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## CONGO, DEM. REP. of - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** The first General Agricultural Census in the Democratic Republic of Congo was carried out in 1970, while the second, to which these data refer, was conducted in 1988-90.

**Organization:** The Census was undertaken by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. Financial assistance was given by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank. Technical assistance was given by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Regional Agricultural Inspectorates selected the field staff, which consisted of 451 enumerators, 150 controllers, and 40 supervisors.

**Enumeration period:** The census was conducted in 1988-1990.

**Reference date:** The reference period was the agricultural year 1988-89 for the regions of Bandundu, Lower Congo, Equateur, Shaba, Kivu, East and West Kasai, while for the Upper Congo and Kinshasa regions it was the agricultural year 1989-90.

**Definition:** Since traditional agriculture is almost totally managed by rural households, the agricultural holdings were defined as rural household in which at least one member, not necessarily the chief of the household, was engaged in agricultural operations. Households without land and not raising livestock were not considered agricultural holdings.

**Coverage:** Agricultural holdings of the traditional sector from all over the country were included, while holdings belonging to the modern sector were excluded from the census.

**Frame:** A list of villages was used as frame for the Village Sample Survey; a list of agricultural holdings was subsequently prepared, to be used as frame for the Agricultural Holdings Sample Survey which followed the Village survey.

**Methods:** A stratified two-stage sample survey was carried out. First rural communities (generally including several villages), town-quarters, and regional and sub-regional chief-towns, considered as three different strata, were systematically divided into two halves, each with the same approximately population, and one half was retained. Then, 50 villages (the primary sampling units) were systematically selected, with a random start, from each retained half-community. At this stage a "village questionnaire" was filled in for the 50 sample villages, to complete the Village Sample Survey. Out of the 50 villages sampled in each community, a sub-sample of 5 villages (10 in Lower Congo region, in order to balance the size of the sampling units), was retained. A fixed number of 5 agricultural holdings (the secondary sampling units) were selected from each of the 5 villages, while 10 holdings were selected from each town-quarter and from each chief-town, to form a national sample of 11615 agricultural holdings.

**Data source:** Recensement Général de l'Agriculture Zaïroise 1988-90 - Résultats définitifs - Février 1991.

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