
Suriname – Agricultural Census 2008- Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first agricultural census in Suriname was undertaken in 1959. The second and the third ones were taken in 1969 and 1981. The final results of the 1981 agricultural census due to various problems were never officially published. The Agricultural Census 2008 is the Fourth Census of Agriculture in the country.

Legal basis and organization

The Central Statistical Office (GBS) is a semi-autonomous organization that has responsibility for the national statistical system including the conduct of the Census of Population and Housing. The last such census was conducted in 2004. The statistical system is decentralized and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (MAAHF) through the Division of Agricultural Statistics (DAS), as part of the Planning Directorate is responsible for census taking. The 2008 agricultural census was funded by the Government of the Netherlands in the framework of the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP) signed in June 2001. In total, 357 persons were involved with the Census.

Enumeration period

Coastal area: 1-30 Nov 2008;

Greater Paramaribo 1-20 Feb 2009;

Interior: 1 Feb - 9 March, 2009

Reference period/date

The Census refers to the calendar year 2008, or for some items (e.g. number of livestock) it refers to the situation as it existed on the day of the start of the census, i.e. 1 November 2008.

Definition of the statistical unit.

The definition of the WCA FAO Programme 2010 was adopted.

Holdings were classified in:

Holdings in the household sector:

- Family business (include partnership between two or more households)

Holdings in the non-household sector:

- Company
- Government
- Institution/Organization
- Other

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

Statistical coverage

Holdings above the following thresholds were enumerated:

- 0.02 hectares of annual or semi-permanent crops or
- 20 m² of leek, celery or leaf onions or
- 20 harvested fruit trees or
- 10 fruit trees of a single type harvested or
- 2 heads of cattle or
- 5 goats or
- 5 sheep or
- 5 pigs or
- 1 sow or
- 25 chicken or
- 25 ducks or
- 5 hives or
- 1 fishpond greater than 50 m².

Data items coverage

All items of the core module of the FAO Programme were covered plus crops, livestock, employment, agricultural practices and agricultural services.

Frame

The 2004 Census of Population and housing was the frame for the sampling surveys (interior and Greater Paramaribo) and the frame used to check for coverage in the Coastal Area were a complete enumeration exercise was performed.

Methodology

The Census of Agriculture was carried out on basis of complete enumeration in the Coastal Area, where the vast majority of agricultural holdings is located. Sample surveys were implemented for the Greater Paramaribo Area (District Paramaribo) because the low intensity of agricultural activities and for the Interior (Districts Sipaliwini and Brokopondo and partially Marowijne), because of considerations of the enormous geographical spread of small size holdings and difficulties to reach all areas. Different designs were used for these two areas.

For the rural area of the capital Paramaribo a random sample of 10% of Enumeration Blocks from the population census was drawn.

For the Interior (rural inland of Suriname) a stratified sampling design was adopted. The total universe of villages was divided in three strata:

- Stratum 1: villages with more than 1000 inhabitants (from de population census);
- Stratum 2: border villages with 1000 or less inhabitants (from the population census);
- Stratum 3: the rest of villages.

A complete enumeration exercise (sample rate of 100%) was performed in strata 1 and 2. A sample of about 10% was selected from stratum 3.

Post census techniques to check census quality

A Post Enumeration Survey (PES) consisting of a re-enumeration of selected Enumeration Blocks (EB) in the Coastal Area and in Paramaribo and a re-enumeration of 10% of census questionnaires in the Interior.

The PES was finally not processed.

Data Dissemination and Use

The final results of the 2008 Census of Agriculture has not been yet published. Only a summary of main census results have been approved but not published.

Data source

Census materials prepared under the FAO project UTF/SUR/002/SUR.

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