

World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010

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Abstract: The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010), released by FAO at the end of 2005, introduces many changes as compared to previous decennial Programmes. These were adopted following many consultations, including discussions at regional meetings around the world, intensive meetings with specialists within FAO who represent data users' views in their respective disciplines, and a large Technical Consultation with the participation of statisticians and data users from different parts of the world.

The new Programme is more explicit in the recommendation regarding the selection of items to be included in the census, by proposing a modular approach. While the modules present suggestions for holding level collection of structural data, in response to increasing demand for community level data, items of information at the lowest administrative unit or even for smaller geographic area are recommended for collection as part of the agricultural census; the statistics unit here is the community or village which is a completely new aspect in an agricultural census.

Linkage between population census and agricultural census is stressed in WCA 2010; a matching text is included in the United Nations Recommendations regarding population census for the 2010 round. Structural data on aquaculture which were the subject of a supplement in the previous World Programme are integrated in the WCA 2010, in a section of the publication. Based on experiences gained regarding gender statistics in the 2000 round of agricultural censuses, a concept of sub-holding is introduced in WCA 2010 to address this issue for application in specific conditions of a large number of countries.

This paper makes a general presentation of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010, with emphasis on its new aspects and other salient features of the publication, linkages between censuses, and a review of other WCA210 changes.