AGRICULTURE CENSUS IN INDIA

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
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Dr Vidya Dhar, DDG & Agriculture Census Commissioner
Collection and maintenance of Agriculture statistics assumes importance due to predominance of Agriculture in India.

Though contribution of Agriculture in GDP has declined over years to about 14% in 2011 but it still remains principal source of livelihood for more than 50 percent of the population.

India possesses only 11 percent of World’s arable land whereas it has to feed about 18 percent of World population.

This imbalance is likely to worsen in coming years.
WHY AGRICULTURE CENSUS ..... 

- Increasing population and diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes, has created tremendous pressure on this scarce resource.

- There is a need to look into the holding/area distribution among different sizes categories, social groups and gender for planning at micro level.

- Data on holding characteristics like tenancy status, terms of leasing, irrigation status/source of irrigation, crop-profile etc., play important role in formulating programs for development of agriculture.
AGRICULTURE CENSUS IN INDIA

• Agriculture Census in India forms part of World Agriculture Census program of FAO.
• The first Agriculture Census in India was conducted in 1970-71.
• The results of Agriculture Census is available at http://agcensus.nic.in.
• Agriculture Census 2010-11, ninth in the series, is presently going on in the country.

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SURVEY DESIGN

• Agriculture Census is conducted in the country on census – cum-sample survey basis. The whole operation is completed in 3 Phases.

• In **Phase-I**, List of holdings with their operated area and social characteristics is prepared on census basis in land record States/UTs (covering about 86 % of reported area) and on 20 percent sample villages in non-land record States/UTs.

• In **Phase-II**, detailed data on agricultural characteristics is collected on a sample basis from 20 percent selected villages, both in Land Record and Non-Land Record States, and the parameters are then estimated at the Tehsil/District/State level.

• In **Phase-III**, data on input use pattern are collected on a sample basis from selected holdings from selected 7 percent villages and the parameters are estimated at the District/State level.
ITEMS OF DATA COLLECTED

Phase I:
Data on number and area of operational holdings for different size classes (marginal, small, semi-medium, medium, large), social groups (scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, others), type of holding (individual, joint, institutional) and gender (male, female) are collected.

Phase II:
Data on tenancy, terms of leasing, land-use, irrigation-status, sources of irrigation, number of wells and tube wells, crop profile, dispersal of land are collected from selected 20 percent villages in each Taluk/Block.

Phase III:
Data is collected on use of inputs like manures, fertilizers, livestock, agriculture implements & machinery, institutional credit, use of improved seeds besides age, educational qualification and household size of the holder from selected 7 percent villages in each Taluk/Block.
FREQUENCY

• The Agriculture Census in India is conducted quinquennially i.e. at the interval of Five-Years.
• World Census of Agriculture is carried out decennially i.e. at ten yearly intervals.
• The reason for conducting Agriculture Census in India quinquennially is that the structure of holdings in the country is changing fast due to fragmentation of holdings, urbanization/industrialization etc.
• The data is needed for planning and assessment of impacts of existing policies and programs.
• Agriculture Census Division in DAC coordinates the activities with the States/UTs.

• A nucleus team of technical staff is engaged in this work in each State/UT.

• The Principal Secretary/Secretary in-charge of organizing Department (generally Revenue Deptt.) is designated as State Agriculture Census Commissioner.

• The State administrative machinery is utilized for collecting data for the scheme.

• Funds (100 percent) are provided by the Government of India to States/UTs under Central Sector Plan Scheme.
SOURCES OF DATA

• In Phase-I & Phase-II, land records maintained by the revenue functionaries in each village are the main source of information for Agriculture Census.

• Data being taken from land records, Census taking is very cost effective in India.

• In Phase-III (Input Survey), data is collected following household enquiry approach both in land record and non-land record States.

• Reference year of Input Survey is the year following reference year of Agriculture Census.
MAIN FINDINGS

- Total number of operational holdings in the country increased from 129 million in 2005-06 to 138 million (+6.61 percent) in 2010-11.
- The operated area stands at 159.18 million ha. in 2010-11.
- The average size of the operational holding declined to 1.16 ha in 2010-11 from 1.23 ha. in 2005-06.
- Share of female operational holders increased from 11.70 percent in 2005-06 to 12.79 in 2010-11.
## Trend in Number of Holdings and Operated Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture Census Years</th>
<th>Number of holdings (million)</th>
<th>Area operated (in million ha)</th>
<th>Average area per holding (in ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>162.1</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>163.3</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>163.8</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>164.6</td>
<td>1.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>165.5</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>163.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>129.2</td>
<td>158.3</td>
<td>1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>137.8</td>
<td>159.2</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- The vacant statistical function posts in States are being pursued to be filled-up on priority.
- **Infrastructural facilities** in the States/UTs are being improved by providing adequate numbers of computers with e-mail facilities, fax machines, etc.
- The field workers are being sensitized towards importance of this data so that they devote sufficient attention to census work.
- The States have been permitted to **engage retired officials** and even outsourcing in case of difficulties.
- States are requested to use e-mail / fax facility more intensively for communication with DAC to cut time-lag.
- Training is being organized for capacity building for District/Tehsil level officials.
- **Expediting the pace of** data processing work by States for early results.
THANKS