

UGANDA - Agricultural Census 1991 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Uganda participated in 1950 World Census of Agriculture and conducted a second agricultural census in 1963-65. The Uganda National Census of Agriculture and Livestock (UNCAL) was launched in 1987. In addition, some small-scale sample surveys, limited both in scope and coverage, were undertaken by the Statistics Section of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Organization: The UNCAL was undertaken as a joint effort between Uganda Government and two UN agencies: the UN Development Program as the funding agency, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, as the technical executing agency. The UNDP/FAO project commenced in April 1987 and began the main phase in July 1988. The census staff was composed of 4 regional coordinators, 9 area coordinators, 78 supervisors and 520 enumerators, plus 52 clerks as reserve enumerators.

Enumeration period: The National Census of Agriculture and Livestock Project started in April 1987, and the enumeration work was effectively undertaken between March 1990 and April 1991.

Reference date:

- For holding and holder characteristics: 1 February 1990 - 30 April 1991;
- for crops areas and yields: 1 - 31 March 1991;
- for livestock: 1 June - 31 July 1990;
- for machinery and labour force: 1 - 31 December 1990.

Coverage: Uganda was administratively divided into 33 districts (raised to 38 for census purposes), subdivided into 146 counties, 693 sub-counties, 3596 parishes, 7230 sub-parishes in turn. For census purposes only rural areas were considered, thus excluding urban centres with populations of more than 2000 and all gazetted trading centres in the rural areas. The main census took place in 26 only of the 38 districts. Large scale farms, government farms, institutional farms and cooperatives were covered on a complete enumeration basis; small and medium-scale agricultural holdings were covered on a sampling basis.

Frame: Since agriculture constitutes the main economic activity in rural areas and the number of taxpayers is positively correlated with the number of agricultural holdings, the taxpayers list was taken as sampling frame.

Methods: A pilot census and a pretest were conducted first, then, for the main census, a two-stage sampling design was used: at the first stage, 20 sub-parishes, considered as primary sampling units, were systematically selected in each district, with probability proportional to the number of taxpayers; at the second stage, a uniform number of 30 holdings were drawn without replacement and with equal probability within the selected sub-parishes. Consequently, 15600 holders (nearly one percent of agricultural holders in the country) were enumerated. Objective measurements of areas and yield estimation techniques were applied.

Data source: Report on Uganda National Census of Agriculture and Livestock 1990-91 - Vol. 1 to 5 - January 1992-93.

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