

THAILAND - Agricultural Census 1988 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: The first Agricultural Census in Thailand was conducted in 1950, the second in 1963, the third in 1978; the fourth agricultural census, initially planned for 1988, was postponed to 1993 to follow the 1990 Population Census. During the period 1978-1993 two Intercensal Surveys of Agriculture, in 1983 and in 1988, were carried out. The 1993 census results are still expected and will be reported when available; in the meanwhile, notes and data of the 1988 Agricultural Survey are presented.

Organization: The 1988 Intercensal Survey of Agriculture was organized and conducted by the Agricultural Statistics Section - Economic Statistics Branch - Economic Survey Division of the National Statistical Office. There were 500 permanent field staff of the National Statistical Office involved in listing all households in sampled villages.

Enumeration period: The Enumeration Day was 1 May 1988.

Reference date: Data on legal status of the holder, farm population, permanent crops, number of livestock and number of machinery and equipment refer to the day of enumeration. Data on type of activity of household members, temporary crops, use of fertilizers and source of machinery refer to the agricultural year 1 May 1987 - 30 April 1988. Reference date for area of holdings, land tenure and land use is 1 October 1987.

Definition: A holding is an economic unit of agricultural production reporting at least:

- 0.32 Ha of operated area, or
- 5 cattle or buffaloes or pigs, or
- 100 ducks or chickens, or
- an income of 6000 baht (about US \$240), earned from selling crops or animals or animal products during the 12 months preceding the census.

Coverage: All agricultural holdings located outside the municipal areas of the Provinces were covered. The agricultural holdings located in 11 districts of special agricultural interest of the suburban areas of Bangkok Metropolis were also covered.

Frame: For the selection of the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU), a listing of all villages was made; for the selection of the Secondary Sampling Unit (SSU), a list of all households in the PSU was drawn up.

Methods: A stratified two-stage sampling design was adopted for the survey. Regions, consisting of provinces, were stratified into four primary strata. Provinces were in turn stratified into 73 sub-strata and, in each province, the villages were divided into three groups based on different areas of planted rice. Villages were the first stage sampling units (PSU) and holders the second stage sampling units (SSU). Enumerators were sent out to visit all heads of households and to fill in the listing form in 6000 sampled out of 59,408 villages. Then, 120,000 sample holdings throughout the whole country were selected and interviewed. Detailed information was recorded in the enumeration form.

Data source: National Statistical Office - Office of the Prime Minister - Report of the 1988 Intercensal Survey of Agriculture (Whole Kingdom), 1992.

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