

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

Lesotho has been conducting decennial Agriculture Censuses (ACs) since 1949. The AC 1949/1950 and the AC 1959/1960 were both organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, while the ACs for 1969/1970, 1979/1980, 1989/1990, 1999/2000, and the latest, AC 2009/2010, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was organized by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS).

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The legal basis of the AC 2009/2010 included:

- the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics Act, Act No. 8 of 2001; Article 15 stipulates the mandate of the Minister of Development Planning which, on the recommendation of the Council, establishes the timing and data content of the AC; and
- the Proclamation of the Minister of Development Planning, which specified the AC reference period (the agricultural year that covered the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010).

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The responsibility for conducting the AC is vested on the Minister of Development Planning. The Director of the Bureau of Statistics (BoS) is the census commissioner. The former provides policy guidelines, mobilizes all necessary resources, and is responsible for the proper execution of the AC plan with the assistance of the census committees and teams.¹ Funds for the AC 2009/2010 were mainly provided by the Government of Lesotho. FAO provided technical support for the analysis of census data.

Census staff

The number of staff involved in the census operation was 177, including 45 supervisors, 120 enumerators and 12 data processing personnel.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

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

Reference periods:

- the past six months (preceding the day of interview), for milk production, stock changes for livestock, etc.
- the past twelve months (preceding the day of interview), for the economic activity of household members, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Field data collection was conducted in several phases: (i) households listing: from 15 April to 3 June 2009; (ii) crop items: winter production – from August 2009 to February 2010; summer production – from February to July 2010; (iii) livestock items: number of livestock – in August 2009; stock change – February 2010; closing stock – July 2010; (iv) a community survey, conducted from 1 June to 28 June 2009.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). A community survey was conducted in conjunction with the AC 2009/2010. A community survey was conducted to collect community-level data.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as “an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for own account agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size”. The AC covered the holdings in the household sector (“agricultural households”) only.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC 2010 covered the entire country (rural and urban areas).

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The holdings in the non-household sector were not covered in the AC 2009/2010.²

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The AC 2009/2010 was a sample-based census. A community survey was conducted along with the census.

Frame

The main source of frame for the EAs was the Population Census (PC) 2006. The listing of households at EA level provided an updated sampling frame.

¹ The census committees and teams included a technical committee, a logistics team, a data processing team, an analysis team and others.

² The data on holdings in the non-household sector were collected in the AC (in the sampled EAs); however, they were neither analysed nor included in the census results.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The AC 2009/2010 was conducted using sample enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

The AC used a stratified two-stage sample design. In the first stage, for rural areas, the 120 EAs were selected as the PSUs, and for urban areas, 40 PSUs were selected with probability proportional to size (PPS) from the EAs of the PC 2006. The measure of size was the number of agricultural households. A total sample size of 2 292 agricultural households³ were selected as SSUs in rural areas and 600 agricultural households were selected in urban areas.

Data collection method(s)

Face-to-face interviewing was applied to collect information from holders, using the traditional PAPI method.

Questionnaire(s)

Two types of questionnaire were used for the AC 2009/2010, for holdings in the household sector in (i) rural areas and (ii) urban areas. The questionnaires for rural areas included eleven forms,⁴ and those for urban areas contained six forms. These included one form for listing the agricultural holders in the selected PSUs. In addition, a community questionnaire was designed for the community survey.

The AC questionnaires covered 13 of the 16 core items⁵ recommended for the WCA 2010.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Manual data entry was used for the AC data on the Access screen. Tabulation and analysis were done with SPSS and Microsoft Excel. Editing (such as range and consistency edits) was done manually. The estimation of standard errors (SE), the coefficient of variation (CV), the confidence interval (CI) and the design effect (DEFF) was performed using WesVar.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

To minimize non-sampling errors, intensive training of enumerators and sensitization of respondents was undertaken.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The data were disseminated through printed reports, electronic means (CD-ROMs), workshops and institutional websites. The census results were presented in five volumes: (i): Rural households and crops statistics; (ii) Rural livestock statistics; (iii) Urban crops and livestock statistics; (v) Community profile; and (v) Technical report.

13. DATA SOURCES

FAO. 2017. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 18-22 September 2017, Nairobi, Kenya. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture*: [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 30 August 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020kenya/en/>

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Bureau of Statistics. Publications. In: *Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Bureau of Statistics* [online]. Maseru, Lesotho. [Cited 10 September]. <http://www.bos.gov.ls/Publications.htm>

14. CONTACT

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Bureau of Statistics
Address: P.O. Box 455, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Telephone: (+266) 22323852 / 22326393
E-mail: agric@bos.gov.ls
Website: <http://www.bos.gov.ls>

³ Prior to the selection of the ultimate units (agricultural holdings), a list frame consisting of all holdings in the selected PSUs were stratified as follows: (i) those with land and livestock; (ii) those with land only; (iii) those with livestock only; and (iv) those without land and livestock.

⁴ The AC 2009/2010 questionnaires used for rural households were: Form AC-1 "Rural household listing", Form AC-2 "Rural household members", Form AC-3 "Area measurement", Form AC-4 "Field listing by crop", Form AC-5 "Operation and costs", Form AC-6 "Crop failure and pre-harvest losses", Form AC-7 "Crop cutting"; Form AC-8 "Farmer's yield estimate", Form AC-9 Availability and utilization of cereals in the household", Form AC-10 "Livestock inventory" and Form AC-11 "Structural information".

⁵ The following core items were not covered by the AC: (i) "Land tenure types on the holding"; (ii) "Presence of aquaculture on the holding"; and (iii) "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

LESOTHO – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2009/2010 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total agricultural production households	381 731	520 423
Rural households	225 435	514 606
Urban households	156 296	5 817

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Holdings with agricultural land	217 748	514 606
1 parcel	45 608	107 786
2–3 parcels	106 634	252 009
4–5 parcels	41 927	99 086
6–7 parcels	8 379	19 802
8–9 parcels	5 719	13 516
10 parcels and over	9 481	22 407

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Holdings with agricultural land	217 748	514 606
Less than 0,49 ha	47 361	330 083
0,50–0,99 ha	51 358	124 159
1,00–1,49 ha	42 128	43 716
1,50–1,99 ha	27 193	10 382
2,00–2,49 ha	16 888	4 289
2,50–2,99 ha	10 245	1 685
3,00 ha and over	22 575	292

HOLDERS BY SEX AND AGE ¹		Number
Total		225 435
Male		146 821
Female		78 614
Under 18 years		484
18–29 years		13 247
30–39 years		29 772
40–49 years		46 084
50–59 years		54 325
60–69 years		36 716
70 years and over		44 808

HOLDINGS, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE ¹		Number
Total		225 436
1 person		14 732
2–3 persons		42 917
4–5 persons		83 498
6–7 persons		45 877
8–9 persons		24 041
10 persons and over		14 371

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ¹		Number
Total		1 168 378
Male		592 615
Female		575 763

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING ¹		Number
Total employees		24 952
Male		21 373
Female		3 579

SOURCES OF IRRIGATION WATER		Holdings
Total		76 765
Dam		2 189
Pond		1 768
River		5 656
Plastic tank		795
Stone tank		10 979
Groundwater		2 923
Private pipe		7 915
Community pipe		44 540

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a	
Cattle	126 599	626 343
Sheep	62 797	1 228 558
Goats	58 511	875 184
Pigs/swine	75 758	83 976
Horses	40 992	69 843
Mules	92 076	2 398
Asses (donkeys)	1 874	136 355
Poultry (1 000 head)	53 294	502

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING		Units
Total tractors of all kinds		16 724
Ploughs (machine-powered)		146 442
Other (machine-powered)		
Disks		42 611
Planters		70 734
Cultivators		51 577
Sprayers		7 035
Harvesting Machines		2 353
Truck/ Van		7 981

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED		Area (ha)
Total		n.a.
Cereals		n.a.
Maize		141 340
Wheat		13 693
Sorghum		33 146
Barley		2 094
Oats		304
Vegetables and melons		239
Potatoes		808
Leguminous crops		n.a.
Beans		26 887
Peas		2 107

PERMANENT CROPS		Number of trees/plants
Total		n.a.
Peach		1 601 256
Apples		52 640
Plums		15 689
Apricots		3 786
Pears		3 471
Quince		421
Raspberry		99
Grapes		30 403
Other		21 611

¹ Data are provided only for holdings in rural areas.