

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Census of Agriculture (CA) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was carried out in 1937. In 1949, 1961 and 1971, the CAs and the censuses of population and housing (CPHs) were carried out jointly. A series of CAs separated from the CPH were conducted in 1985, 1997 and 2008.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The CA legislation includes the following:

- the Organic Law of the Central Administration, which establishes the competences of the Ministry of the Popular Power for Agriculture and Lands (MPPAT) and of the National Statistical Institute (INE)¹ regarding the CA;
- the Law of the Public Function of Statistics of November 2001, on the organization of the Statistical System; and
- Presidential Decree No. 4837 of 26 September 2006, regarding the preparation and conduct of the CA 2008, which establishes all operational stages of the census and responsibilities of the institutions involved.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The INE is the coordinator of the statistical system. The INE can delegate functions for data collections to sectoral offices. In particular, the CA 2008 was under the responsibility of the MPPAT, as per Presidential Decree No. 4837.

Technical assistance from FAO was provided for the CA 2008.

Census staff

The total number of census staff was of about 7 101 employees, of which 4 962 were enumerators, 1 306 supervisors, 131 municipal supervisors, 256 parish supervisors, 131 municipal auxiliaries, 131 data-entry personnel and 184 state unit staff.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

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

Reference period: from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008 for other items such as on crops and labour force.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Census enumeration was carried out from 14 April to 31 July 2008.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). A community survey of Communal Micro Areas (MACs) was conducted along with the census fieldwork.

Three categories of **statistical units** were distinguished in the CA 2008: (i) agricultural production units (UPAs); (ii) household producers; and (iii) MACs. Accordingly, the UPA was defined as an economic unit of agricultural production with unique management and address, comprising all livestock and all land, fully or partially dedicated to agricultural purpose, regardless of title or legal form. A household producer consists of a person or a group of two or more persons, with or without family ties to one another, who live in the same house, sharing the same services, and maintaining economic dependence through common expenses, especially regarding food. MACs are defined as the basic area units for statistical purposes, determined by the community on the basis of the sense of belonging of its people and the recognition of others. Holdings were classified according to their legal status.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

For purposes of the CA 2008, the following minimum size limits were adopted to define the UPA:

- a minimum cultivated area of 0.5 ha;
- any surface cultivated with vegetables or flowers for commercial purposes;
- 5 ha of grassland;
- 20 fruit trees of the same species;
- five cattle;
- 15 pigs, 15 goats, or 15 sheep;
- 100 birds of the same species;
- five beehives;
- 25 m² of water mirror for aquaculture purposes;
- any production unit with organic crops, nurseries or crops with special and/or handicraft techniques; or
- other animals of agricultural production greater than or equal to 100 head.

¹ In Spanish: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística*.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC.

Frame

The census frame was obtained from the registry of agricultural production units. All areas were canvassed for gathering basic information that allows to determine if the agricultural unit qualifies as an UPA, for the purposes of the census.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The CA 2008 was conducted on a complete enumeration basis.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection method(s)

Data were collected by face-to-face interviewing using the CAPI method with PDAs.

Questionnaire(s)

There was a single comprehensive questionnaire for all holdings. The CA 2008 covered 14 of the 16 core items recommended by FAO for the WCA 2010.²

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAPI method using PDAs was applied. The census data were disseminated online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The data were captured using DMCs³, from which the information was transmitted to the MPPAT server. The ArcPad 7.0 software was used to develop a cartography programme, deployed in the DMCs. Data transmission was made using the Internet via a modem and a webpage. The census data were analysed for consistency, and then edited and validated. An application was developed in REDATAM + SP with the aim of facilitating online access to the census data and obtaining quick and easy figures.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

A PES was conducted to assess the census coverage.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The final results were released in April 2011 through different publications, and are available at the national and subnational level. Census data were disseminated online through REDATAM.

13. DATA SOURCE

FAO. 2016. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 12–16 December 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay. In: World Programme for the Census of Agriculture [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 10 September 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020montevideo/en/>

Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Agricultura y Tierras (MMPAT). 2008. *Coordinación Nacional del VII CAN 2008. Manual del Empadronador (EM)*. Caracas, Venezuela (República Bolivariana de).

Information provided by the MMPAT.

14. CONTACT

Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Agricultura y Tierras

Address: Av. Urdaneta entre esquina Platanal a Candilito a media cuadra de la Plaza la candelaria, Parroquia la Candelaria, Caracas, República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Telephone: (+58) (0)212 5090347; (+58) (0)212 5090348; (+58) (0)212 5090359

E-mail: estagric@mat.gov.ve

Website: https://www.ecured.cu/Ministerio_del_Poder_Popular_de_Agricultura_y_Tierras_de_Venezuela

² Items not covered: (i) "Age of the agricultural holder"; (ii) "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

³ *Dispositivos Móviles de Captura*.

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	502 676	27 073 879

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS WITH LAND, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	424 256	27 031 987
Civil persons	410 705	n.a.
Juridical persons	13 551	n.a.

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total holdings with land	424 256	27 031 987
1 parcel	384 506	22 899 434
2–3 parcels	36 553	3 380 572
4–5 parcels	2 495	454 916
6–9 parcels	586	214 085
10 parcels and over	116	82 980

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	502 676	27 073 879
Holdings without land	78 420	
Holdings with land	424 256	27 073 879
Less than 0.5 ha	7 413	1 503
0.5–1 ha	19 320	10 718
1–2 ha	52 900	60 020
2–5 ha	99 740	286 448
5–10 ha	63 032	402 565
10–20 ha	53 414	683 365
20–50 ha	53 287	1 594 533
50–100 ha	29 259	1 949 056
100–200 ha	19 988	2 623 611
200–500 ha	15 994	4 666 458
500–1 000 ha	5 890	3 837 223
1 000–2 500 ha	2 917	4 215 279
2 500–5 000 ha	711	2 281 579
5 000 ha and over	391	4 461 522

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	502 676	27 073 879
Agricultural land	n.a.	17 147 022
Arable land	215 110	2 327 889
Land under temporary crops	166 165	1 647 907
Land temporarily fallow (less than a year)	27 723	390 453
Land temporarily fallow (more than a year)	21 222	289 529
Land under permanent crops	178 836	1 030 906
Permanent meadows and pastures	185 139	13 788 227
Forest and other wooded land	122 809	8 443 658
Other land	228 904	1 483 199

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	410 705
Male	329 721
Female	80 984

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	109 1047
Male	606 173
Female	484 874

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Holdings with livestock	166 304	
Cattle	127 303	12 678 340
Buffaloes	1 343	225 790
Sheep	16 533	600 988
Goats	15 321	1 057 056
Pigs	29 732	2 787 338
Horses	20 185	163 433
Poultry (1 000 head)	30 641	97 070
Chickens	29 915	96 565
Other	10 739	504
Other animals	n.a.	
Rabbits	636	74 347
Insects		
Bees (hives)	898	20 075

METHODS OF IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Total	66 351	683 096
Surface	34 076	475 379
Sprinkler	27 332	169 733
Localized irrigation	4 943	37 984

PERMANENT CROPS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Tropical and subtropical fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Avocados	8 355	93 342
Bananas	20 503	241 831
Papayas	3 176	99 670
Mangoes	1 999	62 666
Plantains	15 961	420 489
Pineapples	5 169	215 438
Citrus fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Mandarins	4 778	62 897
Oranges	10 782	197 807
Pome fruits and stone fruits	1 819	11 913
Peaches	1 819	11 913
Oilseed crops	2 495	153 032
Coconuts	1 900	42 575
Oil palms	595	110 457
Other	6 406	114 145