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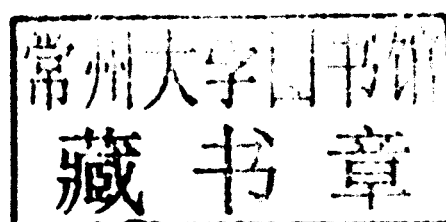
# 2000 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

**Analysis and International  
Comparison of the Results  
(1996-2005)**



# 2000 World Census of Agriculture

Analysis and International  
Comparison of the Results  
(1996-2005)



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# FOREWORD

Since 1950 FAO has prepared and advocated decennial programmes for the World Census of Agriculture (WCA). The 2000 Programme was the sixth in the series. These programmes on one hand serve to promote availability of internationally comparable data on the structure of agriculture; on the other hand they provide methodological guidance to countries in collecting data, following standard concepts, definitions and classifications.

FAO member countries provide the reports of their agricultural censuses to the FAO Statistics Division. These reports serve as the basis for preparation of internationally comparable data and for methodological studies related to the carrying out of an agricultural census. The FAO Statistics Division concurrently disseminates the key data on the structure of agriculture and related metadata obtained from the country census reports thorough its website. At the end of each round it publishes a main report, consolidating the global information on the structure of agriculture. For the WCA 2000 round, this report is prepared in three publications. The first report, which is a consolidated reproduction of country summaries already disseminated through the website, has already been published as FAO Statistical Development Series 12. The present publication, which is the second in the series, presents internationally comparable data on selected variables characterizing the structure of agriculture. The third report, relating to a methodological review of the WCA 2000 round is also being published along with this book.

There are no statistics without limitations. This fact makes the task of international comparisons arduous and challenging. Comparisons of data at the international level are marked by variations in concepts, definitions and approaches followed by countries to suit their national requirements. Regarding data on structure of agriculture, the limitations relate to: time reference, definition of agricultural holding adapted by countries to keep the cost and effort of the census under manageable limits, and scope and the coverage of the census. Wherever sampling design is adopted to carry out an agricultural census, an additional element of variation is introduced by sampling errors. Often, for international comparisons, there is a need to convert the units of measurement of national data. Such a conversion, when applied to a given distribution of holdings by size of land, disturbs the limits of the size classes. The resulting data need to be aligned to international standards using assumptions and interpolation methods.

One can note that the number of international comparison tables presented in this publication are substantially higher than the number of those published for the WCA 1990 round. Although our staff has made its best efforts to cover as large number of variables in this publication, from as many countries as possible, no claim is made about completeness of data at global or regional levels due to unavailability of information from some countries. Subject to the above limitations, it is expected that the comprehensive tabulations presented in this publication will serve as useful reference material for policy makers and researchers who are interested in development of agriculture and agrarian reform. The FAO Statistics Division takes pride in providing this unique publication covering information from a record number of 114 countries, and conveys appreciation for the National Statistical Offices which provided their census reports to us.

Pietro Gennari

The Director  
Statistics Division

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been possible due to the efforts of a dedicated team of staff and experts lead by Mukesh K. Srivastava, Team Leader, Agricultural Censuses and Surveys. Franco Stefanelli, statistical clerk, was the key member of staff responsible for summarizing reports from the national agricultural censuses, studying the feasibility of comparison tables and participating in discussions on complex conceptual issues related to the data presented in this publication. Adriana Neciu, Consultant, followed up on the initial work of database preparation to bring the publication to its final shape. Jean Viseur, retired FAO Statistician responsible for the WCA, reviewed the draft tables and prepared an initial draft of this publication. Crina Turtoi, Consultant, did the final review of tables with a view to making them consistent and for suggesting indicators to draw meaningful conclusions. The publication also had the benefit of advice from Miguel Galmes and Giorgi Kvinikadze. Kenneth Basham provided valuable inputs by way of proof reading and suggesting editorial improvements. Marianne Sinko and Tomaso Lezzi carried out the layout of the publication. Thanks are also due to Migena Cumani, GIS consultant, for preparing the maps included in this publication.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EEC	European Economic Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSS	Farm Structure Survey
ICC	Indicative Crop Classification
IIA	International Institute of Agriculture
NSO	National Statistical Office
PES	Post Enumeration Survey
SDS	Statistical Development Series
SGM	Standard Gross Margin
UN	United Nations
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WCA	World Census of Agriculture

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## PART ONE

# Report on the 2000 World Census of Agriculture



## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The first Programme for the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) was developed for the years 1929-1930 by the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) and implemented in about 60 countries. The IIA intended to conduct a second Programme for 1940 with much wider coverage, but the Second World War interfered with its full implementation.

1.1.2 FAO, having succeeded the IIA, took over the task of organizing the World Census of Agriculture and continued with the preparation and advocacy of successive decennial programmes. Each Programme benefitted from the experience of the previous ones, both from the methodological and the operational point of view. The 1950 programme restricted the scope of those relating to 1930 and 1940. The next programmes, however, re-expanded the scope of the census and introduced some methodological improvements, whilst keeping the structure of agriculture as the central theme.

1.1.3 The Programme for the 2000 WCA round was the eighth decennial international census programme. It defined a Census of Agriculture as *“a large-scale, periodic, statistical operation for the collection of quantitative information on the structure of agriculture”* and continued to elaborate: *“the word ‘census’ implies a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings. However, by extension, it can be conducted by a sample enumeration, provided the sample is large enough to generate sub-national data”*.

1.1.4 This publication is part of the series of reports and reviews prepared at the end of each WCA round. However, bearing in mind the coverage of countries and the available data in this round, the traditional contents of the reports on the WCA rounds have been divided into two publications. The individual country results and the metadata on the country censuses are presented in the accompanying publication *“2000 World Census of Agriculture: Main results and Metadata by Country (1996 – 2005)”* (FAO, 2010). Besides the key statistical information on the structure of agriculture in each country, the publication provides one page of metadata on the census of the country including *Historical outline, Institutional arrangements, Enumeration period, Reference date, Definitions, Coverage, Sampling frame, Methods, Data source, Mailing address of responsible organization and Website etc.* These pages can also be accessed from the website of FAO Statistics Division<sup>1</sup>.

1.1.5 A separate volume *“2000 World Census of Agriculture: Methodological Review”* (FAO, 2013) will present an analysis of the methodological aspects of the censuses carried out during the 2000 WCA round, which covered the censuses undertaken by countries during the decade: January 1st, 1996 – December 31st, 2005. The publication will present a review of main data collected, methods and techniques for collection, processing and dissemination of census data, and selected country examples to highlight the best practices. The publication has been written principally for planners of agricultural censuses.

1.1.6 This publication presents a comparison of data (not without limitations) received from different countries. It provides selected data on number and area of holdings (classified by land-size of holding, if available), gender of the holder, farm population, employment, land tenure, land use, main crops, livestock, irrigation and machinery and equipment. In addition to thematic tables presented in PART TWO of the publication, the key findings are presented in Chapter 4. Maps and charts are used to highlight the key conclusions.

1 FAO Statistics Division: <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/en/>



**1.1.7** Census data at the national level are available in diverse forms and language. Effort was made by the FAO Statistics Division to collect, validate and standardize to present these in a comparable format using the terminology and classifications of the *FAO Programme for the WCA 2000, to the best extent possible*. Users are, nonetheless, advised to carefully use the data bearing in mind the limitations and warnings mentioned in Chapter 3 of the publication.

**1.1.8** The data presented here relates to the 2000 WCA round. As per information available at the time of preparation of the report, some 122 countries had conducted an agricultural census during the period (including those which collected similar information in their population censuses); nevertheless this report has been prepared on the basis of the results from the 114 countries and territories for which census reports were made available to FAO.

### 1.2 General characteristics of the 2000 World Census of Agriculture

**1.2.1** The 2000 Programme (FAO, 1995. § 1.17) had three main features:

- Uniformity in concepts, definitions and classifications with those of other data sources was promoted. To the extent possible concepts and definitions proposed for the census were compatible with those recommended by other UN organisations. For example, definitions adopted for the concepts such as "household" and "occupation" conformed to those recommended by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
- It was recommended to limit the data coverage within the census. Given the scale, resources requirement, field management, enumeration skills and data processing implications, this limitation was considered essential to ensure the success of the census.
- In relation to the previous WCA Programme, changes had been kept to a minimum. Some changes were necessary to reflect changing priorities and to improve the presentation and analysis of data. In the 2000 WCA basic data items to address "gender" and "environmental" dimension of agriculture were introduced. The need for geo-referenced data was also realized.

**1.2.2** In a broad sense "census of agriculture" refers to a nationwide large scale operation for collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating agricultural structural information. In that sense an agricultural census may be conducted through complete enumeration or sampling or a combination of both. When a large sample survey is conducted to generate sub-national data, the FAO Programme refers to it as "sample enumeration". However, for the purpose of reaching an extensive international comparison, the present publication covers information from censuses carried out both through complete enumeration and sampling. Information on the design of censuses adopted in specific countries could be obtained in FAO, 2010 and FAO, 2011a.

**1.2.3** The Programme for the WCA 2000 established three basic objectives of a census (FAO, 1995. § 4.1):

- To provide aggregate totals for fundamental agricultural data to use as benchmarks for inter-census estimates.
- To provide a frame for other agricultural sample surveys.
- To provide data for small administrative units and detailed cross-classifications of farm structural attributes.

**1.2.4** Regarding the census scope (the data items on which information is to be collected), the Programme for the WCA 2000 identified eight broad items (FAO, 1995. § 4.8): 1) Location of holding; 2) Legal status of holder; 3) Purpose of production; 4) Integration of holding with other enterprises engaged in other economic activity (ies); 5) Basic demographic characteristics of the holder and the household; 6) Inventory of production factors; 7) Tenure arrangements for production factors; 8) Other features.

**1.2.5** The data item on "Inventory of production factors" was further enumerated as covering:

- source of manpower used on the holding (family workers, hired agricultural workers);
- number and area of land parcels;
- area by land use;
- area harvested, by crop;
- number of cultivated trees by crop;

- number of livestock by type;
- type of machinery and equipment used;
- number of forest trees on the holding; and
- agricultural buildings.

1.2.6 The “tenure arrangements” for production factors referred to land tenure and source of machinery and equipment used. The other features on which data was proposed to be collected included: (1) Shifting cultivation, (2) Use of irrigation, drainage, fertilizers, pesticides and high yielding variety seeds, (3) Fishery or forestry activities, if carried out on the holding, and (4) Livestock system.

1.2.7 The above mentioned scope has been maintained from the previous census Programme. Whilst the Programme advocates to not include in the census many aspects relevant to agriculture not suitable for collection in a multi-purpose single enumeration, such as production, yields, etc, some countries did take advantage of the census exercise to produce information on non-structural items of practical consideration. On the other hand, some subjects included in the census scope according to the FAO Programme were sometimes disregarded by countries because they were not relevant to them.

### 1.3 Regional groupings and availability of data from censuses

1.3.1 In order to capture the broad structural tendencies in different regions the data collected from the census reports of the countries has been grouped in regions. The grouping of countries in different regions has been done in conformity with that used in earlier publications in the FAO Statistical Development Series. This country grouping by regions follows UNSD standards on composition of macro geographical (continental) regions viz. Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. However, to be able to draw meaningful conclusions from the analysis of country practices, the countries in Americas have been classified into two groups: “America, North and Central (including Caribbean countries)” and “America, South” which is consistent with the division into sub-regions proposed by UNSD. Bearing in mind the membership of FAO, the location of territories and their identity, the countries and territories have been classified into the region of their location. Purely for statistical purposes, no distinction has been made between “countries” and “territories” in this publication and both are referred to as “countries”.

1.3.2 A review of the data collected by countries indicates that most countries include the data items on land, crops, livestock taken from their agricultural censuses. While 83 out of 114 countries included in the review have collected information on the demography of the household managing the holding, only 57 countries are reported to have collected information on legal status of the holdings. The information on number of holdings managed by civil persons is available for a bigger number of countries than the area managed by these holdings. The area of holdings by legal status is not tabulated and published in many reports even in some European countries, even though most countries collect data on legal status of the holding. The information on the legal status of the holder is conspicuously scanty in the censuses carried out in Africa.

1.3.3 There is a lack of availability of information on forms of land tenure in Africa, perhaps due to a variety of conventional land tenure types which are often not precisely defined in legal terms. Some 76 countries out of 114 countries collected data on employment on holdings but less than half of these countries collected information on “household members engaged in agriculture”. Although countries collect information on existence of building and structure on the holdings, no comparison is possible at international level due to lack of information on area under the farm buildings. Most censuses focus on estimating area allocated to crops, and the area under buildings etc. is grouped together with other areas including ponds.

1.3.4 Only a third of countries collected information on farm machinery. Attempts were made to prepare comparable data on “number of tractors” held by the agricultural holding. It was observed that countries often do not distinguish between the types of tractors (e.g. *4 wheeled tractors and track laying tractors*) and their capacity. The availability of data from agricultural censuses on “water and irrigation” is very poor. Only some 15 countries collected information on “holding area that received irrigation” and even a smaller number of countries report on “number of holdings receiving irrigation”. The information on “other non-agricultural activities of the holding” was collected in less than one quarter of the censuses under review. As these activities are of local importance, no international comparison of the data was carried out.





## CHAPTER 2

### Participation of Countries in the 2000 WCA Round

#### 2.1 Increasing participation of the countries

**2.1.1** This publication summarizes and compares information from 114 countries and territories<sup>2</sup> whose reports were made available to FAO till the time of finalization of this publication. This includes 25 countries in Africa, 29 countries each in Asia and Europe, 14 countries of North and Central America, 8 countries in South America, and 9 countries in Oceania region. In order to enhance the scope of comparison of structure of agriculture among the FAO member countries, the publication has also included the data from 6 countries which did not carry out an agricultural census, in the strict sense of the term, but have instead used alternative methods for obtaining data normally collected through agricultural censuses. The countries like Serbia<sup>33</sup>, Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia used their population censuses to collect structural data on agriculture. Afghanistan and Mongolia carried out a livestock census. The annual livestock census of Mongolia is not strictly a census or a survey as it is based on a reporting system. However, given the importance of a large population of livestock in the country, it was considered appropriate to include the country in the related comparison tables.

**2.1.2.** Table 1.2 in PART TWO of the publication lists participation of countries in different rounds of the WCA beginning with 1930. Summary Table 1 below depicts the trends in the number of countries participating in the different rounds in different regions since the first round in 1930.

**Table 1. Number of countries participating in the WCA rounds**

Region	WCA round						
	1930	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total number of FAO members as the end of each round	—	70	109	132	154	173	189
Total number of participating countries	55	81	100	111	103	90	114
Africa	8	17	28	25	23	20	25
America, North and Central	10	18	19	23	18	16	14
America, South	5	8	11	10	7	7	8
Asia	5	10	19	19	21	14	29
Europe	23	20	17	24	22	20	29
Oceania	4	8	6	10	12	13	9

**2.1.3.** Global coverage of the 2000 WCA (1996-2005), is depicted geographically in Map 1. The shaded area of the map also covers the 8 countries for which the data was not available but were it was reported that the country undertook an agricultural census during the 2000 WCA.

**2.1.4** A record number of 122 countries covered in the 2000 WCA also includes 8 that undertook their first agricultural census during the decade. These include China, Comoros, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mozambique. The censuses of agriculture of Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Slovakia were the first as independent countries.

<sup>2</sup> For statistical purposes both "countries" and "territories" are hereinafter referred to as "countries".

<sup>3</sup> Figures for Serbia reported here are extracted from a booklet on Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2002. As per Communication number 295 dated December 24, 2002, the results relate to Central Serbia and AP Vojvodina.



2.1.5 The success of this round as compared to the previous 1990 WCA round is also due to the fact that about 41 countries which had undertaken a census before but missed the 1990 WCA round for a variety of reasons, did undertake a census in the 2000 WCA round. There were some 15 such countries in Asia and 12 in Africa.

2.1.6. An in-depth study of Table 1.2 of PART TWO shows that there are some 73 countries which carried out an agricultural census during both the 1990 WCA and the 2000 WCA rounds. This number includes 21 countries in Europe, 14 in Asia, 13 in Africa, 17 in North, Central and South America, and 8 countries in Oceania. It seems that a mandatory requirement of EUROSTAT is to conduct a Farm Structure Survey and/or Census, which is also linked to some incentives for the member countries. This has contributed to the establishment of a regular periodicity of agricultural censuses in Europe. Despite the absence of any such incentives, a tendency towards a regular agricultural census among Asian countries, particularly those occupying large agricultural areas, is also noted. Map 2 indicates the importance of agriculture in a country using the indicator “area of agricultural holdings as percentage of total area of the country”; see Column 8 of Table 1.3 in PART TWO for information on individual countries. It is encouraging to note that most major agricultural countries of the world are covered by this round of the WCA.

2.2 Coverage of the 2000 WCA round by population and area

2.2.1 Table 1.3 in PART TWO provides information on the geographical area of countries, the area managed by agricultural holdings, and the population for the 114 countries covered in this report. These results are summarized in Table 2 below to assess the global coverage of the 2000 WCA round, and depicted in Chart 1.

Table 2. Global coverage of the 2000 WCA round

Region	World			Coverage of the 2000 WCA by					
	Total number of countries#	Total population	Total area of countries	Countries		Population		Physical area	
		(millions)	(million ha)	(number)	(% of total)	(millions)	(% of world)	(million ha)	(% of world)
TOTAL	222	6 115	13 407	114	51.3	5 067	82.9	8 598	64.1
Africa	56	819	3 014	25	44.6	413	50.4	1 461	48.5
America, North and Central	36	484	2 284	14	38.9	344	71.1	1 859	82.7
America, South	14	356	1 782	8	57.1	307	86.2	1 440	80.8
Asia	51	3 698	3 176	29	56.9	3 484	94.2	2 585	81.4
Europe	39	727	2 297	29	74.4	496	68.2	456	19.8
Oceania	26	31	854	9	34.6	24	76.8	797	93.3

Source: Population (refers to year 2000-01) (FAO,2006);Total area of the countries (FAO, 1997).

#The number of countries has been kept the same as those in the 1990 WCA round to facilitate comparison.This minor inaccuracy is not likely to affect the broad conclusions.

2.2.2 The size, population and structure of agriculture in the 114 countries covered in the report differ considerably. The report includes small countries like American Samoa with a country area of 20 thousand hectares to big countries like China with 932.7 million hectares. The total population of countries vary from 20 thousand inhabitants in Cook Islands to over 1,282 million in China. Together these 114 countries represent more than half of the total number of countries, and about 65 percent of the total geographical area in the world. The highest coverage of countries is observed in Europe which is followed by South America and Asia. The participation rate of countries in Africa, Central America and Oceania is among the lowest. Nonetheless, in Oceania, the area covered by agricultural censuses was over 93 percent, which was even better than the area coverage of about 81 percent in the Americas and Asia.