

1- Historical Outline

The Censuses of Agriculture were conducted in the I.R. Iran in 1973, 1988, 1993, 2003, and 2014.

2- Legal Basis and Organization

- On the basis of law & regulations of National Statistical System of Iran (NSS), the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) is responsible for conducting the Census of Agriculture every 10 years.
- The SCI and the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture jointly conduct the Census of Agriculture: The SCI is responsible for designing and conducting the Census of Agriculture and the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture collaborates with the SCI in designing and implementing the Census and collecting related data.
- the government of the I.R. Iran provides funding for conducting the Census of Agriculture. The total budget for conducting the census of Agriculture in 2014 was about 15 million US dollars.
- The President of the I.R. Iran issues a decree to all the government agencies and assigns them to cooperate with the SCI for the implementation of the census.
- The Census of Agriculture in 2014 lasted 40 days , from September 27 to November 9, 2014. The information on the Census staff is as follows:
 1. Total Census staff :12326 persons,
 2. Enumerators : 5549 persons,
 3. Experts (supervising enumerators) : 1835 persons,
 4. Other members (Technical and training deputies, IT experts, Executive director of provinces, Vehicle drivers& etc): about 5000 persons

3. Reference Period or Date

- In this census three statistical periods were used: "enumeration day" , " crop year" and "the past 365 days before the day of enumeration".
- Enumeration day: some of the statistical items in holding questionnaires refer to the day of enumeration. For example: The number of livestock
- Crop year: we obtained the information on all types of crops which were planted from September 2013 to September 2014. (It means that the beginning and the end of cultivation date for temporary and permanent crops)

4. Enumeration Period

- The Census of Agriculture in 2014 was carried out from September 27 to November 9, 2014.

5. Definition of the Statistical Unit

- Statistical unit of this census is an agricultural holding. According to the definition, all agricultural activities run by a single management is an agricultural production unit, which is called agricultural holding. This unit is directed by the members of one or more households (natural persons) or by an authorized company or a public institution (legal entity).

6. Geographic Coverage

- The whole area of the country was covered by the Census of Agriculture in 2014 (urban and rural areas).

7. Exclusions and Cut-Off Thresholds

The following criteria were used to exclude little and non-profit holdings:

- Farming: holding with at least 400 square meters of arable land;
- Horticulture: holding with at least 200 square meters of orchards and nurseries;
- Raising of large livestock (cow, buffalo and camel): holdings with at least one large livestock;
- Small livestock (sheep and goat): holdings with at least two small livestock
- Traditional poultry raising: holdings with at least 10 chickens and any other types of poultry
- No cut-off limits were prescribed for activities relating to greenhouse, apiculture, aquaculture and sericulture

8. Methodology

FAO Modular Approach

- The Modular approach
- In the Census of Agriculture in 2014, the enumerators referred to all the households in rural and urban areas and completed the frame list for all of the holders and then filled in a holding questionnaire for each holding.

Frame

- The frame used for rural areas in the Census of Agriculture in 2014 was the list of villages based on the latest geographical divisions and the frame used for the urban areas was the comprehensive list of urban blocks map.

Complete or Sample Enumeration Methods

- Complete enumeration method was used.
- List of agriculture holdings in metropolises and large villages was used for direct interviewing methods.

Data Collection Method

- For the first time in the census history in Iran, the Census of Agriculture in 2014 was carried out by using Tablet device without using any paper questionnaires (paperless census). Using the Tablet resulted in increasing the accuracy of the collected data, removing the need for the checker, decreasing the time needed for data dissemination and reducing the cost.

Questionnaire(s)

- The Listing Form (Short Form): to identify the holdings;
 - Four frame list forms (private settled households, unsettled holders, private unsettled household and authorized companies or public institution) and two questionnaires namely as holding questionnaire and village questionnaire were used. The village questionnaire was used to collect information on different dimensions of rural areas.

9.Use of Technology

Controls to Minimize Non-Sampling Errors

- Online data editing was designed at two levels:
- 1- Data editing in tablets (done by the enumerators)
- 2- Data editing in web-based system (done by the experts)

Innovative Methodologies

- Designing and filling electronic forms and questionnaires.
- Designing online data editing softwares for Tablets and web- based systems
- Transferring data from everywhere (especially from hard-to-reach areas) to the servers in the SCI in a very short time.
- Receiving online daily report of census progress from all executive levels

10. Data processing and archiving

- Data entry and editing in Tablets (done by the enumerators)
- Data editing in web-based system (done by the experts)
- The SCI conducted a general assessment of the data and also conducted some imputations on them.

11- Census data quality

- The SCI monitored all phases of the Census such as implementation and data processing
- Experts of the SCI and experts in the provinces checked the gathered data after the Census ended.
- The SCI also conducted post enumeration.

12-Data Dissemination and Use

- Dissemination of the Census results was done in two ways: 1. Electronic
2. Hard copy
- The results of the Census (at national and provincial levels) were uploaded in the SCI portal

13. Data Sources

- FAO World programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010
- ISIC , Rev 4
- CPC

14. Contact

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