

Sample Design to Analyze the Production Costs from Ecological and Conventional Agriculture

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SUMMARY

In order to determine a representative sample for analyzing the differences between costs' production for ecological and conventional agriculture for vegetal sector the simple random sampling method was considered, for a relative error limit of 6% at a confidence level of 95%. The sample was established by using the formula proposed by Merce (Merce *et al.*, 2010) and was obtained a number of 200 producers. For better results, the structure of the sample respects structure of the entire studied population regarding the geographical distribution (on development regions) and the systems of agriculture used. It was decided to increase the number of respondents included into sample to 226, because of the risk of invalidation of some applied questionnaires as results of the some errors (as are human errors in the process of recording the answers, inconsistent answers and so on) which disqualify them for further analysis and, implicit, the possibility of decreasing the number of accepted respondents below the representative size of the sample.

Tab. 1

Structure of the sample, on development regions

Region	Sample obtained			Applied	Difference
	Conversion	Ecological	Total		
North-West	11	11	22	30	+8
North-East	44	50	94	96	+2
South-East	6	3	9	10	+1
South -Muntenia	2	1	2	5	+3
Bucharest-IIfov	1	0	1	4	+3
South-West Oltenia	3	0	3	5	+2
Centre	25	37	62	66	+4
West	3	2	5	8	+3
Total	95	105	200	226	+26

Keywords: gross margin, symptoms

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