

## Historical outline

Italy participated in the World Census of Agriculture Programme since 1930. So far five agricultural censuses have been conducted in the years 1961, 1970, 1982, 1990 and the latest, to which data reported here refer, in 2000.

## Organization

The census was carried out as per provisions of Article 37 of the law of 17 May 1999 No. 144 and related implementation regulation. The organizational structure of the census consisted of four territorial levels:

- **National Level** represented by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the Union of Trade Chambers.
- **Regional Level** consisting of Regional Census Offices and Regional Technical Commissions;
- **Provincial Level** consisting of 103 Provincial Census Offices, one for each province.
- **Communal Level** with 8100 Municipal Census Offices, one for each municipality of the country.

In the preparatory phase of the census, a Census Committee was created with advisory functions, composed of university professors and representatives from public bodies and associations.

## Enumeration period

The Census Day was the 22 October 2000.

## Reference date/period

- Information on tenure, legal status, credits, participation in farmer associations, environment, shelters, total and agricultural area of holding, livestock and farm buildings, refers to 22 October 2000.
- Information on sales of agricultural products, holding accounts, use of land, employment, machinery and equipment, agricultural work outside the holding, refer to the agricultural marketing year (1 November 1999 to 31 October 2000).
- Data on agricultural skills of holders and household members refer to the week prior to the census day.
- Data on milk production refer to the calendar year 2000.

## Definition

The census unit was defined as a technical-economic unit of agricultural production including forestry and livestock production, consisting of one or more plots of land, even non-contiguous or located in different municipalities, consisting also of agricultural machinery and/or buildings for agricultural production, operated by a holder (physical person, company or public body) assuming the risk of management, alone or together with others.

## Coverage

All crop, livestock and forestry holdings in the country were investigated.

## Frame

Agricultural, forestry and livestock holdings located in each municipality were identified through cadastral maps and land registers. A cross-check among the data-banks and archives of various Public Administrative Bodies and Trade Chambers was also carried out to prepare the lists of holdings. The updating of the lists of farms was carried out by ISTAT peripheral structures.

## Method

Three pilot surveys were carried out. The objectives of these surveys were: (1) to identify the geographical details of cultivated land, (2) to update the ISTAT register of farms, and (3) to check the quality of the list of holdings and of the questionnaire. The census was carried out by complete enumeration, through direct interview without actual measurement of land.

## Data source

Quinto Censimento Generale dell'Agricoltura 2000. Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT), Italy.

## Contact

Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (ISTAT), Ufficio Censimento dell'Agricoltura, Via Adolfo Ravà, 00142, Roma, Italy. Servizio Censimenti sulle Unità Economiche Via Ravà, 150 Rome. Tel.: (+39) 06 467 343 67; Fax: (+39) 06 467 345 74; E-mail: dccg@istat.it.

## Website

<http://www.istat.it/censimenti/agricoltura>.