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## ITALY - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

**Historical outline:** Italy first participated in the World Census of Agriculture with the 1930 Agricultural Census, carried out by the Central Statistical Institute of the Kingdom of Italy. After the Second World War, censuses of agriculture were conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) in 1961, 1970 and 1982. Consequently, the General Census of Agriculture of 21 October 1990 is the fifth taken in Italy.

**Organization:** The ISTAT was entrusted with the Census by prime-ministerial decree. As a result, a Census Committee with advisory functions, composed of university professors and representatives from public bodies and associations, was created in the preparatory phase of the census. The peripheral organization for the execution of the census was based upon the following organs:

- Regional Census Commissions, established by the President of ISTAT in each of the 20 regions of the country;
- Provincial Census Committees;
- Provincial Census offices, established in each of the 95 provinces of the country;
- Inter-municipal Census Offices, providing technical assistance to the municipalities;
- Municipal Census Offices, established in each of the 8100 municipalities of the country, responsible for carrying out all census operations within their territories;
- 13,377 enumerators selected from personnel belonging to the municipal administration staff.

**Enumeration period:** Data collection was done in four months (100 working days), from 21 October 1990 to 22 February 1991.

**Reference date:** Data on tenure, land use, hired workers and use of machinery refer to the agricultural year 1 November 1989 - 31 October 1990. Data on total and agricultural area of holdings, legal status, livestock numbers, characteristics of residential and non-residential buildings refer to 21 October 1990. Data on employment of holder and holder's household members refer to the week preceding the enumeration day.

**Definition:** The selected survey unit was the agricultural, forestry, and livestock holding, defined as a technical-economic unit of agricultural production consisting of one or more plots of land, even noncontiguous or located in different municipalities, operated by a holder (physical person, company or public body) assuming the risk of management, alone or together with others.

**Coverage:** The census covered the entire country.

**Frame:** Each municipality was provided by ISTAT with the list of agricultural, forestry and livestock holdings located in its area of responsibility, based on the updated list of farms surveyed during the third General Census of Agriculture undertaken in 1982.

**Methods:** After completing preparatory operations, the Municipal Census Offices divided the territory of each municipality into census sections; the number of farms included in each section did not exceed 400. A pilot survey on a sample of 1600 holdings selected in 17 municipalities preceded the main census. The census was carried out by complete enumeration; no objective measurement was done by enumerators.

**Data source:** ISTAT - Caratteristiche Strutturali delle Aziende Agricole - Fascicolo Nazionale.

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