

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The concepts and definitions used in the publication are based on the Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2000, FAO Statistical Development Series 5; World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010, FAO Statistical Development Series 11, EUROSTAT guidelines, and FAOSTAT definitions.

Agricultural area

Agricultural area consist of cropland and permanent meadows and pastures.

Agricultural census

Agricultural census or census of agriculture is defined as a large-scale, periodic, statistical operation for the collection of quantitative information on the structure of agriculture. The word “census” implies a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings. However, by extension it also implies sample enumeration, provided the sample is large enough to generate sub-national data.

Agricultural holder

Is defined as the civil or juridical person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation. The agricultural holder has technical and economic responsibility for the holding and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day-to-day work management to a hired manager.

Agricultural holding

An agricultural holding 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 an individual or a household, jointly by two or more individuals or household, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation or a government agency. The holding’s land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels share the same production means utilized by the holding, such as labour, farm building, machinery or draught animals.

Agricultural household

Agricultural household is a household managing an agricultural holding.

Agricultural land

See *Agricultural area*.

Agricultural population

Agricultural population comprises all members of an agricultural households. It is not necessary that this population exclusively come from rural population.(See Table 1.3)

Arable land

Arable land consists of land under temporary crops, permanent crops and temporarily fallow land.

Area, harvested

Area harvested refers to the total area from which the crop is gathered. Thus, area destroyed because of drought, flooding, pest attack or any other reason is excluded. In this regard, a certain percentage loss criterion – for example, yield is less than 20% of what it normally is – is used to determine if a crop is destroyed. Crop that is damaged but not destroyed is included in the area harvested. If possible, the area harvested should exclude uncultivated patches, footpaths, ditches, headlands, shoulders and shelterbelts. (Refer to [FAO 2005] Statistical Development Series 11).

Area of holding

Area of holding provides a measure of the size of the holding, and is an important element in the agricultural census analysis. It refers to all land managed by an agricultural holding, without regard to the right to access the land. Area of holding is defined as area of land managed by an agricultural holding which includes the land owned by the holder plus the land rented-in plus the land operated under other form of tenure.

Area, operated

See area of the holding.

Area, owned or in owner like possession

Area owned is the holding land for which the holder possesses title of ownership and has the right to determine the nature and extent of its use. The land under tenure form which give owner like possession will fall under this category. As it is a sub-category of area operated by the holder, for the purpose of agricultural census it does not include area owned by the holder but rented to others.

Area, physical

Physical area refers to physically measured area of the land, without regard to the number of times it was cultivated in a year.

Area, rented

It refers to land rented or leased-in by the holder from other persons, usually for a limited time period. At aggregate level it refers to total area of all lands rented-in by all holdings.

Area under agriculture

Area under agriculture is defined as area of holdings divided by country area. This is a non-standard indicator computed in this publication solely for analytical purposes to ascertain importance of agriculture in the country.

Area under crops

See gross cropped area.

Average area per holding

It is the total area operated (managed) by all holdings in a country divided by number of holdings. Use of thresholds in the definition of holdings for the agricultural census purposes places some limitations on the use of this indicator for international comparison.

Average size of holding

This indicator gives an idea of scale of agricultural operations of holdings. Several alternative measures of size of agricultural holdings are possible. However, for simplicity and keeping in view availability of data "land operated by the holding" has been used as a measure of size of holding.

Broilers

Chicken reared mainly for production of meat.

Civil person

For the purpose of this report, "civil persons" includes the holders operating the holdings, according to the following three main legal status: (i) an individual; (ii) a household; (iii) two or more individuals of different households or two or more households. This category excludes holding operated by juridical persons or institutions such as companies, cooperatives, religious institutions. (See table 2.1)

Compact plantation

Area in compact plantation includes plants, trees and shrubs planted in a regular and systematic manner, such as in an orchard. Plants, trees or shrubs forming an irregular pattern but dense enough to be considered as an orchard, are also considered a compact plantation.

Country area

Country area refers to geographical area of the country including area under inland water bodies, but excluding offshore territorial waters. Possible variations in the data reported on this may be due to updating and revisions of the country data and not necessarily to any change of area.

Cropland

Crop land consist of arable land plus land under permanent crops.

Cropping intensity

Cropping intensity is the total area under crop (gross cropped area) divided by arable land.

Crop groups

- **Cereals** include wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, millet, barley, rye, oats and other cereals. See table 7.1
- **Vegetables and melons** include Leafy or stem vegetables, fruit- bearing vegetables, Root, bulb, or tuberous vegetables, mushrooms and truffles, other vegetables.
- **Fruits and nuts** include grapes, citrus fruits, nuts and other fruits. See table 7.11
- **Oilseed crops** include temporary oilseed crops(soybeans, groundnuts etc.) and permanent oilseed crops (olive, oil palm.) See table 7.7
- **Root/tuber crops** with high starch or inulin content include potato, sweet potato, yam, cocoyam, dasheen, tannia, cassava. See table 7.8
- **Beverage and spice crops** include coffee, tea, cocoa and spice crops. See table 7.6
- **Leguminous crops** include beans, broad beans, chick peas, cow peas. See FAO. 2005a.
- **Sugar crops** include sugarcane and sugar beet. See table 7.9
- **Other crops** include all crops not includes in above groups

Refer to *Indicative Crop Classification (ICC)*, [FAO 2005a] Statistical Development Series 11.

Fragmentation of holding

The number of isolated parcels of land gives an indicator of fragmentation of land belonging to the holding. This indicator is used for monitoring land consolidation policies.

Gross cropped area

Gross cropped area is the total area of all temporary crops cropped, counting as many times as the cultivation is done, as opposed to the physical area of land cropped. For example, if a crop is cultivated twice on the same plot of land the area under the crop will be double of the physical area of the plot. (Refer to table 7.1)

Kitchen gardens

Kitchen gardens are areas devoted to the cultivation of agricultural products intended for self-consumption by the holder's household. Only occasional surplus products coming from this area are sold off from the holding. The Kitchen garden area is normally separated off from the rest of the agricultural land, and is recognizable as kitchen gardens. All areas from which products are consistently sold on the market do not belong to this category, even if part of the production is consumed by the holder and his household. (Refer to Eurostat's concepts and definition database)

Land use

Land use refers to activities – such as growing crops, raising livestock or cultivating fish – carried out on the land making up the holding with the intention of obtaining products and/or benefits. Land use should be distinguished from "land cover", which describes the physical characteristics of the land, such as grassland or forest. In an agricultural census, the area of the holding is classified according to its main land use.

Land tenure

Land tenure refers to the arrangements or rights under which the holder holds or uses holding land. Land rented is not considered to be part of the holding. A holding may be operated under one or more form of tenure, with each parcel normally operated under one tenure form. Refer to [FAO 1995] Statistical Development Series 5.

Legal status of the holder

Legal status of the holders refers to the juridical aspects under which the agricultural holdings is operated. It also refers to other aspects about the type of holdings. From the juridical point of view, a holding may be operated by a single individual, jointly by several individuals with or without contractual agreement belonging to the same or to different households, or by a household as whole, or by a juridical person like corporation, cooperative, governmental institution, religious institution etc.

Laying hens

Chicken reared mainly for production of eggs.

Livestock classification

- **Large ruminants** include cattle, buffaloes, yaks, carabaos, bison and elks.
- **Small ruminants** include sheep and goats
- **Suidae** include pigs, wild boars.
- **Equines** include horses, mules, hinnies, asses, donkeys, zebras.
- **Camels and camelides** include camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, guanacos.
- **Poultry** includes chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowls, pigeons.

Refer to table 8.1.

Livestock population

The livestock population refers to animal numbers present on the holding on the reference date regardless of ownership. Livestock population usually includes livestock temporarily absent or in transit at enumeration time. However, the counting conventions may differ from one country to another.

Occasional worker

An occasional worker is a person working one or more times during the agricultural year on the holding. Such a person is not expected to work regularly or continuously on the holding. (See permanent worker)

Parcel

A holding parcel is any piece of land entirely surrounded by other land, water, road, forest, etc. not forming part of the holding. A parcel may consist of one or more fields adjacent to each other.

Permanent crops

Permanent crops are crops with a more than one year growing cycle. Permanent crops may be grow in a compact plantation or as scattered trees/plants and both should be included.

Permanent meadows and pastures

Include land used permanently (for five years or more) to grow herbaceous forage crops, through managed cultivation or naturally (wild prairie or grazing land).

Permanent worker

A permanent worker is a person whose services are utilized regularly and continuously during the reference year for the agricultural work on the holding. Often, this is interpreted as working six months or more during the year. This approach is difficult to apply in practice, given the seasonality of agricultural work. A person may work regularly and continuously on a holding when work is available, but that may only be for a few months of the year. Alternatively, a person may work continuously but only for a few hours a week. In most censuses big holdings report their permanent salaried employees as permanent workers. (See occasional worker)

Plot

The plot is part or whole of a field on which a specific crop or crop mixture is grown.

Reporting countries

Refers to the countries reporting information to FAO on different items of the WCA round.

Scattered trees/plants

Plants and trees scattered around a holding and not following any pattern of plantation thus preventing the estimation of the area of land occupied by them.

Temporary crops

Temporary crops are those with a less than one year growing cycle. In the census some countries collect information for only the major crops. Total area of these crops may not be the true estimate of the total area under temporary crops. Some crops like sugar cane, are treated as temporary crop in some countries whereas in other countries it may be treated as permanent crops, depending upon the duration of the crop in the fields and the number of ratoonnings before fresh plantation.

Total area of holdings

This indicator is based on total operated area of the holdings in a country. This should not be confused with "agricultural areas" which is subcategory of operated area of the holdings.

Agricultural land = cropland (land under temporary crops, meadows, and fallow land + land under permanent crops) + permanent meadows and pastures.(See table 1.3)

Utilized agricultural area

Is defined as including arable land, kitchen gardens, permanent meadows and pastures, and permanent crops (Eurostat definition).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READINGS

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The Programme for the 2000 World Census of Agriculture was the sixth prepared by FAO for encouraging countries to undertake an agricultural census with standardized international concepts, definitions and methodologies.

The programme covered the censuses carried out during the decade (1996 – 2005). About 122 countries carried out an agriculture census during the decade and 114 countries made available their census reports to FAO

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