



PALESTINE – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2021 – METADATA REVIEW

1. Historical outline

The first Agricultural Census (AC) in Palestine was carried out in 2010. The AC 2021 was the second one, to which the metadata and data presented here refer.

2. Legal basis and organization

Legal framework

The legal basis for the AC 2021 was provided by:

- General Statistics Law No. 4 of 2000, which specifies that ACs should be carried out every ten years; and
- Cabinet Decree No. 17/231, of 4 December 2018, which approved the implementation of the second Agriculture Census 2020.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The AC 2021 was planned and implemented by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and supported by many national organizations through the Executive Committee. FAO provided technical support through technical missions. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the European Union (EU), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) supported and financed the implementation of the AC 2021.

Census staff

The AC 2021 involved permanent staff from PCBS including 12 committee executive, seven agricultural statistics specialist, six cartographers, two IT specialists, one sampling and methodology specialist, and the administrative and financial team. On the other hand, temporary staff participated in the census activities, including 29 managers and assistants of the governorates, 34 supervisors, 820 team leaders and enumerators, 32 technical support staff, 13 administrative assistants, and six cartographers.

3. Reference date and period

Reference day: the midnight from 30 September to 1 October 2021, for buildings and livestock, permanent crops, land use, etc.

Reference period: from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, for temporary crops, identification and general characteristic of holders and holdings, agricultural practices and services agricultural machinery and equipment, main purpose of production, irrigation, and labour force.

4. Enumeration period

The AC 2021 was conducted from 1 October 2021 to 15 January 2022. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, all procurement and training activities for the whole fieldwork team were postponed from 2020 to 2021 and the main fieldwork activity was postponed from 1 October 2020 to 1 October 2021.

5. Scope of the census and definition of the statistical unit

The **census scope** covered agricultural (crop and livestock production) activities.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. The holding's land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, where the parcels must share the same production means, such as labour, farm buildings, and machinery or draught animals. Common grazing lands, public parks, fishing, and all lands that were not included in an agricultural holding, were not included in the AC.

Community-level data

There were no community-level data collected along with the census.

6. Census coverage

Geographic coverage

The AC 2021 covered the entire country (16 Governorates in Gaza Strip and West Bank) with different methodologies in each region.

Cut-off threshold and other exclusions

The AC 2021 considered the following thresholds for agricultural holdings: (i) one dunum (0.1 ha) of cultivated land; (ii) 0.5 dunum (0.05 ha) of area under protective cover; (iii) one head of cattle or camel; (iv) five head of sheep, goats or pigs; (v) 50 chickens or other poultry such as turkeys, ducks, or rabbits or a mixture thereof; (vi) three beehives; or (vii) the main purpose of production is mainly for sale .

7. Methodology

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The AC 2021 used the classical approach to conduct the census.

Relation to other censuses

The basic geographical database, which was one of the outputs of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017 (PHEC), was used in the implementation of the AC 2021. It contained all the geographical layers needed to assign enumeration areas to fieldwork teams, support inference, update, monitor, accomplish and disseminate activities, as this base contained all the buildings visited during the census operation with a geographical reference.

Frames

The frame of the AC 2021 included a complete record of households and agricultural holdings in the non-household sector. All households were enumerated, and agricultural holdings were identified, in addition to a list of holdings in the non-household sector that was obtained by listing all buildings and comparing with a list obtained from the MoA which included cooperative societies/charity societies, companies, government and private holdings, etc to ensure access to all holdings not in the household sector.

Complete or/and sample enumeration methods

The AC 2021 was conducted on a complete enumeration basis.

Sample design

No sampling was used.

Data collection methods

In the AC 2021, data was collected through CAPI method, using tablets with special applications with the updated maps of the enumeration areas.

Questionnaire(s) and items covered

Two questionnaires were used in the AC 2021, a listing questionnaire to list the agricultural holdings in the household sector, and the agricultural holdings enumeration questionnaire. The questionnaires covered all essential items recommended in the WCA 2020¹.

8. Use of technology

CAPI was used for field data collection. Maps were incorporated into the tablets used for data collection. Global positioning system (GPS) was used for georeferencing the agricultural holdings and time tracking of field teams. Census results were disseminated online.

¹ The following essential items were partly covered: (i) 0302 Area of land actually irrigated: fully controlled and partially controlled irrigation; and (ii) 0801 Household size by sex and age groups.

9. Data processing

Direct data capture was ensured by the CAPI method. All the applications used were supported with logical checks to locate errors and sent warning messages to enumerators to ensure the accuracy of data collected. Parallel to data collection, the data entered were verified centrally and returned to the field for amendment during data collection. Data was examined and cleaned through range checks, valid value checks, and internal consistency based on logical relationships. Data and indicators of the AC 2021 were compared to the indicators and data of the previous AC 2010 and with data from administrative records in the MoA. Cross tabulation plan was prepared based on the needs of users and the tables published in AC 2010, in addition to the recommendations of WCA 2020. SPSS was used for data processing, analysis and tabulations, and Excel was used in designing tables to facilitate the process of calculation and to produce the final tables.

10. Quality assurance

Data quality was controlled through procedures implemented in all census stages, including the preparation stage, data processing, and dissemination, to achieve the required efficiency and accuracy. During the preparation stage, two pilot census were conducted during 2019 and 2020 to adjust distinct characteristics of the census such as questionnaires, tablets, human and financial resources need, etc. In addition, training programs and methods were evaluated. During the implementation stage, an integrated monitoring tool was implemented to control and monitor fieldwork. Coverage was assessed through a Post-enumeration Survey from 19 December 2021 to 15 January 2022 based on a sample of four percent of the enumeration areas, 138 in West Bank and 50 in Gaza Strip. The census covered 97.3 percent of agricultural holdings.

11. Data and metadata archiving

PCBS documents, in general, all surveys and censuses using international standards in documenting data (DDI and DCMI). All documented surveys and censuses and anonymized microdata are available at the national data archive (NADA) portal at <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/PCBS-Metadata-en-v4.3/index.php/catalog>. For the AC 2021, these will be disseminated after publication of all final results reports.

12. Data reconciliation

There was no reconciliation process of AC 2021 data.

13. Dissemination of census results and microdata

Preliminary results of the AC 2021 were published in June 2022 in both printed and online version. Final results were first published in November 2022 and updated in February 2023, in an online version, and on CD, and is available at <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2646.pdf>. The reports of the governorates of Jenin, Tubas and Northern Valleys, Tulkarm, Nablus, Qalqiliya, Salfit, and Ramallah & Al-Bireh were published in 2023 and are available at https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/pcbs_2012/Publications.aspx. The locality was the lowest geographical level for which data was published.

14. Data sources

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2023. *Agriculture Census 2021. Final Results - Palestine.* Ramallah, Palestine, January 2023 (also available at <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2646.pdf>)

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