

PARAGUAY - Agricultural Census 1991 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The first agricultural census in the country was conducted in 1942, the second in 1956, and a sampling census consisting of a sample of farms based on those appearing in the 1956 census was undertaken in 1961. The next census was carried out in 1981 through complete enumeration of all holdings. The last full agricultural census, to which these data refer, was conducted in 1991.

Organization: The central structure of statistics in the country is the Statistics and Census Office of the Ministry of Treasury, assigned by law to organize and coordinate the statistical services. The National Statistical Council, made up of representatives of planning organizations, banks, universities, etc., and headed by the Director General of the Statistics and Census Office, has the task of planning national statistics. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) is the body responsible for collection, preparation and publication of the statistics concerning agriculture, by taking censuses and carrying out periodic sampling surveys. The Agricultural Census and Statistics Division (DCEA), operating within the MAG structure, was responsible to the Minister, through the Technical Council, for undertaking the 1991 Agricultural Census. The 1991 Agricultural Census project was provided with technical and financial assistance by the Government of Japan.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out July to August 1991.

Reference date: Most of the census data refer to the agricultural year 1 July 1990 - 30 June 1991. Data on livestock numbers refer to 1 July 1991.

Definitions: The basic statistical unit is the Agricultural Holding, which is defined as all land wholly or partly used for agricultural production and operated as one technical unit under a single management or together with others, without regard to title, legal form, size or location. Holdings without land, i.e. not reporting agricultural land but involved in livestock keeping, are also included in the census. Census holdings are considered those satisfying at least one of the following conditions:

- at least 0.1 Ha of land under temporary or permanent crops,
- one adult head of cattle,
- two head of young cattle,
- five head of pigs, sheep or goats of any age,
- one hundred of poultry,
- ten beehives.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: In 1969 the MAG decided to establish a directory of agricultural holdings by compiling a list of all agriculturally active holdings in the country. Since then, a part of the country has annually been revised, so that the list be completely corrected and updated every five years.

Methods: The country is divided administratively into 19 Departments, subdivided into 185 Districts and, in turn, into approximately 1900 Compañías (wards). Complete enumeration of all holdings was carried out; each enumerator was provided with a list of all holdings existing within a designated enumeration area; data were collected through direct interview; no objective measurement was done by enumerators.

Data source: Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería - Censo Agropecuario Nacional 1991 - Sector Agrícola - Volumen 6 - Setiembre 1994.

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