

GUAM - Agricultural Census 1987 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The United States carried out its first agricultural census of Guam in 1920 with the decennial population census of that year; the agriculture enumeration continued as part of the decennial effort through 1960. In 1964 Guam was included in the quinquennial agriculture census plan.

Organization: In April 1987, the Director of Commerce for Guam signed an agreement with the US Bureau of the Census for undertaking a census of agriculture: the Bureau of the Census agreed to provide technical assistance at various levels, and the territorial Government accepted responsibility for recruiting and training local office and field staff, and supervising local administrative matters. The Agriculture Division of the Bureau of the Census conducted both Agriculture and Economic Censuses in Guam. A census office of the Bureau was established in Tamuning. The census staff was composed of 1 project manager, 2 crew leaders, 3 office clerks and 19 enumerators.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out in late February and March 1988, lasting for about nine weeks. It started immediately before the 1987 Economic Census.

Reference date: The reference dates/periods are:

- the enumeration day for Inventory data;
- the calendar year 1987 for Production data.

Definitions:

- Farm is any place that had sales of US \$100 or more of agricultural products during the census year.
- Special Farm is a "large holding " having minimum annual sales of agricultural products of US \$500, or having at least 20 acres (8.1 Ha) of land.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: Lists of households in each Enumeration District (ED) were used on the basis of those already prepared for the 1982 Agriculture Census and the 1980 Census of Population and Housing. A list of probable Special Farms, identified by using the 1982 Agriculture Census lists and information from the local Department of Agriculture, was also prepared.

Methods: Guam was divided into 19 EDs, clearly delineated on special maps; an enumerator was assigned to each ED. The complete enumeration of all agricultural operations was conducted through direct interview, using three different methods based on density of population:

- In predominantly rural EDs, a door-to-door canvass of every household in an ED was carried out.
- In built-up areas with 25 or more dwellings, each laying on a piece of land of 0.4 Ha or less, only those households associated with agricultural operations were listed.
- In EDs having 10 or fewer farms listed in the 1982 agricultural census, the interviewers visited each place pre-qualified as a farm in their lists and added to the pre-listed farms those newly identified. The enumerators were also given lists of Special Farms located in each ED. As a result of the field operations, a total of 351 farms were enumerated.

Data source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census - 1987 Census of Agriculture - Guam - Vol. 1, Part 53 - March 1989.

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