FAO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

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MICROCOMPUTER-BASED DATA PROCESSING 1990 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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PREFACE

FAO has been promoting decennial world censuses of agriculture since 1950. The FAO Conference in its 23rd Session held in November 1985 approved the Programme for the 1990 World censuses and recommended that all member countries participate in the Programme by carrying out at least one national census of agriculture during the period 1986-1995.

It has been noticed that many developing countries face difficulties in the data processing phase of their censuses of agriculture; these difficulties cause long delays in the publication of the census results.

This booklet and a program diskette have been prepared by FAO to provide guidance on processing the census of agriculture data in an efficient way with minimal cost. Two versions of the program are available on request: interpreted or compiled. The interpreted version needs Base III to execute, while the compiled does not; the interpreted version can be modified according to users' needs, and the compiled cannot. A questionnaire designed to collect all census items that are proposed in the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture is the model for the input. A personal computer (IBM AT) and two software packages (dBASE III for the data entry and SAS for tabulation) have been used in developing the booklet and the diskette.

Deviations from the questionnaire will necessitate corresponding changes in the booklet and the diskette. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this booklet and the diskette will be helpful to plan and execute the data processing phase of a census of agriculture using a micro-computer.

Director
Statistics Division

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