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GHANA's Experiences in the Preparation and Implementation of the WCA 2020.

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Presentation Outline

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Mandate

- In 1985, the Statistical Service Law (PNDC Law 135) established the Statistical Service
- The Law specifically empowers the GSS to conduct National Censuses and Surveys.
- Hence, the Agricultural census was executed by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in collaboration with the Statistics Research & Information Directorate (SRID) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)



Background and Justification

- Ghana has not undertaken an Agricultural Census for over 3 decades. The last Agricultural Census was conducted in 1984/85.
- International recommended practice of conducting an Agricultural census at 10-year intervals
- Agriculture in Ghana has gone through important structural changes since 1984
- The coverage of crops by SRID/MoFA is limited to only the traditional major staple crops.
- Ghana, as a member of the UN, has to fulfil its international obligations in contributing official statistics information to the international community.



Background and Justification

- Rounds of WCA are set for ten years. WCA 2010 spans the period January 2006 to December 2015 with FAO recommendations to guide preparations and implementation
- Attempts at implementing GCA under WCA 2010 ended in December 2015.
- Hence, WCA 2020 is set for 2016-2025 with its recommendations
- The reference period for the GCA data collection was the 2017 cropping season i.e. from March 2017 to February 2018.



Specific benefits

- i. Determination of the structure of agriculture
- ii. Strengthening of the National Agricultural Information System
- iii. Monitoring of programmes and projects
- iv. Preparation of strategies for development
- v. Enhancement of research, monitoring and evaluation:.
- vi. Estimation of key indicators:
- vii. Facilitation of development and implementation of programmes and projects:



Expected Outputs

The following were the expected outputs from the Census:

1. A National Farmer and geo-referenced Register.
2. Statistics on agricultural commodities
3. A populated website
4. An Agricultural Census Report 2018



Institutional Framework

In conformity with the multifaceted nature of the census, a governance structure was put in place with GSS and MoFA as the lead implementing agencies. A four layer structure was put in place.

These are:

1. National Steering Committee of the Census of Agriculture (NSCCA)
2. Secretariat of the GCA
3. National Technical Committee (NTC)
4. Regional and District Committees



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National Steering Committee of the Census of Agriculture (NSCCA)

It is Chaired by the Minister of Food and Agriculture

It includes Ministers from 7 Ministries.

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development ;
- Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection;
- Ministry of Information;
- Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines
- Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development



Responsibilities of the NSCCA

Responsibilities of the NSCCA were to:

- Provide overall guidance and direction for the implementation of the Census Programme;
- Facilitate the availability of adequate financial and logistic support necessary for the execution of the Census operations;
- Ensure the efficient utilisation of financial, human and technical resources;
- Facilitate the cooperation of all stakeholders
- Monitor progress on the programmes; and
- Authorise the publication and dissemination of the Census results.



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The Secretariat of the GCA

The Secretariat of the Ghana Census of Agriculture (GCA) was the operational structure for the day-to-day administration of the CA.

The 15-member committee served as the National Coordination team and it is headed by the National Coordinator (GSS) and a Deputy (SRID/MoFA).



National Technical Committee (NTC)

The NTC is an advisory body which comprised subject matter specialists, researchers and Officers from relevant MDAs.

The NTC was Chaired by the Government Statistician with 19 members.

The Responsibilities of the NTC were to:

- Provide technical and operational guidance
- Validate the overall schedule of operations, technical tools and the annual work programme; a
- Review the results of the operations and outputs of GCA.



Regional and District Committees

Regional and District Committees were formed to support the Census Secretariat in the implementation of the Census at their respective levels.

Composition of the committee at the
Regional/District level:

- i. Regional/District Coordinating Director;
- ii. Regional/District Statistician; and
- iii. Regional/District of the Department of Food and Agriculture.



Scope and Coverage

- GCA was a Nationwide exercise – Complete enumeration

Based on “Essential Items” and “Frame Items” as recommended by the FAO for the 2020 Round of Agricultural Censuses.

- 23 Essential Items.
- 15 Frame Items

Agricultural activities including crop production, poultry and livestock rearing, fish farming, beekeeping and tree planting.



Methodology

The 2017/18 GCA adopted the modular approach and implemented in four phases:

- Phase I - the preparation of the project documents and the development of instruments;
- Phase II - the listing and administration of the core and community modules, data analysis, report writing, and dissemination of reports;
- Phase III -the administration of supplementary and thematic modules on sample basis, data analysis, report writing, and dissemination of reports; and
- Phase IV - the preparation of the technical reports and dissemination of final results.



Adopted Approach

- Adopted the Modular Approach for data collection as recommended by FAO for the 2020 Round of World Censuses of Agriculture.
- The reference period for the data collected was the 2017 cropping season i.e. from March 2017 to February 2018.
- The Census used an area frame which consisted of 37,657 Enumeration Areas (EAs).
- Number of teams used – 819 (5 enumerators and 1 supervisor per team)
- 4,914 – Field enumerators



Data Collection Instruments Developed

Four types of questionnaires were developed for the Census. These were:

1. The Listing questionnaire,
2. The Core Module Household questionnaire
3. The Core Module Institutional questionnaire
4. The Community Module questionnaire.



GCA Data Collection Process

- CAPI – Tablet, Network, People, Program, Server
- CSENTRY SOFTWARE installation (apk) on android device
- GCA CAPI application installation on tablet
- FTP server
- Server “user name” and “Password” to install app
- s3.statsghana.org.gh/csweb/api



Publicity and Education

For the successful execution of a large scale Statistical enquiry that requires collaboration of individuals, households and institutions, there was the need to ensure effective sensitisation and awareness of the Census.

- Publicity materials
- Engagement of Information Services Department (ISD)
- Use of District Assembly information vans
- Use of mass media
- Use of Community Information Centres
- Official launch of the Ghana Census of Agriculture



Training of Field Staff

In total, 95,050 persons applied on-line and 14,028 were shortlisted for interview. After the interviews, 5,475 qualified applicants were selected for training.

There were three levels of training of enumerators for the Ghana Census of Agriculture:

1	Training of Trainers at the National Level	7th to 14th February, 2018
2	Training of Trainers at the Regional Level	18th to 26th March, 2018
3	Training of Field staff at the District Level	16th to 25th April, 2018



Data quality assurance

In order to ensure that high quality data was collected, the secretariat organized five groups of field monitors. These consisted of the

- Steering Committee
- Technical Committee
- Data Processing/Information Technology (DP/IT) team
- Regional Management Committees
- Independent monitors



Timelines for Phases of GCA

PHASE	ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN	DURATION
I	Preparation of the project documents and the development of instruments	April 2014 - March 2017
II	Core and Community Module: Complete enumeration of households practicing Agriculture	April 2018 - May 2019
III	Administration of supplementary and thematic modules on sample basis	April 2020 - March 2021
IV	Preparation of technical reports and dissemination of final results.	April 2021 - March 2022



Estimated Budget for GCA (GHC)

The total budget for the GCA in Ghana –
GHC 135,253,567

The table below shows the distributed amount over the entire duration of the project.

YEAR	2015	2018	2020	2021
Cost (GHC)	2,366,250	68,785,152	46,383,625	17,718,540



Financing of GCA

- The main sources of funding for this project has come from the Government of Ghana through the GSS and the World Bank (Ghana Statistics Development Project).
- In 2015, FAO supported the preparatory phase of the GCA with a TCP project (US\$372,000).



TCP - FAO

FAO provided a TCP – US\$372,000 for Phase I of the GCA

- Improving the technical and operational capacities of Staff
- Pilot testing of data collection and processing methodologies of GCA
- Hiring a Consultant in agricultural statistics
- Hiring a Consultant in data processing and Database Management
- Hiring a National consultant in communication
- Undertaking study tours



Current Status of the GCA

- Listing Report completed – Dec, 2018
- Data collection for the Core and Community module was completed in February, 2019.
- Cleaning and processing of data for the Core and Community module was undertaken in March, 2019.
- GCA Secretariat presented a draft Core and Community Module report to the Steering Committee for review – Sept, 2019
- Core and Community Module final report - Dec, 2019.
- Printing copies of reports - Jan, 2019
- Dissemination Workshop – Jan, 2019
- Regional and Districts report writing – Feb, 2020



Key findings from Listing Exercise

- More than half (52.8%) of all households in the country (4,864,276) are engaged in agriculture (2,568,146)
- Other non-Agricultural Households - 2,258,397,469
- Agricultural institutions (37,000) constitute 6.4 percent of all listed institutions (578,641).
- 49,149 agricultural households are engaged in capture fisheries
- 469 institutions are engaged in capture fisheries
- 511,492 agricultural households are engaged in the processing of agricultural produce



Challenges

- Oversized EAs as a result of the fast development of settlements especially in the peri-urban areas of some EAs
- Coincidence of listing and the major rainy season
- Increased budget as a result of the prolonged phase of the listing exercise
- Poor internet connectivity in some rural communities
- Management of tablets on a large scale



Lessons learnt

- Good planning is an essential prerequisite not only for achieving a cost-effective census but also securing comprehensive financial support for funding.
- Seeking for funds to implement the agricultural census is very difficult. Ghana has been forced to delay or even cancel the Agricultural census because of funding constraints.
- Ghana is advocating the Modular Approach as a strategy to meeting increasing data demands from the agricultural census within a budget constraint.
- The adoption of new technologies in data collection. (CAPI)



Conclusion

Ghana is now in the position to contribute examples of good practices in the design and conduct of the agricultural census.



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