



SECOND LAO CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2010-2011

Savanh Hanphom

Deputy Director General

Department of Planning

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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Objective of the Presentation

- **Background for a proposed conduct of the second Lao Agricultural Census in 2010-2011.**
- **Articulate the objectives, Census Implementation.**
- **Result of the Census**
- **Future plan for dissemination and analysis of the Lao Census of Agriculture 2010/11**
- **Constraints and lessons learnt**

Background

- The Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2010 mandates monitoring/reporting on progress in attainment of development goals.
- Article 6 of Decree No.140 mandates, *inter alia*, the Department of Statistics (DoS), MPI to conduct the Census of Agriculture, Census of Population, other censuses and surveys.
- The Lao Agricultural Census to be conducted by Department of Planning (DoP), MAF. in cooperation with the line Ministries
- The Prime Minister issued a Decree in September 2009 approving the conduct of the census of agriculture 2010, starting in 2009. A Census Steering Committee and Census Office are being established.

Background

Financial support for the census was received from a number of donors, including SDC, IFAD, AusAID, AFD and GIZ. The Government of Lao PDR also contributed its own funds. FAO provided technical support for the census.



Objectives of Lao Agricultural Census

- To provide data on the structure of agriculture, agricultural land (land use for agricultural crops; livestock).
 - Land issue: there is strong need for land use and other related data to guide land policy formulation .
- To obtain community-level data (at the village level) for examining the infrastructure and services available to farm holdings.
- To provide data to use as benchmarks for current agricultural statistics.
- To strengthen national capacity and provide frames for future agricultural sample surveys.

Implementation of Lao Agricultural Census

Three Main Components of the Census

1. A village census: to collect data about village infrastructure from all village heads in the country.

The village census is done using Form 3

2. A full household census: to collect basic data about agriculture from all households in the country.

The full household census is done using Form 4

3. A farm household survey: to collect detailed agricultural data from a sample of farm households.

The farm household survey is done using Form 5.

Overview of enumeration in each village

Non-sample villages

1. Interview the village head using Form 3.
2. Prepare a list of all households in the village using Form 1.
3. Interview each household using Form 4.

Sample villages

1. Interview the village head using Form 3.
2. Prepare a list of all households in the village using Form 1.
3. Interview each household using Form 4.
4. Identify which households are farm households using Form 4.
5. Select a sample of farm households using Form 1.
6. Interview sample farm households using Form 5.

Outline of census field structure

Three levels of field management/supervision.

- ☉ Central coordinators – staff from ACO/MAF, DoS, Poverty.

Each person will be allocated to a province and have overall responsibility for census fieldwork in the province.

There will be one central coordinator in each province (two in the big provinces).

- ☉ Provincial coordinators (2 per province) – support to the central coordinators in managing and controlling census fieldwork in the province.

- ☉ District supervisors (2 or more per district) – staff from DAFO, to supervise the census enumerators.

There will be 2,333 enumerators.

Field training programme

Three levels of field training.

- Central level training in Vientiane (2 weeks: 10-21 January).
Trainers: CTA, ACO.
Participants: central and provincial coordinators.
- Training in each province (2 weeks: 31 January-11 February).
Trainers: central and provincial trainers.
Participants: district supervisors.
- Training in each district (1 week between 14 and 25 February).
Trainers: central/provincial trainers and district supervisors.
Participants: enumerators.



Timetable for census enumeration

- 10-21 January: central level training.
- 31 Jan-11 Feb: training of district supervisors in the provinces.
- 14-25 February: training of enumerators in the districts.
- 28 February-1 April: census data collection.
- 2-8 April: return of questionnaires to Vientiane.

Data processing

- Receive questionnaires from the each Provinces
- Sorting (F1,F3,F4 and F5)
- Coding (F4 and F5)
- Checking Sorting (F1,F3,F4 and F5)
- Data entry (F1,F3,F4 and F5)

Main topics covered by the census

Part 1. Farm households

Part 2. Land

Part 3. Crops

Part 4. Irrigation

Part 5. Livestock

Part 6. Farm practices/services

Part 7. Farm population

Part 8. Farm labour

Part 9. Farm management

Part 10. Fisheries

Part 11. Forestry

Trends in number of farm households

	1998/99	2010/11
No. of households ('000)	798	1,021
No. of farm households ('000)	668	783
Farm households as percent of all households (%)	84	77
Rural households as percent of all households (%)	..	69

Sale of agricultural produce is becoming more important

1998/99 2010/11

<i>Sale of farm produce (% of farm households)</i>	1998/99	2010/11
Main purpose for sale	6	30
Sold some produce	35	71

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Land data collected

Land use

Land tenure

Size of holding

Average farm size

Land fragmentation (parcels of land)

Main topics covered by the census

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Part 2. Land

Part 3. Crops

Part 4. Irrigation

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Part 6. Farm practices/services

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Farm management data collected

The person or persons responsible for management of the farm operations

This can be linked to the farm population data to enable farm management to be analysed in relation to sex, age and other personal characteristics.

Some farm management results

Two-thirds of farm households are jointly managed, usually by husband and wife.

There are 51,000 farm holdings operated entirely by women.

Comparison of farm holdings operated by men and women:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<i>Main purpose sale (%)</i>	29%	24%
<i>Raise cattle (%)</i>	42%	36%
<i>Engage in capture fishing (%)</i>	62%	54%
<i>Use chemical fertilizers (%)</i>	29%	39%



Constraints and lessons learnt

Constraints

- Funding issues, only six months were available for the development of the census.
- There were difficulties in planning and implementing the data collection because of delays in receiving funds. Also, there were funding shortages, especially for data collection.
- Transportation is difficult in some areas with the need to travel by boat or on foot in inaccessible areas.
- There were weaknesses in staff understanding of data collection and data processing in censuses or surveys.



Lessons learnt

- The Steering Committees were effective in providing overall direction to the census and in helping to organize and coordinate census data collection.
- Staff of DoP and DoS worked together in the same office during the census development and processing and this helped to provide coordination and cooperation in the census implementation.
- It is important for sufficient time to be allowed for questionnaire design, field testing, preparation of field manuals and other census development activities. In future, at least twelve months should be set aside for this work.
- In planning future censuses, funding issues should be resolved well in advance of the census so that preparations for the census enumeration are not delayed.
- Skills and experience that staff had acquired through working on the previous agricultural census were very useful in the current census.
- Attention should be given to ensuring that decision-makers use the census for planning and policy-making.

Thank you

