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## COLOMBIA - Agricultural Census 1988 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** An attempt to conduct a census of agriculture in Colombia was made in 1951 but, due to several difficulties, the census was not accomplished. In 1960 the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) carried out, through direct interview, the First National Census of Agriculture and Livestock. In 1970-71 DANE conducted the Second National Census of Agriculture and Livestock. However, the Third National Census of Agriculture and Livestock, scheduled for 1980, was not done due to technical and financial problems. In 1985 the Ministry of Agriculture began developing plans for establishing the Agricultural Statistical Sample System (SEAM) which aimed to complete the First National Agricultural Sample Survey, conducted in 1988.

**Organization:** The Sample Survey was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Agricultural Planning Regional Units, the Agriculture and Planning Departmental Offices and DANE. Technical assistance was provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, together with the UN Development Program.

**Enumeration period:** The census was conducted between April and June 1988.

**Reference date:** Data on holding and holder characteristics, land use, permanent crops and livestock refer to the enumeration day. Data on crop production refer to the periods June-December 1987 and January-August 1988. Data on employment and farm population refer to the week ending on the Sunday preceding the day of enumeration.

**Definition:** The basic statistical unit is the Agricultural Production Unit, which is defined as any piece of land on which an agricultural production activity is carried out under a single management or together with others, without regard to tenure, legal status, size or location.

**Coverage:** The census was carried out in 23 departments of the country. Areas considered of insignificant agricultural value, areas 100% under woods or forests, and cities or city-suburbs, were excluded from the coverage.

**Frame:** The frame was based on the Sampling Segments, pieces of land identified by physical or cultural boundaries, into which the total area of the departments was subdivided for census purposes.

**Methods:** The total area to be investigated was subdivided into a certain number of Sampling Segments, following three steps:

- Stratification and sub-stratification of the universe, based on the "use of land".
- Identification, on the basis of physical or cultural boundaries, of the Primary Sampling Units (PSU) consisting of an area of about 5, 10, or 12 square kilometres.
- Subdivision of each PSU into Sampling Segments, the secondary sampling units, consisting of an area of about 1, 2, 3 or 4 square kilometres.

Subsequently, a two-stage stratified sample design was applied: at the first stage, the PSUs were systematically selected with probability proportional to the number of Sampling Segments existing in every PSU; at the second stage, one Sampling Segment for each PSU selected in the first stage, was randomly drawn.

**Data source:** República de Colombia, Ministerio de Agricultura, Primera Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria, Febrero 1990.

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