

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The 2007 Saint Lucia Census of Agriculture (CA), to which the present metadata review and data refer, is the country's sixth agricultural census. Previous agricultural censuses were conducted in 1946, 1961, 1973/74, 1986¹ and 1996.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The CA 2007 was conducted in accordance with Statistical Act No. 13 of 1973, more specifically, Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. For the AC 2007, the Cabinet of Ministers of Saint Lucia approved a Censal Decree. Section 3 of the Act prescribes the duties of the Central Statistical Office (CSO); the first listed duty is “to take any census in the Island”.

Section 4 of the Act establishes that the Statistician “may delegate in writing his powers and functions under this Act”. For the CA 2007, such delegation was done by means of a 2007 Censal Decree approved by the Cabinet of Ministers; the Decree appointed the Corporate Planning Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)² as the office in charge of collaborating with the CSO.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The CA 2007 was organized on a hierarchical basis. The Chief Agricultural Planning Officer at MAFF was responsible for the general coordination of the census. The exercise was carried out in close collaboration with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the multi-institutional Agricultural Census Committee. The Decree appointed a Census Advisory Committee of 18 members from MAFF, the CSO and producers' associations.

The CA 2007 was funded by the national budget. FAO provided technical assistance for the census.

Census staff

The fieldwork for the CA 2007 involved 186 enumerators, 36 field supervisors and five field coordinators.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: the day of the interview, for inventory items such as holder's household composition, holding area, number of parcels, land tenure, number of trees and livestock.

Reference period: calendar year 2006, for labour force, land use by parcel and land use categories, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The census data collection was conducted from 22 January to 15 March 2007.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production).

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit of agricultural production, under single management, comprising all livestock kept and land used, wholly or partly, for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form and above a certain minimal threshold (point 7).

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire island territory.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were established to distinguish small holdings from other holdings:

- one eighth of an acre (1 acre, or 0.4 ha) of any temporary crop;
- ten bearing trees of any tree crop;
- 100 mats of banana and/or plantain;
- one head of cattle;
- two pigs or goats or sheep or one head of any two of these; or
- 12 poultry, 12 rabbit, or 12 head of poultry and rabbits together.

Holdings with activity exceeding at least one of the cut-off limits mentioned above were enumerated by means of the holding questionnaire. The rest of the holdings were enumerated using the screening form (see section 8, “Questionnaire(s)”).

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach (short-long questionnaire concept) was used in the CA 2007 (see “Questionnaire(s)” below).

¹ The AC 1986 was the first one to be conducted in Saint Lucia as an independent state.

² Currently: the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives.

Frame

Data from the 2001 Population and Housing Census (PHC), along with records from other sources (agriculture extension officers, farmer associations, etc.), were used to build the census frame. The cartography of the CA was the same as that used for the PHC 2001; the same EDs were also used. This procedure allowed for comparisons and geographical links to be drawn between the two censuses.

A list including farms of more than 25 acres, farms with greenhouses and poultry farms was compiled prior to the census enumeration to ensure complete coverage.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The CA 2007 was conducted by complete enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applied.

Data collection method(s)

The information was collected by means of face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires (PAPI method).

Questionnaire(s)

Two types of questionnaires were used: (i) a “screening form”; and (ii) a “holding questionnaire” (long questionnaire). The holdings engaging in activity exceeding at least one of the cut-off limits mentioned above (see section 7), were enumerated by means of the holding questionnaire. The rest of the holdings were enumerated by means of the screening form.³

The CA 2007 covered all 16 core items recommended by FAO in the 2010 WCA round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The census results were disseminated online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The data were keypunched in batches and coded. The editing of the census data was also performed manually. This comprised 100-percent first and second reviews; 10 percent of the reviewed questionnaires were screened, and if any problem was identified the entire batch was reviewed again. Imputation was used in extreme cases and after exhausting all other sources. Validation of census data was performed through quality checks, mainly with external sources. SPSS was used for data processing. Users may access the census results (only aggregate data) via institutional websites.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Intensive field supervision was applied to ensure quality during the field operations.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final CA 2007 results were disseminated through: (i) the printed report of final census results; (ii) two thematic analyses, on gender and livestock respectively; (iii) a brochure titled “Portrait of main findings”; (iv) a seminar for the presentation of census results (18 October 2007); and (v) the website.

13. DATA SOURCES

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of St. Lucia. 2007. 2007 St. Lucia census of agriculture. Portrait of the main findings, Summary of Censal Results and their Comparison with Previous Censuses., Castries, Saint Lucia. Paper presented at the Dissemination Seminar, Castries, Saint Lucia, 18 October 2007. (also available at http://www.malff.com/images/stories/Census%20Data/2007%20Census%20of%20Agriculture%20Summary%20Report.pdfStLucia_census_agriculture.pdf).

14. CONTACT

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³ The country was divided into 421 EDs. Enumerators were required to canvass the ED assigned identifying all households in it, and applying the screening form to identify those holdings above the thresholds, as well as to collect information on small holdings below them. The items of the screening form comprised: area with temporary crops, selected fruit trees, livestock (including poultry), beehives, and engagement in fishing activities for households below the threshold. The long questionnaire was applied to holdings above the threshold.

SAINT LUCIA – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2007– MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	9 972	12 223
Civil persons	9 956	11 609
Juridical persons	16	614

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Number of parcels
Total	9 972	11 503
Holdings without land	524	
Holdings with land	9 448	11 503
1 parcel	7 801	7 801
2 parcels	1 316	2 632
3 parcels	273	819
4 parcels and over	58	251

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	9 972	12 223
Holdings without land	524	
Holdings with land	9 448	12 223
Less than 0.2 ha	2 420	182
0.2–0.4 ha	1 340	304
0.4–0.8 ha	1 749	840
0.8–2 ha	2 254	2 632
2–4 ha	1 156	2 945
4–10 ha	454	2 452
10–20 ha	51	709
20–40 ha	13	332
40 ha and over	11	1 828

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	9 972	12 223
Agricultural land	n.a.	9 927
Arable land	n.a.	2 677
Land under temporary crops	n.a.	1 325
Land under temporary meadows	n.a.	242
Land temporarily fallow	n.a.	1 110
Land under permanent crops	n.a.	6 881
Permanent meadows and pastures	n.a.	368
Forest and other wooded land	n.a.	1 503
Other land	n.a.	794

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX		
	Number	Area operated (ha)
Total	9 800	11 609
Male	6 894	9 339
Female	2 906	2 271

HOLDINGS, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE		Number
Total		9 800
1 person		2 198
2–3 persons		3 680
4–5 persons		2 480
6–9 persons		1 322
10 persons and over		120

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX AND AGE		Number
Total		9 800
Male		6 894
Female		2 906
Under 15 years		122
Male		85
Female		37
15–19 years		48
Male		36
Female		12
20–24 years		154
Male		126
Female		28
25–34 years		915
Male		679
Female		236
35–44 years		2 162
Male		1 541
Female		621
45–54 years		2 344
Male		1 631
Female		713
55–64 years		1 920
Male		1 340
Female		580
65 years and over		2 135
Male		1 456
Female		679

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX		Number
Total		32 919
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding		7 195
Male		4 669
Female		2 526

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	2 231	5 345
Sheep	2 933	7 736
Goats	3 110	8 816
Pigs/swine	2 950	19 520
Equines	n.a.	n.a.
Horses	58	353
Mules	3	3
Asses (donkeys)	19	29
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Chickens	995	131
Ducks	64	1.0
Other animals	n.a.	
Rabbits and hares	463	2 910
Insects		
Bees (hives)	15	218

IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Holdings with irrigated land	1 463	3 321