Historical outline
Censuses of Agriculture were successfully undertaken in the country in 1960 and 1970. The First National Agricultural Sample Survey was conducted in 1988. Data presented here refer to the latest Agricultural Sample Survey conducted in Colombia, i.e. the “Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria 2001”.

Organization
The National Agricultural Survey was conducted by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) in agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which also provided financial assistance to the project, and in collaboration with the National Department of Planning. Staffs consisting of 809 technicians and agriculture experts were involved in the field work operating as coordinators, supervisors, enumerators and coding experts.

Enumeration period
The field work was carried out between June 2001 and April 2002.

Reference date/period
Data on land use, temporary and permanent crops, scattered fruit trees, meadows and pastures, number of livestock, number of PSM (Pedazo de Segmento de Muestreo), refer to the day of enumeration. Area cultivated, crop production and yields refer to the calendar year 1 January to 31 December 2001. Data on milk production refer to the day preceding the interview.

Definition
• **Primary Sample Unit (UPM)**: is defined as a piece of land identified by natural boundaries, generally reported on maps, aerial photos or satellite images, into which the total area to be investigated is divided, and used to build the area frame.
• **Segmento Muestral (SM)**: is a little piece of land inside the UPM.
• **Pedazo de Segmento de Muestreo (PSM)**: is a piece of land inside the SM corresponding to the entire agricultural holding or to a part of it.
• **Finca**: Technical and economic unit, located within the boundaries of a Municipality, under single management.
• **Lote**: is a plot planted with a single crop or a combination of crops or temporarily fallow.
• **Potrero**: plot with grass, pastures or forages for the cattle.

Coverage
The Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria covered the rural area of the country, administratively consisting of 32 Departments and 1 096 Municipalities. An area of about 50.7 million hectares was covered, with the exclusion of urban and peri-urban areas and the non-agricultural regions.

Frame
An Area frame of UPM and a frame based on lists of holdings geographically identified, kept in the municipality administrative registers, were used.

Method
*The Survey methodology was based on a combination of the following statistical methods:*
• Complete Enumeration for special crops;
• Sampling method, consisting, in turn, of three different types: Area Cluster; Element Sampling; A combination of the two;
• Use of Administrative Registers.
Data for 1) and 2) were collected through direct interview; objective measurements were carried out. 5 787 segments out of the total sample of 6 216 (93.1 percent), were covered.

Data source
Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria, Resultados 2001, Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE), República de Colombia.

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