

Historical outline

The agricultural census 1998/99 is the first conducted in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Organization

The census was undertaken under the overall control of the agricultural census Steering Committee, comprising representatives of the State Planning Committee (SPC) and of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), according to the Prime Minister's Decree No. 21 of 9 September 1997. The Agricultural Census Office, with staff from MAF and the National Statistical Centre (NSC) of SPC was established to implement the census. Technical and financial support was provided by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and its executing agency, Statistics Sweden. The census was based on the guidelines of FAO World Census of Agriculture 2000. Additional emphasis was given to rice because of its importance in Lao agriculture. About 2 200 enumerators were employed for the complete enumeration phase of Agricultural Census.

Enumeration period

The enumeration period lasted from 22 February to 19 March 1999.

Reference date/period

Livestock data refer to the day of enumeration. The reference period of most data collected in the census was the 1998/99 agricultural year, covering the 1998 wet season (from May to October 1998) and the 1998/99 dry season (from November 1998 to April 1999).

Definition

- **Agricultural Holding:** An agricultural holding (sometime referred to as a holding or a farm household) is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock raised and all agricultural land operated. Usually an agricultural holding is the same as a household, but sometimes it consists of two or more households operating as a partnership. The Census covered only the holdings that: either operated 0.02 ha or more of agricultural land in the 1998 wet season or in the 1998/99 dry season, or were raising 2 or more cattle or buffaloes, or 5 or more pigs or goats, or 20 or more poultry at the time of the census

Coverage

The census covered the whole of Lao PDR, including urban areas in Vientiane and elsewhere. The census only included agricultural activities of private households, carried out on their own or in partnership with others households. Agricultural activities undertaken by government organisations, business, etc. were excluded.

Frame

The census frame was prepared using the list of villages and households collected during the 1995 Population Census.

Method

The census was conducted in two parts: a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings, to collect some basic data about agriculture, and a sample survey of agricultural holdings to collect more detailed information. The sample was selected using a two-stage sampling design: a sample of villages was first selected, and then a sample of households was selected in each of the sampled villages. Agricultural holdings were identified by asking the sampled households about their crop and livestock activity. About 2 200 enumerators were employed for the complete enumeration and 1 200 for the sample component. A Short Questionnaire was used for the complete enumeration and a Long Questionnaire for the sample survey; an additional form was also used to report area measured.

Data source

Lao Agricultural Census, 1998/99 Highlights Vientiane, February 2000. Steering Committee for the Agricultural Census, Agricultural Census Office.

Contact

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