

# Population and Housing Census Questionnaire

**Collecting information for frame  
construction for agricultural  
censuses and surveys**



# **Inclusion of a minimum set of agricultural items in the population and housing census**

Provides: identification of farm households

Use: for sample frame

Collection with population and housing census questionnaire or pre-listing



The WCA2010 proposes two questions to be included in the Housing Questionnaire of the COPH to identify:

Household Agricultural Holdings, and Household Aquacultural Holdings.

Again, this refers only to the Household Sector and the Non-Household Sector must be covered separately.



- Whether the household is engaged in any form of own-account agricultural production
  - ❖ Crop production
  - ❖ Livestock production
  
- Whether the household is engaged in any form of own-account aquacultural production



- Such questions can identify the household agricultural holdings and the household aquacultural holdings but how can this information make the Census of Agriculture more efficient?
- This information can help with the planning of a Census of Agriculture since the number of potential holdings will have been determined.
- In theory, for the Census of Agriculture, households identified as having no agricultural activity need not be visited, thus saving time and resources, as well as reducing the respondent burden.



- This, however, may only be efficient if the two censuses are conducted as a single field operation (Cook Islands 2011).
- OR, if the number of household holdings is very small in relation to the total number of holdings
- OR, if the household holdings are confined to particular areas of the country
- **Where there are separate field operations, identifying households engaged in agricultural activities, from those that are not, may pose a greater problem in the field than canvassing all households.**



- For the COPH to provide sufficient information to enable a targeted approach to the Census of Agriculture, and real efficiency savings, additional information would be required.
- Such additional information can have two purposes:
  1. To provide a sampling frame for sub-sectoral groups or thematic areas
  2. To establish a strata of household holdings above a certain minimum size or with particular attributes.



# 1. To provide a sampling frame for sub-sectoral groups or thematic areas

- Sub-sectoral groups would typically identify the main livestock sub-sectors and the main crop sub-sectors
- These could include involvement in:
  - Cattle, pigs, goats, poultry and bee keeping
  - Coconuts, cocoa, coffee, kava, taro, sweet potato, tomatoes, beans, other vegetables, herbs, flowers



**2. To establish a strata of household holdings above a certain minimum size or with particular attributes.**

- A. To identify households producing crops or livestock mainly for sale;
- B. To establish a minimum size limit for a household holding based on numbers of livestock and poultry kept, numbers of fruit, nut and spice trees, area of land cultivated for temporary crops; value of annual sales; other criteria?



Information on household agricultural activity UNDER the cut-offs can be collected as part of the COPH OR through a sample survey.

### **Example: SEYCHELLES COPH 2010**

The COPH collected data on livestock numbers from all households. This provided data on the number of livestock in the household sector as well as a livestock frame.



- The [COPH](#) collected data on households growing crops in three categories: tree crops, vegetables, root crops. Again providing a frame.
- The [COPH](#) also classified households as producing crops mainly for sale, selling surplus and subsistence.
- This information on households producing crops mainly for sale was checked against a list of registered and large farmers and a joint list of commercial farmers was developed.
- A complete enumeration of the commercial sector was conducted.
- A 10% sample of other households was conducted to collect information on tree crops and temporary crops grown by these other households.



Another example of where quite specific cut-off limits were utilised to identify non-agricultural, under cut-off and over cut-off households was in [Grenada](#).

This form was not included as part of the census of population and housing but conducted as a separate 'listing' exercise as part of the agricultural census.

Could it have been conducted as part of the census of population and housing.

- Including questions on agriculture in the COPH should be considered within the framework of an integrated National Statistics System
- If planned well, collecting such information can offer significant efficiencies and resource savings.
- If a full agricultural module is not appropriate, what questions should be included and how should this information be used?

