

Implementation of the 2010 Round of World Censuses of Agriculture in Ghana

Experiences and Plans for the
current census

FAO/UBOS Expert Consultation

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Introduction

- The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and other partners are in the process of conducting a Census of Agriculture in Ghana (2014-2017)
- The 1992 Constitution of Ghana mandates the GSS to conduct all censuses in Ghana and could collaborate with any Ministry, Department and Agency that matter.

Introduction

- Ghana was one of 23 African countries that participated in the World Census of Agriculture in 1950. The scope of data collected at the time was limited to regional estimates of acreage planted and production of food crops.
- Between 1951 and the early 1960s, many surveys on specific aspects of the country's agriculture were undertaken, but the national estimates of area and yield of crops were derived from reports submitted by local council agricultural officers.
- In 1964, there was a complete enumeration of the large and specialized holdings.

Introduction

- From 1965 to 1969, annual sample surveys of small holdings, together with a complete enumeration of large and specialized holdings were conducted. The sample size of small holdings rose from 2,000 in 1965 to 5,000 in 1969.
- In 1970, Ghana successfully participated in the World Census of Agriculture. The programme involved the collection of data from a sample of over 58,000 holders in 702 Enumeration Areas (EAs).
- The last CA in Ghana was conducted in 1984/85, with 10,080 holders interviewed and since then only annual surveys were done.

Objectives

- The overall objective of the CA is to produce and disseminate complete and reliable agricultural data to meet the needs of users for informed decision making and for monitoring development programmes aimed at further developing agriculture and the rural areas

Methodology

The CA will be conducted using the modular approach recommended by the FAO for the 2010 Round of the World Censuses of Agriculture:

- Core and community modules by complete enumeration (2nd phase)
- Supplementary modules of crops and livestock by large samples (3rd phase)
- Thematic modules including horticulture, post harvest losses, fertilizer use, Green House Gases Emissions from agriculture, etc (3rd phase)

Expected outputs

- Sampling frames that would be used for the selection of representative samples for future surveys
- The CA is also set to publish 45 volumes of information from the findings as follows:
Crops (12 volumes), Livestock (10 volumes), Fishing and Aquaculture (5 volumes), and Communities (18 volumes).

Status of implementation

- Project proposal for the Census of Agriculture with Budget was prepared
- An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme support document was prepared and agreement signed
- Draft questionnaires and manuals for the Core and Community Modules have been prepared and will be finalised by the end of June 2014

Status of implementation

- Two national level committees that will be responsible for the implementation of activities have been inaugurated viz. The Technical Committee and the National Bureau
- Five out of Seven Consultants expected to facilitate the implementation has been recruited viz Agriculture Statistics experts (2); Data Processing expert (2); and a Gender Expert in Agricultural Statistics expected to commence work by 25th April, 2014 to assist in the development the census tools to capture gender issues

Way forward

- Phase I activities, which involves the preparation of administrative and technical material for all modules will continue until December 2015
- Data collection for the pilot of the Core and Community Modules will be implemented in July 2014.
- Main data collection for the Core and Community Modules will be conducted from October to December 2014 and results expected in June 2015

Way forward cont'd

- The same schedule of activities will run for Supplementary Modules from July 2015 to June 2016
- The Thematic Modules will also run from July 2016 to June 2017
- August 2017 to December 2017 will be devoted to the finalisation of special reports of all modules

Conclusion

- The management of the Census of Agriculture in Ghana has noted the increasing demand for the integration of gender dimensions in agricultural data collection activities and analysis
- With the engagement of a gender specialist, efforts will be made to capture the issues on all data items as recommended by the FAO guidelines and practitioners.

The end

Thank you for your kind
attention