

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – 2006 All-Russia Census of Agriculture– Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first census of agriculture in Russia was conducted in 1920. Since then until 2006 only special thematic censuses were conducted, in particular: censuses of crop sown areas (in 1964, 1976 and 1985), fruit and berry plantations and vineyards (in 1970 and 1984), livestock (each year during 1960-1964 and in 1980) covering holdings of all types, and a census of livestock in 1996 covering holdings operated by households. The 2006 Census of Agriculture was the first comprehensive agricultural census conducted in the country in line with WCA recommendations.

Legal Basis and Organization

The Federal Law “On the All-Russia Census of Agriculture” No.108-FZ dated July 21, 2005 provides an overall legal basis for conduction of agricultural censuses in the country. The Law envisages conducting agricultural censuses at least once in every ten years. It does not specify the agency responsible for conducting the agricultural census, leaving this to the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation for each specific census. The Law states that financial resources for the organization and conducting the census should be provided from the federal budget.

The 2006 Census of Agriculture was conducted on the basis of the Decree No.651 dated October 31, 2005 of the Russian Government “On Organization of the All-Russia Census of Agriculture”. The decree laid the main responsibility of conducting the census on Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), but also instructed other organizations and ministries to provide assistance to Rosstat in matters related to their area of competence.

For organization of the field work, around 136 300 enumeration areas, 23 400 supervisor areas and 3 600 coordinator areas were created. In total, around 200 000 temporary census staff (registrators, enumerators, supervisors, coordinators) participated in data collection.

Enumeration period

The enumeration was carried out in the country during 1 to 25 July 2006, , except for the remote and difficult access areas (Far North and areas equated to it), where the census data were collected from 15 September to 15 November 2006.

Reference date/period

The reference date was 1 July 2006 for the data on land use, land tenure, livestock numbers, permanent crops and currently available labour force. In Far North and areas equated to it, the alternative optional reference date of 1 September 2006 was introduced for livestock.

For temporary crops sown areas, use of fertilizers, pesticides and soil improvement procedures the collected data referred to the harvest of 2006. The use of labour force and sales of agricultural production referred to the period 1 January to 31 December 2005. .

Definitions

Agricultural census enumeration unit was defined as a legal or natural person that owns, uses or rents land designated or used for agricultural production, or possesses livestock.

The following four categories of units were enumerated during the census: 1) agricultural enterprises; 2) individual entrepreneurs and private farms; 3) households in rural and urban settlements owning plots for subsistence farming; and 4) horticultural, kitchen-garden, livestock-growing or dacha non-profit associations.

Geographical coverage

The census covered the entire territory of the country.

Data items coverage

Four questionnaires were used for collecting information, one for each category of enumeration units. The information collected during the census covered the following items: general information, labour force

and their demographic characteristics, land, sown areas of temporary crops and areas of permanent crops, livestock, sale of agricultural production, infrastructure, machinery and equipment, distribution of the shares among shareholders (for agricultural enterprises), agricultural services provided to the household (for households owning plots for subsistence farming).

Frame

The creation of the census frame (lists of enumeration units) was a major pre-census activity. The sources of list compilation were: Statistical Business Register of Rosstat, State Land Register maintained by Real Estate Agency of Russian Federation, Household Books (Registers) in the village administrations, State Register of Real Estate Rights and Transactions, records of Technical Inventory Bureaus, records of the Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service, records from the bodies of the State Technical Supervision Service, State Register of Urban Development and the lists of households in the urban settlements compiled for the 2002 Census of Population.

Methodology

A combination of complete enumeration and sampling was applied.

Complete enumeration covered: agricultural enterprises, private farms, individual entrepreneurs, kitchen-garden, livestock-growing or dacha non-profit associations, households in rural settlements, households in urban settlements with less than 500 households.

Sampling enumeration covered urban settlements with more than 500 households, as well as operated plots of kitchen-garden, livestock-growing or dacha non-profit associations.

In urban settlements with more than 500 households, those with livestock and/or large land area (the threshold being established individually for each urban settlement) were singled out into a separate stratum and enumerated completely. For the remaining households, 20 percent simple random sample was used.

In order to obtain more detailed information for kitchen-garden, livestock-growing or dacha non-profit associations, within each of them a systematic random sample was selected from the list of operated plots, and each selected plot was enumerated using the annex of the corresponding questionnaire. The sampling rate depended on the total number of operated plots in the association: 100% for less than 10 plots, 50% for 10 to 99 plots, 25% for 100 to 199 plots, 20% for 200 to 299 plots, 15% for 300 to 499 plots, and 10% for more than 500 plots.

Data collection method:

Representatives of agricultural enterprises were given the paper questionnaires during the instruction seminars organized for them and the filled in questionnaires were sent back by mail to the territorial statistical office. Face-to face interviews with paper questionnaires were conducted for the remaining census units.

Data Dissemination and Use

The final results of the 2006 All-Russia Census of Agriculture were printed in 9 volumes published in 2008. The volumes contain census methodology, legal framework, census instruments, instructions, data tables, diagrams and maps. The electronic versions of the volumes were also issued on 2 CDs. They are available on the website of Rosstat <http://www.gks.ru/news/perepis2006/totals-osn.htm>.

Data source

“Results of All–Russia Census of Agriculture 2006” (on 9 volumes), Volume 8: “All–Russia Census of Agriculture 2006: The programme, Methodology and Organization”, Moscow 2008.

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