
Antigua & Barbuda – 2007 Census of Agriculture - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Previous agricultural censuses were conducted in 1961 and 1984.

Legal basis and organization

The General Statistical Act 1975 provides the overall legal basis for conduction of agricultural censuses in the country. The Act assign to the National Statistical Office (NSO) the functions of: “collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistics portraying various aspects of the social, demographic and economic conditions of the people of Antigua and Barbuda; compile and publish national income accounts and estimates for Antigua and Barbuda; carry out such censuses and surveys in relation to the subjects listed in the Schedule and as may be necessary from time to time for the purposes of the above”. In particular, the Census of Agriculture 2007 was entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Marine Resources in collaboration with the NSO from the provision established in Art. 7 of the Act. No periodicity established in the Act but only that the Statistical Authority “may, by notice in the *Gazette*, order that a census or survey in respect of any matter, other than population, included in the Schedule shall be taken for Antigua and Barbuda ...” prescribing among other things, the date of such census. The field work for the 2007 Census of Agriculture, involved 160 enumerators and 40 field supervisors.

Enumeration period

The census of agriculture was enumerated during the whole month of November, 2007.

Reference period/date

The reference date was the day of interview for data on identification of holding and holder, legal status, number of parcels and land use, land tenure, permanent crops, livestock numbers and labour force.

The reference period was the calendar year 2007 for temporary garden crops, machinery and equipment used on holding, agricultural practices and labour force working on holding.

Definition of the statistical unit:

Agricultural census enumeration unit was defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size.

The requirement of sharing the same production means should be fulfilled to a degree to justify the consideration of various parcels as components of one economic unit.

The following categories were enumerated during the census:

- Individual or household
- Joint individuals from different households
- Cooperative
- Company or corporation
- Government
- Other non-household enterprise

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country except commercial district of Saint John and the expatriate enclave of Holly Harbour and Mill Reef.

Statistical coverage

The holdings with activity over at least one of the following cut-off limits were enumerated by means of a long questionnaire. The rest of holdings (those below all the cut-off limits) were enumerated during the screening process through a short questionnaire:

- 2 cattle and/or breeding cattle (at least one calf born in 2007)
- 5 sheep or goats or pigs and/or breeding such animals (at least one birth in 2007)
- A combination of at least 5 sheep, goats and pigs
- 25 poultry and/or annual sales of eggs from these poultry of at least EC\$1,000 and/or annual sales of poultry meat from these poultry of at least EC\$1,000
- 20 fruit trees and/or annual sales of fruit from these trees of at least EC\$1,000
- 10 banana/finger rose mats and/or annual sales of fruit from these plants of at least EC\$1,000
- 10 plantain mats and/or annual sales of plantains from these plants of at least EC\$1,000

-
- 1/8 of an acre of any garden crop and/or annual sales of garden crops of this land of at least EC\$1,000.

Holdings engaged solely in forestry, logging or fishing were not enumerated.

Data items coverage

Two questionnaires were used: a "household questionnaire" (short) and a "holding questionnaire (long).

Items of the short questionnaire (households) comprised: livestock (including poultry), some permanent and semi-permanent crops, garden temporary crops, engagement in fishing activities and other non-agricultural activities in the household.

The information collected through the long questionnaire (holdings above the threshold) covered: General information, identification and legal status and main occupation of holders, population and employment, land use, land tenure, number and type of tree crops, existence and end use of garden crops, livestock, machinery and equipment, selected practices and facilities, membership to farmers' associations.

The question about who is responsible for rearing backyard animals and/or backyard horticulture and/or other similar activity was aimed to identify "sub-holders".

Frame

A list of Non-household holdings was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Marine Resources and Agro-Industry (MALMRA). For holdings operated by households, the frame was constructed canvassing the country and filling the household questionnaire. No previous frame was used.

Methodology

The country was divided in Enumeration Districts (ED) (160). Each ED was entrusted to one enumerator who had to canvass the assigned ED identifying all households in it and applying a "household questionnaire" (short). The households' questionnaire was designed as a screening form to identify those holdings above the threshold and also to collect information in small holdings below it. The second questionnaire, "holding questionnaire" (long) was applied to all holdings above the threshold.

The information was collected by means of personal interviews with manual filling of paper questionnaires.

Field supervision was applied to ensure quality during the field operations.

Data were manually edited, coded and keypunched.

Post census techniques to check census quality

No post enumeration survey (PES) was applied. Upon comparison with estimated number of households, the under reporting of households visited was estimated in around 30%. There is no evidence of such magnitude of under reporting of holdings.

Data Dissemination and Use

The final results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture will be delivered through a final printed report, CD Roms and the official website.

Special features

No community survey was taken. Fishing activities of households were reported in the household questionnaire.

Data source

Antigua & Barbuda presentation to the Workshop for the Caribbean FAO/UNFPA Guidelines for integrating agricultural and population censuses (Trinidad and Tobago June 2013)

Mailing address / Census contact points

Mr. Stachel Edwards, Chief Statistician (Ag.). Statistics Division. Ministry of Finance and Economy. 1st Floor. ACT Building. Market and Church Streets. St. John's. ANTIGUA & BARBUDA. Tel No.: 1-268-462-4775/0451. Fax No.: 1-268-562-2542. E-mail address: stats@ab.gov.ag