
SEYCHELLES - Census of Agriculture 2011 – Explanatory notes

1. Historical Outline

The Seychelles Agricultural Agency (SAA), jointly with the National Bureau of Statistics, conducted the first Census of Agriculture in the Seychelles from August 16-31, 2011. Based on lists of farmers compiled by the SAA, supplemented and cross-checked with information collected in the Population and Housing Census of August 2010, all commercial farmers in Seychelles were visited and asked questions on their farming activities. It was estimated that there are approximately 800 farmers in the Seychelles.

The Census of Agriculture was conducted as part of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture promoted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. FAO provided technical assistance to the Census through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

2. Legal Basis and Organization

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was established in July 2010, under the new National Bureau of Statistics Act, 2010, and operates as a semi-autonomous government agency responsible for collecting, compiling, analyzing and publishing statistical information. The Bureau is also responsible for coordinating, monitoring and supervising the National Statistical System. The NBS replaces the National Statistics Bureau (NSB), which was established in 2005.

As the authority for undertaking a census rests with the National Bureau of Statistics (under the Statistics Act 2010), the Agriculture Census 2011 was, therefore, conducted jointly by the Seychelles Agricultural Agency and the National Bureau of Statistics.

3. Reference Period or Date

The reference date for the household information and agricultural infrastructure was the day of enumeration, a date between the 16th and 31st of August 2011. The reference period for almost all the rest of the Agriculture Census data, such as crops, livestock, and farm inputs, was the past 12 months, the exception being labour which was the previous month.

4. Enumeration Period

The enumeration period was the 16th to 31st of August 2011.

5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

The FAO recommended definitions of the household, holding and agricultural holding appear to have been adopted.

6. Geographic Coverage

The Census of Agriculture included 234 or 43 percent of the 527 Population and Housing Census enumeration areas. To minimize the workload, the Agriculture Census was conducted only in these EAs.

7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

Exclusions included all enumeration areas of the 2010 Population and Housing Census without at least one large agricultural enterprise/non-household farm. Consequently, 40 percent of all agricultural holdings and 303 or 57 percent of the 527 EA's were exclusions.

8. Methodology

FAO Modular Approach

The 2011 National Agricultural Survey Programme was conceived as two distinct phases. Phase I was a Census of Agriculture (complete enumeration of farmers registered with SAA or households) and Phase II an Agricultural Survey Programme, with focus on crop production, carried out over a 12 month period. An agriculture module for core agriculture data was included as part of the 2010 Population and Housing Census.

Frame

The Census of Agriculture 2011 (CoA 2011) was integrated with the Census of Population and Housing, August 2010 (CoPH 2010), which was used to establish the household frame and to collect data on livestock at the household level. The CoPH 2010 provides its own set of data on agricultural activities at the household level. The frame was merged with the list of registered farmers held by the Seychelles Agricultural Agency (SAA) and supplemented by the list of large farms and farms in the non-household sector.

Complete or sample enumeration methods

The Census of Agriculture 2011 (CoA 2011) comprised an exhaustive enumeration of all farms and households classified as 'producing mainly for sale' in the Census of Population and Housing, August 2010 (CoPH 2010). In addition, a sample of the all other households was enumerated to enable estimates to be made of the contribution of this sector to agriculture and thus complete the picture (household sample listing exercise).

There were essentially three categories of farms: (1) large agricultural enterprises/non-household farms, (2) agricultural households with agricultural products for sale and own consumption, and (3) all other agricultural households. The first and second farm categories were subject to complete enumeration. The third was sampled.

Sample Design

Large agricultural enterprises/non-household farms: These were all enumerated. The large agricultural enterprises and other non-household farms were identified based on lists from the 2010 Population and Housing Census and the Seychelles Agricultural Agency. There were about 800 large agricultural enterprises in the Seychelles.

Agricultural households, growing crops both for sale and home consumption: These households were all enumerated. Approximately 60 percent of all agricultural households met the criteria for this stratum, and included 234 of the 527 Population and Housing Census EA's.

All other agricultural Households: The third category of farms was sampled. These farms included agricultural households producing mainly for their own consumption, and households not cultivating crops. Two EAs were randomly selected in each District from the list of EAs where the Agriculture Census was conducted. In these 2 EAs, the enumerator went door-to-door listing each household. Households were asked "Has this household grown any crops (vegetables, root crops, spices, herbs) in the last 12 months, or does it have any fruit trees?" Those households answering 'NO' to this question (about 60% of all households) were only asked that one question. Households producing for their own consumption and NOT selling any crops in the last 12 months were asked questions on land area and crops grown and the information recorded on the EA listing. Households producing mainly for sale, and households selling agricultural produce in the last 12 months, filled in the census questionnaire.

Collection Method

Personal interviews using printed questionnaires.

Questionnaire(s)

There was one questionnaire for the Census of Agriculture and it was used to enumerate both the large agricultural enterprises/non-household farms and agricultural household-based farms. Information collected included the land area cultivated, crops grown, livestock and other animals kept, hours spent working on agriculture, use of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals, equipment inventory, irrigation and infrastructure. Information on livestock was only collected from the large non-household farms. Livestock numbers by type of livestock are however available from the 2010 Population and Housing Census at the District level.

Controls to Minimize Non-Sampling Errors

No documentation.

Innovative Methodologies

Documentation is not available.

9. Data Entry, Edits, Imputations and Tabulation

No documentation.

10. Census Data Quality

No documentation.

11. Data Dissemination and Use

A list of the 2012 National Sample Census of Agriculture publications and tabulations are available on the National Bureau of Statistics website.

12. Data Sources

FAO ESS World Census of Agriculture 2010, Country Documents

www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2010/countryinfo/en/

www.nbs.gov.sc/archives/448

www.nbs.gov.sc/archives/2140

13. Contact

Seychelles Agricultural Agency
National Bureau of Statistics

Website

www.nbs.gov.sc