

Collecting Agricultural Data from Population Census: Overview of country experiences and FAO recommendations

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Abstract N.95:

The new FAO World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA2010) recommends a modular approach with a core module based on a complete enumeration of limited set of key items and sample based complementary and thematic surveys.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this approach, the new Programme for Census of Agriculture strongly recommends to countries, whenever possible to coordinate Population Census with Agricultural Census. The document provides guidelines on modalities for this coordination and the technical and operational benefits for an efficient agricultural census strategy.

In order to assist countries in the process of linking Population and Agricultural Census, FAO has undertaken a detailed review of country practices of collecting agricultural data in Population Census and proposed a set of standard questions that can be included in the Population Census.

Burkina Faso was one of the first countries to include an agricultural module into its Population Census to serve as a frame for upcoming agricultural census and at the same time to provide data on most of the core agricultural census items on a complete enumeration basis.

This paper discusses the findings of FAO study and recommendations for linking population censuses with agricultural censuses with proposals of questions to be included in an agricultural module of population census. It further presents the experience of Burkina Faso in including an agricultural module in the Population Census and its use for the agricultural census as well as lessons learned which can be considered for Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics.