

Historical outline

India participated in the World Census of Agriculture Programme (WCA) in 1930, 1950 and 1960 through sample surveys carried out by the Directorate of National Sample Survey. The 1970/71 Census is considered the first comprehensive Census of Agriculture conducted in the country. Agricultural censuses were successively undertaken in: 1976/77, 1980/81, 1985/86, 1990/91, 1995/96, and the one here reported, 2000/01. Data on livestock presented here refer to the 17th Livestock Census conducted in 2003.

Organization

The national Agriculture Census was planned and financed by the Agricultural Census Division of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). Each State and Union Territory (provinces) implemented census operations through their technical units.

The government officials responsible for land administration in about 600 thousand villages carried the enumeration for the agricultural census in their own official language. The 17th Livestock Census was performed through the Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying of MOA.

Reference date/period

For Livestock Census: 15 October 2003. For Agricultural Census: from July 2000 to June 2001.

Definition

Operational Holding (the statistical unit): is defined as all land wholly or partly used for agricultural (crop) production and operated as one technical unit by one person, alone or with others, without regard to title, legal form, size or location.

Coverage

Agriculture Census 2000/01 was not conducted in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Meghalaya. An estimate for important parameters was done for missing states based on previous census. For the 17th Livestock Census data from two districts of the State of Bihar, were not available by the time of the publication of this report and, consequently, statistical projections were used to prepare national estimates.

Frame

In the States where the Revenue Agency maintains the records of ownership of land and seasonal crop inquiries are carried out, such records are used to prepare the frame of agricultural holdings for the census. In States and UTs where land records do not exist, a list of households holding land is prepared in 20 percent of the villages which represent the sample for the agricultural census.

Method

- The **Agriculture (crop) Census** was carried out in three phases. During **Phase-1**, a list of all holdings with general information on primary characteristics like area, gender, social group of the holder and location code, was prepared; Phase-1 was carried out for all agricultural operational holdings of the country. During **Phase-2**, only 20 percent of the villages in each Tehsil were selected and detailed information on aspects such tenancy, land use, irrigation, cropping pattern of all the operational holdings in the selected villages was collected from all holdings. **Phase-3**, known as Input Survey, relates to use of inputs across various crops, regions and size groups of holdings. A stratified two-stage sampling design was applied, with the **village** at first stage and the **holding** at second stage unit for the survey.
- The **Livestock Census** was a complete enumeration exercise.

Data sources

- All India Report on Agriculture Census 2000/01. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, New Delhi 2008, India.
- 17th Livestock Census 2003, Release of the 17th Livestock Census Data by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture (19 January 2005) from the website, India.

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Website

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