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Methodology of the Second National Agricultural Census

1. Introduction to the Census Methodology

1.1 Objective

The objective of the Second National Agricultural Census is to understand in an overall manner the basic situation of agriculture, rural areas and residents of the country in order to build up foundation for the study and formulation of economic and social development planning and scientific decision-making and to provide statistic information service to agricultural producers and operators as well as the general public.

1.2 Implementation agencies

The State Council, provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities), prefectures (municipals) and counties (municipals, districts and banners) established leading group and office for the Second National Agricultural Census. Townships, towns, street communities involved in agriculture and farms with administrative functions of township set up agricultural census office. Administrative villages as well as residents' committees in rural areas and farms with administrative functions of village set up agricultural census group. Whether a residents' committee with agricultural production within its territory needs to set up an agricultural census group or not, it was decided by the local agricultural census office.

1.3 Time reference

The reference time of the census is 24:00 December 31, 2006. All year-end items such as "the area of arable land at the end of 2006" and "Ownership of dwelling at the end of 2006" take the data at the reference time of the census.

The reference period of the census is January 1 to December 31, 2006. All yearly items such as "actual amount of time spent on agricultural production of the household in 2006" and the "sown area in 2006" take the yearly data of reference period of the census.

1.4 Scope

The scope of the Second National Agricultural Census includes crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agricultural service.

1.5 Objects

The objects of the Second National Agricultural Census are the following entities and households within the territory of the People's Republic of China:

(1) Rural household: it includes rural agricultural households (rural household agricultural holdings) and rural other households no matter whether the register identification of members of the household is local or not and whether is agricultural or not. Rural agricultural households refer to those households engaged in agriculture activities, including crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agricultural service in rural areas. Rural other households refer to those households inhabited in rural areas without

engaging agricultural activities.

(2) Urban agricultural household (urban household agricultural holdings): it refers to those households engaged in agriculture activities, including crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agricultural service in urban areas.

(3) Non-household agricultural holding: it refers to legal entities, agricultural establishments of legal entities with multiple-establishments and unregistered entities that basically satisfied with the qualification of legal person, which are engaged in agriculture activities, including crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agricultural service except households. It includes not only enterprises, public service organization and cooperative of farmer households with agriculture as the major industry, but also agricultural establishments of agricultural production and operation affiliated to industrial and mining enterprises, government agencies, social groups and schools.

Rural agricultural households, urban agricultural households, so as called household agricultural holdings, and non-household agricultural holdings refer to those entities and household that engage in crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agricultural service on agricultural land, forest or woodland or in independent facilities, and meet one of the following criterions:

- Operate more than 0.1 mu (including 0.1 mu) of arable land or land under permanent crops or water surface area of aquaculture at the year-end;
- Operate more than 1 mu of woodland and pasture at the year-end;
- Keep more than one (including one) large or medium livestock such as cattle, horse, pig and sheep at the year-end;
- Keep more than 20 heads (including 20) of small animals such as rabbits or poultry;
- The income of the yearly sales of agricultural products including self-consumption exceeds 500 RMB Yuan.
- The income from providing agricultural services to other households or other entities is more than 500 RMB Yuan, or the expenditure of administrative or public service organization on providing agricultural services exceeds 500 RMB Yuan.

Once an entity or a household is defined as agricultural holdings in line with one of the above criterions, all the agricultural activities of the entity or the household fall into the scope of the agricultural census.

(4) Villagers' committee: it refers to the villagers' committee of an administrative village. In the Second National Agricultural Census, residents' committee in rural areas as well as the administration of farm with administrative functions of village is treated as villagers' committee.

(5) Town and township government: it refers to the all township, ethnic minority township and town government. In the Second National Agricultural Census, urban street community committee with agricultural land or agricultural production facilities or rural households and the administration of farm with administrative functions of township government is treated as township government.

1.6 Coverage

(1) The coverage of census for agricultural holdings is all rural areas and urban areas within the territory of the People's Republic of China.

(2) The coverage of census for rural households and villagers' committees is rural area.

In order to ensure the comparability of definition of rural area among the First National Agricultural Census, regular rural statistics, the results of rural and urban area demarcation in statistics, and the coverage of various agricultural policies, rural area in the Second National Agricultural Census in enumeration stage is defined as the following areas:

- Area administered by villagers' committees, excluding the residential real estate properties in contiguous area inhabited mainly by residents whose register identifications are not in the village.
- Area administered by residents' committees and satisfying one of following conditions: a. with agricultural land where state ownership or shareholding transformation of agricultural land has not been completed, or b. the register identifications of local population remain to be agricultural, or c. the administration model of villagers' committee is still followed, and residents are not entitled to social security of urban residents.
- Farms with village administration functions.
- When area administered both by villagers' committee and residents' committee or other village level administration, it is demarcated according with the area administered by villagers' committee.

Area beyond rural area is urban area.

(3) The coverage of census for township people's government is all towns and townships as well as street communities with agricultural land, or agricultural production facilities or rural households, and farms with township government administration functions.

1.7 Demarcation of enumeration area

(1) Enumeration area is demarcated according with the area administered by villagers' committee as a unit. Each enumeration area is manned by at least one supervisor;

(2) Under the Enumeration area, sub-enumeration areas are established according with villagers' group in principle. If no villagers' group has been set up, or the villagers' group is excessively big or the boundary is not clearly defined, or the households of the same villagers' group are dispersed in over 5 clusters, clear geographic marks should be used to demarcate the sub-enumeration area.

The size of sub-enumeration area and the number of enumerator is set for the completion of field enumeration in 10-15 days. Usually, the size of sub-enumeration area is 50 to 100 households. It could be 20-50 households in the area with less population density and difficulties in transportation. Each sub-enumeration area is manned by at least one enumerator.

1.8 Types of questionnaires and principles for enumeration

The Second National Agricultural Census has 10 sheets of 5 types of questionnaires including:

(1) *Household questionnaire*: it is used to enumerate rural households, urban agricultural households.

The principles of enumeration are as follows:

- In rural enumeration areas, all the agricultural households and non-agricultural households are enumerated according to the principle of "including all the households". In urban enumeration areas, only agricultural households are enumerated by the principle of "tracking the households from the land (facilities)";
- Population and employment information is collected by natural household including the members sharing household economy and consumption in principle;
- Agricultural production information is collected at the domicile of agricultural household. When one family operates agricultural production in different enumeration areas and if the family members inhabit in different census areas, data of agricultural production and operations is respectively collected in these enumeration areas by different agricultural households. If the family members inhabit in one enumeration area, agricultural production and operations are reported in the enumeration area by one agricultural household. When the agricultural household does not inhabit in the enumeration area where the land or facilities locate, but in urban area, it is reported in the enumeration area where the land or facilities locate;

if it inhibits in other enumeration area of rural area, it is reported at other rural enumeration area where the household inhibits.

- Household information is collected through three steps: on-site household list-making, household interviewing and on-site enumerating. Enumerators are encouraged to prepare themselves by household register records, land contract records and other administrative records so as to better understand the situation of the household. All list-making and enumeration must be carried out and completed on-site in the household.

(2) *Non-household agricultural holdings questionnaire*: it is used to collect the information of legal entities, establishments of legal entities with multiple-establishments and other unregistered entities, which are engaged in agricultural production and operations. The principles of enumeration are the following:

- Non-household agricultural holdings are identified through an integrating method of record inquires, consultation among government departments and field investigation.
- Enumeration is organized by township census office. Impersonal entity or its headquarter is responsible for reporting the related information about the entity and its agricultural establishments located in the same township to the township agricultural census office where the impersonal entity or its headquarter is located. Agricultural establishment located at the different township from where the headquarters of legal entity located is responsible for reporting the related information about the establishment to the township agricultural census where the establishment is located. Township agricultural census office is responsible for verifying the nature of the entity or establishment and the coding.
- Non-household agricultural holding reports agricultural land, facilities and equipment owned and rented, hired persons for agricultural activities, as well as its agricultural production and operations. Agricultural products procured from other agricultural holdings are not included. Land, equipment, facilities and agricultural products leased or subcontracted to others will be reported by holdings that rented or subcontracted.
- Questionnaires are filled by enumerator through interview or by self-reporting of the non-household agricultural holding. The method of enumeration by the enumerator or supervisor through interview will be adopted in most cases, while large-scale enterprise and public service organization can fill in the questionnaires on their own on the basis of training and mastery of the method of questionnaire enumeration.

(3) *Village questionnaire*: it is used to enumerate administrative villages and other village level administrative organizations. The census group of the enumeration area collects relevant data and directly fills in the questionnaire.

(4) *Township questionnaire*: it is used to enumerate townships and other township level administrative organizations. The township agricultural census office collects relevant data and directly fills in the questionnaire.

(5) *Agricultural land questionnaire*: it is filled in by using the data of Land Use Survey conducted by the department of land and resources of government. Verification and quality assessment of agricultural land data are implemented by the Agricultural Census Office of the State Council in association with the Ministry of Land and Resources.

2. Questionnaire of the Census