

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The Census of Agriculture (CA) 2004–2008¹ is the third CA to be carried out in Niger. Previous agricultural censuses were conducted in 1970 and 1980.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

Presidential Decree No. 2002-178/PRN/MDA of 18 July 2002 provided the legal basis for the conduct of the CA 2004–2008. It established the institutional framework of the CA (see below).

Institutional framework and international collaboration

Under the legal framework, four different bodies were established for the implementation of the census: (i) the Central Census Bureau, which was responsible for the implementation of the census; (ii) the Census National Committee, which undertook the overall coordination of the CA; (iii) the Census Technical Committee (CTC), which was in charge of the methodological aspects and field operation design; the chairperson of the CTC was the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agricultural Development; and (iv) Census Regional Committees, in charge of the coordination of census activities at regional level.

The government of Niger, the European Union (EU) and the World Bank provided funds for the CA. FAO provided technical assistance.

Census staff

The census staff involved in the CA amounted to 370 people, including 313 enumerators, 36 supervisors and 21 coordinators at the regional and the national level.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

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

Reference period: two reference periods were used, which corresponded to two crop seasons: from May 2005 to September 2006 and from May 2006 to September 2007.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The data collection was carried out in phases, namely: (i) for the core module, from September 2004 to March 2005; (ii) for supplementary and “thematic” modules, from 2005 to 2007. Nomadic and transhumant livestock enumeration was conducted in a separate period and with a different methodology.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). The CA covered different types of livestock systems, including sedentary pastoral, nomadic and transhumant grazing systems.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural (farm) household, defined as “a household where any of its members practices agriculture without being only an employee in agriculture”.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The CA 2004–2008 covered the entire territory of the country, excluding urban areas.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLDS AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The holdings in the non-household sector were not included in the CA.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The CA 2004–2008 adopted a modular approach, with a core module and nine supplementary/thematic modules (see also the “Questionnaire(s)” subsection below).

Frame

The main source of sampling frame consisted in the EAs from the Population Census (PC) 2001. Approximately 7 500 out of 8 000 EAs were included. The PC also provided the list of households involved in agricultural activities. In addition, the livestock frame included all known water points and transhumant routes.²

¹ *Recensement Général de l'Agriculture et du Cheptel*. The CA 2004–2008 was the first CA that covered the overall agricultural sector (crop and livestock). The previous CAs covered only crop production.

² The inventory of water points, wells, permanent ponds, passages, tracks and historical chokepoints and crossings used by nomadic and transhumant herds was conducted for the enumeration of nomadic and transhumant livestock, such as camels, goats, and cattle.

Complete and/or sample enumeration method(s)

A complete enumeration of households within the 7 465 EAs from the PC which engaged in agricultural activity was done to identify agricultural households.

The supplementary/thematic modules were conducted using sample enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

A stratified two-stage sampling design was used for the supplementary/thematic modules. The 36 departments served as strata. A sample was then drawn at the departmental level. The EAs were the PSUs and households were the SSUs, and were selected at EA level with an equal probability. According to the module, relevant samples of EAs were designed. In total, approximately 13 000 households were selected for the crop production module and 12 000 households for the animal production module.

Data collection method(s)

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

Questionnaire(s)

The CA used 19 questionnaires for the core and supplementary/thematic modules. The questionnaires addressed topics such as: irrigated and rainfed crops, crop farm productivity, livestock numbers by type of animal, sedentary, nomadic, and transhumant livestock, livestock productivity, food security, support for farmers' organizations.

The CA questionnaires covered 11 of the 16 core items³ recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

GPS devices were applied for georeferencing the agricultural households and the plots. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Data entry, editing and imputation were undertaken using the CPro software. The SPSS software was used for data analysis and Microsoft Excel was used for tabulation.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Efforts were made to minimize non-sampling errors through thorough preparation of training materials and formation of census personnel, and by making quality consciousness an important part of the work of enumerators and supervisors.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The results of the CA 2004–2008 were disseminated through printed reports and brochures, CD-ROMs, the websites of CountrySTAT-Niger and of the National Institute of Statistics' websites,⁴ as well as upon request.

13. DATA SOURCES

CountrySTAT. 2019. Food and agriculture data network. in: *CountrySTAT-Niger* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 6 September 2019]. <http://www.countrystat.org/home.aspx?c=NER>

FAO. 2019. Regional Workshop on the Operational Guidelines of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 17–21 June 2019, Bujumbura, Burundi. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture*: [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 30 August 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020burundi/en/>

14. CONTACTS

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³ The following core items were not covered by the CA: (i) "Legal status of agricultural holder"; (ii) Main purpose of production of the holding"; (iii) "Presence of aquaculture on the holding"; (iv) "Presence of forests and other woodland on the holding"; and (v) "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

⁴ The website of CountrySTAT-Niger: <http://countrystat.org/home.aspx?c=NER>; the website of the National Institute of Statistics: <http://www.stat-niger.org/NigerInfo/rgac/indexe.html>

THE NIGER – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2004–2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	1 627 294	6 534 682
Individual management	n.a	1 721 515
Collective management	n.a	4 813 167

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDERS, BY SEX		
	Number	UAA (ha)
Total	1 627 294	6 534 680
Male	1 519 144	6 087 048
Female	108 150	447 632

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX NUMBER	
	Number
Total	10 108 795
Male	5 111 760
Female	4 997 034
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	4 842 197
Male	2 341 488
Female	2 500 709

HOLDERS, BY SEX AND AGE	
	Number
Total	1 627 294
Male	1 519 144
Female	108 150
Under 25 years	94 441
Male	84 790
Female	9 651
25–34 years	397 998
Male	376 607
Female	21 391
35–44 years	446 858
Male	422 074
Female	24 786
45–54 years	312 508
Male	291 375
Female	21 132
55–64 years	218 278
Male	200 498
Female	17 780
65 years and over	157 210
Male	143 800
Female	13 410

HOLDINGS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE	
	Number
Total	1 627 294
Less than 3 persons	183 814
3–5 persons	657 436
6–10 persons	607 848
11–15 persons	135 852
16 persons and over	42 344

LIVESTOCK	
	Head
Cattle	7 336 088
Sheep	9 192 017
Goats	11 238 268
Horses	230 174
Asses	1 477 073
Camels	1 565 420
Poultry (1 000 head)	12 196
Chickens	6 674
Ducks	428
Pigeons	1 496
Guinea fowl	3 194
Other poultry	405

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	583 119	6 222 846
Cereals	n.a.	4 562 431
Millet	n.a.	3 567 332
Sorghum	n.a.	964 780
Rice	n.a.	23 925
Fonio	n.a.	3 827
Maize	n.a.	2 567
Leguminous crops	n.a.	1 276 217
Cowpeas	n.a.	1 255 277
Bambara beans	n.a.	20 940
Oilseed crops	n.a.	n.a.
Sesame	n.a.	23 194
Peanuts	n.a.	308 759
Other temporary crops	n.a.	52 245