

2000 World Census of Agriculture

**Main Results and Metadata
by Country
(1996-2005)**



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FOREWORD

Beginning with 1950 FAO has been preparing and advocating a decennial World Programmes for the Census of Agriculture (WCA), and the 2000 Programme was the sixth in the series. These programmes on one hand serve to promote availability of internationally comparable data on structure of agriculture; on the other hand they have been providing guidance to countries in collecting structural data using standard concepts, definitions and classifications.

Member countries provide the reports of their agricultural censuses to the FAO Statistics Division. These reports serve as the basis for preparation of internationally comparable data and for methodological studies related to the conduct of an agricultural census. Statistics Division concurrently disseminates through its website the key data on structure of agriculture and related metadata obtained through the country census reports.

At the end of each round FAO Statistics Division publishes three main reports, consolidating the global information on structure of agriculture. This is the first report in the series, presenting a compendium of country summaries earlier disseminated through the website. The accompanying volume, "2000 World Census of Agriculture: Analysis and International Comparison of the Results (1996-2005)", to be published as the Document Number 13 of the FAO Statistical Development Series, will present internationally comparable data on selected variables characterizing the structure of agriculture in the world. The third report, which is under preparation, relates to a Methodological Review of the WCA 2000 round.

FAO Statistics Division is pleased to bring out this unique publication covering information from a record number of 114 countries, and conveys its sincere gratitude to the National Statistical Offices which provided their census reports to us. Our staff has made their best effort to obtain information on as many countries as possible for this publication. The information on missing countries, when made available to us will be added to the web site of WCA. Nonetheless, it is expected that this comprehensive publication will serve as useful reference material for survey planners, researchers and policy makers who are interested in development of the agricultural sector and the related statistics.

This publication has been possible due to the efforts of a dedicated team of staff lead by Mr Mukesh K. Srivastava. Mr Franco Stefanelli was the key staff responsible for summarizing reports from the national agricultural censuses. Ms Adriana Neciu, consultant, refined the initial work bringing it to the level of this publication. Messrs Naman Keita and Paul N'Goma Kimbasta provided valuable comments to improve the presentation of material.

The Director
Statistics Division

INTRODUCTION

Realizing the importance of statistics on agriculture, the International Institute of Agriculture initiated the first Programme for the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) in 1924, which was implemented by about 60 countries in 1930. The efforts to conduct a WCA in 1940 could not succeed due to outbreak of World War II. Beginning with 1950 FAO has been preparing and advocating decennial World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA), and the 2000 Programme referring to the period 1996–2005, was the sixth in the series.

The programme for the WCA on one hand serves to promote availability of internationally comparable data on structure of agriculture; on the other hand, it provides much needed guidance to countries in collecting the data, following standard concepts, definitions and classifications. In many developing countries an agriculture census is a unique source of information on the productive structure of agriculture sector. An agriculture census provides the foundation of the agriculture statistics system of a country in the sense that it provides: (1) sampling frames for the current surveys and ad hoc specialized surveys, and (2) benchmark data to verify the reliability from other sources of data.

With the FAO leadership of the WCA, country participation in this programme has been increasing over time — from 81 countries in the 1950 round to 111 countries in the 1970 round to 122 countries in the 2000 round. Also an increasing degree of regular periodicity of the censuses has been observed among countries, particularly in Europe and Asia. African countries, which earlier depended largely on donor support for conduct of an agriculture census, are now conscious of need to conduct an agricultural census at least once every ten years and are increasingly using their own budget to finance the census.

Out of the 122 countries which conducted an agriculture census during WCA 2000 (1996–2005), 114 countries provided their reports to FAO. The reports of agriculture censuses received by FAO from member countries serve as the basis for preparation of internationally comparable data and for studies on methodological issues related to taking an agriculture census. FAO Statistics Division concurrently disseminates through its website key data on structure of agriculture and related metadata on the basis of the country census reports. At the end of each round it publishes three main reports, consolidating the global information on structure of agriculture. The first report i.e. this publication, is a compendium of abstracts of country censuses earlier disseminated through the website. The second publication presents internationally comparable data on selected variables characterizing the structure of agriculture in the world. The third report relates to a Methodological Review of the WCA 2000 round. Full list of publications on World Programme for the Census of Agriculture since its inception is given in Appendix 1.

The real value of this publication lies in availability of detailed metadata on agriculture censuses conducted by different countries. Apart from providing information on historical background, enumeration and reference periods of the census, the report also provides an overview of the methodology and survey designs used in the census. This brief information on individual censuses presents a panorama of country practices on agriculture censuses. The document also provides further reference to the country census reports used for preparation of this document. Using the contact information and the web-link to the national census authorities provided in the document, the reader could obtain further information on agriculture census of a specific country. The web sites of national authorities responsible for agriculture census can also be accessed through the web page¹ of World Programme for Census of Agriculture. The technical issues related to conducting agriculture census will be dealt in depth in the other publication entitled, “2000 World Census of Agriculture – Methodological Review”. This document will also provide some examples of good practices.

A brief review of metadata of the national censuses covered in this report indicates that many countries do not organize an agriculture census as a completely independent activity. Countries tend to take advantages of existing administrative and statistical systems for collecting structural agriculture statistics. For example, in Denmark agriculture census is linked to the registers of Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) which contain information relating to area under major crops for all the farms applying for crop subsidies. In Kuwait, keeping in view the low contribution of agriculture to the economy, no agriculture census is carried out. Nonetheless, agricultural data are collected from about 3 to 4 thousand registered farms on quarterly basis. In India, the administrative functions of maintaining land ownership records and doing seasonal crop enumeration are vested in a single office at village level. The services of this office are utilized to carry out an agriculture census (limited to crops) once every five year by re-tabulating the land ownership registers to obtain a list of agricultural holders which provides the frame for the

¹ <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/world-census-of-agriculture/en/>

agriculture census and a follow-up survey. The Livestock Census of India is, however, carried out as an independent statistical operation using the staff and infrastructure of Livestock Department of the State Governments. Given the tradition of maintaining information on livestock movements at local level in Mongolia, an annual livestock census is carried out there using the information base of local offices which are also responsible for maintaining key statistics on their area. In the absence of availability of any suitable system to support collection of statistics, countries carry out an agriculture census by complete enumeration as an independent operation, as in Algeria.

Countries also use population census to collect basic data on agriculture. In some Former Yugoslav Republics there existed a practice of attaching a special module of questionnaire on agriculture to the population census. Census of Population and Housing of Zambia also included a module on agriculture census. Small island countries where cost of separate agriculture census is prohibitive also follow this practice. Quite a number of countries have used the population census for identifying agricultural holdings or households and for obtaining a sampling frame for the agriculture census, e.g. Nepal. An overview of country practices on inclusion of agriculture related questions in the population census are presented in Appendix 2.

Countries also combine fisheries and aquaculture census with agriculture census e.g in Cook Islands. The definition of agricultural holding adopted for Agriculture Census 2003 of Thailand includes fresh water culture of fish. The Philippines Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) 2002 combined field activities of censuses of agriculture and fisheries, but kept the data on the two conceptually separate.

The census design and the data resulting from the censuses vary significantly across countries. The reports and information are made available to FAO in diverse forms and languages. Very often the international standard concepts underlying the census data are adjusted to suit national requirements. Specific efforts are made by the FAO Statistics Division to standardize the data so as to make them suitable for international comparisons, to the extent possible. This publication presents key structural data by country. A separate publication entitled "2000 World Census of Agriculture – Analysis and International Comparison of the Results" will present a number of comparison tables on important subjects, such as number and area of agricultural holdings by size group of land holdings, gender, land tenure, livestock population, crops, irrigation and machinery.

This publication provides main results on structure of agriculture at country level in a closely comparable form. These results have been extracted from country reports and standardized, as necessary. Despite standardization of data, international comparisons are often difficult due to differences in scope, coverage, or designs of the agriculture censuses which are planned to meet primarily the national requirements. For some countries the data reported here, particularly the number and area of holdings, may slightly differ from those coming from other sources. These differences arise mainly on account of: (1) varying thresholds on scale of operation adopted for definition of holdings leading to differences in coverage of holdings in different countries, (2) conceptual difference in definition of holdings/farms or (3) subsequent revision of the figures by the national office responsible for agricultural census. In case of any discrepancy of data presented in this publication with any other source, the reader is advised to refer to concepts and definitions provided in the Programme for WCA 2000.

As most agriculture censuses collect data on key structural characteristics like number and area of holdings, legal status of holders, gender of holders, employment on holdings, land tenure and land use, this publication provides information on these items for almost all countries. Given the space constraint, the data on crops and livestock have been selectively reported. Inventories of internationally important livestock species such as cattle and buffaloes, sheep and goat, and pigs are reported separately. The data on other livestock species have been sometimes grouped together, either to fit the data in available space or because country itself has collected the data on group of species. Similarly, all internationally important crops, such as wheat, rice, maize have been kept separate from other grain crops. Care has been taken to cover important national crops also. The crops occupying less significant share in cultivated area in a country have been grouped using Indicative Crop Classification (ICC)² Version 1.

2 FAO (2005). A System of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys – Vol.1. World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010, FAO Statistical Development Series 11. Rome, 2005 (Appendix 3)