

MYANMAR - Agricultural Census 2003 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The Union of Myanmar participated in the World Census of Agriculture in 1953/54 (under the former country-name of "The Union of Burma"), but the coverage of that census was limited to 2000 village tracts in the neighbourhood of 252 towns. A Sample Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1993. The last Census of Agriculture was conducted in Myanmar in 2003.

Organization

A National Census Steering Committee (NCSC) was created in order to oversee the preparatory activities and decide on key issues. The Committee was chaired by the Director General of the Settlement and Land Records Department (SLRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) and composed of high ranking officials of the Government, by officers from different Departments and Agencies having a stake in the census results. A Technical Census Committee (TCC) was then created by the NCSC, while additional technical assistance was provided by FAO.

Enumeration period

Census enumeration started on 1 October and was completed on 15 November 2003.

Reference date/period

Data refer either to the agricultural season 2002/03 or to the enumeration period, depending on the type of census items.

Definition

In accordance with the definition of the WCA 2000 Programme, an agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, regardless to title, legal form or size. In the MAC 2003 the management of an agricultural holding is defined as the activity of raising crops on at least 0.10 acres of land, i.e. about 400 square meters (m²), or raising at least 4 head of small livestock or 2 head of large livestock or a combination of the two, or at least 30 head of chickens or ducks, regardless of the area of land.

Coverage

Geographically, the census covered the entire country. At the time of the census the country was administratively subdivided into 9 States and 8 Divisions with 63 districts, 324 townships, about 12 900 village tracts and 58 000 villages. Highly urbanized areas were excluded from the census.

Frame

From 16 March to 15 August 2003 a complete listing of holdings in all townships of the country was prepared by the SLRD field personnel. A list of aquaculture and commercial livestock and poultry holdings, included in the 2003 Census but that might have not been covered during the households listing operations, was provided by the Department of Livestock and Veterinary, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries.

Method

Complete enumeration of all holdings was carried out. Four questionnaires were used to collect census information: Agricultural Holdings questionnaire; Commercial Livestock and Poultry questionnaire; Household Fishing questionnaire; Aquaculture questionnaire. A pilot census was conducted in December 2002. An Advance Report was published based on a 20 percent sample of all census questionnaires.

Data source

Settlement and Land Records Department, Advance Report on Myanmar Census of Agriculture 2003, Yangon. The Government of the Union of Myanmar, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

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