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## China – Second National Agricultural Census 2007- Explanatory Notes

### Historical outline

This is the second census of agriculture in China, the first one was undertaken in 1997.

### Legal basis and organization

Statistical activities in China are ruled by the Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China, enacted 1983 and revised in 1996, 2009 respectively. The 2007 census of agriculture was taken in virtue of the Decree of the State Council, August 2006. The periodicity of agricultural censuses has been established in 10 years. The National Bureau of Statistics is the agency responsible for census taking. As far as the funding of census activities is concerned, in line with the Chinese fiscal system, the funding is contributed by the central government and local governments. The former is responsible for the national organizing and conducting the census. The budgets from the provincial government as well as prefecture and county level governments are responsible for the census implementation in their jurisdiction respectively. A technical committee responsible for methodology of agricultural census was formed. This technical committee was composed of experts from Department of Rural Surveys, Department of Statistical Design and Management and other relevant departments within NBS. No formal international technical assistance was received. There had been business consultations with international organizations and statistical agencies. In such framework, several seminars to discuss the census issues with the National Agricultural Statistical Service/USDA as well as Statistics Korea were conducted. Census issues were also discussed with experts from FAO. There were 7 million census staff, supervisors and work staff of census organs at all levels organized and mobilized in the whole country, and 500 million census forms filled in.

### Enumeration period

The field work lasted from January to end of March 2007.

### Reference period/date

The time reference for point items is December 31, 2006.

The time reference for period items is the calendar year 2006.

### Definition of the statistical unit.

Main statistical units are the rural households and the agricultural households.

Rural household refers to households living in rural areas for a long time and engaged in production and operational activities. Rural household include collectivity and family household.

Agricultural household refers to rural household whose members are either engaged in purely agricultural activities, or in a combination of agricultural and non-agricultural activities.

Agricultural households could be:

- Purely agricultural, if their household members are fully engaged in agricultural activities.
- Mainly agricultural, if their household members are engaged mainly in agricultural activities.
- Mainly non-agricultural, if their household members are engaged mainly in non-agricultural activities.

If the household members are engaged 50 percent in agricultural and 50 percent in non-agricultural activities, the category is defined by the household's income.

Non-agricultural household refers to a rural household whose household members are fully engaged in non-agricultural activities.

### Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

### Statistical coverage

The census has investigated all the rural households, urban agriculture production corporations, agricultural production corporations, village committees and township governments.

Agricultural production households and agricultural holdings: refer to households and units that managing in farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and services of farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery in farming lands or separate facilities, as well as reaching one of the following standards:

1. Area of cultivated land, garden plot or water area for breeding aquatics under management is above 0.1 mu (approx 67 square meters) at the end of the year.
2. Forestry area or area of grassland under management is above 1 mu (approx 667 square meters) at the end of the year.
3. Number of breeding cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats, and other large-medium livestock is or more than one head at the end of the year.
4. Number of breeding rabbits and other beasts, as well as poultry is or more than 20 heads at the end of the year.

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5. The income of agricultural product for sale, self-produced and self-used in 2006 is more than 500 yuan (U\$S 82 approx.).
  6. Receiving operating income of services on forestry, animal husbandry and fishery above 500 yuan (U\$S 82 approx.) for the other households and units, or the forestry, animal husbandry and fishery unit in administrative and business services sector.

### **Data items coverage**

Contents of the census include details of households and businesses engaged in agriculture, environmental situation in the countryside, use of agricultural land, fixed assets investment in agriculture, employment in rural areas and the quality of life for farmers.

### **Frame**

At village level, for the household data collection at each enumeration areas (EA), the household list for rural residents was used as census frame. While for the non-household data collection, only incomplete administrative records for enterprises from government regulatory agencies were used as a reference for census and local enumerators would try to find each eligible enterprises and establishments in scope.

### **Methodology**

The census was complete enumeration exercise. The interview was face-to-face during a visit to the household, enterprise and establishment.

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

After the completion of enumeration, in accordance with international practice, the Census Office of the State Council organized three levels of data quality checks: including the Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) of households, data verification of agricultural land, and the proof for data processing.

The PES of households consisted of 110 sample counties covering 330 census areas and more than 20 000 households by means of a stratified two-stage cluster sampling method. To selected households a second interview was practised and data were verified against registration results of Census;

In order to undertake the post-enumeration survey for agricultural land, 13 working groups were formed and dispatched to 90 counties, 900 census districts and 9000 plots of land to verify the relevant information.

As the result, the integrated sampling indicated that, the net rate of underreporting for registered household of Agricultural Census was 0.20 percent, and the error rate of preliminary data was 0.14 percent. The data quality achieved the level of design standard.

### **Special features**

Along with the agricultural census, a community survey covering villages and townships was also undertaken.

### **Data source**

Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) 22nd Session, Country Reports. Communiqué on Major Data of the Second National Agricultural Census of China at website.

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