

INDIA - Agricultural Census 1990-1991 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

India has been participating in every World Census of Agriculture (WCA) round since 1930. In 1930, 1950 and 1960, data were collected through sample surveys carried out by the Directorate of National Sample Survey. The 1970/71 Census is considered as the first comprehensive Census of Agriculture conducted in India. Following the decision to conduct the census on a quinquennial basis, agricultural censuses were successively undertaken with reference years 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, and the one here reported, 1990-91.

Organization:

The census was implemented as a Central Sector Plan Scheme, conducted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) in the Ministry of Agriculture of India. The Agricultural Census Division in the DAC was headed by a Joint Secretary who was designated as the Agricultural Census Commissioner. Each State and Union Territory (UT) of the Country was provided with a technical unit consisting of full-time officers and other staff, entrusted with agricultural census operations.

Reference date:

The reference period for all census items is July 1990 to June 1991.

Definition:

The statistical unit is Operational Holding, defined as the land wholly or partly used for agricultural production and operated as one technical unit by one person, alone or with others, without regard to title, legal form, size or location.

Coverage:

The census covered the entire country.

Frame:

In some States and UTs, the frame was given by the existing comprehensive Land Record System. In the States and UTs of which a comprehensive Land Record System did not exist, the list of all villages in each Patwari Circle or in each Revenue Inspector Circles or in Tehsils (administrative subdivisions of the District) was used.

Methods:

- In the States/UTs having comprehensive Land Records, information on number and area of operational holdings was collected on a complete enumeration basis for all villages through retabulation of information available in the Land Records. Information on other items was collected on a sampling basis: 20% of the villages selected randomly from each Tehsil constituted the base. In these 20% villages, information on items different from number and area of holdings was compiled from the Relevant Revenue Records in respect of the resident operational holders.
- In the States/UTs where Land Records did not exist, a stratified two-stage sampling design was applied: the first stage was the village and the second one was the operational holding.
- From each District of the States, 20% of the villages were selected by a simple random sampling method. All operational holdings in the villages were listed in 5 major categories: Marginal (below 1 Ha), Small (1-2 Ha), Semi-Medium (2-4 Ha), Medium (4-10 Ha), Large (10 Ha and above). 25% of the holdings were selected from each of the first four categories, on the basis of circular systematic sampling methods, while all holdings were considered in the fifth category. For small States/UTs, the sample size could be larger than 20%.

Data source:

Ministry of Agriculture. Department of Agriculture and Co-operation. All India Report on Agricultural Census 1990-91. New Delhi. 1998.

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