

FAO STATISTICAL
DEVELOPMENT
SERIES

13

2000 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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



2000 World Census of Agriculture

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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 through 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

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