



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

November 2008

**Roundtable Meeting on  
Programme for the 2010 Round of Censuses of Agriculture  
Cairo, Egypt, 16-20 November, 2008**

**REPORT OF MEETING**

The aim of the meeting was to present and advocate the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010) to countries of the Near East region. The programme covers censuses of agriculture to be carried out in the period 2006–2015. The programme is given in *FAO Statistical Development Series No 11: A System of Integrated Agricultural Censuses and Surveys; Volume 1 - World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010*, issued in November 2005. The meeting was intended to help participants gain a better understanding of the new FAO strategy of modular approach to data collection, and to review the plans of the countries for implementing the 2010 round of agricultural censuses.

The meeting was attended by 11 countries (Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia & UAE) of the region, in addition to staff of FAO headquarters and the regional office. The participants were directly involved in the agricultural census or related statistical operations in their respective countries. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

The meeting was conducted in English and Arabic. The participants had the liberty to use the language they preferred.

The meeting was organized into 12 technical sessions, each session focusing on a specific technical aspect of WCA 2010, and a roundtable discussion. Each technical session comprised several presentations and a discussion of related issues. A total of 34 technical papers were presented and discussed. A field trip to observe the census data collection was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt. The Meeting Programme and the List of Meeting Documents are attached as Annex 2 and 3 respectively.

The meeting was opened with an address from Dr. Mohamed Albraithen, ADG and Regional Representative RNE, FAO, delivered by Mr. M. Barre, Regional Statistician on his behalf. The speech highlighted the challenges for agriculture in the wake of globalization and climate change. Outlining the new features in the WCA 2010 programme he mentioned the role of agricultural census in collecting data for monitoring poverty and MDGs. The speech encouraged the participants as potential experts of agricultural censuses in their respective countries to technically contribute to the meeting while at the same time learning from FAO. Finally, the speech expected that the usual scarcity of resources for statistical activities would not be aggravated in the wake of onset of a global recession. Mr. Naman Keita, Senior Statistician, Country Statistics Service, FAO Rome welcomed the participants and conveyed the message of Director, Statistics Division, FAO.

The main discussion points in each session are summarized below. Some general conclusions of the meeting are also presented.

#### ***Technical session 1: Overview of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 and country plans***

The main features of WCA 2010 were outlined. Particular attention was given to integrating the agricultural census with the agricultural statistics survey system, links between the population and agricultural censuses, the modular approach being advocated by FAO, the proposed data items, the inclusion of community-level data, and the use of the agricultural census for monitoring the MDGs, including their gender and poverty dimension.

The benefits of synchronizing the population and agricultural censuses were widely acknowledged by countries. However, several countries highlighted the operational difficulties faced by them, especially those relating to timing discrepancies, increasing burden on population census and problems relating to coordination between different government agencies involved in the two operations. The inclusion of the community-level data was viewed positively. The importance of food security and MDG data was also highlighted, but data collection problems were acknowledged.

The plans for conducting the next agricultural census in each country were outlined by participants and noted by FAO staff.

#### ***Technical session 2: Integration of Agricultural Census in the National Programme for Surveys and Modular Approach to Surveys***

The FAO presentation highlighted aspects relating to statistical integration mentioned in WCA 2010, especially the use of the modular approach and coordinating the population and agricultural censuses. Egypt highlighted the difficulty in integrating the agriculture census with the population census because of a time difference of four years between them. Sudan informed about their plan to conduct their first agricultural census in 2009. Kuwait informed about their farm registry system, having about 3000 holdings, which is updated three times a year. The register is exhaustive and provides structural and current data hence there is no need for an agricultural census.

#### ***Technical session 3: Frames for Agricultural Census and Surveys***

The FAO presentations outlined the technical issues related to the development of frames for the agricultural census. The presentation from Morocco demonstrated that aerial frames are good for estimating the crop area whereas the list frames are good for demographic and other socio-economic aspects of holding. Countries reported some difficulties related to keeping the survey frames up-to-date.

#### ***Technical session 4: Livestock Population***

The FAO presentation highlighted the new data items relating to livestock. The methodology associated with collecting data on nomadic livestock, which is based on knowledge of water points and movement tracks of livestock as well as the use of aerial sampling coupled with ground truthing, was also presented. The problem associated with accounting of livestock which frequently cross national boundaries was highlighted. Syria clarified that they have resolved this issue by accounting the livestock according to the nationality of its owner.

#### ***Technical session 5: Statistics on Land***

In this session the changes made to FAO's agricultural census programme for collecting better statistics on land tenure was highlighted. It was clarified that in the process of data collection a distinction between "land tenure type" and the "terms of leasing" is necessary. Some participants wanted clarification on treatment of a particular situation. For example, in Morocco land is owned by

one person but the trees on it are owned by another. It was clarified that the treatment of such country specific situation has to be dealt within the framework of FAO concepts and definitions. Egypt mentioned the problem associated with treatment of short term (3 months or so) rental. If a seasonal tenant is considered as separate operation holder, the number of holdings in the country will increase artificially. It was clarified that a decision on this needs to be taken at country level taking into account total number of such cases. Lebanon informed about a classification of holdings in their country according to extent of engagement holders on farm, eg. full time farmers, week-end farmers etc.

#### ***Technical session 6: Statistics on Water Resources and Aquaculture***

The Natural Resources division of FAO (NRLW) made a presentation on AQUASTAT, clarified several conceptual issues, and emphasized the need to make distinction between “area equipped for irrigation” and “area actually irrigated”. The presenter also utilized the occasion to get a feed back of participants on country profiles prepared by consultants for AQUASTAT.

In the discussion following the presentation of a paper on aquaculture, it was agreed upon that the aquaculture is increasingly becoming importance in the region. It is currently practiced in almost all countries of the region, but the total size is presently small. It was clarified that the aquaculture and agriculture are in separate classes of economic activities according to the International Standard of Industrial Classification (ISIC). Hence, the data on these have to be kept conceptually separate. However, the agriculture census could be used to assess the potential of aquaculture and identify the aquaculture holdings. The examples from Asia on this were provided.

#### ***Technical session 7: Gender Sensitive Agriculture Statistics***

FAO’s new concepts of sub-holding and sub-holder as a means of better reflecting gender issues in the management of holdings were presented. There was a general agreement that gender issues were important in the agricultural census and in general the contribution of women to agriculture is underestimated. Morocco mentioned that the work of women in agriculture is often seen as extension of household work. It came out that most countries are collecting data on sex of the holder. However, the problems in applying the concept of sub-holder in the region were recognized, especially in identifying sub-holding units. Morocco highlighted the importance of data on micro-credit which is mostly managed by women. The role of community-level data to collect information on existence of micro credit institutions in communities was brought out.

#### ***Technical session 8: Collection of Data on Agricultural Practices***

FAO proposals for new data on agricultural practices were outlined. The concepts relating to data-items on this subject were explained in detail. A presentation from Tunisia explained the analysis to understand the techno-economic orientation of holdings on the basis of “typology of holdings” prepared on the basis of data collected through their Farm Structure Survey. Possibilities of inclusion of prices, assets and consumption related information in deciding typologies was also highlighted. It was concluded that the typology of holdings give important information for the policy makers, particularly in dealing with issues related to market integration and food security. The characterization of farm typologies to be used in any country will, however, depend upon the nature of policy issues that exist in the country.

#### ***Technical session 9: Community-Level Statistics in Agriculture Census***

The lead presentation outlined FAO’s proposals for including community-level data for the first time in WCA 2010. It came out that many countries in Asia and in the near east region already collect community-level data. There was a general consensus to include community-Level data in the new programme. The experience of Lebanon and Egypt on the subject was discussed in detail. In Egypt Community Survey is also used to obtain the opinion of farmers on agricultural issues, e.g. “Why the

production of pulses is going down?” It was concluded that the balanced composition of focus group was important to obtain unbiased information on subjective questions included in the community questionnaire. It was also clarified that community-level data collection, although part of the census programme, is a field operation separated from the main survey to collect holding-level data. Issues related to the suitability of community-level items for each country and the need to carefully select items for collection from communities and holdings were raised. Data reliability issues and the scope of linking community-level data from different sources to enhance the scope of analysis were also discussed.

#### ***Technical session 10: Agricultural Census for Rural Planning***

In this session the system of agricultural statistics of Saudi Arabia was explained. Saudi Arabia demonstrated how they collected data on rural enterprises and services through agricultural census and surveys. Data on nomadic livestock is collected through a system separate from that used for localized holdings. Jordan shared their approach of expanding agricultural census to cover all families in the rural areas (including desert) and urban cities of the whole Kingdom.

Regarding labour related data items in the census, FAO recommendations were presented. In particular, the shift in concept from “temporary/ permanent labour force on holding” to “time spent on holding” was highlighted.

#### ***Technical session 11: Planning for Census Data Analysis and Dissemination***

The new classification of land, machinery, livestock and crop included in the WCA 2010 were presented. It was pointed that these classification are harmonized with existing international classification. However, countries could elaborate the classification further to suit their requirement, while respecting the basic features of the FAO classifications. A distinction between codification of crops for data classification and classification for presentation of results was made.

The experience of Jordan in dissemination of census data was presented. It came out that the use of Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) software has helped in increasing the access to data on lower administrative units which is not published as hard copies. The issue of releasing unit-level data after concealing the identity of the respondent was also discussed. In this context the software used by Statistics Canada and others to disseminate user-defined tables without actually seeing the holding level data was mentioned. It was mentioned that the better dissemination will increase visibility of statistics, which could be achieved through adequate planning and allocation of resources to this aspect of agricultural census. Experience of China in dissemination of census data through national seminar to present research based in analysis on census data was narrated as a good example.

#### ***Technical session 12: Data on Access to Food (Food Security)***

The data items related to direct measurement of “Household food security” included in WCA 2010 were presented. An application of the methodology of assessing Household Food Security was also presented with the experience of Yemen and Niger. Countries were also informed of the potentials and constraints of this module, and their attention was drawn to sophisticated work by USA and Brazil on this subject. Palestine which is planning a census in 2010 presented a paper based on the WCA 2010 document. The paper examined the

possibilities of using census to get data for monitoring poverty and MDGs, including Food Security.

### ***Roundtable on Use of Information Technology for Agricultural Censuses***

Morocco's experience on Census of Citrus using Geomatic technique, which involves use of aerial photos (orthofotos) and ground survey data, was presented in detail. Experience of Jordan in using the Personal Data Assistant (PDA) for data collection and entry in the field was presented. All the technical and operational considerations relating to the adoption of these technologies were discussed in-depth. FAO presentation highlighted the role of CountrySTAT in the dissemination of Census data in addition to its use as a framework for data harmonization, integration and dissemination.

### ***FIELD VISIT***

Participants visited a site and witnessed the process of interviews of farmers to obtain data for pilot agricultural census of Egypt. The participants appreciated the established network of enumerators and use of extension workers in collecting census data.

### ***Arabic translation of WCA 2010 document***

A draft Arabic translation of the FAO document on WCA 2010 was made available to the participants for reference during the meeting. A session was organized to receive the comments of the participants on the translation, particularly on the choice of terminology. The participants agreed to send their comments within the next two weeks to Mr. M Barre who will consolidate and coordinate with the translator to finalize the document for printing.

### ***General conclusions, issues and recommendations***

Following general issues and conclusions came out of the meeting:

- The participants unanimously appreciated the usefulness and effectiveness of this meeting for the development of structural agricultural statistics in the region.
- The number of questionnaires being received at country level from UN agencies and the need for coordination at international level was discussed. In this context the meeting was informed about the efforts already made in this regard and the role envisaged for CountrySTAT. The collaboration and cooperation of regional organizations like AOAD in coordinating regional data can also affect the number of questionnaire going to countries.
- FAO should work to prepare a document giving guidelines, strategies to sensitize decision makers on the WCA2010 and good practices on the dissemination of census data.
- Several countries requested the technical support of FAO in preparing and conducting their next census of agriculture.
- The participants recommended that FAO facilitate capacity building and the exchange of experiences between countries through regional workshops, seminars, study tours and others.



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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**PROGRAMME**

**Sunday, 16 November 2008**

08.30-9.30 – Registration

**9.30-10.15: *Opening Session***

Opening Address of **Mr. Mohamad Ibrahim ALBRAITHEN, ADG, RNE, FAO**  
Address on behalf of Director, Statistics Division, FAO  
Adoption of the meeting programme.

**10.15- 10.45** *Coffee Break*

**10.45- 12.30 – *Technical session 1: Overview of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 and country plans***

Chair and Presenter: Features of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (Mr. Keita, FAO)

Discussants: Each participant to inform on the plans for next agricultural census in the country

**12.30 - 13.30** *Lunch Break*

**13.30-15.00 – *Technical session 2: Integration of Agricultural Census in the National Programme for Surveys and Modular Approach to Surveys***

Chair Mr. Fuad Ahmed Irteimieh, Jordan

Presenters

1. Modular approach to data collection (Mr. Srivastava, FAO)
2. In-depth surveys in the agricultural census programme (Egypt)
3. Integration of agricultural census in the national survey programme (Sudan)

4. Meeting private sector data demands through agricultural census  
(Kuwait)

Discussant Mr Azhari Mahgoub, Sudan

*15.00-15.30 Coffee Break*

**15.30-16.45 – Technical session 3: Frames for Agricultural Census and Surveys**

Chair Mr El-Farghaly Mohamed Ahmed Gaheen, Egypt

- Presenters
1. Linkage between population and agricultural censuses (Keita, FAO)
  2. Sampling Frames from agricultural census (Mr Srivastava, FAO)

Discussant Ms Manar Warda, Syria

**19.15: Departure from hotel Flamenco for dinner hosted by FAO**

**Monday, 17 November 2008**

**08.15-9.30 – Technical session 4: Livestock Population**

Chair Mr Rached Akrou, Tunisia

- Presenters
1. Livestock related data items in WCA 2010 (Barre, FAO)
  2. Collecting data on nomadic livestock (Keita, FAO)
  2. Livestock in agricultural census (Ms Warda, Syria)

Discussant Ms Khalda Hasan Al Awady, Kuwait

**09:30: Departure for field trip**

**Tuesday, 18 November 2008**

**08.30-10.00 Technical session 5: Statistics on Land**

Chair Mr Salih Mohamed Al-Hedaithi, Saudi Arabia

- Presenters
1. Land tenure data in agricultural censuses (Srivastava, FAO)
  2. Land tenure and land use information from agricultural census (Jordan)
  3. Agricultural census for monitoring agrarian reforms (Tunisia)

Discussant Rached Akrou, Tunisia

*10.00- 10.30 Coffee Break*

**10.30-12.00 – Technical session 6: Statistics on Water Resources and Aquaculture**

Chair Ms Khalda Hassan Al Awady, Kuwait

- Presenters
1. AQUASTAT and the World Programme for Censuses of Agriculture  
(Ms. Frenken, FAO)
  2. Aquaculture in WCA 2010 (Barre, FAO)

Discussants Mr Fuad Irteimieh, Jordan  
Ms Manar Warda, Syria

**12.00 - 13.00** *Lunch Break*

**13.00-14.30 Technical session 7: Gender Sensitive Agriculture Statistics**

Chair Ms Manar Warda, Syria  
Presenters 1. Gender Statistics in WCA 2010 (Mr Keita, FAO)  
2. Collecting gender sensitive data from agricultural census (Egypt)  
Discussant Mr. Rached Akrouf, Tunisia  
**14.30-15.00** *Coffee Break*

**15.30-16.30 – Technical session 8: Collection of Data on Agricultural Practices**

Chair Mr Mahmoud Abdelrahman, Palestine  
Presenters 1. Data on agricultural practices in WCA 2010 (Srivastava, FAO)  
2. Typology of agricultural holdings using agricultural census data  
(Tunisia)  
Discussant Mr Redoune Arrach, Morocco

**Wednesday, 19 November 2008**

**08.30-10.00 – Technical session 9: Community-Level Statistics in Agriculture**

Chair Mr Rached Akrouf, Tunisia  
Presenters 1. Collecting Community-level data through agricultural census  
(Srivastava, FAO)  
2. Village level socio-economic data: collection and its use (Lebanon)  
3. Community level data from agricultural census (Egypt)  
Discussant Mr Mahmoud M. Abedal Rahman, Palestine

**10.00- 10.30** *Coffee Break*

**10.30-12.00 Technical session 10: Agricultural Census for Rural Planning**

Chair Mr. Azhari Mahgoub, Sudan  
Presenters 1. Collecting data on rural enterprises and services through agricultural  
census  
(Saudi Arabia)  
2. Extending agricultural census to cover rural statistics (Jordan)  
3. Rural statistics from agricultural census (Morocco)  
4. Data items on farm labour (Bare, FAO)  
Discussant Mr El-Farghaly Mohamed Ahmed Gaheen, Egypt

*12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break*

**13.00-14.30 – Technical session 11: Planning for Census Data Analysis and Dissemination**

Chair Mr Hussein Nasrallah, Lebanon

Presenters: 1. Classifications for agricultural census (Barre, FAO)  
2. Planning for the analysis and dissemination of agricultural census data  
(Jordan)

3. Use of agricultural census data for economic studies for formulation of  
agricultural and rural development strategy (Lebanon)

Discussants Mr Redouance Arrach, Morocco

*14.30- 15.00 Coffee break*

**15.00-16.30 – Technical session 12: Data on Access to Food (Food Security)**

Chair Srivastava, FAO

Presenters 1. Relevance of agricultural census for measuring food security (Keita,  
FAO)

2. Role of agricultural census in monitoring of MDGs: Poverty and  
Hunger  
(Palestine)

Discussant Mr. Hussein Nasrallah, Lebanon

**\*Thursday, 20 November 2008**

**08.30-10.00: Roundtable on Use of Information Technology for Agricultural Censuses**

- Chair: Mr Redouane Arrach, Morocco
- Presenters: 1. Use of information technology for agricultural census data presentation and analysis (Naman, Keita, FAO)  
2. Use of Geomatic technique in Census (Morocco)  
3. Use of Personal Data Assistant for census data collection (Jordan)
- Discussants: All participants to make a brief presentation on use of information technology in for agricultural census in their respective countries

*10.00- 10.30 Coffee Break*

**10.30-12.00 – Preparation of the Report of the Meeting**

10.30- 12.00 (**Parallel Session**): Comments on the translated WCA 2010 document

- Chair Mohammed Barre, FAO  
Rapporteur Mr Ibrahim, FAO Consultant

*12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break*

**13.00-14.30 – Concluding Session**

Presentation of the report of the meeting  
Vote of thanks

*14.30-15.00 Coffee Break*

*15.00- 16.00 Administrative matters*

*\* Note: Minor adjustments in this programme were made to accommodate a study tour to an enumeration area of agricultural census in the forenoon of Thursday 20 November, 2008*



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### LIST OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

<b>INFORMATION DOCUMENTS</b>	
	MEETING PROGRAMME
	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
	OPENING ADDRESS OF DR. MOHAMAD ALBRAITHEN, ADG and Regional Representative
	REPORT OF MEETING
<b>TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (papers presented)</b>	
1	Features of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (Keita, FAO)
2	Modular approach to data collection (Srivastava, FAO)
3	In-depth surveys in the agricultural census programme (Egypt)
4	Integration of agriculture census in the national survey programme (Sudan)
5	Meeting private sector data demands through agricultural census (Kuwait)
6	Linkage between population and agricultural censuses (Keita, FAO)
7	Sampling frames from agricultural census (Srivastava, FAO)
8	Livestock related data items in WCA 2010 (Barre, FAO)
9	Collecting data on nomadic livestock (Keita, FAO)
10	Livestock in agricultural census (Warda, Syria)
11	Land tenure data in agricultural censuses (Srivastava, FAO)
12	Land tenure and land use information from agricultural census (Irteimieh, Jordan)
13	Agricultural census for monitoring agrarian reforms (Akrouit, Tunisia)
14	AQUASTAT and the World Programme for Censuses of Agriculture (Frenken, FAO)
15	Aquaculture Agriculture in WCA 2010 (Barre, FAO)
16	Gender Statistics in WCA 2010 (Keita, FAO)
17	Collecting gender sensitive data from agricultural census (Egypt)
18	Data on agricultural practices in WCA 2010 (Srivastava, FAO)
19	Typology of agricultural holdings using agricultural census data (Akrouit, Tunisia)
20	Collecting community-level data through agricultural census (Srivastava, FAO)
21	Village level socio-economic data: collection and its use (Nasrallah, Lebanon)
22	Community level data from agricultural census (Egypt)
23	Collecting data on rural enterprises and services through agricultural census (Al-Hedaithi, Saudi Arabia)

24	<b>Extending agricultural census to cover rural statistics (Irteimieh, Jordan)</b>
25	<b>Rural statistics from agriculture census (Arrach, Morocco)</b>
26	<b>Data items on farm labor (Barre, FAO)</b>
27	<b>Classifications for agricultural census (Barre, FAO)</b>
28	<b>Planning for analysis and dissemination of agricultural census data (Irteimieh, Jordan)</b>
29	<b>Use of agricultural census data for economic studies for formulation of agricultural and rural development strategy (Nasrallah, Lebanon)</b>
30	<b>Relevance of agricultural census for measuring food security (Keita, FAO)</b>
31	<b>Role of agricultural census in monitoring of MDGs: Poverty and Hunger (Abdelrahman, Palestine)</b>
32	<b>Use of information technology for agricultural census data presentation and analysis (Keita, FAO)</b>
33	<b>Use of Geomatic technique in census (Arrach, Morocco)</b>
34	<b>Use of Personal Data Assistant for data collection and analysis (Irteimieh, Jordan)</b>
<b><i>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS</i></b>	
	A system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys, volume 1, World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (Available in English, French and Arabic)
	Land tenure and rural development, FAO Land Tenure Studies 3
<b><i>ROOM DOCUMENTS</i></b>	
	A note on agriculture statistics system of Iraq
	Questionnaires for census and surveys in Saudi Arabia
	Electronic questionnaires used in Jordan

