

Historical outline

The Agricultural Census 2000 is the fifth conducted in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Prior to the 2000 census, censuses were conducted in 1985/86, 1972, 1961 and 1946.

Organization

The Ministry of Agriculture and Labour (MAL) created an Agriculture Census Unit (ACU) to be responsible for the overall management and coordination of the Agricultural Census 2000. An Agricultural Census Steering Committee (ACSC) was formed to act as a national governing unit that would advise the MAL and approve methodologies and procedures. The Agriculture Census Coordinator and two Assistant Coordinators were recruited. Additional staff included the Data Processing Supervisor (from the Data Processing Department of the Ministry of Finance), and a Statistician from the Agriculture Planning Unit (APU). MAL staff served as supervisors, enumerators, coders and data entry personnel. As part of the FAO technical assistance, the FAO Regional Statistician, a National Statistician and an International Statistician, consultant in Data Processing, advised the ACU on technical and procedural issues. About 161 enumerators were hired. Some staff from the MAL and other public service agencies was also used as enumerators. The enumerators worked under the direction of 35 supervisors drawn mainly from the Extension Staff of the MAL. These supervisors were in turn supervised by three Regional Extension Supervisors.

Enumeration period

The census was conducted from 14 February to 31 March 2000. Follow-up visits were made, through the end of May, as required.

Reference date/period

The reference year for the census was the agricultural year (1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999).

Definition

The agricultural holding is considered an economic unit of agricultural production satisfying, at the day of enumeration, at least one of the following minimum specifications:

- one head of cattle or one donkey or horse;
- two head of pigs, sheep, goats (or one head of any two);
- a flock of at least 12 fowls or rabbits;
- 10 or more bearings of any tree crops, bananas or plantains;
- 500 square meters or more of vegetables, provision, food or cash crops.
- a raised stand or greenhouse of at least 18 square meters.

Coverage

Geographically, the census covered the entire country.

Frame

Agricultural holdings were identified through a listing form used by enumerators who visited every dwelling unit in the country. When an agricultural holding was identified, a census questionnaire was administered. Separate listing books were prepared for each enumeration district in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The heads of household were asked whether anyone in their household would satisfy one or more of the criterion for an agricultural holding and the responses were recorded in the listing books. Lists of large and specialized farms were also prepared by the MAL Regional Extension Supervisors. These lists were used to confirm that all these holdings were included in the census. The Regional Extension Supervisors enumerated all large and specialized farms not identified through the listing procedures.

Method

The agricultural census was designed as a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Data source

National Agricultural Census 2000, Preliminary Results. Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ministry of Agriculture and Labour.

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