

# MSD in the agricultural sector Bulgaria

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# Bulgaria – basic figures



# Structure of agricultural holding by size of used arable land



Source:MAF

Indicators	Total	From 0.00 ha to 1.99 ha	From 2.00 ha to 4.99 ha	From 5.00 ha to 9.99ha	From 10.00ha to 49.99 ha	From 50.00ha to 99,99 ha	100.00 > and more
Number of holding	371 000	308 800	30 400	10 800	12 900	2 900	5 300
UAA (ha)	3 620 900	144 300	90 600	73 000	279 700	203 300	2 830 300

# Structure of labor force in agriculture



371 100 agricultural holdings employed 751 700 persons in 2010:

418 900 

332 860 

- The proportion of family labor force is 92.8% or 697 400 persons
- 54 300 are paid workers





# Structure of labor force according age and education



- 61.0% of employed persons were aged 35 to 64 years.
- 9.8% of the persons employed were aged between 15 and 34 years, and
- 29.2% were persons over 65 years of age.
- 2,4% of the managers have an agricultural education.
- Low share of the employed having a university degree - around 4% compared to the average of 25% for the country
- Source MAF





# Health and safety – national legislation



- **CONSTITUTION OF BULGARIA Art. 48, p. 5 stipulates that :**  
*“ Workers have the right of health and safety conditions at work ”.*
- **Law “Health and Safety at work” into force since 27 December 1997** , establishes the rights and obligations of state, employers, workers and employees, self – employed etc. The employer has the duty to ensure health and safety work places and has the sole responsibility in case of occupational hazards.
- **LABOUR CODE** - establishes the minimum requirements for health and safety at workplace as well as the conditions , the order and the organs for control of Labor legislation implementation including health and safety.
- **SOCIAL SECURITY CODE** – regulates the social security and the rights in case of occupational accident and diseases. The workers have the rights of :
  1. Financial compensations for temporary disability, medical examinations and/or medical treatment, sanatorium treatment ;
  2. Financial compensations for prophylaxis and rehabilitation ;
  3. Pension for disability caused by occupational hazards or illness ;
  4. In case of death caused by professional accident or occupational disease the relatives (wives, husbands, children have the right of one-time aid equal to two minimal salaries and hereditary pension.





# List of occupational diseases, cases by static physical efforts and dynamic physical work - example

Occupational diseases	Code	Conditions laying down for recognition of occupational diseases	Examples of risk's activities
<b>Cervical spondyloza with radiculopathy</b>	M 47.2; M50.1;M54.1;M54.2	Proved systematical work related to inclined working position, hard physical efforts, repetitive monotonous movements with static pressure – min 8 years	Different type of activities engaging the area of shoulders
<b>Tendinitis of m. quadriceps and/or m. sartorius</b>	M77.8	Proved systematical work related to continued repetitive movements of flexion and/or extension of the knee, systematical pressure of the knees - min 5 years	Continued work on the knees,
<b>Vegetative poly neuropathia of upper limbs</b>	G90.8	Proved systematical had work , stereotype movements predominantly of the wrist and fingers - min 10 years	Animal breeding activities
<b>Lumbalgia</b>	M 54	Proved systematical work related with inclined working position , load maintenance etc. – min 10 years	Manual work with loads



# Labor inspection analyses



- 1503 visits in 1209 agricultural holdings of which 1207 SME
- 18 890 workers (6164 women)
- **Main outcomes:**
  - the biggest number of violations (225) are related to the preparation and presentation of the necessary information
  - only 5 violations concern the manual work with loads;
  - insufficiency of information and training of the personnel and internal control;
  - the process of modernization has a strong positive impact on the health and safety at workplace, although the small and medium farms that have a difficult access to the EU funding in spite of the efforts still have problems in the implementation of the health and safety requirements;
  - the agricultural sector is a relatively low risk sector . A National Survey of working conditions for 2011, funded by ESF ranges at the top the mining industry (21) according risk factor explosion followed by construction (19) and hotel and restauration (18) as far as work with loads is concerned. The monotonous repetitive movements are high risk factors for processing industry (21), followed by hotel and restauration (20).







# MSD: risk factors, exposure, unfavorable effects in agriculture

<i><b>Risk factor</b></i>	<i><b>Workers, exposed to the risk factors (in %)</b></i>	<i><b>Injuries</b></i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Manual work with loads</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 % women</li> <li>22 % men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MSD</b> (back and sacral pains, pains in the limbs, discal hernia, osteoartrosis)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Repetitive monotone activity</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41 % women</li> <li>37 % men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MSD</b> (Syndrome arm - shoulder – cervix tendon vaginitis, synovitis, neuritis, radiculities etc.)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Unfavorable working position</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 % of the workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MSD</b> (over muscles strain, injuries of articulations and tendons)</li> </ul>





# SOCIAL COMPETENCE development at work in the AGRicultural sector – project presentation



- The goal of this project is to transfer the Spanish **training course on labour risk prevention at work in agriculture**, to other countries (Poland, Romania and Bulgaria).
- The idea is based in transference this complete programme to Poland, Romania and Bulgaria with some of the following characteristics:
  - significant amount of employment
  - deficiencies in labor risk prevention training
  - high volume of migrants

The main output of this project will be a **six-languages Blended Learning training programme** in Health and Safety at Work in European Agriculture. This output is expected to impact actively in reducing occupational hazards in agriculture.



# CONCLUSIONS

Despite the dual structure of Bulgarian agriculture the practical implementation of health and safety legislation in Bulgaria is strongly influenced by the following factors:

- Structural factors - predominance of medium and medium farms , high level of family work, ageing working force, relatively low level of education.
- Economic factors – low productivity, lower incomes , compared to the other sectors of economy, difficult access to the EU funds ;
- In terms of awareness and access to information a big effort is considered to be needed particularly for medium and small farmers, where the training on health and safety was assessed as insufficient.
- The process of restructuring and modernization has a strong positive impact on health and safety at working place .
- The big volume of documentation requested from medium and small farms is considered as a serious administrative burden