

ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES - Agricultural Census 1986 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Information on agricultural aspects of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, then part of the Leeward Islands, was collected through special estimates in 1930 and 1950; another agricultural census was undertaken in 1946, followed by two sample censuses carried out in 1961 and 1972; lastly, a complete enumeration census, to which data here presented refer, was undertaken in 1985-86.

Organization: The Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Labour, was appointed as the authority for the census of agriculture. A Chief Census Officer, and two assistants were appointed to supervise census operations. An Interministerial Agricultural Census Committee was formed to give policy guidance to those responsible for the census. The agricultural census was supported by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Part of the technical assistance was provided by a full-time census statistician and some short-term consultants, who advised on technical aspects of the design and execution of the census. The field work was carried out by 30 supervisors and 150 enumerators.

Enumeration period: The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines proclaimed 15 May 1986 as Census Day for the 1985-86 Agricultural Census. The enumeration period was 15 May to 15 June 1986.

Reference date:

Time reference was:

- The agricultural year 1 April 1985 to 31 March 1986 for the following items: Hired permanent and occasional workers, area sown or harvested, irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides.
- The week ending on the enumeration day for household members' type of activity.
- The enumeration day for holder and holding characteristics, fragmentation, tenure, legal status, land use, permanent crops, livestock, number of machinery.

Definitions:

- The agricultural holding is considered an economic unit of agricultural production satisfying at least one of the following minimum specifications:
 - one head of cattle;
 - two head of pigs, sheep, goats (or one head of any two);
 - twelve head of poultry of any types;
 - ten of any tree crop, bananas or plantains, of productive age;
 - 0.05 Ha of land under any crops.
- Large or Specialized Farms are those reporting:
 - at least 8.1 Ha, or
 - at least 10 milk animals, or
 - at least 200 head of poultry;
 - nurseries and greenhouses growing stock for sale;
 - special livestock breeding farms;
 - government experimental farms;
 - farms belonging to institutions.

Coverage: The census covered the entire country.

Frame: St. Vincent and the Grenadines consist of 13 administrative units called Divisions, which were, for census purposes, divided into 150 enumeration districts (EDs). All households in every ED were listed by enumerators in the Listing Book. Prior to the field work, a list of Large and/or Specialized Farms was also prepared.

Methods: Complete enumeration of all holdings was carried out. Data were collected by enumerators through direct interview: enumerators canvassed every household inside the assigned ED, filling in the agricultural questionnaire for those households satisfying the definition of agricultural holding.

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Labour, 1985-86 Agricultural Census for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, July 1989.

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