

# PALESTINE - Agricultural Census 2010 – Explanatory note

## 1. Historical Outline

Agricultural Census 2010 is the first Agricultural Census in Palestine. The implementation of the agricultural census was in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. Before Census 2010 the data on agriculture depended on records of the MOA and on Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics PCBS Farm Structure Survey, 2004/2005 and Tree Horticulture Survey, 2006.

## 2. Legal Basis and Organization

To conduct an agricultural census every ten years according to the General Statistics Law No. 4 of 2000. The decision to implement the agricultural census was taken by the President of the State of Palestine through a presidential decree giving Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics full responsibility for implementing the agricultural census. The Agricultural Census 2010 was carried out with joint funding from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB) and the European Union (EU). Number of staff involved in the census operation is 1,159: enumerators 687, supervisors 83, editors and coders 97, data entry personnel 103, Others 189.

## 3. Reference Period or Date

The agricultural year.

## 4. Enumeration Period

The enumeration period of the Agricultural Census 2010 was from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2010 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in the West Bank and the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in the Gaza Strip.

## 5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

The statistical unit is the agricultural holding. Common grazing lands, public parks, fishing and all land not included in an agricultural holding are not included in the Agricultural Census according to the recommendations of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Agricultural Holding: An economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all kept livestock and all land used totally or partially for agricultural production purposes regardless of legal form or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative, or government agency. The land of the holding may consist of one or more parcels located in one or more separate areas, or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels share the same means of production such as labour, farm buildings, machinery, or draught animals.

## 6. Geographic Coverage

The census covered all of Palestine, including rural and urban areas and refugee camps.

## 7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

Not explicitly stated and none noted.

## **8. Methodology**

### ***Framework***

The frame of the Agricultural Census 2010 includes a complete record of holdings by households and collaborative institutions. The frame was prepared by listing all holders through visiting every household, using maps to reach all addresses. The maps of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 were utilized to serve field work activities of the Agricultural Census 2010. Field workers were provided with detailed maps of the enumeration areas. Supervisors were assigned the responsibility to delineate the boundaries of the enumeration areas while field workers were instructed to assign new buildings after 2007 accurately on the maps

### ***Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods***

Complete enumeration of all the agricultural holdings over the whole country

### ***Collection Method***

Personal interviews with responses recorded on printed questionnaires.

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

Two questionnaires were designed to collect data covered by the census. The first questionnaire was designed to list households and agricultural holdings, while the second was related to the enumeration of the agricultural holdings. Items and variables were as follows: Household and agricultural holdings questionnaire: this included data on households and agricultural holdings, in addition to identification data, building name or owner, type of building, current use of the building, the total number of housing units in the building, current use of housing unit, the name of the householder, number of household members (males, females), and number of holdings of the household. Agricultural holdings enumeration questionnaire: The enumeration questionnaire of the agricultural holdings included the following: Identification data; Holders and holding data; Land use; Crops/field crops, vegetables, horticultural trees; Farm animals; Agricultural labour force; Agricultural machinery and equipment; Agricultural practices.

## **9. Data Entry, Edits, Imputation and Tabulation**

Data processing included all activities that followed the field work, such as office editing of questionnaires, coding, data entry and computer editing. Special data processing programs were developed and tested to capture the census data. The computer was used to enter the data of the households and holdings listing and enumeration questionnaires. The technical team followed up the data processing, testing its accuracy and quality and comparing it with the preliminary results and other data resources, in addition to preparing the tables and the report of the final results of the census in Palestine. The data entry program was prepared using Oracle and Access software and data entry screens were designed. Data analysis using statistical analysis software such as SPSS.

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

A tabulation plan of the main reports was drawn up. This plan was related to the dissemination of the main census results on a national level, as well as for the West Bank and Gaza Strip separately and for each governorate. The Census of Agriculture is available from printed reports, CD's, the website of PCBS.

## **11. Census data quality**

The impact of errors on data quality was minimized due to the high level of competency and professional performance of the well-trained field work team, and also due to the existence of a quality control program to prevent or minimize errors as much as possible, find these errors when they occurred, and take the relevant procedures to correct them. A strict quality control system was established at all stages of the census, from the preparatory stage to the data processing and dissemination stage, to ensure that highly accurate data would be obtained. Quality control in the preparatory stage is crucial as it is succeeded by all census stages. Therefore, adequate time and appropriate procedures were taken into consideration at each stage to ensure high quality and authentic census data.

## **12. Data Sources**

<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/DesktopDefault.aspx?lang=en>

## **13. Contact**

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