

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The Republic of the Congo conducted its first agricultural census in 1985–1986. The second General Agricultural Census (GAC) in the Congo was carried out in 2014–2015.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Statistics Law (no. 8/2009 of 28 October 2009)¹ defines the national statistical system, its composition and its organization. The Supreme Commission for Statistics is the entity supervising the entire organization of the system, drawing orientations, fixing priorities and planning the statistical activities by adopting regularly a statistical activities programme.

The Presidential Decree 2013-732 of 18 November 2013 established the GAC governing bodies.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The GAC of the Congo was placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing (MALF). To define the institutional framework for this operation, the decree on the organization of the GAC set up four bodies for its implementation: the Steering Committee,² the Technical Committee, the Central Census Bureau (CCB) and 12 departmental committees. The main tasks of the Technical Committee were to prepare the meetings of the national Steering Committee, to approve the schedule of operations, to validate methodological and technical documents (questionnaires, manuals, etc.), and to give a reasoned opinion on the results of the GAC. The role of the CCB consisted in the day-to-day implementation of the census activities. The role of the departmental committees was to support and facilitate the implementation of the census activities at the department level.

FAO provided technical assistance for the implementation of the GAC within a unilateral trust fund project funded by the Government of the Congo. FAO provided technical assistance for the preparatory phase of the census.

Census staff

The staff involved in the GAC³ amounted to 1 122 individuals, including: 800 enumerators, 160 supervisors, 36 coordinators at the departmental level, 75 data entry clerks and 51 technical and administrative support staff.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: the day of the interview, for inventory items such as location of the holding or livestock numbers.

Reference period: the agricultural season (from 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014), for other items, such as the main purpose of production and the use of irrigation.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The data collection was conducted from November 2014 to March 2015.

5. SCOPE OF THE CENSUS AND DEFINITION OF THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production), as well as aquaculture, capture fisheries and forestry activities. A community survey was conducted together with the census.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding. Two types of agricultural holdings were distinguished: (i) holdings in the household sector (“agricultural households”) and (ii) holdings in the non-household sector (“modern holdings”). An agricultural household was defined as “a household with at least one member operating one or more agricultural fields or rearing animals, or practicing aquaculture and/or fishery or forestry activities for their own account or for the account of the household”. A modern holding is characterized by the following criteria: bookkeeping (keeping records); existence and use of equipment; use of hired/paid employees; cultivation of large surfaces;⁴ and the fact that the objective of the production is mainly for sale.

The statistical unit for the community survey is the village.⁵

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The GAC covered the entire territory of the country except for the two biggest towns; therefore, peri-urban areas were included in the geographic scope of the census.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

No cut-off thresholds were used.

¹ A new statistics law was recently enacted: the Law on Official Statistics, No. 36-2018 of 5 October 2018.

² The Steering Committee, a ministerial-level body, aimed to coordinate census implementation, mobilize resources and ensure the official publication of census results.

³ The GAC core module and the community survey.

⁴ This criterion was not used in the GAC 2014–2015.

⁵ The village is the basic administrative entity for the rural community. Villages are constituted by one or several localities under the common authority of a Village Committee.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

Although the modular approach was planned for the GAC, with the initial implementation of the core module in 2014–2015, the supplementary modules could not be implemented because of budget constraints. A community survey was carried out together with the GAC. As of mid-2019, the country was planning to implement the following supplementary modules: crops and livestock (household sector), commercial farms, and fisheries and aquaculture.

Frame

The census frame was constituted by the EAs from the 2007 Population and Housing Census (PHC). All households in the EAs covered in the GAC were listed and all agricultural households identified were enumerated.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The GAC used complete enumeration for the core module and for the community survey.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Sampling was not used.

Data collection method(s)

The face-to-face interviewing method using paper-based questionnaires (the PAPI method) was used in the GAC.

Questionnaire(s)

Two questionnaires were used for each of the two types of holdings: (i) a questionnaire for agricultural households; and (ii) a questionnaire for “modern holdings”. The community survey questionnaire (for the community component) was used together with the census questionnaires and implemented by the supervisors using focus group interviews.

The GAC questionnaires covered 15 of the core items recommended in the WCA 2010.⁶

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

GPS was used to position the location of the village during the community module. The census results were disseminated online through the CountrySTAT-Congo platform.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Manual data entry was done using the CSPro software. The SPSS software was used for data editing, imputation, validation and tabulation.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

The fieldwork was organized in five steers to optimize the quality of data collected. A comprehensive mechanism for monitoring and supervising fieldwork was established. A team of five enumerators was coordinated by a field supervisor, which was responsible for one geographical zone, called a “control sector”. A district supervisor was responsible for a group of two to five field supervisors covering a geographical zone of one to two districts or communes. A department supervisor was responsible for the organization of fieldwork in the supervised department. Finally, a national supervisor from the CCB was responsible for all operational and technical matters in the field. The data processing procedures included programmes for checking and correcting errors. Procedures for questionnaire retrieving and monitoring were in place from the field to the data processing stage.

The data analysis incorporated chapters on data validation against other data sources, such as the PHC and current surveys.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

Census data were disseminated through the CountrySTAT-Congo website and printed publications. Dissemination workshops were also organized. Thematic reports (including on gender) and cover analyses of the core module, as well as of the community survey component, are available.

13. DATA SOURCES

Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche. 2017. *Volume II. Tableaux statistiques du Recensement général de l'agriculture*. Brazzaville, The Congo. (also available at http://congo.countrystat.org/fileadmin/user_upload/countrystat_fenix/congo/docs/RGA-Congo-Volume-II-Tableaux-Statistiques.pdf).

14. CONTACT

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⁶ The “Land tenure type on the holding” item was not covered.

THE CONGO – GENERAL AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2014–2015 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	267 610	n.a.
Civil persons	267 419	422 431
Juridical persons	191	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	267 419	422 431
Less than 0.10 ha	71 011	442
0.10–0.19 ha	7 452	941
0.20–0.49 ha	20 715	6 183
0.50–0.99 ha	46 090	26 969
1.0–1.9 ha	63 257	75 466
2.0–2.9 ha	28 684	61 672
3.0–4.9 ha	17 031	37 209
5.0–9.9 ha	7 080	42 437
10 ha and above	3 454	83 389
Not available	2 645	87 723

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX		
	Number	Area operated (ha)
Total	267 419	422 431
Male	190 896	297 773
Female	76 523	124 658

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX AND AGE		Number
Total		267 419
Male		190 896
Female		76 523
Under 25 years		10 119
Male		7 653
Female		2 466
25–34 years		48 533
Male		39 415
Female		9 118
35–44 years		68 540
Male		54 125
Female		14 415
45–54 years		60 897
Male		44 130
Female		16 767
55–64 years		39 937
Male		23 906
Female		16 031
65 years and over		39 393
Male		21 667
Female		17 726

HOLDINGS, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE		Number
Total		267 419
1 person		33 712
2–3 persons		68 952
4–5 persons		73 007
6–9 persons		76 741
10 persons and over		15 007

HOLDINGS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION		Holdings
Total producing		267 419
Mainly for home consumption		59 089
Mainly for sale		2 279
For home consumption and sale		206 051

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX		Number
Total		1 249 783
Male		602 050
Female		647 733
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding		514 358
Male		234 597
Female		279 761

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	2 877	37 098
Sheep	12 021	85 265
Goats	20 760	119 836
Pigs/swine	9 376	59 732
Equidae	n.a.	859
Poultry (1 000 head)	101 942	251
Other animals	n.a.	n.a.
Guinea pig	293	n.a.
Grasscutter	1 030	n.a.
Rabbit	n.a.	822
Insects		
Bees (hives)	2 966	19

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED		Holdings
Total		n.a.
Cereals		185 909
Maize		185 584
Rice		1 225
Vegetables and melons		n.a.
Cabbages		24 295
Okra		113 023
Tomatoes		132 869
Onions		36 671
Eggplants		111 796
Spinach		135 030
Carrots		5 632
Endive		56 745
Watermelons		2 970
Root/tuber crops		218 729
Cassava		230 454
Yams		134 678
Taro		90 589
Sweet potatoes		99 264
Potatoes		5 838
Spice and aromatic crops		n.a.
Chili pepper		110 864
Leguminous crops		n.a.
Peas		60 812
Beans		43 237
Peanuts		166 356
Soybeans		1 809