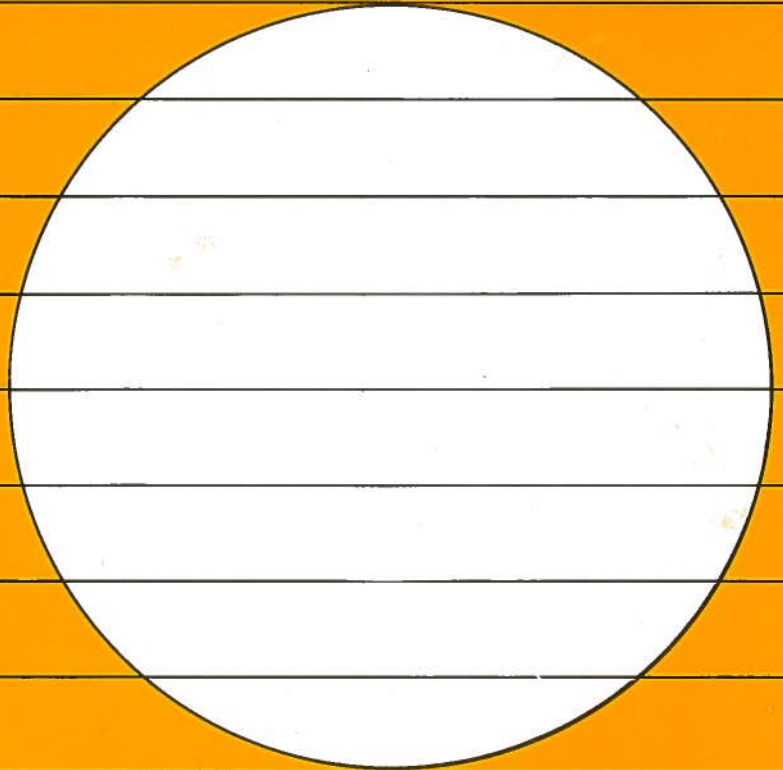


programme for the
1980 world census of agriculture



PROGRAMME FOR THE 1980 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ROME

1976

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FOREWORD

The Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture — the fourth decennial Programme to be launched by FAO — refers to national censuses to be undertaken during the decade 1976-85. The Programme amplifies the improvements and developments successively introduced in each of the preceding programmes for 1950, 1960 and 1970. The preparation of the 1980 Programme took account of the experience gained in the previous census rounds and of comments received from many national and international experts and agencies, particularly through consultations with the FAO regional statutory bodies in agricultural statistics and through the deliberations of the FAO Statistics Advisory Committee of Experts.

At its Eighteenth Session held in Rome in November 1975, the FAO Conference welcomed the 1980 Programme and noted the emphasis laid on the role of the census in the development of national integrated systems of food and agricultural statistics on a continuing basis. The Conference approved the Programme and stressed the importance of early preparations for the next round of agricultural censuses by Member Nations and the need for technical assistance to developing countries, including assistance in data processing. The Conference recognized that it was not practical to include in the 1980 Programme all the items of importance to particular countries and noted that the Programme has left an opening for countries to supplement the information collected to meet their own requirements.

The Conference adopted the following Resolution (No. 14/75):

1980 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

THE CONFERENCE,

Reaffirming the recommendations of the Eighth and Thirteenth Sessions of the Conference on the importance of a decennial world census of agriculture for obtaining internationally comparable statistics, for establishing satisfactory bench marks for evaluating current national statistics, and for developing and improving agricultural statistical systems in countries where such are lacking or inadequate,

Emphasizing the fundamental role of the agricultural census in the national systems of food and agricultural statistics,

Realizing the need for establishing close links between the censuses of agriculture and of population, both in respect of identification of enumeration units and of collection of information on agricultural population and labour force,

Recalling the needs as expressed by the World Food Conference¹ for strengthening the national systems of assembling and analysing timely information on current estimates and forecasts of the production of food crops,

Noting with satisfaction that the Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture has been finalized after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Statistics Advisory Committee of Experts and of FAO Regional Statutory Bodies in agricultural statistics,

1. *Requests* the Director-General to:

- (a) take steps to encourage the widest possible participation of countries in the census of agriculture especially in the developing regions;
- (b) provide technical assistance to countries to enable them to conduct the census and to process the census data;
- (c) promote, in consultation with the United Nations and other interested international organizations, the fullest possible compatibility between the results of the agriculture and population censuses, particularly with respect to agricultural population.

2. *Urges* that Member Nations:

- (a) participate in the Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture;
- (b) start early their plans for participation;
- (c) give high priority to the needs of the agricultural census when formulating their requests for technical assistance;
- (d) develop their national long-term integrated systems of agricultural statistics of which the agricultural census is a key component.

¹ World Food Conference Resolution XVI, Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (C 75/INF/5).

Governments participating in the 1980 Programme are kindly requested to provide FAO with:

1. early information on their plans for participation and preliminary descriptions of the scope of the census and scheduling of the census operations;
2. census documents, e.g., texts of census legislation, questionnaires and instructions to enumerators and supervisors, editing and coding instructions, samples of work sheets and punch cards, details of census methodology, field organization and data processing, and other materials describing all phases of census operations;
3. preliminary and final results of the census, as well as census reports;
4. subsequent analytical and other evaluative studies and surveys of the census and related reports.

Countries adopting a size classification of holdings other than by total area are kindly requested, in the interests of international comparability, to provide

FAO with data tabulated by total area of holdings.

Such material will aid FAO in publishing national, regional and international summaries and reports to provide countries with information on significant changes in world agriculture and improvements in census-taking and related matters. The provision of such material to FAO is to be made as soon as any part thereof becomes available and should be forwarded to:

The Director
Statistics Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

FAO acknowledges with great appreciation the co-operation of countries and of national and international experts in providing FAO with material on their experience in the 1970 agricultural census round and with suggestions and recommendations for improvements which were of great value in the preparation of this Programme.

1. SIGNIFICANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 1980 PROGRAMME

Introduction

Governments of the Member Nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have recognized the great importance of food and agricultural statistics in carrying out national and international programmes aimed at fulfilling the main objectives of the Organization — namely, to raise nutrition levels and living standards, to improve the efficiency of agricultural production and the distribution of food and agricultural products, and to better the over-all conditions of rural populations. Periodic agricultural censuses are particularly important, as they are the main source of basic quantitative information on structure and other characteristics of agriculture that is needed in development planning, socioeconomic policy formulation and establishment of national priorities. The census also provides the basis for development of a comprehensive, integrated national system of food and agricultural statistics with major links between its various components and related components of other national statistical systems.

An agricultural census is a large-scale, periodic, government-sponsored operation for the collection and derivation of quantitative information about the nation's agriculture, using the agricultural holding as the statistical unit. The census of agriculture provides data relating mainly to the organization and structure of agriculture and to the use of agricultural resources, such as manpower, land and water, livestock, machinery and other fixed assets and intermediate inputs. In particular, the agricultural census is the principal statistical operation for obtaining the following essential types of data:

- (i) comprehensive and up-to-date facts on agricultural land area, crops, irrigation and numbers

requisites, facilities and practices, as well as measures of the interrelationships among these attributes;

- (iv) basic data regarding current use and changes in use of agricultural resources, such as people, land, livestock and poultry, irrigation water, and agricultural machinery and equipment; and
- (v) basic data for the formulation or development and implementation of a comprehensive, integrated system of food and agricultural statistics.

The census provides essential information not only for the country as a whole but also for major administrative subdivisions and, whenever possible, for agroecological zones and other small areas. This is one of the most important purposes of the agricultural census in countries which have the means to undertake a complete or, at the least, large-scale sampling of agricultural holdings. Information on agricultural holdings for small administrative and other divisions of the country will be particularly useful in development planning, especially for the efficient allocation of resources and the setting up of plan targets.

With the growth of regional and international interdependence and cooperation among countries and the attendant need for quantitative information on the regional and world food and agricultural situation, increasing attention has been given to harmonizing national censuses with respect to scope and coverage, concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulation plans. The Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture — the fourth decennial international Programme launched, promoted and supported by FAO — refers to national agricultural censuses to be undertaken during the ten years 1976-85. It marks almost half a century of developments in agricultural

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