

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The US Bureau of the Census conducted the first agricultural enumeration of farms in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands as part of the 1970 Census of Population and Housing. The agricultural census plan in Northern Mariana Islands continued with the Decennial Population and Housing Census Program and will be integrated into the Quinquennial Agricultural Census Plan in 1997.

Organization: The 1990 Agriculture Census in Northern Mariana Islands was an adjunct to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing. In December 1989, the Governor of Northern Mariana Islands signed memoranda of agreement with the US Bureau of the Census, for the 1990 Population and Housing Census, including agricultural enumeration: the Bureau of the Census agreed to provide technical assistance at various levels, and the Territorial Government accepted responsibility for conducting the census, for recruiting and training local office and field staff, and for the supervision of local administrative matters. The Decennial Planning Division (DPLD) of the US Bureau of the Census had primary supervisory responsibility for census undertaking, and the Outlying Areas Statistics Branch of the Agriculture Division served as primary planning and coordinating office. The central office of the census was established in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The census staff was composed of 1 project manager, 1 census advisor, 1 office operation supervisor, 1 field operations supervisor, 7 crew leaders, 5 office clerks and 45 enumerators.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out from April to August 1990.

Reference date:

The reference dates/periods are:

- the enumeration day for inventory data;
- the calendar year 1989 for data on production.

Definition: Farm is any place that had sales of US \$100 or more of agricultural products during the census year.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: Lists of Address Register Areas (ARA) were prepared and given to enumerators.

Methods: The census of agriculture was conducted by direct enumeration in conjunction with the Population and Housing Census. House-to-house canvassing was carried out to enumerate each ARA. On the last page of the Population and Housing questionnaire was an agriculture screening section. The enumerator was required to complete an agriculture questionnaire when a positive answer was received to anyone of the five screening questions.

Data source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census - 1987 Census of Agriculture - Northern Mariana Islands - Vol. 1, Part 56.

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