SWAZILAND - Agricultural Census 1993 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The first Census of Agriculture in Swaziland was conducted in 1971-72, the second in 1983-84, while the last one was carried out in 1992-93. Agriculture surveys are undertaken annually.

Organization: 1992-93 Census operations were carried out by the Agriculture Section of the Central Statistical Office with collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Social Science Research Unit of the University of Swaziland for the development of the questionnaire, and the Regional Administration Offices that requested the community chiefs to collaborate with the enumerators; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN provided technical assistance with both developing the census programme and processing of results; 435 enumerators assisted by community chiefs' representatives (helpers), 44 supervisors, and two coordinators, carried out the field work.

Enumeration period: The 1992-93 Census consisted of three phases: data collection for the first phase, to which present notes and data reported refer, began on 1 November 1992 and was completed during the first half of December of the same year.

Reference date: Census data refer to the agricultural season 1992-93.

Coverage: The 1992-93 Census of Agriculture consisted of three phases: in the first phase of the census all homesteads (holdings) on Swazi Nation Land (Communal Land) and all squatters on title deed farms, were covered; in the second phase, a number of homesteads selected on sample basis in the areas included in the first phase, were revisited; and in the third phase, the large estates/plantations and the owners of title deed farms, were investigated. Urban areas were excluded from the agricultural census.

Frame: The same Enumeration Areas (EAs) identified for the 1986 population census were used as the frame for the 1992-93 Census of Agriculture. Population census EAs are also used as the frame for the annual agriculture surveys.

Methods: The first phase of the 1992-93 Census of Agriculture was carried out on a complete enumeration basis; 911 EAs were assigned to the 435 enumerators assisted by the helpers, in numbers of two and sometimes three EAs each, with a total of about 161 homesteads for enumerator; as a result, more than 70,000 homesteads were investigated. The EAs formed the primary sampling units for the second phase of the census. The information on large industrial plantations/estates and owners of title deed farms was collected through a postal enquiry.

Data source: Swaziland Census of Agriculture 1992-93 - Phase I - Complete Coverage of Rural Areas.

Mailing address: Central Statistical Office - P.O. Box 456 - Mbabane - Swaziland.