

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Agricultural Census (AC) in Suriname was undertaken in 1953. The second and the third ones were taken in 1959 and 1969. The fourth AC was held in 1981. The fifth AC to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was carried out in 2008.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The operations and activities of the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS) are governed by Statistics Act S.B. 2002, no 97. The GBS is responsible for the compilation and dissemination of a wide range of data.

The implementation of the census was based on the Fifth Agricultural Census Act of 10 July 2008.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The GBS is a semi-autonomous organization responsible for the national statistical system, including the conduct of censuses of population and housing. The statistical system is decentralized and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (MAAHF) is responsible for food and agricultural statistics in Suriname, including the ACs. The Division of Agricultural Statistics (DAS), as part of the Planning and Development Directorate of the MAAHF, is in charge of the organization and execution of the census. The GBS was represented as a member in the AC Steering Committee.

The AC 2008 was funded by the Government of the Netherlands, within the framework of the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP) signed in June 2001.

FAO provided technical assistance for the AC.

Census staff

In total, 357 people were involved with the implementation of the AC, which included the existing staff and structures of the MAAHF, and 52 persons seconded by other ministries and institutions.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 November 2008, for livestock, buildings, machinery and other stock items.

Reference periods: calendar year 2008 (from 1 January to 31 December 2008), for farm labour, land use, land tenure, irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, aquaculture, machinery and equipment, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Three enumeration periods were defined, according to the areas considered: (i) the Coastal Area (1–30 November 2008); (ii) Greater Paramaribo (1–28 February 2009); and (iii) the Interior (from 1 February to 9 March 2009).

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural production activities (crop and livestock production), as well as aquaculture activities.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as a technical and economic production unit consisting of one or more land parcels, including non-productive land, independent of titles to the land, which is located in one or several places and wholly or partly used or intended for agriculture (crops, animal husbandry) and aquaculture under the responsibility of one person (physical or legal) or responsibility jointly with others. The types of holdings distinguished in the census were: (i) holdings in the household sector (family business, including partnership between two or more households); and (ii) holdings in the non-household sector (company, government, institution/organization, other).

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

Only holdings above any of the following thresholds were enumerated: (i) 0.02 ha of land under temporary or “semi-perennial” crops;¹ (ii) 20 m² of leek, celery or leaf onions; (iii) 20 harvested fruit trees; (iv) ten fruit trees of a single type harvested; (v) two head of cattle; (vi) five goats; (vii) five sheep; (viii) five pigs; (ix) one sow; (x) 25 chickens; (xi) 25 ducks; (xii) five hives; (xiii) one fishpond larger than 50 m².

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC 2008.

¹ According to the national classification used for the AC 2008 data collection, “semi-perennial” crops included: bananas, papaya, pineapple, passionfruit and sugarcane.

Frame

The Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2004 was the frame for the sampling surveys (Interior and Greater Paramaribo), and the frame used to check for coverage in the Coastal Area, where a complete enumeration exercise was performed. The enumerators and supervisors visited more than 100 000 households, of which approximately 10 234 qualified as agricultural holdings, according to the threshold criteria (see section 7).

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The AC 2008 was carried out on a complete enumeration basis in the Coastal Area, where the vast majority of agricultural holdings were located. The census in Greater Paramaribo (district Paramaribo) and in the Interior (rural inland of Suriname) was carried out on a sample basis. Different designs were used for these two areas.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

For the rural area of the capital Paramaribo, a random sample of 10 percent of the Enumeration Blocks from the PHC was drawn, because of the low intensity of agricultural activities. For the Interior, a stratified sampling design was adopted, because of the considerations of the enormous geographical spread of small size holdings and difficult accessibility of the areas in the mentioned districts.

Data collection method(s)

Face-to-face interviews using the PAPI method were used in the AC 2008.

Questionnaire(s)

Two main forms were used for the AC 2008 data collection: (i) the screening form (AC-1) and (ii) the AC questionnaire (AC-2). The AC 2008 covered all 16 core items recommended to be collected in the 2010 WCA round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The data capture and processing was carried out using CSPro (version 3.2). Microsoft SQL Server 2005 was used as a database system to store the data files with processed information, and to enable further statistical processing. For data dissemination, SPSS 11.5 was used to generate the tables.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

A PES was conducted. It consisted of a re-enumeration of selected Enumeration Blocks (10 percent of census questionnaires) in the Coastal Area, Paramaribo and the Interior.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results of the AC 2008 were published in April 2014 and are available online.

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/>)

Ministerie van Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij. 2014. *Eindrapport van de Vijfde Landbouwtelling 2008-2009*. Paramaribo, Suriname. (also available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess_test_folder/World_Census_Agriculture/Country_info_2010/Reports/Reports_5/SUR_DUTCH_REP_2008-2009.pdf).

14. CONTACT

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SURINAME – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	10 234	63 989
Civil persons	10 188	38 958
Juridical persons	46	25 031

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	10 234	63 989
Legal ownership	n.a.	14 637
Rented from others	n.a.	34 828
Other form of tenure	n.a.	14 525

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Number of parcels
Total holdings with land	10 230	15 037
1 parcel	6 756	n.a.
2 parcels	2 740	n.a.
3 parcels	497	n.a.
4 parcels	123	n.a.
5 parcels	51	n.a.
6 parcels and over	63	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	10 234	63 989
Holdings without land	4	
Holdings with land	10 230	63 989
Less than 0.1 ha	923	n.a.
0.1–0.19 ha	1 177	n.a.
0.20–0.49 ha	1 714	n.a.
0.5–0.99 ha	1 206	n.a.
1.0–1.99 ha	2 125	n.a.
2.0–2.99 ha	1 008	n.a.
3.0–3.99 ha	531	n.a.
4.0–4.99 ha	381	n.a.
5.0–9.99 ha	598	n.a.
10.0–19.99 ha	293	n.a.
20.0–49.99 ha	150	n.a.
50.0–99.99 ha	60	n.a.
100.0–199.99 ha	23	n.a.
200.0–499.99 ha	25	n.a.
500 ha and over	16	n.a.

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	10 234	63 989
Agricultural land	n.a.	43 113
Arable land	n.a.	16 547
Land temporarily fallow	n.a.	6 624
Land under permanent crops	n.a.	5 930
Permanent meadows and pastures	n.a.	14 013
Forest and other wooded land	n.a.	14 757
Other land	n.a.	6 119

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX		
	Number	Area operated (ha)
Total	10 188	38 958
Male	6 652	35 575
Female	3 536	3 383

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY AGE	
	Number
Total	10 188
Under 25 years	323
25–34 years	1 287
35–44 years	2 462
45–54 years	2 841
55–64 years	1 832
65 years and over	1 443

HOLDINGS, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE	
	Number
Total	10 188
1 person	949
2–3 persons	3 374
4–5 persons	3 451
6–9 persons	2 186
10 persons and over	228

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	33 781
Male	17 050
Female	16 731
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	18 533
Male	10 274
Female	8 259

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	8 656
Male	6 592
Female	2 064
Permanent employees	4 274
Male	3 030
Female	1 244
Semi-permanent employees	442
Male	286
Female	156
Temporary employees	3 893
Male	3 233
Female	660
Not mentioned	47
Male	43
Female	4

HOLDINGS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION	
	Holdings reporting
Total producing mainly for	9 868
Home consumption	4 035
Sale	5 833

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	7 246	28 349
Cattle	2 020	4 970
Sheep	570	3 434
Goats	462	8 975
Pigs/swine	155	491
Poultry (1 000 head)	4 039	433
Chickens	n.a.	56
Ducks	n.a.	1
Geese	n.a.	