

## 1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Agricultural Census (AC) undertaken in Bangladesh was carried out in 1960.<sup>1</sup> The second AC was conducted in 1977, followed by the 1983/1984 AC, the 1996 AC and the 2008 AC, to which the metadata and data presented here refer.

## 2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

### **Legal framework**

ACs in Bangladesh are carried out under the legal mandate of the Statistics Act 2013.

### **Institutional framework and international collaboration**

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is responsible for all official statistics of the country, including the CA, as well as agricultural sampling surveys. A Technical Committee of 21 members (including the Director-General of the BBS as the chairman, the Project Director as the member-secretary, and experts from the BBS, universities, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, the Department of Fisheries and the Directorate of Forest) was constituted to decide final matters relating to census methodologies, questionnaires, training and field manuals, and all other census processes. In addition, census committees at different administrative divisions were formed.

FAO provided technical assistance.

### **Census staff**

The data collection involved 150 000 enumerators, supervised by 19 529 supervisors at a rate of seven to eight enumerators per supervisor. The supervisors' activity was coordinated by 1 978 zonal officers.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the BBS appointed 534 *upazila/thana* census coordinators, 69 district coordinators, 21 regional census coordinators and eight division census coordinators to complete the fieldwork.

## 3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

**Reference day:** the day of enumeration, for land tenure, size of farm, livestock and poultry inventories, farm population, etc.

**Reference period:** a 12-month period (from 14 April 2007 to 13 April<sup>3</sup> 2008), for utilization of operated land, irrigation, use of fertilizers and pesticides, aquaculture/fishing, agriculture equipment, labour, etc.

## 4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The enumeration periods of the AC 2008 corresponded to the two phases of the census: (i) from 11 May to 25 May 2008 for the first phase of complete enumeration; and (ii) from 15 November to 4 December 2008 for the sample enumeration performed in the second phase.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). Detailed information on the aquaculture and capture fisheries activities of household members was also collected.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, defined as a production unit under single management (both technical and economic) and engaged in agriculture activities. The AC 2008 covered only the agricultural holdings in the household sector.

All holdings were classified according to size as:

- small – holdings with a total land area between 0.05 and 2.49 acres (1 acre = 0.4047 ha);
- medium – holdings operating a total area between 2.5 and 7.49 acres; and
- large – holdings operating more than 7.5 acres of land.

## 6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country. Both rural and urban areas were covered.

## 7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The AC 2008 included only the agricultural holdings with more than 0.05 acres of land, managed by households. The AC 2008 did not cover the agricultural holdings in the non-household sector.

## 8. METHODOLOGY

### **Methodological modality for conducting the census**

The AC used the classical approach (a short-long questionnaire concept).

Data collection was carried out in two phases, by using: (i) a short questionnaire, in the first phase, based on complete enumeration; and (ii) a long questionnaire, in the second phase, sample-based.

<sup>1</sup> The 1960 CA was conducted on a sample basis, before the country achieved independence in 1971.

<sup>2</sup> A zone comprised averagely 78 Enumeration Areas (EAs) and all zonal officers were statistical staff of the BBS.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Baishak to 30 Choitra, 1414 Bangla Shal (BS).

### **Frame**

A short questionnaire provided the frame for the agricultural survey for the second phase of the census.

### **Complete and/or sample enumeration methods**

The census was conducted in two phases:

- Phase I: complete enumeration of all households, both in rural and urban areas. A short questionnaire containing basic agriculture-related items was used for data collection from 11 May to 25 May 2008.
- Phase II: sample enumeration with a long questionnaire was adopted to obtain detailed data on agriculture. Data collection was conducted from 15 November to 4 December 2008.

### **Sample design (if sampling was used)**

For Phase II, 10 percent of the 155 578 EAs were selected; subsequently, 10 percent of the households involved in agricultural activities were drawn in each selected Enumeration Area, or EA (a total of about 155 000 households).

### **Data collection methods**

In both data collection phases, the interviews were conducted face-to-face and the information was collected in paper forms (that is, using the PAPI method).

### **Questionnaire(s)**

Data were collected by means of two questionnaires: (i) a short questionnaire in the first phase (full count); and (ii) a long questionnaire in the second phase (sample-based).

The AC 2008 questionnaires covered 13 items of the 16 core items<sup>4</sup> recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

## **9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Data dissemination through the BBS website was used to release the results of the AC 2008.

## **10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING**

Once the questionnaires had been thoroughly checked and edited, they were then coded in preparation for data processing. The data were entered manually and a special data entry programme was developed in FoxPro with exhaustive checks of every kind, including duplication of records. Although these checks slowed down the speed of the data entry operation, they ensured accuracy and consistency. As a result, no further edit or imputation was necessary before embarking upon the tabulation process.

## **11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY**

The AC questionnaires were pre-tested. The results of the pre-test were analysed for finalizing the questionnaires, under the guidance of the Technical Committee. Upon completion of the fieldwork of the complete enumeration phase, a PES<sup>5</sup> was conducted to assess the census data quality. The PES findings are available in a report published separately.

## **12. DATA DISSEMINATION**

The AC 2008 data were disseminated by means of printed reports and through the website.<sup>6</sup>

## **13. DATA SOURCES**

**Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).** 2010. *Census of Agriculture 2008: Structure of Agricultural Holdings and Livestock Population*, vol. 1. Dhaka, Bangladesh. (also available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess\\_test\\_folder/World\\_Census\\_Agriculture/Country\\_info\\_2010/Reports/Reports\\_3/BGD\\_ENG\\_REP\\_2008.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess_test_folder/World_Census_Agriculture/Country_info_2010/Reports/Reports_3/BGD_ENG_REP_2008.pdf)).

**FAO.** 2016. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020). 19–23 September 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 4 September 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/events/wca2020bangkok/en/>

## **14. CONTACT**

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<sup>4</sup> The following items were not covered: (i) "Legal status of agricultural holder"; (ii) "Age of agricultural holder"; and (iii) "Main purpose of production of the holding".

<sup>5</sup> "Post-enumeration check".

<sup>6</sup> The AC 2008 data are available at <http://203.112.218.65:8008/PageReportLists.aspx?PARENTKEY=44>

# BANGLADESH – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2008 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 183 183</b>	<b>9 026 516</b>

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 183 183</b>	<b>9 026 516</b>
Owner	8 672 725	4 967 167
Owner-cum-tenant	6 037 207	3 886 985
Tenant	473 251	172 364

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 183 183</b>	<b>9 026 516</b>
0.02–0.2 ha	4 247 673	485 648
0.2–0.4 ha	3 610 131	1 023 059
0.4–0.6 ha	2 484 406	1 182 676
0.6–1.0 ha	2 470 162	1 896 471
1.0–3.0 ha	2 136 415	3 332 252
3.0 ha and over	234 396	1 106 411

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX	
	Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 183 183</b>
Male	14 734 773
Female	448 410

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>78 847 728</b>
Male	41 040 446
Female	37 807 282
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	22 429 272
Male	16 412 262
Female	6 017 010

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
<b>Holdings with livestock</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	
Cattle	8 243 681	21 898 410
Buffaloes	141 610	455 046
Sheep	282 565	969 911
Goats	4 521 634	12 373 559
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Chickens	10 095 266	73 703
Ducks	5 773 836	30 588
Pigeons	710 596	6 270

IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Holdings with irrigated land	10 323 934	4 848 044

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING		
	Holdings	Units
Total tractors of all kind	21 062	22 449
Other (machine-powered)	n.a.	
Power tiller	136 154	141 767
Threshing machine	551 361	602 199
Seeders	16 339	27 629
Other machines	5 710 685	n.a.

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED	
	Area (ha)
<b>Total</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
Cereals	n.a.
Rice	8 912 580
Wheat	260 744
Maize	269 989
Barley	612
Oats	1 291
Millet	14 778
Other cereals	3 492
Vegetables and melons	280 954
Pumpkin	42 361
Tomatoes	30 339
Okra	3 358
Cabbages	2 411
Eggplants	72 676
Carrots	794
Garlic	38 643
Onion	78 908
Other vegetables	129 014
Oilseed crops	505 455
Rape	377 108
Mustard	917
Sesame	43 370
Groundnuts	68 213
Soya beans	11 584
Other oilseed crops	4 263
Root/tuber crops	n.a.
Potatoes	309 603
Sweet potatoes	41 989
Leguminous crops	434 715
Pigeon peas	582
Lentils	96 474
Peas	1 364
Other pulses	336 295
Spice and aromatic crops	n.a.
Chilies	196 820
Other spice crops	62 723
Sugar crops	n.a.
Sugar cane	88 351
Other temporary crops	n.a.
Industrial crops	572 291
Jute	441 314
Cotton	4 642
Tobacco	32 769
Other industrial crops	5 215
Fodder	1 175

PERMANENT CROPS	
	Area (ha)
<b>Total</b>	<b>507 845</b>
Orchards	499 307
Nurseries	5 315
Horticulture	3 223