Kingdom of Lesotho

Bureau of Statistics

2019/2020 LESOTHO AGRICULTURAL CENSUS KEY FINDINGS REPORT

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

MISSION STATEMENT

To coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) and produce accurate, timely and reliable, culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence-based planning, decision making, research, policy, program formulation and monitoring and evaluation to satisfy the needs of users and producer

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FOREWORD

The Ministry of Development Planning (MDP) through the Department of the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security conducted the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. The Census was conducted with assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This was the eighth Sampled Census undertaken by the Government of Lesotho since 1949/1950.

The main objective of the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census was to provide data on agricultural statistics, which will be used for agricultural planning, policy formulation and implementation of agricultural programmes and projects for improvement of agricultural sector and farmers livelihoods. The information will also be used to monitor and evaluate implementation of the national and international frameworks such as National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II), Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report presents findings relating to land tenure, land use, area, production, livestock numbers.

I would like to express my gratitude to all participants of the Census, comprising Supervisors and Enumerators. Appreciation also goes to numerous farmers who provided answers to the questions as well as District and Local leaders who provided guidance to the Enumerators in ten districts of the country where the Census was successfully undertaken.

It is my hope that the findings will provide valuable information on Agricultural sector for planning and policy formulation.

....

HONOURABLE SELIBE MOCHOBOROANE
MINISTER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Census

It is a statistical operation for collecting, processing and disseminating data on structure of agriculture, covering the whole or a significant part of a country.

Agricultural Holder

It is a person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation.

Agricultural Holding

The agricultural holding or household is 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, legal form or size.

Agricultural Year

In Lesotho, the time reference for the agricultural census is a full year that commences on the 1st of August and ends on the 31st of July of the following year.

Commercial Farming

Commercial farming is all about the growing of crops and/or the rearing of animals for raw materials, food, or export, particularly for profitable reasons.

Crop Farming

Crop farming is the process of growing crops for domestic or commercial purposes.

Irrigation

Refers to the artificial application of water to the soil for the purpose of supplying the moisture essential for a plant growth.

Land Tenure

Land tenure is the legal regime which land is owned by an individual, who is said to "hold" the land. It determines who can use land, for how long and under what conditions.

Land Use

Land Use is the term used to describe the human use of land. It represents the economic and cultural activities (e.g., agricultural, residential, industrial, mining, and recreational uses) that are practiced at a given place.

Livestock Farming

Livestock farming is the management and breeding of domestic, livestock or farm animals for the purpose of obtaining their meat and products.

Mixed Farming

Mixed farming combined production of crops and animals without a specialized production of crops or animals.

Subsistence Farming

Subsistence farming is farming whose products are intended to provide for the basic needs of a farmer, with little surplus for marketing.

Yield

It is defined as harvested production per unit of harvested area in hectares.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Lesotho is a high-altitude country fully landlocked by the Republic of South Africa. The country is divided into ten administrative districts that cover four ecological zones; Lowlands, Foothills, Mountains and Senqu River Valley (SRV). The lowland zone is most densely populated and intensively cultivated zone with relatively high chances of rainfall. The Foothill zone, as compared to Lowland is less populated with less rainfall. The Mountain zone is the largest zone of the country that is characterized by very cold winter. Senqu River Valley is the smallest zone which runs from the east to the west across some districts.

Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy. The population of Lesotho is predominantly rural where 65.8 percent of the population lives. Agriculture remains a critical sector for food security, employment creation, poverty alleviation and rural development. Contribution of agriculture to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 4.7%. Despite its low contribution to GDP, it is an important source of livelihoods for rural population. It is mostly dominated by subsistence farming with small commercial agriculture which is composed of crops and livestock production.

In Lesotho, the Census of Agriculture is undertaken every ten years. The first census was conducted in 1949/1950 and the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census was the eighth census. The 2019/2020 Lesotho Agricultural Census was conducted to provide information for planning and policy formulation. It is also meant to provide data for monitoring and evaluation of agricultural programmes as articulated in National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II). The report therefore presents summary of the key findings for 2019/2020 Agricultural Census.

1.2 Objectives

The overall objective of the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census was to provide data on Crops and Livestock production, specifically to;

- Provide data on the structure of agriculture, especially on size of holding, land tenure, land use, crop area and livestock numbers

- Provide data to use as benchmarks and reconciliation of current agricultural statistics for assessing future agricultural developments

- Provide frames for agricultural sample surveys

- Provide data on indicators for monitoring and evaluating trends in food security in line with the NSDP II strategic objectives.

1.3 Scope and Coverage

The 2019/2020 Agricultural Census covered the rural agricultural households engaged in crop and livestock production in all ten districts as well as the four (4) ecological zones. A total of 500 PSUs were selected. The data on subsistence farming was collected on 500 PSUs while data on commercial farming was collected from the entire country.

1.4 Census Period

The reference period for Agricultural censuses/surveys follows the Lesotho's agricultural year, which starts from 1st August to 31st July of the subsequent year. The 2019/2020 Agricultural census reference period for crop production was from 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020 while the reference period for livestock was the day of enumeration.

1.5 Confidentiality

The information collected from agricultural households is strictly confidential as per Statistical Act 2001 and it will only be used for statistical purposes. Identity of individual respondents is anonymized and only aggregated results is published.

1.6 Census Implementation

Bureau of statistics (BOS) in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) were responsible for preparation and implementation of 2019/2020 Agricultural census activities which began in April 2018.

1.7 Sampling

The 2019/2020 Agricultural Census adopted a stratified multi-stage cluster sampling design with two or more enumeration areas combined to form a Primary Sampling Unit (PSU). A total of 500 rural PSUs were selected in all the four ecological zones. In each PSU, 16 agricultural holdings were selected for enumeration making a total of 8,000 agricultural holdings.

1.8 Questionnaires

The 2019/2020 Agricultural Census was implemented using three questionnaires:
- Household questionnaire which collected information at household level
- Commercial questionnaire which collected information from commercial farmers
- Community Profile questionnaire which collected data at community level

1.9 Pilot
The Pilot survey was undertaken from 14th September to 14th October 2020 in five districts namely; Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Maseru, Mohale's Hoek and Thaba-Tseka. The exercise covered the four ecological zones and was meant to test the efficiency of the census tools and the workload of the entire exercise.

1.10 Listing
Listing for the main census took place in all the districts starting from 31st October to 29th November 2020. It was followed by a systematic sampling of 16 agricultural holdings in each PSU.

1.11 Recruitment and Training
A total of 258 enumerators were recruited and trained to interview the selected holdings. Training of trainers started on the 30th November to 6th December 2020. It was followed by training of supervisors which took place on the 7th to 18th December 2020. Training of enumerators was conducted on the 17th February to 7th March 2021.

1.12 Data Collection and Processing
Data collection commenced on the 7th March to 13th April 2021. A face to face interview method was used to conduct the survey. A computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) method was adopted. A public domain software named Census and Survey Processing package (CSPro) was used for CAPI development. Data collected from the field was sent to the server and this was the first Agricultural Census to use CAPI. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for data cleaning and tabulation.

CHAPTER 2: KEY FINDINGS

2.0 Introduction

The chapter covers key findings of the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. The discussion focuses on agricultural holdings, crop and livestock production.

2.1 Agricultural Households Activities

The section provides demographic information on agricultural households or holdings that were engaged in crop and livestock farming during the census.

Figure 1 presents the number of agricultural holdings from 1999/2000 to 2019/2020 Agricultural Censuses. The 2019/2020 Agricultural Census results revealed that there were 199,059 agricultural holdings showing a decline of 11.7 percent from 225,435 agricultural holdings in 2009/2010.

Figure 1: Number of Agricultural Holdings, 1999/2000 - 2019/2020 Agricultural Censuses
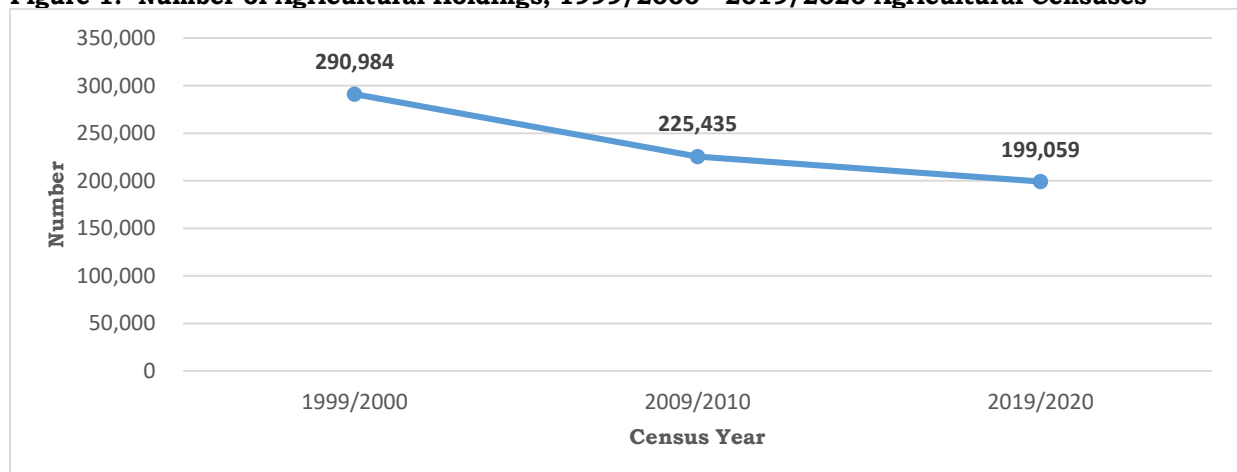
2.1.1 Agricultural Activities

Figure 2 presents the percentage distribution of agricultural holders for 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. The census showed that there were 227,983 holders in Lesotho of which 37,571 (16.5 percent) were crop holders, 61,112 (26.8 percent) were livestock holders and 129,300 (56.7 percent) were practicing mixed farming.

The results also revealed that there were 188 commercial holders. Most commercial holders practiced crop farming (48.5 percent) followed by livestock farming with 28.2 percent. Mixed farming was the least practiced with 23.4 percent.

Figure 2: Percentage Distribution of Holders by Agricultural Activities, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census
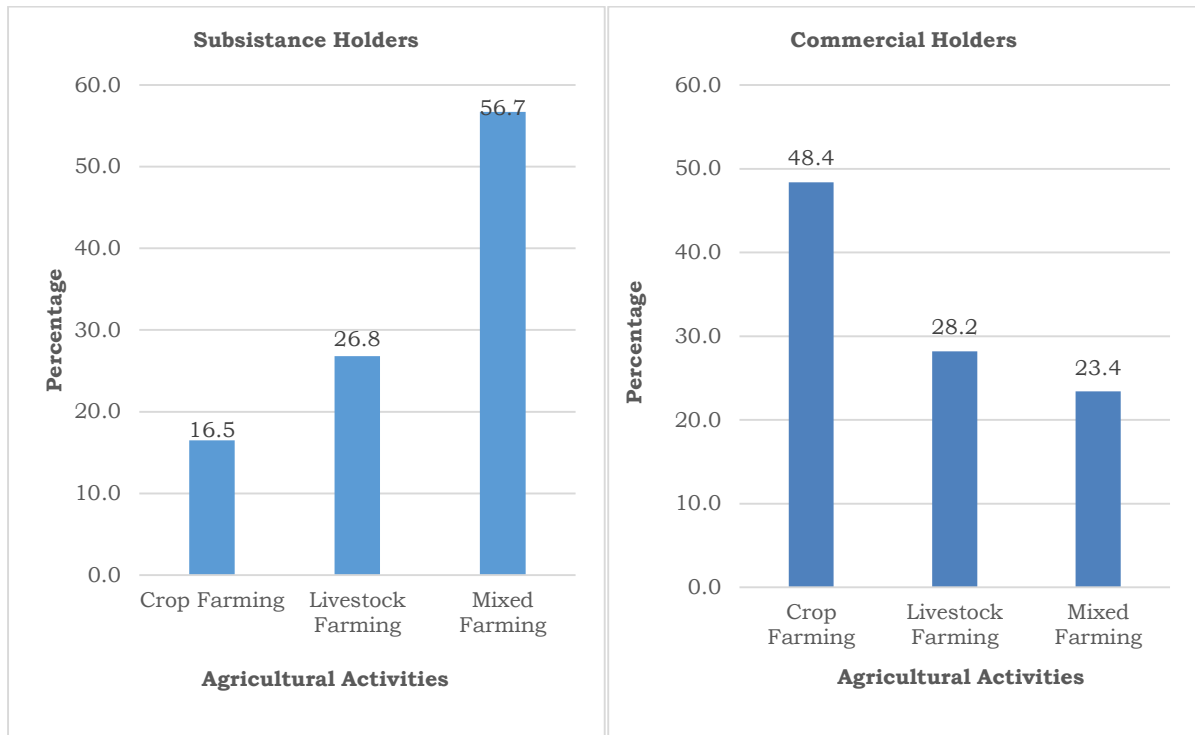
2.2 Crop Production

2.2.0 Introduction

The preliminary report on production comprises area planted, area harvested and production of five major crops namely Maize, Wheat, Sorghum, Beans and Peas.

2.2.1 Production of Major Crops

According to 2019/2020 Agricultural Census results, the total area planted was 234,262 ha showing a decrease of 3.9 percent from 243,835 ha in 2009/2010.

Table 3 reveals that area planted to Beans has increased by 28.0 percent from 30,364ha in 2009/2010 to 38,865ha in 2019/2020. Area planted to Peas decreased by 53.1 percent.

Area harvested to Beans was 31,429ha in 2019/2020 Agricultural Census, which is an increase of 16.9 percent from 26,887ha in 2009/2010.

Production of Maize had been constantly decreasing in all the censuses. A decrease of 53.8 percent was observed in 2009/2010. It further decreased by 60.2 percent in 2019/2020. Wheat production had been fluctuating; it increased by 25.3 percent in 2019/2020 census following a decline of 83.5 percent in 2009/2010 Agricultural Census.

The census results further states that the crop yields for 2019/2020 Agricultural Census decreased compared to 2009/2010 Agricultural Census crop yields. However Table 3 shows that Wheat (0.3mt/ha) and Maize (0.3mt/ha) yields for 2019/2020 Agricultural census were higher compared to other crops.

The results also shows that commercial farming had about 1,501ha of area planted to Maize of which 85.5 percent was harvested producing 1,329mt. The table further shows that Wheat had the yield of 1.9mt/ha followed by Sorghum with 1.6mt/ha.

Table 1: Area Planted, Area Harvested and Production of Major Crop by Type and Year, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census Year

Year	Area	Type				
		Maize	Wheat	Sorghum	Beans	Peas
Subsistence Farming						
1999/2000	Area Planted (ha)	170,102	27,934	27,802	13,948	25,640
	Area Harvested (ha)	157,946	14,190	25,831	13,426	4,723
	Production (mt)	277,626	12,841	26,807	14,320	2,800
	Yield (mt/ha)	1.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.1
2009/2010	Area Planted (ha)	151,717	17,433	35,614	30,364	5,926
	Area Harvested (ha)	141,340	15,877	33,146	26,887	3,811
	Production (mt)	128,213	21,151	23,830	8,899	1,675
	Yield (mt/ha)	0.8	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3
2019/2020	Area Planted (ha)	147,133	11,648	26,847	38,865	2,196
	Area Harvested (ha)	111,861	8,240	20,995	31,429	1,332
	Production (mt)	51,016	3,707	6,560	7,030	160
	Yield (mt/ha)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Commercial Farming						
2019/2020	Area Planted (ha)	1,501	464	33	952	67
	Area Harvested (ha)	1,283	376	32	912	20
	Production (mt)	1,329	870	53	199	3
	Yield (mt/ha)	0.9	1.9	1.6	0.2	0.0

Table 2 gives results on crop production for 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. Leribe had the highest production of Maize (12,651.7mt) followed by Maseru with 9,893.2mt. The highest production of Beans was recorded in Maseru (2,684.4mt). Production of Peas was the least as compared to other crops.

Table 2: Crop Production (mt) by District and Type, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

District	Type of Crop				
	Maize	**Wheat**	**Sorghum**	**Beans**	**Peas**
Botha-Bothe	3,571.0	15.0	621.6	143.0	0.5
Leribe	12,651.7	425.8	1,490.5	695.0	4.7
Berea	9,186.2	406.8	1,520.9	983.1	11.2
Maseru	9,893.2	405.8	894.6	2,684.4	12.8
Mafeteng	5,444.4	76.0	975.9	555.2	17.0
Mohale's Hoek	3,469.7	1,157.5	400.6	608.8	15.3
Quthing	2,080.3	203.5	299.2	509.9	20.5
Qacha's Nek	1,253.2	147.2	154.0	343.0	7.8
Mokhotlong	1,743.6	549.8	61.0	306.0	52.8
Thaba-Tseka	1,722.9	319.5	141.8	201.9	16.9
Total	**51,016.3**	**3,706.9**	**6,560.1**	**7,030.4**	**159.6**

2.3 Disposition

Table 3 gives the quantity of crops harvested and method of disposal during the Census Year. In general most of the produce harvested during the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census were consumed by their respective holdings.

Out of 51,016mt of Maize harvested during the Census Year, 49.1 percent was consumed by holdings and 14.7 percent was sold while 11.8 percent and 2.0 percent were used as animal feeds and seeds respectively.

The production of Beans was 7,030mt, of which 36.5 percent was used for household consumption and 30.6 percent was sold.

Most of the crops harvested in Commercial farming were sold; Maize sold was estimated at 76.5 percent, Wheat and Beans with 59.9 and 12.5 percent respectively.

Table 3: Quantity of Crops Harvested by Method of Disposal, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

| Type | Harvested (mt) | Method of Disposal | | | |
		Consumed	Animal Feeds	Seeds	Sold
Subsistence Farming					
Maize	51,016	49.1	11.8	2.0	14.7
Wheat	3,707	36.6	28.5	7.5	10.8
Sorghum	6,560	47.5	1.4	2.3	27.1
Beans	7,030	36.5	0.1	3.6	30.6
Peas	160	46.4	1.4	7.5	27.3
Commercial Farming					
Maize	1,329	2.0	5.0	0.0	76.5
Wheat	870	0.4	0.1	0.0	59.9
Sorghum	53	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.1
Beans	199	0.3	0.0	0.1	12.5
Peas	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2

There are 12 ways of disposal but the 4 highlighted are the main ways, hence totals less than 100

2.4 Agricultural Inputs

Table 4 provides the number of holders who used seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for 2019/2020 Agricultural Census for both subsistence and commercial farming.

Most holders (9,507) used seeds from holders' produce. About 2,281 holders reported to have used the Improved Seeds. The Genetically Modified Seeds (15) were the least used type.

Furthermore, the results show that about 36,859 holders have used Manure as a fertilizers. The number of holders who reported to have used Organo-mineral were estimated at 9,243.

Taking pesticides into account, most holders used Insecticides (30,851) followed by holders who used Herbicides (3,731).

Majority of commercial holders used Hybrid seeds. Out of 160 commercial holders 72 used Manure and 64 used Inorganic fertilizers. Insecticides were used by 74 holders.

Table 4: Number of Holders by Types of Inputs used, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

| Inputs | Type of Inputs | Type of Holders | |
		Subsistence	Commercial
Seeds	Holders' Produce	9,507	12
	Improved	2,281	26
	Hybrid	867	82
	Genetically Modified	15	2
	Seedlings	83	27
Fertilizers	Inorganic/mineral	3,987	64
	Organo-mineral	9,243	4
	Biofertilizers	572	3
	Manure	36,859	72
	Other Organic	39	17
Pesticides	Insecticides	30,851	74
	Herbicides	3,731	50
	Fungicides	2,164	18
	Rodenticides	1,049	0
	Other	303	2

2.5 Irrigation

Table 5 shows the area planted and irrigated for subsistence and commercial holders. Out of the 234,262ha area planted in subsistence farming, 1.4 percent was irrigated.

The table further gives the results on commercial farming which shows that about 28.8 percent of the area planted was irrigated.

Table 5: Area Planted and Area Irrigated by Type of Farming, 2019/2020 Agricultural Year

Type of Farming	Area Planted (ha)	Area Irrigated (ha)	Percentage
Subsistence	234,262	3,214	1.4
Commercial	4,045	1,163	28.8

2.6 Agricultural Machinery

Table 6 details the results on the number of holders by type of farm machinery used during the 2019/2020 Census for both subsistence and commercial farming. For Subsistence farming, the highest number of holders (113,656) used animal drawn ploughs while the least number of holders (526) used Tractor Harvesters.

The commercial holders who used tractor harvesters were 101 followed by 99 holders who used tractor ploughs. About 55 and 53 commercial holders used animal driven ploughs and seed planters respectively.

Table 6: Number of Holders by Type of Farm Machinery used, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

Area and Machinery	Subsistence Farming	Commercial Farming
Area Planted (ha)	234,262	4,045
Area Harvested (ha)	179,198	3,568
Tractor		
Ploughs	30,324	99
Seed Planters	5,320	66
Harvesters	526	101
Threshers	850	46
Disk harrowers	2,041	54
Draught Animal		
Ploughs	113,656	55
Seed Planters	63,968	53
Cultivators	80,255	56
Disk harrowers	22,338	55
Transplanters	7,581	37

2.7 Livestock

2.7.0 Introduction

The 2019/2020 Agricultural Census covered different types of livestock kept across the country. The main types of livestock covered are cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and chicken. Livestock were kept for different purposes such as a source of meat, diary, eggs, wool and mohair, breeding and draught power.

2.7.1 Livestock Ownership

Table 7 shows the number of agricultural holdings who own livestock by the type of livestock. It is shown that in total more holdings kept cattle (125,718) followed by sheep (94,399). Maseru reported the highest number of holdings (20,766) who kept cattle while Mafeteng had more holdings (13,167) who kept sheep than other districts. The table further shows that the total of 45,232 holdings kept pigs of which more holdings (10,034) were from Maseru and least holdings (579) were from Mokhotlong.

Table 7: Number of Agricultural Holdings who kept Livestock by District and Type of Livestock, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

District	Type of Livestock				
	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Chicken
Botha-Bothe	7,438	4,937	3,409	2,806	6,143
Leribe	18,996	12,032	8,210	7,121	14,532
Berea	16,704	10,242	7,085	7,487	11,253
Maseru	20,766	11,665	10,225	10,034	13,960
Mafeteng	15,022	13,167	4,894	5,780	10,157
Mohale's Hoek	12,474	11,463	7,177	4,953	9,672
Quthing	9,116	7,981	6,728	3,542	6,828
Qacha's Nek	5,047	3,917	3,373	1,648	4,322
Mokhotlong	10,486	10,296	7,082	579	7,465
Thaba-Tseka	9,668	8,701	6,761	1,283	6,399
Lesotho	**125,718**	**94,399**	**64,944**	**45,232**	**90,731**

2.7.2 Livestock Inventory

The Census results from Table 8 show that, there were 621,325 cattle, of which 620,997 were from Subsistence farmers and 328 from commercial farmers. The number of goats counted was 955,922 from Subsistence farmers and 135 from commercial farmers while the number of sheep for subsistence farmers was 1,987,962 and 1,709 for commercial farmers.

The table further shows that there were 85,679 pigs in Lesotho of which 84,526 were from subsistence farmers and 1,153 were for commercial farmers; while the total number of chicken reported was 1,150,397, of which

1,103,864 were from subsistence farmers and 46,533 were from commercial farmers.

It is evident from the table that the country had more indigenous livestock than improved livestock from subsistence farmers but more improved than indigenous for commercial farmers.

Table 8: Number of Livestock by Type of Farming, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

Livestock Type	Subsistence			Commercial		
	Improved	Indigenous	Total	Improved	Indigenous	Total
Cattle	35,800	585,197	**620,997**	294	34	**328**
Goat	84,358	871,564	**955,922**	123	12	**135**
Sheep	393,528	1,594,434	**1,987,962**	1,676	33	**1,709**
Pigs	21,847	62,679	**84,526**	1,153	0	**1,153**
Chicken	413,544	690,320	**1,103,864**	45,950	583	**46,533**

Table 9 presents the number of livestock inventory by type and district and type. Most cattle were found in Maseru (100,394) and Qacha's Nek was the least with 32,540 cattle. Mokhotlong had the highest number of sheep (320,863), while Botha-Bothe had the least number (97,651).

Considering Goats, Maseru had the highest (163,429) and Botha -Bothe had the least of 57,068. Maseru had the highest number of pigs (18,231), on the other hand Mokhotlong had the least number of pigs (922). Most chicken were mostly found in Leribe (207,732) while Qacha's Nek had the least number of chicken (43,947).

Table 9: Number of Livestock by District and Type, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

District	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Chicken
Botha-Bothe	35,219	97,651	57,068	5,278	63,305
Leribe	86,780	201,975	104,585	13,511	207,732
Berea	80,442	125,351	82,438	16,202	168,981
Maseru	100,394	265,904	163,429	18,231	163,185
Mafeteng	74,155	179,892	64,320	11,309	110,651
Mohale's Hoek	71,150	204,681	113,968	8,581	163,874
Quthing	49,184	235,121	108,051	5,569	73,962
Qacha's Nek	32,540	111,249	68,066	2,685	43,947
Mokhotlong	49,314	320,863	99,581	922	60,081
Thaba-Tseka	41,817	245,280	94,413	2,234	48,145
Lesotho	**620,995**	**1,987,966**	**955,918**	**84,521**	**1,103,863**

Table 10 presents livestock population trends from 1999/2000 to 2019/2020 Agricultural Censuses. The number of cattle had been decreasing for the past three Agricultural Censuses. Cattle decreased by 17.1 percent in 2009/2010 and 0.9 percent from 2009/2010 to 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. The number of sheep were reported to have increased by 10.8 percent in 2009/2010 and by 61.8 percent in 2019/2020 Agricultural Censuses.

The figure further shows that the number of goats for 2009/2010 Agricultural census was less by 6.7 percent compared to 1999/2000 and was more by 9.2 percent in 2019/2020 compared to the previous Agricultural Census. The number of pigs decreased by 19.0 percent in 2009/2010 and increased by 0.6 percent in 2019/2020 Agricultural Census. The number of chickens dropped to 502,190 in 2009/2010 and increased to 1,103,863 in 2019/2020 Agricultural Census.

Table 10: Number of Livestock trend by Type of Livestock for 1999/2000, 2009/2010 and 2019/2020 Agricultural Censuses

Type of Livestock	Census Years		
	1999/2000	2009/2010	2019/2020
Cattle	755,134	626,344	620,995
Sheep	1,109,107	1,228,557	1,987,966
Goats	937,600	875,181	955,918
Pigs	103,700	83,976	84,521
Chicken	1,042,351	502,190	1,103,863

2.7.3 Livestock System

Livestock system is the general characteristics and practices of raising livestock on the holdings. Table 11 shows that most households practiced grazing system to raise their livestock. Industrial system was the least practiced type of feeding for all types of livestock. Industrial system was mostly practiced on Sheep by 744 households, followed by Cattle (727 households).

About 9,065 households practiced both grazing and industrial (mixed) system on cattle.

Table 11: Number of Households by Type of Livestock System, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

Type of Livestock	System		
	Grazing	Industrial	Mixed
Cattle	115,955	727	9,065
Sheep	85,283	744	8,373
Goats	61,917	92	2,935
Horses	44,633	234	3,154
Donkeys	76,699	103	2,525
Mules	250	0	0

2.8 Agricultural Extension Services

Table 12 portrays the percentage distribution of holders who reported to have received agricultural advice and information on crops and livestock during the Agricultural Census. The Census results show that 20,738 subsistence holders reported to have received agricultural advice and information, out of which the highest percentage (15.4) was from Mohale's Hoek. Thaba-Tseka had the least number of holders estimated at 5.4 percent.

There were 105 commercial holders who reported to have received agricultural advice and information. Berea had the highest number (37).

Table 12 Number and Percentage Distribution of Holders who Received Extension Services by District, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census

| District | Type of Farming | | | |
	Subsistence	Percentage	Commercial	Percentage
Botha-Bothe	2,275	11.0	13	12.4
Leribe	2,547	12.3	9	8.6
Berea	1,920	9.3	37	35.2
Maseru	2,173	10.5	17	16.2
Mafeteng	2,525	12.2	15	14.3
Mohale's Hoek	3,195	15.4	10	9.5
Quthing	1,738	8.4	2	1.9
Qacha's Nek	1,214	5.9	2	1.9
Mokhotlong	2,025	9.8	*	*
Thaba-Tseka	1,126	5.4	*	*
Lesotho	**20,738**	**100**	**105**	**100**

*No Data Available.

2.9 Access to Credit

Figure 5 represents the percentage distribution of agricultural holdings who were granted Credit/Loan. There were 4,027 agricultural holdings that applied for credit, and 85.6 percent were granted.

Commercial holders who applied for credit were 30, of which 76.7 percent were granted loans.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of Holders who were granted Credit/Loan, 2019/2020 Agricultural Census
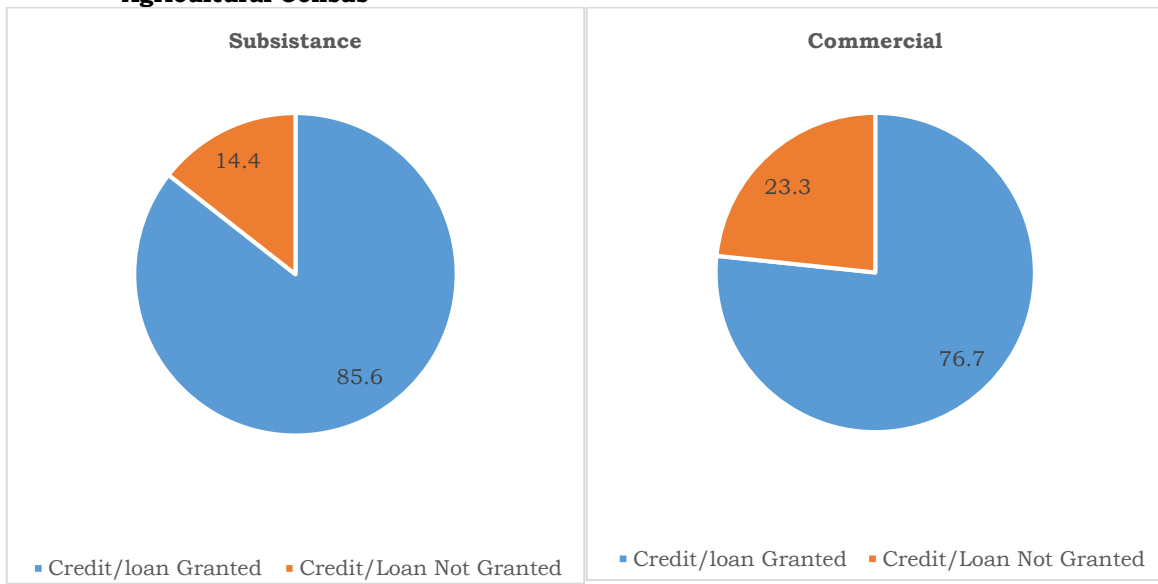
Conclusion

The findings from the 2019/2020 Agricultural Census shows that;

- Lesotho's agriculture is dominated by subsistence farming
- Agricultural holdings have declined by 11.7 percent
- Total area planted and area harvested declined by 3.9 percent and 22.9 percent respectively.
- Total crop production has decreased during the past three agricultural Censuses
- Cattle have decreased by 0.9 percent while sheep increased by 61.8 percent