

Introduction

The Czech Republic has suitable conditions for growing fruit trees. Such a fact is illustrated by the long history of Czech fruit growing, having its roots in the Middle Ages. In addition to it, fruit is a significant component of human nutrition as it contains a set of active substances having positive effects on human organism and improving human health state. In 2006 the average consumption reached 84 kg/person for fruit total and 54 kg/person for temperate zone fruit. Fruit orchards play a prominent role in the countryside as well; they participate in landscape character formation and can, if a proper method of growing is being applied, contribute to landscape ecologic stability.

Publication „Fruit orchards 2007“ includes information from Orchard Survey. The survey follows the requirements of EU legislation and was realised on the date of 1 May 2007 (Direction of the European Parliament and of the Council 2001/109/EC, Commission Decision 2002/38/EC, Commission Decision 2006/128/EC). The survey was organized for the first time in the Czech Republic in 2007 and will be repeated every five years. As for the national legislation, the survey is covered by the Statistical Survey Programme 2007 issued in the Annex 1 of Decree 476/2006 Coll. Statistical surveys are in general covered by Act 89/1995 Coll., on state statistical services.

A full census of fruit trees called „Census of fruit trees and bushes“, was organized for the last time in 1980. Since then, the Czech Statistical Office has only available basic data on fruit production gathered in the frame of „Final crop production survey“ and „Farm Structure Survey“. Orchard Survey is the first survey offering the possibility to study and thoroughly record the recent situation in fruit trees planting not only in the whole country but also in regions.