
ZAMBIA - Agricultural Census 1990 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Zambia, formerly called Northern Rhodesia, became independent on 24 October 1964. Northern Rhodesia participated in the 1950 World Census of Agriculture (WCA) with a census of both Traditional and Modern Sectors, and in the 1960 WCA with a census of Modern Sector only. The Republic of Zambia participated in the 1970 WCA in 1971-72; another census planned for 1982-83 did not take place due to lack of funds. In 1990-92 an agricultural census was undertaken in two phases: the first in connection with the 1990 Census of Population and Housing; the second, based on information collected during the first phase, carried out as a stand-alone activity. Data here reported refer to the first part of the 1990-92 Agricultural Census.

Organization: The Census was conducted by the Central Statistical Office under the supervision of the National Commission for Development and Planning and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF); financial and technical assistance were given by the Government of The Netherlands and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Census was expected to give updated benchmark data for annual agricultural surveys. The structure of Census Field Organization was as follows: 15 master trainers, 9 provincial statistical officers, 26 regional census officers, 57 district census officers, 153 field coordinators, 4144 field supervisors, 12936 enumerators.

Enumeration period: Census enumeration started on 20 August 1990 and took two to three weeks.

Reference date: Two reference periods were used: enumeration day was used for inventory items like identification particulars, economic activity, type of holding, demographic characteristics and livestock number. For continuing activities, e.g. crop production and livestock raising, the reference period was the 1989-90 agricultural season beginning 1 October 1989 and ending 30 September 1990.

Coverage: National coverage was achieved in two ways: first, data were collected from every district in the country; second, data were collected from urban as well as suburban areas (which are traditionally excluded from national agricultural sample surveys).

Frame: The existing Census Supervisory Area (CSA) maps, used for the preparatory work of 1980 Census, were updated. Small census units, to be covered by one enumerator, called Standard Enumeration Areas (SEAs), including about 600 people in rural areas and 900 in urban areas were delineated, and their physical boundaries carefully defined.

Methods: The first part of the Census of Agriculture was carried out at the same time as the Population and Housing Census on a complete enumeration basis; an agricultural questionnaire, for those households where one or more members indicated their participation in agricultural activities, was completed. This questionnaire was very brief to allow Census Part I be processed expeditiously so that Part II could be started as soon as possible. Part II, carried out on a sampling basis, was very extensive in order to collect detailed information on the structure and organization of agricultural sector. A Pilot Census and a post-enumeration survey were conducted in connection with the Agricultural Census.

Data source: National Census of Agriculture 1990-92 - Census Report (Part I) - January 1994.

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