

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The Agricultural Census (AC) 2006, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, is the second agricultural census to be undertaken in China after the AC 1996.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

Statistical activities in China are regulated by the Statistics Law of the People's Republic of China, enacted in 1983, with amendments in 1996 and 2009.

The AC 2006 was undertaken by virtue of Decree No. 473 of the State Council, of 23 August 2006. According to Article 8 of the Decree, the AC shall be conducted decennially in years ending with 6.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the agency responsible for conducting the AC. Other state bodies and organizations concerned with the agricultural census were actively involved in accomplishing the works related to the AC. The State Council established the Agricultural Census Office (ACO) for the AC. In line with the Chinese fiscal system, the funds needed for the AC 2006 were shared by the central government and local governments at all levels and were included in the governmental budgets of the corresponding year, so that the funds could be appropriated on schedule and ensured. An AC Technical Committee, responsible for the AC methodology, was formed. Technical consultations with some international organizations and statistical agencies related to the conduct of the AC were held.

Census staff

Seven million census staff were involved in fieldwork activities; bodies at all levels were mobilized in the entire country.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 31 December 2006, for inventory items such as the area of arable land.

Reference period: calendar year 2006 (from 1 January to 31 December), for items such as sown area and agricultural machinery.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Field data collection took place between 1 January and 31 March 2007.

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

The **census scope** included agricultural activities (crop and animal production), agricultural services, forestry and fishery activities. In addition, the AC collected the information on rural infrastructure and basic social services, the living conditions of rural residents, town and township government and villagers' committees.

The **statistical unit** of the AC 2006 was the agricultural holding, defined as the household or the entity in the non-household sector engaged in crop farming, animal husbandry, forestry, fishery and agricultural services on agricultural land, and that meet one of the criteria specified as a threshold (see section 7 below). The agricultural holdings were classified as: (a) household agricultural holdings or (b) non-household agricultural holdings, as identified by surveying the following entities and households within the territory of the People's Republic of China: (i) rural households;¹ (ii) urban agricultural households;² and (iii) non-household agricultural holdings (agricultural establishments).³

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country, including urban and rural areas. Taiwan Province of China, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and China, Macao Special Administrative Region were not covered by the census.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following minimum size limits (MSLs) were used to define a household agricultural holding: (i) the holding operates more than 0.1 mu (approximately 67 m²) of arable land or land under permanent crops and water surface of aquaculture at the end of year; (ii) the holding operates more than 0.1 mu of woodland and pasture at the end of the year; (iii) the holding keeps at least one large or medium livestock, such as cattle, horse, pig and sheep at the end of the year; (iv) the holding keeps at least 20 head of small animals, such as rabbits or poultry; (v) the income of the yearly sales of agricultural products, including self-consumption, exceeds RMB⁴ 500; (vi) the income from providing agricultural services to other households or other entities exceeds RMB 500.

¹ Rural households include rural agricultural households (rural household agricultural holdings) and other rural households. Rural agricultural households refer to those households engaged in "agricultural" activities, including crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries/aquaculture and agriculture services in rural areas. Other rural households refer to households in rural areas that are not engaged in such agricultural activities. In rural EAs, all agricultural households and non-agricultural households were enumerated.

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

³ Non-household agricultural holdings are legal entities, agricultural establishments of legal entities with multiple establishments and unregistered entities that basically satisfy the qualification of legal person, that are engaged in agricultural activities including crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture and agriculture service in rural areas.

⁴ Chinese renminbi.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC 2006.

Frame

At village level, the household list for rural residents was used as the census frame. For non-household holdings, administrative records for enterprises from government regulatory agencies were used as a reference for the census. The enumerators were required to identify each eligible enterprise and establishment in scope.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

A complete enumeration was applied in the AC 2006.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Not applicable.

Data collection methods

The interviews were conducted face-to-face during visits to the household, enterprise and establishment and the information was collected in paper forms (using the PAPI method). The questionnaires for the non-household agricultural holding were filled in by self-enumeration.

Questionnaire(s)

Four types of questionnaires were used in the AC 2006: (i) questionnaires for households (which covered all households in rural areas and urban agricultural households); (ii) questionnaires for agricultural holdings in the non-household sector (three specific questionnaires for different types of units); (iii) village questionnaires; (iv) township questionnaires; and (v) agricultural land questionnaires.

The AC 2006 questionnaires covered all 16 core items recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Scanning (OCR) was used for census data capture. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

A combination of different methods, such as manual data entry and scanning, was used for census data capture. The software used for data capture, processing, analysis and tabulations were aPRAS and SAS. Microdata were stored on the server.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

After enumeration was completed, the ACO organized three-level data quality checks, including the PES of households, data verification on agricultural land parcels, and the proof for data processing.

The PES of households consisted of 110 sample counties covering 330 census areas, and more than 20 000 households. It was conducted using a stratified two-stage sampling method. The census data were verified against the registration results of the AC.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The AC results were disseminated through printed reports on the final results (such as the “Abstract of the Second AC in China”) and online.

13. DATA SOURCES

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/>

National Bureau of Statistics of China. 2008. Communiqué on Major Data of the Second National Agricultural Census of China. In: *National Bureau of Statistics of China* [online]. Beijing, China. [Cited 25 July 2019]. http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/newsevents/200802/t20080226_25993.html

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CHINA – AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2006 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	200 554 307	n.a.
Household agricultural holdings	200 159 127	n.a.
Non-household agricultural holdings	395 180	n.a.

ARABLE LAND BY LAND TYPE ¹	
	Area (ha)
Total	121 775 900
Paddy field	31 667 900
Irrigable land	22 963 300
Dry land	67 144 600

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ²	
	Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities	342 463 995
Male	160 412 772
Female	182 051 223

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOUSEHOLD AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ³	
	Number
Total	213 765 511
Male	106 174 072
Female	107 591 439
Household members	212 210 741
Male	105 112 273
Female	107 098 468
Outside workers (employees)	1 554 770
Male	1 061 799
Female	492 971

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	9 939 358	
Cattle	n.a.	104 651 000
Sheep	n.a.	131 340 000
Goats	n.a.	147 636 000
Pigs/swine	n.a.	418 504 000
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	4 834 011

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT USED ON THE HOLDING	
	Units
Total tractors of all kind	26 584 019
Large and medium tractors	1 322 028
Minitractors	25 261 991
Combine harvesters	527 723

TEMPORARY CROPS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	184 211 269	152 259 000
Rice	n.a.	28 938 000
Wheat	n.a.	23 723 000
Maize	n.a.	28 463 000
Vegetables and melons	n.a.	18 885 000
Rapeseed	n.a.	5 984 000
Peanuts	n.a.	3 956 000
Potatoes	n.a.	7 877 000
Soya beans	n.a.	9 304 000
Sugar crops	n.a.	1 567 000
Cotton	n.a.	5 816 000
Tobacco	n.a.	1 189 000
Medicinal crops	n.a.	831 000

¹ Data are presented according to the national land types.

² Members of the holder's household (permanent residents) engaged in agricultural activities on the holding.

³ Labour force of the household agricultural holdings working for more than six months.