

Historical outline

Three agriculture censuses were conducted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1974, 1982, and in 1999 to which data here refer.

Organization

The 1999 Census of Agriculture was organized and conducted by the Economic Studies and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water (MAW). Upon the approval of the MAW a Supervisory Committee was set up, chaired by the General Director of Economic Studies and Statistics Department and including representatives from the various sectors of MAW and from other concerned institutions. The Advisory Committee was defined mainly to review and follow up the execution of all the census stages, to make recommendations and to review data processing and output.

Enumeration period / Reference date

Data refer to the agricultural year 1 November 1998 to 31 October 1999. For livestock numbers, data refer to the day of enumeration.

Definition

- **Village or Agricultural Complex:** Are defined as geographical sites containing a number of agricultural holdings.
- **Agricultural Holding** (same as used in previous censuses) is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. Single management may be exercised by individual or household or other subjects such as specialized projects, establishments or companies.

Coverage

The census covered the agriculturally productive regions of the entire country.

Frame

During the preparatory phase of the census (see Methods), lists of the villages, complexes and agricultural holdings were set up. The census frame was defined as the list of villages and agricultural complexes, together with the number of their agricultural holdings. This classification was based on the approved administrative sub-divisions of the Kingdom. All MAW Directorates were requested to update the census frame by the end of 1998.

Method

The census was conducted by complete enumeration in the 13 Administrative Regions of the Kingdom and data were collected by enumerators through direct interview.

Prior to the census, a pre-test was conducted to evaluate the questionnaire before its final adoption and implementation.

The census included three phases:

- The preparatory phase;
- The fieldwork for data collection phase: divided, in turn, into two sub-phases – the first covering the regions of Riyadh, Qassim, Hail, Jauf, Tabuk, the Eastern Province and the Northern Borders Region and the second covering Makkah, Madinah, Baha, Asir, Jazan, and Najran Regions.
- The third phase included processing, input, analysis and dissemination of data.

Data source

Statistics of Agricultural Census by Kingdom's Regions 1999. Agricultural Research and Development Affairs, Department of Economic Studies and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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