

NETHERLANDS - Agricultural Census 1989 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Until the 1980's the country undertook a General Census of Agriculture every ten years. However, due to rapid changes in the structure of the agriculture sector and 'respondents' fatigue' it was decided to suspend these censuses and include in the annual surveys a number of questions on structural aspects. The subjects covered in the annual surveys include therefore a range of production-related data and selected questions on structural aspects which may change from time to time. In addition, subjects of a more specialized nature may be included on an *ad-hoc* basis. A complete inventory of forest resources is undertaken every 15 years in close cooperation with the State Forestry Service.

Organization: The overall responsibility for data on the agricultural sector rests with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). It works closely together with the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly at the stages of data collection, for which the agricultural extension officers are used. On specialized subjects, CBS works in cooperation with the Department or Ministry concerned.

Enumeration period: The data collection took place during April-May 1989.

Reference date: In general, the data refer to the period April 1988 - March 1989; while for the area cultivated they refer to the situation in May 1988 and for the other elements (e.g. livestock) to the situation on the day of enumeration.

Coverage: The census covered all sectors of agriculture in the whole of the country. The questionnaire was the same as for the years 1987 and 1988.

Frame and Methods: The 'annual census' is carried out on a basis of complete enumeration of holdings that meet the minimum size criteria for inclusion. This size unit is based on the economic size of the holding, expressed in terms of standard gross margins for livestock and crop production. In the year 1989, the minimum value was 3700 ECU which was equivalent to about \$ 3600.

For the surveys on current agricultural statistics, the country is divided into 66 agricultural regions. In the preliminary crop estimates survey, agricultural extension staff complete questionnaires for each of these regions. The final estimate survey is carried out in a similar way, but with the involvement of more staff through the formation of local committees or consultation groups.

Data source: Landbouwtelling 1988 en 1989 (1991); Statistical Yearbooks, (annual).

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