

Historical outline

The Agricultural Census 1997 of China was the first ever undertaken in the country.

Organization

The responsible office for the Agricultural Census is the: "National Agricultural Census Office of State Council". About 7.2 millions field workers, including enumerators and supervisors, carried out census.

Enumeration period

Data were collected during the period 1 – 31 January 1997.

Reference date/period

Data on inventory items refer to the day of enumeration, while all other data refer to the calendar year 1996.

Definition

- **Rural household** refers to households living in rural areas for a long time and engaged in production and operational activities.
- **Agricultural household** refers to rural household whose members are either engaged in purely agricultural activities, or in a combination of agricultural and non-agricultural activities.
Agricultural households could be:
 - Purely agricultural, if their household members are fully engaged in agricultural activities.
 - Mainly agricultural, if their household members are engaged mainly in agricultural activities.
 - Mainly non-agricultural, if their household members are engaged mainly in non-agricultural activities.If the household members are engaged 50 percent in agricultural and 50 percent in non-agricultural activities, the category is defined by the household's income.
- **Non-agricultural household** refers to a rural household whose household members are fully engaged in non-agricultural activities.

Coverage

The census covered all agricultural holdings in rural areas.

Frame

The frame consisted of the list of households as obtained from the Population Census. An Enumeration Area includes about 50 households.

Method

The census was undertaken on a complete enumeration basis. Data were collected through personal interview. Six different questionnaires were used:

- Questionnaire for Rural Household Holdings (A601);
- Questionnaire for Non-Household Agricultural Holdings (A602);
- Questionnaire for Administrative Villages (A603);
- Questionnaire for Townships and Towns (A604);
- Card for non-agricultural town and township enterprises (A605);
- Card for agricultural land (A606).

Data source

Abstract of the First National Agricultural Census in China, Food and Agricultural Statistics Centre, Beijing, 1999.

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