	27,089	893	11,821	57,535	1,635	16,545	65,773	2,195
Middle Tundzha	21,472	33,768	2,362	22,855	35,781	2,901	36,027	65,853	4,930
Struma-Mesta	5,518	12,981	927	7,467	14,795	1,062	8,329	17,838	1,247
Topolnitsa	58,336	69,372	88,312	57,864	74,688	87,067	60,647	83,686	88,706
Haskovo	4,302	13,208	667	4,132	18,191	883	4,646	18,875	1,070
Black Sea	1,851	5,051	204	1,601	6,707	319	2,322	9,283	377
Shumen	2,613	5,747	366	2,573	7,038	638	3,763	7,810	463
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236,207</b>	<b>343,195</b>	<b>278,597</b>	<b>247,378</b>	<b>415,193</b>	<b>292,994</b>	<b>273,118</b>	<b>480,123</b>	<b>301,506</b>

Source: Irrigation Systems EAD

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

In 2020, Irrigation Systems EAD carried out partial repair works on the irrigation infrastructure.

In order to permanently provide better quality service and reduce water losses, it is necessary to provide significantly more funds. In this regard, Irrigation Systems EAD was given the opportunity to apply for rehabilitation of existing irrigation and irrigation facilities under sub-measure 4.3 "Support for investments in infrastructure related to the development, modernization or adaptation of agriculture and forestry" of measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" from the Rural Development Program for the period 2014-2020.

The support under the sub-measure will focus on the reconstruction/rehabilitation and modernization of hydro-ameliorative irrigation facilities used only for agricultural purposes, outside agricultural holdings, in order to reduce water losses and for adaption of the adapt agriculture to the effects of climate change. The support under the sub-measure will ensure efficient use of water resources through the introduction of new technologies, leading to a real reduction in losses and water consumption in agriculture, increasing competitive advantages and reducing the pressure on water bodies.

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 throughout the country. After their approval and inclusion in the program 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.

## **3. Plant protection and phytosanitary control**

### **3.1. Monitoring the development of economically important pests and plant protection**

Plant protection inspectors at the RFSD carry out systematic observations of agricultural crops for the emergence, development and spread of economically important diseases and pests that are directly dependent on agro-meteorological conditions during the growing season. It is the obligation of the farmers to inspect the fields for disease and pest infestation in a timely manner and to apply chemical control only when the thresholds of economic harmfulness of pests in different crops are reached.

In 2021, Ordinance No. 9 of 26.02.2021 on integrated production of plants and plant products and control over integrated production was promulgated. Integrated production of plants and plant products is planned to be carried out for economically important agricultural crops (cereals, legumes, vegetables - in field and greenhouse production, fruits, berries, industrial crops and essential oils) of other agricultural crops in case of identified need, for which there are developed manuals for integrated pest management. The development of guidelines for integrated pest management for economically important crops by the Agricultural Academy, together with scientists from other scientific institutions in the country, is forthcoming. The aim is to promote the development of integrated production of plants and plant products and consulting services for integrated pest management.

### **3.2. Plant protection**

#### **▪ Plant protection in cereals**

In 2020, the general phytosanitary condition of cereals was good.

#### **Weed control**

During the year, herbicides were applied to a total of 1,361,297 thousand ha with autumn crops (compared to 1,299,212 thousand ha in the previous 2019), including 1,235,533 thousand ha with wheat and 125,764 thousand ha with barley. Treatment against broadleaf weeds was carried out on 681,014 thousand ha, with 11.47% more on an annual basis. The areas treated with anticereal herbicides increased by 4.26% compared to 2019, to 203,215 thousand ha, and the total areas treated with herbicides against cereals and deciduous weeds - by 23.22%, to 477,069 thousand ha.

Soil herbicides of 295,577 thousand ha were applied to the sown areas with maize, 9.93% more than



in the previous year. In 2020, a total of 319,761 thousand ha were treated with vegetation herbicides against cereal and deciduous weeds, compared to 317,867 thousand ha in 2019.

## **Pests and Diseases Control**

### ***Sunn pest *Eurygaster integriceps****

The total areas infested by the adult grain bed bug were 137,021 thousand ha, 14.46% less than in 2019, and there was a relative preservation of the size of the treated areas - 98,875 thousand ha.

Treatment against the larvae of the enemy was carried out on 108,380 thousand ha, with 149,257 thousand ha attacked, as the treated areas were 7% less than the previous year.

### ***Cereal Leaf Beetle (*Oulema melanopa* (L.))***

In 2020, 201,532 thousand ha were attacked, 7.94% less than in 2019. 167,663 thousand ha were treated against the larvae of cereal leaf beetle, which is a decrease of 14% compared to 2019.

### ***Powdery mildew***

In 2020, the areas occupied by wheat, infested by powdery mildew, were 386,362 thousand ha - 13.57% less than the previous year, and treatment was carried out on 482,367 thousand ha. (at 608,613 thousand ha for 2019). In most of the treated areas the fungicides used were combined with the application of vegetation herbicides.

### ***Septoria***

An attack of the disease was reported on 254,103 thousand ha, which is comparable to the data for 2019. Treatment was carried out on 396,685 thousand ha, 6.73% more than in 2019.

## **▪ Plant protection in industrial crops**

### **Weed control**

During the year, soil herbicides were applied on 437,119 thousand ha of sunflower, and 423,517 thousand ha were treated vegetatively.

In the autumn, chemical control of weeds in rapeseed was carried out, mainly with soil herbicides, and they were applied on 50,661 thousand ha (65,609 thousand ha for 2019). Vegetation herbicides were applied on 52,559 thousand ha, 27% less on an annual basis.

In 2020, soil herbicides were applied on 2,075 thousand ha of tobacco, and 0.498 thousand ha were treated with vegetative herbicides. The areas with applied vegetation herbicides were 40% less than in 2019.

Chemical control of weeds in potatoes was carried out by the application of soil and vegetative herbicides. Soil herbicides were applied on 5,156 thousand ha, and vegetative herbicides were applied on 1,827 thousand ha (36.81% less derived treatments on an annual basis).

### **Control of diseases and pests**

#### ***Black spots (*Phoma*) and Stem canker (*Phomopsis*) in sunflower***

In 2020, 46,817 thousand ha were treated against foma and 44,707 thousand ha against fomopsis (compared to 39,060 thousand ha and 36,785 thousand ha in 2019, respectively). The treatments were mainly preventive.

#### ***Mildew on Sunflower***

The total area affected by the disease is only 0.600 thousand ha, compared to 12.600 thousand ha in the previous 2019. The cause of the manna was *Plasmopara helianti*. 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.

#### ***Rape beetle (*Meligethes aeneus*)***

In the months of April and May 2020, treatments against rapeseed were carried out on 102,296 thousand ha of rapeseed, compared to 127,444 thousand ha in the previous year.

### ***Rape stem weevil (Ceutorhynchus napi)***

In 2020, 32,794 thousand ha of rape were treated against the pest, which is 24% less on an annual basis.

#### **▪ Plant protection in vegetable crops**

##### **Pest Control**

### ***Tomato pinworm (Tuta Absoluta)***

In 2020, the reproduction of the pest was not allowed in most greenhouses in the country. From 1 to 9 insecticide treatments were carried out - a total of 0.428 thousand ha, compared to 1.207 thousand ha in 2019.

Under field conditions, 1 to 10 treatments against the tomato minworm were carried out on an area of 1,639 thousand ha (1,973 thousand ha in 2019).

In 2020, the implementation of state aid under the "National Program of Measures for Control of Tomato Leaf Miner" continues. 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. 73 farmers, with a total supported area of 0.092 thousand ha, fully occupied by greenhouse tomatoes, were approved under the program during the year.

In 2021, farmers will be supported under this program again.

#### **▪ Plant protection in fruit crops**

##### **Pests and Diseases Control**

In 2020, state "Aid to compensate farmers for costs related to the implementation of measures under the "National Pest Control Program for perennials during the winter period" was applied again. The financial support under the Program continued in 2021.

### ***Leaf-eating caterpillars***

Predominant species in orchards are: *Lymantria dispar* L.; *Euproctis chrisorrhoea* L.; Geometridae; *Hyphantria cunea* Drury. In 2020, the pests were in low population density and degree of attack. The harmful activity and the spread of leaf-eating caterpillars were limited by treatments against other economically important pests on fruit crops. Treatment against the main leaf-eating species was carried out on 8,372 thousand ha of orchards, including 0.785 thousand ha of seed and 7,587 thousand ha of stone fruit species. In 2020, there was a 23.4% decrease in treated areas compared to 2019.

### ***Tortrix moths (Tortricidae) and Temetocera ocellana F. and Hedya nubiferana Haw***

In 2020, treatment against pests was carried out on 2,113 thousand ha of seed fruit species (against 2,152 thousand ha in 2019).

### ***Aphididae***

aphids infest was found everywhere in all fruit crops In 2020, 3,976 thousand ha of seed and 10,139 thousand ha of stone fruit species were treated, from 1 to 7 times, and the treated fruit trees were 37.44% less than in 2019.

### ***Quadraspidotus perniciosus***

During the year, a total of 2,225 thousand ha of orchards were treated against California aphids (2,326 thousand ha for 2019).

### ***Parthenolecanium corni Bouche***

1,666 thousand ha of plums from a total of 7,913 thousand ha of plum trees were treated, mainly combined sprays with plum fruit worm were performed.

### ***Cherry fruit fly (Rhagoletis cerasi L.)***

Due to the heavy rainfall during growing and ripening of cherries, which favors the imaging of the fly, in 2020 a higher number of flies caught on the set sticky boards was reported compared to previous years. The percentage of worming during the year was also high. In the districts of Blagoevgrad and Targovishte up to 10% worming of the fruits was established. 8,983 thousand ha of cherries were treated.

***Black plum sawfly (Hoplocampa minuta Christ.)***

4,796 thousand ha were treated against the enemy from 1 to 4 times.

***Fruit worms***

4,506 thousand ha of apple orchards were treated against apple fruit worm, 6,852 thousand ha of plum orchards against plum fruit worm and 4,918 thousand ha against eastern fruit worm for peaches and apricots. The total treated areas in 2020 were 16,276 thousand ha, compared to 16,972 thousand ha in 2019.

***Peach-twig borer (Anarsia lineatella Zell.)***

During the year, 4,275 thousand ha with peaches and apricots were treated.

***Roundworm moth (Leucotera (Cemiostoma) scitella Zell.) on apple trees***

In Pazardzhik district an increased population density was found in isolated gardens.

In 2020, 0.393 thousand ha were treated against roundworm, compared to 0.329 thousand ha in 2019.

***Apple scab and pear scab***

The rainfall in June favored the development and spread of scabbing and dramatically increased the rate of attack on leaves and fruits. In 2020, 4,554 thousand ha were treated against apple and pear scab.

***Powdery mildew on apple trees***

In 2020, 3,974 thousand ha of apple and pear orchards were treated against powdery mildew.

***Early brown rot***

During the year, treatments against early brown rot were carried out on 15,232 thousand ha of the total managed stone fruit trees (including plums, cherries, sour cherries, peaches, apricots). As a result of agro-meteorological conditions, 14% less treated areas against early brown rot were reported compared to 2019.

***Late brown rot***

The first manifestations of the disease on the fruit were provoked by high humidity and frequent showers in June. Weak to moderate levels of attack for the country and good crop protection were reported.

***Peach powdery mildew***

During the vegetation 1 to 7 sprays were carried out. In 2020, 3,206 thousand ha of peach orchards were treated, twice as many as in 2019.

***Peach Leaf Curl***

Within 2020, 1 to 4 treatments were carried out on 1,826 thousand ha of peaches, 2,000 thousand ha less than in the previous 2019.

***Cherry leaf spot (Blumeriella jaapii) on cherries and sour cherries***

Frequent rainfall in July favored the spread of the fungal disease. The degree of manifestation varied greatly depending on the sensitivity of cherry varieties - from mild to moderate.

1 to 3 treatments were performed on an area of 5,744 thousand ha of cherries and sour cherries.

▪ **Plant protection in vineyards**

**Weed control**

Soil herbicides were applied on 4,222 thousand ha and vegetation herbicides on 18,902 thousand ha of the managed areas occupied by vineyards.

### **Pests and Diseases Control**

#### ***European Grapevine Moth (Lobesia botrana Schiff.)***

Out of a total of 41,798 thousand ha occupied by vineyards, in 2020 20,062 thousand ha were treated (compared to 27,931 thousand ha in 2019).

#### ***Schizotetranychus viticola Reck.***

During the year, treatment was carried out on 4,764 thousand ha vineyards, from 1 to 5 times.

#### ***Grapevine Downy Mildew (Plasmopara viticola)***

In 2020, 2 to 10 treatments against mildew were carried out on a total area of 40,428 thousand ha of vineyards, compared to 54,835 thousand ha treated in the previous 2019.

#### ***Powdery mildew (Oidium)***

In 2020, 1 to 11 treatments were carried out on 39,708 thousand vineyards, 28% less on an annual basis.

#### ***Gray mould rot (botrytis)***

The areas treated against gray mould rot in 2020 were 24,456 thousand ha (33,705 thousand ha for the previous year). 1 to 4 treatments against gray mould rot were carried out during the vegetation.

Compared to 2019, there was a decrease of 26.22% in the areas occupied by vineyards treated against economically important diseases for the crop, the emergence and development of which are directly dependent on agro-meteorological conditions during the growing season.

### **▪ Plant Protection against Omnivorous Pests**

#### ***Common Vole (Microtus arvalis)***

In the spring of 2020, the total number of winter crops infested by common vole was 16,270 thousand ha, compared to 30,904 thousand ha in 2019. Chemical control was applied on 8,800 thousand ha, compared to 27,500 thousand ha in the previous year.

#### ***Wireworms***

In 2020, state aid was granted to compensate the costs of agricultural producers related to the implementation of measures under the „National Program of Measures for Control of Soil Pests on Potatoes from the Wireworm Family”. The aid consisted of compensation of the costs for purchase of plant protection products, for the control of soil pests on potatoes from the wireworm family. During the year, 297 farmers applied for aid, at 2,869 thousand ha of potatoes attacked.

The aid continues to apply in 2021.

#### ***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 2020, chemical control was carried out against Maize Leaf Weevil (*Tanymecus dilaticollis* Gyll.) on 35,709 thousand ha of maize and 32 thousand ha of sunflower.

### **3.3. Phytosanitary Control**

The priority activities for achieving the main operational objective in the field of phytosanitary control in 2020 are:

- Legislation harmonized with the EU plant health regime;

- Production control on the territory of Bulgaria with a view to timely detection and prevention of the spread of quarantine pests on plants and plant products;
- Effective control on import of plants and plant products from third countries on the territory of the country and the EU, as an external border of the Union;
- Ensuring the export of plants and plant products according to the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country and the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention);
- Conducting phytosanitary monitoring programs for quarantine pests in accordance with EU legislation;
- Laboratory-diagnostic network.

### **3.3.1. 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 monitoring in the country for quarantine pests and regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQ) in 2020 was carried out in compliance with the requirements of the Plant Protection Act (PPA), in accordance with EU legislation in the field.

The persons under Art. 22, para. 1 of the Plant Protection Act - importers, producers, processors, warehouses, forwarding centers, markets and persons handling plants, plant products and other sites subject to phytosanitary control, are registered in the official register of the professional phytosanitary control operators.

The total number of registered professional operators for 2020 was 3,121, which is 2.4% less than in 2019. Of these, 140 were professional operators registered under Standard 15 for thermal treatment of wood packaging material (WPM) and 505 - importers of plants, plant products and other objects.

In the production of plants and plant products 4,282 inspections were carried out in 2020, compared to 4,512 in the previous 2019.

The main priority in this area is to ensure the production of healthy plants and plant products, their movement within the EU through the system of plant passports and trouble-free exports to third countries, complying with phytosanitary requirements for imports from the importing country.

In 2020, the plant protection inspectors of the BFSA carried out phytosanitary control under the following national monitoring programs:

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

During the observations carried out under the monitoring programs on the territory of the country in 2020, 135,857 sites were controlled (compared to 168,367 for 2019); 5,759 inspections were documented (6,870 for 2019); 2,131 samples were analyzed in the regional diagnostic laboratories for plant health (ODRHR) (2,294 for 2019).

The Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine (CLPQ) is connected with the activity of phytosanitary control in the BFSa, which is designated as the National Reference Laboratory for plant pests - insects and mites, nematodes, bacteria, fungi and oomycetes and for viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas.

In 2020, 4,830 samples were received in the Central Laboratory and 12,826 analyses of plants, plant materials and imported soils, incl. - from EU traffic, from field control, from monitoring programs and from the private sector, were performed.

Timely detection of pests enables phytosanitary inspectors to take timely and appropriate action to locate outbreaks and eradicate them where possible.

The specialized potato laboratory in Samokov town carries out tests of potato varieties for resistance to cancer and potato cyst nematodes and determining the type of potato cancer found in the country in the regions of Samokov and Smolyan towns.

The EU Reference Laboratories (EURLs) for plant pests - insects and mites, nematodes, bacteria, fungi and oomycetes and viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas - organized tests for detection and identification of ToBRFV and ToLCNDV viruses, *Clavibacter seped* and a complex of *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, *Thrips palmi*, *Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis*, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *M. fallax* by morphological and/or molecular methods. They are mandatory for the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and the CLPQ participates in all tests. 137 samples were obtained and 263 analyses were performed.

For 2020, 1,832 plant passports of locally produced goods for the country and the EU, 41 health certificates and 19 pre-export certificates were issued.

### **3.3.2. Phytosanitary control at export**

In 2020, 13,552 inspections (13,587 for the previous year) were carried out on 32,054 consignments (33,562 in 2019) of plants and plant products intended for export, in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. 4 429 samples were taken for analysis or 4.9% more on an annual basis. In accordance with the requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention (ICRP) and the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), 19,497 phytosanitary certificates for export (about 9% less than in 2019) and 129 PSC for re-export were issued (2019).

The main goods subject to phytosanitary control for export are: timber, wood packaging material, sunflower (peeled, colored, black), grain, coriander, dried herbs, lavender and spices. Timber exports were mainly to Turkey, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Israel, the United States and India, and timber packaging exports to the United States, Canada, India, Indonesia, Serbia, Northern Macedonia, Belarus and Australia. The most significant is the export of coriander to Malaysia, India, Thailand, South Korea and Israel, and sunflower (peeled and black) to the United States, Turkey, Australia, northern Macedonia, Serbia and Indonesia. Maize export is the most significant for Turkey, South Korea, Lebanon and Syria, and lavender exports to Turkey and Ukraine.

### **3.3.3. Phytosanitary control at import**

In 2020, 505 operators were registered in the official register of phytosanitary control of importers of plants and plant products, compared to 520 in 2019. 551 lots were checked, with a decrease of 36.4% on an annual basis. The analyzed samples from imports were 41 (290 in 2019). During the year, 27 plant passports and 102 plant health documents were issued (compared to 223 and 222 in 2019, respectively).

### **3.4. Control of plant protection products and fertilizers**

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency controls plant protection products and fertilizers 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, sparing environmental PPPs and fertilizers that meet the legal requirements for packaging and labeling. The scope of control covers companies for trade, repackaging and production of PPP and fertilizers, as well as unregulated trade sites and border crossings.

The control over the use of PPP and fertilizers aims to ensure the correct and sustainable use of plant protection products in compliance with the requirements of Good Plant Protection Practice (GMP) and implementation of forecasting methods with the principles of integrated pest management to produce safe plant production. The scope of control involves farmers who apply plant protection products and fertilizers in the production of plant products intended 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 2020, 133 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 on the market of plant protection products.

59 authorizations of plant protection products were revoked or terminated, the authorizations of 140 products were amended and 1 refusal on an application for parallel trade in a plant protection product was issued.

#### **3.4.1. Results of the control activity on the marketing of PPPs**

1,316 sites including 883 for trade in agricultural pharmacies, 418 warehouses for storage and wholesale (own warehouses and cells for rent), 13 sites for repackaging and 2 production companies, were registered on the territory of the country.

In 2020, 1,625 inspections were carried out, of which 955 in agricultural pharmacies, 531 in warehouses, 17 in repackaging sites, 9 in PPP production sites and 113 in unregulated sites (municipal markets, shops, etc.). 234 prescriptions, including 174 in agricultural pharmacies, 46 in warehouses for trade, 2 in sites for repackaging of PPPs and 12 in unregulated sites, with corrective measures to eliminate discrepancies and a specified deadline for implementation were issued. 25 acts for administrative violation and 14 penal decrees were drawn up.

In 2020, a total of 216 certificates were issued, including 66 certificates for PPP trade and 150 certificates for change of circumstances.

34 certificates for extension of the validity period of the PPP were prepared and issued under received applications.

During the year, 99 control samples for compliance, 2 samples at the written request of a client and 2 samples on signals were taken, and no discrepancies were found.

A total of 1,075.41 kg and 3,059.82 liters of PPP were seized or confiscated from the sites for trade, production and repackaging and left for safekeeping. 1,165.70 kg and 3,746.94 liters of unauthorized PPPs were seized or confiscated at the border checkpoint.

#### **3.4.2. Results of the control activity on the use of PPP**

In 2020, 5,649 inspections of the use of PPP were carried out, incl. 4,085 documentary inspections in the RFSD, 1,415 documentary inspections during a visit to a farm, 32 during air spraying, 17 during fumigation, 18 during decontamination of seeds and 85 during treatment with ground equipment.

The prescriptions issued during the year were 1,287, including 1,244 for documentary inspection, 39 for treatment with ground equipment and 4 for decontamination of seeds for sowing. 36 acts for established administrative violation and 29 penal decrees were drawn up.

On the territory of the country 141 inspections were carried out on signals or complaints regarding the use of PPP, 23 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up and 20 penal decrees were issued.

There are a total of 50 persons performing specialized plant protection services (fumigation, decontamination of seeds with PPP and consulting services).

#### **Samples for pesticide residues under the National Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Foods of Plant and Animal Origin (NPCPR) and leaf samples for identification of PPP**

In 2020, 92 samples were taken for pesticide residues. Irregularities in broccoli and cauliflower samples taken by the Pazardzhik RFSD were found and 2 acts for violations were drawn up. An irregularity was found in a sample of apples taken by the RFSD Kyustendil, and an act for violation was drawn up.

To identify the used PPPs, 40 leaf samples were taken and analyzed in an external laboratory, and for unauthorized use of PPPs, 9 acts and 1 prescription were drawn up.

#### **Samples of plants and plant products under the National Program for Control of Contaminants in Food (nitrates and heavy metals - lead and cadmium)**

5 samples for nitrate content and 20 samples for heavy metals - lead and cadmium were taken and analyzed, and all samples were compliant.

#### **Samples taken from plants and plant products outside the National Plan for Control over the Use of PPPs for 2020**

Signals, complaints and orders resulted in the issuance of 48 protocols for taking a control samples, laboratory analysis of 41 samples and 8 acts for established administrative violation.

#### **Issued permits for application of PPPs by aerial application**

The issued permits for aerial application were are 56, including 49 agricultural areas, 6 forest areas and 1 - other areas. 110,900 decares of agricultural land, 22,773 decares - forest areas and 300 decares - other were treated.

#### **Inspections of agricultural holdings for compliance with the rules of Good Agricultural Practice - Nitrates (Agroecology)**

During the year, 720 inspections were carried out and 48 prescriptions were made.

### **4. Fertilizers**

#### **4.1. Registration of fertilizers**

In 2020, a total of 93 new products were registered - organic, inorganic, organo-mineral, microbial fertilizers and soil improvers and biologically active substances.

#### **4.2. Control of fertilizers upon their placing on the market**

A total of 803 inspections were carried out on the territory of the country in 2020 in connection with the control of fertilizers carried out by the BFSA, with 643 inspections planned. 36 prescriptions with a specified deadline for implementation were issued. 9 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up.

In pursuance of the National Plan for Control of Fertilizers, Soil Enhancers, Biologically Active Substances and Nutrient Substrates, 94 samples of fertilizers were taken and tested in 2020, of which 5 samples of fertilizers registered under the national legislation and 89 samples of EC fertilizers. 96 statements of compliance were prepared. Discrepancies were found in 4 samples of EC fertilizers that did not meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 2003/2003. Actions have been taken by the control body according to art. 139 of the Plant Protection Act.



**Table V.3. Control over fertilizers in the period 2018 - 2020**

Activities	2018	2019	2020
Number of registered fertilizers	96	72	93
Number of site inspections	795	894	803
Samples of fertilizers taken for analysis	101	96	94
Acts of violations	2	5	4

Source: BFSA

### **Use of sludge in agriculture**

In 2020, 100 permits were issued for utilization of sewage sludge for use in agriculture, on fields with a total area of 19,638 decares in the lands of: Mramor, Filipovtsi, Stolnik, Chepintsi, Krivina, Lozen villages and In Malashevtsi district in Sofia city province and Mramoren fillage, Vratsa province. The total amount of recovered sludge, expressed as dry matter, was 31,246 tonnes for wheat, sunflower, maize and rapeseed crops.

### **5. Variety testing, approbation and seed control**

The state policy in the field of variety testing, variety maintenance, production, trade, import and export of sowing and planting material is implemented through the Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Approbation and Seed Control at the MAFF.

EAPVTASC controls the production, harvesting, distribution, trade and storage of sowing and planting material; its certification in compliance with the accepted methods, schemes and technological characteristics for quality; manages the procedure for testing, recognition and zoning of cultivated plant varieties; annually issues the Official Variety List of the Republic of Bulgaria for the varieties of field, vegetable, fruit crops and vines; enters the newly registered varieties in the European catalogs of the EU and is responsible for the full harmonization of the national legislation in the field of seeds and planting material with that of the EU.

The Agency is the national body for implementation of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) seed schemes.

In 2020, by-laws on seeds and propagating material, transposing directives amending and supplementing basic EU directives, were updated. The existing regulations were amended and supplemented, specialized internal regulations, such as test methods for distinctness, homogeneity and stability (RCS) according to 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 biological and economic qualities (BIA), were developed.

In order to meet the expectations of customers for provision of administrative services, in compliance with the highest professional standards, EAPVTASC is accredited and has effective quality systems according to ISO 9001:2015, as per the standard of the International Association of Seed Laboratories (ISTA) and by the European Plant Variety Office. The Agency is authorized by the EU as an (EAEC/CPVO) for the plant varieties to make 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 2020 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 groups of crops;
- post-control of seed lots;
- qualification of certified and CAC fruit and certified and standard vine planting material.

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 2020 amounted to BGN 1,152,000.

State aid is a prerequisite for achieving significant added value in the use of certified seeds. The beneficiaries are just over 430, 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 2020, EAPVTASC regularly exchanged information with the European Commission, Member States and other international institutions regarding the names, entries and de-registration 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 catalogs of varieties of field and vegetable crops, which allows varieties of Bulgarian selection to be present on the EU free market. The official variety list is published on the Agency's website and it is updated promptly after the entry of new plant varieties. Under the Law on Protection of New Varieties of Plants and Breeds of Animals, 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 2020, 1,080 varieties (compared to 1,176 in 2019) of the following types of agricultural plants were entered in the official variety list: field species - 684, vegetable species - 238, fruit species - 8, vine - 103, tobacco - 23, medicinal and aromatic species - 16 and species outside the scope of Directives 2002/53 / EC and 2002/55 / EU - 8 varieties.

Of these, 267 varieties are protected in the country with a certificate of legal protection issued by the Patent Office, as follows: field species - 181, vegetable species - 57, vine - 16, tobacco - 10, species outside the scope of Directives 2002/53/EC and 2002/55/EU - 3 varieties.

The listed varieties of fruit, medicinal and aromatic plant species are not protected.

### **Carrying out variety testing for distinctness, uniformity and stability, soil control, biological and economic qualities and preliminary testing of new plant varieties**

In 2020, a total of 786 varieties, hybrids and lines were set and tested (compared to 1,100 for 2019), 277 of which were under concluded contracts for variety testing (compared to 294 for 2019) and 509 - similar varieties and a comparative collection for proving the distinctiveness of the applied new varieties and for preparing own variety descriptions from foreign varieties recognized by other testing offices (at 806 for 2019). The comparative variety collection (seeds, material from vegetatively propagating plant species and official variety descriptions), maintained by EAPVTASC includes 7,210 varieties (compared to 7,104 in 2019) of 74 crop species. For the purposes of the comparative collection for DUS, seeds of 523 varieties from 20 species of crops were requested. Seeds of 123 varieties from the same types of crops were obtained.

At the request of the European Plant Variety Office, 9 final reports on DUS were submitted, and at the request of other variety testing offices - 19 (with 8 and 23 for 2019, respectively).

In order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the country, 17 papers were prepared and sent to the Patent Office (compared to 26 for 2019), final reports and official variety descriptions.

During the year, 4 varieties of sunflower, were tested for DUS under a contract by the ESRB, . At the

request of the Slovenian Office, for the purposes of entry in the national variety list of Slovenia, 1 variety of multicolored beans was tested.

Out of the total number of sown/planted varieties, 558 are field, 200 vegetable, 26 fruit and vine and 2 silk butterfly hybrids. Compared to the previous year, the number of varieties of fruit species and vines has increased, while the number of other species has decreased.

By types of agricultural crops, the variety test for DUS is distributed as follows:

- 19 types of field crops (compared to 20 in 2019);
- 11 vegetable crops (compared to 10 in 2019);
- 4 types of fruit and vine (3 for 2019);
- silk butterfly.

In 2020, 1,028 soil control samples were set (compared to 1,109 in 2019) from 31 types of agricultural crops, of which 1,023 were approved. 31 plans with the participation of a total of 360 standard samples were prepared.

The total number of varieties, without varieties, standards, which are set and tested in tests for biological and economic qualities (VCU) for inclusion in list "A" of the Official Variety List and in preliminary tests, according to concluded contracts, was 1,125, with 824 less than in 2019.

Of these, 924 varieties were set and tested in a preliminary test (compared to 1,725 in 2019), with 46.4% fewer hybrids of maize, sunflower, rapeseed and varieties of common wheat and barley, and for BIA were set and tested a total of 201 varieties (compared to 224 in 2019).

The varieties of standards included in the VCU experiments were 67. The number of standard varieties represented 6.8% of the total number of varieties in field trials (compared to nearly 4% in 2019). The varieties of standards and their number in the VCU tests are 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 standard varieties was 1 207 (compared to 2 026 for 2019), which is the full volume of variety testing for VCU and preliminary testing.

Of the tested varieties for VCU and preliminary testing, 1,068 were foreign selection (94.9%, compared to nearly 90% in 2019), and 57 - Bulgarian selection (5.1%, compared to 10% in 2019). Compared to 2019, there was a significant decrease in the number of tested varieties Bulgarian and foreign selection.

During the year, 876 assessments were performed (against 1,034 for 2019): 176 phytopathological, 48 for cold resistance and 652 chemical-technological for 201 varieties for VCU. From the preliminary experiments, 741 (compared to 867 in 2019) average samples for chemical-technological assessments were prepared and submitted to the applicants, 14.5% less on an annual basis.

The expert committees for DUS prepared 113 final DUS reports and 97 VCU reports with final results from a 2-3 year variety test.

13 expert committee meetings were held to discuss the results of the testing of new varieties, by crop groups (3 for DUS and 10 for VCU) and decisions for entry in list "A" and "B" of the Official Variety List of the Republic of Bulgaria were made. Of the varieties recognized for inclusion in list "A" of the official variety list, 32% were Bulgarian selection and 68% foreign selection.

In 2020, 150 contracts for variety testing were concluded, with an increase of 3.5% compared to 2019.

CPVO applied for testing of 7 varieties in order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the EU, 3 varieties were applied for by the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH) and 1 variety by the Slovenian Office for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (UVHVVR).

188 files of newly declared silkworm varieties and hybrids were prepared and 256 proposals for variety names were checked in the CPVO database. 151 applications were entered in the EAPVTASC system for DUS testing - "iasasdus".

During the year 47 permits were issued, according to art. 39a of the Law on Seed Production and in compliance with Commission Decision 2004/842/EC, which supports the business in terms of production and trade in seeds in the agricultural sector.

The DUS methods of lupine, peavines, peas and lettuce were updated in the "iasasdus" system.

Projects to update and review VCU methodologies of wheat, sunflower, rapeseed and soybean were approved.

### **Keeping a public national electronic register of the persons who trade in sowing and/or planting material, under art. 28, para. 4 of the LSS**

In order to regulate the trade in seeds and planting material, EAPVTASC keeps a public national electronic register of persons, trading in seeds and/or planting material, which enables users and other administrative units to find quickly information on registered persons by crop groups.

In 2020, a total of 245 trade certificates were issued (14 more than in 2019), of which 105 were for initial registration and 140 were reissued.

### **Certification of sowing and propagating material**

The certification of seed and propagating material was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the procedures of the quality management system and the "Quality scheme for production of quality seeds and propagating material".

In 2020, applications for certification were received for 34,436 ha of seed production crops from different crop groups (compared to 29,840 ha in 2019).

The total area of inspected crops of field and vegetable crops by EAPVTASC inspectors amounted to 34,131 ha (4,291 ha more than in 2019). Of the inspected species of agricultural plants, the largest share is occupied by the group of cereals - 31,672 ha (92.9%), followed by oil and fiber - 1,144 ha (3.4%), fodder - 924 ha (2.7%), potatoes - 337 ha (1.0%), vegetable species - 48 ha (0.1%), tobacco - 4 ha and beets - 2 ha.

After the field inspections, 82 ha (0.2%) were downgraded to a lower category than the one requested for certification, and 0.9 ha were rejected due to lower indicators than required by the regulations under Art. 29, para. 6 of the LSS.

In connection with the legalization of the seed packages, a total of 269,734 labels were printed, of which 50,464 in the Northern Certification and Seed Control Region and the rest in the Central Laboratory Department.

For the purposes of certification, 4 376 samples were taken from homogeneously prepared seed batches. 408 samples were taken from individuals (samplers) who received permission from the Executive Director of EAPVTASC under the terms and conditions of Ordinance No. 8 of October 31, 2016.

In 2020, 48 ha of vine nurseries, 32 ha of nursery vineyards and 18 ha of nursery rows were inspected. 592 field inspection acts were issued.

A total of 2,151,970 vine planting material was of quality, of which 460,870 improved vines, 1,336,900 rootstock cuttings and 354,200 graft cuttings. 43,223 pieces of fruit planting material were also qualified.

### **Control activities under GMOA and LSS, including import of seeds and propagating material from and to third countries**

In 2020, more than 430 document and on-the-spot checks were carried out. The GMO inspections did not detect the presence of GMOs in conventional seed batches.

Effective control was exercised during harvesting and marketing of seeds and planting material. During carried out inspections, the inspectors took 187 samples for control analysis. The results of the analyses show that the seeds meet the minimum germination requirements. For the results from the inspections, inspection checklists and statements of findings with prescriptions were issued, in cases of established irregularities.

At the request of producers, 110 samples of hemp plants were taken to quantify the content of tetrahydrocannabinol in hemp varieties at the request of producers and during varietal testing.

### **Expected data for 2021**

In the first half of 2021 the following regulatory acts were promulgated in the State Gazette:

- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 77 of 2006 on the recognition for entry of new varieties of agricultural plant species, preservation varieties, conservation varieties and varieties developed for growing under specific conditions in the Official Variety List of the Republic of Bulgaria and The common catalog of the EU Member States (amended and supplemented SG No. 34 of April 23, 2021);
- 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 (amended. SG No. 34 of 23 April 2021);
- Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 8 of 2007 on the procedures for certification and/or approval of produced and marketed sowing material from the groups of agricultural plants - cereals, oilseeds, fodder, vegetables, potatoes and beets (amended. SG No. 34 of 23 April 2021).

In 2021, EAPVTASC continued to provide services related to the application of state aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of seeds and propagating material. The estimated maximum annual aid budget for 2021 amounted to BGN 1.2 million.

The applications for certification of sowing and planting material from spring and perennial crops were registered in time.

In 2021, a total of 30,343 ha were applied for a field inspection.

Of the declared seed production crops, the largest share was occupied by the group of cereals - 28,463 ha (93.8%), followed by fodder - 830 ha (2.7%), oil and fiber - 745 ha (2.5%) and 232 ha of potatoes (0.8%). Seed production crops of vegetable crops - 69 ha, tobacco - 3 ha and beets - 1 ha were also declared.

53 ha of nursery wine plantations and 6 ha of nursery plantations of medicinal and aromatic plants applied for certification/approval.

The Agency continues to control the harvesting and marketing of seeds and planting material. Seeds that do not meet the minimum germination requirements are suspended from marketing.

There are 148 variety testing contracts concluded for the financial year 2021, 1.3% less than in 2020. CPVO applied for testing of 10 varieties in order to obtain legal protection on the territory of the EU and the National Food Chain Safety Office (NEBIH) – Hungary applied for 3 varieties.

In 2021, the number of varieties declared for DUS testing increase by 19.2% will increase on an annual basis - from 286 to 341.

Variety testing for VCU for inclusion in list "A" of the Official Variety List of the country increased by about 1%. The number of varieties declared and included in VCU trials was 203, compared to 201 for 2020.

Varieties in preliminary testing also increased compared to 2020 - from 924 to 1,007 pieces.

Of the varieties included in VCU testing and preliminary testing in 2021, 1,155 were foreign selection (8.2% more than in 2021), and 55 - Bulgarian selection (2 less than in 2020).

## **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 developing, coordinating and implementing state policy in the field of food and feed quality and safety, animal health, plant health and plant reproductive material.

The optimization of the regulatory framework in the field of food and feed safety, animal health and animal welfare, plant health, plant reproductive material and plant protection products will continue in 2020.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) conducts official food control on a farm-to-table basis, following the best European practices in the application of high standards in the control of food safety and quality, food additives and beverages, veterinary activity, animal health and welfare, plant protection and fertilizers, phytosanitary control, feed control, border control, etc.

### **6.1. Animal health and welfare.**

#### **Animal health**

The priority tasks of the BFSA 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 raw cow milk compliant with the requirements in accordance with European legislation;
- free movement of animals, products and raw materials obtained from them between Member States and exports to third countries;
- protection of the population from the occurrence of zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to humans).

To achieve these priorities in 2020, a scheme to assist farmers in implementing the measures set out in the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2021 continues to be implemented.

In 2020, the mandatory measures set out for implementation of the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2019 - 2021 were implemented.

The activities of the BFSA are aimed at reducing the risk of the occurrence and spread of acute and exotic infectious animal diseases, given the geographical location of our country. To this end, national disease surveillance programs are being implemented, namely:

- Program for surveillance of avian influenza in poultry and wild birds;
- Program for control and eradication of rabies;
- Program for supervision of bluetongue in ruminants;
- Program for supervision and eradication of classical swine fever;
- Program for control of salmonellosis in laying hens, broilers, breeding flocks and turkeys;
- Program for supervision of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE);

- Program for precautionary measures against some cross-border animal diseases, which includes contagious nodular dermatitis in large ruminants, foot-and-mouth disease in large ruminants, small ruminant plague and smallpox in sheep and goats.

All the above programs are co-financed by the European Commission.

In 2020, the following standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed, approved and issued with orders of the Executive Director of the BFSA:

- SOP (31) "Procedure for the procedure and minimum time limits for the establishment of holdings for the rearing of pigs, including holdings where animals have been killed due to an outbreak of African swine fever";
- SOP (32) "Procedure on the terms and conditions for carrying out official controls and verification of activities carried out by registered veterinarians or site owners/users in connection with the control and surveillance and prevention of African swine fever (ASF) in holdings for the rearing of pigs (family and industrial farms)";
- SOP (33) for spending funds for payment of benefits to animal owners in the application of measures to limit and eliminate outbreaks of infectious diseases under Art. 47, para. 1 of the AIA;
- SOP (34) "Measures for the prevention of Q fever, as well as measures in case of suspicion and confirmation of the disease" (version 01).

During the year, the official veterinarians performed 15,959 inspections in relation to the Program for prevention, surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses (for comparison - 16,325 inspections in 2019, 17,000 - in 2018 and 14 193 in 2017). The established violations were 434, 611 prescriptions were served and 96 acts for established administrative violations (AEAV) were drawn up.

In 2020, the following major diseases were identified in the country, included in the list of priority diseases of the Animal Health Act issued by the European Commission: highly pathogenic influenza (9 outbreaks, including 8 in Plovdiv province and 1 in Kardzhali district) and Newcastle disease in poultry (Vidin province), African swine fever in domestic pigs (19 outbreaks affecting 65,560 animals) , African swine fever in feral pigs (533 outbreaks affecting 1,653 animals), West Nile virus, smallpox ruminant virus detected twice, small ruminant Q fever.

Given the identified outbreaks of bluetongue in 2014 and contagious nodular dermatitis in 2016, in order to protect animals susceptible to these diseases and to protect livestock in the country, vaccination against bluetongue, serotype 4 and against infectious nodular dermatitis was carried out in 2020.

In accordance with the requirements of Directive 2005/94/EU and the Plan of Emergency Measures for Control of Avian Influenza, the BFSA took immediate measures to eradicate all infected and contact ducks in the outbreaks.

In 2020, in the village of Debrushtitsa, Pazardzhik province, a new outbreak of bovine tuberculosis and an old one from previous years were registered.

In connection with the complicated epizootic situation with regard to African swine fever in Europe and the outbreaks identified in 2020 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:

- Supervision program;
- Control of the movement of people, animals, products, including personal luggage from countries where there is ASF;
- Confiscation of meat products, testing and disposal;
- Disinfection of vehicles coming from ASF countries;
- Disposal of waste from vehicles from countries with AS;

- Biosecurity inspections in pig farms;
- Development of individual contingency plans for pig farms;
- Regular meetings with the sector, EFA, hunting organizations;
- Biosecurity training for the sector and for hunters;
- Reduction of backyard farms around industrial farms;
- Prohibition of fresh grass feeding and special measures with regard to feed;
- Development of a mobile application for trichinella and ASF samples;
- Prohibition on the movement of wild boar from other EU Member States and for imports from third countries;
- Training of hunters on ASF issues, sampling, biosecurity, including material development;
- Construction of special pits for carcasses and animal by-products for each hunting holding;
- Fence along the border with Romania;
- Obligation to report any wild boar found dead or showing atypical behavior to the RFSD;
- Special regime, restrictions on hunting in restricted areas;
- Information campaigns;
- Coordination between institutions in order to reduce the risks of spread in transport and tourism;
- Additional national requirements.

### **Animal Welfare**

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency monitors compliance with the requirements for animal health and welfare and the implementation of legislation in these areas.

The control of animal welfare is carried out through official inspections by the Regional of Food Safety Directorates (RFSD) at all stages of animal breeding, including during transport. The inspections are periodic, planned, investigative, follow-up and on signal.

The inspections for official control of animal welfare and protection are planned on the basis of a risk analysis, which is based on the detected irregularities in the breeding of different species of animals, as well as during the transportation of the animals.

Based on the percentage of the established non-compliances related to failure to comply with the welfare requirements for animals kept in production facilities for 2020, it is established that the compliance rate in the sectors of laying hens, pigs, calves and ducks has increased significantly compared to 2019. The reason for this is the intensified control by the RFSD and the increase in the number of registered livestock farms in some sectors. In the sectors of large ruminants and small ruminants, there is a slight decrease in the compliance rate.

On the basis of the reports received from the RFSD on the inspections performed at production sites, on the compliance with animal welfare requirements and the identified non-conformities, the RFSD took various corrective measures to eliminate the non-conformities and to improve the situation.

The established non-conformities concerned mainly cattle and sheep farms and were related mainly to untrained staff, lack of records, lack of testing for hemoglobin in calves, buildings and accommodation, food, water and other substances.

In 2020, there is a significant improvement in the breeding facilities for calves and pigs compared to 2019 (significant decrease in the number of detected violations) and an increase in the number of non-conformities in some sectors - cattle (excluding calves) and sheep.



There is improvement in animal husbandry conditions in terms of providing food and water suitable for the species, freedom of movement, inspections, injuries, automatic and mechanical equipment and staff competence.

The data show that the qualifications of the staff caring for the animals are not at the optimal level (there is no detailed and unified legislation regarding the training and qualification of owners and staff/animal keepers at EU level). In this regard, the BFSA has taken measures for additional training.

The issuance of transport permits (licenses) to drivers of vehicles transporting live animals continues, which ensures compliance with the rules of animal welfare and protection during transport. In 2020, 108 licenses were issued for short trips and 44 for long trips.

During the year the interaction continued with the submission of signals from the BFSA and other contact points regarding the established violations of the requirements for animal welfare during transport.

In 2020, 8 notifications of infringement of the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 1/2006/EC were sent to the contact points of other Member States, most of which were found by the official veterinarians at Captain Andreevo Border Checkpoint (BCP).

The main types of established infringements are: exceeded travel time, lack of guarantees under Art. 21, 1 (e) of Regulation (EC) 1/2006/EC; scarce and/or insufficient bedding; unapproved object of final destination.

In 2020, there is a decrease in the identified non-conformities in the implementation of the requirements of the regulation. Based on the data obtained from the inspections carried out at the Kapitan Andreevo border checkpoint, there is an increase in the percentage of compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 1/2006 for the transport of live animals to Middle Eastern countries.

In recent years, close cooperation has been achieved between Member States, resulting in good communication, exchange of information and experience and timely notification of any non-compliance.

As a result of a total of 21,248 inspections, in 2020, 75 cases of non-compliance with animal welfare requirements during transport were identified. The sanctions imposed in this regard are 72.

The number of inspected vehicles in 2020 is 18,701 - 1,101 fewer than in 2019, which is explained by the reduced transport as a whole. The percentage of detected non-conformities decreased to 0.40%, compared to 0.50% in 2019.

Official controls carried out on farms and during the transport of live animals are improved on the basis of periodic training of official veterinarians, and also as a result of joint meetings with all stakeholders on animal welfare.

The EC has taken various initiatives to assist Member States in the proper implementation of animal welfare legislation through various instruments: trainings, conferences, directions, etc. The Welfare platform and the Transport Welfare subgroup provide an 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 the transport of animals lasting more than 8 hours, although 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) № 1/2006, as well as retrospective assessments of consignments of live animals destined for Turkey. There is a tendency to improvement of the effectiveness of the exercised control.

In 2020, roadside inspections during transport, together with the bodies of the Ministry of Interior, will continue in order to fully strengthen controls and end the practice of transporting live animals in unlicensed vehicles.

Pursuant to Art. 155, para. 7 of the VAA, in 2020 a total of 30 permits for use of animals in experiments were issued, compared to 43 in 2019. In accordance with European legislation, a register of permits issued for use of animals in experiments was published on the BFSA website.

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency has prepared an annual report for 2020 on the implementation of the municipal programs for control of stray dog population. The BFSA keeps up-to-date registers of shelters and kennels in Bulgaria, available on the Agency's website.

## **6.2. Control of animal identification and veterinary activities**

### **BFSA integrated information system for identification and registration of animals and traceability of their movement**

The activities performed by the BFSA in this area are the following:

- Identification and registration of farm animals (large, small ruminants, pigs, equidae), bee colonies, pets;
- Registration of breeding sites in accordance with the national legislation;
- Ensuring timely entry of correct data in the IIS registers in connection with the implementation of the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Bulgaria;
- Conducting trainings 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 additionally developed module to the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), maintained by the State Fund "Agriculture";

The amended Ordinance No. 44 of April 20, 2006 on the veterinary requirements for livestock farms entered in force as of January 17, 2020.

As of 11.08.2020, amendments were made in the Veterinary Activities Act, in particular with regard to alleviation of the requirements for registration of animal breeding sites pursuant to art. 137 of the law.

Active work continued to ensure the identification of farm animals as well as bee colonies.

In 2020, the RFSD staff carried out a total of 39,592 inspections in the field of animal identification, registration of livestock farms and other veterinary activities. As a result, a total of 5,319 prescriptions were issued and 1,784 AEAV were served. A total of 1,652 penal decrees were issued.

Compared to the previous 2019, there is an increase in inspections in the field of registration of livestock farms, which is explained by the legal change related to the registration of livestock farms of the type "personal farm" and alleviation of the regime for registration of larger sites. There is an increase in the issued prescriptions, while the acts for establishing administrative violations are less.

The number of inspections for identification of animals, control of the activities of registered veterinarians and veterinary medical establishments is also increasing.

**Table V.5. Number of performed inspections and issued prescriptions and acts for established administrative violations in the period 2019 - 2020.**

Subject of inspections	2019			2020		
	Inspections	Prescriptions	AEAV	Inspections	Prescriptions	AEAV
Registration of livestock farms	4,718	762	199	23,828	3,043	180
Identification of animals	10,420	1,105	1,040	11,905	1,875	1,439

Subject of inspections	2019			2020		
	Inspections	Prescriptions	AEAV	Inspections	Prescriptions	AEAV
Control of the activity of registered veterinarians	2,247	121	65	2,709	328	146
Inspections of veterinary medical establishments	1,257	120	13	1,150	73	19

Source: BFSA

In 2021, the control related to the identification and registration of animals and veterinary activities continues to pursue the main operational objectives set:

- Ensuring the timely identification and registration of animals, their traceability, as well as registration of livestock farms in accordance with the VAA, which contribute greatly to ensuring the protection of human and animal health and protection against fraud;
- Ensuring timely entry of correct data in the IIS registers of the BFSA - VetIS on the identification and registration of animals, as well as data related to the implementation of the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Bulgaria;
- Reporting on the activities performed by the registered veterinarians under the National Program for Prevention, Surveillance, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases and Zoonoses;
- Livestock service activities;
- Development of the Integrated Information System of BFSA – VetIS;
- The fulfillment of these objectives 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 activities of veterinary specialists, including in veterinary establishments, based on risk criteria and prepared sample, and sending to RFSD information about the farms, included in the sample;
- Work and processing of documentation related to the programs for support of agricultural producers;
- Checks in connection with the preparation of reports of agricultural producers (certification of questionnaires, etc.)
- Trainings for employees of the Regional Directorates for Food Safety;
- Preparation of drafts for amendment of regulations;
- Improving individual controls in the IIS of the BFSA - VetIS.

### 6.3. Control activities

#### 6.3.1. Food Safety

The BFSA methodically manages and coordinates the activities of the RFSD to control the safety and quality of raw materials, food, including those with protected geographical names, organic products, as well as materials and articles intended for contact with food, food additives, enzymes and flavorings; intermediate storage and animal by-products processing plants; animal welfare during slaughter.

By maintaining a web-based system for national registers and lists of BFSA-controlled sites, the access of users, business operators and institutions to up-to-date information about the registered sites on the territory of the country is facilitated. The total number of registered sites and vehicles in the scope of control by the RFSD for 2020 was 243 103.

The Food Act, which entered into force in 2020 (Prom., SG, No. 52 of 09.06.2020) introduces requirements to the BFSA for creation and maintenance of registers containing information about the registered and approved food establishments on the territory of Bulgaria. The BFSA is obliged to maintain on

its website a public national register of business operators, sites for production, processing and/or distribution of food and food supplements and foods intended for use during intense muscular activity. The adoption of these National Electronic Registers will ensure transparency in the activities related to the registration and approval of sites in the BFSA.

In 2021, an electronic register related to the requirements of the Food Act is being prepared, and an information system of food business operators is expected to be put into operation.

The official control of food in Bulgaria is carried out adequately, in full compliance with the requirements of the European and national legislation. Based on risk analysis, effective official control over food safety is carried out in food production, wholesale and retail food establishments and catering establishments. Additional thematic inspections (winter and summer tourist season, official and religious holidays, etc.) and inspections on signals are carried out.

**Table V.6. Official control carried out in 2020**

Inspections	2020
1. Sites for food production and wholesale	33,753
1.1 Audits	1,649
1.2 Inspections	32,104
1.2.1 Traceability inspections (Regulation 178/2002)	12,290
1.2.2 Inspections for general hygiene requirements (Regulation 852/2004)	19,471
1.2.3 Inspections for specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (Regulation 853/2004)	7,555
1.2.4 Animal by-products inspections (Regulation 1069/2009)	5,283
2. Retail and catering establishments	117,272
<b>Total number of inspections performed (planned, thematic, by signal)</b>	<b>185,918</b>
3. Measures taken by the official control	
3.1 Issued AEAV/act for establishing an administrative violation (number)	1,103
3.2 Prescriptions (number)	9,634
3.3 Prohibited and discarded food (kg)	592,307
3.4 Closed sites (number)	60

**Source:** BFSA

In 2020, a total of 185,918 official control inspections were carried out in establishments for production, wholesale and retail in food and catering establishments, thematic inspections, unscheduled inspections and inspections on signals and complaints.

The established non-conformities concern:

- Structural non-conformities concerning the buildings and equipment at the sites;
- Operational non-conformities regarding the implementation of activities related to product safety;
- Non-conformities related to the self-control systems of business operators;
- Labeling;
- Traceability;
- Foods that do not meet statutory safety requirements;

- Non - compliance with anti - epidemic measures introduced to limit the spread of COVID - 19.

The analysis of the average values of effectiveness of the official control performed in 2020 shows that: on average, every 19th inspection resulted in issuance of a Prescription (compared to every 17th in 2019); on average, every 168th inspection ends with drawing up of an act for establishing an administrative violation (versus every 85th for 2019).

The results of official inspections show 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 2020, the BFSA Head Office received 4 notifications of suspected food upbursts by the RFSD throughout the country. After an epidemiological study and sampling in none of the cases was it established that the source of the disease was of food origin. Carrying of pathogenic microflora by the staff was identified as the cause.

The Agency manages and coordinates the implementation of national and monitoring programs for laboratory control, as follows:

- National Program for Control of Quality Characteristics of Foods (NPCQCF);
- National Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in or on Foods of Plant and Animal Origin (NPCPR);
- National Program for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPKGMH);
- National Program for control of food and food contact and additives, chemical and microbiological contaminants and control of food treated with ionizing radiation;
- Program for monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance to zoonotic and commensal bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- National monitoring program for control of residues of veterinary medicinal products and pollutants from the environment (NMPPRC).

#### **Implementation of official laboratory control programs.**

- **National Program for Control of Quality Characteristics of Foods (NPCQCF);**

The control of food produced according to standards (national, approved or branch) was carried out by inspections of production sites and by sampling of commercially available food.

In 2020, the number of companies producing food according to standards was as follows:

- Approved standard "Stara Planina" (for meat preparations and meat products) - 80;
- Approved standard "Bulgaria" (for white, Dobrudja and brown flour and white, Dobrudja and brown bread) - 96;
- Branch standard "Lutenitsa" - 12;
- Branch standard for "Refined sunflower oil" - 6;
- Bulgarian state standard for dairy products - 61.

In 2020, 304 samples of food produced according to national, approved and branch standards were planned and tested, including: Approved standard "Stara Planina" - 80 samples; Approved standard "Bulgaria" - 90 samples; Branch standard "Lutenitsa" - 13 samples; Branch standard "Refined sunflower oil" - 7 samples; BDS 12:2010 "Bulgarian yogurt" - 46 samples; BDS 15:2010 "Bulgarian white brined cheese" - 34 samples and BDS 14: 2010 "Bulgarian yellow cheese" - 34 samples. Of these, 50 were non-compliant, and administrative measures - issuing prescriptions and drawing up acts with set deadlines for execution were issued in connection with the established violations.

558 samples (791 planned) of table salt, bee honey, olive oil, food with nutrition claims, samples for testing the energy content of food, for presence of non-milk fats in dairy products, for absorbed water in whole

poultry carcasses and cuts were taken for testing in 2020. During the analysis of the results from the laboratory tests, non-conformities were found with regard to the regulatory requirements for a total of 107 samples.

Administrative measures were taken in connection with the established violations, in accordance with the legislation. In general, the established non-conformities in some standards, such as the Established Standard "Stara Planina" and the Established Standard "Bulgaria", are decreasing. In the dairy products, produced according to BDS 15: 2010, there is a significant increase in non-compliant samples, most of which by the "degree of maturity" indicator.

The control and sampling continues in 2021.

- **National Program for Control of Pesticide Residues in and on Food (NPCPR) 2020**

In 2020, a total of 354 food samples were taken under the NPCPR, of which 154 (including 10 from organic production) under Regulation (EC) 2018/555, 320 of which were of non-animal origin, 24 of animal origin, 10 infant food. From the mandatory matrices under Regulation 2018/555, one sample of organic food was taken - 12 samples total, of which only 6 samples were taken, and the remaining 6 were not taken due to lack of such products on the market. They were taken in a conventional mode.

Non-compliant results were found in 7 samples. For each non-compliance, an investigative study on the origin of the food and the reason for the non-compliance was conducted, and the necessary corrective actions were taken.

- **National Program for control of food and food contact and additives, chemical and microbiological contaminants and control of food treated with ionizing radiation 2020;**

The program covers the planned sampling of food of plant and animal origin. In 2020, a total of 511 samples were taken, in which 1 non-conformity was found.

The implementation of the planned samples was:

- Content of chemical pollutants - 372 samples;
- Content of food additives - 261 samples;
- Materials and objects intended for contact with food - 27 samples;
- Foods treated with ionizing radiation - 3 samples.

For the purposes of the official control for analysis of microbiological indicators and *Trichinella* in 2020, a total of 1,025,106 samples were taken, which were analyzed for 967,644 indicators. The samples were distributed as follows: 978 611 - tested for *Trichinella spiralis* (for official control) and 46 495 - tested according to criteria for food safety and hygiene of the production environment. Non-compliant results were found on 333 indicators of all samples taken.

During the year the number of non-compliant results in samples of raw milk and dairy products continued to be high. 158 non-compliant samples of raw milk were identified, of which 120 by the TNM indicator and 5 with presence of inhibitors. 16 samples positive for *Escherichia coli*, 14 samples for enterobacteriaceae and 3 samples positive for coagulase staphylococci were found in dairy products.

Appropriate corrective actions were taken for the identified non-compliant results.

- **Program for monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commensal bacteria in the Republic of Bulgaria (AMR) 2020**

The antimicrobial resistance control is one of the defined priorities of the European Commission in the field of food safety, animal health and the use of veterinary medicinal products. Assessing the significance of the problem, the EC adopted a special Decision No. 2013/652/EU of 12 November 2013 for monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance of zoonotic and commensal bacteria for the period 2014-2020 and the type and number of the samples that Bulgaria has to perform is determined by a decision.

For the purposes of the AMR monitoring in 2020, 408 samples of caecum content of poultry and 150

samples from the commercial network of pre-packaged, chilled poultry meat were taken.

- **National Program for Control of Genetically Modified Foods (NPKGMH) 2020**

In 2020, 78 samples of different foods were planned to be laboratory tested for presence of GMOs. In implementation of the program, 77 samples were taken and tested in an accredited laboratory. A sample of soy-based infant formula was not taken due to the complicated epizootic situation and the inability to find it on the market.

No non-compliant food samples were found in the laboratory analysis.

8 samples of food from organic production were taken within the program. Pursuant to Commission Decision 2013/287 / EU of 13 June 2013 amending Implementing Decision 2011/884 / EU on emergency measures regarding unauthorized genetically modified rice in rice products originating in China, a sample was taken from each consignment at import. In 2020, 26 samples of husked brown rice originating in China were analyzed.

Thus, the total number of samples taken and analyzed under the 2020 program amounted to 111. No non-compliant food samples were identified.

- **National Monitoring Program for Residue Control (NMPRC) 2020**

The official control of VMP residues and contaminants in live animals and food of animal origin was carried out through the implementation of the National Monitoring Program for Residue Control (NMPRC) for 2020, approved by the European Commission (EC) and was implemented in the period from April 2020 to March 2021. 4,072 samples were tested under the program, and three non-conformities were identified. Measures in accordance with the legislation were taken in connection with the identified non-conformities, .

#### **Audit of official controls in 2020**

In 2020, the following remote audits were carried out by DG SANTE of the European Commission:

- Audit by DG (SANTE)/2020-6986 for assessment of the official controls on residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products, including controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products, which mainly includes work on the NMPRC. At the closing meeting of the audit, a positive assessment for the achieved confidence of the official control in the compliance with the regulatory requirements when performing analyzes, as well as positive information about the existence of relevant plans for control of other residues, was expressed;
- Audit by DG (SANTE) / 2020-7118 for assessment of the the implementation of veterinary control in relation to African swine fever.

#### **6.3.2. Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN (RASFF + AAC))**

RASFF is an information system for rapid notification of direct or indirect risks to the health of consumers arising from food, food contact materials or feed. The notifications in it are prepared without delay by the official control. The operation of the system is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1715 laying down rules for the functioning of the official control information system for official controls and its components (the "IMSOC Regulation"), which assists Member States in their actions, allowing a rapid exchange of information on the risks arising from food or feed and on the measures taken or to be taken to control those risks. In order to inform the general public about public health warnings in the Member States, the European Commission is maintaining an additional panel to the RASFF - RASFF-Consumers' Portal system (from 2021 it is part of the RASFF NT (RASFF Window).

For effective operation of the RASFF system in Bulgaria, the following contact points were set up:

- National Contact Point of the Republic of Bulgaria, located in the specialized administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- Contact point in the Ministry of Health;
- Contact point at the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency.

In connection with the functioning of the Rapid Alert System for food and feed, for the period from 01.01.2020 until 31.12.2020, the total number of notifications distributed by the contact point of the European commission to the contact points of the member states was 3 794, and the necessary actions were taken.

The dissemination of the notifications for the European Union (EU) is as follows: a total of 3,439 notifications were received for the Food sector, 233 notifications for the Feed sector and 122 notifications for the Food Contact materials sector.

By type, the EU 2020 notifications disseminated through the RASFF system are as follows:

- Alert notifications - 1,402;
- Border rejection notifications - 1,046;
- Information for attention notifications- 778;
- Information for follow-up notifications - 555;
- Information notifications - no;
- News notifications - 13 copies.

In 2020, the most reported pesticide for the EU in RASFF was ethylene oxide in sesame seeds, followed by residues of other pesticides in fruits and vegetables originating in Turkey. The number of initial ethylene oxide notifications generated for the EU in 2020 was 425, and the follow-up notifications were 1 907. By comparison, the finpronil incident generated a total of 113 initial notifications and 854 follow-up notifications.

The reporting of contamination of sesame seeds with ethylene oxide continues in 2021.

Salmonella in chicken meat was the most reported pathogen for the EU in 2020 in RASFF.

In 2020, the activity of the member states in the RASFF network was unbalanced due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures taken.

The total number of notifications in the RASFF system, for which the Republic of Bulgaria has taken action as a notified and notifying state for the period from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020 is 395. The dissemination of notifications is as follows:

- Incoming:
  - Food sector - 96 notifications (29 for non-compliance; 3 information for attention notifications ; 9 information for follow-up notification; 55 alert notifications; 1 border rejection notifications);
  - Feed Sector - 6 notifications;
- Outgoing:
  - Food Sector - 40 notifications;
  - Feed sector - 5 notifications;
  - Border Control Sector - 248 notifications.

Bulgaria ranks first in the EU by number of notifications for border rejection created in RASFF in 2020, due to pesticide residues above the maximum residue limits in fruits and vegetables from Turkey.

The Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) System serves for exchange of information between the competent authorities of the Member States and between the Commission in the course of official controls and/or effective follow-up, in accordance with Part IV of Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 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 Administrative assistance can include the provision of information and documents, investigations and joint on-the-spot checks, and is an important tool for maximizing the efficiency of available resources in Member States.



In 2020, for the first year, non-compliance notifications were fully integrated into the RASFF. During the period from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020 the total number of notifications in the AAC system for the whole European Union was 2 188. There was an increase of 33% in the number of notifications of non-compliance compared to the previous year.

In the Annual Report for 2020 on the activities of the EU Alert and Cooperation Network, the European Commission notes that Bulgaria is among the countries that have registered a significant increase in the number of notifications of non-compliance. With regard to traceability notifications, it is stated that Bulgaria has 100% prepared responses and "closed" cases, which is extremely important, especially when it comes to the origin of the notified product. Bulgaria has no registered delays in providing answers.

### **6.3.3. Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System - Food Fraud Network (FFN)**

The FFN provides Member States with the opportunity to exchange information and cooperate on a voluntary basis on issues related to infringements of European legislation in the field of the agri-food chain, in accordance with the rules laid down in Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625, in order to counteract food fraud. The increase in food fraud at EU level requires adequate and timely measures to optimize the control system and strengthen 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.

The European Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy was published in May 2020, . Among the main goals, set in the Strategy, is scaling up the fight against food fraud, to create a level playing field for operators and to strengthen the powers of control and law enforcement authorities. The EC will work with Member States, Europol and other bodies and use European Union data on alerts to better coordinate the fight against food fraud. It will also propose stricter dissuasive measures and stricter import controls and explore the possibility of strengthening the investigation and coordination capacity of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

In 2020, the total number of cases for the entire European Union generated by the FFN system was 349. Of these, 67 cases were "closed" and 282 remained "open". 56 cases were sent to Bulgaria, of which 26 were for information only. Bulgaria prepared replies on 27 cases and created 2 new cases.

Bulgaria is a country participating in the OPSON IX joint operation against trafficking in counterfeit goods - medical products and low-quality food and beverages. In 2020, the operation led to disrupting of 19 organized crime groups distributing counterfeit goods and engaging in food fraud, and more than 26,000 inspections were carried out. As a result, about 12,000 tonnes of illegal and potentially harmful products were seized, including 320 tonnes of smuggled or low-quality dairy products in Bulgaria, Italy, France, Greece, Portugal and Switzerland.

Since the system was set up, there has been an increase in the number of cases created and disseminated. This is due to the fact that the EC is conducting an extensive campaign to reduce food fraud and ensure transparency and quality in food production, as well as to protect consumer confidence in food produced in the EU.

In mid-2021, the Food Fraud Network was integrated into the RASFF. The setting up of a new Food Fraud structure in the System for administering access to the systems of the European Commission SAAS is forthcoming.

### **6.3.4. IMSOC system**

The IMSOC system is a tool for managing official control information to ensure compliance with agri-chain rules. The operation of the system is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1715. (the so called "IMSOC Regulation"), covering official controls for verification of the compliance with food and feed law, animal health and welfare rules, plant health and animal by-products. Components of IMSOC are the EUROPHYT, TRACES, ADIS and RASFF systems operating in the European Union. They operate in IMSOC through a network of representatives of the competent authorities of the Member States and the Commission, and there is at least one contact point.

In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food prepared and approved Rules for work with the information management system on official control and its components, in order to increase efficiency in working with integrated systems in IMSOC and to improve the management, processing and automatic data exchange and documents related to official control.

During the year a number of meetings were held with the EC Contact Point in connection with the upcoming updates on the systems, as well as with representatives of the competent units of the BFSA Head Office on current topics related to innovations, efficiency of work received and/or created notifications, dissemination of information in the unit and improvement of anti-fraud practices in the agri-food chain.

Monthly information from the RASFF Portal on RASFF notifications concerning Bulgaria is published on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

### **6.3.5. Control of veterinary activities, veterinary products and feed, border control**

#### **6.3.5.1. Control of veterinary medical activity**

The inspections for effectiveness (verification) of the official control carried out by the RFSD are carried out according to the approved Program of the General Directorate "Verification of the official control" at the BFSA Central Office for inspections of the effectiveness of the official control performed by RFSD in accordance with Art. 12 (2) of Regulation (EU) № 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council '. The plans/programs for verification of the official control of the RFSD are prepared mainly on rotational basis, but also according to the number and nature of the non-conformities found during the previous inspections of the respective RFSD. Each inspection for effectiveness (verification) of the official control of the RFSD includes 2 stages - documentary inspection and physical inspection (field inspection, on-site). For the purposes of the audit process, a "Three-year program for audits of official control in the BFSA for the period 2018 - 2020" has been prepared. In 2020, 6 inspections of the planned 10 audits of the effectiveness of the official control of the following RFSD were conducted: Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa, Dobrich, Plevna, Burgas and Smolyan. The remaining 4 inspections of the effectiveness of the official control carried out by the RFSD are included in the prepared program for 2021, and their total number for the year is 12.

The 2020 program initially provides for 15 audits of official controls. Due to the complicated epidemic situation in the country in connection with the spread of COVID - 19 and the difficulties in conducting the planned audits of official controls, the program has been updated. For 2020, 6 of the planned audits of the official control of the BFSA were conducted. The remaining planned audits have been postponed to the next calendar year and are included in the next three-year programming period.

The audits of the official control are planned on the basis of the risk assessment, after a review of the implementation for the previous year, a review of the legislation and the available administrative capacity of the audit body. The audit process of the official control follows the rules of the approved procedure for audits of the official control in the BFSA. When non-conformities of the official control system are found, the audit team makes recommendations, and the audited organization specifies the corrective and preventive measures for implementation of the recommendations.

The audits conducted in 2020 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.

The development and implementation of documented procedures, guideline, instructions at the central level, which prescribe rules for official control of inspectors in district structures, conducting specialized trainings within the audited organizations, continues to be reported as a positive trend, which leads to improvement of the quality of the official control performed.

In 2021 a new three-year program for the audits of the official control of the BFSA for the period 2021-2023 is to be prepared. The program will be prepared after a new risk assessment of the activities in the different sectors according to the approved procedure for audits control.

### **6.3.5.2. Control of veterinary medicinal products and in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products**

The control of veterinary medicinal products (VMP) is carried out in accordance with the Veterinary Medicine Act. It is related to the licensing of immunological and medicinal VMPs for use, renewal of marketing authorizations, issuance of supplements in connection with changes in circumstances in which products have been licensed, work on procedures for mutual recognition of VMPs, decentralized procedure, transfer of rights on licenses for use of VMPs, etc.

Since 2020, the activities of the BFSa include responsibilities regarding in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products.

In 2020, an assessment was made of the VMP files that the applicants have attached to applications under the relevant licensing procedures. An assessment of the received periodic safety reports was performed within the so-called "Pharmacovigilance" - a system that is related not only to the quality and safety of VMPs, but also monitors adverse reactions in animals as well as reactions in humans who administer VMPs to animals. During the year, on-site inspections of two companies - holders of licenses for use of VMPs, for comply with regulatory requirements for activities related to pharmacovigilance, were carried out.

The register of licensed VMPs is updated periodically in order to support the control of the VMP market, as well as to provide the information provided by law to veterinary specialists and external users.

In 2020, inspections of the attached documentation and the conditions in the sites under procedures for issuing a license for wholesale trade in VMPs, retail trade in VMPs, production/import of VMPs, as well as changes in the entered circumstances were carried out.

Checks of enclosed documentation and the conditions at the sites were carried out under the procedures for issuance/renewal of licenses for wholesale and retail trade in narcotic substances for veterinary purposes from the Lists under Art. 3, para. 2, items 2 and 3 of the Narcotic Substances and Precursors Control Act and changes in the entered circumstances.

The public registers of the issued licenses for wholesale trade in VMPs, retail trade in VMPs, production of VMPs and licenses issued for activities with narcotic substances for veterinary purposes are updated periodically, with the aim of assisting mainly official veterinarians of the RFSD, who are responsible for overseeing the activities with VMP, as well as providing the publicly available information provided for in the law.

In connection with the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, data on the quantities of antimicrobial VMPs sold are collected and summarized annually by holders of licenses for use of VMP. The data is 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 by the BFSa in 2021 on the sales of antimicrobial agents for animal is included in the ESVAC and OIE Annual Reports on the use of antimicrobial agents for animals in the European Economic Area EEA.

The official VMP control is carried out by BFSa employees at central and regional level.

The activities related to in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products are the following:

- consideration of the applications for registration of in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products;
- performing documentary verification and, if necessary, laboratory tests for compliance with the conditions for registration of in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products;
- preparation of statements to the Executive Director of the BFSa for compliance with the requirements of the in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products applied for registration;
- preparation of certificates for registration of in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products;
- keeping a register of in vitro diagnostic veterinary medicinal products.

The BFSA controls the use, production/import, trade, storage, advertising of VMPs. The control over the trade in VMPs, as well as the use of VMPs in livestock farms, is carried out in accordance with the BFSA Annual Inspection Program for official control of VMPs, which determines the frequency and procedure for conducting inspections based on risk assessment. According to the Program, RFSD inspectors carry out at least one inspection per year to control the use of VMPs at VMP wholesale and retail establishments, veterinary establishments and inspections of livestock establishments on the basis of a risk assessment.

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 ensures:

- checking the VMP quality at each stage of the distribution chain during the shelf life of the product;
- Guarantee that control methods are satisfactory;
- study of suspected deviations in the VMP quality;
- checks to detect counterfeit VMPs.

The program applies to VMPs licensed for use under a national procedure, a mutual recognition procedure and a decentralized procedure. The quality control of VMPs is carried out under a centralized procedure (sampling and laboratory analysis) under a program of the European Medicines Agency. The program does not apply to laboratory tests of the quality of VMPs in the course of the procedure for issuing 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.

When carrying out the official control over the trade and use of VMPs, the RFSD inspectors also inspect beekeeping shops, pet shops, feed trade sites and agricultural pharmacies, as risky trade sites for unregulated trade/supply of VMPs.

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, health and animal welfare.

The control with regard to veterinary medicinal products covers: manufacturers and importers of VMPs, wholesalers of VMPs and/or active substances, retailers of VMPs (veterinary pharmacies), livestock establishments and veterinary practices.

The frequency of inspections is determined on the basis of a risk assessment.

In 2020, four alerts for non-compliance of the data on the packaging and the leaflet for use of VMPs with the license for use and Ordinance No. 62 on the requirements for data on packaging and leaflets and unregulated trade in VMPs, were received. 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 Acts and the by-laws regarding the trade and use of VMPs are established during inspections of livestock farms and veterinary outpatient clinics.

The established non-conformities directly increase the risk of:

- Application of non-licensed VMPs to animals;
- Inability to fully trace the origin of the purchased/applied VMPs and to identify the treated animals;

- Unregulated use of VMPs in animals from which products intended for human consumption by persons without the necessary qualifications are obtained;
- Non-compliance with the withdrawal periods after the use of VMPs, for which such are required;
- Use of VMP in violation of the conditions under which the license for use was issued, as well as in violation of the requirements of Ordinance № 62 / 09.05.2006 on the requirements for the data on the packaging and in the package 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 2020, 279 prescriptions were issued and 4 acts for establishing an administrative violation were drawn up.

The inspections carried out in the sites subject to control by the RFSD include the minimum set, according to the BFSA Inspection Program for 2020, as well as additional inspections in connection with submitted signals and complaints, based on risk assessment and due to joint inspections with employees of the BFSA Head 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 prescriptions were issued were about 9% of the total number of inspections. Acts for establishing an administrative violation were drawn up in about 1% of the inspections, which is close to those drawn up in 2019.

The number, frequency and sequence of on-site inspections are not always based on a preliminary risk assessment for each site, which reduces the effectiveness of inspections.

With regard to the control activity over the trade and use of VMPs in 2020, the following has been done: one license for production import of VMP was issued; changes to 10 licenses for VMP production were approved; 11 certificates for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) were issued; 13 scheduled inspections and 6 inspections at the request of VMP production sites for compliance with the GMP requirements were performed; 58 certificates of origin and free sale and 293 certificates of pharmaceutical product were issued. 1 non-conformity was found in the content of the active substance of VMP with the data in the brief characteristics of the product. The manufacturer informed the BFSA that all available quantities of this VMP were blocked and withdrawn from the market.

In 2020, the inspections carried out by the RFSD in connection with the official control over the trade, storage and use of VMPs totalled 3,266, of which: 107 inspections of wholesale trade sites; 239 inspections of retail outlets; 948 inspections of veterinary medical establishments; 1,821 inspections of livestock sites and 151 inspections of pet stores, beekeeping shops, etc. A total of 279 prescriptions were issued and 44 acts for establishing an administrative violation were drawn up.

### **6.3.5.3. Border control**

Official border control includes border veterinary control, border phytosanitary control and border control on the import of food and feed of non-animal origin, carried out in accordance with applicable European and national legislation.

The official border control over the import of consignments of live animals and products originating in third countries, falling within the scope of Art. 47, paragraph 1 items a) - f) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, is carried out at the eight border checkpoints (BCP) on the territory of Bulgaria - Port of Varna - West; Port of Bourgas; Capitan Andreevo; Zlatarevo - highway; Gueshevo - highway; Kalotina - highway; Sofia Airport; Bregovo - highway.

In addition to the eight approved border inspection posts, control of non-commercial pets entering the country within the meaning of Regulation 576/2013 and goods that are part of the personal luggage of passengers within the meaning of Regulation 2019/2122 is carried out at the following entry pointst: Malko Tarnovo, Lesovo, Logodazh, Strezimirovtsi, Varna Airport, Bourgas Airport.

The official control at border inspection posts on imports of consignments of animals and goods is carried out by official veterinarians, official phytosanitary inspectors and official inspectors. It includes carrying

out of documentary, identification and physical checks, including sampling for laboratory analysis and taking corrective actions in the event of non-compliance with the requirements of the legislation.

In order to inform the general public about public health warnings in the Member States, any non-compliance found during the official control at the BCP that poses a direct risk to consumer health is reported in the RASFF system through the iRASFF platform. In 2020, 248 non-compliant consignments were identified, of which 181 were notified in the RASFF system as "border rejection consignments" and the reasons for their detention were found to be non-compliances with food safety standards after laboratory control. The remaining 68 non-compliant notifications have been reported through the AAC, Administrative Assistance and Cooperation System, which is part of the IMSOC components. Non-compliant consignments of animals and goods are not allowed to enter the territory of the Union and actions are taken in accordance with Articles 66 and 67 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 - destruction, re-dispatch to a third country, special treatment.

The total volume of goods not allowed for import and distribution in the Union in 2020 is 2,100 tonnes.

#### **6.3.5.4. Feed control**

In 2020, the strategic goals set in the Unified Multi-Annual National Control Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria for food, feed, animal health, 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 stage of production, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, including feed feeding, was carried out during the year.

Feed control in 2020 follows the following priorities:

- Achieving a high level of protection of human health, animal health and the environment;
- Protecting consumers from fraud, deception and illegal feed practices;
- Effective functioning of the feed control system;
- Performing a regular and risk-based process control at feed business operators - at each stage of feed production, processing, storage and distribution, including animal nutrition;
- Control of feed, regarding the content of unwanted and prohibited substances, as well as control of their compliance with the information provided to customers;
- Effective control of genetically modified feed, control of the placing on the market, tracing and labeling of feed containing or produced from GMOs. The aim is to ensure informed consumer choice;
- Control of the production, marketing, transport and use of medicated feed in order to minimize the risk of placing on the market of raw materials and/or food of animal origin for human consumption, containing concentrations of pharmacologically active medicinal substances above the maximum admissible levels, set in the applicable legislation;
- Control over the observance of the feed prohibitions defined in art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 and in Art. 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) 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. 1831/2003 on feed hygiene, the activities performed in the Feed sector are carried out at sites and by operators approved or registered by the Bulgarian Agency for Food Safety.

As of December 31, 2020, the total number of registered and approved sites/operators on the territory of the country is 12,298 (2% more on an annual basis), which are distributed by activities as follows:

**Table V.7. Number of registered and approved facilities/operators in the Feed Sector in accordance with the requirements of Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 (as at 31.12.2020)**

Declared activity	Number of sites
<b>I. Registered sites under Art. 9 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005, exercising activities according to Art. 5 (2) of the Regulation</b>	<b>3,884</b>
1. Manufacturers of supplements	4
2. Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	2
3. Manufacturers of compound feed	274
4. Operators performing activities of cutting, packaging, repackaging and sale of compound feed and feeding materials	57
5. Packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feeds	10
6. Grinding, packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feeds	6
7. Manufacturers of feed materials	367
8. Feed traders	2,343
9. Feed transport operators	745
10. Warehouse leasing operators	76
<b>II Registered sites at the level of primary production of agricultural crops intended for feed under Art. 9, exercising activities under Art. 5 (1) of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 [1]</b>	<b>8,269</b>
1. Registered sites of farmers producing primary fodder at the location of the property	5,880
2. Registered sites of farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for the needs of their own farm	485
3. Registered sites of farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm, without the use of additives and premixtures, using supplementary feed	1,892
4. Registered sites of farmers, mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for the needs of their own farm	12
<b>III Approved sites under Art. 10, exercising activities under Art. 5 (2) of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005</b>	<b>135</b>
1. Manufacturers of feed additives	7
2. Manufacturers of premixtures, based on feed additives	3
3. Manufacturers of compound feed	40
4. Traders in feed additives and premixes	78
5. Feed decontamination operators	1
6. Fat blending operators [2]	0
7. Operator manufacturing products, obtained in the production of biodiesel	0
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]	6
<b>IV Approved sites under Art. 55 of the Feed Act</b>	<b>10</b>
1. Manufacturers of medicated feed	10
<b>Total registered and approved sites / operators in which activities under Art. 9 and Art. 10, Art. of Regulation (EC) 183/2005</b>	<b>12,298</b>

Source: BFSa and MAFF

<sup>1</sup> The information is provided by the Directorate for Identification of Agricultural Parcels, MAFF

<sup>2</sup> Approved site under Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005, performing activities under item 6, item 7 and item 8, is entered under item 8.

<sup>3</sup> The data under item II are provided to the BFSa by the Agricultural Parcels Identification Directorate, MAFF

The BFSA maintains 7 national registers of approved and registered sites/operators in the feed sector for the activities specified in Art. 9 and Art. 10 of Regulation (EC) 1831/2003. They are public and available to users of the BFSA website.

Pursuant to signed bilateral agreements between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of Bulgaria, the BFSA maintains 6 lists:

- List of approved representatives for export of maize to the PRC;
- List of approved representatives for export of alfalfa to the PRC;
- List of producers of crop-based compound feed approved for export to the PRC;
- List of manufacturers of feed additives approved for export to the PRC;
- List of sunflower meal producers approved for export to the PRC;
- List of producers of dried distillers with solubles (DDGS) approved for export to the PRC.

The 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.8. Number of registered and approved sites in the Feed Sector in 2019 - 2020**

Item No.	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2019	Number of sites as of 31.12.2020	Change in%
<b>1.</b>	<b>Registered operators according to art. 15, para. 1 of the Feed Act</b>	3,692	3,884	+5.2%
1.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	279	274	-1.8%
1.2.	Operators performing activities of cutting, packaging, repackaging, labeling and marketing of compound feed and feed materials	64	57	-10.9%
1.3.	Packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feeds	7	10	+42.9%
1.4.	Grinding, packaging, labeling, storage and marketing of feeds	9	6	-33.3%
1.5.	Manufacturers of supplements	3	4	+33.3%
1.6.	Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	2	2	-
1.7.	Manufacturers of feed materials	374	367	+1.9%
1.8.	Feed traders	2,269	2,343	+3.3%
1.9.	Feed transport operators	619	745	+20.4%
1.10.	Warehouse leasing operators	66	76	+15.2%
<b>2.</b>	<b>Approved operators according to art. 15, para. 3 and para. 4 of the Feed Act</b>	142	135	-4.9%
2.1.	Manufacturers of compound feed	43	40	-7.0%
2.2.	Manufacturers of feed additives	7	7	-
2.3.	Manufacturers of premixtures of supplements	4	3	-25.0%
2.4.	Traders in feed additives and premixes	80	78	-2.5%



Item No.	Type of operator	Number of sites as of 31.12.2019	Number of sites as of 31.12.2020	Change in%
2.5.	Operators performing: - processing of raw vegetable oil with the exception of 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	4	6	+50.0%
2.6.	Feed detoxication operators	1	1	0
2.7.	Operators carryout out fat blending	2	0	-
2.8.	Operators, producing biodiesel	1	0	-
3.	<b>Approved producers of medicated feed according to art. 55c, para. 1 of the Feed Act</b>	10	10	-
4.	<b>Registered farmers exercising activities under Art. 5 (1) of Regulation (EC) 183/2005</b>	8,210	8,269	+0.7%
4.1.	Registered farmers producing primary feed	5,637	5,880	+4.3%
4.2.	Registered farmers producing silage using silage additives, as feed is intended only for their own farm	514	485	-5.6%
4.3.	Registered farmers mixing feed exclusively for their own farm without the use of additives and premixtures, using complementary feed	2045	1892	-7.5%
4.4.	Registered farmers mixing feed and producing silage, intended only for the needs of their own farm	14	12	-14.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>12,298</b>	<b>+2.0%</b>

Source: BFSA and MAF

### Production of compound feed

According to data from the producers of compound feed, provided in pursuance of Art. 14b of the Feed Act, in 2020 the country produced a total of 1,181,465.6 tonnes of compound feed, which is an increase of 5.8% compared to 2019.

**Table V.9. Production of compound feed in 2020 by animal species, tonnes**

Type of animals	For the market	For own farms	Total
Ruminants	147,298.4	43,113.4	190,411.7
Pigs	179,511.9	137,308.8	316,820.7
Poultry	476,050.3	127,150.5	603,200.8
Other animals	66,799.3	4,233.1	71,032.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>869,659.8</b>	<b>311,805.8</b>	<b>1,181,465.6</b>

Source: BFSA

### Production of medicated feed

As in previous years, in 2020 the country produced medicinal feed only for pigs. The produced quantity amounted to 760.2 tonnes, 44.9% less than in 2019 (when medicinal feed was also produced only for pigs). The share of the production of medicated feed for the needs of own livestock farms amounted to 60.2%, and the one produced for the market - 39.8% (compared to 57.2% and 42.8% in 2019, respectively).

**Table V.10. Production of medicated feed in 2020 by provinces**

Province	For the market	For own farms	Total
Varna	0	65,390	6,539
Veliko Tarnovo	0	66.5	66.5
Razgrad	0	1,783	1,783
Ruse	2,680	1,124	1,392
Stara Zagora	0	356.2	356.2
Shumen	68,630	2,027.5	8,890.5
Yambol	7,330	0	7,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,640</b>	<b>11,896.2</b>	<b>19,760.2</b>

Source: BFSA

### Official feed control

During the year, the operational objectives set in the Framework Plan for Feed Control for 2020 were met. The control covers both sites in the feed sector and livestock sites, incl. also establishments that produce feed or only feed animals that are kept for food production and their products are intended for human consumption.

In 2020, feed control followed the defined main specific operational objectives, related to the strategic objectives set in the SMNCP of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2018 - 2020, namely: to ensure that the feed meets the safety requirements; to verify the compliance with the requirements of the legislation on the placing on the market and use of feed (labeling).

In accordance with Art. 17 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 and recital (6) of Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005, feed business operators are responsible for the safety of their feed, the protection of animal health and the prevention of risks. for the environment.

The official control of feed is planned and ongoing. Planned control is based on country-wide risk assessment criteria. In 2020, the "Feed Control Framework Plan for 2020" was implemented and guidance for work on its implementation were applied. It covers feed control at all levels, including animal feed on farms.

Ongoing controls include follow-up checks, checks in case of suspicions and investigations (alerts, complaints, RASFF notifications, etc.), checks on applications for feed exports to third countries, TRACES checks and others.

The feed control framework plan covers three control systems: "Animal feed and nutrition", "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products" and "Veterinary products and residues of veterinary medicinal products". The inspections carried out in 2020 and the samples taken from feed for analysis were evenly distributed over the period and cover all groups of operators.

### Results of control activities under the Animal Feed and Nutrition Control System

The overall progress in achieving the strategic and specific objectives of the Animal Feed and Nutrition Control System is assessed as positive. In 2020, a total of 4,497 audits and inspections were performed, incl. 3,917 - scheduled inspections, 405 - follow-up, 153 - investigative and 22 - on signal. The

performed scheduled inspections were 205 or 2.7% less compared to 2019. Each inspection/audit is documented with an statements of findings/audit report.

The inspections revealed non-conformities with the requirements of the legislation applicable in the sector, as a result of which 1,316 prescriptions for their elimination were issued - 648 or 33.0% less than in 2019.

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 found did not pose a potential risk to animals.

According to the type of the site where the non-conformities were found, the largest number of prescriptions were given during inspections in livestock farms - 758. The identified discrepancies were mainly related to compliance with the requirements for hygiene, self-control of operators and traceability of feed. Nonconformities with regard to hygiene requirements mainly concerned deficiencies in the cleaning procedures and their implementation. Non-conformities in self-control were mainly related to non-sampling of feed for self-control. Incomplete/irregular record keeping was the main part of the non-conformities found in terms of compliance with traceability requirements.

The most common reasons for the non-conformities are: the unawareness of the operators' liability accordance with Regulation (EC) No.178/2002; insufficient knowledge of the legislation requirements; insufficient financial resources on the part of feed business operators.

In 2020, during the inspections of the sites in the feed sector, samples were taken for analysis on indicators declared by the manufacturer for compliance, as well as for compliance with the permissible safety values defined in the legislation.

The total number of analyses of samples taken for official control in 2020 was 2,445, of which:

- 649 samples for nutritional composition (4 non-compliant results were obtained - 1.03% of the performed analyzes, which is a decrease of 15 compared to 2019);
- 254 samples for feed additives, with fixed maximum content, including permitted coccidiostats (discrepancies were found in 16 analyses - 6.3% of the performed analyses, which is a decrease of 5 compared to 2019);
- 1,291 samples for undesirable substances, including mycotoxins (4 non-compliant results were obtained - 0.3% of the analyzes, which is 2 less than in 2019). Three of the non-conformities found were in the analysis of feed samples for pesticide residues and one in the analysis of mycotoxin Aflatoxin B1.

In 2020, in implementation of the Framework Plan for Feed Control, a total of 139 feed samples were analyzed for mycotoxin content. 92.5% of the planned feed samples intended for analysis for mycotoxin content were taken and analyzed, which is reported as a completely satisfactory result.

In 2020, the following were also taken:

- 25 samples of feed for dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls, in implementation of the framework control plan. During the performed analyses it was established that all samples comply with the legislation. Although the maximum levels as well as the thresholds laid down in Directive No. 2002/32 / EC were not exceeded, the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls in relatively constant values ranging from 0.20 to 1.24 was detected in the samples analyzed;
- 46 analyzes for prohibited for use medicinal substances, such as feed additives and for unavoidable transfer of coccidiostats in non-target feed;
- 181 samples for microbiological contamination - presence of salmonella. 1 non-compliant analysis or 0.6% of the analyzed samples was identified (compared to 9 in 2019);
- 24 samples of feed for the presence of GMOs, in which presence of unauthorized genetically modified feed was not detected.

The cases of feed non-compliance with the requirements of the applicable legislation in 2020 dropped to 25, compared to 56 in 2019. This is indicative of the effectiveness of the official control of feed.

### **Control of feed under the control system "Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal by-products"**

The observance by the operators from the feed sector of the feed prohibitions, defined in art. 7 and Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 and in Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) (1069/2009, is controlled.

During the performed documentary and physical inspections in 2020 no infringement of the requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 on the intra-species feed ban, were found.

During a laboratory control in 2020, non-compliance with the requirements of Art. 7 and Annex IV of Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 was established and the necessary administrative penalties and actions were taken therefor.

The feed samples taken in 2020 for the presence of ingredients of animal origin in the implementation of the Feed Control Framework Plan are 334, including 312 samples in the implementation of the Feed Control Framework Plan and 22 samples of feed intended for export.

Proteins of animal origin are at risk for contamination with microorganisms (salmonella and other bacteria from the family. Enterobacteriaceae), which is why feed samples are taken for the presence of microbiological contamination. In 2020, 107 feed samples were analyzed for presence of Salmonella spp., incl. 42 samples in implementation of the Feed Control Framework Plan under the TSE and by-products control system, 58 samples of feed intended for export and 6 samples taken during the study.

In 2020, 95 feed samples were analyzed for the presence of enterobacteria, including 23 samples in implementation of the Framework Plan for Feed Control under the TSE and SZP control system, 57 samples of feed intended for export and 13 samples taken during studies. During the performed laboratory control positive results of laboratory analysis for the presence of enterobacteria in feed at two operators, producers of compound feed for the needs of their own farms were established. Studies were carried out in connection with the identified discrepancies.

### **Feed control under the "Veterinary medicinal products and residues of veterinary medicinal products" control system**

As of 31.12.2020, 10 sites for production with medicinal feed and/or intermediate products under Art. 55 c, para. 1 of the Feed Act were approved.

In 2020, a total of 29 inspections of approved operators engaged in the production of medicated feed (12 more than in 2019), of which 10 scheduled inspections, 10 follow-up inspections and 6 investigative inspections, were made. As a result, 16 prescriptions were given to 6 operators (compared to 4 prescriptions to two operators in 2019).

In 2020, a total of 16 feed samples were taken and analyzed under the control system. According to the results of analysis in 3 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 and an unlicensed VMP was found in 1 sample. In connection with the obtained non-compliant results of analyses, all necessary measures and actions have been taken in accordance with the legislation.

### **Audits of Feed Business Operators**

According to the requirements of art. 6 and Art. 7 of Regulation (EC) No. 1831/2003 and in connection with Art. 26, para. 2 of the Feed Act, feed business operators carrying out activities other than those at the primary feed production level are obliged to have developed and implemented procedures based on the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point).

In 2020, 263 audits of feed business operators and 24 follow-up audits to check the implementation of the audit recommendations were carried out. Compared to 2019, there is a decrease in the performed audits by 14 and an increase in the recommendations made by 3.

It can be concluded that the operators have developed, introduced and implement the relevant procedures, thus fulfilling the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 1831/2003. For some operators, it was found that procedures based on HACCP principles were not relevant at the time of the audit. For all identified non-conformities, recommendations were given and the operators have taken corrective action. They have been checked for their implementation and are closed.

During the year, 29 acts for established administrative violation were drawn up (11 less than in 2019), most often related to non-compliance with the requirements of Art. 7, para. 1 or para. 2 and Art. 15, para. 1 of the Feed Act. The analysis of the application of the administrative penal provisions of the Feed Act shows that the imposed penalties have an effect on the observance of the requirements of the feed legislation by the operators in the feed sector.

#### **6.4. Risk chain analysis**

Food Chain Risk Assessment Centre (FCRAC) is a competent authority within the meaning of Art. 22 (7) of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

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, the state competent authorities and institutions: 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 along the whole food chain.

Another key priority is the evaluation of plant protection products in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) № 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 to make informed decision on the one hand and the competent control authorities to assess the impact of risk management measures in 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 2020, the Center continued to fulfill 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, materials for food contact, plant health, pesticide residues in food, food additives, dietary products, nutrition and allergens.

The focus of the Center's activities during the year was the review and monitoring of the situation with African swine fever and avian flu. The Center prepared timely updated information on the current spread of diseases and participated, together with the BFSA, in the epizootic studies conducted in some of the largest pig farms and poultry farms in the country affected by these diseases.

In connection with the epidemiological situation caused by the COVID-19 virus, the FCRAC has issued three opinions on:

- the risk to public health due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus from the breeding sites for mink for valuable furs in Bulgaria;
- the risk of spreading of the new type of coronavirus that causes COVID-19 through vending machines for packaged food and beverages;

- consumption of fresh products, dairy products, health products and locally produced products in the conditions of an epidemic of COVID-19 infection.

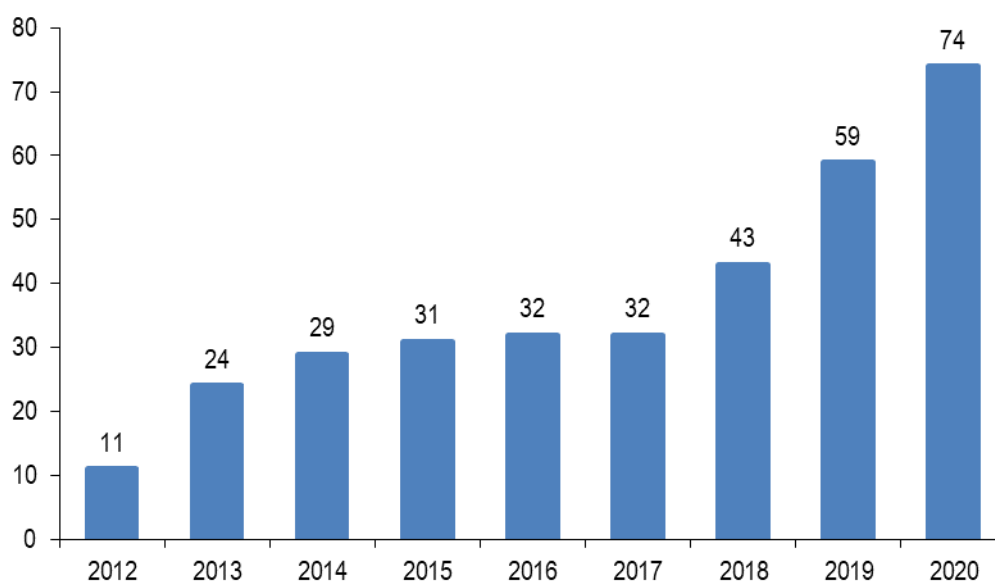
24 pieces of scientific information have been published on: the primary origin and scientific knowledge of the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2; monthly risk assessments of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for the dangers of infecting EU citizens with the SARS-CoV-2 virus; up-to-date information on the course of the epidemic; protection against the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2; the possibility of infection by pets; a forecast for the world chicken market in 2020 in the context of COVID-19; EC Communication on COVID-19 and farm and domestic animals; the likelihood of transmission of the new type of coronavirus through food consumption or contact with consumer goods; information on the development of the situation with COVID-19 in mink farms; resistance of coronaviruses on contact surfaces and their destruction by biocidal products; food is not a source or way of transmitting the infection; recommendations by the French Agency for Food, Environment and Health and Safety at Work (ANSES) on food, shopping and cleaning; the likelihood of contracting SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus through consumption of pork; molecular methods for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2.

In general, for the period 2012 - 2020 there is a gradual increase in the number of assessments prepared by the FCRAC - from 11 in 2012 to 74 in 2020 (including 11 scientific reviews and analyses and 8 evaluations of dossiers under measure 16 of the Rural Development Program).

For 2020, FCRAC prepared a total of: 55 scientific opinions; 11 scientific reviews and analyses; 142 scientific information; 8 evaluations of dossiers under Measure 16 of the Rural Development Program.

As a result of the activities of the FCRAC related to plant protection products, active substances, antidotes and synergists, in 2000 153 reports for evaluation of PPP for approval were completed and submitted to the BFSa.

**Figure V.1. Number of assessments prepared by the FCRAC for the period 2012 - 2020**



Source: FCRAC

In 2020, the activity of the FCRAC will continue to prepare and update risk assessments in the following areas:

- African swine fever in Bulgaria, Europe and the world;
- Avian influenza;
- Additionally prepared materials for current animal diseases or with increased risk of entering the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;

- Animal welfare;
- Residues from PPPs, VMPs and environmental pollutants;
- Packaging and food contact materials;
- Allergens, dietary foods, novel foods and foods with health claims, allergens, nutritional supplements, novel foods, safety assessment of traditional foods.

Given the dynamics of processes such as climate change (natural disasters), combined with political and social crisis and globalization, a change in the priorities for risk assessment and management is expected, the emergence of emerging risks related to food, feed, which requires 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, in particular the Farm-to-Fork 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, the cloning of animals and, more recently, human embryos, nanotechnologies, and the impact of the economy and climate needs to be included in the risk assessment of the agri-food chain in order to improve health and quality of life for people and animals, to take 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 the FCRAC 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 safety and nutrition, new risks and dangers in food production will continue to emerge in the coming years, increasing the need for data, methodologies, expertise and scientific advice on new and complex food safety issues.

To meet these major challenges, the FCRAC plans to develop standard operating procedures for assessing the risks associated with the agri-food chain and climate change, drawing on international best practices and practices in close cooperation with EFSA and related risk assessment institutions in Germany - BfR, France - ANSES, Austria - AEGES and others.

Demographic change - an aging population, increasing migration flows and changes in consumer attitudes towards their diet 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 2021, the FCRAC will continue 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 2021 the Center will continue working on the formation, together with the scientific organizations under Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002, of scientific groups of highly qualified experts in the different 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 conducting 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 in an independent, transparent and impartial manner on issues that directly or indirectly affect animal and plant health, plant products, plant and animal reproductive material and the safety of food and feed

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 to study the information needs needed to perform 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 the various fields of the food chain and implementation of scientific cooperation through coordination of activities, development and implementation of joint projects, exchange of experience and best practices in the areas of competence of EFSA according to Art. 36 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002;
- approval, renewal and review of the approval of active substances, antidotes and synergists in their capacity as a competent and coordinating body within the meaning of Art. 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 Directives 79/117 / EEC and 91/414 / EEC of the Council;
- 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 Art. 75 (1) of Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009.

#### **6.5. Legislative changes in the field of food chain safety**

In 2020, the optimization of the regulatory framework in the field of food safety and quality, animal health and plant health continued. During the year, It was worked on the following regulatory acts and strategic documents, some of which were adopted in 2021:

- New Food Act (promulgated, SG, No. 52 of 09.06.2020);
- New Law on the Management of the Agro-Food Chain (promulgated, SG, No. 51 of 05.06.2020);
- Ordinance No. 5 on the health requirements to the animals from which food is obtained (promulgated, SG, No. 87 of 2020);
- Ordinance No. 7 on the conditions and procedure for food sampling (promulgated, SG, No. 89 of 2020);
- Ordinance No. 2 on the specific requirements for the safety and quality of food offered in children's institutions, school canteens and retail establishments on the territory of schools and children's institutions, as well as of food offered at organized events for children and students (promulgated., SG, No. 8 of 2021);
- Ordinance on the specific requirements for performing food banking and control over this activity (promulgated, SG, No. 10 of 2021);
- Ordinance No. 7 of 18 February 2021 on the terms and conditions for issuing a sticker to certify the registration of food transport vehicles (promulgated, SG, No. 17 of February 26, 2021);
- Ordinance on the provision of information to consumers about food (promulgated, SG, No.. 25 of Friday, March 26, 2021);
- Ordinance on the requirements for quick-frozen foods (promulgated, SG, No. 26 of 30 March 2021);
- Ordinance on the measures for control over certain substances and residues thereof in live animals, raw materials and food of animal origin, intended for human consumption (promulgated, SG, No. 61 of Friday, July 23, 2021);



- Ordinance on the specific requirements for dairy products - (promulgated, SG, No. 64 of Tuesday, August 03, 2021);
- Ordinance No. 10 of 2021 on the specific requirements for the production of food of animal origin in slaughterhouses (promulgated, SG, No. 36 of Saturday, May 01, 2021);
- Ordinance on the specific requirements for caseins and caseinates intended for human consumption - (promulgated, SG, No. 63 of Friday, July 30, 2021);
- Ordinance on the requirements for certain partially or completely dehydrated milks intended for human consumption (promulgated, SG, No. 35 of Tuesday, April 27, 2021);
- Draft Ordinance on food hygiene;
- Draft Ordinance on food supplements;
- Draft Ordinance on the specific requirements for direct deliveries of small quantities of primary products and foods of animal origin;
- Draft Ordinance on the specific requirements for distance trade in food;
- Draft Ordinance on the requirements for coffee and chicory extracts;
- Draft Ordinance on the requirements for fruit jams, jellies, marmalades, jelly marmalades and sweetened chestnut puree;
- Draft National Program for Prevention and Reduction of Food Loss (2021-2026);
- Act for amendment and supplement of the Veterinary Medicine Act (promulgated, SG, No. 13 of 2/14/2020);
- Ordinance on the terms and conditions for spending the funds for compensation of animal owners in the cases under Art. 47, para. 1 of the AIA (promulgated, SG, No. 40 of 5/5/2020);
- Ordinance No. 4 of 23.09.2020 on the supervision and monitoring of zoonoses, their prevention, control and eradication, issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Minister of Health (promulgated, SG, No. 86 of 10/6/2020);
- Ordinance No. 6 of 05.10.2020 on the measures for prevention, limitation and eradication of the anthrax disease in animals and on the conditions and procedure for their application (promulgated, SG, No. 88 of 10/13/2020);
- Ordinance No. 8 of 05.11.2020 on the conditions and procedure for carrying out disinfection, disinsection, deratization and devastation in limiting and eradication animal diseases (promulgated, SG, No. 97 of 11/13/2020);
- Ordinance No. 1 of 13.01.2021 on veterinary requirements and biosecurity measures for livestock farms for fish and other aquatic organisms (promulgated, SG, iss. 6 of 1/22/2021);
- Ordinance on the terms and conditions for conducting postgraduate training in the field of veterinary medicine (promulgated, SG, No. 15 of 2/19/2021);
- Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 61 of 2006 on the terms and conditions for identification of animals for which no requirements are laid down in a regulation of the European Union (promulgated, SG, No. 16 of 2/23/2021);
- Plan for control and prevention of the spread of the African swine fever disease in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2021 - 2023;
- Act for amendment and supplement of the Plant protection act (promulgated, SG, No. 65 of 21.07.2020);
- Ordinance No. 5 of 09.02.2021 on permitting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products (promulgated, SG, No. 16 of 2/23/2021);

- Ordinance No. 9 of 26.02.2021 on integrated production of plants and plant products and control over integrated production (promulgated, SG, No. 21 of 3/12/2021);
- Ordinance No. 8 of 23.02.2021 on the terms and conditions for control over plant protection products, trade, repackaging, storage and use (promulgated, SG, No. 18 of 3/18/2021);
- Draft Ordinance on the terms and conditions for use of plant protection products.

### **Priority activities in 2021**

In 2021 it is planned to re-issue, amend and/or issue new by-laws related to the implementation of the new Food Act and the Agro-Food Chain Management Act.

The work of the Coordination Council established at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, coordinating the implementation of the measures for prevention and control of the spread of infectious diseases on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, continues.

One of the main priorities in the first half of 2021 are the activities related to the drafting of a new Veterinary Medicine Act, fully in line with the framework and provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on contagious animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the field of animal health and delegated acts (applicable from 21 April 2021).

## **7. Livestock Selection and Reproduction**

### **7.1. Livestock Selection and Reproduction**

The Executive Agency for Selection 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.

The EASRAB participates in the management of national genetic resources in animal husbandry through management, organization and participation in the activities of the National Council for Management and Conservation of Genetic Resources. In 2020, 14 meetings of the Council by Sections for the individual directions in animal husbandry were held, where the problems of the respective branch were discussed and proposals for improving the breeding activity 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 assessment on the merits at all levels. In 2020, the SCAB received an application from the Patent Office of Bulgaria for recognition of a new breed of horse "Bulgarian Sport Horse". One meeting of the committee was held by the end of the year.

The Agency makes annual monitoring of the breeds in connection with the maintenance and periodic updating of the Register of Breeding herds of the National Gene Fund under Article 18, para. 6 of the Animal Breeding Act. The Genetic Resources Council shall periodically discuss the status of national animal breeds and take the necessary measures to prevent their extinction.

EASRAB experts determine the breed affiliation according to the prepared detailed breed characteristics of the cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats bred in the country. In 2020, the breed affiliation of: 110 cattle and 126 goats was determined. All animals are registered as breeding in the integrated information system VetIS of the BFSA. During the year, 914 cattle, 658 sheep and 2,440 goats were entered in herd books, with data on origin, entry of offspring and registration of dropouts and the reasons for this.

In 2020, the Agency determined the breeding status of the herds, the risk status of the breeds and the trend of change. During the year the breeding organizations in the country and the EASRAB control 28 autochthonous breeds, which are also subject to support under measure 214 "Agro-environmental payments" in the direction "Protection of endangered local breeds" of the RDP for the period 2007-2013 and measure 10 "Agroecology and Climate" from the RDP for the period 2014 – 2020.

Due to the African swine fever disease, from the end of 2019 to 31.12.2020, 881 pigs of the autochthonous East Balkan pig breed were destroyed, as a result of which its status may now be lowered from a breed at risk of extinction to a breed becoming extinct. The Pleven Horse and Bulgarian Red Cattle breeds can also be identified as endangered breeds. Of the autochthonous breeds, the condition of the Local Stara Zagora sheep, Byala Marishka, Local Karnobat sheep and the Sakar 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 2020, measures for restoration of two national breeds - the Bulgarian brown cattle and the Bulgarian red cattle - continued to be implemented. A breeding program has been developed for the Bulgarian Brown and since 2018 the Association for Breeding Bulgarian Brown Cattle has taken over the breeding activity with the breed. A breeding plan has been developed for the development of the Bulgarian red cattle and it was implemented in 2020 as well.

The EASRAB maintains an information database on the state of genetic resources, based on the EFABIS model of the European Regional Focal Point. The national system is linked to EFABIS, and the latter to the DAD-IS information system of the World Food Organization (FAO). This integration enables the transfer of data from national to European and global information systems. In 2020, the information in the database for over 551,551 animals and birds was updated.

The EASRAB manages and maintains a National Genetic Bank with two repositories (Sofia and Sliven), which store cryopreserved semen from different species and breeds of animals.

As of the end of 2020, the National Genetic Bank stored a total of 1,554,349 doses of deep-frozen semen from 333 breeders, as follows: of 285 cattle breeders, 24 buffalo breeders, 15 goats, 6 rams and 3 stallions of 22 breeds of cattle, 4 breeds of buffalo, 7 breeds of sheep, 4 breeds of goats and 3 breeds of horses, which increases the variety of genetic material offered for sale.

The Agency also maintains a National Genetic Reserve as a separate part of the National Genetic Bank. The reserve guarantees the national sovereignty of the country with regard to genetic resources, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity, as well as limiting its loss.

As of 31.12.2020, the National Genetic Reserve of the country kept in stock 402,619 doses of frozen seed material from: 454 cattle and 30 buffalo breeders, from 57 rams, 9 he-goats and 26 stallions. The doses are from 27 breeds of cattle, 4 breeds of buffalo, 21 breeds of sheep, 5 breeds of goats and 10 breeds of horses. In 2020, the National Genetic Reserve was enriched with 12,179 new doses of frozen seed from 41 nurseries.

To ensure higher biosecurity, the frozen semen from the National Genetic Reserve is stored in two cryo-storage facilities - Sofia and Sliven.

The EASRAB manages and maintains the two State Artificial Insemination Stations (SATIS) in Sofia and Sliven, ensuring the breeding activity and the conservation of genetic resources in the country. The stations receive and store long-lasting Breeding material from valuable highly productive breeds and from endangered and endangered local autochthonous breeds of animals is received for long-term storage at the stations.

At the end of 2020, 12 breeders of the following breeds were bred in Sliven SATIS: Bulgarian Red Cattle, Holstein Black and Red, Jersey, Simmental, Aberdeen Angus and Bulgarian Murrah.

In 2020, 42,985 doses of frozen semen in the form of sequins were produced from the available beef and buffalo kennels in Sliven SATIS.

A horse breeding depot is maintained in the Sofia SATIS, where the EASRAB's own horses are bred and provided under contracts. In 2020, 122 ejaculates were obtained from the stallions bred at the station and 6,986 doses were produced. Compared to the previous year, the number of ejaculates produced was 19 more, and the cryopreserved doses were 3,263 more.

In the field of sheep and goat breeding in implementation of the Conservation Program for "ex situ" management of genetic resources in Bulgaria 2015 - 2024, from the middle of 2018 rams and he-goats are

bred in Sofia SATIS. The selection of male breeders is carried out jointly with the Breeding Organizations. In 2020, 30 ejaculates were obtained at Sofia SATIS and 800 doses of semen from the available rams and he-goats were frozen, which is 99 and 2,395 lower than in 2019 respectively.

The Agency has taken preventive measures for the protection and conservation of the East Balkan pig breed in connection with African swine fever. 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, epidemics, industrial accidents or other unforeseen causes, with severe consequences for animal populations. A clinical examination of a pig farm, which is under the selection control of the Association for Breeding and Storage of the East Balkan Pig, was carried out. As a result, in the two facilities of the Agency (Artificial Insemination Station in the town of Sliven and livestock farm, owned by EASRAB in the town of Kyustendil) there are three breeding groups of 5 sows and one boar, participating in two genealogical schemes.

EASRAB assists the activities of breeding organizations in the implementation of their breeding programs, ensuring proper assessment of selection traits and assessment of breeding value through: providing an opportunity for research of the quality indicators of controlled traits in its laboratories; breeding of male animals and production and storage of semen; proving the origin of breeding animals in her laboratory.

To this end, the Agency manages and maintains a laboratory for control of milk productivity and a laboratory for control of wave productivity.

In 2020 in the state laboratory for determining the physico-chemical composition of milk in the town of Sliven a total of 13,283 samples of cow milk were analyzed, which is 6,281 less than in the previous year. Of these, 12,644 samples were provided by Association for Bulgarian Rhodope Cattle and Jersey - Smolyan, 548 by National Association for Breeding Cattle of the breeds Montbeliard and Simmental - Pleven and 91 were from animals controlled by EASRAB.

The laboratory for testing rams on own productivity (Shumen town), servicing the selection in fine-wool sheep breeding, makes it possible to determine the size of some selection traits and the quality of wool in terms of physical and mechanical properties, yield and the amount of pure fiber. In 2020, 676 wool samples were tested in it, 322 less than in the previous year.

EASRAB provides breeding organizations with various options for joint activities, cooperation and partnership in breeding male breeding animals, production and cryopreservation of semen from them. In 2020, 7 beef breeders, 7 rams, 8 he-goats and 30 stallions, mares and growing horses were bred under contracts for joint reproductive activity in the EASRAB facilities.

In 2020, the activity of the National Genetic Laboratory continued, ensuring reliable, scientifically based determination of the animal breed at a modern level, recognized by the international community and allows the performance of reference DNA analyzes. This provides an opportunity to control both the activities of 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 programs for the conservation of national genetic resources in animal husbandry. In 2020, 4,765 samples were received and registered at the National Genetic Laboratory, of which 3,788 from cattle, 903 from sheep and goats and 100 from dogs.

Through EASRAB, Bulgaria is a full member of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR). With the help of EASRAB, Bulgarian breeding organizations in the field of dairy and beef cattle breeding, dairy and beef sheep breeding, goat breeding and buffalo breeding become members of ICAR and thus gain access to significant technical information, opportunity to use existing contacts with other international organizations, expert assistance in accrediting of laboratories and many others. With the commissioning of modern equipment in the dairy laboratory and in the national genetic laboratory, Bulgaria guarantees the implementation of world-renowned methods and standards in the field of breeding. This creates opportunities for access to international markets for breeding animals produced by Bulgarian farmers.

The sale of semen of breeders from the national gene pool is carried out by 9 licensed semen storage centers, and in six of them organization has been established for operation of 10 mobile lines through which

semen is delivered in close proximity to farms, direct contact of experts from EASRAB with the farmers and insemination technicians on site is established, thus creating an opportunity to discuss problems and assist in the selection of breeds and bulls in the preparation of contingency plans.

In 2020, a total of 33,519 doses of semen were sold (73.4% of dairy breeds, 24.5% of meat breeds and only 2.1% of buffaloes), which is 2,534 less than in the previous year. Of the 24,619 doses of semen from dairy breeds of cattle sold, the largest share is occupied by those from Bulgarian black variegated cattle - 23.6%, followed by those from Holstein - 21.7% and from Bulgarian Rhodope cattle - 17.1%. Of the meat-producing breeds with the largest share of the realized doses are the breeds Aberdeen Angus - 55.5% and Limousin - 39.1%.

At the Station for assessment of young bulls for own productivity in the town of Sliven young breeding animals are bred, and by the end of 2020 there were 9 growing calves and calves from the breeds Rhodope shorthorn cattle, Holstein black, Aberdeen Angus, Limousin, Iskar cattle and Montbeliard.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in preserving the genetic diversity of animals used for agricultural purposes. With the approval of the FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation of Genetic Resources in Animal Husbandry, the EASRAB has taken concrete steps for the effective management and long-term conservation of genetic diversity in animal husbandry. To this end, a ten-year Conservation Program for ex situ management of genetic resources in the Republic of Bulgaria has been developed. It stipulates that breeders of commercial and autochthonous breeds of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and horses, from which genetic material is preserved, shall enter 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 buffalo, 26 breeds of sheep, 4 breeds of goats and 13 breeds of horses.

In implementation of the program, over the last 3 years the EASRAB has undertaken activities for restoration of the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed. In this regard, 13 typical animals, matching the breed descriptions of the breed were found and seed material from high-class bulls was provided. By the end of 2020, there were 24 animals of the Bulgarian Red Cattle breed. The main goal of the breeding work with the Bulgarian red cattle is to preserve and increase the available gene pool and to strengthen the biological qualities, ensuring the typicality, productivity and survival of the breed. Due to the narrow genetic diversity and the impossibility of further breeding of the breed in its pure state, a refined cross with bulls from the Angler and Danish Red Cattle breeds was started, as both breeds were involved in the production process.

In implementation of the programs for rescue from extinction and restoration of the Danube, Pleven Horse and Bulgarian Heavy Horse breeds, the concluded contracts of EASRAB with the Association for Restoration and Development of the Pleven Horse and Hydran breeds and the Association of Horse Breeders in Bulgaria were still in force in 2020. The aim is to obtain and store semen from stallions of the three breeds, to make embryo transfer, as well as to naturally cover mares of the Danube and Pleven horse breeds.

In order to prevent the extinction of the Danube and Pleven horse breeds, a team for development, testing and implementation of technology for receiving, qualifying, processing and cryopreservation of semen from stallions continues to operate. At the end of 2020, 8,102 doses of semen from horses, 2,899 more than in 2019 were delivered to the NGB and NGR.

In order to promote the national genetic resources and the breeding activity, EASRAB organized and conducted exhibitions financed by the State Fund for Agriculture under the state aid schemes. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, public events were very limited and in 2020 only two events were held in the town of Sliven: annual report meeting of the Ile de France Breeding Association in Bulgaria and the National Exhibition of RidingHorses, organized by the Association of Horse Breeders in Bulgaria.

During the year, numerous meetings were held and advisory services and professional advice were provided to breeding organizations, non-governmental organizations and farmers on issues related to breeding activities, technologies of breeding, feeding and reproduction of breeding animals.

In 2020, the EASRAB continued to represent Bulgaria in international bodies and organizations 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 2020, 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 determining the productivity and genetic traits of animals" for animals applying for 2019. In accordance with the requirements of the scheme, the inspections carried out cover animal breeding as follows: 1,662 farms with 118,367 cattle, 269 farms with 12,540 buffaloes, 2,175 farms with 332,966 sheep, 347 farms with 28,795 goats, 50 farms with 46,573 pigs, 6 farms with 882,781 poultry, 465 owners with 10,144 horses, 92 apiaries with 19,503 bee colonies, 11 owners with 297 dogs and 9 farms with 1,497 rabbits.

In the framework of 2020, 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 programs of 7 breeding organizations.

During the year, spring and autumn zootechnical inspections of the horse herd at the Kabiuk State Enterprise and 1 autumn inspection at the Institute of Animal Sciences, Kostinbrod were carried out.

The Agency carried out an unscheduled on-site inspection of a farm included in the list of the Organization for breeding tsigai and meat breeds of sheep in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Association for Breeding Kotlen Sheep Breeds.

In 2020, the EASRAB carried out inspections of 14 exhibitions for dogs of the Bulgarian shepherd dog breed, organized by the Bulgarian Kennel Club for Bulgarian Shepherd Dog, town of Montana. 3 horse exhibitions organized by the Association of Horse Breeders in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Sport Horse Association were also inspected.

Due to the lack of approved breeding organizations in the country for certain breeds, in 2020 EASRAB continued to carry out selection activities by species and breeds, as follows:

- Cattle breeding - with 914 cattle of the following breeds: Galloway - 781 animals, Charolais - 119 animals, and Bulgarian Red Cattle - 14 animals;
- Sheep breeding - with 658 sheep, distributed by breeds as follows: Chios - 328 animals, Mouton Wendeen - 216 animals and Romanovska - 114 animals;
- Goat breeding - with 2,456 goats of the breeds: Alpine - 2,006 animals and Boer - 450 animals.

The Agency has concluded contracts for breeding activities with farmers, raising animals of the above breeds, inspecting the herds and updating the data on the current condition of the animals being controlled. In 2020, 631 new and 44 reissued zootechnical certificates for goats, 197 certificates for sheep, 189 new and 131 reissued certificates for cattle were introduced in the register of pedigree certificates issued by the EASRAB.

This activity of the EASRAB enables farmers breeding the said breeds, for which no breeding organizations have been established, to apply for coupled support schemes for animals under selection control.

In connection with the implementation of coupled support schemes in the Livestock sector for animals under selection control, inspections were carried out to identify the animals under selection control, as well as to record the approved animals in the VetIS system of the BFSA. In 2020, the EASRAB entered in the VetIS system: 125,165 cattle of 18 breeds; 341,209 sheep of 33 breeds; 30 863 goats of 9 breeds.

The quality of the breeding material produced, entering and distributed on the territory of the country is controlled by the EASRAB, through the maintenance of a national register of male breeding animals and a Register of breeding herds from the national gene pool.

As of 31.12.2020 the Register of male breeding animals included: 1,930 beef bulls, 325 buffalo bulls, 8,693 goats, 850 roes, 557 stallions, 306 boars, 122 dogs and 77 rabbits.

Information is entered in the Register of Breeding Herds as follows: cattle breeding - 1,625 herds with 123,455 animals, buffalo breeding - 257 herds with 14,288 animals, sheep breeding - 2,068 herds with 355,846 animals, goat breeding - 328 herds with 36,321 animals, pig breeding - 30 herds with 35,197 animals, horse breeding - 1 038 owners with 12,510 animals, poultry - 19 flocks with 1,345,400 birds. The register also includes 158 apiaries with 21,807 bee colonies, 14 owners of dogs of breeds of economic importance with 494 dogs, as well as 3 owners of rabbits with 755 animals.

In 2020, 1 importer was registered in the register of importers of organic products, with 8 notifications for intra-Community trade submitted. 22,937 doses of deep-frozen semen from 78 beef breeders were imported. The registered doses are from the breeds Holstein, Brown cattle, Montbeliard, Simmental, Jersey, Hereford, Limousin, Aberdeen Angus, Belgian blue, Charolais, Galloway, Gascon, Bary, INRA 95 and Norman cattle.

## **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 science-based research in accordance with the agro-ecological conditions of the country, the needs of the population and environmental protection.

In 2020, a total of 232 research projects were developed in the structural units of the AA. Of these, 110 projects were funded by the Academy's budget subsidy; 55 projects - from the Scientific Research Fund (SRF) and 68 projects - from national and international organizations and agencies.

The researches aimed at conservation, restoration and sustainable management of soil resources and agroecosystems, assessment and mitigation of the impact of climate change, technology and innovation in conventional and organic farming are leading.

In the field of genetic and selection research, experiments to create new varieties with increased productivity and quality, adapted to the market and climate change, as well as to reproduce the genetic diversity of local varieties as a valuable national treasure, have been conducted.

Research projects for research, maintenance and increase of the species diversity of animal species and aquaculture; strategies for the management of national genetic resources in animal husbandry; feed quality and animal nutrition innovations, were developed.

Research projects in the areas of: traditional and new foods and beverages, durability and quality storage of food products are also developed with the participation of international partner organizations. Based on analyzes, strategies for viable rural areas have been developed, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of various MAFF programs and schemes covering rural areas are carried out.

AA scientists continue to work on the priorities set out in the Green Deal, such as the Farm-to-Food strategy, the Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil Plan, the circular economy, the ecosystem restoration, and the digitalisation of agriculture in line with the European Digital Decade (2020 - 2030).

A key aspect of the activity of the Academy in 2020 was its participation in 3 projects for modernization of the scientific infrastructure, which will increase the quality of scientific research and the prestige of the AA as a scientific organization.

The National Infrastructure for Research and Innovation in Agriculture and Food (RINA) Project to the National Roadmap for Scientific Infrastructure for the period 2017-2023, with the SAA coordinator was funded for the first year with BGN 50,000.

AA participates with over 250 scientists in 4 national research programs (NRP), funded by the MES (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" and NRP "Young scientists and postdoctoral students").

In 2020, there was an increase in projects funded by national (SRF) and international programs (Horizon 2020, European Regional Development Fund, Erasmus +, COST, COST, World Health Organization, World Food and Agriculture Organization, International Center for genetic engineering and biotechnology, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Space Agency, the America for Bulgaria Foundation, the International Center for the Advancement of Wheat and Maize).

#### **8.1.1. Created scientific products, implemented in production**

The Academy owns and maintains 351 certificates for protection of plants and animals, which represents about 85% of all issued certificates for varieties, hybrids, plant lines and animal breeds in Bulgaria.

342 certificates for cultivars of cultivated plants, distributed in list A and list B, are included in the Official Variety List of the country issued annually by IASAS. List A (cereals, fodder, oil and industrial crops, beets, potatoes and fruit plants) includes 268 varieties, and list B (vegetables, ornamental, perennial medicinal and aromatic crops, and vines) - 74 varieties.

The certificates maintained for animal breeds are 9 (8 for silkworm breeds and 1 for carp breeds).

The scientific products that received legal protection in 2020 are 15 in number, including 5 varieties of common winter wheat; 6 varieties of barley; 2 varieties of cotton; 1 variety of durum wheat and 1 variety of Baikal fraud.

The tendency to create varieties with good adaptability and plasticity to changes in agro-climatic conditions in the country, good productivity and quality, allowing the development of sustainable and competitive agriculture in Bulgaria continues. Good varietal structure is a condition for overcoming the negative effects of climate change and maintaining the sustainability of the agricultural sector.

As a result of this active activity, the Agricultural Academy has fulfilled over 50 licensing, distribution and trade agreements with partners from Bulgaria, Turkey, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, etc., and Bulgarian varieties are included in the variety lists of Serbia, Turkey, Romania, Northern Macedonia, China, etc.

#### **8.1.2. Transfer of knowledge and scientific products and vocational training**

In 2020, the AA maintained 54 demonstration fields and farms for production and educational purposes. Open days to acquaint farmers with new varieties of plants and breeds of animals, with innovative selection, plant protection, agrochemical and technological practices, were organized in 34 of them.

During the year, 10 scientific-practical conferences and round tables on issues related to modern agriculture, economics and marketing, as well as the financing of agricultural science, were held.

Scientists from the Academy provided advice to farmers on the varietal structure of the main crops grown in the respective regions, the fight against diseases and pests, the competitiveness and profitability of different types of production. Expert assistance was provided to national and international institutions, governing bodies (MAFF, MES, EU, MoEW, WHO, Bulgarian Institute for Standardization).

One training course with seven participants was conducted, through which the students acquired a professional qualification in the specialty "Farmer", profession "Farmer".

The AA institutes have prepared a variety of printed materials, thematic exhibitions, presentations, demonstrations and workshops in support of secondary school education. Brochures, newsletters and leaflets were printed. The researchers participated in 121 radio and 62 television broadcasts. Numerous materials have been prepared and published in the press (AGRO, Trakiyski Vesti, Stopanin, Bulgarian Farmer, Agrovesti, etc.).



In 2020, the departments of the Academy participated in 34 exhibitions and fairs of national and local character. 17 open days and celebrations were organized (including World Soil Day, International Black Sea Day, Agrarian Science Day, Plant Charm Day, European Researchers' Night).

### **8.1.3. Qualification structure of scientists and training of doctorate students**

In 2020, 477 scientists worked at the AA.

During the year, 68 doctorate students were trained in the structural units of the Academy, and 10 doctorate students successfully defended their dissertations and received diplomas for educational and scientific degree "doctor". The newly enrolled doctoral students were 21, 11 of which were part-time students.

The training of doctoral students takes place in 21 scientific institutes of the Academy under 30 doctoral programs (a total of 58 accreditations), from 9 professional fields in 4 scientific fields, approved by the National Agency for Training and Accreditation (NEAA).

### **8.1.4. Specialized scientific journals**

In 2020, there was an increase in the number of scientific publications and citations in journals with impact factor and impact rank, which is evidence of increased quality of scientific production of the AA and its great recognition by the world scientific community. 648 scientific papers were published, of which 204 publications in impact factor and impact rank journals and 239 articles in Web of Science All databases. The articles in peer reviewed foreign and Bulgarian journals with scientific review were 198, and the published monographs and book chapters - 7. The number of citations was 2,032 (1,486 were in journals with impact factor and impact rank, and 546 in foreign and Bulgarian journals with scientific review).

## **8.2. Implementation of National Science Programs in the Field of Agriculture and Agricultural Sciences, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES)**

***National Science Program (NCP) "Healthy foods for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life", approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 577 of 17.08.2018 and funded by the Ministry of Education and Science***

The funds provided by the Ministry of Education and Science for the second year of implementation of the program - 2020, amounted to BGN 1,352,975, and for the third - 2021, the funding amounted to 1 BGN 500,000. The program is implemented jointly by the leading partner - Agricultural University, Plovdiv town and the partner organizations - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Agricultural Academy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", University of Food Technologies and Thrace University. The overall goal of the program is to conduct basic and applied research to create adapted modern models and technologies for production of healthy foods for a strong regional bioeconomy and to improve the quality of life of the population of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The activities of the program are divided as follows:

Component 1: Climate change, ecosystem services and food systems;

Component 2: Plant health and safety in food systems;

Component 3: Food quality for a better quality of life;

Component 4: Bioeconomy, food systems and integrated regional development.

The expected results from the program implementation are:

Fundamental results:

- Forecast models for the impact of the used agricultural practices on the ecological condition of the agro-ecosystems and the ecosystem services offered by them.
- Forecast models and scenarios, by using satellite data and maps, for the effect of climate change on the development of priority agro-ecosystems for the country for production of safe products and foods of plant and animal origin.

- Development of an integrated approach for improvement of the ecosystem services, provided by them, related to soil, water, air, biodiversity and ensuring an appropriate landscape in line with climate change.
- Generating new knowledge on the impact of agricultural practices on biodiversity, genetic resources and the biological base of regional bioeconomies.
- Development of new approaches in plant protection and the application of biological methods to control diseases and pests.
- Approaches for implementation of the new generation of value added chains based on regionally specialized bioeconomies, as well as the creation of the necessary knowledge base and technological expertise to serve sectoral bioeconomies.
- New analytical methods, processes and tools for proving the authenticity and geographical origin of raw materials for creating traditional or innovative food products.
- The microbiota of specific and traditional Bulgarian ingredients and products with potential for application in the production of safe and harmless food raw materials.
- New methods for quality control of organic products and food.
- Development of innovative technologies for production of food products with high added value.

#### Applied results:

- New models and technological solutions for the priority agro-ecosystems for the country, adapted to climate change and preserving biodiversity.
- Creating a database of plant and animal genetic resources.
- New technological solutions for sustainable storage and use of the resource base, including local genetic resources and raw materials.
- Adapted plant health management system based on digital methods and decision support systems of biological business units to increase competitiveness.
- Methodology for research of biologically active substances or their extracts and determination of their quality and applicability as new plant polymers or new flavoring/pharmaceutical products for use in the cosmetics and food industry or for improving the quality of life.
- Technologies for use of bioresources (medicinal and medicinal plants, legumes and energy crops, etc.) and their transformation into value-added products (food, feed), bioenergy or in the pharmacological and food industries.
- Development of a system for assessment of the quality and functionality of biological and biologically based products, food and packaging and their impact on human health.
- Development of an Action Plan to stimulate "Regional bioeconomy ecosystems", built around regionally active innovation systems and clusters (industrial and rural).
- Creation of a Bulgarian technological platform for knowledge transfer and intellectual property in the field of agricultural sciences.
- Development of an innovative analytical methodology for assessing the origin, identity and quality of food.
- Development of innovative technologies for obtaining food products based on all-natural ingredients with appropriate taste and high stability.
- Increasing the participation of Bulgarian research teams in consortia in the Framework Program for Research and other European instruments such as BBI, EIT, etc.

During the reporting period, large arrays of new data in a large number of scientific fields were received, processed or are being processed. Significant publishing and promotion activities have been carried out. The work with young scientists, doctoral students and students is active. There is growth in the involvement of business partners, agricultural producers and processors, branch organizations, as well as the creation of international scientific networks. The newly acquired information begins to fill with content what is planned for the individual components of the program, which gets a real look and emphasizes its role and importance for the economy and the improvement of the quality of life of the population in the country.

Public impact of the program results:

- Ecological and productive agricultural systems
  - Working models for priority habitats and crops, varieties and hybrids with the highest ecological plasticity and adaptation to climate change.
- Flexibility to climate change and better ecosystem services
  - Production agrosystem management models involving local genetic resources and raw materials offering key ecosystem services.
  - Ecological plant protection through implemented high-tech (digital) approaches for management of agro-ecosystems (Decision support system) for safe production and increased competitiveness.
- Offering better and safer food and innovative products
  - New plant polymers or new flavoring/pharmaceutical products from biologically active substances or their extracts.
  - Implementation of innovative analytical methods for assessing the origin, identity and quality of food and production technologies.
- Increasing the income and social status of the rural population
  - Proposed models for regional ecosystems for bioeconomy, increasing the income and social status of the rural population.

Information about the program can be found on the developed website: <http://www.nnp-food.au-plovdiv.bg>.

**National Science Program "Reproductive Biotechnologies in Animal Husbandry in Bulgaria" (NNP REPROBIOTECH), approved by the Council of Ministers No. 577 / 17.08.2018 and funded by the Ministry of Education and Science**

The funds provided by the Ministry of Education and Science for the second year of implementation of the program - 2020, amounted to BGN 644,975. The overall goal of the program is to optimize the reproductive process in animal husbandry through the introduction of innovative biotechnologies and knowledge transfer. REPROBIOTECH is aimed at achieving three specific goals related to reproductive biotechnology in animal husbandry:

- Use of fresh and cryopreserved genetic material.
- Improving reproductive potential through the use of non-hormonal bioactive supplements during important periods for reproduction.
- Knowledge transfer and reproductive biotechnology.

The program is implemented jointly in cooperation between the leading organization - Thrace University and partner organizations - Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction "Acad. K. Bratanov" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Agricultural Academy, the Agricultural University and the University of Food Technologies. NNP REPROBIOTECH has been developed in three work packages.

During the reporting period under NNP REPROBIOTECH activities for the second stage, meeting the objectives set in the program, were implemented. Sufficient research activity was carried out in the field of

reproduction of large and small ruminants and equidae. Activities for selection, preparation and production of genetic material ; selection of male breeders; testing of fixed-time estrus synchronization protocols for artificial insemination; optimization of early reproduction through intensive nutrition and application of organic supplements, were performed. The influence of heat stress on some reproductive indicators in dairy cows in temperate continental climate was studied.

A technological solution for resynchronization of estrus and ovulation with early diagnosis of pregnancy in dairy cows was developed; Reproductive biotechnology "Embryo transfer in cattle" was developed; a methodology for application of reproductive biotechnology for "In vitro production of embryos from high-yielding cows slaughtered as needed" was developed; reproductive biotechnology "Embryo transfer in horses" was developed. Expansion of the "European Network for Reproductive Biotechnology in Animal Husbandry" created by the Institute of Animal Science-Kostinbrod, AA, etc., is reported.

The more interesting results, obtained during the reporting period, are related to the use of a composite food supplement containing natural and biologically active components of plant origin, vitamins and minerals. The study was conducted in order to obtain new data for future practical application of biologically active additives based on improving the reproductive potential of male animals. In conclusion, it can be stated that the inclusion of biologically active additives in the rations of male breeders under a certain scheme can increase fertility in sheep and the birth of more live lambs in an efficient and easily feasible way for farmers.

An interesting result was obtained in the study of the influence of heat stress on some reproductive indicators in dairy cows in temperate continental climates. It was concluded that the cooling of cows in the months from May to September has a positive effect on the reproductive performance of dairy cows, and at higher values of heat stress the fertility rate decreases. The animals that were the subject of the study are from a farm that has installed cows cooling devices.

In the middle of 2021 the implementation of the program ended, and most of the indicators were even exceeded. Its final report is published on the MES website: <http://www.mon.bg/bg/101040>, and everything about the program can be found on the developed website: <http://reprobiotech.eu/>.

### **8.3. Advisory activities**

A significant 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 in order to implement the CAP and increase the competitiveness of Bulgarian producers in the European single market is implemented through the National Agricultural Advisory Service. (NAAS).

The activities of the NAAS are diverse and complement each other in order to provide different services according to the needs of farmers and for the information to reach a wider range of people. In 2020, the experts from the Territorial Regional Offices (TRO) of NAAS provided free of charge to candidates under sub-measure 6.3. „Start-up aid for the development of small holdings” and under sub-measure 4.1.2. "Investments in agricultural holdings under the Thematic sub-program for development of small farms" of the RDP 2014-2020 consulting and technical assistance in submitting their project proposals in UMIS 2020. In connection with the COVID-19 epidemic, the Service experts provided free consultations to farmers under measure 21 "Extraordinary temporary support for farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis" of the RDP 2014 – 2020.

The Service supports the transfer and application of scientific and practical achievements in the field of agriculture and thus helps to improve the "research - advice in agriculture - agricultural business" relation. In 2020, the activities related to the organization of demonstration events were increased in order to improve mutual learning and exchange of knowledge between farmers and strengthen the link between them. Conducting online trainings/seminars becomes a common practice.

Remote reception (consultation days) are held in different settlements, which are far from the regional centers, in order to facilitate the access of farmers to consulting services. There are also more and more electronic services and various digital tools (online information meetings, seminars, demonstrations and trainings) for communication with farmers, which prove to be particularly effective.

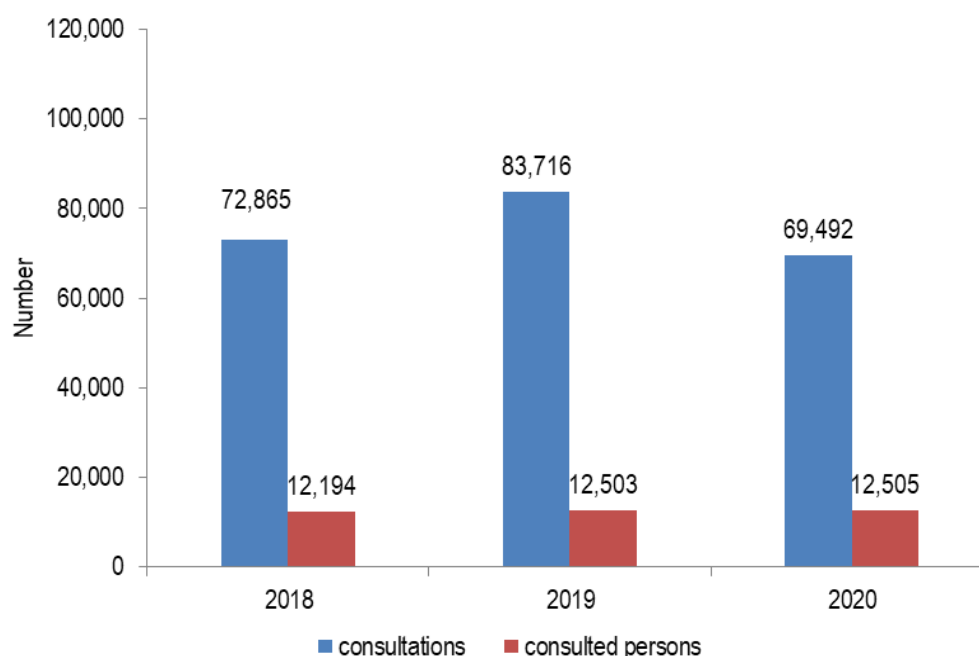
The NAAS disseminates useful information to farmers and promotes good practices in applying for and implementing RDP projects.

All consultations provided by the NAAS are free of charge for farmers.

In 2020, a total of 12,505 people received 69,492 consultations from NAAS experts. The number of consulted persons remains unchanged compared to 2019. This is due to the emergency situation with the COVID-19 pandemic on the one hand, and to the increasing duration of each consultation due to lack of experience of farmers in the completion of documents and their submission to UMIS 2020, on the other hand. There is a decrease in the consultations provided by the NAAS in the office and on site in agricultural holdings by 22% compared to 2019. Most of the persons who received consultations benefit from the full package of advisory services offered by the NAAS.

The NAAS activities are mainly focused to the following target groups: 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. 2. Total number of provided consultations and consulted persons in the office and on site for the period 2018 - 2020.**

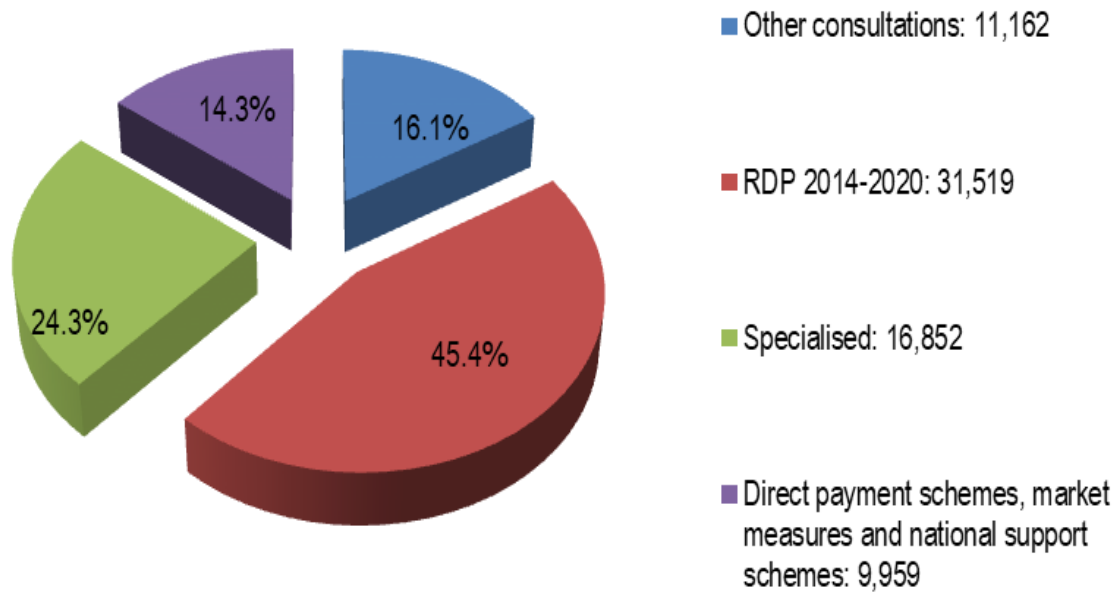


**Source:** NAAS

In 2020, the Service's experts made 2,142 on-site visits to agricultural holdings, which is 39% less than in 2019 (explained by the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020 and the introduced social distance measures to prevent infection). During site visits in their farms, farmers receive specific advice and an assessment of the conditions in which crops and animals are raised. This helps to increase the quantity and quality of products in compliance with European norms and standards.

In 2020, NAAS experts provided 6,110 consultations on topics related to the third National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)) for the period 2013-2020. 3,757 people were consulted - 18.9% less than 2019, on topics related to different types of activities with direct or indirect effect on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Figure V.3. Provided consultations by type in 2020**



**Source:** NAAS

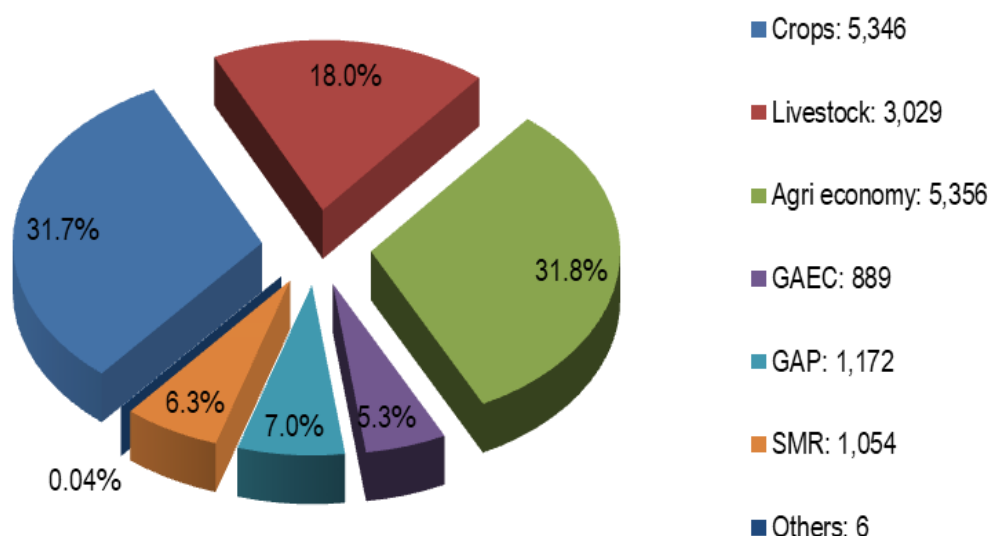
The leading place in the year is occupied by the consultations on the RDP 2014 - 2020 - 31,519 (45.4%) or 14% less than in 2019. They were mainly related to the opportunities for support under sub-measures 6.3 "Start-up aid for development of small farms" and 4.1.2 "Investments in agricultural holdings under the Thematic sub-program for development of small farm" of the RDP 2014-2020.

The specialized consultations with 16,852 (24.3%) rank second, and compared to 2019 they have decreased by 24%. The topics of the specialized consultations provided in 2020 can be summarized in the following main areas: crop growing (including organic plant growing) - 5,346; animal husbandry (incl. organic animal husbandry) - 3,029; agrarian economy - 5,356; statutory management requirements (SMR) - 1,054; rules for good agricultural practice (GAP) - 1,172; conditions for maintaining the land in good agricultural and ecological condition (GAEC) - 889; others - 6.

The number of consultations regarding the Direct Payment Schemes, Market Measures and National Support Schemes group in 2020 was 9,959, 4% more than the previous year. From the different areas of consultations on direct payments, the greatest interest was shown in the consultations under the coupled support schemes for fruit and vegetables; the single area payment scheme; other national support schemes, incl. state aid, and the National Beekeeping Program.

In the consultations from the group "Others" there is a decrease of 27% compared to 2019, to 11,162. The largest number of consultations were provided on: the registration and re-registration of farmers under Ordinance 3 on the Establishment and Maintenance of a Register of Farmers of 1999 (4,443). Most often, these consultations are of interest to people for whom agriculture has been an ancillary activity in recent years or do not have the necessary experience and want to turn agricultural production into a main activity. This group also includes consultations on other registration, permitting and licensing regimes related to agriculture, registrations and/or categorizations of livestock farms, incl. apiaries and those related to safe working conditions and concluding contracts for the use of agricultural land.

**Figure V.4. Distribution of the provided specialized consultations in 2020 by type**



Source: NAAS

#### 8.4. Vocational training

The Vocational Training Center (VTC) at the NAAS is licensed by the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET). It provides high-quality training with the main goal of farmers to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge related to the main problems in the field of environmental protection, soil, water, climate change, biodiversity. Through the territorial regional offices of the NAAS in each province city, the VTC organizes trainings for farmers at a time and place convenient for them, without having to be absent from their farms.

In 2020, a total of 117 people were trained in the VTC at the NAAS, of which 5 in full-time training in part of a profession and received certificates for vocational training as per a MES form, and the rest through remote (online) from in programs related to raising the qualification as experts and lecturers, incl. activities in implementation of measure 2 "Consulting services, farm management services and farm replacement services" of the RDP 2014-2020.

In the course of training, the students have mastered the principles and requirements of agroecology and organic farming, related to the successful implementation of activities under measure 10 "Agroecology and climate" and measure 11 "Organic farming" of the RDP 2014-2020.

#### 8.5. Improving the "research - advice in agriculture - agricultural business" link

In 2020, 108 joint information and training seminars on the opportunities to support farmers under the RDP 2014-2020 and direct payment schemes - the 2020 campaign were held. Lecturers of the events were NAAS experts, scientists and specialists from the AA, Agricultural University - Plovdiv town, Thrace University - Stara Zagora, Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, University of Economics - Varna town, the Regional Directorates at the BFSA.

The joint information events during the year were 79 in total, with more than 3,000 farmers taking part. The seminars with demonstrations in the farms of NAAS clients were 20 in number. By their nature, these joint activities and events constitute specialized training, fully oriented to the needs of farmers. During the period, 42 face-to-face and 37 online seminars were held.

## **8.6. Information support**

In 2020, the NAAS experts organized 652 information events (including remote receptions) on specialized topics and on topics related to the activities of the Service under Measure 2 of the RDP 2014-2020 and the opportunities to support farmers under the RDP.

Due to the complicated epidemiological situation in the country related to COVID-19, there were 482 remote receptions, as well as 1,468 persons consulted in this way twice less than in 2019.

NAAS experts participated in 170 information events during the year (excluding remote receptions) - 59 information meetings, 52 seminars, 19 demonstrations and demonstration seminars, 7 information stands and 33 other events.

Numerous information materials (information leaflets, brochures, bulletins, farmer's calendar) on current topics and issues were prepared and disseminated to support their work with farmers.

Useful information for farmers was also provided through the NAAS website and social media.

## **8.7. Agrochemical analyses**

The areas of laboratory activity of the Center for Testing and Assessment of Soil Suitability and Quality (CTASSQ) are related to the requirements for improving the activity and increasing the competitiveness of farms.

CTASSQ assists small farms in receiving advisory packages from the NAAS experts.

The Center performs agrochemical analyses of soil samples for acidity, digestible phosphorus and potassium, mineral nitrogen (ammonia and nitrate), total nitrogen in soils, determination of active calcium, determination of humus and determination of the norm for liming acid soils.

In 2020, the laboratory received 790 soil samples from 470 persons, on the basis of which 1,226 samples were made for 6,032 determinations (analyses). Based on the performed analyses, 913 recommendations for fertilization were prepared. The received soil samples were mainly related to the provision of consulting packages under sub-measure 2.1.2 of measure 2 of the RDP 2014 - 2020.

## **8.8. NAAS activity under sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small farmers".**

The implementation of sub-measure 2.1.2 "Consultancy services for small agricultural holdings" under measure 2 "Consultancy services, farm management services and farm substitution services" of the RDP for the period 2014-2020 started in 2016 and NAAS was the only advisory organization designated at this stage and approved by the EC to provide consulting services to small farms.

Under sub-measure 2.1.2, the NAAS provides six main advisory packages entirely free of charge, contributing to the economic development and the strengthening of small farms through modernization and technological renewal, as well as to improving environmental protection and combating climate change.

The total number of submitted applications for receiving a consulting package under sub-measure 2.1.2 in 2020 was 1 134, on the basis of which 1 103 written reports were prepared. Over 98% of the submitted applications were closed by providing the requested advisory packages to the farmers.

## **8.9. Activity of the NAAS under measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" of the RDP 2014 - 2020**

In 2020, 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 farms" of measure 6 "Development of farms and enterprises" of the RDP 2014 – 2020.

During the period of the call under sub-measure 6.3. 174 applications were submitted, on the basis of which the NAAS experts prepared 173 project proposals. The applicants were also assisted in the submission of their project proposals in UMIS 2020, where 214 projects were registered. 53% of the project proposals were by sheep and goat farmers, 21% by poultry farms, 5% by pig farms and 20% by mixed farms.



#### **8.10. NAAS activity under measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" of the RDP 2014 - 2020**

In mid-2020, a call for applications under sub-measure 4.1.2 "Investments in agricultural holdings under the Thematic subprogramme for the development of small farms" of measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" of the RDP 2014-2020 was launched.

During the period 211 applications were submitted under sub-measure 4.1.2., and NAAS experts prepared and submitted to UMIS 2020 a total of 208 project proposals. Over 90% of the filed project proposals were related to crop farms, 5% to livestock farms and 5% to mixed farms.

#### **8.11. Common Agricultural Policy 2021 - 2027**

One of the main ways to achieve the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy in the 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), aimed at interaction between people and organizations, promotion of mutual learning, generation, sharing and use of knowledge and information related to agriculture. The systems should include a wide variety of participants - farmers, advisers, researchers, educational and training institutions, raw material suppliers, retailers, media representatives, ministries, as part of national or regional AKIS systems. These persons can be contacted by the advisory services in each Member State.

### **9. Hail Suppression**

The geographical position and orography of the country predetermine 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 hazardous phenomena such as hailstorms, floods, tornadoes and lightning. Predictions based on numerical models in 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 Southeast Europe.

Bulgaria is one of the countries in Europe where the trend of increasing the frequency and strength of hail processes in general 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 2020 was 2,180,000 ha, of which 1,402,687 ha were arable land, permanent crops and mixed-use areas with heavy hailstorms in the provinces of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Plevna, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Haskovo and Sliven.

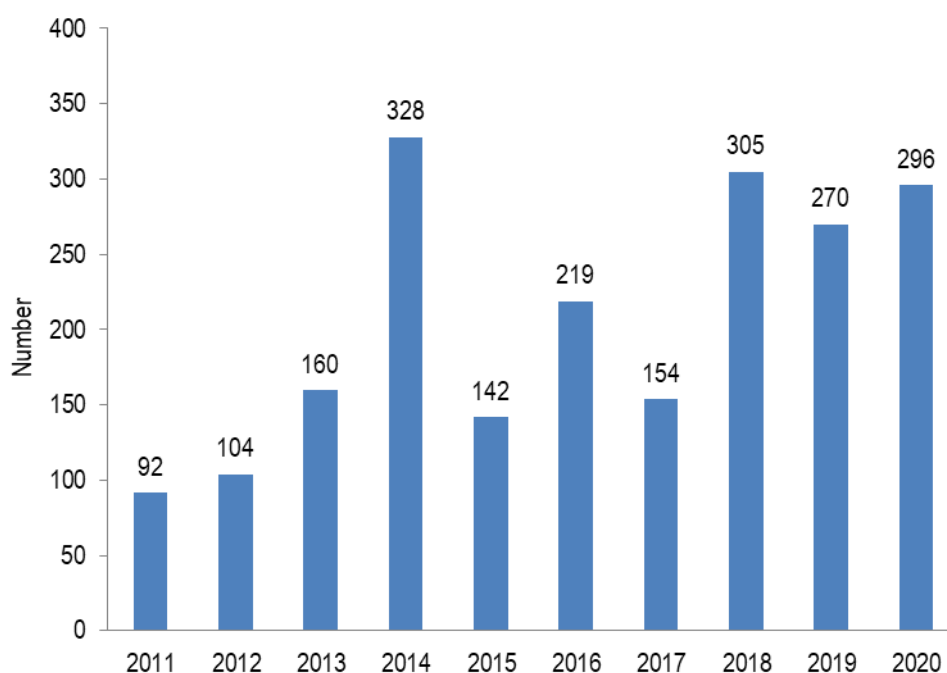
HSEA has built a meteorological radar network, which is used for monitoring and detection and ultra-short-term forecasting for severe storms, lightning, torrents, hailstorms and other adverse weather events over the country. Meteorological radar information is transmitted around the clock to certain structures at the Ministry of Interior, the Air Force, the State Enterprise "Air Traffic Management", the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology and the Sofia Municipality. Meteorological information is constantly provided through the Agency's website.

Joint teams of HSEA and the Regional Directorates of Agriculture conduct surveys for damage in protected areas after each impact. The Agency receives information on the sown areas, the condition and the phase of development of the crops, harvested areas, average yield, etc.

The preparation for the active season involves activities on setting the radar, communication and anti-hail equipment in readiness and for conducting refresher courses for specialized administration and training courses for candidates for rocket launchers.

Based on weather forecasts and the phase of development of agricultural crops in the protected areas, in 2020 the active season for the work of anti-hail protection in the country opened on April 26 and closed on September 30.

**Figure V.5. Actions of the hail protection system in the period 2011 - 2020**



**Source:** HSEA

Season 2020 season is classified with a "high degree of hail activity" for Southern and Northern Bulgaria. During the year, 296 actions were carried out in 62 days, and 1,289 hail hazard cells were treated. The total hail hazard time was over 207 hours.

The last ten days of April 2020 were characterized by atypical for spring development of powerful hail clouds in Northern and Southern Bulgaria. 10 actions were carried out in 2 days and 44 cells were treated, with a total time of hail stage over 7 hours.

The month of May was characterized by an atypically low frequency of hailstorms. 52 actions were carried out in 11 days. 191 hazardous cells with a total processing time of 1 919 minutes were treated.

In June, the frequency of hailstorms was high over the whole country. 113 actions were carried out in 20 days. 559 hail hazard cells with a total treatment time of 5,446 minutes were treated.

In July there was a decrease in the days with hail hazard processes compared to the previous month and an increase in the days with typical summer character and sunny weather. 55 actions were carried out in 12 days. The number of treated hail hazard cloud cells was 235. The time for active action on the cells in the hail hazard stage was over 40 hours (2,475 minutes).

The month of August was characterized by an atypically high frequency of convective processes. 52 actions on 226 hail hazard cells were carried out on 12 dates.

The precipitations in September do not have the intensity of summer precipitation, but nevertheless the month stands out with more days with the development of hail hazard cloud cells compared to the previous 2 years, with 14 cloud seedings on 34 hail hazard cells on a total of 5 dates.

Throughout the season of cloud seeding, crop affecting hail occurred only from 16 cells. Out of all 62 days in which actions were carried out, damage to crops in the territory protected by the HSEA was registered only on 6 dates in May, June and July. There was hail damage to agricultural production on 1,322 ha with an average damage rate of 34.35%.

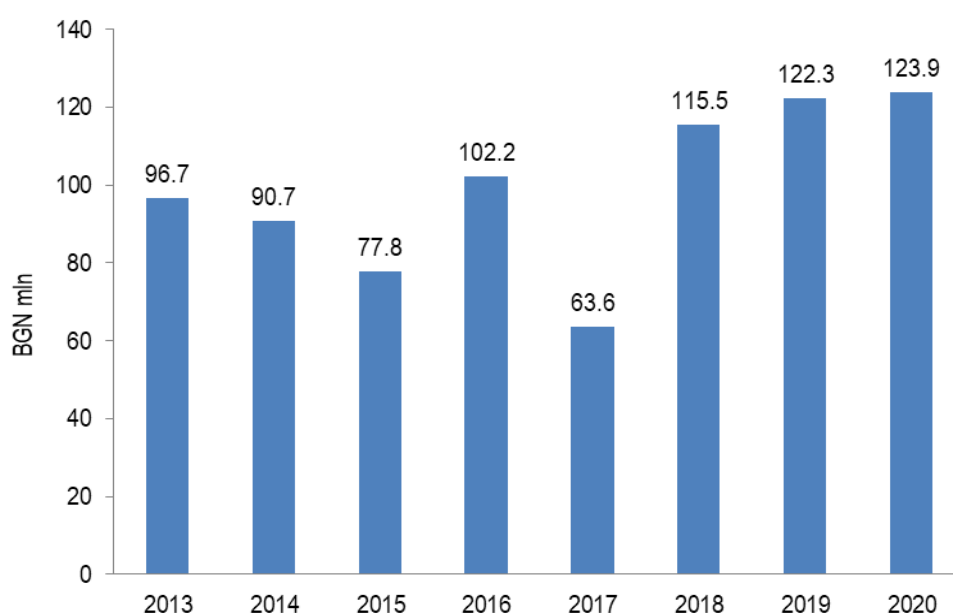
The main reasons for the damage in the protected area were:

- entry of cloud cells with high hail hazard parameters and formed hailstones, which makes it impossible to compete;

- hurricane winds with a speed of up to 40 m/sec, leading to a decrease in the concentration of the reagent in the seeding area;
- reduced concentration of artificial competitive ice-forming nuclei in fast-growing cells due to insufficient growth of the ice-forming nuclei of the reagent to competitive sizes;
- reduced concentration of artificial competitive ice-forming nuclei due to restricted firing over settlements (prohibited azimuths (directions) for firing);
- Insufficient seeding and interruption of the treatment due to the shortage of anti-hail rockets at the rocket sites.

According to the adopted Methodology for determining the economic efficiency of hail protection, in 2020 the value of the saved production as a result of cloud seeding carried out by HSEA is estimated at BGN 123.9 million.

**Figure V.6. Value of the production saved from hail during the period 2013 - 2020, million BGN**



Source: HSEA

In 2021 a meteorological Doppler radar station was installed in a radar center in Shumen town, which provides detailed radar monitoring of the atmosphere over Bulgaria, necessary for the implementation of the two methods of impact on hazardous clouds - rocket and aircraft.

In connection with the strategy for development of hail protection, envisaging expansion of its scope, in 2021 a pilot project was launched to combat hail by air, covering the unprotected territory of Northern Bulgaria with missiles.

## **10. Reducing the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Business**

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 on businesses and citizens, in early 2021 the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry made an annual review of regulatory regimes applied in the system in 2020. The review was aimed at identifying the opportunities to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden on businesses and citizens, creating better conditions for business development by improving access and improving the quality of public services, and achieving higher efficiency of public spending.

The main mechanism for achieving this goal is the elimination of unnecessary regulatory regimes and optimization of the procedures for their implementation, introduction of electronic administrative services and increasing the volume of publicly available information for business operators and citizens.

The expected results from the reduction of the regulatory burden on business are:

- increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture;
- providing an opportunity for the business to plan the impact of regulation;
- stimulating the development of economic activity;
- ensuring equal conditions for conducting business and creating conditions for fair competition.

#### **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 January 1, 2021, 171 regulatory regimes related to the regulation of economic activity in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forests were identified, including:

- licensing - 10;
- registration - 69;
- permits - 82;
- certifying - 2;
- Notifying - 2;
- coordinating - 6.

Of the total number of regulatory regimes, 44 were administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food - Central Office, and the remaining 127 - by various structures of the ministry system.

#### **10.2. Measures Taken in 2020 to Reduce the Regulatory and Administrative Burden on Businesses**

In 2020, 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 the normative acts regulating the economic relations in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forestry were adopted, by which 3 regulatory regimes were eased by eliminating the requirement to submit documents that can be obtained ex officio. The easing of the regulatory regimes was done by amending Ordinance No. 9 on the terms and conditions for issuing permits for planting vines.

### **11. Risk and crisis management in agriculture**

Risk and crisis management in the Agriculture sector in 2020 was characterized by the implementation of measures in two main areas - the measures set out in the Risk and Crisis Management Program in the Agriculture sector and the measures to address the crisis caused by COVID-19.

The global pandemic of COVID-19 poses new challenges to the governments of all countries, and risk and crisis management manifests itself in different aspects and dimensions.

The European Commission is coordinating common European measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic, aimed at strengthening the public health sectors and mitigating the socio-economic consequences in the European Union.

In the context of the principles for establishment of the EU and the common European policy, the EC has adopted a number of measures to address the crisis in agriculture caused by COVID-19. Their main objectives are to ensure the continuity of food production and supply, to provide financial support to farmers and to create "green corridors" within the EU for the supply of goods. The directions outlined by the EU and the financing of the measures for achieving the set goals for overcoming the global crisis caused by COVID-19 are summarized in the following decisions:

- Greater support for EU farmers affected by the COVID-19 crisis, namely by enabling Member States, as an emergency measure, to pay up to EUR 7 000 to farmers and up to EUR 50 000 to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaged in processing, marketing or development of agricultural

products or cotton, excluding fishery products. The aim is to use the available funds from existing rural development programs to support farmers and SMEs particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis and to address liquidity and cash flow problems arising from closures of shops, markets and restaurants;

- Supporting the food industry by increasing the cash flow of farmers and reducing the administrative burden for them;
- Extraordinary measures in support of the food industry, which include additional support for agricultural and food markets - aid for private storage in the dairy and meat sectors, the authorization of market measures for self-organization by operators in severely affected sectors and flexibility for market support programs in the fruit and vegetables, wine and other sectors.

After declaring the global COVID-19 pandemic, the EU adopted measures for the immediate release of cohesion funds, such as:

- Adopted legislative acts to quickly release funding from the EU budget for tackling the COVID-19 crisis, amending Structural and Investment Funds rules so as to allow for greater flexibility and the release of EUR 37 billion for the investment initiative in response to the pandemic;
- Modified the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund in order to include public health emergencies in addition to natural disasters.

In implementation of the measures set out in the Risk and Crisis Management Program in the Agriculture sector to limit the negative impact of the identified risks on the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in 2020 actions were taken in the following main areas:

- Limiting the impact of the instability of agricultural products on the national market, the European Union market and international markets;
- Stabilization and increase of the incomes of the farmers and creation of conditions for development of efficient agricultural production;
- Limiting the potential hazards and managing the factors for outbreaks of infectious diseases in animals and plants;
- Limiting the potential risks of occurrence of floods and forest fires;
- Overcoming the harmful influence and material damages by the occurred sanitary crises in the animal husbandry and plant growing;
- Limiting the consequences and overcoming the harmful effects and losses for farmers from natural and climatic disasters, field and forest fires;
- Preservation and restoration of the biological diversity of the river and sea basins and forests.

In 2020, the financial resources spent on the implementation of risk management measures and activities were aimed at prevention of infectious diseases in animals and plants, limiting the harmful effects of natural and climatic phenomena, supporting farmers' incomes, increasing the competitiveness of agricultural production and control of pests and forest fires. Their implementation was financed by European funds and the state budget, through the use of various methods and schemes - direct payments, state aid, measures under the Rural Development Program, targeted funds from the state budget and own funds within the financing of main activities of the structures responsible for the management of the respective risks.

The financial resources spent for prevention of the harmful impact of natural and climatic factors in 2020 were over BGN 45.9 million - the largest amount for the last three years, and compared to 2018 there was an increase of 41%.

In 2020, local sanitary crises and crisis situations caused by natural disasters in the Livestock and Crop sectors were declared.

For the Livestock sector, local sanitary crises were declared in several areas of the country related to avian influenza and African swine fever, as well as crises caused by natural disasters - adverse weather events.

Crisis situations caused by unfavorable climatic conditions and natural disasters - freezing/frosting, flood/overwetting of agricultural land, hailstorms and drought - were declared for the Crop Sector in almost the entire territory of the country.

In order to overcome the negative and adverse impact of the crisis, as well as reduce material damage to farmers, in 2020 farmers were provided with financial resources as state aid through additional funds from the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria, state aid to compensate for material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives as a result of natural disasters, state aid to compensate for damage to crops caused by adverse climatic events that can equated to natural disasters and de minimis aid under the EU Regulation ) No. 1408/2013.

## **VI. FORESTRY**

### **1. Characteristics of Forest Areas**

The total area of forests and forest territories in Bulgaria as of 31.12.2020 amounted to 4,270,995 ha, of which 3,919,888 ha were forested area (including dwarf pine).

The area of the forest territories were 3,952,575 ha, of which 2,885,194 ha (73%) were forest territories - state property, managed by the state enterprises under Art. 163 of the Forest Act, 172,368 ha (4.3%) state forests managed by the MoEW (including reserves and maintained reserves - 33,393 ha, Rila National Park - 53,479 ha, Pirin National Park - 40 332 ha and Central Balkan National Park - 45 164 ha), 11 271 ha (0.3%) the state forest territories provided for management of Training and Experimental Forestry Units, 441 824 ha (11.2%) forest territories - property of municipalities, 382 252 ha (9.7%) forest territories - property of individuals and 59 666 ha (1.5%) forest territories - property of legal entities, including 17 792 ha forest territories - property of religious communities).

The area of agricultural territories possessing the characteristics of a forest within the meaning of Art. 2 of the Forest Act (forests on agricultural territories) was 318 420 ha, including: 39 685 ha (12.4%) forests on agricultural territories - state property, 182 393 ha (57.3%) forests on agricultural territories - municipal property, 74 194 ha (23.3%) forests on agricultural territories - property of natural persons, 11,089 ha (3.5%) of forests on agricultural territories - property of legal entities (including 2,195 ha of forests on agricultural territories - property of religious communities) and 11,059 ha (3.5%) forests temporarily managed by the municipality.

A new approach was taken in the preparation of the report on forests and forest areas for 2020. The main change was that forests on agricultural land ("Agricultural Fund") were reported by type of ownership, separate from forest areas. The new approach clarified the distribution of areas occupied by forests, both by type of ownership and by type of territory. As the way of reporting the areas in 2019 and 2020 was different, for comparability of the data the analysis was made on the basis of the total area (forest and agricultural area).

Compared to 2019, the total area (forest and agricultural territory) increased by 6,665 ha, which was mainly due to the development status of previously undeveloped areas occupied by forests, in the made inventories for the year. The area of forest territories decreased by 196,776 ha, and the area of forests on agricultural territories increased by 203,441 ha.

The reduction of the area of forest territories was at the expense of the increased area of forests on agricultural territories. The reclassification of the areas was mainly due to differentiated reporting of the areas by types of territories and property. Some of the agricultural areas and forests temporarily managed by the municipality in the previous reports were reported and classified as "forest areas" and "state-owned forest areas".

The area of state forest territories decreased by 27,177 ha, which was mainly related to the new method of reporting, i.e. most of the forests in agricultural areas in the previous reports were reported as state forest areas, duplication of areas, exclusion of forest areas with administrative acts.

The area of the Training and Experimental Farms was increased by 3 ha, as a result of a new mapping of TEFF Petrohan Burzia.

The area of the municipal forest territories shrank by 119,771 ha, due to the increase of the forests on agricultural territories - municipal property.

The total amount of afforested area (forest and agricultural territory) increased by 16,068 ha, as a result of undeveloped forests so far, afforestation of bare areas (fires, clearings and bare lands), revaluation of unsuitable areas in the inventory of forest areas, as well as of self-afforested agricultural areas acquiring the characteristics of a forest, during the last inventories.

The afforested area in the forest territories decreased by 187,769 ha - from 3,789,195 ha to 3,603,426 ha, due to the redistribution of areas between forest and agricultural territories in the new reporting.

The non-timber production area increased by 673 ha, reaching 306,330 ha. There was an increase in meadows, meadows, roads and clearings due to new inventory, and a decrease - in the areas of fires, barns, clearings, rocks, rivers, screes and other non-timber forest areas.

Despite the emergence of self-afforested areas, the afforested area of coniferous forests was 2,892 ha less than the previous year. This was due to the fellings made in connection with biotic attacks of bark beetles and mass drying of pine crops outside the area, which were subsequently reforested with native deciduous species, to the continuing increase in mixed coniferous-deciduous plantations obtained after the creation and subsequent management of coniferous stands, as well as the policy pursued in recent years for the transformation of coniferous plantations and stands created outside their natural range. This trend will continue in the future.

Deciduous high-stemmed forests were 10,040 ha more, due to the conversion of shoot stands to high stem ones, afforestation of post-fire areas, windfalls, etc., self-afforestation of unforested forest areas, reassessment of coniferous stands and low-productivity plantations and transformation of coniferous forests into deciduous. Coppice forests for conversion also increased - by 19,393 ha, as a result of the incorporation in the forest territories of plantations, so far assigned to the category of the so-called "undeveloped forests" and the revaluation of coniferous stands mixed with deciduous shoots.

Low-stemmed forests decreased by 10,467 ha, due to the reassessment of some of the acacia and hornbeam plantations, in which other coppice and/or high-stem tree species predominated.

The general use of regeneration loggings and thinnings for the forest territories, carried out in 2020, amounted to 6,885,592 cubic meters of standing mass, which is equal to 84.9% of the foreseen under the forestry plan (forest development project) 8,108,695 cubic meters of standing wood.

Of these, 3,468,774 cubic meters were from regenerative felling. The implementation of the regenerative felling compared to the planned ones according to the forestry plan (4,544,136 cubic meters) was 76.3%.

3,416,818 cubic meters were harvested from thinnings, which was 95.9% of the one envisaged in the forestry plan (3,564,559 cubic meters).

The annual use in the forest territories - state property amounted to 5 321 404 cubic meters of standing mass, which was equal to 82.5% of the 6 447 534 cubic meters of standing mass envisaged in the forestry plan (forest management project).

The sold annual use of the forests, provided to training experimental forestry units, amounted to 44 862 cubic meters of standing mass (97.9% of the planned); from the municipal forest territories - in the amount of 664,545 cubic meters of standing mass (65.1% of the planned); and that of forests - property of individuals and legal entities - in the amount of 847 858 cubic meters of standing mass (142.7% of the planned).

## 2. Changes of Forest Areas

In 2020 the following changes took place in the forest territories of the country:

- 9 administrative acts for change of the purpose of land properties in forest territories pursuant to art. 14 of the Forest Act (repealed), with a total area of 6.31 ha, with a price for the change of BGN 738,342, were issued. Funds for compensatory afforestation in the amount of BGN 71,035.02 were allocated. 2 administrative acts, terminating the rights of the applicants under issued orders for change of purpose in previous reporting periods, were issued;
- 30 administrative acts for preliminary approval of change of the purpose of land properties in forest territories, with a total area of 56.84 ha, by the order of art. 75, para. 3 of the Forest Act, were issued;
- 36 administrative acts for change of the purpose of land properties in forest territories pursuant to art. 77 of the Forest Act, with a total area of 75.25 ha, with a price for the change of BGN 2,151,526.80, were issued. Funds for compensatory afforestation in the amount of BGN 861,388.76 were allocated. The purpose of 146.12 ha of forest territories was changed free of charge pursuant to art. 73, para. 5 of the Forest Act for the construction of 16 national sites and 9 municipal sites of primary importance, and 25 administrative acts establishing already existing rights and obligations, were issued;
- 13 administrative acts were issued for acquisition of the right of ownership over 1.67 ha of forest territories - private state property, representing built-up and normatively determined adjacent area of buildings, structures, networks and facilities, by the order of § 123, para. 3 of the TFP to the Act amending and supplementing the Forest Act (revoked), with a total sale price of the land properties of BGN 173,063.90 and overheads in the amount of BGN 3,459.66. 2 administrative acts for refusal of acquisition of the right of ownership over the built-up and normatively determined adjacent area of buildings, constructions, networks and facilities by the order of § 123, para. 3 of the TFP to the Act amending and supplementing the Forest Act (revoked), and 1 administrative act for termination of the administrative proceedings, were issued;
- 168 administrative acts for change of the purpose of land properties from agricultural to forest territory pursuant to art. 81 of the Forest Act were issued. The change is free of charge;
- 4 administrative acts for returning land properties with changed purpose to the forest territories - state property, due to expired rights to purchase the properties, were issued;
- 14 administrative acts for preliminary approval for granting the right to build on forest territories - state property, with a total area of 0.68 ha, pursuant to Art. 55 of the Forest Act, were issued;
- 19 administrative acts for establishing the right to build pursuant to art. 56 of the Forest Act, on forest territories - state property, with an area of 0.74 ha, with a total price for the real right of BGN 69,543.70 and BGN 1,403.32 of overheads, were issued. The present value of the standing wood at the current age for the estimated plantations amounted to BGN 3,333.17. The allocated funds for compensatory afforestation were BGN 5,565.42;
- 36 administrative acts for preliminary approval for establishing an easement under Art. 62 of the Forest Act on forest territories - state property, with a total area of 5.49 ha, were issued;
- 27 administrative acts for establishing an easement under Art. 63 of the Forest Act on forest territories - state property, with an area of 6.32 ha, with a total price for the real right of BGN 270,709.00 and BGN 5,414.18 of overheads, were issued. The present value of the standing wood at the current age for the estimated plantations amounted to BGN 33,246.59. The allocated funds for compensatory afforestation were BGN 53,951.94;
- 6 administrative acts for establishing an easement on an energy site under Art. 64 of the Forest Act on forest territories - state property, with an area of 2.25 ha, with a price for the right in rem of BGN 145,018.56 and BGN 2,547.42 of overheads, were issued. The present value of the standing wood at the current age for the estimated plantations amounted to BGN 5,524.01. The allocated funds for



compensatory afforestation were BGN 24,504.48;

- 8 administrative acts for establishing the right of use pursuant to art. 70 of the Forest Act on forest territories - state property, with an area of 3.11 ha, with a total price for the right in rem of BGN 2,032.20 and BGN 40.64 of overheads, were issued. The present value of the standing wood at the current age for the estimated plantations amounted to BGN 7,756.15. The allocated funds for compensatory afforestation were BGN 26,366.76;
- 4 administrative acts for termination, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Code, of the administrative proceedings for establishment of limited rights in rem on forest territories - state property.

### 3. Management of Forest Areas

The management, use and protection of forests is aimed at the formation and maintenance of living and multifunctional forest ecosystems, creating conditions for their natural regeneration and improving their sustainability.

#### 3.1. Afforestation and Protection against Erosion and Torrential Rains

In 2020, EFA's activities in this area were focused mainly on the following areas:

- Implementation of the goals and indicators set in the EFA program and budget;
- Fulfillment of Bulgaria's obligations arising from the membership in the European Union in the field of forest reproductive materials (FRM);
- Approval and registration of basic sources for FRM, registration of FRM suppliers, testing and qualification of seeds and improving the condition of the forest seed production base;
- Maintaining a database of inventories of the created forest crops; 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-scale strengthening 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 answers and opinions;
- Preparation of drafts of normative documents.

**Table VI.1. Implemented activities for creation of forests in 2020**

Item No.	Types of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2020
1.	Collected and harvested seeds by TD SF/SH	kg	34,097
2.	Produced saplings in state forest nurseries	thousand	8,247.2
3.	Afforested areas, including	ha	1,897.6
	- State-owned enterprises	ha	1,760.1
	- municipalities	ha	137.5
4.	Developing stands in state forest territories	ha	482.9
5.	Growing stands in state forest territories	ha	10,094.4
6.	Average percentage of survival of planted trees		
	a) state property		

Item No.	Types of activities	Measure	Implementation for 2020
	- annual	%	66.70
	- biennials	%	71.68
	- triennials	%	81.76
	b) municipal property		
	- annual	%	82.31
	- biennials	%	40.02
	- triennials	%	82.66

Source: EFA

The following activities were carried out in 2020:

- Reports with a database regarding the conducted inventories of the created forest stands; of existing post-fire areas, unrestored clearings and forests destroyed by other natural impacts; the available large-scale strengthenings were prepared and recommendations to eliminate the omissions and errors were given;
- The price of the compensatory afforestation was determined and orders were issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Executive Director of the EFA;
- 9 projects for reclamation of disturbed terrains in forest territories were approved;
- The public register of forest nurseries in the country was updated;
- The National list of approved and registered sources for production of FRM was updated;
- Approved and registered 10 new basic sources in category "selected" for the production of FRM, meeting the minimum requirements of Directive 1999/105/EU were approved and registered and 22 basic sources were revoked;
- 512 control checks of the condition and the conducted activities in the registered basic sources for FRM were performed by FSCS experts were made;
- 168 certificates for identification of the FRM origin were issued by RFD and FSCS.
- In the seed control laboratories of the FSC stations in Sofia and Plovdiv 250 seed control certificates were issued for batches of seeds of deciduous and coniferous species and 58 notification letters for harvest suitability were sent;
- 863 kg of seeds from 214 batches of coniferous and 10 batches of deciduous species were stored in the long-term seed storage facility in Plovdiv FSCS;
- In 2020 Sofia FSCS kept 79 kg of seeds of different origins from 23 tree and shrub species as a seed collection for its bank. 17.5 kg of 8 tree species were stored in Plovdiv FSCS;
- Specialists from Plovdiv FSCS conducted soil surveys of 6 forest nurseries throughout the country, and prepared dossiers with prescriptions for improving soil fertility in the surveyed nurseries;
- A joint project of Sofia FSCS and South-Western State Forestry Enterprise Blagoevgrad Life 16 NAT/BG/000817 "Restoration and improvement of the conservation status of priority forest habitats from the NATURA 2000 network in Bulgaria" was under implementation.

531.2 ha of anti-erosion afforestation was carried out to protect the forest territories from erosion and torrential rains.

The funds spent by the state forest enterprises for implementation of the activities for afforestation

and protection against erosion and floods amounted to approximately BGN 16.3 million.

### **3.2. Logging in Forests**

In 2020, thinnings were carried out on an area of 39,270.9 ha in state forests, which represents 62.1% of the FEP/FMP projections, to regulate the tree composition and to improve the growing conditions. Of these, 53.8% were in coniferous forests, 28.8% in deciduous high stem forests and 17.6% in coppice forests for conversion to seed. In the forests up to 40 years of age, thinnings were carried out on a total of 16,823.3 ha. The execution of thinnings without material extraction on an area of 2,160.9 ha was 41.3% of the FEP/FMP projections. By types of thinnings, the implementation of FEP/FMP was 39.2% for clearing, 37.8% for pruning, 53.8% for spacing and 74.7% for selective cutting.

During the year, selective felling was carried out on an area of 941.7 ha, thus fulfilling the FEP/FMP projections at 85.6%.

Two control inspections of the marking and selection fellings in seed production plantations on a total area of 1,703 ha were carried out by FSCS experts.

In 2020, thinnings were carried out in non-state forests on an area of 7,836.4 ha, of which 5,013.8 ha in municipal forests, 2,302.3 ha in forests - owned by individuals, 355.5 ha in forests - property of legal entities and 164.8 ha in forests - property of religious organizations.

Pruning of standing trees was carried out in state forests to improve the quality of the wood produced and to support the process of natural self-pruning of the stands on 1,636.2 ha, by 1,381.9 ha more than the FEP/FMP projections. The natural regeneration on an area of 4 463.1 ha (44.3% of the foreseen of the forest management plans) was supported, with 1 250.5 ha less than the implementation in the previous year. A logging fund in the amount of 5,222,501 cubic meters of standing wood or 822,525 cubic meters less than in 2019 was marked.

In 2020, state-owned enterprises spent a total of BGN 3.3 million on the implementation of activities related to the management of state-owned forest territories.

## **4. Use of Wood and Non-wood Forest Products**

### **4.1. Use of Wood**

In 2020, the EFA and the Regional Forest Directorates carried out constant control of the issued felling permits and the drawn up protocols for certification of felling sites through the EFA information system. During the year, felling permits were issued for 8,012,845 cubic meters of lying wood, and as of January 25, 2021, protocols were drawn up to certify the felling areas for 5,679,297 cubic meters of lying wood.

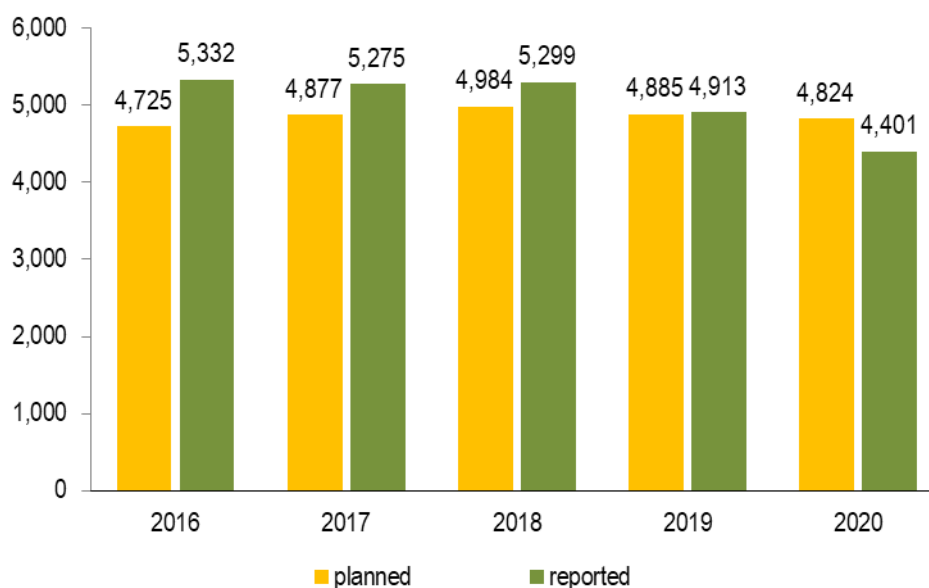
In 2020, the state enterprises under Art. 163 of the Forest Act have sold a total of 4,401,488 cubic meters of wood from forest areas - state property or 91% of the planned amount. The sold wood was 512 thousand cubic meters (10%) less than in 2019.

The sold wood, affected by abiotic and biotic factors, amounted to 463 thousand cubic meters, or 11% of all sales, maintaining the share reported in the previous year.

The total revenues from the sale of wood in 2020 amounted to BGN 251,815 thousand, 16% less on an annual basis. The total costs for the use of wood amounted to BGN 81,681 thousand, 4% below the reported in 2019, and they included deductions from the selling price of wood to the fund "Investments in Forests" in the amount of BGN 27,351 thousand.

In 2020, 48.7% of the total quantities of wood were sold through warehouse wood. The remaining 51.3% was sold through the sale of standing wood to individuals for personal use and to legal entities after tendering. In order to meet the needs of individuals, a total of 537,632 thousand cubic meters of wood mainly firewood, were sold according to a price list, which was 95,000 cubic meters or 15% less than in 2019.

**Figure VI.1. Planned and reported wood sold from the forest territories - state property for the period 2016 - 2020, thousand cubic meters**



Source: MAFF

The volume of wood provided in 2020 under long-term contracts concluded by state enterprises was 234 thousand cubic meters of standing wood and 177 thousand cubic meters of harvested wood, and the total amount was 9% of sold wood, which was a decrease of 20% compared to the previous year.

After electronic tendering, sales for a total of 751 thousand cubic meters of wood from state forests were realized during the year, with 61 thousand cubic meters less than in 2019.

The weighted average reported selling prices of wood from the forest territories - state property, from warehouses and as standing wood, were respectively BGN 74.74/cubic meter and BGN 42.03/cubic meter respectively, reducing by 1-3% or 0.53 BGN/cubic meter and 1.26 BGN/cubic meter compared to 2019. The average cost of timber extraction increased slightly - by 0.33 BGN/cubic meter. m.

According to the financial plans of the State Enterprise for 2021, the total use of wood is expected to be 4,781,158 cubic meters.

**Table VI.2. Use of wood from forest areas provided for management by the State Enterprise and sales revenues in 2020**

Method of use and sale	2019		2020			
	Quantity (cubic meters)	Value (BGN thousand)	Quantity		Value	
			cubic meters	Change versus 2019 (%)	thousand BGN	Change versus 2019 (%)
<b>I. Revenues from sale of wood (1 + 2 + 3 + 4):</b>	<b>4,912,802</b>	<b>300,217</b>	<b>4,401,488</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>251,815</b>	<b>84%</b>
1. Sale of standing wood	2,089,668	90,461	2,259,804	108%	94,984	105%
1.1. including. according to a price list to individuals for personal use	248,443	3,814	208,870	84%	3,250	85%
2. Sale of harvested wood	2,744,877	206,612	2,066,359	75%	154,440	75%

Method of use and sale	2019		2020			
	Quantity (cubic meters)	Value (BGN thousand)	Quantity		Value	
			cubic meters	Change versus 2019 (%)	thousand BGN	Change versus 2019 (%)
2.1. including. according to a price list to individuals for personal use	384,178	27,876	328,193	85%	23,511	84%
3. Use of wood under Art. 116b of the FA	6,063	x	5,398	89%	463	x
4. Use of wood under Art. 193 of the FA	72,193	1,957	69,927	97%	1,941	99%
<b>Total costs, quantity (I.1. + II.1.), Value II. (1 + 2 + 3):</b>	<b>4,957,474</b>	<b>105,166</b>	<b>4,389,013</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>81,670</b>	<b>78%</b>
1. Costs for wood harvesting - total:	2,867,806	71,160	2,129,209	74%	53,514	75%
2. Costs for construction of roads and current repairs of forest roads	x	6,655	x	x	6,420	96%
3. Deductions for the Forest Investment Fund	x	27,351	x	x	21,736	79%

Source: MAFF

## 4.2. Auxiliary Activities and Use of Non-Wood Forest Products

In 2020, state-owned enterprises reported a total of BGN 14,732 thousand in revenues from by-products and non-wood forest products and corresponding costs of BGN 10,366 thousand, which represented a decrease of BGN 1,215 thousand of revenues and 347 thousand thousand BGN of costs compared to 2019.

## 5. Protection of Forest Territories

### 5.1. Protection of Forest Territories from Diseases, Pests and Other Damages

Measures on 33% of the forest areas with health problems established in 2019 were envisaged for 2020. The fulfillment of the forecast was 68%. It was also planned to carry out aerial application on a total area of 4 065.6 ha, including 1 193.4 ha against pine processionary moth, 1 946 ha against rusty pine leaf wasp and 926.2 ha against fungus. Following a discussion by the National Forest Protection Commission (NFPC) in 2020, an organization was made to carry out biological control through introduction of *Entomophaga maimaiga* on the planned areas for treatment against fungi. Of these planned forest protection measures, only aerial spraying against pine processionary moth was carried out on a total area of 980 ha in the autumn of 2020. A biological insecticide based on *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Kurstaki* was used. The effect of the areal spraying was 82% - 95% caterpillar mortality.

Over the year, ground chemical treatment was carried out on a total area of 460.5 ha in forest nurseries and poplar crops, which was 34% more than planned. The measure was carried due to the occurrence of health problems caused by various biotic and abiotic factors in forest nurseries (40%) and in forest crops (60%).

The executed sanitary felling was 81% compared to the forecast for 2020. Of these, 85% were carried out in coniferous forests and 15% in deciduous forests. The cuttings covered forest areas damaged by various factors - abiotic (55%), phytopathogenic fungi (32%), stem insects (10%) and fires (3%).

The costs for performing the activities for protection against diseases, pests and other damages in the forest territories, managed by the state enterprises under art. 163 of the FG, amounted to BGN 120 thousand.

**Table VI.3. Conducted forest protection measures in 2020**

Measure	Forecast 2020 (ha)	Report 2020 (ha)	Execution (%)
Aerial spraying total, including:	4,065.6	980	24%
Aerochemical treatment	2,682.7	630	23%
Aerobiological treatment	1,382.9	350	25%
Ground chemical treatment	343.5	460.5	134%
Mechanical treatment	133.3	184.6	138%
Integrated treatment	1.5	0	0%
Sanitary felling	11,882.4	9,604.0	81%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16,426.3</b>	<b>11,229.1</b>	<b>68%</b>

Source: EFA

## 5.2. Forest Fire Protection

In 2020, a total of 499 fires occurred in the forest territories of the country, affecting 5,257.9 ha. Of these, 336.5 ha were burned by crown fires, which is below the average for the last ten years in the country.

Deciduous vegetation was affected in over 63% of the burned forest areas, the affected coniferous vegetation was 13%, 2% of the affected areas were mixed vegetation and 22% - grasses, unforested areas and dead forest cover.

Of the total burned areas, 58% were forest areas - state property, 30% - municipal property and 12% - forest areas - property of individuals and legal entities.

The direct damages caused by fires in forest areas in 2020 were estimated at BGN 596,220, compared to over BGN 2 million in 2019.

The number of fires occurred was the highest in the forest areas falling within the area of activity of Kardzhali RFD - 85, where the largest forest areas were burned - 1,907.6 ha. 39 forest fires each occurred in Sliven RFD and Sofia RFD, as the affected forest territories in Sliven RFD covered an area of 790.7 ha and in Sofia RFD - 179.1 ha.

The main factor for the occurrence of fires in the forest areas of the country in 2020 was human negligence, which was the cause of 67% of the fires. For 27% of the fires the causes were unknown, for 3% the causes were intentional, and 3% of the fires were due to natural causes (lightning).

In 2020, Berkovitsa RFD, Blagoevgrad RFD, Burgas RFD and Sliven RFD signed contracts with the State Fund for Agriculture - Paying Agency for funding under sub-measure 8.3 of the Rural Development Program for the construction of 13 facilities (towers) for early detection and notification of fires in forest areas. The construction of the facilities was in accordance with the scheme approved in 2019 by the EFA for deployment of facilities for monitoring and detection of fires in the forest areas of the country.

An agreement for cooperation was signed between EFA and the Communication and Information Systems Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, according to which information for occurring fires in the country's forests and nearby areas and/or close to forest areas should be provided to EFA through the Center for Aerospace Surveillance.

In 2020 the State Enterprises spent funds in the amount of BGN 1.519 million for the implementation of the activities for protection of the forest territories from fires. The main part of the reported costs were for the implementation of preventive activities, including the construction and maintenance of 2,098,247 linear meters of mineralized strips and 522,690 linear meters of forest barriers. Only 1.5% (BGN 22,000) of the total costs were for extinguishing of forest fires.

## 6. Protected Areas

According to the Protected Areas Act, there are 6 categories of protected territories in the country, and the responsibility for 3 of them (nature park, natural landmark and protected area) is shared between MAFF - EFA, MoEW and municipalities, and for the remaining 3 (reserve, maintained reserve and national park) - the management is by the 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 protected territories other than those that are subject to exclusive state property, exercise their management, conservation and security.

EFA is responsible for the management of nature parks. 11 directorates have been established for the management of the nature parks - specialized territorial units at EFA: Belasitsa Nature Park, Bulgarka Nature Park, Vitosha Nature Park, Vrachanski Nature National Park, Golden Sands Nature Park, Persina Nature Park, Sinite Kamani Nature Park, Strandzha Nature Park, Rusenski Lom Nature Park Rila Monastery and Shumen Plateau Nature Park.

The activities for management of protected areas and 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 the ownership, all forest resources in the protected areas are managed by MAFF through the state enterprises and the respective state forestry and hunting units.

In 2020, the directorates of nature parks and state-owned enterprises carried out joint activities on the basis of concluded cooperation agreements and plans for joint activities. Such agreements have been concluded between Blagoevgrad SWSE and Belasitsa NPD, Vitosha NP and Rila Monastery NPD. The purpose of joint action agreements is to resolve issues 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 areas under the BDA, staff training, preparation, application and implementation of projects related to forests and protected areas.

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. were renewed and restored. The activity in the field of reintroduction of endangered and rare species and maintenance of their populations continued. Food was regularly placed at the bird feeder sites.

During the year a number of activities related to cleaning and renovation of the tourist infrastructure, restricting the access of motor vehicles, installation of information boards and signs, Vitosha type tables, etc. were carried out on the territory of Vitosha Nature Park. 21 Braille signs were renewed in the Botanical Alley for the Blind in the Dendrium place. More than 30 wooden bridges were restored and built. More than 2,000 linear meters of ditches/culverts along alleys and paths in the park were cleaned. Most of these activities were carried out with the help of volunteers. 12 volunteer actions were conducted, and the total number of participants in them amounted to over 300 people. Within the project CB007.2.32.151 "Environmental education - a bridge for sustainable development of the cross-border region", funded by the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria–Serbia Programme 2014-2020, an outdoor classroom was built in the area of Bosnek. During the year, Vitosha NPD was awarded diplomas for "Exceptional contribution" for the annual successful organization of cleaning campaigns in Vitosha Nature Park.

Vrachanski Balkan NPD continued its activity of restoring the rock partridge population. Since 2020 there has been a closed cycle of production of birds of the species. By the middle of 2021, 90 birds were wintering in the park. The park continued its activities to feed the Egyptian vulture and to reintroduce the griffon vulture. Monitoring under a project for reintroduction of a European ground squirrel for 2020 was also carried out in the Lokvata area. In 2020, 10 interpretive routes were repaired on the territory of Vrachanski Balkan NPD. Markings on 6 tourist routes were renewed, 2 shelters, 4 information points and 6 recreation areas were repaired.

Bulgarka NPD continued the activities for restoration and cultivation of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna in the base near the village of Potok. In the adaptation aviaries for day and night birds of prey, species are periodically housed and bred for adaptation before being released into the wild. With the help of the NCSE Gabrovo town, fish stocking material for Balkan trout was purchased, and 8,000 pieces were released along 4 rivers located in the park.

Strandzha National Park was involved in the inspection and identification of new age-old trees of the typical tree species for the Strandzha Mountain. The Park Directorate also conducted a regular survey of the most sensitive and damaged coastal dune habitats and riparian wetlands.

A weekly monitoring and feeding of a pair of Egyptian vultures was conducted on the territory of the Rusenski Lom NPD. In 2020, 9 occupied territories were established on the territory of the Lomovete protected zone and one nest of the little bald eagle was found. The occupied nests of black storks were monitored and new nests were searched. The Directorate of the Park is also responsible for maintaining the optimal water level in the Kalimok - Brushlen Protected Area.

The activities of Rusenski Lom NPD include the organization of traditional celebrations, events, celebration of dates in the conservation calendar and anniversaries related to the history of the parks.

In connection with the emerging epidemic situation in the country and the world, some of the traditional events and celebrations were canceled or held without wide accessibility for the population. For this reason, the celebration of Forest Week 2020 was canceled and the My Story of the Forest initiative was launched.

On the occasion of 40 years since the establishment of Shumen Plateau Nature Park, an online meeting of the First Annual Meeting of Public Relations Experts in the Nature Parks was conducted. The Directorate of the Park supported the organization and the holding of the National Biathlon Competition "Shumen Plateau 2020", organized by "Ilchov Bair" cycling club. As part of the competition, the experts conducted a tourist march with a talk to the Rock Monasteries in the park.

Golden Sands NPD organized and conducted environmental games, guided tours of children's educational routes "Song of the Forest" and "House of the Jay" and talks about herbs at the "Herbal Garden" school.

Persina NPD presented the interactive exhibition "The Road of the Red-breasted Goose", provided by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.

In 2020, nearly 500 overnight stays were realized in the Youth Eco Camp - Ochin Dol village, Vrachanski Balkan NPD. 4 green schools with a duration of between 2 and 3 days were organized.

The traditional march of the patilantsi, organized with the assistance of the Bulgarka NPD on the occasion of June 1 - the Children's Day, was held on July 25, 2020, on the meadow near Sokolski Monastery, and the participants walked along the eco-trail of Bulgarka Park. - from the village of Charkovo to Sokolski Monastery.

Belasitsa NPD conducted practical exercises from a course on recognizing medicinal plants on the territory of the park, and on the occasion of the Herbal Day - Midsummer's Day, a seminar on "The Power of Plants" was organized.

All NPDs continued to fulfill their obligations related to the monitoring of conservation-significant species of plants and animals included in the National Biodiversity Monitoring System.

In 2020, Vitosha NPD, Vrachanski Balkan NPD, Golden Sands NPD and Rila Monastery NPD continued the implementation of activities under the projects under OP "Environment 2014-2020" related to improving the conservation status of species and types natural habitats on the territory of natural parks.

To promote nature tourism in the park, Belasitsa NPD developed an interactive online map with 27 hiking and 17 mountain biking routes in the park.



Persina NPD continued the implementation of the project "Bridging the Danube protected towards a Danube habitats green corridor, under the Danube Cross-border Cooperation Program 2014-2020. In 2020, the project "Implementation of priority measures in Ramsar site "Belenski Ostrove Complex", Persina Nature Park, funded by OP "Environment 2014-2020" was launched too. The park directorate also performed regular monitoring activities. Periodically, according to the season, regular monitoring activities were carried out in the wetlands of the park and in the Danube river. Regular monitoring of the newly formed colony of Dalmatian pelicans on Persin Island was carried out.

Rusenski Lom NPP successfully completed the work on the project "Forest Monitoring System for Early Detection and Assessment of Fires in the Balkans - Mediterranean region" and the project "Green Management", funded by Interreg VA "Romania - Bulgaria 2014-2020".

## **7. Forest certification**

The certified forest areas in Bulgaria have a FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificate. According to the official data of the FSC, the area of certified forest territories as of 01.02.2021 is 2 374 088 ha, which represents 57% of the total forest territory in the country, and the certified units are 33. 443 certified units have a FSC - Chain of custody certificate.

The area of the certified state forest territories managed by the State Enterprise is 2,352,899 ha, equal to 76% of the total territory managed by them in the country, and the certified units are 30.

According to the electronic information portal of PEFC (Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification), 17 certified units have a PEFC - Chain of custody.

## **8. Inventory and planning in forest areas**

In 2020, the following major activities were carried out in this direction:

- Meetings of the commissions under Art. 34, para. 1 of Ordinance No. 18/07.10.2015 on inventory and planning in forest areas in connection with the 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 2020/2021 for territorial divisions of State Forest Units (SFU), Elhovo, Tvarditsa, Dobrinishte, Blagoevgrad, Rila Monastery, Smolyan, Sredets, Silistra, Smyadovo, Varbitsa, Ihtiman, and only an inventory of Acad. Nikolay Haytov, village of Hvoyna for the part of the merged territorial division Chepelare SFU, and for territorial divisions of Mazalat, Sherba, Trakia and Cherni Lom SHU;
- Documentation was prepared for conducting open public procurement procedures for inventory of forest areas and development of forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans of activities for protection of forest areas from fires in the period 2021/2022 for territorial divisions Montana, Sliven, Eleshnitsa SFUs, Klisura for the part of the former territorial division Rozino SFU, Panagyurishte, Mihalkovo, Trun, Teteven together with Cherni Vit, Elin Pelin, Razgrad, Buynovtsi, Shumen, Preslav, Novi Pazar, Chiprovtsi and Kazanlak SFUs and for territorial divisions of Ropotamo, Dunav and Palamara SHU. The procedures will be carried out by the individual SEs under Art. 163 of the Law on Forestry and RFD in 2021;
- Expert councils were held for acceptance of business classes and the quantities for annual harvesting for 2019/2020 for territorial divisions Borino, Dospat, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv province), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad province), Katuntsi, Garmen, Pirdop and Rakitovo SFUs;
- Meetings of the commissions under Art. 37, para. 3 of Ordinance No. 18/07.10.2015 for inventory and planning in forest areas for acceptance of the carried out inventory of forest areas and developed forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for protection of forest areas from fires in 2019/2020 for territorial divisions of Borino, Dospat, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv province), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad province), Katuntsi, Garmen, Pirdop and Rakitovo SFUs;

- Expert councils were held for acceptance of the minutes of the commissions under Art. 37, para. 3 of Ordinance No. 18/07.10.2015 for inventory and planning in forest areas, for acceptance of the carried out inventory of forest areas and prepared forest management plans, forest management maps, hunting management plans and plans for activities to protect forest areas from fires in 2019/2020 for territorial divisions Borino, Dospat, Trigrad, Asenovgrad, Parvomay (Plovdiv province), Zemen, Gurkovo, Maglizh, Aytos, Strumyani, Parvomay (Blagoevgrad province), Katuntsi, Garmen, Pirdop and Rakitovo SFUs;
- Expert councils were held for acceptance of terms of reference in connection with the forthcoming inventory of forest areas in 2021/2022 and the joint development of forestry maps, forestry plans, plans for hunting and fire protection activities, for territorial divisions Montana, Sliven, Eleshnitsa, Klisura for the part of the former territorial divisions Rozino, Panagyurishte, Mihalkovo, Trun, Teteven together with Cherni Vit, Elin Pelin, Razgrad, Buynovtsi, Shumen, Preslav, Novi Pazar, Chiprovtsi and Kazanlak SFUs, and for territorial divisions Ropotamo" Danube and Palamara SHUs;
- A report was prepared on the sites for inventory in 2022/2023 and development of forestry maps, forestry plans, plans for hunting activities and activities for protection of forests from fires, for territorial divisions Targovishte, Omurtag, Stara Reka, Cherni Osam, Ivaylovgrad, Karnobat, without the merged Sungurlare SFU, Nevestino, Razlog, Pazardzhik, Batak, Vidin, Byala, Bolyarka SFUs, and for territorial division Zhenda SHUs without the merged Kardzhali, Izvor without the merged Devin, Chepino, Topolovgrad, Aramliets, Vitinya, Rositsa without the merged Sevlievo, Seslav and Voden SHUs;
- 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 of activities for protection of forest areas from fires for the period 2020/2021;
- A digital model of the map of the restored property and the cadastral map for the territorial scope of activity of the State Forestry and Hunting Units, subject to inventory and forestry planning in 2020/2021, was provided;
- A report on the balance of forests and forest territories of the Republic of Bulgaria as of 31.12.2019 was prepared and submitted to the NSI;
- According to orders issued by the BFSA, a graphical presentation of all areas with African swine fever areas was prepared.

## 9. Hunting Units

In 2020, the following important activities, related to the management and use of game in the country, were carried out with the participation of EFA:

- A draft of the Ac for amendment and supplement of the Hunting and Game Preservation Act was developed;
- Meetings of the expert council for consideration and acceptance of "Methodology for monitoring the stock of wild boar and large game in the Republic of Bulgaria" were held;
- An amendment to Ordinance No. 2/2009 on the conditions for growing furred and feathered game in livestock holdings, in accordance with its physiological and behavioral characteristics, was developed;
- Participation in hunting exhibitions in Dortmund, Germany and Salzburg, Austria, where a number of agreements for hunting tourism during the 2020/2021 hunting season were reached;
- Meetings were held jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Water, organized by the European Commission, in connection with the preparation of an adaptive mechanism for sustainable use of the dove;
- Meetings with experts from the EFA, BFSA and the Center for Risk Assessment in the Food Chain

were held to discuss issues related to the prevention of the spread of African swine fever, as well as compliance with biosecurity measures;

- Joint trainings for hunters on limiting the spread of African swine fever and compliance with biosecurity measures were conducted by RFD and BFSA;
- Searches for carcasses of wild boars were carried out;
- 3 meetings of the Hunting Council were organized;
- Checks on the implementation of the contracts, providing the management and use of the game to the hunting associations, were carried out;
- Analyses and reports to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on the results of inspections on the implementation of contracts for joint hunting activities in 19 SHUs and for the management and use of game in 10 game breeding sections to the SFUs, were prepared;
- 4 permits for research activity were issued;
- Examinations for acquiring the right to hunt were conducted in 62 hunting associations;
- Courses and exams for acquiring the right to selective hunting were held in 16 hunting associations;
- 24 hunting bases in SHU and SFU were categorized;
- 28 permits for the use of wood-grouse capercalzie; 6 permits for shooting a brown bear; 3 permits for catching and moving brown bears; 1 permit for capture and marking with a collar equipped with a radio transmitter and a device for global geographical positioning of a brown bear; 1 permit for the expulsion of a brown bear were issued;
- Thematic and specialized inspections on the implementation of hunting activities and the implementation of contracts in hunting associations were carried out;
- Field inspections and expert councils for acceptance of Hunting Development Projects were carried out.

In 2020 in the state-owned forest territories a feed base was established and maintained, game was fed, biotechnical facilities were built and maintained - waiting spots, feeders, traps, mud pits, intensive game management were built and repaired.

The total revenues from hunting activity in the forest territories - state property, reported during the year, amounted to BGN 7.285 million, which is by BGN 1.571 million less compared to 2019. The revenues from organized hunting and other types of tourism amounted to BGN 3.103 million, BGN 1.904 million lower than the level of the previous year. Revenues from contracts concluded under HGPA in the form of annual installments for game management in game breeding areas and annual rental prices of hunting tourism facilities of SHU amounted to BGN 3.399 million, an increase of BGN 120 thousand compared to 2019. BGN 13.037 million were spent for implementation of the planned hunting and fishing activities during the year, 15.3% less on an annual basis.

## **10. Protection of Forest Territories and Control**

In 2020, the employees of RFD and SE under Art. 163 of the FA performed a total of 521,354 inspections. 92,660 inspections of timber production sites, 21,784 inspections of sites under Art. 206 of the FA, of 143,811 vehicles, 179,273 hunters, 14,075 fishermen and 69,751 other persons, were carried out.

During the year an analysis of the activities of the RFD on planning, implementation, reporting and control of forest inspectors was made, based on which instructions aimed at improving the planning of activities and ensuring periodic internal control of inspectors were given.

Intensified control of the activity of vehicles transporting round timber and firewood was carried out, in order to establish compliance with the requirements for providing a username and password for online access to their traffic data.

EFA took part in Operation Thunder 2020, initiated by the General Secretariat of the ICPO INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, with a focus on stopping the illegal sale of wild animals and plants.

In 2020 the interaction with the non-governmental organizations was improved, as together with WWF - Bulgaria a mobile application - a platform for submitting signals, processed by the center in EFA on tel. 112, was introduced with a view to carrying out timely inspections.

In order to improve the organization of control and protection of forest areas, as well as to limit encroachments on forests, inspections were organized by employees of one Regional Directorate of Forestry in another. The total number of this type of inspections was 459, of which 216 in Burgas RFD, 220 in Veliko Tarnovo RFD, 20 in Lovech RFD, 2 in Sliven RFD and 1 in Sofia RFD. 79 sites under Art. 206 of the Forest Act, 46 sites for timber extraction, 277 motor vehicles, 14 hunters, 1 fisherman and 39 individuals were checked. 38 AEAVs under the FA and 43 statements of findings were drawn up. 40.16 cubic meters of round timber, 12.11 cubic meters of shaped wood, 96.23 cubic meters of firewood, 2 motor vehicles, 4 carts and 3 chainsaws were seized.

### **Established violations**

In 2020, a total of 16,852 violations of forest legislation were found, 10 more than in 2019. 10,928 acts for establishing administrative violations were drawn up, 662 less than in 2019. The perpetrators of 2,364 violations were not found.

The largest number of violations established by acts were found in Sliven RFD - 1,082 acts, followed by those in Lovech RFD - 1,031 acts, Berkovitsa RFD - 972 acts, Burgas RFD - 965 acts, RDG Ruse RFD - 953 acts and RDG Varna RFD - 921 act. The regional directorates with the least number of acts were Smolyan RFD - 92 acts, Pazardzhik RFD - 235 acts and Kyustendil RFD - 293.

In terms of ownership, in the forest territories - state property 3 656 violations were established, in municipal property - 468 violations, in the property of individuals and legal entities - 1 556 violations. The other 5,339 violations were mainly related to the transport and storage of illegal timber, which origin was not established.

10,551 acts were drawn up under the Forest Act, 213 acts under the HGPA, 145 acts under the FAA and 19 acts under the MPA and the BDA - 19 acts.

The employees of RFD drew up 77 acts for violations committed by employees of the territorial units of SFR/SHU, 221 acts of foresters practicing private forestry practice and 67 acts of persons involved in management and protection of forest areas, municipal property.

In 2020, 128 coercive administrative measures were imposed under Art. 253 of the Forest Act.

7,850 penal decrees were issued by the RFD directors, of which 6,099 entered into force.

2,233 files were sent to the Prosecutor's Office, of which 489 were pending, 1,502 were returned for administrative proceedings, and 242 pre-trial proceedings were instituted.

In 2020, a total of 6,099 penal decrees came into force, imposing fines and fines amounting to BGN 1,067,700. BGN 246,267.50 were collected, which represented 23.1% collection rate.

Acts and statements of findings established illegally felled timber in the amount of 16,796 cubic meters, with 1,655 cubic meters less than in 2019.

Revenues from sales of seized wood during the year amounted to BGN 92,931.

A large part of the seized wood was made available under b art. 273, para. 2 and para. 5 of the FA.

### **Activity of the regional forestry directorates**

In 2020, the forest inspectors in the RFDs carried out 250,422 inspections, of which 29,946 in sites for timber extraction, 21,507 in sites under Art. 206 of the FA, 85,925 of motor vehicles, 52,137 of hunters, 13,965 of fishermen and 46,944 of individuals.

4,790 acts were drawn up.

### **Activity of the teams at EFA**

In 2020, a total of 3,056 inspections were carried out, of which 277 at sites under Art. 206 of the Forest Act, 296 in timber extraction sites, 1,291 of motor vehicles, 781 of hunters, 1 on fishermen and 410 of natural persons.

188 acts were drawn up and 248 prescriptions to the RFDs for undertaking additional actions and drawing up acts were made.

Illegally felled wood in the amount of 601 cubic meters was found.

### **Implementation of Regulation 995/2010**

In 2020, EFA participated in three meetings of the FLEGT/EUTR Committee on issues related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No. 995/2010.

For implementation of effective control, during the year RFDs carried out 2,536 inspections of operators and traders, 837 more than in 2019.

### **Interaction with other institutions**

In 2020, EFA continued its active cooperation with the institutions involved in the prevention and detection of illegal encroachments on forests and game.

As a result of the concluded agreements for cooperation and interaction and the annual plan of the Ministry of Interior for counteracting the violations related to forest, game and fish resources, in 2020 a total of 16,932 joint inspections were carried out, which is 5,885 more than in 2019. 840 sites under Art. 206 of the Forest Act, 229 sites for timber extraction, 2,105 vehicles, 11,192 hunters, 20 fishermen and 2,546 individuals were inspected.

623 acts and 78 statements of findings were drawn up.

73 inspections with EAFA employees, 34 with employees of the Executive Agency "Labor Inspection", 49 with employees of the National Revenue Agency, 162 with employees of RIA, 4 with employees of the Executive Agency "Automotive Administration", 46 with representatives of NGOs and 216 with other institutions, were carried out.

At the initiative of INTERPOL, Operation ARCADIA was conducted on the territory of the country, together with the Ministry of Interior and other institutions. A total of 64 acts were drawn up and 3.1 cubic meters of shaped wood, 128 cubic meters of firewood, 5 motor vehicles, 1 trailer and 1 chainsaw were seized.

70 inspections were carried out with the staff of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, including Operation THUNDER.

## **11. Strategic Planning, Improvement of the Regulatory framework and International Activities**

The following regulatory documents were prepared in 2020:

- Ordinance amending Ordinance 8 of 2011 on deforestation. The ordinance was adopted and promulgated in SG, No. 84 of 29.09.2020;
- Draft Law on Truffles;
- Draft Act for Amendment and Supplement to the Forest Act, which was approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted for consideration to the 44th National Assembly;
- Draft of the Hunting and Game Preservation Act (HGPA), which passed public discussion;
- Draft Rules of Procedure of the Forest Protection Stations.

In 2020, a Final Report for evaluation of the results of the implementation of the National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector of the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020 for the period from 2016 to 2020 and for the entire period approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forests was prepared.

### **Implementation of strategic activities and priorities in the forest sector through projects funded by the EU and other international donors**

In 2020, at the meetings of the Commission and the Standing Working Group to discuss project ideas and project proposals in EFA, a total of 20 project ideas and proposals submitted by EFA structures were considered. Relevant letters of rejection or support were drafted.

Under the Good Governance Operational Program 8 project proposals were approved for funding and contracts for conducting specialized trainings for the employees of the respective RFD and GMP.

The process of evaluation of the project proposals related to the establishment of a unified national system for monitoring, early detection and notification of forest fires with funds from the RDP 2014-2020 was completed. Six structures of EFA - four RFD and two Forest Protection Stations and respectively contracts were approved for funding under sub-mesaure 8.3 of the RDP and contracts with the State Fund Agriculture - PA were concluded accordingly.

EFA, together with representatives of the ECE and other Member States, took part in a project on Forest Damage and through its participation in the Tos Team on Sustainable Forest Monitoring to UNECE.

In 2020, the following projects are currently being implemented:

- "Measures for the protection of the Lesser Spotted Eagle and its habitats in Bulgaria" under the LIFE program of the European Union;
- "Provision of natural resources management services", with the acronym Re-Source under the INTERREG VB Transnational Cooperation Program "Balkans - Mediterranean" 2014 - 2020;

The implementation of two projects has been completed:

- "Increasing the capacity of the EFA employees to perform control functions on forest management" under the Good Governance Operational Program co-financed by the European Social Fund;
- "Regional policies for sustainable bioenergy - BIO4ECO" under the INTERREG EUROPE program.

## **12. Financing and investments in forest areas**

### **12.1. Executive Forest Agency**

In 2020, the Executive Forest Agency reported revenues totaling BGN 9,185,013.

Funds amounting to BGN 28,264,300 were approved for implementation of budget programs "Specialized Activities in Forest Territories" and "Planning, Protection from Violations, Fires and Forest Protection" in 2020 under the EFA budget. The expenses incurred as of 31.12.2020 according to the specified plan and according to the report amount to BGN 31,959,311.

During the reporting period, investments (capital expenditures) were made in the amount of BGN 48,478 as follows:

- Acquisition of computers and hardware - BGN 37,998;
- Acquisition of other equipment, machines and facilities - BGN 7,480;
- Construction of infrastructure sites - BGN 3,000.

### **12.2. State forest enterprises**

The reported revenues from the overall activity of the State Enterprise for 2020 are BGN 303,151 thousand, and the total expenses - BGN 301,954 thousand. Compared to 2019, the revenues of enterprises decreased by BGN 49,967 thousand and the expenses - by BGN 44,232 thousand.

The total financial result of SEs from their operating activities in 2020 was positive in the amount of BGN 1,197 thousand before taxation, with a decrease of BGN 5,734 thousand compared to 2019.

The investments made by the six SFEs in 2020 amounted to BGN 40,918 thousand, by 16.6% less than the previous year. Of these, BGN 30,640,000 (75%) were implemented with funds from the Forest Investment Fund - BGN 3,016,000 less than in 2019, for the implementation of the following activities:

- design of 167.17 km construction of new roads and overhaul of existing forest roads - BGN 538 thousand;
- construction and overhaul of 102.71 km of forest roads and transport technical infrastructure - BGN 12,968 thousand;
- design and construction of 5 technical and fortification facilities - BGN 506 thousand;
- for afforestation activities - BGN 8,383 thousand;
- for the purchase of 179.04 ha of forest territories - BGN 1,224 thousand.

97 vehicles and 32 specialized equipment were purchased with funds from the economic activity and major repairs of 29 buildings were carried out.

### 13. Administrative service

In 2020, 18 meetings of the Commission for consideration of applications for entry of individuals and traders in the public registers of EAG under Art. 235 and Art. 241 of the Forest Act, as a result of which certificates were registered and issued to 355 individuals for forestry practice. Certificates of 380 traders for carrying out activities in the forest territories have been registered and issued.

During the year from the public register under Art. 241, para. 1 of the Land Act, 63 traders have been written off, and from the register under Art. 235 individuals were deregistered from 235 of the Civil Code. 10 natural persons have been refused entry in the registers under Art. 235 of the Civil Code.

As of 31.12.2020 the total number of registered natural persons for forestry practice is 11 946, and of the registered traders - 4 315.

In connection with the changes made in the requirements for registration of natural persons, the activity for conducting examinations under the procedure of Art. 236a of the Civil Code. 32 exams were held, in which a total of 533 candidates took part, of which 283 passed it.

Numerous consultations were held with owners, private foresters and other interested persons by phone, e-mail, in the reception of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food 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 the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NAFA), in 2020 the total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing in the country amounted to 6,297.3 tonnes, of which 6,228.1 tonnes in the Black Sea and 69, 2 tonnes - in the Danube river. The total amount is 39% less on an annual basis, due to a decline in catches in the Black Sea of 39.4%, while that in the Danube River increased by 13.9%.

**Table VII.1. Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in the country by water basins, tonnes**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
<b>Catch in the Black Sea - total, including:</b>	<b>8,467.1</b>	<b>8,546.7</b>	<b>10,269.7</b>	<b>6,228.1</b>	<b>-39.4%</b>
- saltwater species	4,007.1	4,403.9	5,513.3	3,418.7	-38.0%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	10.3	10.8	25.6	15.8	-38.1%

	2017	2018	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
- veined rapa whelk, mussels and shrimps	4,449.6	4,132.0	4,222.9	2,794.5	-33.8%
<b>Catch in the Danube River - total, including:</b>	<b>53.52</b>	<b>55.74</b>	<b>60.75</b>	<b>69.21</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
- freshwater fish	49.1	54.3	57.4	67.2	16.9%
- diadromous fishes, Pontic shad	0.5	1.0	2.6	0.7	-74.4%
- other aquatic organisms	4.0	0.5	0.7	1.4	87.7%
<b>Total catch of fish and other aquatic organisms</b>	<b>8,520.6</b>	<b>8,602.4</b>	<b>10,330.4</b>	<b>6,297.3</b>	<b>-39.0%</b>

Source: EAFA

The restrictive measures imposed in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the supply chain and reduced demand for fish and fishery products. This had a negative impact on the sector and led to reduction of the catches of fish and other aquatic organisms in the Black Sea.

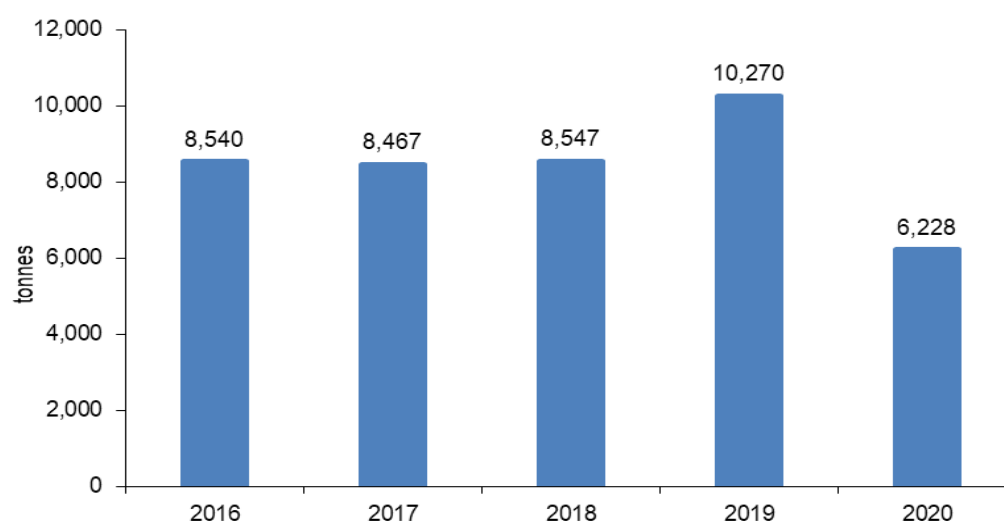
The total amount of saltwater species caught in the Black Sea in 2020 amounted to 3,418.7 tonnes, 38% below the level of 2019. Traditionally, the most significant was the catch of sprat, amounting to 1,622.65 tonnes, which was almost three times less than the previous year.

Among the Black Sea fish species, significant catches were reported for anchovies - 422.24 tonnes, Black Sea mullet - 319.25 tonnes, bluefish- 253.19 tonnes and horse mackerel - 108.75 tonnes. The catch of turbot was 62 tonnes, which is 83% of the quota allocated to the country under Council Regulation (EU) 2019/2236 of 16 December 2019 fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Catches of rapana, which account for the bulk of catches of aquatic organisms in the Black Sea, decreased by almost 35% on an annual basis. The catch of white sand mussels also decreased - by 9.9%, to 462.2 tonnes, while that of black mussels increased almost twice, reaching 48.08 tonnes.

In 2020, the catch of diadromous fish species (Pontic shad) in the Black Sea amounted to 15.8 tonnes, was 38.1% less on an annual basis.

**Figure VII.1. Catch of fish and other aquatic organisms in the Black Sea, tonnes**



Source: EAFA

The total catch in the Danube in 2020 amounted to 69.21 tonnes, of which 67.22 tonnes were freshwater fish, 0.7 tonnes - diadromous fish species - shad and 1.4 tonnes - other aquatic organisms. There was no significant change in the quantities compared to those caught in the previous year, as the realization of these catches is not as strongly dependent on the tourism sector during the spring-summer period as sea fishing.



Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in catches of freshwater fish by 16.9%. The largest quantities caught are white barbel - 11.90 tonnes, bighead carp - 8.38 tonnes, carp - 7.72 tonnes, European catfish - 7.36 tonnes and silver carp - 5.10 tonnes.

In 2020, the catch of diadromous fish species (Pontic shad) in the Danube River, similar to the catches of these species in the Black Sea, was lower than the previous year (by 74.4%).

**Table VII.2. Catch of fish and other aquatic organisms from commercial fishing bodies in 2020**

	Type of fish/aquatic species	Quantity (tonnes)
	<b>A. The Danube River</b>	
1	Danube bleak / <i>Chalcalburnus chalcoides</i> /	0.204
2	Grass carp / <i>Ctenopharingodon idella</i> /	3.453
3	Silver carp / <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> /	5.104
4	White barbel / <i>Barbus barbus</i> /	11.903
5	Zander / <i>Sander lucioperca</i> / <i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i> /	3.358
6	Crucian carp / <i>Carassius carassius</i> /	0.076
7	Pontic shad, Danube mackerel / <i>Caspialosa pontica</i> / <i>Alosa pontica</i> /	0.657
8	Vimba bream / <i>Vimba vimba</i> /	4.261
9	Ide / <i>Leuciscus idus</i> /	0.009
10	Bream (blue bream, white-eyed bream)	0.027
11	Common bream / <i>Abramis brama</i> /	4.736
12	Bighead carp / <i>Aristichthys nobilis</i> /	8.382
13	Asp box / <i>Aspius aspius</i> /	1.348
14	Chub / <i>Leuciscus cephalus</i> /	0.026
15	European perch / <i>Perca fluviatilis</i> /	0.086
16	Common nase / <i>Chondrostoma nasus</i> /	0.882
17	European catfish / <i>Sillurus glanis</i> /	7.358
18	Prussian carp / <i>Carassius sp.</i> /	4.371
19	Bleak / <i>Alburnus alburnus</i> /	1.694
20	Common rudd / <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i> /	0.011
21	Gobiidae	0.020
22	Carp / <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> /	7.716
23	Lake crab	1.400
24	Pike / <i>Esox lucius</i> /	1.237
25	Other	0.893
	<b>Total for the Danube river</b>	<b>69.212</b>
	<b>B. Black Sea</b>	
26	Atherina / <i>Atherina spp.</i> /	3.530
27	White sand mussel / <i>Mya arenaria</i> /	462.172
28	Bottom sea worm	0.029
29	Garpiki / <i>Belone belone</i> /	6.040
30	Leaping mullet / <i>Liza saliens</i> /	3.803
31	Turbot / <i>Psetta maxima</i> /	62.588
32	Pontic shad, Danube mackerel / <i>Caspialosa pontica</i> / <i>Alosa pontica</i> /	15.839
33	Redlip mullet / <i>Liza haematocheilus</i> /	0.351
34	Sea bass / <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> / <i>Morone labrax</i> /	0.010
35	Bluefish / <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> /	253.198
36	Common stingray / <i>Dasyatis pastinaca</i> /	1.802
37	Thornback ray / <i>Raja clavata</i> /	17.244
38	Snouted sole / <i>Solea solea</i> /	0.002

	Type of fish/aquatic species	Quantity (tonnes)
39	Monkfish /Lophius piscatorius/	0.035
40	Flathead mullet /Mugil cephalus/	3.902
41	Common prawn /Leander spp./	0.373
42	Yellow crab /Eriphia verrucosa/	0.050
43	Atlantic bonito /Sarda sarda/	31.540
44	Flounder /Platichthys flesus luscus/	0.111
45	Golden grey mullet/ Liza aurata /	0.874
46	Family Goby /Gobiidae/	33.679
47	Sand shrimp / Crangon sp./	0.865
48	Rapana spp./	2745.600
49	Scad /Trachurus mediterraneus ponticus/	108.751
50	Anchovy /Engraulis encrasicolus ponticus/	422.242
51	Sprat /Sprattus sprattus sulinus/	1622.650
52	Black mussel /Mytilus galloprovincialis/	48.084
53	Black Sea Mullet /Mullus barbatus ponticus/	319.252
54	Spiny dogfish /Squalus acanthias/	47.511
55	Black Sea whiting /Merlangius merlangus euxinus/	16.785
56	Other	0.203
	<b>Total for the Black Sea</b>	<b>6,229.112</b>
	<b>Total for the Black Sea and the Danube River</b>	<b>6,298.32</b>

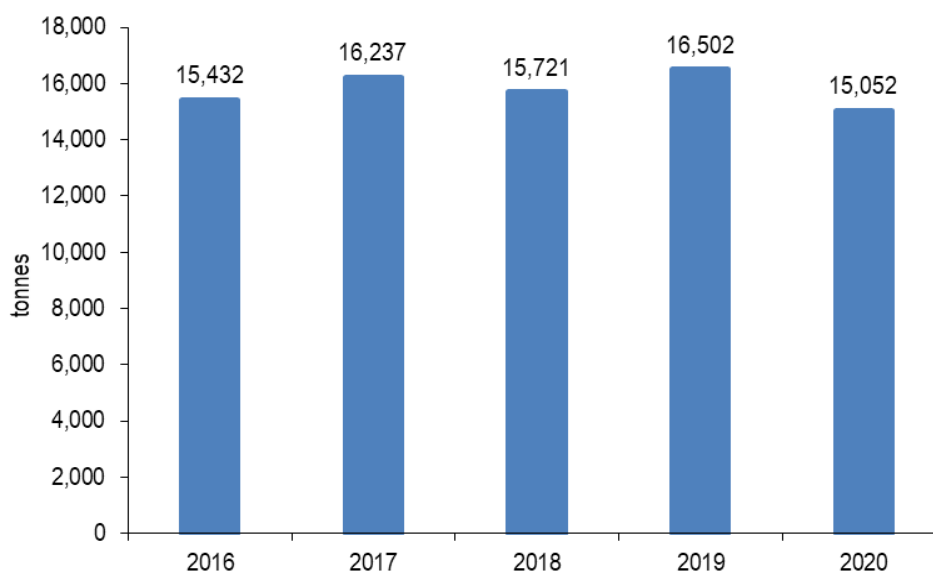
Source: EAFA

The reported total commercial catch of fish and other aquatic organisms for the first five months of 2021 amounted to 3 379.49 tonnes, an increase of 79.2% compared to the same period in 2020. Catches in the Black Sea increased by 80.1% , up to 3 356.7 tonnes, and the one in the Danube River - by 3.9%, up to 22.83 tonnes.

### Production of fish and other aquatic organisms

According to EAFA, the total number of active fish farms at the end of 2020 was 754 (compared to 700 years earlier). Of these, 731 were for freshwater aquaculture and 23 - for marine aquaculture.

**Figure VII.2. Production of fish and other organisms in specialized fish farms for the period 2016 - 2020, tonnes**



Source: EAFA

In 2020, the total production of aquaculture (fish stocking material, fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption) in specialized fish farms amounted to 15,051.83 tonnes - 8.8% less than the previous year, with a decrease both for fish stocking material and for fish for consumption. The main reason for the reduced production was the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, characterized by lack of markets, difficulties in transport and sale of finished products, as well as reduced demand for fresh aquaculture products.

The total production of fish stocking material in fish farms in 2020 shrank shrink by 16.4% on an annual basis, to 2,047.9 tonnes. This was mainly due to the reduced production of fish stocking material from the main species of fish farmed in the country - rainbow trout (725.14 tonnes), bighead carp (283.3 tonnes) and common carp (544.4 tonnes). There was also less production of stocking material from catfish, Russian sturgeon, silver carp. There was an increase in the production of stocking material from grass carp, river (Balkan) trout and gray trout.

In 2020, the production of fish and other aquatic organisms for consumption amounted to 13,003.9 tonnes - by 7.5% below the level of 2019, mainly due to a decrease in the production of carp (by 22.1 %), bighead carp (by 34%), grass carp (by 3.4%) and catfish (by 44.1%). On the other hand, there was an annual increase in the production of fish for consumption of rainbow trout (by 52%), white fish (by 8.4%) and Russian sturgeon (by 10.9%).

Traditionally, the production of fish for consumption from the rainbow trout, carp and bighead carp species was the largest.

The production of fish species that are by-catches in extensive and semi-intensive hot water farms - bream, bleak, perch and red perch was reported. These species are not subject to targeted breeding and rearing in aquaculture.

The main species of marine aquaculture grown in the coastal waters of the country is the black mussel. In 2020, its yield for consumption decreased by 26.9% compared to the previous year, to 2,140.8 tonnes.

**Table VII.3. Production of fish stocking material, fish and aquatic organisms in fish farms, tonnes**

No	Common and local names	Fish stocking material		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
		2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
1	Brown (Balkan) trout	8.53	30.16	22.90	15.99	31.44	46.14
2	Rainbow trout	986.88	725.14	3,170.03	4,811.02	4,156.90	5,536.17
3	Brook trout	0.89	103.03	7.21	6.79	8.10	109.81
4	Pike	3.83	3.67	13.02	16.60	16.85	20.27
5	Tench	0.10	0.12	21.52	4.85	21.62	4.96
6	Bleak	0.0	0.0	3.05	5.30	3.05	5.30
7	Bream	0.0	0.0	11.06	6.92	11.06	6.92
8	Nase	0.0	0.0	0.60	0.75	0.60	0.75
9	Carp	684.69	544.41	4,163.57	3,230.49	4,848.26	3,774.89
10	Crucian carp	0.00	0.00	0.73	1.50	0.73	1.50
11	Prussian carp	7.61	4.83	266.36	221.21	273.96	226.04
12	Silver carp	22.06	3.59	142.63	159.50	164.68	163.09
13	Bighead carp	497.58	283.31	1,990.21	1,359.31	2,487.79	1,642.63
14	Grass carp	65.45	182.12	355.16	224.02	420.61	406.14
15	Black carp	0.00	0.00	0.50	5.12	0.50	5.12
16	Catfish	81.28	49.07	236.38	128.58	317.66	177.66
17	Channel (American) catfish	2.10	0.00	7.05	12.00	9.15	12.00
18	Zander	1.72	7.54	49.98	54.19	51.70	61.73
19	European perch	0.05	0.08	1.61	4.91	1.66	4.98
20	Sterlet	0.35	0.45	1.48	1.72	1.83	2.17
21	Beluga sturgeon	0.00	0.00	11.31	20.91	11.31	20.91

No	Common and local names	Fish stocking material		Fish for human consumption		Total weight	
22	Starry sturgeon	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.91	0.95	0.91
23	Russian sturgeon	59.37	32.66	187.48	207.96	246.86	240.62
24	Black mussel	0.00	0.00	2,928.91	2,140.81	2,928.91	2,140.81
25	Bottom sea worm	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	6.71	0.01
26	Lake salmon	10.56	0.36	30.92	30.64	41.48	31.00
27	Paddlefish	14.00	41.93	129.14	57.69	143.14	99.61
28	Green algae	0.00	0.00	0.22	4.65	0.22	4.65
29	Rudd	0.15	0.20	5.32	2.83	5.47	3.03
30	Common Roach	0.00	0.00	0.90	2.00	0.90	2.00
31	African catfish	0.09	1.70	202.59	171.90	202.68	173.60
32	Siberian sturgeon	0.57	32.40	27.28	37.45	27.85	69.86
33	Crayfish	0.06	1.12	7.39	5.60	7.45	6.71
34	Bester	0.00	0.00	0.92	4.51	0.92	4.51
35	Other hybrids of the Sturgeon family	0.72	0.03	42.52	37.47	43.24	37.51
36	Tilapia	0.00	0.00	2.93	0.26	3.23	0.26
37	Pacific oyster	0.00	0.00	3.50	2.57	3.50	2.57
38	Common prawn	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,448.63</b>	<b>2,047.90</b>	<b>14,047.31</b>	<b>13,003.92</b>	<b>16,502.95</b>	<b>15,051.83</b>

Source: EAFA (data as of 30.06.2021)

In 2021, aquaculture production is expected to increase, the market situation in the country to stabilize and demand to recover. The construction of new farms, as well as the modernization and increase of production capacities contribute to the long-term development of the sector.

## 2. Import and export of fish and fish products

### Import

According to NSI data, in 2020 a total of 37,644 tonnes of fish and fish products were imported into the country. This is 12.7% less on an annual basis, with increasing supplies of frozen fish, fillets, salted and dried fish, molluscs, aquatic invertebrates and increasing supplies of live, fresh and chilled fish, prepared foods and canned fish and canned crustaceans and molluscs.

Over 64% of total import of fish and fishery products in 2020 came from EU Member States. Deliveries from the Union decreased by about 11% compared to the previous year, to 24,359 tonnes, with the largest quantities from Spain (4.5 thousand tonnes), Denmark (3.5 thousand tonnes), Greece (3.4 thousand tonnes) and Romania (3.4 thousand tonnes), followed by the Netherlands (2.0 thousand tonnes), Poland (1.7 thousand tonnes), Germany (899 tonnes) and others.

Imports of fish and fishery products from third countries also decreased compared to 2019 - by 15.9%, amounting to 13,285 tonnes. The main trading partners were Canada (2.5 thousand tonnes), China (1.7 thousand tonnes), Iceland (1.5 thousand tonnes), Morocco (1.4 thousand tonnes), Turkey (1.2 thousand tonnes) and Norway (1.2 thousand tonnes).

As in previous years, frozen fish had the largest share in total imports of fish, aquatic organisms and fish products. In 2020, the import of frozen fish, excluding fillets, decreased by 17.6% on an annual basis to 14,690 tonnes. By type of fish, the import of frozen mackerel remained the most significant - 8,371 tonnes, although it decreased by 21% compared to the previous year. The imported quantities of frozen fish of the following species were also relatively large: hake - 993 tonnes; sprat - 820 tonnes, herring - 659 tonnes; cod - 506 tonnes, sardines - 375 tonnes; salmon - 129 tonnes; trout - 151 tonnes, shark - 90 tonnes and scad - 96 tonnes.

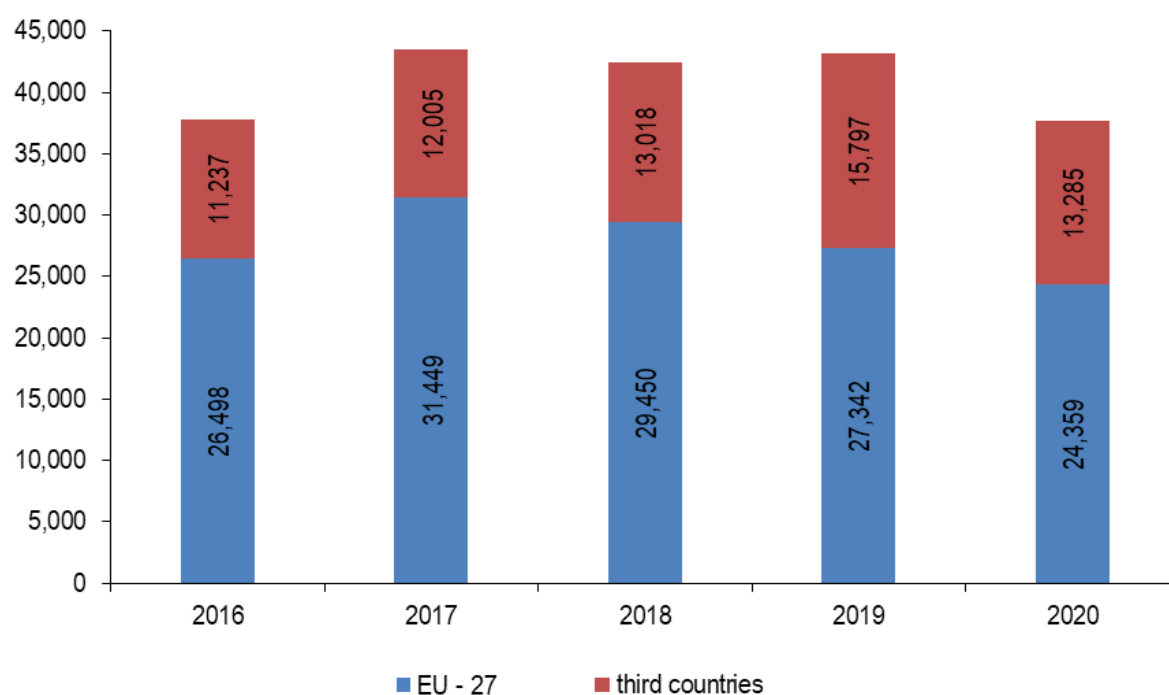
**Table VII.4. Import of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes**

Products	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
<b>Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, including:</b>	<b>43,140</b>	<b>37,644</b>	<b>-12.7%</b>
Live fish - freshwater and saltwater	193	450	132.9%
Fish, fresh or chilled, excluding fillets	5,908	6,204	5.0%
Fish - frozen, excluding fillets	17,823	14,690	-17.6%
Fish fillets and other fish meat, fresh or chilled, frozen	3,381	2,422	-28.4%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	510	404	-20.8%
Crustaceans	4,919	4,891	-0.6%
Molluscs*	3,245	2,300	-29.1%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	2,600	1,462	-43.7%
Ready foods and canned fish; caviar	3,763	3,988	6.0%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	799	834	4.5%

**Source:** NSI data, processed by MAFF

\*It also includes some terrestrial molluscs that cannot be distinguished.

**Figure VII.3. Import of fish and fish products from the EU and third countries, tonnes**

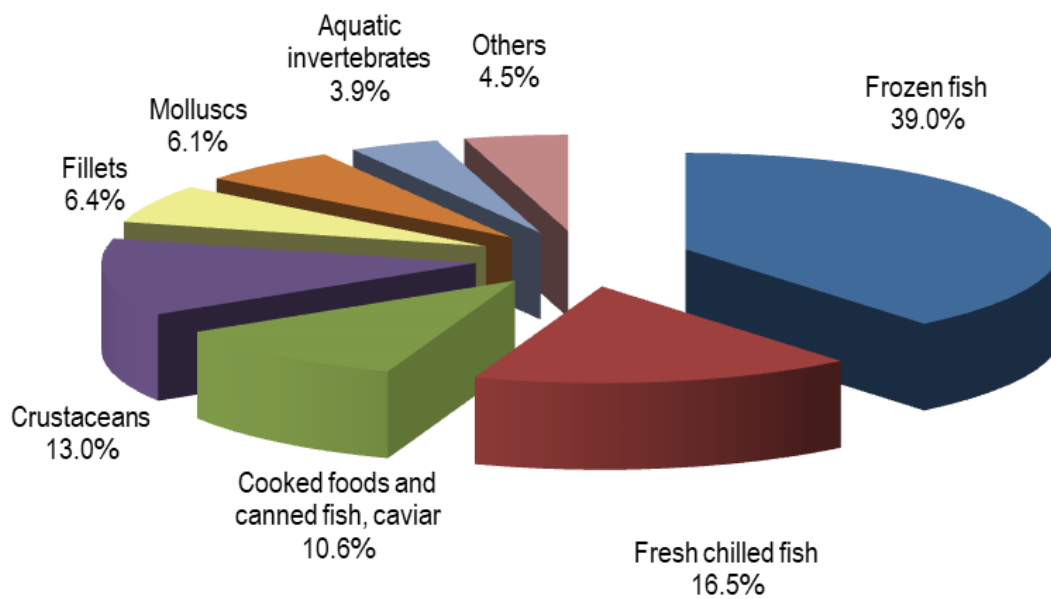


**Source:** NSI

Note: EU-27 includes 27 member states of the European Union (excluding the United Kingdom)

Among the other product groups, a significant decrease compared to the previous 2019 is observed in the import of aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs - by 43.7%, molluscs - by 29.1%, fish fillets - by 28.4 % and dried and salted fish - by 20.5%. At the same time, the supply of live fish more than increased two time, while that of fresh fish, ready foods and canned fish and canned crustaceans and molluscs - increased within 4.5% - 6%. The import of crustaceans was without significant change (-0.6%).

**Figure VII.4. Structure of import of fish and fishery products in 2020**



*Source: NSI data processed by the MAFF*

According to preliminary NSI data, in the first six months of 2021 a total of 19,781 tonnes of fish, other aquatic organisms and processed fishery products were imported, which is 11.4% more on an annual basis. Deliveries from the EU increased by 16% to 12,310 tonnes, and those from third countries - by 4.7% to 7,471 tonnes.

### Export

According to NSI data, in 2020 the total exports of fish, other aquatic organisms and fishery products amounted to 15,140 tonnes - 4.7% below the level of 2019, mainly due to the reduced sales of frozen fish.

**Table VII.5. Export of fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products, tonnes**

Products	2019	2020	Change 2020/2019
<b>Fish, other aquatic organisms and fish products - total, including:</b>	<b>15,890</b>	<b>15,140</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>
Live fish - freshwater and saltwater	1,299	1,236	-4.8%
Fish, fresh or chilled, excluding fillets	2,964	2,742	-7.5%
Fish - frozen, excluding fillets	2,263	1,236	-45.4%
Fish fillets and other fish meat, fresh or chilled, frozen	555	639	15.2%
Fish - dried, salted, smoked	727	667	-8.2%
Crustaceans	84	39	-54.0%
Molluscs*	1,772	2,025	14.3%
Aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs	147	91	-38.6%
Ready foods and canned fish; caviar	2,927	3,624	23.8%
Crustaceans and molluscs, tinned	3,153	2,841	-9.9%

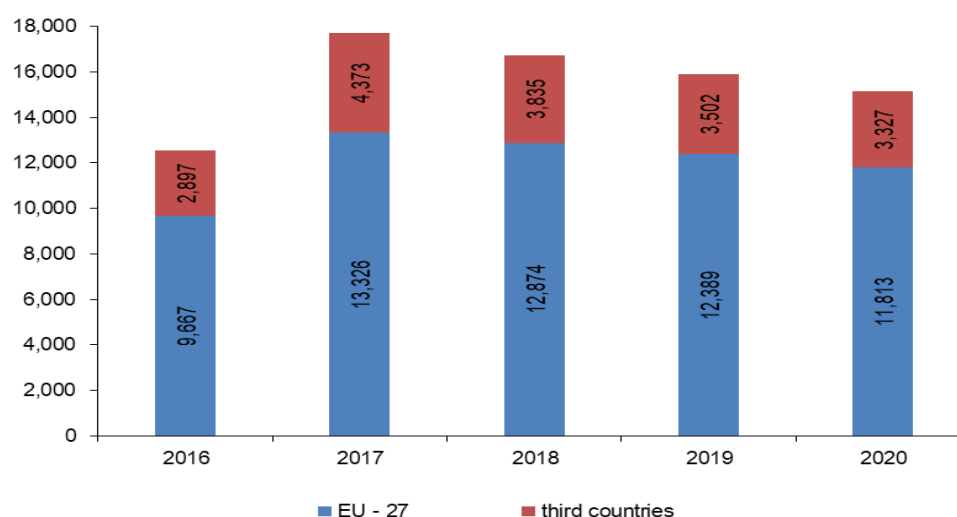
*Source: NSI data processed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.*

*\*It also includes some terrestrial molluscs, which cannot be distinguished.*

Shipments of fish and fish products to the EU were 4.6% lower than in the previous year, amounting to 11,813 tonnes (nearly 78% of total exports). The most significant quantities were destined to Romania (6.1 thousand tonnes) and Sweden (2.9 thousand tonnes), followed by Greece (562 tonnes), Belgium (503 tonnes), Lithuania (364 tonnes), Poland (341 tonnes), Spain (332 tonnes) and the Netherlands (267 tonnes).

The decrease in exports of fish and fishery products to third countries was 5%, up to 3 327 tonnes sold in Serbia (1 171 tonnes), South Korea (579 tonnes), North Macedonia (518 tonnes), Japan (377 tonnes), Bosnia and Herzegovina (295 tonnes) and others.

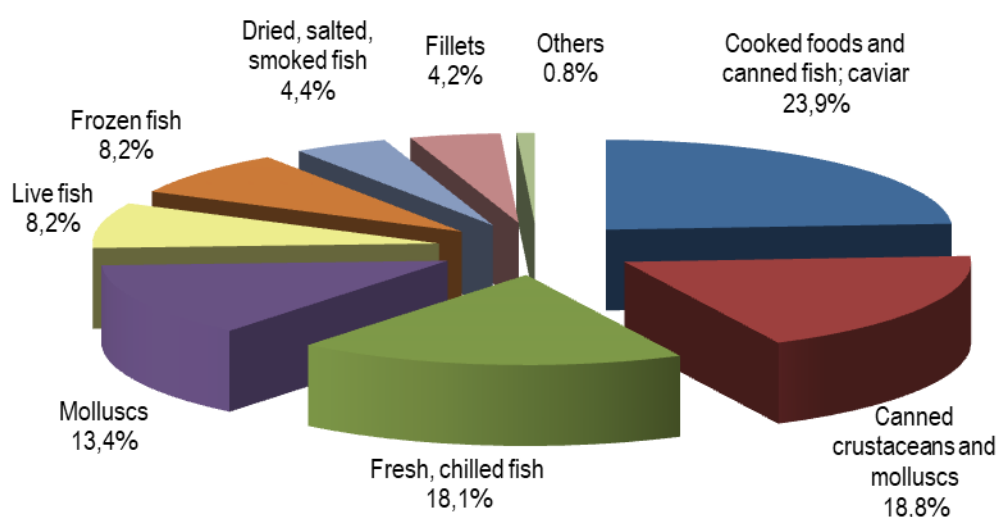
**Figure VII.5. Exports of fish, other aquatic organisms and fishery products to the EU and third countries, tonnes**



**Source:** NSI

Note: EU-27 includes 27 member states of the European Union (excluding the United Kingdom)

**Figure VII.6. Structure of exports of fish and fishery products in 2020**



**Source:** NSI data processed by the MAFF

By product groups, a significant decrease on an annual basis was registered in the export of crustaceans - by 54%, frozen fish (predominantly sprat) - by 45.4% and aquatic invertebrates other than crustaceans and molluscs - by 38.6 %, and more moderate - in that of live fish, fresh and chilled fish, dried, salted or smoked fish and canned crustaceans and molluscs - within 4.8% - 9.9%. On the other hand, exports of ready foods and canned fish and caviar increased by 23.8%, and that of fish fillets and molluscs - by 15.2% and 14.3%, respectively.

According to preliminary NSI data, in the first half of 2021 the total exports of fish, aquatic organisms and processed fishery products amounted to 8,109 tonnes, which is an increase of nearly 7% compared to the same period in 2020. There is an increase in the exported quantities both for the EU - by about 6%, up to 6 274 tonnes, and for third countries - by 10.4%, up to 1 835 tonnes.

### **3. Operational Program for Development of the Fisheries 2007-2013**

The strategic vision for the Fisheries sector is aimed at transforming it into a competitive, modern and dynamic sector based on the sustainable development of fisheries, as well as improving the quality of life in fisheries areas.

The financial resource of the Operational Program for Development of the Fisheries Sector (OPRD) 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 OPDP 2007-2013.

In connection with the closure of the programming period 2007-2013 and given the eligibility deadline for expenditures - 31.12.2015, no contracts were under the OPRD were concluded and no funds were paid under the program in 2020. The certified funds by 2020 amounted to BGN 156,021,874.31.

Pursuant to the provisions of Art. 56 of Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006 and the audit findings contained in the reports from the inspections carried out by control bodies for the implementation of projects financed under OPRD, EAFA, in its capacity of MA under OPFSD, carried out annual administrative inspections and on-site inspections of the implementation of the obligations of the projects financed under the Program, with contracts concluded by December 2015.

At present, the MA oversees OPFSD projects by monitoring the implementation of the obligations under grant agreements.

In 2020, the Certifying Authority of the OPFSD- SF Agriculture carried out activities related to updating and maintaining the book of debtors under the program, as well as preparing a draft amendment to the Final Certificate, Expenditure Report and Application for payment in connection with its completion.

### **4. Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014 - 2020**

In 2020, the implementation of the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 (MFP) and in particular the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach were significantly accelerated. For the second year in a row, the loss of funds in connection with the N + 3 rule was avoided.

The COVID-19 pandemic hampered the sector and the implementation of the Program. As a result of the active actions taken by the Managing Authority (MA), Bulgaria is the first Member State to approve an amendment to the MFP, including measures to compensate for the loss of revenue from operators in the sector due to the pandemic.

2 amendments to the MFP, versions 6.1 from 02.09.2019 and 7.1 from 14.12.2020, were approved.

The evaluation process for the use of financial instruments through the MFP started in 2020. In 2021, an agreement for implementation of financial instruments was signed between the MA, the Fund of Funds and the Intermediate Body - SFA-RA.

The process of monitoring the implementation of projects under the program was in progress, despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic. The ensuing economic crisis had a serious impact on the implementation of the concluded contracts, and the delay also affected the reported performance and result



indicators.

In 2020, the activities of the Concept for Management of the National Fisheries Network (NFM) were actively implemented, steps were taken to develop the new programming period. The preparation of the Partnership Agreement was in an advanced stage, and the received EU comments are incorporated. The development of the Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Program (MFAP) 2021-2027 started. A Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture in Bulgaria (2021-2027) was prepared and the needs for the sector were identified, taking into account the new EU political priorities for the 2021-2027 programming period. The MFAP focused on the objectives of the European Green Deal, biodiversity strategies and the farm-to-fork strategy.

In 2020, 237 contracts were concluded under the MFP, distributed by priorities of the Union as follows:

***Union priority 1: Promoting environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based, resource-efficient fisheries***

8 measures were initially set at Program level under UP 1 . In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to optimize the program budget, two changes were made and the priority measures became 7. In 2020, 6 procedures under 6 measures under UP 1 were launched.

Main achievements under UP 1 - 73 administrative contracts for granting financial aid (AGC) were concluded.

Measures opened for calls:

- 1.1 "Diversification and new forms of income";
- 1.2 "Health and safety";
- 1.4 "Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to species conservation";
- 1.6 "Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within sustainable fishing activities";
- 1.7 "Value-added, product quality and use of unwanted catches" (the call period covers the end of 2019 and ends in 2020);
- 1.9 "Support for fishing vessel owners and fishermen to cope with the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to the temporary cessation of fishing activities".

Under Measure 1.1 "Diversification and new forms of income" an call with a budget of BGN 439,435 (EUR 224,683) was announced. The call under the measure was opened on March 25, 2020. No contracts were concluded.

The MA identified low interest in measure 1.1 due to the inability to provide funds for self-participation and difficulties in using UMIS. Measures were taken to improve the interest through direct contact with representatives of the industry, and 10 information events were held. In view of the approaching end of the programming period, changes were made in the budget of the Program, transferring funds from measure to 1.8 and 5.4 in 2020. The current budget of the measure amounts to BGN 439,515 (EUR 224,724).

Under Measure 1.2 "Health and Safety" a call with a budget of BGN 74,723 (EUR 38,206) was announced. The call under the measure was opened on March 19, 2020. There are 2 contracts concluded with a total value of BGN 15,762 (EUR 8,059). The measure registered low interest, despite the conducted information campaigns and clarifications. Potential applicants confirmed their low level of administrative readiness to use UMIS, as well as the low maximum threshold of funding under the measure. Funds from the measure were transferred to measure 5.4 in 2020. The current budget of the measure amounts to BGN 31,579 (EUR 16,146).

Under Measure 1.4 "Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine environment and adapting fishing to the protection of species" a call with a budget of BGN 260,454 (EUR 133,170) grant was announced. The call under the measure was opened on 3/18/2020. No contracts were concluded. Due to the extremely low interest in the measure and the lack of submitted project proposals at the opening of the call in 2020, the measure is closed and its budget is focused on measure 5.4.

Under Measure 1.6 "Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes within the framework of sustainable fishing activities" a call with a budget of BGN 1,446,811 (EUR 739,754) in grants was announced. The call under the measure was opened on 3/23/2020. No contracts were concluded. As a result of the impossibility to increase the interest under measure 1.6, and in view of the approaching end of the programming period, the MA made changes in the budget of the Program by transferring funds from the measure to 1.8 in 2020. The current budget of the measure amounts to BGN 2,586,272 (EUR 1,322,360).

Under Measure 1.7 "Added value, quality of products and use of unwanted catches" a call with a budget of BGN 2,075,061 (EUR 1,060,978) grant was announced. The call under the measure was opened on October 18, 2019 with a deadline of January 16, 2020. No contracts have been concluded. As a result of the impossibility to increase the interest under measure 1.7, as well as in view of the approaching end of the programming period, the MA made changes in the program budget, transferring funds from the measure to 5.4 in 2020. The current budget of the measure is BGN 473,837 (EUR 242,273).

The call under Measure 1.8 "Fishing ports, landing quays, fish markets and covered boat stands" was not opened in 2020. The total progress is BGN 23,667,809 (EUR 12,101,344) in grants under 6 concluded contracts.

Under measure 1.9 "Support for owners of fishing vessels and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to temporary cessation of fishing activities", with a budget of BGN 2,039,095 (EUR 1,042,589), 71 contracts at the amount of BGN 1,818,331 (EUR 929,712) in grants. The situation that arose since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic put the fisheries sector in an unprecedented position. The MA of the MFP defines the activities that most adequately meet the needs of the sector by providing compensation for the temporary cessation of fishing activities. The budget of the measure was doubled in 2020.

The overall progress under UP 1 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 1,834,093 (EUR 937,771) in grants or 5.11% of the priority budget.

The overall progress under UP 1 in terms of public expenditure paid to beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to BGN 7,817,495 (EUR 3,997,083) in grants.

The certified funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 8,016,809 (EUR 4,098,992) in grants.

### ***Union priority 2: Fostering environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based resource-efficient aquaculture***

4 measures are set at Program level under Union Priority 2. In 2020, 5 procedures under 3 measures under UP 2 were launched.

Main achievements under PS 2 - 93 AGC were concluded.

Measures opened for calls:

- 2.2 "Productive investments in aquaculture" (three calls were open in 2020, two of which with a deadline in 2021);
- 2.3 "Promoting new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture catches" (2 calls in 2019, with the 2nd call ending in 2020);
- 2.6 "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Under Measure 2.2 "Productive investments in aquaculture" a call with a budget of BGN 3,812,999 (EUR 1,949,585) in grants was opened. The calls under the measure were opened on 19.03.2020, respectively on 09.10.2020 - for the sector "Small projects" and on 06.11.2020 - for "Large projects". 17 contracts worth BGN 3,876,019 (EUR 1,981,808) grant were concluded.

Under the measure "Productive investments in aquaculture - sector" Small projects "in 2020, 8 contracts worth BGN 372,504 (EUR 190,461) in grants were concluded.

9 contracts worth 3,503,515 BGN (EUR 1,791,346) in grants were concluded in 2020 under the measure "Productive investments in aquaculture" - sector "Large projects".

Under Measure 2.3 "Promoting new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture catches" a call with a budget of BGN 5,487,613 (EUR 2,805,815) in grants was announced. The call under the measure was opened on November 4, 2019 with a deadline February 3, 2020. 10 contracts worth BGN 6,317,587 (EUR 3,230,181) in grants were concluded.

The call under Measure 2.5 "Aquaculture providing environmental services" was not opened in 2020, but the total progress of the measure is BGN 1,591,772.08 (EUR 813,872.63) in grants under 4 concluded contracts.

Under Measure 2.6 "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic" a call with a budget of BGN 10,503,349 (EUR 5,370,359) was opened. A call under the measure was opened on June 3, 2020. 66 contracts worth BGN 2,289,425 (EUR 1,170,582) in grants were concluded. Under the measure "Productive investments in aquaculture", the call of which was held in 2018, 16 contracts worth BGN 5,311,680 (EUR 2,715,860.52) in grants were concluded in 2019.

The overall progress under UP 2 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 12,483,032 (EUR 6,382,571) in grants or 20.69% of the priority budget.

The overall progress under UP 2 in terms of public expenditure paid to the beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to BGN 6,060,693 (EUR 3,098,831) in grants.

The certified funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 4,115,844 (EUR 2,104,430) in grants.

### ***Union Priority 3: Promoting the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy***

2 measures were set at Program level under UP 3, Under UP 3, 2 procedures under 2 measures were launched. The development under the priority continues actively, working hard on the selection of project proposals. The concluded contracts are being successfully implemented by EAFA at the moment.

Main achievements under PS 3 - 1 AGC was concluded.

Measures opened for calls:

- 3.1 "Control and enforcement" (the call started in 2017 and has a deadline in 2023);
- 3.2 "Data collection under the National Program for Data Collection and Management of the Fisheries Sector 2017 - 2019" (the started in 2017 and has a deadline in 2023).

Measure 3.1 "Control and enforcement" with a budget of BGN 14,542,924 (EUR 7,435,793) in grants. The call under the measure was opened on 25.07.2017. 1 contract worth BGN 1,893,080 (EUR 967,931) grant was concluded.

Measure 3.2 "Data collection" with a budget of BGN 5,000,000 (EUR 2,556,499) grant. The call under the measure was opened on August 2, 2017. No contracts under the measure were concluded in 2020.

The total progress under UP 3 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 1,893,080 (EUR 967,931) in grants or 8.34% of the priority budget.

The disbursed funds in 2020 were BGN 1,367,924 (EUR 699,419).

The certified funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 990,022 (EUR 506,198) in grants.

#### ***Union Priority 4: Increasing Employment and Territorial Cohesion***

In 2020, the trend in the implementation of the community-led local development (CLLD) approach was retained.

Main achievements under PS 4 - 34 AGC in the amount of BGN 6,161,196 (EUR 3,150,218) were concluded.

The total budget for the announced procedures under the CLLD strategies for 2020 amounted to BGN 22,491,822 (EUR 11,500,062).

100 project proposals under the 50 open procedures under the CLLD strategies of FLAGs were submitted.

Opened calls:

In 2020, 50 calls under the approved 9 CLLD strategies of the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) were opened.

The overall progress under UP 4 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 6,161,196 (EUR 3,150,218) in grants or 17% of the priority budget. The overall progress under UP 4 in terms of public expenditures paid to the beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to BGN 2,402,172 (EUR 1,228,230) grant. The certified funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 1,812,930 (EUR 926,951) in grants.

#### ***Union Priority 5: Fostering marketing and processing***

The interest in measures 5.4 "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products" and 5.4 "Support for processors of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic" was the greatest under UP 5. The implementation of measure 5.3 "Measures for marketing" is in line with the strategy of the MA of the MFP to achieve the results of the measure. The full potential will be realized in 2021 and 2022. The low interest in measure 5.1 "Plans for production and marketing" is due to the fact that there is only one recognized producer organization that can implement a production and marketing plan. A new call is planned for 2021.

Main achievements under PS 5 - 28 AGC were concluded.

Measures opened for calls:

- 5.1 "Plans for production and marketing";
- 5.3 "Measures for marketing " (two calls were open in 2019 with a deadline in 2020);
- 5.4 "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products";
- 5.4 "Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Measure 5.1 "Plans for production and marketing" with a budget of BGN 12,220,112 (EUR 6,248,140) in grants. The call under the measure was opened on March 17, 2020 with a deadline of July 20, 2020. 1 contract was signed in 2020 under a previous call held in 2019.

Measure 5.3 "Measures for marketing" with a budget of BGN 1,411,157.00 (EUR 721,524.18) in grants. A call under the measure was opened on 04.12.2019 with a deadline in 2020 and for the second time on 17.12.2019 with a deadline in 2020. 1 contract worth BGN 948,121 (EUR 484,774) in grants was concluded.

Measure 5.4 "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products" with a budget of BGN 5,900,000 (EUR 3,016,668) in grants. The call under the measure was opened on November 6, 2020 and continued in 2021. 6 contracts worth BGN 3,647,075 (EUR 1,864,748) in grants were concluded from a previous call in 2019.

Measure 5.4 "Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic" with a budget of BGN 4,785,625 (EUR 2,446,889) in

grants. A call under the measure was opened on June 3, 2020. 20 contracts worth BGN 1,599,000 (EUR 817,568) in grants were concluded.

The overall progress under UP 5 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 6,249,343 (EUR 3,195,287) in grants or 20% of the priority budget.

The total progress under FP5 in terms of public expenditure paid to the beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to BGN 6,253,484 (EUR 3,197,405) grant.

The certified funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 5,772,220. (EUR 2,951,334) in grants.

### ***Union Priority 6: Integrated Maritime Policy***

3 measures were set under UP 6 at Program level, after amendment of the OP approved by the EC on 04.12.2020, measure 6.2 was repealed. In 2020, 2 procedures under 2 measures under UP 6 were launched. There was a moderate interest in measure 6.3 "Raising awareness of the marine environment", given the difficulties of the beneficiaries to provide financial resources for implementation of the projects.

Main achievements under PS 6 - 2 AGC were concluded.

Measures opened for calls:

- 6.1 "Integrated Maritime Surveillance";
- 6.3 "Raising awareness of the marine environment" (the call started in 2019).

Measure 6.1 "Integrated Maritime Surveillance" with a budget of BGN 3,031,491 (EUR 1,550,000) in grants. The call under the measure was opened on 07.01.2020 until 08.04.2020. 1 contract worth BGN 3,017,091 (EUR 1,542,638) in grants was concluded.

Measure 6.3 "Raising awareness of the marine environment" with a budget of BGN 637,921 (EUR 326,169) in grants. The call under the measure was opened on November 26, 2019 with a deadline in 2020. 1 contract worth BGN 375,786 (EUR 192,139) in grants was concluded.

The overall progress under UP 6 in terms of contracted funds in 2020 amounted to BGN 3,392,877 (EUR 1,734,777) in grants or 56 % of the priority budget.

The total progress under FP6 in terms of public expenditures paid to beneficiaries in 2020 amounted to BGN 905,127 (EUR 462,791) in grants.

There are no certified funds in 2020 under UP 6.

In 2020, the interest in the measures to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU priorities (UP) 1, 2 and 5 was the highest. Under UP 2 the interest in measures 2.2 and 2.3 is also traditionally high. Under UP 4, procedures under the approved CLLD strategies of all FLAGs. Under UP 5, the highest was the interest in measure 5.4.

In 2020, in accordance with Article 131 (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council, the Certifying Authority (CA) of the 2014-2020 MFP sent four applications for interim payments to the European Commission for reimbursement of the costs incurred by the beneficiaries and paid for implementation of the operations.

The public expenditures for 2020 approved by the Council of Ministers for 2020 amounted to a total of BGN 22,945,886.63, of which BGN 17,274,250.77 were co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and BGN 5,671,635.86 - funds from the National Budget and included expenditures declared by the beneficiaries on a total of 191 submitted requests for payment.

From the beginning of the program until 31.12.2020, 66,336,850.65 BGN of public funds cumulatively were certified by the CA, of which BGN 51,169,264.23 - from the EMFF and BGN 15,167,586.42 - national co-funding. 32.52% implementation of the budget under the MFP was reported, which is 11.24 percentage points more than in 2019.

**Table VII.6. Certified expenditures by priority axes under MFP 2014 - 2020 as at 31.12.2020 (BGN)**

Priority axis	Total budget of MFP 2014-2020	Certified costs			Budget implementation rate
		EU co - financing	National co-financing	Total public funds	
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Priority axis 1</b> - Promoting environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based fisheries	35,918,704.08	9,784,264.22	3,724,087.88	13,508,352.10	37.61%
<b>Priority axis 2</b> - Fostering environmentally sustainable, resource-efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based aquaculture	60,339,827.10	13,270,499.51	4,423,500.37	17,693,999.88	29.32%
<b>Priority axis 3</b> - Fostering the implementation of the CFP	22,691,856.77	10,182,199.41	1,623,499.02	11,805,698.43	52.03%
<b>Priority axis 4</b> - Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	36,338,246.23	3,703,463.84	653,553.10	4,357,016.94	11.99%
<b>Priority axis 5</b> - Fostering marketing and processing	31,860,785.93	9,624,786.33	3,208,262.24	12,833,048.57	40.28%
<b>Priority axis 6</b> - Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy	6,062,980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>Priority axis 7</b> - Technical assistance	10,756,900.00	4,604,050.92	1,534,683.81	6,138,734.73	57.07%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>203,969,300.11</b>	<b>51,169,264.23</b>	<b>15,167,586.42</b>	<b>66,336,850.65</b>	<b>32.52%</b>

Source: SFA

Pursuant to the Agreement for Delegation of Functions for Implementation of the 2014-2020 MFP, the Paying Agency, as the Intermediate Body of the Managing Authority, verifies the expenditures upon submission of a request for payment.

In the framework of 2020, payment requests according to the table below were accepted, verified and paid through UMIS 2020.

**Table VII.7. Projects paid under measures of MFP 2014 - 2020 in 2020 (BGN)**

Measure	Number of projects	Amount paid	National funding	European funding
1.1. Diversification and new forms of income	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.2. Investments for 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	2	15,762.40	4,214.87	11,547.53
1.3. Permanent cessation of fishing activities	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

Measure	Number of projects	Amount paid	National funding	European funding
1.5. Development or introduction of new technical or organizational 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	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.6. Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities	2	326,397.94	87,278.83	239,119.11
17 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	2	117,661.16	31,462.59	86,198.57
1.8. Investments for improvement of the infrastructure in fishing ports, investments for improvement of the unloading berths. Construction or modernization of boat docks. Permanent cessation of fishing activities	5	5,545,028.06	1,482,740.49	4,062,287.57
1.9. Support for owners of fishing vessels and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to temporary cessation of fishing activities".	69	1,812,645.08	484,701.29	1,327,943.79
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	11	2,056,898.95	514,224.75	1,542,674.20
2.3. Encouraging new aquaculture producers, developing sustainable aquaculture	8	1,714,070.83	428,517.73	1,285,553.10
2.5. Aquaculture providing environmental services	2	96,683.53	24,170.88	72,512.65
2.6. "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID19 pandemic", Measure 2.6 "Public health measures"	49	2,193,039.85	548,259.96	1,644,779.89
3.1. Control and enforcement	6	871,402.65	240,482.99	630,919.66
3.2. Data collection	1	496,520.95	99,304.19	397,216.76
4.1. Preparatory support for CLLD strategies, including the establishment of a National Fisheries Network		-817.20	-122.58	-694.62
4.2. Implementation of community led local development strategies	53	2,402,989.07	360,448.55	2,042,540.52
5.3. Establishment of producer organizations, associations of producer organizations or interbranch organizations. Search for new markets and improvement of the conditions for placing fishery and aquaculture products on the market	1	74,284.00	18,571.00	55,713.00
5.4. Processing of fishing and aquaculture products	12	4,580,200.25	1,145,050.12	3,435,150.13
5.4. Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic	20	1,599,000.00	399,750.00	1,199,250.00

Measure	Number of projects	Amount paid	National funding	European funding
consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic", Measure 5.4. Processing of fishery and aquaculture products				
6.1. Fostering the implementation of the IMP	1	905,127.18	226,281.80	678,845.38
7.1. Technical assistance	15	2,238,061.01	559,515.27	1,678,545.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>27,044,955.71</b>	<b>6,654,852.73</b>	<b>20,390,102.98</b>

Source: SFA

In fulfillment of the activities for implementation of the MFP 2014 - 2020, on 19.03.2019 the EC approved the sent Annual Accounting Report for the period 01.07.2019 - 30.06.2020 according to Art. 126 (b) and in connection with Art. 138 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

The total amounts reimbursed by the EMFF as at 31.12.2020 for the MFP were in the amount of BGN 47,806,634.74, BGN 22,226,918.55, representing annual reconciliation of the accounts under the Program and reimbursed interim payments were transferred in 2020.

#### **Overall progress in the implementation of the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014 - 2020 as of 26.06.2021**

##### ***Priority 1 Promoting environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based, resource-efficient fisheries***

Measure 1.2. "Investments for 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." Payments made - 2 with a total value of the grant of BGN 15,762.40.

Measure 1.3. "Permanent cessation of fishing activities". Payments made - 8 with a total value of the grant of BGN 483,173.09.

Measure 1.6 "Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities". Payments made - 3 with a total value of the grant of BGN 399,241.88.

Measure 1.7 "Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches". Payments made - 4 with a total value of the grant of BGN 359,673.00.

Measure 1.8. "Investments for improvement of the infrastructure in fishing ports, investments for improvement of the unloading berths. Construction or modernization of boat docks. Payments made - 14 with a total value of the grant of BGN 13,282,139.00.

Measure 1.9 "Support for owners of fishing vessels and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to temporary cessation of fishing activities". Payments made - 70, with a total value of the grant of BGN 1,815,376.34.

##### ***Priority 2. "Fostering environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based resource-efficient aquaculture "***

Measure 2.2 "Productive investments in aquaculture". Payments made - 80 with a total value of the grant of BGN 16,012,184.15.

Measure 2.3 "Fostering new aquaculture producers, developing sustainable aquaculture". Payments made - 13 with a total value of the grant of BGN 2,962,369.75.

Measure 2.5 "Aquaculture providing environmental services". Payments made - 5 with a total value of the grant of BGN 403,384.13.



Measure 2.6 "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic". Payments made - 66 with a total value of the grant of BGN 2,335,933.44.

**Priority 3. "Fostering the implementation of CFP"**

Measure 1.8. Control and enforcement. Payments made - 31 with a total value of the grant of BGN 9,272,352.39.

Measure 3.2. Data collection Payments made - 7 with a total value of the grant of BGN 3,668,479.65.

**Priority 4. "Increasing employment and territorial cohesion"**

Measure 4.1 "Preparatory support for CLLD strategies, including the establishment of a National Fisheries Network". Payments made - 13 with a total value of the grant of BGN 506,393.76.

Measure 4.2. "Implementation of community led local development strategies" Payments made - 136 of the total value of the subsidy BGN 6,542,059.65.

**Priority 5. "Fostering marketing and processing"**

Measure 5.3. "Establishment of producer organizations, associations of producer organizations or interbranch organizations. Search for new markets and improvement of the conditions for placing fishery and aquaculture products on the market" Payments made - 7 with a total value of the grant of BGN 1,184,177.13.

Measure 5.4. "Processing of fishing and aquaculture products". Payments made - 30 with a total value of the grant of BGN 13,033,937.87.

Measure 5.4. "Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic" Payments made - 20 with a total value of the grant of BGN 1,599,000.00.

**Priority 6. "Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy"**

Measure 6.1 "Integrated maritime surveillance". Payments made - 1 with a total value of the grant of BGN 905,127.18.

Measure 6.3 "Raising awareness of the marine environment" Payments made - 1 with a total value of the grant of BGN 188,044.29.

**Measure 7 "Technical Assistance"**

Payments made - 48 with a total value of the grant of BGN 6,606,907.26.

**Table VII.8. Projects paid under measures of the MFP 2014 - 2020 for the period 01.01.2021 - 22.06.2021 (BGN)**

Measure	Number of projects	Amount paid	National funding	European funding
1.1. Diversification and new forms of income	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.2. Investments for 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	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.3. Permanent cessation of fishing activities	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.4. Limiting the impact of fishing on the marine footprint and adapting fishing to species protection	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.5. Development or introduction of new technical or organizational 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	0.00	0.00	0.00

Measure	Number of projects	Amount paid	National funding	European funding
1.6. Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities	1	72,843.94	19,478.47	53,365.47
17 Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.8. Investments for improvement of the infrastructure in fishing ports, investments for improvement of the unloading berths. Construction or modernization of boat docks. Permanent cessation of fishing activities	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.9. Support for owners of fishing vessels and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to temporary cessation of fishing activities	1	2,731.26	730.34	2,000.92
2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture	4	833,710.63	208,427.67	625,282.96
2.3 Fostering new aquaculture producers, developing sustainable aquaculture	2	624,746.54	156,186.64	468,559.90
2.5. Aquaculture providing environmental services	3	306,700.60	76,675.15	230,025.45
2.6. "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID19 pandemic", Measure 2.6 "Public health measures"	16	142,893.59	35,723.40	107,170.19
3.1. Control and enforcement	1	757,232.00	75,723.20	681,508.80
3.2. Data collection	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.1. Preparatory support for CLLD strategies, including the establishment of a National Fisheries Network		-2,177.78	-326.66	-1,851.12
4.2. Implementation of community led local development strategies	18	1,952,218.42	292,832.77	1,659,385.65
5.3. Establishment of producer organizations, associations of producer organizations or interbranch organizations. Search for new markets and improvement of the conditions for placing fishery and aquaculture products on the market	1	926,311.35	231,577.84	694,733.51
5.4. Processing of fishing and aquaculture products	2	1,176,886.22	294,221.56	882,664.66
5.4. "Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic", Measure 5.4. "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products"	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.1. Fostering the implementation of the IMP	1	188,044.29	47,011.07	141,033.22
7.1. Technical assistance	6	468,172.53	117,043.15	351,129.38
<b>Total:</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>7,450,313.59</b>	<b>1,555,304.60</b>	<b>5,895,008.99</b>

Source: SFA

### Monitoring

According to Art. 2 of the Agreement for Delegation of Functions for Implementation of the 2014-2020 MFP, inspections were carried out for the implementation of the beneficiaries' production programs, for the use of the financed assets for their intended purpose, as well as inspections for the implementation of the monitoring result indicators. In 2020, administrative inspections were carried out on 24 projects falling under a monitoring period after the final payment of the grant, and on 7 of them on-site inspections were carried out by the Technical Inspectorate on the basis of risk analysis. The results of the inspections were summarized and reported to the MA of the MFP.

### Expected data for 2021

In 2021, a total of four applications for interim payments under the 2014-2020 MFP are expected to be sent for reimbursement by the EC. The estimated costs, expected to be certified under the EMFF for the year amount to BGN 36,938,395.64, and the first costs under projects of beneficiaries under Union Priority 6 "Integrated Maritime Policy" are expected to be certified.

**Table VII.9. Forecast for payments under the MFP 2014 - 2020 for 2021**

Union priorities	Union priority measures	EMFF	National co-financing	Total financial resources
Priority 1 Promoting environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based, resource-efficient fisheries	Measure 1.6. Conservation and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems and compensation regimes in the framework of sustainable fishing activities - 73.26%	53,367.88	19,476.06	72,843.94
	Measure 1.8. "Investments for improvement of the infrastructure in the fishing ports, investments for improvement of unloading berths. Construction or modernization of boat docks" - 73.26%	4,050,335.64	1,478,128.06	5,528,463.70
	Measure 1.9 "Temporary cessation of fishing activities COVID 19"	2,001.01	730.25	2,731.26
Priority 2 Fostering environmentally sustainable, innovative, competitive and knowledge-based resource-efficient aquaculture	Measure 2.2. Productive investments in aquaculture - 75% sector "Small projects" and sector "Recycling systems and construction of new ones, as well as expansion and modernization of existing aquaculture farms"	1,915,541.95	638,513.98	2,554,055.93
	Measure 2.3. Fostering new aquaculture producers developing sustainable aquaculture - 75%	2,039,333.83	679,777.94	2,719,111.77
	Aquaculture providing environmental services	380,355.12	126,785.04	507,140.16
	Measure 2.6 "Support to the aquaculture sector for temporary suspension or reduction of the production COVID 19"	117,288.75	39,096.25	156,385.00
Priority 3 Fostering the implementation of the CFP	Measure 3.1. "Control and enforcement"	1,321,848.00	146,872.00	1,468,720.00
	Measure 3.2. Data collection - 80%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Priority 4 Increasing employment and territorial cohesion	Measure 4.2. Implementation of community led local development strategies - 85%	5,394,743.52	952,013.56	6,346,757.08
Priority 5 Fostering of marketing and processing	Measure 5.1. "Plans for production and marketing"	28,096.88	9,365.63	37,462.50
	Measure 5.4. Processing of fishery and aquaculture products - 75%	2,651,746.75	883,915.58	3,535,662.33
	Measure 5.3. Marketing	788,483.51	262,827.84	1,051,311.35
Priority 6 Integrated Maritime Policy	Fostering the implementation of the IMP - Article 80, item 1, paragraph 1 of Reg. 508/2014 - measure 6.1	0.00	0.00	0.00

Union priorities	Union priority measures	EMFF	National co-financing	Total financial resources
	Fostering the implementation of the IMP - Article 80, item 1, paragraph 3 of Reg. 508/2014 - measure 6.3	141,033.22	47,011.07	188,044.29
Technical assistance	75%	1,362,754.89	454,251.63	1,817,006.52
Financial instruments under the "Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program"		600,286.56	200,095.52	800,382.08
<b>Total:</b>		<b>20,847,217.50</b>	<b>5,938,860.41</b>	<b>26,786,077.91</b>

Source: MAFF, Maritime and Fisheries Directorate

**Table VII.10. Upcoming calls under the MFP 2014 - 2020 until the end of 2021**

Measure	Scheduled calls in 2021	Total budget of the measure (BGN)	Application deadline
Measure 1.9 "Support for owners of fishing vessels and fishermen to overcome the economic consequences of the outbreak of COVID-19 due to temporary cessation of fishing activities"	1st quarter	2,268,387.79	30 days from the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 2.6. "Public health measures" "Support to producers of fish and other aquatic organisms to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic"	1st quarter	5,685,947.15	30 days from the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 5.1. Plans for production and marketing	2nd quarter	123,329.84	90 days from the date of announcement of the procedure
Measure 5.4. Processing of fishery and aquaculture products "Support for processing enterprises of fishery and aquaculture products to address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic", measure 5.4 "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products", Art. 69 (3) of Regulation (EU) 508/2014	1st quarter	3,186,625.22	30 days from the date of announcement of the procedure

Source: MAFF, Maritime and Fisheries Directorate

## 5. Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) contains rules for the management of European 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 Organization (CMO) for fishery and aquaculture products is one of the pillars of the CFP and represents the European Union's policy for management of the market for fishery and aquaculture products. A major factor in achieving the CMO objectives is the fishery and aquaculture producer organisations, the associations of producer organisations and interbranch organizations.

With the application of Ordinance No. 7 of 2018 on the conditions and procedure for recognition of fishery and aquaculture producer organisations, associations of producer organisations and interbranch organisations in the fisheries sector, and the approval of production plans and marketing (promulgated, SG, issue 99 of 2018) the conditions for 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 organization 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 are set.

In 2020, in connection with the control of professional organizations in the fisheries sector, a number of inspections were carried out to establish compliance with the requirements of the legislation of recognized by the LRA producer organization in the areas of coastal fishing, deep-sea fishing and sea fishing in EU maritime areas in the Black Sea, for some types of fishery products (Black Sea Sunrise Association) and an interbranch organization in the fisheries sector in the field of production (fishery or aquaculture products), processing and trade. (Association of fish product producers BG FISH). Checks of the level of implementation of the first approved Plan for production and marketing of the recognized producer organization and for approval of the annual report on its implementation were also carried out.

In order to protect the populations of fish and other aquatic organisms, temporary prohibitions and restrictions on fishing in natural and artificial water bodies throughout the country were introduced in 2020. In this way conditions for protection of aquatic organisms during their breeding season, as well as for conservation of fish populations in certain reservoirs and/or areas thereof were created.

In 2020, a ban on sturgeon fishing in the Bulgarian waters of the Danube and Black Sea was introduced for a period of 5 years, in order to protect and preserve their populations. Sturgeons are considered one of the most endangered species included in the Red Book of World Endangered Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and are subject to of conservation and management in accordance with Council Directive 92/43 / EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

With regard to fishing in the Black Sea, in connection with the preparations for the 44th session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), measures for management of sprat and Black Sea spiny dogfish fishing for conservation and mitigating the impact of fishing on sturgeon and cetacean species, for balancing the fishing capacity with available resources, for establishing a scheme to certify turbot catches and minimum standards for management of restricted fishing areas, etc., were discussed in 2020.

In connection with the adoption of the new GFCM strategy for the period up to 2030, a summit: "Joint development of a new strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea", was attended, where views on ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, including promoting continued development in areas that still require progress and integrating emerging problems, including the response needed to overcome the effects of COVID-19 in the region, were shared.

In 2020, in pursuance of a recommendation from the Black Sea Advisory Council, a permanent Rapid Response Group was set up to provide timely and motivated information in the event of atypical climate change affecting the development of fisheries resources, requiring a change in the period of prohibition of fishing during the breeding season of fish and other aquatic organisms in the Black Sea, set in compliance with LRA.

In connection with the implementation of the Action Plan for overcoming the shortcomings in the Bulgarian fisheries control system, measures, including changes in the current legislation in the field of fisheries, were undertaken to ensure compliance of the national control system with the EU control system. These measures are related to the unloading obligation, the traceability rules, the labeling of fishery products, the first sale, the electronic reporting system and the monitoring of fishing fleet activities.

In 2020, the seventh regular meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) was held with the participation of representatives of branch organizations in the sector, research institutes and public administrations. Important topics for the sector, such as measures to support the Fisheries sector in relation to COVID-19; national measures for conservation and sustainable management of the Black Sea spiny dogfish; the need for changes in the LRA concerning small-scale fishing; the use of bivalve gear in the Black Sea; improving the efficiency of control and the legislative framework for aquaculture; up-to-date information on the situation with the infectious disease Cyprinid herpesvirus on carp, were discussed.

Taking into account the identified shortcomings in the regulation of public relations related to commercial, recreational fishing and aquaculture, an Act amending the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act was prepared (approved by Decision No. 901 of the Council of Ministers of 7 December 2020), envisaging also

changes aimed at consolidation of the national fisheries legislation with the relevant European legislation, as well as elimination of regulatory gaps, was prepared.

In 2020, the Ordinance on veterinary requirements and biosecurity measures for livestock farms for fish and other aquatic organisms, which determines the general and special veterinary and zoohygienic requirements, including biosecurity measures in farms for fish and other aquatic organisms, as well as the obligations of the owners or users of these sites, was adopted. The implementation of the regulatory act aims at the development of the fish farming sector, increasing the productivity of the farms and guaranteeing the health status of the fish and other aquatic organisms farmed in them.

Pursuant to Art. 15a of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, procedures for outsourcing the management of fishery resources in Koprinka and Mandra reservoirs to fishing associations, with the aim of sustainable development of fish resources in these reservoirs, their protection and restoration, were carried out in 2020.

For better regulation of the conditions and obligations of stakeholders in the field of recreational fishing, during the year orders were issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to determine water bodies for fish stocking and to permit recreational fishing during the dark part of the day in certain fisheries.

#### **Planned activities in 2021:**

- introduction of a temporary ban on fishing at the fisheries sites under Art. 3, para. 1, items 1 and 2 of the LRA during the breeding period of fish (by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry);
- conducting public consultations on the need to introduce a ban on fishing for white sand mussels of the species *Donax trunculus* and *Chamelea gallina* in the Bulgarian waters of the Black Sea in order to protect and create optimal conditions for their natural reproduction;
- Designation of fishery sites permitted for recreational fishing during the dark part of the day;
- determination of water bodies for stocking;
- approval of the Annual Report on the implementation of the Plan for production and marketing of the recognized producer organization in the fisheries sector;
- approval of a new (second) Plan for production and marketing of the recognized producer organization in the fisheries sector;
- Prepared draft Law amending and supplementing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act;
- prepared Ordinance on the terms and conditions for the first sale of fishery products;
- conducting an information campaign through preparation and distribution of printed materials in connection with the extension of the ban on catching and exploiting sturgeon species;
- holding a meeting of the Advisory Council on Fisheries to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;
- participation in a summit for signing the new GFCM strategy "Joint development of a new strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea" until 2030;
- Preparation for the 44th annual session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which will be held in November 2021 and which is expected to adopt recommendations directly affecting the Republic of Bulgaria, such as the establishment of measures for conservation and management of spiny dogfish and sprat, mitigation of the impact of fishing on cetaceans and sturgeon in the Black Sea, establishment of a certification scheme for turbot catches in the Black Sea, and establishment of minimum standards for management of restricted fishing areas, etc.

## **SECTION B**

### **PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2022**

The state policy in the agricultural sector is aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture, sustainable development of the fisheries and forestry sectors, improving working conditions and quality of life in rural areas, effective use of European funds, sustainable management of natural resources and compliance with high safety standards in the food production and supply chain. The priorities and objectives of the policy in the agricultural sector and the measures for their achievement in 2022, set in this section, are in compliance with the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030. The implementation of the measures aimed at fostering the development of the sector, envisaged for the transitional period of implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy until the end of 2022, will continue. The implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which sets out interventions to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of the industry and its readiness to meet the challenges of green and digital transition, will start.

#### **PRIORITY 1: STRUCTURAL AND SECTORAL BALANCE OF AGRICULTURE**

##### **AREA OF IMPACT 1 - PLANT GROWING:**

**OBJECTIVE: INCREASING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF VULNERABLE SECTORS AND CONTINUING THE POLICIES OF BALANCED AND DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLANT SUBSECTION**

##### **MEASURES**

1. Improving the competitiveness and sustainability of vulnerable crop sectors through coupled support schemes (for fruit, vegetables, protein crops and special payment for cotton) under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022
2. Support for tobacco producers' incomes through transitional national decoupled tobacco aid
3. Increasing the sustainability and competitiveness of the wine sector by implementing the measures of the National Program for Support of the Wine Sector 2019-2023.
4. Fostering investments in crop production with funds from the national budget through the State Aid Scheme "Aid for investments in tangible assets in agricultural holdings related to primary production of crop products"
5. Fostering the production of quality products in crop production through state aid for participation of farmers in a quality scheme for production of quality seeds and planting material and state aid for certification of farms in the sector "Fruits and vegetables" according to the GLOBALG.A.P standard
6. Improving relations in the field of ownership, use, management and protection of agricultural land by preparing legislative changes

##### **AREA OF IMPACT 2 - ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:**

**OBJECTIVE: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND PROFITABILITY OF LIVESTOCK FARMS**

##### **MEASURES:**

1. Improving the competitiveness and sustainability of vulnerable livestock sectors through coupled support schemes (dairy cows, beef cows, ewes and she-goats, buffaloes) under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022

2. Support for livestock farmers' incomes through transitional national aid (for cattle, buffalo, ewes and she-goats)
3. Improving the competitiveness of the Beekeeping sector through the National Beekeeping Program for the period 2020-2022.
4. Fostering the investment activity in animal husbandry through the application of state aid schemes (aid for purchase or construction of facilities for processing and/or processing of raw milk, aid for investment for purchase of equipment for production and storage of raw milk, aid for investment for construction of slaughterhouses, aid for investment for construction of commercial premises and purchase of commercial equipment related to the direct supply of small quantities of raw materials and food from farm animals)
5. Promoting animal welfare and the conservation of genetic resources in animal husbandry through State Aid Schemes for implementation of voluntary commitments for the welfare of pigs and birds and the State Aid Scheme for keeping a herd book and determining the productivity traits of animals

### **AREA OF IMPACT 3 - ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SMALL AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS:**

**OBJECTIVE: INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS TO REDUCE DISPROPORTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC STRUCTURES IN AGRICULTURE**

#### **MEASURES:**

1. Complementing the incomes and increasing the competitiveness of small farmers by implementing the Small Farmers Scheme under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022.
2. Improving the efficiency of small and medium-sized farms and a fairer distribution of support for them by implementing a Redistributive Payment Scheme under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022.
3. Support for sustainable development and viability of small agricultural holdings under Sub-measure 6.3 "Start-up aid for development of small holdings from the RDP 2014-2020.

### **AREA OF IMPACT 4 - AGE STRUCTURE OF FARMERS:**

**OBJECTIVE: ATTRACTING AND RETAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURE**

#### **MEASURES:**

1. Facilitating the renewal of generations in agriculture through additional support for the income of young farmers under the Young Farmers Scheme
2. Prioritizing the support under the RDP 2014-2020 to promote the start-up and development of farms of young farmers

### **AREA OF IMPACT 5 - AREAS WITH NATURAL OR OTHER CONSTRAINTS:**

**OBJECTIVE: PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND HOLDINGS IN AREAS WITH NATURAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS**

#### **MEASURE:**

1. Provision of compensatory support under Measure 13 "Payments for areas facing natural or other specific constraints under the RDP 2014-2020" for activities of farms in areas with natural and other restrictions



## **PRIORITY 2: GUARANTEEING FAIR AND STABLE INCOME FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS:**

### **SCOPE 1 - DIRECT SUPPORT MECHANISMS**

**OBJECTIVE: MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECT SUPPORT TO GUARANTEE THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AND SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **MEPKM**

1. Provision of basic income support under the Single Area Payment Scheme under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022
2. Preparation of an intervention under the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development for basic income support for sustainability

### **SCOPE 2 - RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE:**

**OBJECTIVE: MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF RISKS IN AGRICULTURE ON THE ACTIVITY AND INCOME OF EMPLOYEES IN THE INDUSTRY**

#### **MEASURES:**

1. Support for risk management in crop holdings through the implementation of state aid schemes (National Program for Pest Control in Perennial Plantations during the Winter Period, National Program of Measures for Control of Soil Pests on Potatoes from the Wireworm Family, National Program of Measures for Control of Tomato Leaf Miner, Aid for co-financing insurance premiums for agricultural insurance, Aid to compensate for damage to crops caused by adverse climatic events that can be equated to natural disasters)
2. Preparation for diversification of hail prevention methods to achieve full coverage of agricultural land by introducing aerial hail protection method
3. Support for risk management in livestock farms through the implementation of state aid schemes (measures under the State Prevention Program and the Programs for Surveillance and Eradication of Animal Diseases, Aid to compensate for material damage to dead livestock and destroyed beehives, Aid to compensate costs of disposing and destroying of dead animals)

## **PRIORITY 3: AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS**

### **AREA OF IMPACT 1 - MODERNIZATION, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS**

**OBJECTIVE: MODERNIZED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY RENOVATED FARMS AND ENTERPRISES. ACCELERATED INTRODUCTION OF INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE**

#### **MEASURES:**

1. Fostering the investment processes in agricultural holdings by applying Sub-measure 4.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" of the RDP 2014-2020
2. Fostering the investment process for modernization and technological renewal in the processing and marketing of agricultural products to create higher added value of the industry by implementing Sub-measure 4.2 "Investment in processing/marketing of agricultural products" of the RDP 2014-2020.

3. Increasing the innovation capacity of the Agriculture sector by stimulating cooperation between business and science - implementation of Sub-measure 16.1 "Support for establishment and functioning of operational groups within the EMI" of the RDP 2014-2020
4. Preparation for launching schemes and announcing a call for investment support projects under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan through the Fund for Promotion of the Technological and Ecological Transition of Agriculture

**OBJECTIVE: PROVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND DIGITALISATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS IN THE BRANCH FOR SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND PROVISION OF TRANSPARENT, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES**

**MEASURE:**

1. Development of e-government and improvement of the administrative service in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry through:
  - Creating conditions for electronic data exchange between the public administration and farmers to monitor the progress in implementing the objectives of the Green Deal - preparation and starting the implementation of activities under the project Digitization of the farm to fork processes of the NRRP
  - Expanding the range of administrative services provided by the structures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food electronically
  - Improving the access to information collected and summarized in the MAFF system
  - Publication of information and data sets on the Open Data Portal

**AREA OF IMPACT 2 - MARKET POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS:**

**OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN**

**MEASURES:**

1. Improving the functioning of the supply chains of agricultural products and foods by stimulating the cooperation between the economic entities under Sub-measure 16.4. Support for horizontal and vertical cooperation between the participants in the supply chain of the RDP 2014-2020
2. Improving the conditions for market access of small agricultural holdings producing fruits and vegetables through support under Measure "Operational programs in the Fruits and vegetables sector"
3. Increasing the market stability and competitiveness of small and medium-sized agricultural holdings by preparing a legislative act regulating cooperation in the agricultural sector
4. Improving the interaction of the agricultural community with state institutions by regulating the representation of national and regional branch organizations in agriculture

**AREA OF IMPACT 3 - QUALIFICATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS:**

**OBJECTIVE: IMPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**

**MEASURES:**

1. Organizing and conducting specialized trainings for farmers through long-term and short-term courses and information activities, including within Measure 1 "Transfer of knowledge and information actions" under the RDP 2014 - 2020.
2. Supporting the transfer of innovative technologies and practices by disseminating the outputs of research projects and developing new products and techniques
3. 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 with scientific institutes, applied research organizations and other institutions and experts
4. Providing specialized advice to farmers in various areas - establishment and management of the farm, implementation of national legislation and EU standards, integrated plant protection, climate and environment, etc.
5. Increasing the activity and contribution of the established "farmers' circles" to the regional offices of the NAAS, with the participation of active farmers, in the process of disseminating useful information in the field of agriculture and promoting good practices in applying for and implementing RDP projects
6. Active functioning of the regional advisory councils for advice in agriculture with the participation of representatives of the NAAS, regional structures of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmers
7. Enhancing the use of electronic services and the use of various digital tools for providing advisory services, incl. for conducting online information meetings, seminars, demonstrations and other trainings for farmers

**PRIORITY 4: ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION****AREA OF IMPACT 1 - AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS:****OBJECTIVE: AGRICULTURAL COMMITMENTS AND SERVICES, RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE****MEASURES:**

1. Stimulating the undertaking of multi-year commitments for protection of the environment and biodiversity under Measure 10 "Agri-environment and climate" of the RDP 2014 - 2020.
2. Support for the implementation of climate- and environment-friendly agricultural practices through green direct payments under the First Pillar of the CAP 2014-2022.
3. Preparation of interventions under the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development contributing to European and national goals in the field of climate, environment and biodiversity

**AREA OF IMPACT 2 - ORGANIC PRODUCTION:****OBJECTIVE: INCREASING THE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS****MEASURES:**

1. Fostering the production of organic products through Measure 11 "Organic Agriculture" of the RDP 2014-2020

2. Stimulating the consumption of organic products in kindergartens and schools through the implementation of market support schemes "School Fruit" and "School Milk"
3. Support for investments in farms for production of organic products through sub-measure 4.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" of the RDP 2014-2020
4. Support for investments in processing of organic products through sub-measure 4.2 "Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products" of the RDP 2014-2020

### **AREA OF IMPACT 3 - IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**

#### **OBJECTIVE: IMPROVING THE USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURE**

##### **MEASURES:**

1. Implementation of investment projects for irrigation in agricultural holdings under sub-measure 4.1 "Investments in agricultural holdings" of the RDP 2014-2020
2. Improving the management of water resources through investments in the national hydro-ameliorative fund under sub-measure 4.3 "Investments in infrastructure" to measure 4 "Investments in tangible assets" of the RDP 2014-2020.
3. Support for investments in agricultural holdings for efficient use of water in agricultural activities under the project "Fund for Promotion of Technological and Ecological Transition of Agriculture", RRP- "Investments related to efficient water management in agricultural holdings"

### **AREA OF IMPACT 4 - FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

#### **OBJECTIVE: IMPROVING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH CONDITION OF FORESTS, CONTROLLING THE USE OF WOOD AND NON-WOOD PRODUCTS FROM FORESTS**

##### **MEASURES:**

1. Development of a National Plan for Restoration of Traditional Forest Landscapes and launch of activities for its implementation with financial support under the RRP
2. Increasing the capacity for protection of forests from pests and diseases by:
  - Development of new and updating of existing methods for forest pathological monitoring of known and new for Bulgaria pests in forests
  - Planning of forest protection measures against known and new pests in the changing climate
3. Launch of NAP activities aimed at using the potential of forest genetic resources for adaptation to climate change
4. Establishment of a Unified system for monitoring, early detection and notification of forest fires to increase the capacity for prevention and control of forest fires by:
  - Implementation of the signed contracts under sub-measure 8.3 of the RDP 2014 - 2020 "Prevention of damage to forests by forest fires, natural disasters and catastrophic events" for the construction of 13 automatic monitoring stations.
  - Construction of new automatic monitoring stations under a project under the National Recovery and Sustainability Plan.
  - Increasing the technical capacity for the initial attack of forest fires
5. Development of an Ordinance on the ecosystem benefits and services from the forests in order to value the ecosystem services from the forest territories and to compensate the owners
6. Development of a project of the National Program for Forest Pedagogy, aimed at increasing the knowledge and changing the attitude of the young generation to the protection of biological diversity,

sustainable forest management, climate change and conducting training events with the participation of MES, EAG, LTU

7. Establishment of a National Center for Continuing Education and Qualification of Workers in the Forestry Sector
8. Visualization of forests in the existing information environment - creation of GIS for forests

**OBJECTIVE: UPDATE OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS AND THE CURRENT REGULATIONS IN FORESTS**

**MEPKM**

1. Development of a National Strategy for Development of the Forestry Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria
2. Development of Regional Plans for development of forest territories for the districts of Sliven and Yambol.
3. Development, discussion and adoption of a National Strategy for the Development of the Hunting Economy in the Republic of Bulgaria.
4. Preparation of amendments to the Forest Act
5. Changes in the by-laws (Ordinance № 8 of 2011 on felling in forests, Ordinance on the terms and conditions for awarding activities in forest areas - state and municipal property, and on the use of wood and non-timber forest products, others)
6. Improving the regulations for the work related to the fight against African swine fever (Preparation of the Amendments to the Law on Hunting and Game Conservation)

**PRIORITY 5: "FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT"**

**AREA OF IMPACT 1 - "FISHERIES AND AQUATIC BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES":**

**OBJECTIVE: CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY OF FISHING RESOURCES AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS**

**MEASURES:**

1. Providing and managing reliable biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data for the Fisheries sector with financial support under the Maritime and Fisheries Program 2014-2020 and the Maritime , Fisheries and Aquaculture Program for the next programming period
2. Implementation of the Union control, inspection and enforcement system provided for in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy through measure 3.1 "Control and enforcement" of the MFP
3. Preparation and launching of activities for adaptation of the fishing fleet capabilities to the fishing opportunities through financial support under Measure "Final cessation of fishing activities" of the MFAP
4. Preparation and launching of activities to foster investment in new equipment and innovations, contributing to environmental protection and biodiversity through financial support under Measure "Specific equipment of fishing vessels, activities and innovations aimed at environmental protection and biodiversity" of the MFAP

**AREA OF IMPACT 2 - COMPETITIVENESS OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY:**

## **OBJECTIVE: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF ITS PRODUCTS**

### **MEASURES:**

1. Preparation for implementation of activities to promote investment activity and introduction of innovations in the Aquaculture sub-sector through financial support under Measures "Productive investments in aquaculture" and "Innovations in aquaculture" under MFAP
2. Preparation for implementation of activities to promote investment activity and introduction of innovations in processing of fishery and aquaculture products through financial support under Measure "Processing of fishery and aquaculture products" from MFAP

## **AREA OF IMPACT 3 - BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES COMMUNITIES**

### **OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES IN COASTAL AND INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

#### **MEASURES:**

1. Preparation for implementation of activities to promote the process of establishing local fishing action groups with financial support under Measure "Preliminary preparation of fisheries local action groups" of the MFAP
2. Preparation for implementation of activities to stimulate the participation of local communities in the sustainable development of coastal and inland fishing areas with financial support under Measure "Development of communities engaged in fisheries and aquaculture in coastal and inland areas" of the MFAP

## **PRIORITY 6: MOBILIZING THE POTENTIAL OF RURAL AREAS TO ACHIEVE BALANCED SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **AREA OF IMPACT 1 - COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT:**

#### **OBJECTIVE: DIVERSIFICATION OF THE RURAL ECONOMY AND HIGH EMPLOYMENT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION**

##### **MEASURES:**

1. Implementation of integrated multisectoral strategies for local development, based on the characteristics of the specific territory and developed on the basis of local needs and potential
2. Preparation for implementation of a preparatory measure for development of CLLD strategies for the new programming period under the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development

### **SCOPE 2 - INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS:**

#### **OBJECTIVE: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS**

##### **MEASURE:**

1. Preparation of interventions under the Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development to support investments for construction and/or reconstruction of technical infrastructure, municipal road and street network, reconstruction and modernization of water supply and sewerage network and sewerage system, and other public infrastructure
2. Start of preparatory activities for implementation of a project for investments in broadband infrastructure on the territory of rural areas under sub-measure 7.3. Support for broadband

infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and measures to access solutions through broadband infrastructure and e-government under RDP 2014-2020

A set of instruments for financial support with European and national funds will be implemented in 2022 to implement the measures and achieve the goals of the agricultural policy.

This includes mainly direct payments and market support under the First Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, and the implementation of the measures of the Rural Development Program for the period 2014-2020 (Second Pillar of the CAP), funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Support for vulnerable and priority sectors will be provided through the implementation of coupled support schemes. In the transitional period of CAP implementation until the end of 2022, Bulgaria has notified the maximum eligible amount of coupled support - 15% of the financial ceiling for direct payments, including 13% for the Livestock and Fruit and Fruit sectors and 2% for protein crops. The development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production will be supported under the Maritime and Fisheries Program for the period 2014-2020 and the Maritime , Fisheries and Aquaculture Program for the period 2022-2029, funded by the European Maritime Affairs Fund and fisheries.

Despite the limitations of the state budget, the sustainable development of agriculture will also be promoted with national resources - through transitional national aid schemes, complementing the support with European funds under the First Pillar of the CAP, and state aid.

Following the approval of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan by the EC, in 2022 the agricultural sector will be able to benefit from additional financial resources for investments in support of activities ensuring the protection of environmental components and mitigating the effects of climate change, introducing innovative production and digital technologies, digitalization of industry processes and communication between administration and business.

For 2022, funds in the amount of BGN 2.8 billion will be needed to support the agricultural sector, including:

- For direct payments under the First Pillar of the CAP - BGN 1,562 million
- For market measures under the First Pillar of the CAP - BGN 91 million
- For transitional national aid - BGN 129 million
- For state aid (including under tax relief schemes) - BGN 317 million
- For payments under measures under the RDP 2014-2020 - BGN 685 million
- For implementation of measures in support of fisheries and aquaculture - BGN 3 million
- For starting activities under the NRRP - BGN 13 million.

## ANNEXES



**GROSS AND FINAL PRODUCTS FROM THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR FOR 2020 (AT PRODUCER PRICES)**

(million BGN)

		Current prices															
Code	Products	Gross output	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processed by producers	Own consumption	Sales			Sales total	Production of goods from fixed capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
					Seeds and propagating material	Feed supplement	Other			In the country		abroad					
										in the sector	outside the sector						
a	b	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
01	Cereals	2,685.8	4.7	926.5	68.9	74.9	3.7	0.6	15.7	278.0	2,284.6	7.1	2,569.7		874.1	-52.4	2,608.5
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,549.0	3.1	397.5	59.9	23.5	1.9	0.1	10.9	147.4	1,327.2	2.4	1,477.0		370.1	-27.4	1,484.1
01.1/1	Soft wheat	1,538.7	3.1	396.6	59.2	23.4	1.8		10.7	145.6	1,320.3	2.3	1,468.2		368.9	-27.7	1,474.6
01.1/2	Durum wheat	10.3		0.9	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.8	6.9	0.1	8.8		1.2	0.3	9.5
01.2	Rye	3.2		0.6	0.1	0.7			0.3	0.2	1.8		2.0		0.7	0.1	3.1
01.3	Barley	157.8	0.1	17.4	5.3	7.7	0.4	0.1	1.0	15.1	128.4	0.8	144.3		16.3	-1.1	152.0
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	9.6		6.2	1.0	3.6			0.3	1.4	5.9		7.3		3.6	-2.6	8.6
01.5	Grain maize	896.7	1.4	475.1	0.3	34.6	1.3		2.7	111.6	779.0	2.9	893.5		438.0	-37.1	893.7
01.6	Rice	47.6		22.9	1.4			0.3			28.0	1.0	29.0		39.8	16.9	46.2
01.7	Other cereals	21.9	0.1	6.8	0.9	4.8	0.1	0.1	0.5	2.3	14.3		16.6		5.6	-1.2	20.8
02	Industrial Crops	1,641.2	4.9	439.5	3.6	5.8	2.2	28.5	2.5	74.9	1,458.7	13.0	1,546.6		486.6	46.9	1,630.5
02.1	Oilseeds	1,448.6	3.4	373.6	0.5	3.3	0.7	1.6	0.9	72.8	1,313.8	12.0	1,398.6		413.2	39.6	1,444.0
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	194.0	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.1		0.2		8.3	185.1		193.4		0.6	-0.3	193.5
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,248.7	3.1	369.5	0.2	2.8	0.7	1.4	0.6	64.3	1,123.8	12.0	1,200.1		409.3	39.8	1,244.7
02.1/3	Soy	4.1		1.9	0.1	0.4				0.2	3.8		4.0		1.5	-0.4	4.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	1.8		1.4					0.3		1.1		1.1		1.8	0.5	1.8
02.2	Protein crops	19.7	1.0	31.1	3.1	2.5	1.1		0.2	1.5	12.1		13.6		29.3	-1.9	14.5
02.3	Tobacco	21.6		19.3							20.8		20.8		20.1	0.8	21.6
02.4	Sugar beet																
02.5	Other industrial crops	151.3	0.5	15.5			0.4	26.9	1.4	0.6	112.0	1.0	113.6		24.0	8.4	150.4
02.5/1	Fiber crops	1.6		0.3							0.7	0.8	1.5		0.4	0.1	1.6
02.5/2	Hops	0.5		0.7							0.1		0.1		1.1	0.4	0.5
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	149.2	0.5	14.5			0.4	26.9	1.4	0.6	111.2	0.2	112.0		22.5	7.9	148.3
03	Forage crops	132.1	0.3	83.7		113.9	0.6	10.2	1.2	12.9	17.1		30.0		59.6	-24.2	131.2
03.1	Maize for silage	49.7				22.8	0.1	10.0	0.5	5.8	10.5		16.3				49.6
03.2	Root fodder																
03.3	Other fodder	82.4	0.3	83.7		91.1	0.5	0.2	0.7	7.1	6.6		13.7		59.6	-24.2	81.6
04	Vegetables	331.0	0.1	7.8	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.0	6.4	8.5	301.1	3.3	312.9		17.5	9.7	330.7
04.1	Fresh vegetables	302.4	0.1	4.5		0.1	0.1	0.6	6.4	3.5	287.8	0.1	291.4		8.2	3.7	302.2
04.1/2	Tomatoes	93.6								2.5	91.1		93.6				93.6
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	208.8	0.1	4.5		0.1	0.1	0.6	6.4	1.0	196.7	0.1	197.8		8.2	3.7	208.6
04.2	Flowers	28.6		3.3	0.1	0.6		0.4		5.0	13.3	3.2	21.5		9.3	6.0	28.5
04.2/1	Nurseries	9.5		3.3	0.1					2.2	3.6	3.2	9.0		3.7	0.4	9.4
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, including Christmas trees	19.1				0.6		0.4		2.8	9.7		12.5		5.6	5.6	19.1
04.2/3	Creation and cultivation																
05	Potatoes	76.2	0.5	20.5	2.6	0.2			0.8	6.0	66.2		72.2		20.4	-0.1	73.1
06	Fruits	302.1	0.1	4.6			0.1	20.6	1.9	16.9	247.8	8.7	273.4		10.6	5.9	301.9
06.1	Fresh fruit	201.3	0.1	4.6			0.1	5.1	0.7	13.9	166.7	8.7	189.3		10.6	5.9	201.1
06.1/1	Apples	20.9		1.6				0.9		2.0	16.5		18.5		3.1	1.4	20.9
06.1/2	Pears	2.2									2.2		2.2				2.2
06.1/3	Peaches	13.8								0.1	9.3	4.4	13.8				13.8
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	164.4	0.1	3.0			0.1	4.2	0.7	11.8	138.7	4.3	154.8		7.5	4.5	164.2
06.4	Grapes-total	100.8						15.5	1.2	3.0	81.1		84.1				100.8
06.4/1	Dessert grapes	10.5								0.2	10.3		10.5				10.5
06.4/2	Other grape	90.3						15.5	1.2	2.8	70.8		73.6				90.3
07	Wine																

Code	Products	Current prices															
		Gross output	Losses	Initial stocks	Used per unit			Processed by producers	Own consumption	Sales			Sales total	Production of goods from fixed capital at own expense	Closing stocks	Change in stocks	Final production
										In the country		abroad					
					Seeds and propagating material	Feed supplement	Other			in the sector	outside the sector						
a	b	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
07.1	Table wine																
09	Other crops	43.9	2.0	25.8	1.0	3.9			0.2	4.6	25.8		30.4		32.2	6.3	40.9
09.2	Seeds	41.1	2.0	25.8	1.0	3.9			0.2	1.8	25.8		27.6		32.2	6.3	38.1
09.3	Other plant products	2.8								2.8			2.8				2.8
10	Crop production (from 01 to 09)	5,212.3	12.6	1,508.4	76.2	199.4	6.7	60.9	28.7	401.8	4,401.3	32.1	4,835.2		1,501.0	-7.9	5,116.8
11	Farm animals	910.6		269.5				36.6			707.4		707.4	156.8	279.3	9.9	910.6
11.1	Cattle	163.9		169.4				0.1			42.7		42.7	118.0	172.5	3.1	163.9
11.2	Pigs	319.4		25.3				22.0			281.2		281.2	9.3	32.2	7.0	319.4
11.3	Horses																
11.4	Sheep and goats	148.0		31.4				0.3			110.5		110.5	29.5	39.1	7.7	148.0
11.5	Poultry	279.3		43.4				14.2			273.0		273.0		35.5	-7.9	279.3
11.6	Other animals																
12	Livestock products	1,009.0		98.9		42.7	62.7	10.7	49.6	76.5	774.0		850.5		91.7	-7.2	903.6
12.1	Milk	702.7				39.3		10.3	20.7	29.7	602.7		632.4				663.4
12.2	Eggs	217.3		5.0		0.1	40.5	0.4	21.0	32.5	124.8		157.3		3.0	-2.0	176.7
12.3	Other livestock products	89.0		93.9		3.3	22.2		7.9	14.3	46.5		60.8		88.7	-5.2	63.5
12.3/1	Unwashed wool	1.1									1.1		1.1				1.1
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons																
12.3/3	Other livestock products	87.9		93.9		3.3	22.2		7.9	14.3	45.4		59.7		88.7	-5.2	62.4
13	Livestock products (11 + 12)	1,919.6		368.4		42.7	62.7	47.3	49.6	76.5	1,481.4		1,557.9	156.8	371.0	2.7	1,814.2
14	Production of agricultural goods (10 + 13)	7,131.9	12.6	1,876.8	76.2	242.1	69.4	108.2	78.3	478.3	5,882.7	32.1	6,393.1	156.8	1,872.0	-5.2	6,931.0
15	Production of agricultural services	462.0									462.0		462.0				462.0
16	Production from agriculture (14 + 15)	7,593.9	12.6	1,876.8	76.2	242.1	69.4	108.2	78.3	478.3	6,344.7	32.1	6,855.1	156.8	1,872.0	-5.2	7,393.0
17	Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities	204.1							204.1								204.1
17.1	Investments for processing of agricultural products	204.1							204.1								204.1
17.1/1	- cereals	63.3							63.3								63.3
17.1/2	Vegetables	26.1							26.1								26.1
17.1/3	Fruits	14.0							14.0								14.0
17.1/4	- wine	34.3							34.3								34.3
17.1/5	- animals	52.8							52.8								52.8
17.1/6	- animal products	6.6							6.6								6.6
17.1/6/1	- milk	6.6							6.6								6.6
17.1/7	- other	7.0							7.0								7.0
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities																
18	Production from Agriculture sector (16 + 17)	7,798.0	12.6	1,876.8	76.2	242.1	69.4	108.2	282.4	478.3	6,344.7	32.1	6,855.1	156.8	1,872.0	-5.2	7,597.1

Source: NSI

**ANNEX 2**
**VALUE OF GROSS PRODUCTION AND GROSS ADDED VALUE FROM AGRICULTURE (AT PRODUCER PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD**
**2018-2020**
**(million BGN)**

Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereals	2,904.6	8.3%	3,145.4	-14.6%	2,685.8
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,756.4	4.2%	1,830.4	-15.4%	1,549.0
01.1/1	Soft wheat	1,738.4	4.5%	1,817.0	-15.3%	1,538.7
01.1/2	Durum wheat	18.0	-25.6%	13.4	-23.1%	10.3
01.2	Rye	3.7	-8.1%	3.4	-5.9%	3.2
01.3	Barley	129.9	21.1%	157.3	0.3%	157.8
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	6.6	47.0%	9.7	-1.0%	9.6
01.5	Grain maize	952.4	13.6%	1,082.0	-17.1%	896.7
01.6	Rice	32.5	27.1%	41.3	15.3%	47.6
01.7	Other cereals	23.1	-7.8%	21.3	2.8%	21.9
02	Industrial Crops	1,732.7	-4.7%	1,651.6	-0.6%	1,641.2
02.1	Oilseeds	1,396.8	1.4%	1,415.9	2.3%	1,448.6
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	310.8	-7.4%	287.8	-32.6%	194.0
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,080.0	3.9%	1,122.0	11.3%	1,248.7
02.1/3	Soy	3.0	36.7%	4.1	0.0%	4.1
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	3.0	-33.3%	2.0	-10.0%	1.8
02.2	Protein crops	101.4	-62.7%	37.8	-47.9%	19.7
02.3	Tobacco	41.2	-21.1%	32.5	-33.5%	21.6
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		-
02.5	Other industrial crops	193.3	-14.4%	165.4	-8.5%	151.3
02.5/1	Fiber crops	1.7	23.5%	2.1	-23.8%	1.6
02.5/2	Hops	0.6	-16.7%	0.5	0.0%	0.5
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	191.0	-14.8%	162.8	-8.4%	149.2
03	Forage crops	178.0	-17.8%	146.4	-9.8%	132.1
03.1	Maize for silage	35.7	2.8%	36.7	35.4%	49.7
03.2	Root fodder	0.4		-		-
03.3	Other fodder	141.9	-22.7%	109.7	-24.9%	82.4
04	Vegetables	380.7	2.3%	389.4	-15.0%	331.0
04.1	Fresh vegetables	354.9	2.1%	362.3	-16.5%	302.4
04.1/2	Tomatoes	102.1	4.2%	106.4	-12.0%	93.6
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	252.8	1.2%	255.9	-18.4%	208.8
04.2	Flowers	25.8	5.0%	27.1	5.5%	28.6
04.2/1	Nurseries	9.2	4.3%	9.6	-1.0%	9.5
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, including Christmas trees	16.6	5.4%	17.5	9.1%	19.1
04.2/3	Creation and cultivation	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	104.8	-13.0%	91.2	-16.4%	76.2
06	Fruits	299.2	-1.6%	294.4	2.6%	302.1
06.1	Fresh fruit	189.6	5.4%	199.9	0.7%	201.3

Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
06.1/1	Apples	27.1	-19.2%	21.9	-4.6%	20.9
06.1/2	Pears	3.2	34.4%	4.3	-48.8%	2.2
06.1/3	Peaches	14.4	20.1%	17.3	-20.2%	13.8
06.1/4	Other fresh fruits	144.9	7.9%	156.4	5.1%	164.4
06.4	Grapes-total	109.6	-13.8%	94.5	6.7%	100.8
06.4/1	Dessert grapes	6.6	33.3%	8.8	19.3%	10.5
06.4/2	Other grape	103.0	-16.8%	85.7	5.4%	90.3
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-
09	Other crops	42.0	1.2%	42.5	3.3%	43.9
09.2	Seeds	39.8	0.5%	40.0	2.8%	41.1
09.3	Other plant products	2.2	13.6%	2.5	12.0%	2.8
<b>10</b>	<b>Crop production (from 01 to 09)</b>	<b>5,642.0</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>5,760.9</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>	<b>5,212.3</b>
11	Farm animals	822.3	6.1%	872.8	4.3%	910.6
11.1	Cattle	137.8	4.9%	144.6	13.3%	163.9
11.2	Pigs	275.1	10.5%	304.0	5.1%	319.4
11.3	Horses	-		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	137.2	4.6%	143.5	3.1%	148.0
11.5	Poultry	272.2	3.1%	280.7	-0.5%	279.3
11.6	Other animals	-		-		-
12	Livestock products	996.3	-0.2%	994.3	1.5%	1,009.0
12.1	Milk	702.2	-5.2%	665.7	5.6%	702.7
12.2	Eggs	216.9	4.4%	226.4	-4.0%	217.3
12.3	Other livestock products	77.2	32.4%	102.2	-12.9%	89.0
12.3/1	Unwashed wool	2.9	3.4%	3.0	-63.3%	1.1
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	74.3	33.5%	99.2	-11.4%	87.9
<b>13</b>	<b>Livestock products (11 + 12)</b>	<b>1,818.6</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>1,867.1</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>1,919.6</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Production of agricultural goods (10 + 13)</b>	<b>7,460.6</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>7,628.0</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>7,131.9</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Production of agricultural services</b>	<b>501.7</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>492.2</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>	<b>462.0</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Production from agriculture (14 + 15)</b>	<b>7,962.3</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>8,120.2</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>	<b>7,593.9</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>198.9</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>204.1</b>
17.1	Investments for processing of agricultural products	192.7	3.2%	198.9	2.6%	204.1
17.1/1	- cereals	55.9	10.9%	62.0	2.1%	63.3
17.1/2	Vegetables	24.2	2.9%	24.9	4.8%	26.1
17.1/3	Fruits	12.9	3.1%	13.3	5.3%	14.0
17.1/4	- wine	31.8	4.1%	33.1	3.6%	34.3
17.1/5	- animals	41.0	7.3%	44.0	20.0%	52.8
17.1/6	- animal products	20.3	-26.6%	14.9	-55.7%	6.6
17.1/6/1	- milk	20.3	-26.6%	14.9	-55.7%	6.6
17.1/7	- other	6.6	1.5%	6.7	4.5%	7.0
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-

Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
<b>18</b>	<b>Production from Agriculture sector (16+17)</b>	<b>8,155.0</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>8,319.1</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>7,798.0</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Intermediate consumption</b>	<b>5,024.5</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>5,126.3</b>	<b>-9.3%</b>	<b>4,647.6</b>
	Losses	18.8	-49.5%	9.5	33.7%	12.7
19.01	Seeds and planting material	266.2	50.9%	401.6	-27.1%	292.8
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	27.8	1.4%	28.2	14.5%	32.3
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	153.0	15.4%	176.6	4.3%	184.2
	produced and consumed on the farm itself	85.4	130.4%	196.8	-61.2%	76.3
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,186.2	-10.4%	1,062.8	-14.6%	907.5
19.02/1	- electricity	93.9	-10.4%	84.1	-27.1%	61.3
19.02/2	- gas	29.6	-10.5%	26.5	-3.4%	25.6
19.02/3	- other fuels	1,058.7	-10.4%	948.5	-13.9%	817.1
19.02/4	- other	4.0	-7.5%	3.7	-5.4%	3.5
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	450.5	4.2%	469.5	-3.1%	455.0
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	7.6	1.3%	7.7	-3.9%	7.4
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	442.9	4.3%	461.8	-3.1%	447.6
	produced and consumed on the farm itself	-		-		-
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	338.7	-1.5%	333.6	-4.2%	319.7
19.05	Veterinary costs	249.4	4.4%	260.3	-3.3%	251.7
19.06	Feed additives	994.3	0.9%	1,003.5	-8.5%	918.4
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	287.0	1.7%	291.8	-3.3%	282.1
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	500.3	-1.2%	494.1	-11.6%	436.6
19.06/3	produced and consumed on the farm itself	207.0	5.1%	217.6	-8.2%	199.7
	Feed supplements, non included in EAA	51.8	-15.8%	43.6	-1.8%	42.8
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small inventory	323.6	1.7%	329.0	2.8%	338.1
19.08	Building maintenance	158.7	1.6%	161.3	-9.5%	146.0
19.09	Agricultural services	501.7	-1.9%	492.2	-6.1%	462.0
19.10	FISIM	83.1	-3.4%	80.3	-7.3%	74.4
19.11	Other goods and services	401.5	19.3%	479.1	-11.0%	426.5
	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	79.1	0.0%	79.1	15.0%	91.0
	purchased outside the sector	248.1	21.3%	301.0	-11.5%	266.3
	produced and consumed on the farm itself	74.3	33.2%	99.0	-30.1%	69.2
<b>20</b>	<b>Gross value added at producer prices (line 18 - 19)</b>	<b>3,130.5</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>3,192.8</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>3,150.4</b>

Source: NSI

**ANNEX 3**
**INTERMEDIATE CONSUMPTION, FACTOR EXPENDITURE, OTHER SUBSIDIES AND TAXES FOR 2020**

(million BGN)

Elements of intermediate consumption	To create gross output at producer prices	To create the final production at basic prices	Produced and consumed on the farm itself	Purchase of goods and services for intermediate consumption	
				from other agricultural units	from units outside the industry
a	1	2	3	4	5
Losses	12.7		12.7		
Seeds and planting material	292.8	216.5	76.3	32.3	184.2
Fuels and oils	907.5	907.5			907.5
- electricity	61.3	61.3			61.3
- gas	25.6	25.6			25.6
- other fuels	817.1	817.1			817.1
- other	3.5	3.5			3.5
Fertilizers and soil improvers	455.0	455.0		7.4	447.6
Plant protection products and pesticides	319.7	319.7			319.7
Veterinary costs	251.7	251.7			251.7
Feed supplements	918.4	918.4	199.6	282.1	436.7
Feed supplements, not included in EAA	42.8		42.8		
Maintenance and repair	484.1	484.1			484.1
- maintenance and repair of machines and small inventory	338.1	338.1			338.1
- maintenance of buildings	146.0	146.0			146.0
Agricultural services	462.0	462.0			462.0
FISIM	74.4	74.4			74.4
Other goods and services	426.5	357.3	69.2	91.1	266.2
<b>Intermediate consumption</b>	<b>4,647.6</b>	<b>4,446.6</b>	<b>400.6</b>	<b>412.9</b>	<b>3,834.1</b>
<b>Use of fixed capital</b>	<b>922.6</b>	<b>922.6</b>			<b>922.6</b>
- equipment	748.1	748.1			748.1
- buildings	81.4	81.4			81.4
- creation and cultivation	20.3	20.3			20.3
- others	72.8	72.8			72.8
<b>Compensation of employees</b>	<b>1,111.5</b>	<b>1,111.5</b>			<b>1,111.5</b>
<b>Other taxes on production</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.4</b>			<b>18.4</b>
<b>Other subsidies on production</b>	<b>2,294.1</b>	<b>2,294.1</b>			<b>2,294.1</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b>1,212.9</b>	<b>1,212.9</b>			<b>1,212.9</b>
<b>Interest paid</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>78.7</b>			<b>78.7</b>
<b>Interest received</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>36.2</b>			<b>36.2</b>

Source: NSI

## ANNEX 4

## VALUE OF FINAL PRODUCTION, GROSS VALUE ADDED AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INCOME IN AGRICULTURE (AT CURRENT BASIS PRICES) FOR THE PERIOD 2018 - 2020

(million BGN)

Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
01	Cereals	2,823.6	3.9%	2,933.3	-11.1%	2,608.5
01.1	Wheat and spelt	1,688.4	-0.5%	1,679.4	-11.6%	1,484.1
01.1/1	Soft wheat	1,671.3	-0.3%	1,666.3	-11.5%	1,474.6
01.1/2	Durum wheat	17.1	-23.4%	13.1	-27.5%	9.5
01.2	Rye	3.5	-5.7%	3.3	-6.1%	3.1
01.3	Barley	124.2	22.0%	151.5	0.3%	152.0
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	6.1	50.8%	9.2	-6.5%	8.6
01.5	Grain maize	948.5	8.5%	1,029.5	-13.2%	893.7
01.6	Rice	30.7	28.7%	39.5	17.0%	46.2
01.7	Other cereals	22.2	-5.9%	20.9	-0.5%	20.8
02	Industrial Crops	1,742.4	-3.8%	1,675.8	-0.5%	1,667.0
02.1	Oilseeds	1,392.4	1.4%	1,411.4	2.3%	1,444.0
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	310.4	-7.4%	287.3	-32.6%	193.5
02.1/2	Sunflower	1,076.2	3.9%	1,118.1	11.3%	1,244.7
02.1/3	Soy	2.8	42.9%	4.0		4.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	3.0	-33.3%	2.0	-10.0%	1.8
02.2	Protein crops	122.7	-47.8%	64.1	-26.5%	47.1
02.3	Tobacco	36.5	-11.2%	32.4	-33.3%	21.6
02.4	Sugar beet	-		-		-
02.5	Other industrial crops	190.8	-12.0%	167.9	-8.1%	154.3
02.5/1	Fiber crops	6.9	2.9%	7.1	-22.5%	5.5
02.5/2	Hops	0.6	-16.7%	0.5		0.5
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	183.3	-12.5%	160.3	-7.5%	148.3
03	Forage crops	176.8	-18.9%	143.3	-8.4%	131.2
03.1	Maize for silage	35.4	2.0%	36.1	37.4%	49.6
03.2	Root fodder	0.4		-		-
03.3	Other fodder	141.0	-24.0%	107.2	-23.9%	81.6
04	Vegetables	420.0	1.5%	426.2	-12.3%	373.8
04.1	Fresh vegetables	394.3	1.2%	399.2	-13.5%	345.3
04.1/2	Tomatoes	102.1	4.2%	106.4	-12.0%	93.6
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	292.2	0.2%	292.8	-14.0%	251.7
04.2	Flowers	25.7	5.1%	27.0	5.6%	28.5
04.2/1	Nurseries	9.1	4.4%	9.5	-1.1%	9.4
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, incl. Christmas trees	16.6	5.4%	17.5	9.1%	19.1
04.2/3	Creation and cultivation	-		-		-
05	Potatoes	100.1	-14.1%	86.0	-15.0%	73.1
06	Fruits	336.8	-1.0%	333.6	3.0%	343.5
06.1	Fresh fruit	227.2	5.2%	239.1	1.5%	242.7
06.1/1	Apples	27.0	-20.4%	21.5	-2.8%	20.9
06.1/2	Pears	3.2	34.4%	4.3	-48.8%	2.2
4.1/3	Peaches	14.4	20.1%	17.3	-20.2%	13.8
4.1/4	Other fresh fruits	182.6	7.3%	196.0	5.0%	205.8
06.4	Grapes-total	109.6	-13.8%	94.5	6.7%	100.8
06.4/1	Dessert grapes	6.6	33.3%	8.8	19.3%	10.5
4.1/2	Other grape	103.0	-16.8%	85.7	5.4%	90.3
07	Wine	-		-		-
07.1	Table wine	-		-		-
09	Other crops	37.2	-4.8%	35.4	15.5%	40.9

Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
09.2	Seeds	35.0	-6.0%	32.9	15.8%	38.1
09.3	Other plant products	2.2	13.6%	2.5	12.0%	2.8
<b>10</b>	<b>Crop production</b>	<b>5,636.9</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>5,633.6</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>5,238.0</b>
11	Farm animals	894.1	7.7%	963.2	2.6%	988.2
11.1	Cattle	167.1	-0.1%	167.0	13.2%	189.0
11.2	Pigs	275.1	10.5%	304.0	5.1%	319.4
11.3	Horses	-		-		-
11.4	Sheep and goats	179.7	17.7%	211.5	-5.2%	200.5
11.5	Poultry	272.2	3.1%	280.7	-0.5%	279.3
11.6	Other animals	-		-		-
12	Livestock products	957.4	-1.1%	946.9	2.8%	973.8
12.1	Milk	726.5	-5.4%	687.0	6.8%	733.6
12.2	Eggs	174.3	4.4%	181.9	-2.9%	176.7
12.3	Other livestock products	56.6	37.8%	78.0	-18.6%	63.5
12.3/1	Unwashed wool	2.9		2.9	-62.1%	1.1
12.3/2	Silk cocoons	-		-		-
12.3/3	Other livestock products	53.7	39.9%	75.1	-16.9%	62.4
<b>13</b>	<b>Livestock production (line 11+12)</b>	<b>1,851.5</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>1,910.1</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>1,962.0</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Production of agricultural goods (line 10 + 13)</b>	<b>7,488.4</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>7,543.7</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>	<b>7,200.0</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Production of agricultural services</b>	<b>501.7</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>	<b>492.2</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>	<b>462.0</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Agricultural production (line 14 + 15)</b>	<b>7,990.1</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>8,035.9</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>7,662.0</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Non-agricultural inseparable secondary activities</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>198.9</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>204.1</b>
17.1	Investments for processing of agricultural products	192.7	3.2%	198.9	2.6%	204.1
17.1/1	- cereals	55.9	10.9%	62.0	2.1%	63.3
17.1/2	Vegetables	24.2	2.9%	24.9	4.8%	26.1
17.1/3	Fruits	12.9	3.1%	13.3	5.3%	14.0
17.1/4	- wine	31.8	4.1%	33.1	3.6%	34.3
17.1/5	- animals	41.0	7.3%	44.0	20.0%	52.8
17.1/6	- animal products	20.3	-26.6%	14.9	-55.7%	6.6
17.1/6/1	- milk	20.3	-26.6%	14.9	-55.7%	6.6
17.1/7	- other	6.6	1.5%	6.7	4.5%	7.0
17.2	Other inseparable secondary activities	-		-		-
<b>18</b>	<b>Production from branch Agriculture (line 10 + 13 +15 +17)</b>	<b>8,182.8</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>8,234.8</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	<b>7,866.1</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Intermediate consumption</b>	<b>4,794.2</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>4,777.4</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>	<b>4,446.6</b>
19.01	Seeds and propagating material	180.8	13.3%	204.8	5.7%	216.5
19.01/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	27.8	1.4%	28.2	14.5%	32.3
19.01/2	purchased outside the sector	153.0	15.4%	176.6	4.3%	184.2
19.02	Fuels and oils	1,186.2	-10.4%	1,062.8	-14.6%	907.5
19.02/1	- electricity	93.9	-10.4%	84.1	-27.1%	61.3
19.02/2	- gas	29.6	-10.5%	26.5	-3.4%	25.6
19.02/3	- other fuels	1,058.7	-10.4%	948.5	-13.9%	817.1
19.02/4	- others	4.0	-7.5%	3.7	-5.4%	3.5
19.03	Fertilizers and soil improvers	450.5	4.2%	469.5	-3.1%	455.0
19.03/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	7.6	1.3%	7.7	-3.9%	7.4
19.03/2	purchased outside the sector	442.9	4.3%	461.8	-3.1%	447.6
19.04	Plant protection products and pesticides	338.7	-1.5%	333.6	-4.2%	319.7
19.05	Veterinary costs	249.4	4.4%	260.3	-3.3%	251.7
19.06	Feed supplement	994.3	0.9%	1,003.5	-8.5%	918.4
19.06/1	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	287.0	1.7%	291.8	-3.3%	282.1
19.06/2	purchased outside the sector	500.3	-1.2%	494.1	-11.6%	436.6
19.06/3	Produced and consumed on the farm itself	207.0	5.1%	217.6	-8.2%	199.7
19.07	Maintenance and repair of machinery and small inventory	323.6	1.7%	329.0	2.8%	338.1



Code	Products	2018	Change 2019/2018 %	2019	Change 2020/2019 %	2020
a	b	1	2	3	4	5
19.08	Building maintenance	158.7	1.6%	161.3	-9.5%	146.0
19.09	Agricultural services	501.7	-1.9%	492.2	-6.1%	462.0
19.10	FISIM	83.1	-3.4%	80.3	-7.3%	74.4
19.11	Other goods and services	327.2	16.2%	380.1	-6.0%	357.3
	supplied by other agricultural enterprises	79.1		79.1	15.0%	91.0
	purchased outside the sector	248.1	21.3%	301.0	-11.5%	266.3
<b>20</b>	<b>Gross value added at basic prices (line 18 - 19)</b>	<b>3,388.6</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>3,457.4</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>3,419.5</b>
21	Use of fixed capital	903.7	0.8%	910.5	1.3%	922.6
21.1	- equipment	741.9	-1.2%	732.8	2.1%	748.1
21.2	- buildings	73.5	10.1%	80.9	0.6%	81.4
21.3	- creation and cultivation	17.2	30.8%	22.5	-9.8%	20.3
21.4	- other	71.1	4.5%	74.3	-2.0%	72.8
<b>22</b>	<b>Net value added at basic prices (line 20 - 21)</b>	<b>2,484.9</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2,546.9</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>2,496.9</b>
23	Compensation of employees	966.2	10.3%	1,065.5	4.3%	1,111.5
24	Other taxes on production	7.1	371.8%	33.5	-45.1%	18.4
25	Other subsidies on production	2,089.0	6.3%	2,220.3	3.3%	2,294.1
<b>26</b>	<b>Income by factors (line 22 - 24 + 25)</b>	<b>4,566.8</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>4,733.7</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>4,772.6</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Operating surplus / Mixed income (line 22 - 23 + 25)</b>	<b>3,600.6</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>3,668.2</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>3,661.1</b>
28	Rent	1,138.6	2.4%	1,166.3	4.0%	1,212.9
29	Interest paid	77.0	-4.8%	73.3	7.4%	78.7
30	Interest received	34.8	-19.5%	28.0	29.3%	36.2
<b>31</b>	<b>Entrepreneurial income (line 27 - 28 - 29 + 30)</b>	<b>2,419.8</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>2,456.6</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>	<b>2,405.7</b>

Source: NSI

**ANNEX 5**
**FINAL PRODUCTS AND GROSS VALUE ADDED (AT BASIC PRICES) - 2019 - 2020 - VALUE AND INDICES OF CHANGE –  
2020 COMPARED TO 2019**

Code	Products	Volume index (previous year = 100)	Value for 2020 at previous year's prices - BGN million.	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2020 - BGN million	Index of change in current value (2019 = 100)
<b>01</b>	<b>CEREALS</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>2,375.5</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>2,608.5</b>	<b>88.9</b>
01.1	Wheat and spelt	80.0	1,342.7	110.5	1,484.1	88.4
01.1/1	Soft wheat	80.1	1,334.1	110.5	1,474.6	88.5
01.1/2	Durum wheat	65.6	8.6	110.5	9.5	72.5
01.2	Rye	84.8	2.8	110.7	3.1	93.9
01.3	Barley	100.6	152.4	99.7	152.0	100.3
01.4	Oat and cereal mixtures	95.7	8.8	97.7	8.6	93.5
01.5	Grain maize	78.9	811.8	110.1	893.7	86.8
01.6	Rice	101.8	40.2	114.9	46.2	117.0
01.7	Other cereals	80.4	16.8	123.8	20.8	99.5
<b>02</b>	<b>INDUSTRIAL CROPS</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>1,460.3</b>	<b>114.2</b>	<b>1,667.0</b>	<b>99.5</b>
02.1	Oilseeds	84.9	1,197.7	120.6	1,444.0	102.3
02.1/1	Rapeseed and colza	63.8	183.3	105.6	193.5	67.4
02.1/2	Sunflower	90.2	1,008.4	123.4	1,244.7	111.3
02.1/3	Soy	87.5	3.5	114.3	4.0	100.0
02.1/4	Other oilseeds	125.0	2.5	72.0	1.8	90.0
02.2	Protein crops	53.4	34.2	137.7	47.1	73.5
02.3	Tobacco	84.9	27.5	78.5	21.6	66.7
02.4	Sugar beet					
02.5	Other industrial crops	119.7	200.9	76.8	154.3	91.9
02.1/5	Fiber crops	83.1	5.9	93.2	5.5	77.5
02.5/2	Hops	100.0	0.5	100.0	0.5	100.0
02.5/3	Other industrial crops	121.3	194.5	76.2	148.3	92.5
<b>03</b>	<b>FEED CROPS</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>91.6</b>
03.1	Maize for silage	120.5	43.5	114.0	49.6	137.4
03.2	Root fodder					
03.3	Other fodder	66.7	71.5	114.1	81.6	76.1
<b>04</b>	<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>356.2</b>	<b>104.9</b>	<b>373.8</b>	<b>87.7</b>
04.1	Fresh vegetables	81.0	323.3	106.8	345.3	86.5
04.1/2	Tomatoes	79.2	84.3	111.0	93.6	88.0
04.1/3	Other fresh vegetables	81.6	239.0	105.3	251.7	86.0
04.2	Flowers and plant nurseries	121.9	32.9	86.6	28.5	105.6
04.2/1	Plant nurseries	97.9	9.3	101.1	9.4	98.9
04.2/2	Ornamental plants, including Christmas trees	134.9	23.6	80.9	19.1	109.1
04.2/3	Creation and growing					
<b>05</b>	<b>POTATOES</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>85.0</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>FRUITS</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>302.8</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>343.5</b>	<b>103.0</b>
06.1	Fresh fruits	91.4	218.5	111.1	242.7	101.5
4.1/1	Apples	87.9	18.9	110.6	20.9	97.2
4.1/2	Pears	55.8	2.4	91.7	2.2	51.2
4.1/3	Peaches	71.7	12.4	111.3	13.8	79.8
4.1/4	Other fresh fruits	94.3	184.8	111.4	205.8	105.0

Code	Products	Volume index (previous year = 100)	Value for 2020 at previous year's prices - BGN million.	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2020 - BGN million	Index of change in current value (2019 = 100)
06.4	Grapes-total	89.2	84.3	119.6	100.8	106.7
06.4/1	Dessert grapes	98.9	8.7	120.7	10.5	119.3
06.4/2	Other grape	88.2	75.6	119.4	90.3	105.4
<b>07</b>	<b>WINE</b>					
07.1	Table wine					
<b>09</b>	<b>OTHER PLANT CROPS</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>115.5</b>
09.2	Seeds	112.8	37.1	102.7	38.1	115.8
09.3	Other plant products	100.0	2.5	112.0	2.8	112.0
<b>10</b>	<b>CROP PRODUCTION (FROM 01 TO 09)</b>	<b>84.0</b>	<b>4,734.6</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>5,238.0</b>	<b>93.0</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>972.7</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>988.2</b>	<b>102.6</b>
11.1	Cattle	109.9	183.6	102.9	189.0	113.2
11.2	Pigs	98.7	300.0	106.5	319.4	105.1
11.3	Horses					
11.4	Sheep and goats	99.7	210.8	95.1	200.5	94.8
11.5	Poultry	99.1	278.3	100.4	279.3	99.5
11.6	Other animals					
<b>12</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>975.3</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>973.8</b>	<b>102.8</b>
12.1	Milk	106.5	731.5	100.3	733.6	106.8
12.2	Eggs	100.2	182.2	97.0	176.7	97.1
12.3	Other livestock products	79.0	61.6	103.1	63.5	81.4
12.3/1	Unwashed wool	65.5	1.9	57.9	1.1	37.9
12.3/2	Silkworm cocoons					
12.3/3	Other livestock products	79.5	59.7	104.5	62.4	83.1
<b>13</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (11 + 12)</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>1,948.0</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>1,962.0</b>	<b>102.7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (10 + 13)</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>6,682.6</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>7,200.0</b>	<b>95.4</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>450.8</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>462.0</b>	<b>93.9</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>PRODUCTION FROM AGRICULTURE (14 + 15)</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>7,133.4</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>7,662.0</b>	<b>95.3</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INSEPERABLE SECONDARY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>204.1</b>	<b>102.6</b>
<b>17.1</b>	<b>PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>204.1</b>	<b>102.6</b>
17.1/1	- cereals	100.0	62.0	102.1	63.3	102.1
17.1/2	Vegetables	100.0	24.9	104.8	26.1	104.8
17.1/3	Fruits	100.0	13.3	105.3	14.0	105.3
17.1/4	- wine	100.0	33.1	103.6	34.3	103.6
17.1/5	- animals	110.9	48.8	108.2	52.8	120.0
17.1/6	- animal products	41.6	6.2	106.5	6.6	44.3
17.1/6/1	- milk	41.6	6.2	106.5	6.6	44.3
17.1/7	- other	101.5	6.8	102.9	7.0	104.5
<b>17.2</b>	<b>OTHER INDIVIDUAL SECONDARY ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>18</b>	<b>PRODUCTION FROM THE 'AGRICULTURE' INDUSTRY (16 + 17)</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>7,328.5</b>	<b>107.3</b>	<b>7,866.1</b>	<b>95.5</b>

Code	Products	Volume index (previous year = 100)	Value for 2020 at previous year's prices - BGN million.	Price index (previous year = 100)	Current value for 2020 - BGN million	Index of change in current value (2019 = 100)
<b>19</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE CONSUMPTION</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>4,531.5</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>4,446.6</b>	<b>93.1</b>
<b>19.01</b>	<b>SEEDS AND PROPAGATING MATERIAL</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>212.9</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>216.5</b>	<b>105.7</b>
19.01/1	- seeds and propagating material supplied by other agricultural enterprises	112.8	31.8	101.6	32.3	114.5
19.01/2	- seeds and propagating material purchased outside the sector	102.5	181.1	101.7	184.2	104.3
<b>19.02</b>	<b>FUELS AND OILS</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>1,023.2</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>907.5</b>	<b>85.4</b>
19.02/1	- electricity	82.2	69.1	88.7	61.3	72.9
19.02/2	- gas	109.1	28.9	88.6	25.6	96.6
19.02/3	- other fuels	97.1	921.2	88.7	817.1	86.1
19.02/4	- other	108.1	4.0	87.5	3.5	94.6
<b>19.03</b>	<b>FERTILIZERS AND SOIL IMPROVERS</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>485.5</b>	<b>93.7</b>	<b>455.0</b>	<b>96.9</b>
19.03/1	- fertilizers supplied by other agricultural enterprises	102.6	7.9	93.7	7.4	96.1
19.03/2	- fertilizers purchased outside the sector	103.4	477.6	93.7	447.6	96.9
<b>19.04</b>	<b>PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND PESTICIDES</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>323.6</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>319.7</b>	<b>95.8</b>
<b>19.05</b>	<b>VETERINARY COSTS</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>243.4</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>251.7</b>	<b>96.7</b>
<b>19.06</b>	<b>FEED SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>896.0</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>918.4</b>	<b>91.5</b>
19.06/1	- feed supplements supplied by other agricultural holdings	94.3	275.2	102.5	282.1	96.7
19.06/2	- feed supplements purchased outside the sector	86.2	426.0	102.5	436.6	88.4
19.06/3	- feed supplements produced and consumed on the holding	89.5	194.8	102.5	199.7	91.8
<b>19.07</b>	<b>MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MACHINES AND SMALL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>331.1</b>	<b>102.1</b>	<b>338.1</b>	<b>102.8</b>
<b>19.08</b>	<b>MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>143.8</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>90.5</b>
<b>19.09</b>	<b>AGRICULTURAL SERVICES</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>450.8</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>462.0</b>	<b>93.9</b>
<b>19.10</b>	<b>FISIM</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>92.7</b>
<b>19.11</b>	<b>OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>348.6</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>357.3</b>	<b>94.0</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>GROSS VALUE ADDED AT BASIC PRICES (18-19)</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>2,797.0</b>	<b>122.3</b>	<b>3,419.5</b>	<b>98.9</b>

Source: NSI