

JAPAN - Agricultural Census 1995 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline:

Japan participated for the first time in the Programme of the World Census of Agriculture in 1930. Since 1950, Japan has been conducting quinquennial censuses of agriculture. The sample surveys with the similar items of the census are carried out in the years when the census is not taken place. Data presented here refer to the 1995 Agricultural Census.

Organization:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was responsible for the organization of census. About 200 000 enumerators and 11 100 supervisors were employed in the field work.

Enumeration period:

The bulk of enumeration took place in the period of 1 to 14 February 1995.

Reference date:

Data on inventory items refer to 1 February 1995 except in Okinawa, where data refer to December 1994. Other data refer to 12 months preceding the census.

Definition:

The following groups of farm households are defined:

Farm household is a household that manage at least 0.1 Ha of cultivated land or has agricultural products' sales of at least 150 000 yen in the year prior the date of the census.

Commercial farm household is a farm household with at least 0.3 Ha of cultivated land or at least 500 000 yen of sales of agricultural products in the year prior to the census.

Non Commercial farm household is a farm household with less than 0.3 Ha of cultivated land and less than 500 000 yen of sales of agricultural products in the year prior to the census.

Coverage:

The census covered the entire country. All sectors of agriculture were covered.

Frame:

Checklists of all households that might be the farm households were prepared by personnel of municipalities. On the basis of these checklists some basic data were collected and the final lists of farm households were prepared at the time of actual survey. About 200 000 rural communities were used as Enumeration Areas, assigned to enumerators for data collection. There were, on average, 45 communities in each municipality and 23 farm households in each community.

Methods:

Data were collected through direct interview method. Four different questionnaires were used:

1. Questionnaire for farm households.
2. Questionnaire for agricultural holdings other than farm households.
3. Questionnaire for agricultural services enterprises.
4. Questionnaire for General Survey of Farming, Region Environment.

Data source:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Statistics and Information Department. Report on the findings of the 1995 Census of Agricultural in Japan. June 1997.

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