

## Historical outline

Denmark has been participating in WCA since 1930. Until 1983 the Agriculture and Horticulture Survey was carried out once a year as complete census. From 1984 to 1989 a complete enumeration surveys were carried out in even numbered years and sample surveys were carried out in intervening years. From 1990 to 1998 the annual survey was conducted on sample basis only. In 1996 it was decided to delete crop related questions from the survey and it was decided to collect such data from the registers of Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) which contains information relating to area under major crops for all the farms which applied for crop subsidies.

## Organization

The census is organized by Agriculture Division of Statistics Denmark which is an independent institution under the supervision of a board consisting of experts drawn from different sectors of the economy. There is no separate act governing the census but under the Act on Statistics Denmark all firms are obliged to answer questionnaires from the statistical office.

## Enumeration period

Usually, the census day is the 2nd of June.

## Reference date/period

Data refer to the census day or to the 12 month period preceding the survey.

## Definition

Agricultural holdings (farms) are defined as holdings comprising an area of land, associated buildings, machinery and livestock which the owner regards as belonging to the same holding. A holding can comprise land, buildings, etc. which belong to one or more independent owners or to one or more natural or legal persons constituting the owner. Leased land is attributed to the holding that utilizes it.

## Coverage

The 1999/2000 census covered all farms which have at least 5 ha of agricultural area or attain a specified economic size (Standard Gross Margin at 4 000 euro at 1 990 prices). The holdings falling below the thresholds are about 8 percent of total holdings and roughly contribute to less than 0.5 percent of the agricultural production.

## Frame

Statistics Denmark maintains a special register of farms for collection of data on agriculture sector prepared with information from the Danish administrative register used for the land tax system. The typology of farms listed in the register of farms helps identify holdings according to their land ownership status. Before the survey the register on farms is updated on the basis of information available from general business register, crop subsidy system and livestock subsidy system.

## Method

For obtaining data on major crops the information available in Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) registers is tabulated. The statistics on horticultural crops, potatoes, seeds for sowing, permanent grassland and grasses in rotation which are not clearly differentiated in the IACS, are collected through statistical questionnaire. A questionnaire on crops, livestock, labour force etc. is mailed to every owner of agricultural property with a request to provide data on all the properties which are run as one farm unit. Owners are also asked particulars of the tenant to whom they have leased all or part of their property. Questionnaires are then sent to tenant unless he could be identified as owner of another property, in which case he will include information on tenanted area in his questionnaire.

## Data source

Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000, 2003 Edition, Theme 5, Agriculture and Fisheries European Commission, Eurostat.

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