### Reporting Agency: United Nations Development Programme Country: Republic of Armenia

### **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

### No. and title: 00091030 Support to Full Scale Agricultural Census

### Reporting period: 01 January – 31 August, 2017

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2013 UNDP, with funding from Austrian Development Agency (ADA), supports teh National Statistical Service of RA (NSS) in implementation of the first-ever Agricultural Census in Armenia. The project is implemented jointly with FAO and is aimed at increasing capacities of National Statistical Service and providing technical assistance in implementation of the Agricultural Census.

Agricultural Census is practically the only way of obtaining data about the structure of agriculture at the lowest administrative levels and for providing sound benchmark data on the situation and role of agriculture in Armenia for evidence-based policy making. Agricultural Census provides the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) a basis for needs assessments of the agricultural inputs like fodder, fertilizers, pesticides and vaccines, as well as of agricultural machinery and equipment. It also helps the Government of Armenia to deal with important issues in agriculture. The Agricultural Census is vital for current agricultural and rural statistics as well.

Among the main beneficiaries and end-users of the data are the Government of Armenia, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Territorial Administration, as well as governmental, non-governmental and international organizations involved in agriculture and rural policy making and programming in Armenia. The representatives of mass media, academia, public and private sectors, central and local government as well as public in general are also among the beneficiaries and end-users of the data.

### **I. RESOURCES**

**00091030 Support to Full Scale Agricultural Census**

Total Approved Budget for 2017 (ADA funding): USD 174,275.51

### **II. RESULTS**

All planned activities were carried out and all planned outputs were achieved within the project period. The detailed information related to the actually implemented activities and achieved results as per August 31, 2017 (the project end date) are shown below.

***Output 3. Agricultural Census results elaborated, published and disseminated.***

*Creation of online interactive statistical map.* The Project in partnership with NSS worked on the creation of online interactive statistical map - a visualized mapping of the main data and findings of the Agricultural Census, allowing to search by data category, regions and communities. The availability of online interactive statistical map ensures improved and more user-friendly access to the census data and contributes to the increased usage of Census data by non-expert users and general public.

The activities implemented during the reporting period included:

- In partnership with NSS the census data to be reflected on online interactive map were identified;

- Terms of References for online map creation were developed and issued;

- The contracting and hiring of Interactive Map Developer/Data Analyst for online map development were finalized;

- Discussions and working meetings with NSS representatives, Map Developer/Data Analyst were conducted;

- The development of online interactive map was completed;

- The instructions on further maintenance of online interactive map were developed and shared with NSS representatives.

*Translation, publication and dissemination of Agricultural Census results* to the large user community.

6 types of leaflets were developed, translated into English and printed in Armenian and English on various topics of census findings, making the data more user-friendly and visual for wider audience. The topics included:

- agricultural holdings by activities and by gender of the head of household

- gender-aggregated data on labour force involved in agricultural holdings

- labour force involved in agricultural holdings by activity type

- agricultural holdings by the share of livestock

- agricultural holdings by the type of agricultural produce

- agricultural lands owned by agricultural holdings.

The leaflets were distributed during several thematic meetings held with the representatives of educational institutions, students and researchers, as well as NGO representatives of agriculture and rural development sectors.

***Output 4. National capacities for development of agricultural and rural statistics in Armenia enhanced.***

*Acquiring an electronic data storage.* To ensure proper storage, protection and maintenance of Agricultural Census data, the electronic data storage was procured under the project. The electronic data storage for networks is a high-performance storage array uniting several hard drives that allows for effective and secure storage, backup, protection and usage of large amount of data.

The activities implemented during the reporting period included:

- In partnership with NSS the characteristics for electronic data storage were identified;

- Request for Quotation for electronic data storage was developed and issued;

- 8 quotations were received from the local and international companies specialized in IT manufacture and sell;

- The evaluation and contracting for the procurement of electronic data storage were finalized;

- The electronic data storage was delivery and transferred to NSS;

- The detailed instructions on how to effectively use the electronic data storage were shared with the NSS representatives.

*Capacity building trainings for central and regional NSS units.* These trainings are based on the need to equip the NSS staff with knowledge and information on the best international practices of further effective usage of Census database and derive lessons learned. The two-day trainings were conducted for over 200 representatives from the Central and Regional NSS units. The topics included but were not limited to the following: - best practices for development of agricultural and rural statistics, - establishing farm register in Armenia; - conducting surveys in between the Agricultural Census; - best international practices of effective usage of Census data; - AC implementation lessons learned for the development of agricultural and rural statistics in Armenia.

The activities implemented during the reporting period included:

- The Terms of References for the Trainers were developed and issued;

- The contracting and hiring of Trainers were finalized;

- The training material, handouts, agenda and schedule were developed;

- The participants were identified and provided with the detail information on the training;

- Six sets of trainings were delivered for over 200 participants during July - August , 2017.

- The training evaluation was completed.

The participants’ feedback on the training was very positive. According to the groups, the sessions met their training needs and the stated objectives. They especially value the opportunity to get practical skills and applied knowledge directly applicable to their activities.

***Output 5. Project Final Evaluation Conducted***

The International Expert was hired to conduct the evaluation of the “Support to Comprehensive Agricultural Census” Project (phase I and II).

The evaluation consisted of the following phases:

* Desk review: reviewed the existing project documentation (mainly annual reports, annual work plans, project briefs and other documents related to the project) and analyzed the intervention logic;
* Inception report: provided description of the evaluation design, how the data were obtained and analyzed, how many beneficiaries/stakeholders were interviewed;
* Field phase: used standardized questionnaires to obtain information from stakeholders and beneficiaries; conducted meetings, one to one interviews with selected stakeholders and project staff;
* Draft report: prepared and submitted the draft final report and key findings;
* Final report: completed ADA/ADC Results Assessment Form as a part of reporting requirement. Submitted and presented the final report based on the comments on the draft; formulated practical and helpful recommendations for any other successor project/activities and addressed to specific stakeholders.

The evaluator also presented the results of the project final evaluation during the public workshop in Yerevan.

The final evaluation of the project credited the project’s operations with high success and effectiveness, particularly it was mentioned that:

- Both phases of the project intervention were accomplished as planned in an effective and efficient manner. The cooperation and collaboration between a strong government counterpart, an adequate legal framework and cooperating development partners contributed to the success. The technical consultant inputs were timely and beneficial to advance all aspects of the census and provided on-the-job training. The out-of-country visits and the use of regional consultants contributed to better training and a view to the future.

**Project Impacts:**

Agricultural Census provides the Government of Armenia with sound benchmark data on the situation in agriculture in Armenia for evidence-based policy making.

Reliable, comprehensive, internationally comparable and up-to-date information on agricultural and the rural sector is available for planning and evaluation process in relevant domains. Implementation of Agricultural Census in Armenia also allowed for obtaining data disaggregated by gender (as well as age, employment and some other characteristics) thus setting up baseline for development of gender-sensitive policies and programmes aimed at inclusive and sustainable development in the regions of Armenia.

### **III. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

All planned activities were carried out and all planned outputs were achieved by the project end date - August 31, 2017.

### **IV. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION**

Total Approved Budget for 2017 (ADA): USD 174,275.51

Expenditure: USD 161,341.32

Delivery Rate: 93%