

JAMAICA - Agricultural Census 1996 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first Census of Agriculture in Jamaica was undertaken, together with the Census of Population and Housing, in 1943. The second was carried out in 1961, while the third, conducted in 1968/69, represented the first participation of Jamaica in the World Census of Agriculture Programme (1970 Round) promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Subsequently, a fourth agricultural census was undertaken in 1978/79. Consequently, the one conducted in 1996, to which data presented here refer, is the fifth Census of Agriculture conducted in the country. In addition to the Censuses, two Sample Surveys were conducted in 1954 and 1958.

Organization

The Census was organized through a Joint Consultative Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Planning Institute and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, which provided their technical assistance to the organization of the census.

Reference date/period

Reference dates and periods used were: The Census Day (Friday, the 16 February 1996); The Calendar Year (from January to December 1995); The Census Week (second week of February, i.e. from Sunday to Saturday i.e 11 – 17 February 1996).

Definition

Agricultural holding (Farm) is all land fully or partly utilized for agricultural purposes, located in a single Parish and consisting of one or more parcels, reporting at least one of the following characteristics (*minimum size of holding*):

- 0.41 ha of crop cultivation, including flowers;
- If only a greenhouse is operated, it should be of at least 4400 square feet (1 sq. ft = 0.92 m²);
- Twelve economic trees like citrus, mangoes, breadfruit etc;
- One head of cattle;
- Two pigs or sheep or goats;
- Twelve head of poultry, (including ducks, turkeys etc);
- Six beehives;
- A fish pond of any size.

Coverage

The census was designed to cover all farms satisfying the minimum size of holding in non-urban areas of the country as well as farms of 50 acres and more (approx. 20 ha) located in urban areas or operated by urban dwellers. Holding with less than 50 acres in those areas identified as "Urban" in the 1991 Population Census, including Kingston Metropolitan Area, were considered as having a negligible portion of agricultural activity in Jamaica and thus excluded from enumeration.

Frame

Through the visits of enumerators to households, a listing schedule reporting names and addresses of heads of households was designed. In addition, lists reporting names and addresses of farmers with 50 acres or more were provided by the Farmers Register of the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Land Valuation Department.

Method

The agricultural census was conducted in two stages:

1. The first stage by complete enumeration of all households in non-urban areas in order firstly to identify farm and non-farm households and secondly to administrate a questionnaire to farm households only.
2. The second stage consisting of a ten percent sample survey of farms less than 50 acres, and complete enumeration of all farms 50 acres and over.

Data source

Census of Agriculture 1996 (Vol. I), Land Utilization and Crop Cultivation. The Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

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