

## Historical outline

The first agricultural census in Iran was conducted in 1960; then second and a third censuses of agriculture were undertaken in 1988 and 1993. The latest census, to which data here presented refer, was conducted in 2003.

## Organization

The Statistical Centre of Iran is the national office responsible for the organization of the agricultural census. Contribution to the organization and conduct of the census was also provided by the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture. The field operations for data collection employed 9 564 Enumerators and 5 354 supervisors.

## Enumeration period

The census was conducted in October 2003. Census field operations lasted 30 days.

## Reference date/period

- For crops production: the agricultural year 23 September 2002 to 22 September 2003.
- For milk production: the 365 days period preceding the census.
- For Land Use, Livestock etc.: the day of enumeration.

## Definition

**Holding:** An agricultural holding should be involved in at least one of the following agricultural activities: Farming; Horticulture; Greenhouse operating; Apiculture raising; Sericulture raising; Livestock keeping - sheep or goats (domestic, not industrial); Livestock keeping - cattle and camels (domestic, not industrial); Poultry keeping - (domestic, not industrial). Holdings covered in the census satisfied at least one of the following conditions: Having/operating: 400 m<sup>2</sup> of land under temporary crops; or 200 m<sup>2</sup> of horticultural and permanent crops; or 2 head of sheep or goats; or 1 head of cattle or camel; or 10 head of poultry; or a greenhouse of any scale; or Silk worms keeping (sericulture) of any scale; or Honey bees keeping (apiculture) of any scale.

## Coverage

The census was designed to cover all farms above the threshold, both in urban and rural areas of the country. Modern poultry farms were not covered by the census.

## Frame

The census frame was prepared at the time of data collection, by listing places in blocks (rural and urban areas) in order to identify agricultural households as well as agricultural holdings.

## Method

Complete enumeration method was applied. All agricultural holdings managed by natural persons and settled in both urban and rural areas were enumerated through direct interview of the holder/manager. Information on unsettled households was provided by locally informed people. Holdings belonging to legal persons were enumerated in the places where agricultural activities were practiced.

The enumerator was charged to fill three forms:

- The Listing Form (Short Form): to be used in order to identify the holdings;
- The Holding Form (Main or Long Form): to report details on holdings;
- The Village Questionnaire: in order to indicate different dimensions of rural areas.

## Data source

General Census of Agriculture 2003. Statistical Centre of Iran.

## Contact

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