
BOTSWANA - Agricultural Census 1993 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Since 1967, the Government of Botswana has been generating national agricultural statistics through an annual agricultural sample survey on crops and livestock. The first livestock census was carried out in 1971, while the first agricultural census, which covered both livestock and crops, was conducted in 1982. The census was based on a sample larger than the annual agricultural survey with both the scope and coverage more expanded. Data presented are from the 1993 Botswana Agricultural Census (1993 BAC), which aimed to establish new data bench-mark for the agricultural sector and a frame for annual surveys to be conducted over the next ten years.

Organization: The 1993 BAC was conducted under the overall responsibility of the Central Statistics Office in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). Within MOA, the major operational responsibility for the census was given to the Agricultural Statistics Unit (ASU). Technical and financial assistance were also provided by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO). A total of 200 enumerators were employed to carry out the field operations.

Enumeration period: Data collection for the Traditional Sector lasted from May 1993 to January 1994. Data collection periods for the Commercial Sector were the month of September 1993 and the period December 1993 to January 1994, with a few data collection operations lasting until February 1994.

Reference date: The reference date for structural data (i.e. demographic characteristics, land use, etc.) was the day of enumeration. The reference date for crops was the agricultural season, starting, in Botswana, in October with ploughing and planting operations, and ending in August of following year with crop harvesting operations. The time reference for livestock was the 12 month period preceding the enumeration day.

Definition: Holding - is an economic unit of agricultural production, under single management, comprising total land area, cultivated or under fallow, and livestock owned, managed, rented or operated by the holder. A holding may consist of one or more pieces of land, located inside or outside the selected block, in one or more separated areas, but inside the same Agricultural District, provided the pieces of land share the same production means utilized by the holding.

Coverage: The Census covered the entire country. The statistical population for the 1993 BAC consisted of all agricultural holdings in the rural areas, including large villages considered urban in the 1991 Population and Housing Census. This universe was divided into two parts, i.e. the Traditional and the Commercial Sector.

Frame: The 1982 Block Sampling Frame, used for traditional holdings in the annual surveys, was updated with information obtained from the 1991 Population and Housing Census. A total of 3471 blocks were constructed and a sample of 999 blocks (clusters) was selected. The list prepared by the CSO, and reporting information from the Register of Deeds, was used as the frame for commercial holdings.

Methods: The sampling design of the 1993 BAC was a probability stratified cluster (block) two-stage sample. In the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) or Clusters (Blocks), further classified into three strata, i.e. Village stratum (1251 blocks), Land stratum (1589 blocks), and Cattle Post stratum (667 blocks), within each of the 26 Agricultural Districts, were selected systematically and with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) of the number of total dwellings (occupied and not occupied). In the second stage, around 8000 Holdings or Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs) were systematically selected. In traditional sector, data were collected through direct interview and objective measurement techniques were applied. In commercial sector, questionnaires were mailed to holdings, with interviewers visiting non-respondents for an interview.

Data source: Division of Agricultural Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture - Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning - 1993 Botswana Agricultural Census Report - Gaborone, December 1995.

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