

Historical outline

The first census of agriculture in Ecuador was conducted in 1954 on sampling basis. In 1968 a national agricultural sample survey was carried out; then in 1974 a complete enumeration census was undertaken: The latest agricultural census, to which data reported here refer, was conducted in 1999/2000.

Organization

The census was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, MAG). Technical and Financial support was provided by the Information and Agricultural Census Service Project (SICA) funded by the World Bank. International technical assistance was provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the Department of Agriculture of the United States (USDA). About 2 575 persons were involved in activities relating to planning and field work, of which about 250 were from INEC and MAG; the others were hired from out side after a selection process.

Enumeration period

Data were collected during the period 1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000.

Reference date/period

Is the day of enumeration for general characteristics of holdings, land use, tenure, irrigation machinery, livestock number, farm population and employment. For temporary and permanent crops production, livestock production and technical assistance, is the census year.

Definition

Agricultural production unit (Unidad de Producción Agropecuaria viz. UPA) was defined as a piece of land of at least 500 square meters, totally or partially used for agriculture, considered as an economic unit under single management, regardless to title or legal form. Those less than 500 square meters were considered UPAs only if they produced one or more products for sale during the census year.

Coverage

The census covered the entire country.

Frame

The census was based on a multiple purpose frame. An exhaustive, ordinate register of enumeration units, called Marco Muestral de Lista (MML) was prepared for large and specialized holdings. For remaining UPAs, the area to be covered was divided into first stage units called: UPM (Unidades Primarias de Muestreo) and each UPM into second stage units called SMs (segmentos de muestreo).

Method

For large and specialized UPAs, complete enumeration was carried out. For remaining UPAs, an area sampling method was applied and 12 277 SMs were selected and totally covered. Aerial photos and satellite images were used.

Data source

III Censo Nacional Agropecuario, Resultados Nacionales, Vol. I. Instituto Nacional di Estadística y Censos (INEC), Ecuador.

Contact

Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Proyecto Sistema de Información y Censo Agropecuario – Av. Amazonas y Eloy Alfaro, Quito, Ecuador. Tel.: (+593) 2 256 6757, (+593 2) 256 9172; Fax: (+593) 2 256 4972; E-Mail: damianj@sica.gov.ec, rtipan@sica.gov.ec.

Website

<http://www.sica.gov.ec/ingles/index.html>