

Historical outline

Previous censuses were undertaken in 1973 and 1998/99 (the latter was the first one in LaoPDR)

Legal basis and organization

Statistical activities in LaoPDR are ruled by the Statistics Law of June 2010. Article 6 of Decree No.140 mandates, inter alia, the Department of Statistics (DoS), MPI to conduct the Census of Agriculture, Census of Population, other censuses and surveys. The Prime Minister issued a Decree in September 2009 approving the conduct of the census of agriculture 2010, starting in 2009. Census periodicity is established in 10 years. The responsible agency is the Department of Planning (DoP), MAF in cooperation with the line Ministries. Financial support for the census was received from a number of donors, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), The Australian Development Agency (AusAID), French Development Agency (AFD) and the German Agency for technical Cooperation (GIZ). The Government of Lao PDR also contributed by means of the National Budget. An Agricultural Census Steering Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister was established at the very beginning of census activities. FAO provided technical support for the census. 2,333 field enumerators supervised by 312 district supervisors worked during the field work.

Enumeration period

The field operations were undertaken in the period February 28th - April 8th, 2011

Reference period/date

For crops: 2010 wet season and 2010/2011 dry season.

For identification of holder and holding characteristics: the day of the interview.

Definition of the statistical unit:

The census unit was the farm household. A farm household is a household that has agricultural operation above the established thresholds of land, livestock or aquaculture.

To operate land means to have management control over growing crops or other activities on that land.

Most farm households have some land, but a few raise livestock without having any land. A land holding is a farm household with some land. A livestock holding is a farm household that is not a land holding.

As the unit is the farm household all holdings are under the same legal status.

The following **land tenure** categories were considered for farm households:

- Owned (including land owned outright and in owner-like possession);
- Rented from others (including cash or in-kind remuneration such as a share of the produce or exchange of labour).
- Other (includes squatter land, land not authorized for cultivation, or land borrowed from someone else).

Geographical coverage

The census covered all country including urban areas.

Statistical coverage

The Census of Agriculture 2011 covered farm households only. Agricultural activities of institutional units such as government farms, private companies and schools were excluded.

A farm household is a household that at least:

- * operated 0.02 ha or more of agricultural land in the 2010 wet season or the 2010/11 dry season; or
- * was raising 2 or more cattle or buffaloes, 5 or more pigs or goats, or 20 or more poultry at the time of the census; or
- * was raising any other livestock at the time of the census; or
- * had aquaculture facilities at the time of the census.

Data items coverage

All items of the core module plus several items of supplementary modules about land, crops, livestock, agricultural practices and agricultural services, demographic data and fishing activities were covered. In depth data coverage was done in a sample of agricultural households from the household complete listing performed when collecting core data.

Frame

The census frame was built during the house to house visitation operation in the complete enumeration phase of the census.

Methodology

The census plan had three components:

- Village component (community survey): a survey of all villages in the country to collect data on rural infrastructure and services from the village head.
- Household component (complete enumeration): a survey of all private households in Lao PDR to collect basic data on crops and livestock.
- Sample farm household component: a sample survey of 41 660 households, well distributed across districts and selected in two stages, to collect detailed data on agricultural activities.

For the in-depth analysis of farm households, a sample was taken from the universe of all private households listed during the complete enumeration exercise. A two-stage sampling design was used, being villages the primary sampling units and in the selected villages a sample of private farm households was undertaken in the second stage. The first-stage sampling selection was done by means of stratified systematic probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of villages. At the second stage the sample of farm households in each sample village was selected using stratified systematic random sampling.

Strata of villages in the first stage were: rural and urban. The size for using PPS was the number of farm households in each village. Altogether, 2,620 villages (from 8,662) and 41,660 (from 783,000) sample farm households were selected in the sample.

Post census techniques to check census quality

No Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was conducted. Data were confronted with external sources like the previous census; data from agricultural surveys and data from the reporting system.

For the sampling component statistical errors were computed.

Special features

The modular approach as well as a community survey was undertaken following the FAO WCA 2010 Programme.

Data source

LAO CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2010/11, HIGHLIGHTS, Vientiane, May 2012. Presentation by the Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at Twenty-fourth Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics 8-12 October 2012.

Census questionnaires and manuals from website.

Mailing address / Census contact Points

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