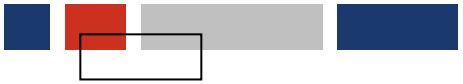
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

»Agri-environmental Indicators

Portuguese perspective «

Statistics Portugal
C. Carvalho



»

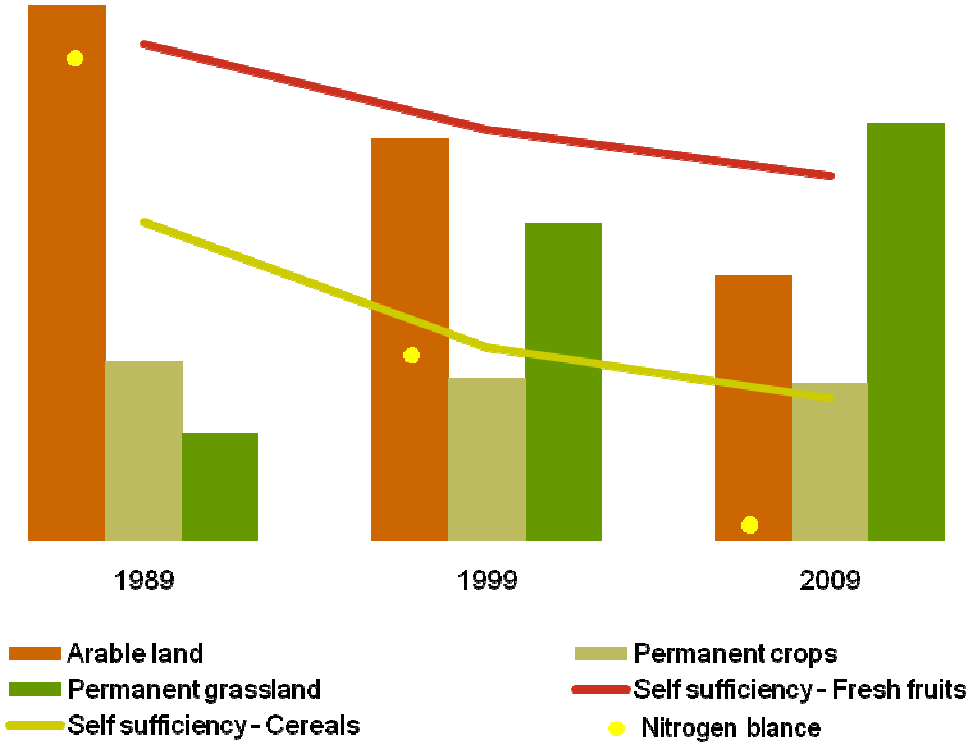
Summary

- Main concerns of AEI – PT view
- AEI as a statistical project
- Data collection constraints
- Recommendations

Main concerns of agri-environmental indicators

Measure	• Effects of agriculture on environment
Provide	• Data to policy makers about the state of environment, enabling them to establish policies of protection
Verify	• The efficiency of those policies measures

Effects of agriculture and environment



Effects of agriculture and environment

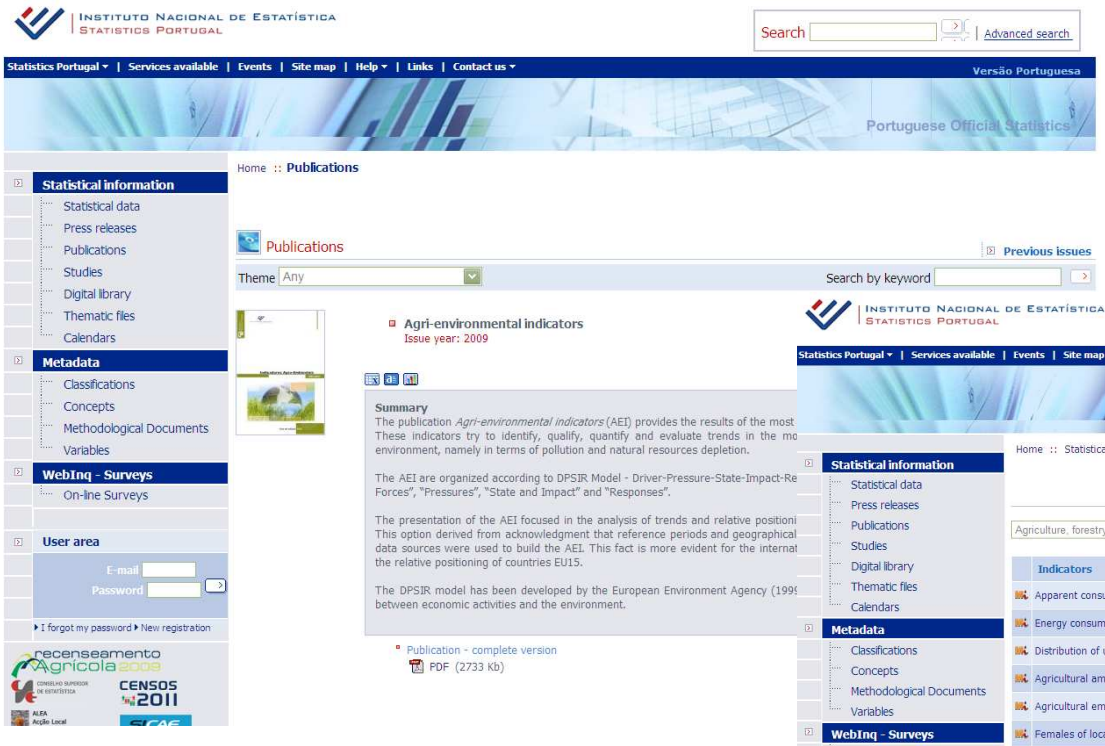
Portugal

Still retain a relatively widespread set of characteristics that are closer to a sustainable model of development rather than intensive agriculture, such as small to medium size holdings, high fragmentation, restricted monocultures, great variability of crops, type soils and climate.

- Basic food products - Low degree of self-sufficiency
- Imports of agricultural and forest products represents 14,2% of total national imports;
- The security of domestic supply is becoming an essential value

Solution: Produce more and even better

Data to policy makers

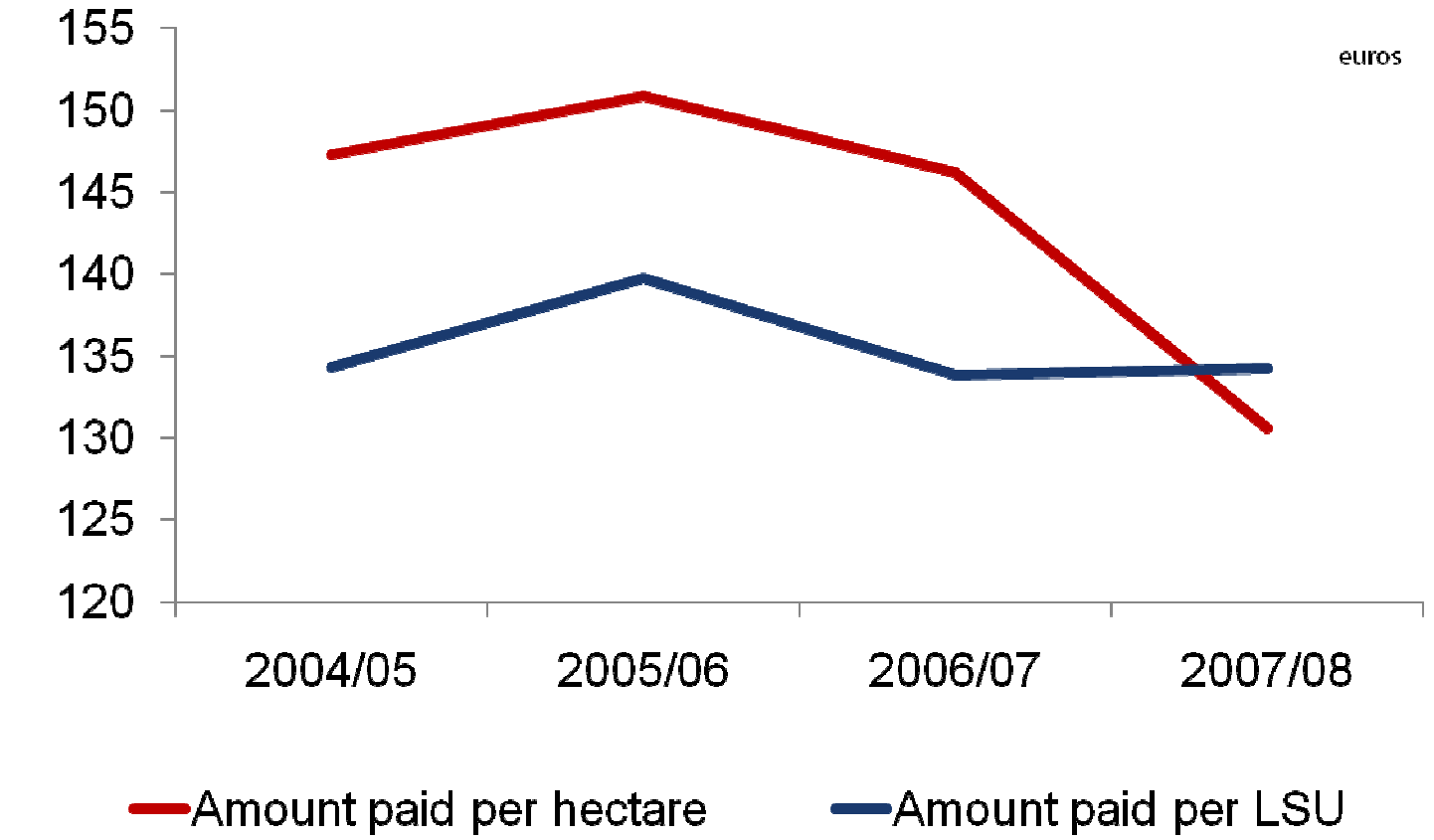


http://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_publicacoes&PUBLICACOESpub_boui=74874566&PUBLICACOESstema=5414367&PUBLICACOESmodo=2

http://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_base_dados

The efficiency of those policies measures

Agri-environmental commitments



From a statistical point of view

- Respondent burden is too high
- High degree of detail – too costly
- The border line between academic exercises and statistics should be done
- Statistics should not use to control
- Quality must be assured

- The load response must be commensurate with the needs of users should not be excessive for respondents (*code of practice – principle 9*)
- Cost benefit analysis should be done)

(Reg.(EC) Nº 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics)

- Not always what is statistically significant is important! Academic exercises are important (eg: coefficients)
- Guarantees should be given on the absence of any link with cross-compliance obligations
- The statistics must be supported by appropriate statistical procedures, implemented from data collection until validation (*code of practice – principle 8*).

More accurate indicators means more costs to gather information…

Limits to data collection for AEI

- Too many small holdings
  - 0 a < 5 ha – 76%
  - >= 50 ha – 3%
- Great diversity of crops
- High fragmention
  - 6 parcels per farm
- Farmers profile
  - Age - 63
  - School level – elementary school
  - Agricultural training – only practical experience
  - Source of income – pensions and allowances

Primary source of data - data collected at farm level through FSS does not necessarily guarantee a better reliability

Some examples

AEI 8 - Energy Use	Gj *per* farm *per* year
AEI 11.1 - Soil Cover	Number of days from sowing until crop is established
AEI 11.3 - Manure Storage	Storage capacity (months)
AEI 20 - Water Abstraction	Amount of water used *per* ha and *per* crop *per* month
AEI 22 - Genetic Diversity	Most dominant varieties of seeds used for the production of the main crops
AEI 25 - Population Trends of farmland birds	Bird counts on every farm on a regular basis

Limits to data collection for AEI

Administrative sources

- Depend on policies
- Lack of completeness and validation procedures
- Delays on the implementation process
- Low coverage

Data spread over a large number of entities

Recommendations

- Financial support from CAP to agriculture and environmental statistics
  - Currently supports FSS, but is not enough!!
- FSS or other surveys conducted at farm level
  - Conventional surveys are not the best statistical tool to obtain data for AEI
- FADN or similar approaches created specifically for agriculture/environmental statistics
  - Overcome the constraints of gathering agriculture data from farmer through conventional surveys
- Cooperation with Universities and farmers associations
  - To be strengthened

Recommendations

- Policies *vs* Statistical data

- Definition of policies should be accomplished in parallel with the discussion of data requirements and its implication for the EU Statistical Program!!!

- Time lag of EU Policies implementation should occur simultaneously in Member States

- Example: Regulation EC n.º 1166/2008 predicted a list of variables related with Rural development measures, to be collected by the Agriculture Census. By the time of collecting data in PT, 1/3 of those mandatory measures were not questioned in Portugal because they were not yet implemented!!!

Recommendations

- The role of Eurostat

- Improve the coordination of Eurostat with other Commission Services.
  A better coordination within Commission services should also be envisage

- Coherence between statistical data needs and statistical legislation

- *Eg: The Pesticides Regulation was discussed for a long time and finally it was approved but…. It not fulfil the needs, which at the time were already known…*

“It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters, in the end!”

Ursula K. Le Guin

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

Thank you for your attention

Statistics Portugal
C. Carvalho

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL