

Historical outline

The Census of Agriculture conducted in the Union of the Comoros in 2004 is the first ever undertaken in the country. Before this, only a survey was conducted, on the structure of the agricultural sector, in 1987.

Organization

The Comoros Government Bodies involved in the project were the Ministry of Rural Development, Fisheries, Craft and Environment (Ministère du développement rural, de la pêche, de l'artisanat et de l'environnement), and the Statistics Bureau of the General Planning Commission (Commissariat Général au Plan, Direction de la Statistique). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO of the UN) provided technical and financial assistance under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Project TCP/COI/2903 (A): "Appui au Recensement Général de l'Agriculture (RGA)".

Enumeration period

Information was not available at the time of publication.

Reference date/period

Information was not available at the time of publication.

Definition

The agricultural holding was as defined in the FAO Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000, viz., an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title and legal form. It could be managed by civil persons, corporations, collectives, cooperatives or government agencies. It may consist of one or more parcels, if sharing the same production means.

Coverage

The census covered the whole territory of the Union of the Comoros, i.e. the three islands of Ngazidja, Ndzouany and Mwali.

Frame

The frame used for the Agricultural Census consisted of a list of all the localities/villages (localités) of the country, updated during the 2003 Census of Population and Dwellings (Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat - RGPH 2003).

Method

Due to limits in financial and human resources, it was decided to undertake the census by sample. A stratified two-stage sampling design was applied as follows:

- **At the first stage:** the Localities/Villages, classified into three strata, were selected as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) with probability proportional to size. The sample size consisted of 152 Localities/Villages, (about 50% of the total number of Localities/Villages in the country) selected in the three islands forming the territory of the Comoros as follows: 78 in Ngazidja, 66 in Ndzouani and 8 in Mwali.
- **At the second stage:** 12 agricultural holdings were selected as Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs), with equal probability, from each of the 152 PSUs, for a total of 1 824 agricultural holdings. The enumeration took place in two passages: in the first passage data were collected by enumerators through direct interview, on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the agricultural holdings. In the second passage 912 (i.e. a half of the selected SSUs) agricultural holdings were investigated with objective measurements of area of parcels and crop density and yields.

Data source

Union des Comores, Recensement Général de l'Agriculture 2004 (CD-ROM prepared by Statistician/SAFM, FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa, containing the Preliminary Results of the 2004 General Agricultural Census of Comoros, May 2005).

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