

## Session 5

# Population and Housing Census Questionnaire

Collecting information for  
frame construction for  
agricultural censuses and  
surveys

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# Inclusion of a minimum set of agricultural items in the population and housing census

Provides: identification of farm households

Use: (a) for sample frame

(b) to collect a 'minimum' dataset for non-farm households

- The WCA2010, **and** the P & R for the COPH 2010, propose questions to be included in the Questionnaire of the COPH to identify: Household **Agricultural** Holdings, and Household **Aquacultural** Holdings.
- Again, this refers only to the Household Sector and the Non-Household Sector must be covered separately.

- Whether the household is engaged in any form of own-account **agricultural** production
  - Crop production
  - Livestock production
- Whether the household is engaged in any form of own-account **aquacultural** production

- Such questions can identify the household agricultural holdings and the household aquacultural holdings but how can this information make the Census of Agriculture more efficient?
- This information can help with the planning of a Census of Agriculture since the number of potential holdings will have been determined.
- In theory, for the Census of Agriculture, households identified as having no agricultural activity need not be visited, thus saving time and resources, as well as reducing the respondent burden.

- This, however, may only be efficient if the two censuses are conducted as a single field operation (Cook Islands 2011).
- OR, if the number of household holdings is very small in relation to the total number of holdings
- OR, if the household holdings are confined to particular areas of the country
- **Where there are separate field operations, identifying households engaged in agricultural activities, from those that are not, may pose a greater problem in the field than canvassing all households.**

- For the COPH to provide sufficient information to enable a targeted approach to the Census of Agriculture, and real efficiency savings, additional information would be required.
- Such additional information can have two purposes:
  1. To provide a sampling frame for sub-sectoral groups or thematic areas
  2. To establish a strata of household holdings above a certain minimum size or with particular attributes.

# 1. To provide a sampling frame for sub-sectoral groups or thematic areas

- Sub-sectoral groups would typically identify the main livestock sub-sectors and the main crop sub-sectors
- These could include involvement in:
- Cattle, pigs, goats, poultry and bee keeping
- Fruit, nut and spice trees, bananas, provisions, vegetables, herbs.

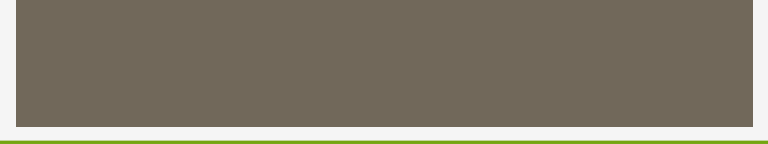


2. To establish a strata of household holdings with particular attributes or above a minimum size.

- A. To identify households producing crops or livestock with particular attributes;
- B. To establish a minimum size limit for a household holding based on numbers of livestock and poultry kept, numbers of fruit, nut and spice trees, area of land cultivated for temporary crops; value of annual sales; other criteria.

## A. To identify Households producing crops or Livestock with particular attributes

- What attributes are relevant?
- Barbados CPH 2010.pdf
- The CPH identified the type of agricultural activity, reason for farming, location of land and area owned and rented.

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1. How could you use this data, in conjunction with the other COPH data, to learn more about the agricultural sector?
  2. What additional information could you collect that would give you a better picture of the agricultural sector – without overloading the COPH?
  3. How could you use this data if you were planning to conduct an agricultural census or survey?
  4. What additional information could you collect to make your census/survey design more efficient?

## B. To establish a minimum size

- Nearly every agricultural census uses the concepts of 'minimum size' or 'cut-off' in the definition of the agricultural holding. This is to focus the data collection on the more important production units to minimise the resource cost of the census.
- FAO recommends, however, that all agricultural production units should be included in a census, however small.

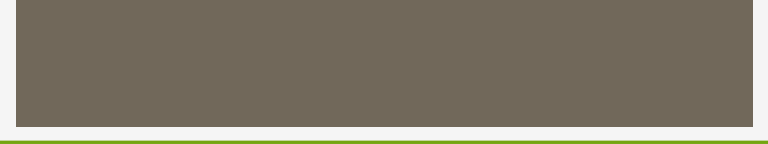


The main reasons for including the smallest holding are as follows:

- To omit any sector of the industry will result in the under estimation of its contribution to the economy.
- Large numbers of small holdings, though small individually, can be significant for particular agricultural activities (fruit, poultry).
- Small-scale agriculture can make a significant contribution to household food supplies, food security and nutrition.
- The inclusion of small holdings is important to reflect women's participation in agricultural work.

- Data on the smallest holdings can be collected in the COPH or the prelisting exercise.
- What type of data are we talking about?
- Data can also be collected through a sample survey (Trinidad 2004).

- An example of where quite specific cut-off limits were utilised to identify non-agricultural, under cut-off and over cut-off households, AND to collect a minimum set of data on the smallest agricultural holdings, was in Grenada.
- This form was not included as part of the census of population and housing but conducted as a separate 'listing' exercise as part of the agricultural census.
- Could it have been conducted as part of the census of population and housing?

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- Including questions on agriculture in the CPH should be considered within the framework of an integrated National Statistics System.
  - If planned well, collecting such information can offer significant efficiencies and resource savings.
  - If a full agricultural module is not appropriate in the CPH, what questions should be included and how should this information be used?