

FAO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

5a

Guidelines on employment

**Supplement to the
Programme for the World
Census of Agriculture 2000**



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FOREWORD

FAO's programme for the "World Census of Agriculture" has been ongoing for over fifty years. The primary purpose of the programme is to encourage countries to take an Agricultural Census at least once every ten years. FAO, through this programme, provides definitions, concepts, standards and guidelines for censuses in order to generate a data base of internationally comparable data sets.

The Agricultural Sector is complex and the activities generated by the sector are multifaceted. One element of activity within the Agricultural Sector that has historically been included in the Census Programme has been the inclusion of items to measure agricultural labour. The primary object was to measure the amount of labour resources used on the agricultural holding during a specific reference period for production, and also to define the type, level, and source of inputs contributing to this production, investment and maintenance on the holding unit.

It became apparent that the concepts, definitions and standards used to collect employment information needed to be improved and changed to be comparable with recommended international standards. The Bureau of Statistics of the International Labour Office was asked to review and assist FAO to prepare a supplement for Category 04: Employment, in Chapter 5 of the current "Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000", FAO Statistical Development Series No. 5.

FAO Statistics Division recognizes and thanks Mr. F. Mehran, Director, and Ms. Sophi Lawrence, Statistician, of the Bureau of Statistics, ILO, for their assistance on this project. Mr. Jean Viseur, Senior Officer, FAO Statistical Development Service, coordinated this activity for FAO Statistics Division. Considerable input was also provided by Mr. Pratap Narain and Odell Larson of FAO's Statistics Division.

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Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Concepts and definitions relating to Economic Activity	3
Economically Active Population	3
Employment	4
Unemployment	6
Population Not Usually Active	7
The Principal, Secondary and Ancillary Productive Activities	8
III. Methodological considerations for the proper collection of information on Economic Activity to be used for the Census of Agriculture	10
Objective A: Estimation of Labour resources employed in Agricultural Sector	11
Objective B: Labour Market Description	12
Age Limits	13
Activity status	14
Educational characteristics	16
Short versus long reference period	18
Measuring economic activity, productive activities and gender issues	19
Time worked	20
Quantity of work	20
Computing part-time and part-year work	22
Difficulty in observing the Activity status	22
On- and off-farm work, agricultural and non-agricultural work	24
Questionnaire design	25
Presentation of results	26
IV. Country Experiences	28
Botswana	28
France	28
The Philippines	29
Poland	30
Thailand	31
United States	32
Appendix: International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO, extract of 1988 version)	
References	

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Census of Agriculture is a "large-scale, periodic, statistical operation for the collection of quantitative information on the structure of Agriculture". The FAO Statistics Division issued the "Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000"¹ (WCA 2000), (FAO Statistical Development Series, No 5) at the end of the year 1995 to encourage and assist countries in undertaking a census of Agriculture during the forthcoming decade. The WCA 2000 is the eighth version in a series launched in 1930 by the International Institute of Agriculture. It provides the basic concepts, definitions and classifications to be used for the census as well as the minimum technical guidelines for conduct of the census.²

1.2 Among the numerous topics that are included in the WCA 2000, the obtaining of information relating to economic activity is one of the most complex. There are many issues to be addressed in this respect which are related to the applicability of certain concepts, the extent to which information should and can be collected, usefulness of the data, etc. The main objective of collecting information on employment through a Census of Agriculture is to measure the labour inputs or resources used by agricultural holdings during a specified reference period in relation to the type, level and source of inputs contributing to production, investment and maintenance activities of holdings. The collection of information on employment of agriculture household members also provides a look at the economic situation of these household members and establishes their contribution to the operation of the agricultural holding. In order that comparisons and analysis are more complete the results should be consistent with production-oriented statistics obtained from other inquiries. This information is also useful for designing adequate social and economic policies for the agricultural sector.

1.3 The choice of measure and the items to be collected when enumerating the economically active population in the Census of Agriculture are fundamental to the scope and quality of data on the economic characteristics of the labour resources³ used in agriculture and to their link with statistics on employment in agriculture obtained from other sources (e.g. the Population Census, labour force and other relevant surveys, administrative registers). It is also vital in trying to achieve international comparability of economic

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