

**Regional Roundtable on the
World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020)**
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 22-26 May 2017

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

Purpose: The Roundtable aimed at disseminating among Caribbean countries participating in the event the new guidelines for the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), Volume 1, which cover the period 2016-2025. The meeting was specifically intended to help participants gain a deeper understanding of the new census modalities to data collection and new census themes and items being advocated by FAO through this new Programme.

Participants: In the Roundtable participated 37 participants, including 30 participants from 13 member countries from the Caribbean region and seven participants from IICA, STATCAN and FAO (HQ and SLC). Member countries included Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The participants were directly involved in the organization of the Agricultural Census (AC) or related statistical operations in their respective countries.

Ms Terri Raney, Senior Policy Officer FAOSLC, delivered her welcoming statement on behalf of Ms Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Sub Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean. Mr Jairo Castano, Leader, Agricultural Censuses & Surveys, ESS, FAO delivered his opening remarks. Honourable Clarence Rambharat, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago delivered welcoming remarks from the host Government and opened the Round Table.

The participants welcomed the new WCA 2020 guidelines and highly appreciated the content and timing of the Roundtable. The hard copy of the FAO publication on the WCA 2020 and other relevant materials were distributed to the participants for reference during the meeting. In addition, before the meeting, the participants were encouraged to consult the publication also available on the FAO website at <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wca2020/en/>.

1. The meeting was organized into 19 technical sessions, each of which focusing on a specific technical aspect of the WCA 2020. Technical sessions comprised both FAO and country presentations, followed by discussions. A total of 49 presentations were delivered and discussed. The meeting programme is presented in the annex.

2. The following countries confirmed/informed plans for conducting ACs under the 2020 round: Antigua and Barbuda (proposed 2022), Bahamas (no plans for AC; plans to collect some agriculture related data in the Population & Housing Census, PHC), Barbados (no plans for AC; plans to collect some agriculture related data in the PHC), Belize (2020, jointly with PHC), Dominica (no plans), Grenada (2022), Guyana (2018), Jamaica (no plans), Saint Kitts and Nevis (no plans), Saint Lucia (AC in 2021/2022; PHC 2020 will include screening questions on agriculture), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (proposed 2019), Suriname (no plans for AC; possibly PHC 2022 will include screening questions on agriculture), and Trinidad and Tobago (no plans for AC, frame items for AC will be included in the PHC 2020/2021).

3. Some countries' materials related to the census conducted under the WCA 2010 (country metadata reports, reports on census results, other census products and material) were provided to FAO during the meeting and more materials will be provided later to complete the existing gaps in the FAO web census repository. Countries expressed high interest in consulting census materials such as questionnaires and reports from other countries available from the FAO web repository.

4. The participants acknowledged the importance of census data collection of: all 23 recommended essential items to enable national and international comparison; relevant frame items for building up the necessary frames for follow up regular agricultural and other surveys; and relevant additional items to meet the information and statistical needs of various stakeholders. They noted that the census content should be decided by countries taking into account countries' information needs and priorities, based on consultation with data users and the relevant producers of official statistics, as well as the need to enable international comparisons.

5. The country participants acknowledged the necessity to avoid the unjustified duplication of data collection in the census, current statistical surveys and relevant administrative data sources (ADS). Canada informed about their plans to extend the use of administrative registers as a source for census items in the next AC. The participants agreed on the necessity to focus the census on the collection of the essential census items recommended in the WCA 2020, as well as other items relevant for national needs, especially needed at the lowest administrative and geographical level to avoid overburdening census questionnaires. Other (especially non-structural items) can be adequately collected through statistical surveys or obtained from administrative sources on a more frequent basis.

6. Most participants highlighted a range of existing difficulties related to timely and adequate financing of census operations. They agreed on the need to build partnerships and make a business case for the census to persuade decision makers to support and fund the census. Methodological considerations for the census design, taking into account the needs for improving the cost-efficiency of the census were widely discussed. The participants noted that the modular approach (introduced in the WCA 2010) and the integrated census and survey modality (the latter introduced in the new guidelines, where AGRIS is an example) were proposed as cost-efficient approaches and as important steps towards establishing integrated agricultural statistical systems for countries lacking such systems.

7. The participants highlighted the critical importance of good coordination between national institutions responsible for agricultural sector (and, in a number of countries, for carrying out of agricultural censuses), such as the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the National Statistical Office (NSO), as well as other interested government agencies and local public administrations along overall census preparatory and implementation activities.

8. The benefits of synchronizing the PHCs and ACs were widely discussed, based on FAO presentation on linking these two censuses and country presentations of Canada and Belize. The inclusion of agricultural items in the PHC to establish a frame for follow-up AC was in particular discussed. However, when these two operations are attempted to be combined some operational difficulties were highlighted, especially those related to:

- the specificity of some agriculture census items, which are more sensitive and/or more challenging to collect;
- the coordination between different government agencies involved in the two operations;
- the need for adequate training of enumerators to collect agricultural related data in the PHC;

- the risks of overburdening respondents and reducing data quality.

Legal and institutional aspects related to sharing individual information on the holdings 'households identified in the PHC between the NSO and the MoA, when these two operations are conducted by different institutions, were also discussed.

9. Extensive discussions took place on other specific issues, such as:

- The scope of the agricultural census;
- The scope of aquaculture and capture fishery activities (which include farming of ornamental fish but excludes sport or recreational fishing activities);
- Conduct of AC according to different census modalities;
- The problem related to the construction of the frame for the agricultural census and its update in the period between censuses;
- The use of the population census and administrative data sources to prepare the frame of agricultural holdings;
- Use of administrative sources as a source of data for some census items;
- Difficulties in collecting data on land degradation and on intra-household distribution of managerial decisions and ownership on the holding;
- Archiving of census data and protection from data loss.

10. Treatment of vertical integration where crop and animal production are combined with the manufacture of food products was also discussed. It was pointed out, that each step in the production process, including agricultural production activity should be defined even though the output may not be intended for sale. Therefore, an enterprise that is engaged in growing crops as well as processing the produce on a significant scale is considered to have two (or more) establishments corresponding to each type of activities one of which the agricultural holding.

11. Community-level data attracted a lot of interest of participants as these complement holding-level data from the agricultural census. The participants also noted the benefits of cross-tabulation between their data sets.

12. The use on new technologies for field data capture and compilation drew great interest and participants noted the advantages and disadvantages. Countries agreed that CAPI was here to stay but before adopting this technology for AC countries should first test it in a small survey. The participants noted that satellite images have a good application for planning census field work but limited application for estimating crop areas in small holdings.

13. The importance of a good communication and publicity campaign, as well as of a wide and timely dissemination of census results were emphasized. Participants noted low-cost communication channels such as social media to reach some target groups. It was pointed out that a good and timely planning and budgeting of all census operations, including publicity campaign and dissemination, should be made in order to secure appropriate funding also for these activities.

14. During the meeting other aspects of production and dissemination of census results were also discussed, such as ensuring data confidentiality when presenting census data. The growing use of new media such as YouTube, Instagram, Twitter and mobile apps to disseminate census results was noted.

15. The participants highlighted the importance of the development of new FAO guidelines on operational aspects of census taking (WCA 2020, Volume 2) and welcomed FAO efforts. Some participants showed interest in having access to the current draft of the WCA 2020, Volume 2.

16. Participants highlighted the importance of organizing such meetings on census taking, in particular on operational issues, which will be discussed in WCA, Volume 2.

FINAL REMARKS

17. The participants agreed that the Roundtable met its main objective to help the participants gain a deeper understanding of the WCA 2020 for the implementation of their agricultural censuses under the 2020 round.

18. Countries acknowledged the continuous FAO assistance on agricultural censuses in the region and looked forward to receiving further guidance in the new census round.

19. Countries agreed to provide within a week missing census materials and reports to FAO in order to facilitate the documentation of censuses and the preparation of good country practices.

The participants expressed gratitude to the STATCAN and to each other for sharing their experiences, as well as to FAOSLC, FAO Statistics Division, and CNIRD for the good organization of the Roundtable.

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MEETING PROGRAMME

Monday, 22 May 2017	
08.30-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.30	Opening Session
	Welcoming remarks by Ms Terri Raney, Senior Policy Officer on behalf of Ms Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Sub Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, FAOSLC Introduction to the Roundtable, Mr Jairo Castano, Leader, Agricultural Censuses & Surveys, ESS, FAO Opening remarks by Honourable Clarence Rambharat, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago
09.30-10.00	Group photo session and coffee break
10.00-10.40	Technical Session 1: Overview of the new features of the WCA 2020. Importance of the WCA in the light of Sustainable Development Agenda and other initiatives.
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO
10.40-12.00	Technical Session 2: Roundtable on countries census plans, approaches and methodologies
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Presentation: Key Highlights from the 2016 Canadian Census and Vision for 2021 Roundtable discussion. Countries' brief information about census plans
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-14.00	Continuation of Technical Session 2: Census plans, approaches and methodologies
	Continuation of roundtable discussions
14.00-14.40	Technical Session 3: Main steps in developing and implementing the census of agriculture
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO
14.40-15.00	Coffee Break
15.00-17.30	Technical Session 4: Methodological considerations
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO Presentation: The Census of Agriculture 2016 in Canada: Key Methodological Considerations
	Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agricultural Censuses Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Country presentation: Belize
	Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS): Rationale and Methodology Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO
19.00	Welcome Reception
Tuesday, 23 May 2017	
08.30-9.45	Technical Session 5: Census Theme 1 – Identification and general characteristics
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Presentation: Identification and General Characteristics – Canada's Experience Country presentation: Dominica
9.45-10.15	Coffee Break
10.15-11.45	Technical Session 6: Census Theme 2 - Land
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO Presentation: Land in the Canadian Census of Agriculture Country presentations: Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica
11.45-12.15	Technical Session 7: Census Theme 3 - Irrigation
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
12.15-13.15	Lunch
13.15-14.00	Continuation of Technical Session 7: Census Theme 3 - Irrigation
	Country presentations: Grenada
14.00-15.15	Technical Session 8: Census Theme 4 - Crops
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO Country presentations: Suriname
15.15-15.45	Coffee Break
15.45-17.00	Technical Session 9: Census Theme 5 - Livestock

	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
	Country presentations: Antigua and Barbuda
Wednesday, 24 May 2017	
08.30-09.45	Technical Session 10: Census Themes 6 and 7 - Agricultural Practices and Services
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO
	Country presentations: Grenada
09.45-10.15	Coffee Break
10.15-11.30	Technical Session 11: Census Themes 8 and 10 – Demographic and Social Characteristics and Intra-household distribution of managerial decisions and ownership on the holding
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
	Country presentations: Saint Lucia
11.30-12.00	Technical Session 12: Census Theme 9 – Work on the holding
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-13.45	Continuation of Technical Session 12: Census Theme 9 – Work on the holding
	Country presentations: Suriname
13.45-15.00	Technical Session 13: Census Themes 12 and 14 – Aquaculture and Fisheries
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
	Country presentations: Suriname
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.45	Technical Session 14: Census Themes 13 and 15 – Forestry and Environment/GHG emissions
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
	Country presentations: Saint Lucia
Thursday, 25 May 2017	
08.30-09.45	Technical Session 15: Community-level data
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO
09.45-10.15	Coffee Break
10.15-11.30	Technical Session 16: Census Tabulation, Archiving and Dissemination
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO
	Country presentation: Saint Lucia
11.30-12.00	Technical Session 17: Operational issues
	Legal and institutional framework
	Presenter: Oleg Cara, FAO
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-15.00	Continuation of Technical Session 17: Operational issues
	Legal and institutional framework
	Country presentation: Belize
	Census communication and publicity
	Presenter: Adriana Neciu, FAO
	Presentation: The Census of Agriculture in Canada- Communications Outreach
	Country presentation: Jamaica
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-17.00	Continuation of Technical Session 17: Operational issues
	Use of Technology for field data capture and compilation, and the implications
	Presenter: Jairo Castano, FAO
	Intervention: Saint Lucia
Friday, 26 May 2017	
08.30-10.00	Technical Session 18: National practices on data collection methods for statistics on structural aspects of agriculture
	Country presentations: Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis
10.00-10.30	Coffee Break
10.30-11.30	Continuation of Technical Session 18: National practices on data collection methods for statistics on structural aspects of agriculture
	Country presentations: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago
11.30-12.00	Technical Session 19: Way forward
12.00-12.30	Closing Session
12.30-14.00	Lunch