
Nicaragua – Fourth National Agricultural Census 2011- Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

The first National Agricultural Census was conducted in Nicaragua in 1963. A second census was conducted in 1971, but all information collected during the census was lost in the earthquake of 1972, which hit the country very hard. Almost 30 years later, Nicaragua took its third Census of Agriculture in 2001. Finally, the fourth census (IV CENAGRO) was conducted in 2011.

Legal basis and organization

The Decree of October 4, 1979 creates and organizes the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) later changed to National Institute of Development Information (INIDE), which is responsible for conducting national surveys, including the Census of Agriculture.

Presidential Decree No. 66 in October 2010 stated in its Article 1 "national interest for preparation, planning, organization, collection, processing and dissemination of the Fourth National Agricultural Census (IV CENAGRO)". In Article 2, Planning, Technical and Running, for the preparatory work of the Fourth National Agricultural Census, would be in charge of the National Agricultural Institute (INIDE) together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAG), institutions that will work together harmoniously and coordinated. In Article 4, for success of census activities and ensure interagency coordination and participation of all population, it will be established the National Census Commission. This Commission will comprise the following members: the President of the Republic, who will be the head of it; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit; the President of the Central Bank; the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade, the Army of Nicaragua and the National Police.

The IV CENAGRO was funded by: the Government of Canada, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Swiss Confederation, the Government of Norway, the Government of Brazil, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Agency for EE.UU. for International Development (USAID). In addition, FAO provided technical and financial assistance for the Census.

For the development of fieldwork 4,244 employees were recruited; out of which 3,197 were enumerators and 1,047 supervisors.

Enumeration period

The field work covered the period from May 16th to June 15th, 2011.

Reference period/date

Three reference periods were adopted:

- Agricultural Year, 1st May 2010-30 April 2011 for the flow variables.
- The day of the interview.
- Average milk production for the reference period was the last 12 months.

Definition of the statistical unit

Agricultural Exploitation (EA): It comprises all land used, wholly or partly, for agricultural production, agriculture, livestock or a combination of both, which is exploited as an economic unit within a municipality, regardless of size, tenure, or status. Also it is considered landless farm establishments, with lack of agricultural soils that are engaged in the production of animals or animal products.

The farms are classified as: Individual; Cooperative; Family Collective; Enterprise; Indigenous Community and Public Administration.

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

Statistical coverage

The statistical coverage comprised all existing farms in the country. The Census of Agriculture developed the same concepts driving the previous agricultural census, to allow comparing the results of both censuses. Additionally, the utilization of concepts of CAM 2010 FAO, allows comparison with results of censuses conducted in other countries.

Frame

Agriculture Record Segments (SEA) were used from the III CENAGRO, as well as Urban Segments CPV'05 (Population and Housing Census 2005), where households / houses declared to have a household member who performed some agricultural activity as recorded as employer / employee or self-employed. For the Caribbean Coast, where MAG-FOR sectors are not delimited, mapping provided by the CPV'05 was used.

Methodology

The IV CENAGRO in Nicaragua was an exercise of complete enumeration. 262.974 interviews were performed, being 262.546 complete interviews, which were made by a qualified informant who utilized a printed questionnaire. The country was divided into 3,197 enumeration areas (SEA), with about 90 units each (farms). The 3,197 units of SEA were organized into 1,047 supervision areas. Alongside with census fieldwork, supervisors conducted a Community Survey.

Census techniques for checking the quality of the census:

In order to check the coverage and quality of census data, a count was made through a Post Enumeration Census Survey (EPEC), which was conducted 15 days after completion of the lift of the information field (July 2011). The PEC was performed by simple stratified sampling, covering 100 SEA and 8,900 farms. The final results of the census estimated a coverage in 97.1%, sub-coverage of 2.9% and coverage of 2%. Most sub-yield coverage in the areas of registration belonged to farming municipalities comprising strata 2 and 3 (10 to 50 blocks).

Data Dissemination and use

The final data were disseminated through a final printed report, Atlas, four special studies and 17 agricultural profiles. The information and micro data are available on the website.

Special Features

A community survey, covering 6,516 communities in the country, was simultaneously collected by supervisor with information from the Fourth National Agricultural Census from May 15th to June 16th. The Community survey covered aspects such as: number of rural communities, communities distances from county seats, access to public transportation, the main means of transportation used, access routes, distances traveled according to transportation and pathway used, the time to reach the municipalities, both in winter and summer times; access to agricultural services, repercussions of natural phenomena, crop pests, diseases in animals and the existence of agribusiness; the existence of indigenous or ethnic communities, the languages most frequently used; the existence, time, power source, as well as the distance of the community to the grid; the main sources of water and the main ways to eliminate waste in the community. It also provided information on access to health services and education.

Five special studies were conducted by specialists in different areas of study:

- Small and Median Producers
- Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean Coast in Nicaragua
- Employment in the Agricultural Sector
- Rural Agricultural Services
- Water

Data Source

IV National Agricultural Census Final Report, methodological notes, FAO consultant's reports and website.

Postal address / contact points Census

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