

SAINT LUCIA - Agricultural Census 1986 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Saint Lucia first participated in the World Census of Agriculture Programme (WCA), as part of the Windward Islands, in 1950; agricultural censuses were also conducted in 1961, 1973/74, 1986, to which data here refer, and in 1996; 1996 results will be published as part of the 2000 WCA, covering the period 1996 - 2005.

Organization: The Statistical Department, empowered by the Statistics Act No.10 of 1973 to conduct all censuses and surveys of national importance, entrusted the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Co-operatives, with the Agricultural Census. Technical and financial assistance to the project was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). A Census Committee was also established, basically responsible for assisting the Census Office to conduct the census, and comprising personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, from the Statistics Department, from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and from the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (WINBAN).

Enumeration period: The field work for the agricultural census began on 14 April and continued until 6 June 1986.

Reference date: The calendar year 1985 was the reference period for most of the items under investigation: items such as crop production, land use, use of machinery, use of fertilizers and other inputs, were related to the situation as obtained in 1985; the list of farms, as well as other characteristics of the holder, relate to the day of enumeration.

Definition: The selected unit of enumeration was the agricultural holding, defined as any unit engaged in rearing any land used wholly or partly for agricultural production, operated by one or more persons as a single business unit, without regard to title, legal form, size or location. For census purposes, a holding must satisfy one of the following criteria:

- at least 0.05 Ha of any crop; or
- at least one head of cattle; or
- at least two head of pigs or goats or one head of any two; or
- at least 12 poultry; or
- at least 10 bearing trees of any tree crop or 100 mats of bananas or plantains.

Coverage: The census covered the entire island except for the commercial section of the city of Castries. The Government's Forest Reserve (about 6900 Ha), sited in the centre of the island, was left out of the enquiry.

Frame: One of the objectives of the census was the provision of a comprehensive list of farms, and farm operators, to be used as a frame for future enquiries. Maps were prepared as reproduction of the Administrative and Enumeration Districts maps that were used for the 1980 Population Census.

Methods: The same Administrative Districts (ADs) demarcation of 1973/74 census, was used in 1986: the island was divided into ten ADs, sub-divided, in turn, into 210 smaller units called Enumeration Districts (ED). A pre-test was conducted in January 1984 on a sample of 50 farms randomly selected, then, in 1986, a complete enumeration of all holdings was carried out through direct interview: the enumerators visited every housing unit located in the assigned areas interviewing the head of each household, aimed to identify all household's members engaged in agricultural activities.

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Co-operatives - Final Report on the 1986 Census of Agriculture in Saint Lucia - Castries, Saint Lucia, June 1987.

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