

PORTUGAL - Agricultural Census 1999 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first agricultural census in Portugal was conducted in 1952/54; the second in 1968, the third in 1979 and the fourth in 1989. In the autonomous region of Azores agricultural censuses were conducted in 1964, 1977 and 1985, while in the autonomous region of Madeira censuses were carried out in 1964, 1977 and 1986. The latest Agricultural Census, to which data reported here refer, was conducted in the whole country in 1999.

Organization

The National Institute of Statistics (INA) was the responsible institution for the organization and management of the General Census of Agriculture 1999 (RGA99). In Portugal mainland the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture worked in collaboration with the INA Regional Statistical Offices. In the autonomous region of Azores the census was carried out by the Azores Regional Statistics Service, while the Madeira Regional Statistical Office was responsible for organizing and conducting the census in that autonomous region. In order to decentralize the census operations, two Regional Commissions were created in each Agrarian Region, one to make decisions, the other to operate at executive level. The Commissions included experts from both INA Regional Statistical Offices and from the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The "Conselho Superior de Estatística (CSE)" formed an Advisory Committee including experts from the National Institute of Statistics (INA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, the Country Farmers Union, The National Municipalities Association, the Regional Governments of the Autonomous Regions and the Trade Unions.

Enumeration period

The fifth General Census of Agriculture was conducted between October 1999 and March 2000.

Reference date/period

The reference period was the agricultural year 1998/99 (1 November 1998 to 31 October 1999).

Definition

Agricultural holding is a techno-economic unit of agricultural production satisfying at least one of the following conditions:

- Reporting at least 1 ha of agricultural land (*Superfície Agrícola Utilizada, SAU*).
- Reporting at least one of the following: 0.05 ha of flowers or greenhouses or nurseries; 0.1 hectares of specialized cultures; 0.2 ha of industrial crops or orchards; 0.5 ha under potatoes or under other crops extensively cultivated.
- Reporting at least one of the following: 1 breeding bull; 1 cow; 2 head of cattle two years old; 3 pigs for fattening; 1 swine; 6 sheep or goats; 10 female rabbits; 100 chickens or other fowls; 10 beehives.
- Reporting a certain livestock production for the 1998/99 agricultural seasons.

Coverage

The census covered the entire country, i.e. Portugal Mainland and the insular regions of Azores and Madeira.

Frame

In the first phase, lists of holders were prepared using as source administrative records. In the second phase, lasting from 1 March to 15 May 1999, the lists were checked and updated by enumerators.

Method

A Pilot Survey was conducted on a sample of 3 450 agricultural holders during November 1998, which was followed by a complete enumeration census; data were collected by enumerators through direct interview.

Data source

Recenseamento Geral da Agricultura 1999, Principais Resultados 2001. Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Portugal.

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