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## **Jamaica – Census of Agriculture 2007 - 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 FAO World Census of Agriculture Programme. Subsequently, agricultural censuses were undertaken in 1978/79 and 1996. In addition to the Censuses, two Sample Surveys were conducted in 1954 and 1958.

### **Legal basis and organization**

According with the Statistical Act # 3 of 1984 and the Act #11 of 2003, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, head of the Jamaican Statistical System is responsible for taking any census in Jamaica (Art. 3, c of the Statistical Act, 1984). In particular the Census of Agriculture 2007 was ruled by the Agricultural Order 2007 of January 22nd, 2007 and the Agricultural Census 2007 Regulation that established the holdings reached by the census, the contents of census forms, the division of the island into areas, supervisory zones and enumeration districts, the duties all personnel involved in the census and the obligations of respondents along with detailed rules for delivering and receiving complete forms. An advisory committee was integrated by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, the University of West Indies and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. The country was divided in 7 areas with an area manager each and in 3198 Enumeration Districts of which 2950 were finally canvassed. The field staff comprised 477 persons including enumerators and supervisors.

### **Enumeration period**

The census was launched on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and finished by mid August.

### **Reference period/date**

There were three reference dates: the Census Day: February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for variables related to livestock; the reference year: calendar year 2006 for variables about income, main activity, crops, occupation of household members, hiring of agricultural workers, use of machinery, main marketing problems, agricultural practices and facilities and irrigation; and the day of enumeration for holding and holder identification, total area, number of parcels, land use and tenure, number of persons living in the holder's household and additional activities (forestry, production of grass, etc.).

### **Definition of the statistical unit:**

The holding or farm is all the land being utilized in full or in part for agricultural purposes which is located in a single parish. It may consist of one parcel of land or several parcels. A farm may comprise land in crops or it may be animals only. Where there are animals only, and no land dedicated to their rearing, these are referred to as landless farms.

Holdings were classified in:

Individual; Partnership; Corporation / Private Company; Government Company and Other Government

### **Geographical coverage**

The census covered all non-urban areas and a few selected urban areas. All parishes with the exception of Kingston were included.

### **Statistical coverage**

Holdings with activity over at least one of the following cut-off limits were enumerated

- one square chain (approx. 400 square meters) of cultivation (crops including flowers whether in a greenhouse/shade house or not); or
- twelve bearing economic trees e.g. citrus, mangoes, breadfruit, etc; or
- two head of cattle; or
- two pigs or five goats or five sheep; or
- fifty poultry (any combination) including ducks, turkeys etc.; or
- six beehives; or
- one fish (including ornamental) or shrimp pond of any size.

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Economic units engaged solely in the following economic activities were not considered agricultural holdings and accordingly were not included in the census: 1. hunting, horse breeding; 2. forestry and logging; 3. marine fishing.

### **Data items coverage**

All data of the core module of the FAO Programme WCA 2010 were included plus area under cultivation for specific crops, type and number of livestock or poultry, aquaculture and methods of irrigation used along with agricultural practices and main problems faced by farmers. Other supplementary surveys would be implemented in the next years.

### **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 20 hectares or more from the previous agricultural census.

### **Methodology**

The census was designed to cover farming activities in all non-urban and a few selected urban areas. Enumeration took place through visits to all households in these areas, each household being identified either as a farm or non-farm household. A questionnaire was then administered for every farm identified in each household. Each household in the prescribed areas was to be visited and basic information collected with regard to each household by means of a listing form. All holdings above the threshold identified by means of this form were enumerated by a census questionnaire. The census design also incorporated independent checks on large farms, defined as those 20 hectares and over, which could be identified, some of which would be owned and or operated by residents of urban areas not included in the enumeration districts covered.

### **Post census techniques to check census quality**

No Post Enumeration Survey was conducted. Quality was checked against external data and depuration of original data was done through inconsistency checking routines.

### **Data Dissemination and Use**

There is a Preliminary printed report that is also available in the website.

### **Special features**

Holdings below the threshold were enumerated by means of the listing form.

### **Data source**

Methodology included in the Preliminary Report in the website.

### **Mailing address / Census contact Points**

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