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# Bangladesh – Census of Agriculture 2008 - Explanatory Notes

## 1. Historical outline

Previous censuses were undertaken in 1960 (as East Pakistan), 1977 (sampling), 1983-84 and 1996.

## 2. Legal basis and organization

Agriculture censuses are carried out under legal mandates of the Agricultural Census ACT No.XLI of 1958 (as amended in 1983). The Act, inter alia, authorizes the government to appoint a Commissioner (Director- General) and other officials for conducting the census.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is responsible for all official statistics of the country including the census of agriculture as well as agricultural sampling surveys.

A technical committee of 21 members including Director- General of BBS as chairman, Project Director as member-secretary, and experts from the own BBS, Universities, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, Department of Fisheries, Directorate of Forest, was constituted for deciding finalizations of census methodologies, questionnaires, training & field manuals, and all other census processes. Also, census committees at different administrative divisions were formed.

FAO provided technical assistance.

The country was divided in 153 945 Enumeration Areas (EA) covering 1 978 zones. The data collection involved 150 000 enumerators supervised by 19 529 supervisors at a rate of 7 to 8 enumerators by supervisor. 1 978 zonal officers acted supervising supervisors. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics appointed 534 upazila/thana census coordinators, 69 district coordinators, 21 regional census coordinators and 8 division census coordinators to complete the field work.

## 3. Enumeration period

There were two enumeration periods corresponding to the two phases of the census: May 11th to 25th May 2008 for the first phase of complete enumeration and Nov 15th to Dec 4th, 2008 for the sampling survey performed in the second phase.

## 4. Reference period/date

The census year covered twelve months from April 14, 2007 to April 13, 2008. This was the reference period for such census items as operated land use, crops, agriculture employment, livestock & poultry deaths, and agriculture loan. A single reference day was used for items like holdings, farm size, land tenure, farm population, livestock & poultry inventories, and agriculture implements.

## 5. Definition of the statistical unit:

The statistical unit is the agricultural holding defined as a techno-economic unit of agricultural production under a single management, which is generally operated by a household or jointly by two or more households. In some limited cases, this economic unit is operated by institutions or establishments or government and semi-government organizations or other agencies or by a judicial person. In almost all cases, households and agriculture holdings have a one to one correspondence. The households operating agricultural land and raising livestock & poultry can be regarded definitive equivalents of agriculture holdings. Reliable data regarding households, agriculture labour households, and households taking loan can only be obtained if households are treated as being enumeration units. In such context, it was decided to take the household as enumeration unit for the census.

All holdings were classified according to size in:

- Small those with total land area between 0.05 and 2.49 acres;

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- Medium those holdings operating total area between 2.5 and 7.49 acres; and
  - Large holdings operating more than 7.5 acres of land.

According to **land tenure**, holders were classified as:

- Owner;
- Tenant;
- Owner-cum-tenant

## **6. Geographical coverage**

The census covered the whole country. Both rural and urban areas were covered.

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

Agriculture census 2008 was a household based country-wide venture. The census programme was a complete count of all agriculture holdings with more than 0.05 acres of land, managed by dwelling households. The scope of this census included all agriculture holdings held and operated by dwelling households at the time of census taking. Thus, the agriculture holdings managed under other than dwelling households were excluded.

## **8. Methodology**

The census was conducted in two phases:

- full count with a short questionnaire in the first phase, and
- a sample survey with a long questionnaire in the second phase.

In both phases personal interview with paper questionnaires was applied.

## **Questionnaire(s)**

All items of the core module were covered. From supplementary modules the following items were also investigated: equipment, and farming system; agriculture employment; irrigated area under crops; stock of livestock and poultry; agriculture credit and agriculture implements.

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

## **10. Data Dissemination and Use**

Data were disseminated by means of printed reports and through the website.

## **11. Census data quality**

Upon completion of field work of full count census, a post enumeration check (PEC) was done in order to assess the census data quality. The PEC findings are available in a report published separately.

## **12. Data source**

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2008 "Structure of Agricultural Holdings and Livestock Population", Volume-1, November, 2010 BANGLADESH.

## **13. Contact**

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