
Thailand– 2013 Agricultural Census- Explanatory Notes

1. Historical outline

Previous censuses of agriculture in Thailand were undertaken in 1950, 1963, 1978, 1993 and 2003.

2. Legal basis and organization

Under the Statistics Act 2007, the National Statistical Office (NSO) is mandated to carry out censuses of the country. The overall responsibility for the Agricultural Census corresponds to the National Statistical Office in cooperation with the Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture. The census was entirely funded through the National Budget. A National Census Administration Committee was formed with representatives from the National Statistical office and related Ministries. Inside the National Statistical Office, census subcommittees were operative on the following operations: Questionnaire and Instruction; Mapping; Public Relations; and Data Processing. About 15,000 field enumerators, 3,000 field supervisors and 2000 NSO staff worked directly in the census operations.

3. Reference period/date

Items referred to identification and main characteristics of holdings, land use, area with crops and livestock were taken as of May 1, 2013. Items about production referred to the past 12 months from the date of census.

4. Enumeration period

The census was conducted during one month in May 2013.

5. Definition of the statistical unit

The enumeration unit was the holding defined as: A holding is an economic unit of agricultural production (cultivating crops, rearing livestock and culturing fresh water) under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title or legal form. The holding's land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas of the same province.

Holdings are classified according to legal status in:

1. A household
2. Two or more individuals / households
3. Company / partnership
4. Government agency
5. Others

6. Geographical coverage

Data collection covered the whole country.

7. Exclusions and cut-off thresholds

All households involved in agricultural production and all non-household agricultural holdings were covered by the census.

8. Methodology

The census was a combination of complete and sampling enumeration. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part was used for collecting data on basic agricultural structure from

all holdings whereas the second part was used for collecting data on other agricultural structure data from a 25% sample of holdings.

Data were collected by means of electronic tablets so it is a “Computer Assisted Personal Interview” (CAPI) collection.

Framework

A screening form was applied to all households in order to detect and list agricultural holdings or fishing households.

Questionnaire(s)

All items of the WCA 2010 core module and many items from the supplementary modules such as: land use, land tenure and crops by parcel, production of rice, type of rice seeds used, end use of production, aquaculture species raised and aquaculture status, use of machinery by type and source, etc. The census also covered sea-salt farms, marine fishery and coastal aquaculture.

9. Data Entry, Edits, Imputation and Tabulation

Data capture and processing methods used: manual data entry, scanning of forms (OCR/OMR/ICR), CAPI, GPS coordinates. Sources used for imputation. Programs used for analysis and tabulations (SPSS...)

10. Data Dissemination and Use

11. Census data quality.

After the completion of census field work, NSO has carried out the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) in order to evaluate the quality of census data. The PES was conducted for all households of the selected enumeration areas throughout the country. The Stratified Single-Stage Sampling was applied to this PES. There were four strata referring to four regions – Central, North, Northeast and South and provinces in each region were represented as sub-strata. Within each sub-strata, the enumeration areas were systematically selected; the total samples were 1,280 enumeration areas. After the PES field operation, information between the census and the PES were processed for matching check. And then the process for investigation was to analyse and evaluate errors of the census coverage and the census content.

Special features

The census included sea-salt farms, marine fishery and coastal aquaculture.

12. Data source

Preliminary Report, 2013 Agricultural Census, National Statistical Office, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Bangkok, 2013.

Census questionnaires and census methodology.

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