
Nepal – National Census of Agriculture 2011-2012 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Previous censuses were undertaken in 1962, 1972, 1981, 1992 and 2001/02.

Legal basis and organization

Statistical Activities in Nepal are ruled by the Statistical Act#2015. It commits the undertaking of censuses to the Central Bureau of Statistics. For agricultural censuses there is a established periodicity of 10 years where a livestock census is conducted every ten years, 5 years after the crop census.

Enumeration period

The enumeration work for the agricultural census was carried out in two phases: the first phase (complete enumeration phase) during January to March 2012; the second phase (sampling survey) during April-June 2012. In some districts (16 mountain districts) both phases were completed during April-June to avoid the hard winter.

Reference period/date

The day of interview for: identification of household/holding; land use; number and use of parcels and livestock as well as activities of household members, agricultural practices and aquaculture;

Agricultural year 2011 for: Farm Labour and crops;

Definition of the statistical unit:

An agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock and poultry kept, and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes.

Small agricultural operations were excluded from the census.

Holdings are classified according to **legal status** in:

1. Single-holding household
2. Multi-holding household
3. Partnership of two or more households.

Holders are classified according with forms of **tenure** as:

- Owner or Owner-like;
- Rented with contract by agreed sum of money;
- Rented with contract by agreed quantity of produce;
- Rented by agreed share of produce;
- Rented in exchange for a service;
- Mortgage;
- Other rental agreements;
- Other tenure form.

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

Statistical coverage

A holding was considered to be an agricultural unit when satisfying any one of the following conditions:

- having area under crops greater than or equal to a quarter of a ropani (0.0127 hectares) or one matomuri (0.0127 hectares) in hill or mountain district, or greater than or equal to eight dhur (0.01355 hectares) in the Terai; or
- keeping two or more heads of cattle or buffaloes; or
- keeping five or more heads of sheep or goats; or
- keeping 20 or more poultry; or
- keeping any combination of livestock considered equivalent to two heads of cattle or buffaloes (e.g. 1 cattle and 4 sheep)

Data items coverage

The core module items were completely covered. As far as the supplementary items are concerned, the census covered:

Land and Water; Crops; Livestock and Poultry; Agriculture Machinery by Source and Use; Non-Residential Building; Forest and Fishery; Agricultural Credit; Miscellaneous

Frame

The country has a large number of small holdings which practice subsistence agriculture. Nepal has been using the population census to get a sampling frame for agricultural census. For the latest population census the scope of the agriculture section in the population census was extended to get better sampling frames. The frame for the agriculture census 2011-12 was the Population census 2011.

Methodology

The census was a combination of complete enumeration and sampling. The complete enumeration was taken by means of the agricultural section of the Population Census 2011. As far as the sampling design is concerned, it was a two-stages sampling. Census Enumeration Areas (EA) were formed from the summarized data from the listing of the wards in each district. The EAs in each district were stratified according to the number of holdings enumerated during the Population Census 2011. In the first stage of sample selection EAs were selected with probability proportional to size (PPS), with power allocation 0.4. The measure of size is the number of holdings enumerated in the EAs during the Census of Population 2011. The second stage of sample selection involved the selection of sample holdings systematically in each sample EA. The target number of holdings for enumeration in each sampled EA was 25.

Finally, about 130,000 agricultural holdings were selected for enumeration in 5,200 sampled EAs belonging to 74 districts.

Collection of data was done through face-to-face direct interviews with paper questionnaires.

Post census techniques to check census quality

No Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was conducted. Quality checks, inconsistencies checking and comparisons with external data were the main ways for assessing quality of the census.

Special features

The modular approach advocated by FAO in the WCA2010 was used in Nepal. A community survey was also conducted.

Data source

Questionnaires, Methodological Notes and presentation at APCAS meeting of April 2010.

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