

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

El Salvador conducted its first agricultural census in 1950, followed by other two agricultural censuses carried out in 1961 and 1971. After 36 years, the country conducted its fourth Census of Agriculture (CA) in 2007–2008,¹ within the framework of the 2010 WCA round.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

Organic Law of the Statistical Service, by means of Decree No. 1784 of October 1970, established the General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) as a body within the Ministry of Economy (MINEC). Article 8, point b) charged DIGESTYC with the functions of planning, undertaking and dissemination of the results of the CA. In addition, Decree No. 134 of 14 October 1946 organized the activity of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), which contains the Directorate of Agricultural Economics (DGEA), responsible for the elaboration of statistics and analysis of the sector.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The CA 2007/2008 was implemented with the collaboration and support provided by the MoA and other national authorities. Important financial and technical assistance was provided by the Government of Japan, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and FAO.

Census staff

The census fieldwork was conducted in close cooperation with the MoA, which provided field personnel. The census staff consisted of 448 enumerators and 100 field supervisors.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days: 1 October 2007, for stock items, such as livestock, stock of machinery and buildings.

Reference periods:

- the agricultural year (May 2006–April 2007), for crop production, apiculture, food security, organic agriculture, labour force, commercialization of production, etc.
- October 2006–September 2007, for data on coffee.
- calendar year 2006 (January–December 2006), for information on greenhouses, animal production, agricultural practices, agricultural inputs and credit.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection was undertaken between October 2007 and March 2008.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and animal production). Detailed information on aquaculture was collected. The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, an economic unit of production that carries out crop, livestock production or aquaculture activities, constituted of one or more plots located in the same municipality, and that can be managed by a person or a group of persons (civil or juridical). Three types of holdings were distinguished: holdings with (i) commercial producers; (ii) subsistence producers; or (iii) production obtained in gardens, aimed mainly for family consumption.

6. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The census covered the entire territory of El Salvador.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLDS AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

All holdings with lands in rural areas were enumerated. The holdings raising livestock (including beehives) were covered by the census regardless of their location (in rural or urban area).

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used for conducting the census.

Frame

Prior to the census, a directory of large holdings was elaborated from administrative registers. A second list of agricultural holders living in urban areas was established, according to the information collected during the Population Census (PC) carried out in 2007 (the PC included a specific question about agricultural activities in the household). As a result, 22 509 agricultural households in 2 069 urban “segments” (PC) were listed.

¹ IV Censo de Agropecuario 2007-2008.

Complete and/or sample enumeration method(s)

The CA 2007/2008 combined complete enumeration and sampling.

Rural areas (6 218 “segments”) were canvassed and all segments were covered. Inside the segments, all commercial holdings were enumerated. Subsistence holdings and holdings with only backyard production were sampled at a rate of 20 percent (using systematic random sampling, or SRS). The holders to be interviewed were selected during the fieldwork by applying a filter form to all households in rural areas.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Given the small proportion of holders living in urban areas (estimated at less than 2.5 percent) the 6 208 urban “segments” from the recent PC were classified in two groups: 4 139 segments (66.7 percent) with no agricultural holder living in them and 2 069 with some holders, covering 22 509 agricultural households in urban areas. Four strata were defined;² sampling rates of 20 percent, 30 percent, 100 percent and 8.5 percent respectively were applied to select the segments. Afterwards, the selected segments were canvassed and the filter form applied to every household in the segment. All households with commercial agriculture (in urban areas) were enumerated and households with subsistence agriculture or backyard production (in urban areas) were subsampled at a rate of 20 percent (using SRS).

Data collection method(s)

The face-to-face interviewing method was used to collect information from holdings, using the PAPI method.

Questionnaire(s)

Four types of forms for data collection were used: (i) listing form; (ii) listing quality control at segment level; (iii) commercial form and (iv) subsistence form.

All 16 core items recommended by the WCA 2010 were included in the questionnaire for commercial holdings, which included specific sections dedicated to aquaculture, agricultural practices, manpower, livestock and food security.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Electronic methods (such as online data dissemination, CD-ROMs) were used to publish the census results.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Manual data entry was used for data capture.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

A Post-enumeration Survey (PES) was conducted to assess the census quality. A systematic sample of 5 percent of census segments was taken. All segments in the sample were completely re-enumerated by means of a specific form. The rate of undercoverage was 10.9 percent.

The comparison of census data with external data (such as estimates from MoA) showed that there were large discrepancies for several parameters. A special commission to reconcile the figures was formed in April 2009 and only partial results were delivered until the reconciliation had taken place.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results were delivered in December 2009 in hard copy and CD-ROMs, and are available online.

13. DATA SOURCES

Ministerio de Economía. 2009a. *Censo Agropecuario 2007, El Salvador 2007* [online]. San Salvador [Cited 14 August 2019]. <http://www.censos.gob.sv/cenagro/index.html>

Ministerio de Economía. 2009b. *IV Censo Agropecuario 2007-2008, Resultados Nacionales*. San Salvador, El Salvador. (also available at <http://cedesan.conasan.gob.sv/index.php/component/remository/func-startdown/71/?Itemid=1098>).

Ministerio de Economía. 2009c. *IV Censo Agropecuario 2007-2008, Resumen de Resultados*. San Salvador, El Salvador. (also available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess_test_folder/World_Census_Agriculture/Country_info_2010/Reports/ESV_SPA_RES.REP_2008.pdf).

14. CONTACT

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² Four strata were defined: (i) urban segments with one to five holders (1 059 segments); (ii) urban segments with more than five and less than 40 holders (903 segments); (iii) urban segments with more than 40 holders (107 segments); and (iv) urban segments with no holders (4 139 segments).

EL SALVADOR – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2007/2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	397 433	929 308

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	397 433	929 308
Legal ownership	n.a.	690 091
Rented from others	n.a.	194 586
Other form of tenure	n.a.	44 631

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	397 433	929 308
Holdings without land	6 957	
Holdings with land	390 476	929 308
Less than 1 ha	141 823	n.a.
1–2 ha	126 232	n.a.
2–4 ha	66 964	n.a.
4–6 ha	19 663	n.a.
6–8 ha	6 759	n.a.
8–10 ha	5 499	n.a.
10–20 ha	10 110	n.a.
20–40 ha	6 295	n.a.
40–100 ha	4 954	n.a.
100–200 ha	1 435	n.a.
200 ha and over	741	n.a.

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	397 433	929 308
Cultivated land	n.a.	528 814
Land under temporary meadows	n.a.	208 839
Land temporarily fallow	n.a.	59 164
Permanent meadows and pastures	n.a.	53 596
Non-agricultural area	n.a.	19 507
Forest	n.a.	43 621
Agricultural facilities	n.a.	14 935
Lake	n.a.	832

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY AGE	
	Number
Total	394 649
Under 24 years	15 875
24–33 years	55 928
34–43 years	88 053
44–53 years	91 404
54–63 years	73 342
64 years and over	70 047

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Family members engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	550 171
Total employees	1 247 704
Male	1 128 903
Female	118 801
Permanent employees	64 261
Male	58 604
Female	5 657
Temporary employees	1 183 443
Male	1 070 299
Female	113 144

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	59 614	1 042 931
Sheep	n.a.	1 982
Goats	n.a.	6 987
Pigs/swine	6 604	274 765
Horses	n.a.	12 666
Asses (donkeys)	n.a.	144
Poultry (1 000 head)	6 097	32 257
Other animals	5 882	
Rabbits	1 104	20 929
Insects		
Bees (hives)	1 139	68 902

IRRIGATION BY LAND USE TYPES	
	Area irrigated (ha)
Holdings with irrigated land	33 253
Land under cultivation	25 066
Land under permanent pastures	8 187