

NEPAL - Agricultural Census 1992 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Four Decennial Censuses of Agriculture were taken in Nepal: in 1962, 1972, 1982, and 1992.

Organization: The 1991-92 National Sample Census of Agriculture was organized and conducted under the responsibility of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), of the National Planning Commission Secretariat of His Majesty's Government. About 2,000 personnel were engaged in the field work; nearly 40 percent of enumerators, supervisors, officers at district level, and other census staff were seconded to the CBS from various government offices and about 50 percent were locally recruited. The census was carried out with technical and financial assistance from the UN Development Program and from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

Enumeration period: The census enumeration was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, from January to March 1992, the enumeration was carried out in 60 Districts in Terai and Hills areas. The remaining 15 Himalayan Districts were enumerated during April to June 1992.

Reference date: Data were collected with respect to the twelve-month reference period January to December 1991. Information on land area and livestock was collected with respect to the day of enumeration.

Definition: The main statistical unit of the agricultural census is the agricultural holding, which is defined as an economic unit of agricultural production reporting at least:

- an area under crops of 0.012 Ha in hill/mountain districts, and of 0.014 Ha in lowland districts, or
- 2 cattle or buffaloes or
- 5 sheep or goats or
- 20 poultry or
- a combination of livestock equivalent to 2 cattle/buffaloes.

Holdings without land are shown in the table as having a small area of land.

Coverage: The census covered all districts of the Kingdom. Only the agricultural holdings operated by households were included in the census; agricultural activities undertaken by government organizations, businesses, etc. were excluded from the census.

Frame: Some 5,100 Enumeration Areas (EA), including at least 30 holdings, were firstly selected. Lists of all agricultural holdings in each EA, used as the basis for the selection of the Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sample, were obtained from the Population Census. The holdings were identified on the basis of the place of residence of the holder.

Methods: The basic sampling methodology used was a two-stage sampling applied as follows:

- First stage: a stratified sample of EAs with probability proportional to the expected number of holdings (stratified PPS), was selected. To select the sample of EAs, the districts were divided into four groups according to the importance of their agricultural production.
- Second stage: within the selected EAs, a sample of 20 to 30 agricultural holdings was drawn using a stratified systematic random sampling. To select the sample, the universe of holdings was divided into four strata based on the size of holdings, and a systematic random sampling was applied to each stratum. All holdings in each district were given the same chance to be selected. The final sample at country level was of about 122,000 holdings (4.5 percent of the total).

The District of Manang was completely enumerated because of its small number of holdings.

Data source: His Majesty's Government - National Planning Commission Secretariat - Central Bureau of Statistics - National Sample Census of Agriculture 1991-92 - Kathmandu, Nepal 1993.

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