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THE STRUCTURE OF FARMING IN THE COMMUNITY :
A SURVEY PUBLISHED BY THE COMMUNITY'S STATISTICAL OFFICE

The Statistical Office of the European Communities announces the publication of the first in a series of thirteen volumes giving the recapitulatory results of the Community survey carried out in 1966/1967 on the structure of farming.

This publication is of interest from several points of view. It constitutes the first official EEC publication of statistics on the structure of farming. The survey, the results of which it summarizes, although similar in scope to an agricultural census is nonetheless different because of the emphasis placed by its organizers on the less tabulated aspects of the farming world, i.e., on an in-depth description of farms, means of production used by them and on the special conditions which even to-day characterize the farming world in comparison with other branches of economic activity.

Linked to the cycles of biological growth and conditioned to a large extent by meteorological factors, agriculture is both an economic activity and a way of life : these two aspects are often so closely linked that only a detailed analysis can separate the one from the other.

The "Recapitulatory Results" which are now going to press aim both at satisfying a need for information and at sketching out the scope of the study. The relative stability of the structures guarantees, despite the time which has passed since the survey was carried out, the value of the information. The information is such that its main aspects reflect the very complex reality of the situation; the interest this information may create is not then due to its up to date quality, but rather to the comprehensive nature of its statistics which give a table covering farming as a whole in the Six Member States at a given moment in time.

The work consists mainly of 19 tables and one appendix, each one of these parts being devoted to a particular subject, from the legal status of the farmer to the use of labour, from the use of the land to the number of animals, etc.

The information collected in this way is presented, according to the category to which the farm belongs (determined by total area of land worked on each farm, up to 100 hectares). The information is also given for each country, each region and each district covered by the survey; in Germany this is the Regierungsbezirk, in France it is the department, in Belgium and Holland it is the province, and in Italy, it is the altitude zone of each region.

Luxemburg is treated separately as being a single unit for the purposes of the survey. The follow up to this publication, which has the merit of presenting the reader with a brief account of a subject of burning interest, will appear in the next few months.

repris au niveau de chaque pays, de chaque région et de chaque circonscription d'enquête; Regierungsbezirk pour la République fédérale d'Allemagne, département pour la France, province pour la Belgique et les Pays-Bas, zone altimétrique de chaque région pour l'Italie. Quant au Luxembourg, il est considéré isolément comme une unique circonscription d'enquête. La suite de cet ouvrage, qui a le mérite de documenter sommairement le lecteur sur une matière d'intérêt brûlant, sortira dans les mois qui viennent.