
MEXICO - VIII Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Census 2007- Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Previous surveys were conducted in 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1981 and 1991.

Legal basis and organization

On April 7, 2006, the Mexican Political Constitution was reformed, adding sub-item B to its Article 26, establishing that Mexico will have a National Statistical and Geographical Information System (SNIEG). Based on this constitutional provision, Congress approved the Law of the SNIEG on March 11, 2008. The system is ruled and coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) (Article 52). Article 59 entrusts the Institute (Article 59) the undertaking of the National Censuses. The statistical program includes performing an agricultural census every 10 years. The 8th Agriculture and Forestry Census employed 14 462 enumerators and 2 930 field supervisors. The 8th Agriculture and Forestry Census was performed in two operational stages in the year 2007: the land plot enumeration and data collection. For the enumeration stage 19,033 people were recruited, from which 12,401 were enumerators, 2526 chiefs of enumerators and control and support staff. During the data collection stage, a structure of 21 556 people, 14 462 interviewers and 2 930 chiefs of interviewers was employed.

Enumeration period

Land plot enumeration was carried out from June 11 to July 6, 2007 and with a two-week period for attention to lags, concluding this stage on July 20.

Reference period/date

Different reference periods were adopted:

- March to September 2007, for the identification of land farmed by the owner and their characteristics, as well as all the information on the spring-summer cycle crops.
- October 2006 - February 2007, for the autumn-winter cycle crops.
- Day of the interview for perennial crops, type of irrigation and demographic characteristics.
- October 2006 - September 2007, for the use of machinery and equipment, agricultural practices, animal practices, agricultural facilities, end-use of products and forest exploitation. The same period for credit, insurance, government support and other services, affiliation to agricultural organizations, training and technical assistance.
- Last five years: forest planting and potentially agricultural land.
- September 30, 2007, stocks on animals, beehives, machinery and equipment.

Definition of the statistical unit

The production unit is defined as the set of land plots located in the same municipality and managed by a single administration, with or without agricultural or forestry activity in the rural area or with agricultural activity in the urban area, as well the animals owned or bred under the same administration to exploit their meat, milk, eggs, leather, honey, or for work, regardless of their location. Holdings are classified as: ejido, communal, private property and public property.

Geographical coverage

The census covered the entire country.

Statistical coverage

Data collection of the 8th Census of Agriculture and Forestry 2007 considered all the agricultural and forestry activities performed in the country formed by a universe of 5.5 million production units, result of the enumeration besides all households with animal breeding and animal exploitation, as well as lands without agriculture or forestry activity found in locations with less than 9,000 inhabitants.

Data items coverage

Besides covering all the items in the main module of the WCA2010 FAO program; crops, end use of products, demography, livestock, use and stock of equipment, credit, irrigation, agricultural practices and agricultural and forestry services were covered.

Frame

The census frame was built as a result of the land plot enumeration, from which the directory of producers by locality was obtained. Two strategies were used for data collection: the first was the door to door localization of farmers, based on the full route coverage on all the locations with less than 9 000 inhabitants, who provided the information requested on the census questionnaire. The second strategy was to locate the

farmers through a directed visit in locations with more than 9 000 inhabitants, and apply the respective questionnaire. This operational phase was performed from October 1st to November 30th, 2007. The land enumeration identified 9.3 million land plots, from which 8.9 million formed the census universe. The data collection stage obtained information on 5.5 million production units from which 4.01 million had activity and 1.49 did not report any activity.

Methodology

The methodology for the census considered a complete enumeration process of land plots in rural areas, their owners and of the producers that manage them, supported by cartographic products with satellite image background. During the data collection, the questionnaire was applied to producers by direct interview. The questionnaire was incorporated on a PDA mobile device in a digital format; thereby the answers were registered and stored in this tool. The device also had the production units' information incorporated, which was geo-statistically referenced during the enumeration.

Data dissemination and use

The data and final results were disseminated on Internet through a set of 133 national tabulated and the main results for each state; also, the questionnaire, glossary, a document with a summary of the main procedures and results, and a publication with the methodology appear on the site. All the reports and documents are available on the website: <http://www.inegi.org.mx/est/contenidos/proyectos/agro/default.aspx>.

Special features

Among the most important features that stand out in this statistical event are the uses of a mobile PDA in both stages, and obtaining the geo-reference of the land plots that form the production units, through satellite image printed cartography. This allowed having a statistical frame for the planning, development and execution of subsequent events.

Data Source

INEGI, VIII Censo Agrícola, Ganadero y Forestal 2007. (INEGI, Censo Agropecuario 2007). Website.

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