

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation of the agricultural production potential as concerns ensuring of basic food self-sufficiency is connected with agriculture since its origination. From historical point of view, statistics of agricultural primary production is one of the oldest statistical topics whose importance increases nowadays together with growing world population and progressing globalization.

The Czech Republic has joined the international system of exhaustive surveys in agricultural holdings in 1930. At that time the survey was organized by the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) with supposed ten years periodicity which was interrupted by the World War II. Since 1950 agricultural censuses have been conducted under guidance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In the European Union agricultural censuses following the FAO methodology have been administered since 1970 using own EU legislation. In addition, intermediate sample surveys (FSS; Farm Structure Survey) have been conducted every 2-3 years. Outcomes of these surveys as well as results of further sample surveys in agricultural production and economy serve as a basis for forming and evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Among the most important synergic results of Agricultural census 2010 belongs an innovated system of classification of agricultural holdings by their type of farming, economic size, and newly by importance of their other gainful activities. The farm typology [Commission Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 of 8 December 2008 establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings] in the Czech Republic is elaborated by the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (IAEI), responsible for the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), on the basis of detailed knowledge of microeconomic features of agricultural holdings.

The publication presented is the third one of the Agrocensus 2010 series issued by the Czech Statistical Office. While the preceding two – national and regional outcomes – were focused on presentation of datasets, this text consists of two autonomous parts that show possible ways of analytical classification and data utilisation.

***The first part** is focused on the farm typology; it was elaborated by authors from the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information.*

***The second part** describes changes in the Czech agricultural sector by comparison of outcomes of Agricultural censuses 2010 and 2000. The chapter was written by authors from the Czech Statistical Office.*