

# Report on the 1990 World Census of Agriculture

International comparison  
and primary results by country  
(1986-1995)



Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

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## FOREWORD

FAO has been promoting decennial Programmes of the World Census of Agriculture (WCA) since 1950, and the 1990 Programme was the fifth in that series. The countries that participated in the 1990 WCA, in general, communicated to FAO their national census reports, prepared in diverse forms and languages. These national reports were reviewed and then processed into a standard format, using the terminology and presentation suggested in the Programme for the 1990 WCA.

This publication provides, in an internationally comparable form, a summary of data describing the main characteristics of agricultural structures, such as number and area of agricultural holdings, land tenure, agricultural holders and land use for 80 countries. In addition, the report contains comparable data for those countries conducting a census of agriculture during the period 1930-1990. To facilitate further studies, particularly of the group of holdings with small areas, the data are tabulated, whenever possible, by appropriate size classes of areas of agricultural holdings.

There are numerous limitations which affect the comparability of data among countries and this should be kept in mind when studying the summary results of national censuses presented in this publication. Some of the more serious limitations are the following: time reference, definition of agricultural holding, scope and coverage. These are discussed to the extent feasible in the publication. Attempts were made wherever practicable to resolve apparent data errors. However, no claim is made here as to the reliability of reported data. Subject to these limitations, the comprehensive tabulations presented here may serve as a useful background for the study and development of related indicators of agrarian reform and rural development and may also be useful for planning and/or improving future national agricultural censuses.

The draft of the publication was prepared by an FAO Consultant, Mr. P. Petricevic, Retired Senior Officer, Statistical Development Service, FAO Rome, under the supervision and direction of Mr. Jean Viseur, World Census of Agriculture Senior Officer. All tables and comparisons were produced within the Statistical Development Service. The FAO Statistics Division thanks all those who made this publication possible, particularly the National Statistical Offices and their Governments who conducted censuses during this period.

The Director  
Statistics Division



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