



Overview of Volume 2 of the WCA 2020: Operational Guidelines

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FAO Statistics Division



Background of the WCA

- FAO is the leading UN agency for providing technical guidelines and support to member countries for the conduct of national censuses of agriculture.
- Since 1948, FAO has developed a dedicated decennial *World Programme* that helps countries carry out their national censuses on agriculture.
- The *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA)* is updated every 10 years to build countries' capacities in the use of the most recent standards and methods to gather agriculture-related statistics.

Background (cont'd)

- In 2015, FAO published its 10th decennial *WCA 2020* “*Programme, concepts and definitions*”. It provides methodological guidelines to agricultural censuses to be undertaken between 2016 and 2025.
- In 2018, FAO published *Vol 2 - Operational Guidelines* – the practical aspects.
 - Revised and updated edition of “Conducting Agricultural Censuses and Surveys” (1996)
 - The *Operational Guidelines* provides practical guidance to national census practitioners on the stages/steps involved in census preparation and implementation.

What's new?

- Games changers:
 - Methodological: the modular approach, the integrated census & survey modality, and the use of registers as a source of census data.
 - Technological: more affordable tools for data capture (mobile, online), census planning (digital frames, geo-referencing, remote sensing imaging), archiving (digital preservation SDMX complaint) and online dissemination (dynamic tables, infographics) provide cost-effective alternatives to traditional ways.
- The *Operational Guidelines* takes into account these game changers.

Steps in planning & conducting a CA

Design and Planning

Field Work

Processing, Analysis, Publication

Identify the role of the census of agriculture as a component of the system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys

Determine the objectives of the census of agriculture and its overall strategy

Define the methodology and data collection method (paper, mobile device, etc.)

Develop a work plan and establish the budget to carry out the census

Develop the field system (including monitoring system); recruit and train field staff

Process and archive data, and prepare tabulation

Prepare census legislation, if required

Establish the institutional framework, create the Agricultural Census Office and recruit the necessary staff

Develop and implement the census publicity campaign

Design data quality assurance framework

Census enumeration

Analyse data and prepare census reports, disseminate and publicize results

Prepare frames and mapping

Develop the tabulation plan

Design and test questionnaires; prepare field instruction manuals

Design and test the computer processing system, including data capture, editing and tabulation

Post-Enumeration Survey (PES)

Reconcile the data from the system of current statistics with the census data

1. Structure of the *Operational Guidelines*

- The steps and associated activities illustrated before are described in the book in 25 different chapters organized in three parts:
 - **Part 1** covers the planning of the census and the necessary framework.
 - **Part 2** relates to the adaptation of the step wise approach to the specific methodology for the census of agriculture, their main issues and suggested solutions.
 - **Part 3** refers to the preparation and implementation of the census.

Structure: Part 1 - Planning

- **Part 1** starts emphasizing the need to carry out the census of agriculture not in isolation but as a component of an integrated system of agricultural censuses and surveys.
- A new feature is a guidance on how to demonstrate the benefits of the census to make a convincing case for its funding.
- **Part 1** ends discussing the preparation of the census legislation, the institutional framework, the elaboration of a work plan and the associated budget. Other planning activities the quality assurance framework to prevent and minimize potential errors at all stages.

Structure: Part 2 - Methodology

- **Part 2** discusses the implementation aspects of the four census methodological modalities presented in WCA 2020:
 - a. the classical approach (a single one-off field operation);
 - b. the modular approach (a core module followed by sample-based supplementary modules);
 - c. the integrated census and survey modality (a core census module followed by sample-based rotating surveys);
 - d. the use of registers as a source of census data.
- It discusses, for each census modality, the implementation steps, timing, requirements, advantages and limitations.
- This is illustrated with country experiences to help countries select and implement the modality most suitable, taking into account the statistical and technological development of each country.

Structure: Part 3 – Preparation and implementation

- **Part 3** is devoted to the preparation of census fieldwork and implementation of data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination activities.
- The discussion on fieldwork activities covers the building of frames, the growing use of digital maps, elaboration of questionnaires and manuals, selection of staff, training, pretests, pilot census, listing operation and data collection.
- The use of new technology and tools (such as tablets, Web questionnaires, Global Positioning Systems and remote sensing) is also examined.

Structure: Part 3 – Implementation (cont'd)

- **Part 3** also addresses census data processing and archiving,
- The issue of access to agricultural census microdata (preserving confidentiality) is strongly advocated as it increases the relevance and value of the census.
- The Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) is promoted as a good practice to evaluate the accuracy of the data collected.
- The preparation and dissemination of census reports is then discussed, (e.g. online reports, social media releases, infographics, interactive maps and anonymized microdata).
- The book ends discussing the reconciliation of discrepancies between previously published estimates (e.g. from surveys) and the results of the new census.

Main Results and Metadata by Country (SDS 17): main features



- Published in December 2019 and circulated to all delegations attending this APCAS.
- A compendium of reviews of country agricultural censuses (ACs) conducted during the 2010 round (during the period 2006–2015) and their main results.
- Describes ACs from a record number of **127** countries and territories (114 countries in the 2000 round).
- Presents a unique panorama of country practices and experiences on ACs to which national census agencies can refer when planning and implementing their censuses.
- The census information for each country includes:
 - Metadata Review (MR): legal/institutional frameworks, staff, scope, coverage, methodology, dissemination, etc.
 - Tables with Main Results (TMR): number of holdings, land tenure, land use, holders by sex, labour, etc.

Final remarks

- FAO hopes that countries find the new *Operational Guidelines* useful at every step of the way to plan and implement such a large and complex operation as the census of agriculture.
- FAO also hopes that the information provided in SD17 provide valuable lessons for future censuses for further developments in methodologies of agricultural censuses and surveys.
- The Comission is asked to comment on the usefulness of this publications and to propose updates and amendments.



Thank you