

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Agricultural Census (AC) of Belize was conducted in the frame of the 1970 World Census of Agriculture round, followed by a second AC carried out in 1984/1985. The third AC, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was carried out in 2011.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) is the legally designated coordinator of the Belize National Statistical System. The SIB is mandated to designate statistics produced by the state agencies as official statistics.¹ It was set up on 1 April 2007 as an autonomous body having the mandate to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate official statistics related to demographic, social, environmental and economic activities of Belize.

There is no specific legal basis for the conduct of the AC.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration (MAFFESD&I) was the implementing agency for the AC 2011. All key dimensions of the census (planning, implementation etc.) were handled by the Department of Agriculture of the MAFFESD&I (DoA). The SIB assisted with recruitment and with the scanning of questionnaires. The central census office was in Belmopan. Six district offices were organized at national level.² No steering committee at national or subnational level was established. FAO provided technical assistance for the elaboration of the census questionnaire and training manual.

Census staff

The AC 2011 census staff included two census coordinators, six district agricultural coordinators, 24 supervisors, 168 enumerators, and one person as supporting staff.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 February 2011, for stock items, such as farm area, land tenure, land use, livestock numbers.

Reference period: calendar year 2010 (from 1 January to 31 December 2010), for flow items, such as planted area, harvested area, machinery and equipment, and farm labour.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection was undertaken from 1 February to 31 August 2011.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural production activities (crop and livestock production). Information on aquaculture and agroforestry activities was also collected.

The **statistical unit** was the farm, defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size. The farmland may consist of one or more parcels, in one or more separate locations; however, they must all be within the same district and share the same “production means” utilized by the farm, such as labour, farm buildings, and machinery or draught animals.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The AC 2011 covered the entire country (both rural and urban areas) except Belize City.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were applied for defining the farm:

- 0.5 acres (approximately 0.202 ha) with at least one of the following land uses on the day of the census: (i) temporary and permanent crops (pure and mixed stands) and forages, (ii) fallow for more than one year, but less than three years, or (iii) pastures; or
- any piece of land that does not meet the conditions mentioned above, but has any of these livestock on the census day: (i) at least two head of cattle, or five goats, pigs and/or sheep combined, (ii) at least ten chickens, ducks or geese combined, (iii) any aquaculture ponds, or (iv) at least ten bee colonies.

¹ See <http://sib.org.bz/data-portals/bnss/>

² Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, Toledo.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC 2011.

Frame

A list of agricultural households was provided by the 2010 Population and Housing Census (PHC). In addition, to update that list, a village listing form was used to identify first agricultural households, and then farms; the head of household was asked the screening questions (see threshold point 7) and when a “yes” answer was given, the enumerator proceeded with the questionnaire. Belize used the EAs established for the PHC 2010. In 2002, the DoA conducted an exercise for setting up the Belize Farm Registry (FR).

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The survey universe was composed of all farms (reporting units) existing in Belize on the census day. The AC 2011 was carried out on a complete enumeration basis.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

Face-to-face interviewing using paper questionnaires (the PAPI method) was applied in the AC 2011.

Questionnaire(s)

One questionnaire was used for data collection.

The AC 2011 questionnaire covered 15 items from the 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.³

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Optical scanning was used for data capture.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The SIB scanned the questionnaires to capture the census data.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Several issues related to the quality of the enumerators’ work in filling in the census questionnaires and to the respondents’ misunderstanding certain questions were identified. These issues resulted in poor clarity of numbers, sums of numbers not being equal to the sums recorded, unreliable data on areas for mixed crops, etc. and affected the quality of data and the time required for data entry and data processing process.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

No census results were disseminated at the time this publication was produced.⁴

13. DATA SOURCES

FAO. 2017. Regional Roundtable on the Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), 22–26 May 2017, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture*: [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 30 August 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020caribbean/en/>

MAFFESD&I. 2013. *Belize presentation to the Workshop for the Caribbean FAO/UNFPA Guidelines for integrating agricultural and population censuses*. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 10–12 June 2013. (also available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/documents/meetings_and_workshops/IICA_2013/Linkages_TT_10-12June2013/Presentations/Belize_Agricultural_statistical_data_collection.pdf).

Information provided by the MAFFESD&I.

14. CONTACT

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³ The following item was not covered: “Other economic production activities of the holding’s enterprise”.

⁴ Therefore, this publication does not include the tables with census results for the AC 2011.