

## BASIC AGRICULTURAL MODULE FOR THE PACIFIC

Presented below is a sample basic agricultural module for inclusion in the household questionnaire of the Population and Housing Census. It covers the data items required to build a frame for the subsequent agricultural census or programme of agricultural surveys. Format, wording, response categories etc. can be tailored by countries as discussed in the Definitions and Guidance.

**1.** Did this household operate any land for own account agricultural production during the last agricultural year?

1  Yes      2  No      → Go to **5**

**2.** How many separate pieces of land (parcels) are used for agricultural purposes?

**3.** What is the total area of all land used for agricultural purposes?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> < 0.25 acres      | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 2.00 - 4.99 acres |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 0.25 - 0.49 acres | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 5.00 - 9.99 acres |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 0.50 - 0.99 acres | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 acres or more  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1.00 - 1.99 acres |  |

**4.** What was the main purpose of agricultural production during the last agricultural year?  
*Mark ONE box*

1  Sale      2  Subsistence

**5a.** Did this household raise any livestock or poultry during the last (agricultural year, regardless of ownership)?

1  Yes      2  No      → Go to **6**

**5b.** Report the total numbers of :

1 Cattle

2 Sheep

3 Pigs

4 Goats

5 Chickens

**5c.** What was the main purpose of raising livestock or poultry during the last agricultural year?

1  Sale      2  Subsistence

**6a.** Did this household engage in any own account fishing activity during the last (agricultural year) ?

1  Yes      2  No      → Go to **6**

**6b.** What was the main purpose of own account fishing activity during the last (agricultural) year?  
*Mark ONE box*

1  Sale      2  Subsistence

**6c.** How often were they caught?

1  Weekly      3  Monthly  
2  Fortnightly      4  Occasionally

**7a.** Did this household engage in any own account aquaculture activity during the last (agricultural year)?

1  Yes      2  No

**7b.** What was the main purpose of own account aquaculture (not fishing) activity during the last (agricultural) year?  
*Mark ONE box*

Sale       Subsistence  
1      2

**7c.** What was the number of ponds?

## BASIC AGRICULTURAL MODULE - DEFINITIONS AND GUIDANCE

A complete description of the concepts and definitions can be found in the FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (chapter 11)<sup>1</sup>

**Reference Period:** the reference period in the examples above is given as the agricultural year but this can be the calendar year, the agricultural year or any other 12 month period leading up to the census enumeration, as relevant to countries.

**Q1.** To *operate land for own account agricultural production activities* means that one or more members of the household were engaged in agricultural production on that land, on behalf of the household (own account). The household may or may not own the land. Land rented from others and used for agricultural production is included. Conversely, land owned by members of the household but rented out to others is excluded. Operating agricultural land essentially means having a family farm. This should not be confused with an agricultural employee, who receives wages or other 'in-kind' payments for the work performed.

The following types of land are included:

- Land under temporary crops
- Land temporarily fallow
- Land under permanent crops.
- Land under temporary meadows
- Land under permanent meadows and pastures.

**Land under temporary crops** includes all land used to grow crops with a growing cycle of less than one year; this includes most vegetables and root crops, herbs, fruits such as melons and watermelons.

**Land temporarily fallow** is land normally used to grow temporary crops but being rested before re-cultivation. This may be part of a crop rotation system or because the normal crop cannot be planted owing to flood damage, lack of water, unavailability of inputs, or other reasons. Land remaining fallow for at least five years or land abandoned by shifting cultivation is categorized as *permanent meadows and pastures* if used for grazing, but it is not part of an agricultural activity if it is overgrown with trees or if it becomes wasteland.

**Land under permanent crops** refers to land used to grow long-term crops with a growing cycle of more than one year. This includes fruit, nut and spice trees.

**Land under temporary meadows** includes land cultivated for less than five years with forage crops for mowing or pasture.

**Land under permanent meadows and pastures** refers to land used to grow forage crops, through cultivation or naturally, for five years or more.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2010/en/>

**Q 2. Number of parcels:** The **land used for agricultural purposes** may consist of one or more pieces of land (parcels), located in one or more separate areas or administrative units. Where shifting cultivation is present, the area includes the area under crops during the agricultural year. Land abandoned prior to the reference period is excluded. Land open to communal grazing is not considered to be part of the household's land unless the household has been specifically assigned a certain area defined by fencing or other boundary markings.

Record the number of separate pieces of land (parcels) used by the household for agricultural production activities, irrespective of ownership.

**Q 3. Note: The example above gives size classes in acres. The standard units used in the country should be applied - such as acres/hectares or local units. directly If local units are used then a conversion to standard units should be available. If the total area is likely to be known then the area can be recorded.**

The **area of land used for agricultural purposes** is the total of all land operated by the household for agricultural production. This is the combined area of the pieces of land (parcels ) identified in Q2.

**Areas of land** can be reported in acres, hectares or local units or according to pre-determined size categories. The area reported refers to the actual day of enumeration, while making reference to agricultural activities on that land during the (agricultural) year. Where a household bought land during the reference year, the area of land bought is included in the reported area; where a household sold land during the reference year, the area sold is excluded.

**Q4.** The main purpose of production is broadly defined as **for sale** or **for home consumption (subsistence)**. It is important to identify why the household is primarily growing crops and whether it is to feed the household or to generate an income. Many households will be engaged in both own consumption and sale. Some crops will be planted to sell whilst others will be planted purely for own consumption. The concept is, therefore, quite complex and maybe crop specific. In cases where the household is unsure of the main purpose of production or does not understand the concept, it may be helpful to consider the total value of production of the farm and then look at what proportion is sold and what is consumed.

**Q5a. Livestock and poultry** refers to all animals, birds and insects kept or reared in captivity mainly for agricultural purposes. This includes cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, as well as poultry and bees. Domestic animals such as cats and dogs are excluded unless they are being raised for food or other agricultural purposes.

**Raising livestock** means that the household has primary responsibility for looking after the animals on a long-term basis and making day-to-day decisions about their use. In general, households own and raise their own animals but instances do occur in which households raise animals belonging to someone else under some form of agreement involving cash payment or a share of the livestock produce. Raising livestock under these conditions should be distinguished from being employed by an animal owner to look after the animals.

**Q5b.** See Q4 as it relates to main purpose of livestock production.

**Q5c.** It is recommended to record current livestock and poultry numbers, being raised by household, by the main types (cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, bee hives, etc). Livestock numbers are often difficult to estimate using sample techniques. By collecting information on the numbers of livestock and poultry by the main types from each household, a greater degree of reliability may be obtained as well as data by small geographic areas. The data may also be used to improve the sample design for follow-up livestock surveys..

**Q6a, 6b and 6c.** This question is about own account fishery activities during the last (agricultural) year. **This additional question will not necessarily apply for all countries but where such activities are important, additional questions may be asked on the main purpose of production (sale or subsistence) and the scale of the activity measured by the number of fishing trips per month or some other size indicator.**

**7a. Aquaculture** is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and plants, whether in freshwater or saltwater. Aquaculture farming refers to some intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding and protection from predators. It normally involves rearing organisms from fry, spat or juveniles, and may be carried out in ponds, paddy fields, lagoons, estuaries, irrigation canals or the sea, using structures such as cages and tanks.

Aquaculture should be clearly distinguished from capture fisheries in which aquatic animals are captured or aquatic plants gathered in the wild. An important characteristic of capture fisheries is that the aquatic organisms are common property, as opposed to being owned by the household as is the case for aquaculture. Where fish are fattened up for sale after being caught in the wild, the fattening process is counted as aquaculture but limited modifications to the aquatic habitat to increase fish production are not counted.

**7b.** **This additional question will not necessarily apply for all countries, but where such activities are important, additional questions, such as this, may be asked on the main purpose of production (sale or subsistence).**

**76c.** **This additional question will not necessarily apply for all countries, but where such activities are important, additional questions, such as this, may be asked on the scale of the activity measured by the number and/or area of ponds or some other size indicator.**



