

Census of agriculture

Introduction:

Agriculture is an extremely important sector of Pakistan's economy. It plays a vital role and lays down the foundation for economic development and growth in this country.

Agriculture contributes more than 21 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides employment to 45 per cent of the total labour force of the country. It provides raw material to the industrial sector on one side and is a market of industrial products on the other side. In the export earnings, direct as well as indirect share of agriculture is very high. Thus, agriculture plays a multidimensional role in the economy of Pakistan.

Almost 64 % of the population of Pakistan resides in rural areas and earns its livelihood, directly or indirectly, from agricultural activities e.g. crop cultivation, livestock rearing, labour in agriculture, agriculture input supply, transportation of agricultural output to the market etc. Therefore, development of agriculture is synonymous to the development of the country. The availability of timely, accurate and reliable data is precondition for sound agricultural planning and development. The data from the Agricultural Census thus provide a concrete basis from which the agriculture sector can ultimately develop through evidence-based policy designing. The Agricultural Census Organization (ACO) has conducted five Agricultural Censuses in Pakistan: 1960, 1972, 1980, 1990 and 2000. The present report is the sixth one in the series. The Agricultural Census 2010 was undertaken to fulfil the following objectives:

Objectives:

1. To generate basic information on the structure of agriculture.
2. To develop detailed basic information about the agricultural resources, state of their utilization and to find out the degree of acceptability of modern farming practices among the farming community for the purpose of regional, provincial and national development, planning and research in the field of agriculture.
3. To collect information about livestock population.
4. To fulfil data needs of the international agencies like FAO which require the country's information for a worldwide study of agricultural resources in order to formulate international policies in matters relating to the supply of food and raw materials on sustainable basis.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The census taking exercise was guided by an Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of about 50 official and non-official members drawn from the concerned Federal and Provincial Government Departments, Universities, Research Institutes, while non-official members come from the progressive farmers. The committee is also comprised of high-level government officials / technical experts from Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

TYPE & GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

As per previous practice and approved procedures, the Agricultural Census 2010 was sample based. The sample design, however, varied for different regions of the country in accordance with the ground realities. This census covered the entire country, i.e., Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (including Provincially and Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Frontier Regions and Agencies), Punjab (including Islamabad district), Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The geographic coverage was also extended to Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, each as a separate entity.

SCOPE OF THE CENSUS

The scope refers to the range / subjects / items covered by the census. For Agricultural Census 2010 the scope with reference to farm area was restricted to the agricultural farms operated by the Government or by private household(s), individually or collectively or under corporate arrangement at the time of census enumeration. Consequently, the undistributed government lands other than government farms, undistributed portion of the lands resumed by the Government under land reforms, built up areas, land under roads, rails, rivers, canals, government forests, parks, lakes, water bodies, shallow lands, hills and mountains, etc. falling under the category of non-farm area are outside the scope of the census. The scope of the present census, as finally approved, included the collection of data on type, size, tenure of farms, land utilization, irrigation, area under crops and orchards, number of fruit and non-fruit trees, use of manures, fertilizers and plant protection measures, use of agricultural machinery, livestock population, loan and its sources, casual and permanent hired agricultural labour, household members by age, sex, qualification and their contribution towards agriculture, type of residential structures, economic activities of household members and their main source of income.

Enumeration duration:

Areas Covered

Hot Areas

Phase-I:

Whole of Punjab & Sindh provinces

Phase-II:

Peshawar, Mardan, Nowshera, Swabi, Charsadda, Kohat, Bannu, Hangu, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Tank and D. I. Khan districts; Agencies of Khyber and Mohmand and FRs of Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, D.I. Khan, Laki Marwat and Tank in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Districts of Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Bolan, Noshki, Chagai, Sibi, Harnai, Dera Bugti, Lasbella, Awaran, Panjgoor, Kharan, Washuk, Kech (Turbat) and Gawadar Balochistan province

Enumeration Period

22-02-2010 to 10-04-2010

Cold Areas

Phase-III:

Abbottabad, Haripur, Mansehra, Toor Ghar, Battagram, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Swat, Lower Dir, Upper Dir and Chitral districts; Agencies of Malakand and Bajour in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province while districts of Quetta, Kila Abdullah, Ziarat, Pishin, Kalat, Zhob, Sheerani, Khuzdar, Kohlu, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Loralai, Kila Saifullah and Mastung in Balochistan province and whole of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Enumeration period:

17-05-2010 to 30-06-2010

SAMPLING FRAMES:

Updated sampling frames are the prerequisites of sampling to avoid introducing a bias in the selection of sampling units. For the purpose, different sampling frames were prepared involving great deal of effort and expense and were used for the proper selection of representative samples for Agricultural Census 2010. The sampling frames were:

1. **Mouza Lists:** Mouza lists were updated at district level for each Tehsil through Mouza Census 2008. For sampling purpose, these lists contained only rural, (unpopulated) Mouzas arranged by Patwar Circles and showing Mouza-wise total area, cultivated area as per 2006-07

revenue records and number of households according to the population census 1998 in that Mouza. Subsequently, the lists of Mouzas of the selected Patwar Circles served as the sample frame for the selection of Mouzas.

2. **List of Urban Blocks:** A complete district-wise list of urban blocks of approximate size of 200 to 250 households per block, prepared by Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS).

3. **List of National Certainty Holdings (NCHs):** Lists of NCHs were prepared throughout the country at district level in all the Mouzas / villages. NCH lists included all government agriculture & livestock farms as well as all private farms of 100 acres or more land owned / operated may be at one place or scattered in different Mouzas / districts / even provinces.

4. **Complete List of Households:** A list of households in each selected Mouza showing total area, area owned and rented-in constituting their farm / holding was prepared by the enumerators during the field operation.

5. **List of Mouza Certainty Holdings (MCHs):** During preparation of household list in a selected Mouza, a list of livestock holders having 25 or more cattle and / or buffaloes; 25 or more camels; 50 or more sheep and / or goats was prepared and such households were treated as MCHs. In addition, from a complete list of households in a Mouza / village, those households farming 20 acres or more land as area owned and / or area rented-in were also segregated as MCHs. selected urban blocks, households having / operating agricultural land or having any number of livestock were also treated as MCH. The migratory people, if found in the boundary of selected Mouza / urban block during household listing or enumeration, were also treated as MCH.