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## **SOUTH AFRICA – Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 – Explanatory Notes**

### **1. Historical outline**

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts an Annual agriculture and related services survey and a Census of Commercial Agriculture every five years. The last annual survey was conducted for 2013 and the most recent Census of 2007 was preceded by the first one in 2002. The 2012 Census was not collected due to lack of funding.

Information is collected via post, e-mail, telephone and personal visits to enterprises engaged in commercial farming across South Africa. This collected information is specific to the agricultural sector, and aims at establishing and evaluating trends and challenges in the sector in the form of time series data. It captures income generated from crop and livestock production, employment, current and capital expenditure in the agricultural sector.

### **2. Legal basis and organisation**

Statistics South Africa is mandated to provide the state with information about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation in the country. The enabling legislation is the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999), and the fundamental principles of official statistics of the United Nations applies.

### **3. Reference period or date**

The reference date for 2007 Census was the financial year ending on any date between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2007. For the number of owners, family members and employees involved in farming activities the reference date was 28 February 2007.

### **4. Enumeration period**

The specific date that the questionnaires were mailed out to respondents were between 01 July 2007 and 05 August 2007 and asked to return the completed questionnaires no later than 30 September 2007.

### **5. Definition of the statistical unit**

The census data were collected from enterprises. An enterprise is a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.

The census covered the following tax-registered private and public enterprises involved in agriculture:

- (1) Growing of crops, market gardening and horticulture;
- (2) Farming of animals;
- (3) Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming); and
- (4) Agricultural and animal husbandry services, except veterinary activities.

### **6. Geographic coverage**

The entire country was covered.

### **7. Exclusions and cut-off thresholds**

Exclusions include all agricultural households growing crops or raising livestock solely for own consumption and not registered for tax, i.e. subsistence and small-holder farmers.

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## **8. Methodology**

### ***FAO modular approach***

The modular approach was not used.

### ***Frame***

The Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 covers enterprises that are mainly engaged in farming and farm-related services and activities, which were active during the period 01 March 2006 to 28 February 2007. This includes all enterprises classified as Code 11 on the 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (SIC) and are registered for tax. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions.

### ***Complete or sample enumeration methods***

The Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 was an enumeration of the list of all the enterprises that met the frame criteria in the year 2007.

### ***Sample design***

Complete enumeration, not a sample.

### ***Collection method***

Information was collected by means of a questionnaire, which was posted, e-mailed or faxed to respondents and personal visits were made to assist respondents with completion of the questionnaire. Questionnaires were sent to each of the 93 246 enterprises that met the frame criteria in the year 2006/07.

### ***Questionnaire(s)***

The questionnaire included questions on: (1) the growing of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seeds, trees in a nursery, bulbs, vegetables and flowers in the open air or under cover; (2) operations at nurseries excluding those predominantly engaged in reselling; (3) operation of tea, coffee and sugar plantations; (4) raising of livestock, game, poultry, rabbits, freshwater fish, fur-bearing and other animals; and (5) the production of milk, wool, pelts/fur, eggs and honey.

The Census of Commercial Agriculture 2007 covered the following categories of enterprises: the growing of crops, the rearing of animals, and mixed farming (a combination of crops and livestock).

### ***Controls to minimise non-sampling errors***

- Careful design of questionnaires and testing them in pilot studies.
- Training manuals were prepared and collectors trained.
- Capturing system equipped with warnings and consistency checks.
- Tabulation plans finalised together with the questionnaire.

### ***Innovative methodologies***

- Collection by e-mail (not done in 2002).
- Logiplus system used for data validation.

## **9. Data entry, edits, imputation and tabulation**

- Data captured manually.
- Capturing system equipped with warnings and consistency checks.
- Tabulation plans finalised together with the questionnaire.
- Ratio imputation used for both item and unit non-response.

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## **10. Data dissemination and use**

The collected data are analysed and the findings are disseminated through press releases and publications via hard copy and on Statistics South Africa's website ([www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)).

## **11. Census data quality**

Comparisons were made with the frame and estimates of the 2002 Census of Commercial Agriculture and the estimates from the Annual agriculture and related services survey, as well as various sources that reported on the sector.

## **12. Data sources**

FAO ESS World Census of Agriculture 2010, Country Documents  
[www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2010/countryinfo/en/](http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2010/countryinfo/en/)  
[http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page\\_id=735&id=4](http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=735&id=4)

## **13. Contact**

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<http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/>