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**OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ON LISTING AND SURVEY
PREPARATION FOR HOUSEHOLD AND NON-HOUSEHOLD
AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AND SPECIAL FARMS**

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Preface

As the organization recognized by the United Nations Statistics Division as responsible for international statistical standards for the agriculture sector, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been supporting countries since its founding in 1945, providing assistance to implement their national agricultural censuses through the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) promoting the use of standard international concepts, definitions and methodology.

The census of agriculture is generally aimed to be carried out every ten years while more frequent agricultural data are required for effective planning, financing, and implementation of agricultural development policies, especially in developing countries. Agricultural surveys are naturally a cost effective solution for more detailed and updated agricultural statistics in countries to fulfil both national and international data needs.

Recently in the framework of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (2012-2018), hosted by FAO Statistics Division, methodological works and field experiments were implemented to provide cost effective international guidance to countries for the implementation of sample surveys in the agriculture sector. Since 2018, FAO Statistics Division established a Survey Team with the ultimate goal to support effectively countries in the implementation of agricultural sample surveys.

This note is part of the series of operational guidelines of FAO Survey Team providing practical cost effective orientations to countries on agricultural surveys from the conception and implementation to data dissemination. The present document is focused on operational clarifications on the definitions of agricultural holdings and operational guidance for establishing lists of agricultural holdings for agricultural surveys.

This document is result of a collaborative work of experienced experts of FAO Survey Team and national consultants working in statistical offices in countries where agricultural surveys cover agricultural holdings in both household and non-household sectors and special farms.

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This document is part of the methodological works of the Survey Team of FAO Statistics Division to provide operational guidance on selected areas of agricultural survey methodology with an overall objective to promote cost effective practices in agricultural surveys implementation. The methodological works are conducted under the overall coordination of Christophe Duhamel and the technical supervision of Flavio Bolliger and Neli Georgieva.

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