

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first agricultural census (AC) was carried out in the Republic of Mauritius in 1930 and the second AC in 1940. The AC 2014 was the first AC to be carried out after more than 70 years.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The AC 2014 was conducted under the provisions of the Statistics Act 2000, amended in 2011. The Cabinet approved the conduct of the AC 2014. As per Section 13 of the Statistics Act, the notice to undertake the AC was published in the Government Gazette as General Notice No. 1541 of 2014 on 18 June 2014.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The AC 2014 was conducted by Statistics Mauritius (SM) in collaboration with various organizations: the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MAIFS), the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), the Government Printing Office (for printing the survey documents), and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (for the budget). The Statistics Board approved all questionnaires used for the AC.

FAO provided technical assistance for the design, conduct and data analysis of the AC 2014.

Census staff

The census office staff was composed of 19 officers. Field personnel comprising approximately 336 officers was mobilized for data collection, including chief supervisors, senior supervisors, supervisors and enumerators.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- the end of March 2014, for inventory items such as on the number of persons engaged in the farms' work (for the business questionnaire);
- 30 June 2014, for the number of livestock.

Reference period: the 12-month period preceding the census (from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014), for items on crops, labour, livestock sold, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The AC 2014 was carried out from July to December 2014, in three phases, depending on the type of holding: (i) for agricultural businesses, from July to December 2014; (ii) for "household farms", from July to September 2014; and (iii) for "private households", from October to November 2014.

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

The **census scope** covered the agricultural (crop and livestock production) activities. Information on the existence of forestry, aquaculture, subsistence fishing and other gainful activities on the holding were also collected.

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 for agricultural production purposes without regard to title, legal form or size". The AC covered both the holdings: (i) in the household sector, or "agricultural businesses" (namely corporations, NGOs, government institutions etc.); and (ii) most commonly, those in the non-household sector. In the household sector, a distinction was made between "household farms" and "private households" (see also section 7).

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC 2014 covered the entire area of the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were established for a "household farm" (included in Phase II of the census; see section 8 below):

- any household cultivating a piece of land, on own account, and for commercial production (at least five perches);
- any housing unit having a kitchen garden (at least five perches); and
- any housing unit having fruit trees on the premises with a certain cut-off: breadfruit, lychee, mango (at least five trees), lemon, mandarin, coconut, guava, other citrus, mixed fruit trees (at least ten trees), banana, pawpaw (at least 20 trees), pineapple, lychee, vegetables, fruits-other, crops-other (at least five perches);
- all honey producers and all deer farms; and
- all units raising livestock (including poultry).

The holdings below the thresholds were classified as "private households" and were covered in Phase III of the census.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The AC 2014 was conducted in three phases, depending on the type of the holding: (i) for agricultural businesses, from July to December 2014; (ii) for "household farms", from July to September 2014 (using a long form); and (iii) for "private households", from October to November 2014 (using a short form).

Frame

The frame for the holdings in the non-household sector consisted of a list of agricultural establishments obtained from the MAIFS, the FAREI and other administrative sources. The sampling frame for the holdings in the household sector was built based on administrative data sources and the information collected in the 2011 Housing and Population Census.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

For the AC 2014, a complete enumeration was carried out for the holdings in the non-household sector. Sample enumeration was undertaken for those in the household sector.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

The sample design for “household farms” was a stratified random sampling. The sample comprised 10 339 farms, representing 38 percent of the estimated number of “household farms”.

The sample design for “private households” was a stratified cluster sampling. A sample of 32 clusters (25 for Mauritius and 7 for Rodrigues) was drawn and each “private household” in the selected cluster was interviewed. A total sample of 8 778 private households was drawn. This represented approximately 2 percent of households in the Island of Mauritius and approximately 13 percent in the Island of Rodrigues.

Data collection method(s)

The data collection for the AC 2014 was carried out using: (i) the mail-out/mail-back method for agricultural businesses; and (ii) the PAPI method for holdings in the household sector.

Questionnaire(s)

Three types of questionnaires were used in the AC 2014: (i) a business questionnaire (CA1) – for holdings in the non-household sector; (ii) a farm questionnaire (CA3) – for “household farms” (using a long form); and (iii) a household questionnaire (CA4) – for “private households” (using a short form).

All 16 core items recommended by FAO were covered in the AC 2014.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The entire data processing exercise (except for data capture, which was contracted out) was done in-house using the CSPro software. The coded questionnaires were sent in batches to the service provider, which ran validation and consistency checks. Validation reports were then submitted to SM after the data capture. Data files in text and Microsoft Excel formats were made available to SM after working on the validation reports. The tables with census results were compiled in-house using the CSPro software.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

During the data collection stage, possible sources of errors were reduced by: (a) intensive training of field staff, which was provided with a detailed instruction manual; (b) well-designed questionnaires; (c) close supervision of the fieldwork; (d) re-interviews being conducted to clear queries and ensure corrections of the data collected; and (e) intensive editing and consistency checks carried out in the office, during which outliers were flagged and reported to supervisory staff for call-backs if necessary.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION AND USE

The AC 2014 results were released through printed reports, the SM website and dissemination workshops. Preliminary census results were published in October 2015. Three seminars were organized to disseminate the main results of the AC 2014 and thematic analyses on gender, land, crop and livestock.

13. DATA SOURCES

Statistics Mauritius. 2018.¹ *2014 Census of Agriculture (AC2014). Methodological Report.* Port Louis, Mauritius. (also available at <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/CensusandSurveys/Documents/CA2014/Methodology-CA2014.pdf>).

14. CONTACT

Statistics Mauritius
Address: First Floor, LIC Centre, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis, Mauritius
Telephone: (+230) 2081800 / 2114150
E-mail: statsmauritius@govmu.org
Website: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org>

¹ See also the following: (i) Statistics Mauritius, 2015, *2014 Census of Agriculture – Main results*; and (ii) Statistics Mauritius, 2015, *2014 Census of Agriculture – Tables*. The documents are available at [http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/CensusandSurveys/Documents/CA2014/CA2014-Island_of_Mauritius\(IOM\).xls](http://statsmauritius.govmu.org/English/CensusandSurveys/Documents/CA2014/CA2014-Island_of_Mauritius(IOM).xls)

MAURITIUS – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2014 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	23 456	66 449
Household sector	23 343	13 009
Non-household sector	113	53 440

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	23 456	66 449
Legal ownership	n.a.	56 177
Rented from others	n.a.	9 161
Land leased from government	n.a.	4 147
Land rented/leased from others	n.a.	5 014
Other form of tenure	n.a.	1 111

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		Holdings
Total		23 343
Less than 0,02 ha		4 355
0,02–0,11 ha		4 508
0,11–0,21 ha		2 267
0,21–0,42 ha		3 429
0,42–2,11 ha		7 710
2,11–4,22 ha		766
4,22–10,55 ha		256
10,55 ha and over		52

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	23 456	66 449
Agricultural land	n.a.	54 526
Arable land	n.a.	11 092
Land under temporary crops	n.a.	9 685
Land under temporary meadows	n.a.	744
Land temporarily fallow	n.a.	663
Land under permanent crops	n.a.	40 946
Permanent meadows and pastures	n.a.	2 488
Forest and other wooded land	n.a.	5 125
Other land	n.a.	6 798

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX		Number
Total		88 592
Male		45 327
Female		43 265
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding		40 355
Male		24 622
Female		15 733

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING		Number
Total employees		29 041
Male		13 317
Female		15 724

HOUSEHOLD SECTOR HOLDINGS BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION		Holdings
Total producing mainly for		23 343
Home consumption		3 693
Sale		19 650

HOLDERS, BY SEX AND AGE		Number
Total		25 122
Male		18 149
Female		6 973
12–19 years		38
Male		30
Female		8
20–29 years		662
Male		502
Female		160
30–39 years		3 338
Male		2 451
Female		887
40–49 years		5 985
Male		4 437
Female		1 548
50–59 years		6 872
Male		5 043
Female		1 829
60–69 years		5 736
Male		3 922
Female		1 814
70–79 years		2 083
Male		1 467
Female		616
80–89 years		393
Male		287
Female		106
90–99 years		15
Male		10
Female		5

LIVESTOCK		Heads
Cattle		24 576
Goats		61 049
Pigs/swine		37 490
Poultry (1 000 head)		4 068
Chickens		4 041
Ducks		18
Turkeys		0,5
Other poultry		9
Other animals		n.a.
Deer		33 794
Insects		
Bees (hives)		7 270