
India - Agriculture Census 2010-11- Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

India participated in the World Census of Agricultural Programme (WCA) in 1930, 1950 and 1960 through sample surveys carried out by the Directorate of National Sample Survey. The 1970-71 Census is considered the first comprehensive Census of Agriculture conducted in the country. Quinquennial Agricultural censuses were successively undertaken in: 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2010-2011.

Legal basis and Organization

All Statistical activities in India are governed by the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 (7 of 2009). State and Union Territories Governments are responsible for undertaking statistical operations in their respective administrations and the central Government acts as a coordinating agency. All large-scale statistical operations like the Agriculture Census are Central Activities with substantial involvement of State Agencies in data collection. Responsible agency is the Agriculture Census Division, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. The Census was funded from the National Budget.

Enumeration Period

The Census was taken in three phases: Phase-I: July-September, 2011, Phase- II: January-June 2012 and Phase-III: July-September 2012.

Reference Period/date

Main Census data refer to the agricultural year July 2010-June 2011.

Definition of the Statistical unit

All land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location. A technical unit is a unit of land which is under the same management and has the same means of production such as labour force, machinery and animals. Operated area includes both cultivated and uncultivated area, provided part of it is put to agricultural production during the reference period.

According to **Gender** operational holders are classified into:

- Male
- Female

According to **Social Groups** operational holdings are classified into:

- Scheduled Castes
- Scheduled Tribes
- Others

According to the **type of operational holders**, holdings are classified in:

- Individual
- Joint
- Institutional

According to **size**, in:

- Marginal;
- Small;
- Semi Medium;
- Medium;
- Large.

According to **land tenure** holdings are classified as:

- Fully owned and self-operated
- Partly owned and partly leased in
- Leased
- Other (subdivided in: wholly otherwise operated; partly owned and partly otherwise operated; partly leased in and partly otherwise operated; partly owned, partly leased in and partly otherwise operated). Area leased is divided according to terms of leasing in: a) For fixed amount of money; b) Fixed amount of produce; c) Share of produced; d) Usufructury mortgage; e) Other terms.

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

Statistical coverage

All holdings in Land record States (covering 91% of total land area) in Phase-I. Samples of operational holdings in the Phase II and III.

In non-land record States, Phase-I & Phase-II: sample of 20% of villages and complete enumeration of households in selected villages. Phase III: sample of 7% villages and 4 holdings from each of the 5 size classes.

Data items coverage

During Phase-I, viz., the listing phase, data on Number and Area of Operational Holdings according to prescribed size classes of holdings for different social groups, types of holdings and gender are collected.

In Phase-II, which is the main Census operation, though only in 20 percent sample villages, the data on following aspects are collected:

- i) Dispersal of holding (parcellation);
- ii) Tenancy/Terms of leasing;
- iii) Land Utilization;
- iv) Irrigation status and source-wise area irrigated;
- v) Cropping pattern.

In Phase III, referred generally as Input Survey, relates to collection of data on pattern of input use (fertilizer, irrigation seed, pest management), agriculture credit, size of the household, age and educational level of the holders, multiple cropping etc. across various crops, states and size group of holders. This survey is conducted in 7% selected villages in each Tehsil.

Frame

- In States where the revenue agency maintains the record of ownership of holdings and regular crop inspections are carried out, such records were the basis for conducting Phase-I of the Census operations.

- In non-land record States and Union Territories (UT) a list of land holding household is prepared in 20 percent villages which are same as those selected under the scheme for Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS) for the reference year of the Census.

Methodology

For the collection of data in the Agriculture Census, a modular approach of Census-cum-sample survey has been adopted.

States in the country have been grouped into two categories i.e. States with land record (covering 91% of the country area) and States/UT without land record (Punjab, though a land record State, followed the procedure for data collection as in case of non-land States).

The census is taken in three phases:

- Phase-I: Complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings in land record States and in all households of the sample villages of non-record States generating a short list of characteristics such as: number and area according to gender, social group of holders, types of holdings, size of holdings;

- Phase-II: detailed data on irrigation status, tenancy particulars, cropping pattern, terms of leasing, dispersal of holdings etc. are collected by means of a sample survey;

- Phase-III (Input Survey): relates to collection of data on input use pattern of operational holdings in the country according to major data size groups and various crops.

Sampling designs: Phase-I in Non-land record States/UT and Phase II and all States are one-stage sampling schemes where 20% of villages in such Tehsil/Taluka are selected. Phase III in all cases is a two-stage sampling design where in the first stage, villages are selected (7% of villages in each Tehsil) and in the second stage, households are sampled in the selected villages.

Data source

Agriculture Census of India Technical Notes. Agricultural Census 2010-2011, All India Report on Number and Area of Operational Holdings. Census Questionnaires and Census Manuals.

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