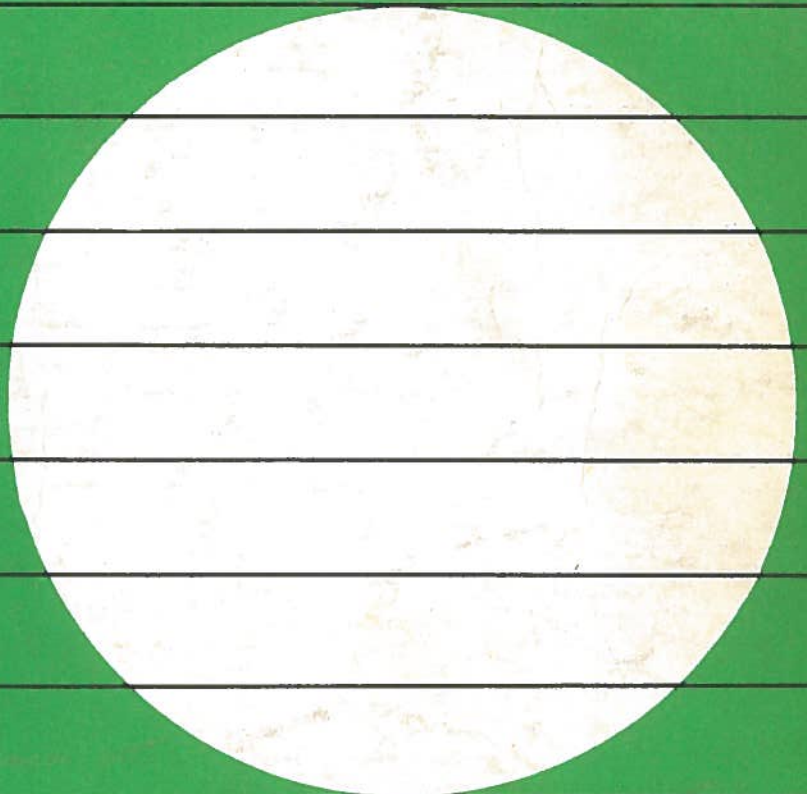


PETRICEVIC  
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# REPORT ON THE 1970 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



FAO Statistics Series

No. 10

REPORT ON THE 1970 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1977

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ISBN 92-5-100427-7

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## FOREWORD

The 1970 World Census of Agriculture was the third decennial census of agriculture promoted by FAO. The numerical results of this Census, made available to FAO generally through national census publications in diverse forms and in many different languages, are processed in a comparable form and published in a series of issues of the Census Bulletin already distributed to Member Governments. The present publication deals with the concepts, definitions and methodology of census taking as applied by countries participating in the 1970 World Census of Agriculture. The information presented is drawn from the available national census reports, documents of various FAO meetings and sessions, and from the FAO experts who were actually involved in the planning and implementation of the census of agriculture taken around 1970 in the developing countries. While every effort was made to pool together all possible sources of information, it is by no means claimed to be exhaustive. Most of the census reports available from the countries were lacking in adequate information on the planning and methodological procedures. On a number of items the information presented in some of the national reports was too scanty for a comparative analysis to be included in the present volume. Naturally these limitations reflect correspondingly on the contents of this publication.

This report on the 1970 World Census of Agriculture is being presented as supplementary material to the Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture in the hope that the experiences documented therein will provide useful guidelines to countries in planning and implementing their national census of agriculture. The last four Chapters dealing with methodological problems and the six Annexes illustrating specific country experiences on methodological problems, have been particularly designed with this end in view. The material contained therein should also prove useful for the training of national personnel who will be engaged in the conduct of the 1980 World Census of Agriculture.

R.D. Narain  
Director  
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## CHAPTER I

### HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Since the first World Census of Agriculture was conceived more than 40 years ago by the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) in Rome, the World Census of Agriculture has become an established international activity. The first World Census of Agriculture was carried out in 1930 under the auspices of the IIA and 63 countries and territories participated in it. More details about this census can be found in the report "The First World Agricultural Census (1930) - A Methodological Study of the Questions Contained in the Forms adopted for the Purposes of the Census in the Various Countries", IIA, Rome, 1937. The Programme for the 1930 World Census of Agriculture (1930 Programme) consisted of a list of items that were considered important for inclusion in a census of agriculture. The list was given the name of "Standard Form". This list was established after a review was made of agriculture in most parts of the world thus giving it an international significance. There was no consideration of regionalization of the Programme in the sense of a separate list of items that would meet the needs of the various regions of the world. The countries had to omit such crops and livestock which were not produced in the country. Countries were, however, advised that they could include other crops and subjects not mentioned in the Standard Form and further, they could amplify the questions so as to obtain any additional data they may desire to collect. All countries were urged to include in their census all the proposed questions in the Standard Form. The 1930 Programme basically neglected the methodological problems. It put the emphasis on "what" and restricted the discussion on "how".

It was the intention of the IIA that the 1930 World Census of Agriculture should be the first of a series of World Censuses of Agriculture to be undertaken every ten years. Thus, the IIA began in earnest the preparations for the 1940 World Census of Agriculture after the completion of the 1930 World Census of Agriculture. Various amendments were suggested to the Standard Form on the basis of the experience of the first World Census of Agriculture. After discussions in various expert committees and taking into consideration the recommendations made by various governments, a booklet "Programme of the World Agricultural Census of 1940" was finally issued in May 1938. The term "Standard Form" was still used for the schedule included in the 1940 Programme to indicate the type of schedule to be used for the census. However, instead of separate supplementary questions, the Standard Form was divided into three parts, namely: Part I contained essential questions to be asked from all holders; Part II contained questions on livestock production; and Part III contained questions considered optional. Also, many concepts were more clearly defined than in the previous census. The IIA also started providing each interested country with all the documents prepared for the census of agriculture from other countries as soon as they were available. The IIA also sent special questionnaires to all countries to obtain census results. The Second World War, however, upset the 1940 Programme which remained incomplete.

In 1945 the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) took over the activities of the IIA and started preparing for the Programme of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture. Although the framework of the 1950 Programme followed directly from the work done before, it introduced some new ideas. The most important among these was probably the emphasis on methodological questions. The introductory text of the 1950 Programme pointed out the difficulties that may be encountered in the collection of data and recommended a careful choice of approaches that were likely to fit the local circum-

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