

## Technical Notes

### 1. Definitions

#### **Operational Holding:**

All land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

#### **Technical Unit:**

An unit of land which is under the same management and has the same means of production such as labour force, machinery and animals.

#### **Operated area:**

Operated area includes both cultivated and uncultivated area, provided part of it is put to agricultural production during the reference period. If, for instance, an operational holding consists of four survey numbers out of which one survey number is put to non-agricultural uses, the total area of the operational holding will be equal to the total geographical area of all the four survey numbers.

#### **Operational holder:**

A person who has the responsibility for the operation of the agricultural holding and who exercises the technical initiative and is responsible for its operation. He may have full economic responsibility or may share it with others. The operational holder may be Individual/Joint/ Institutional.

- i) *Individual:* If the holding is being operated either by one person or by a group of persons who are the members of the same household, such holding will be considered as an individual holding.
- ii) *Joint:* If two or more persons belonging to different households, share jointly as partners in the economic and technical responsibility for the operation of an agricultural holding, such holding will be considered as joint holding.

- iii) *Institutional*: Holdings such as government farms, farms of sugarcane factories, cooperative farms, lands managed by trusts would be treated as institutional holdings.

### **Size classes and Size groups of Holdings:**

The data are presented at All India level and for all States and Union Territories in the following size classes and size groups of operational holdings

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Classes (in ha.)</b>
I.	Marginal	1.	Below 0.5 ha.
		2.	0.5 – 1.0 ha.
II.	Small	3.	1.0 – 2.0 ha.
III.	Semi-medium	4.	2.0 – 3.0 ha.
		5.	3.0 – 4.0 ha.
IV.	Medium	6.	4.0 – 5.0 ha.
		7.	5.0 – 7.5 ha.
		8.	7.5 – 10.0 ha.
V.	Large	9.	10.0 – 20.0 ha.
		10.	20.0 and above.

## **2. Sampling design**

For the collection of data in the Agriculture Census, an approach of Census-cum-sample survey has been adopted. Various States in the country have been grouped in to two categories i.e. land record States and non-land record States. Those States where comprehensive land records are maintained giving information on land and its utilization, cropping pattern etc are called land record States and those States where such information is not maintained in the form of land-records are called non-land record States. In land record States data on Agriculture Census is pooled for all the parcels of an operational holding irrespective of its location. However, for operational convenience the outer limit for pooling is restricted to taluka. This pooling is done for each operational holder in the village of his residence. In the non-land record States the data is collected through sample survey following household enquiry approach in 20% of villages in each block. In these selected villages, all the operational holdings are enumerated following household enquiry approach.

Thus in land record States no sampling is resorted to for data collection for the number and area of operational holdings and in non-land record States sampling of villages in each block/taluka is resorted to.

### **3. Attributes of disaggregation**

This report contains the number and area of operational holdings distributed with reference to the following variables:

- Size category (Marginal, Small, Semi-medium, Medium and Large)
- Social groups (SC, ST and Others)
- Types of Holding (Individual, Joint, Institutional)
- Gender (Male, Female)
- States (all states and Union Territories of Indian Union)

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## **All India Report on Number and Area of operational holdings – 2010-11**

### **1. Methodology**

1.1 Agriculture Census is the largest countrywide statistical operation undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India for collection of data on the structural profile of Indian agriculture. The first Agriculture Census in the country was conducted with reference year 1970-71. So far eight Agriculture Censuses have been conducted at five yearly intervals. The ninth Agriculture Census is presently going on.

1.2 This report presents the summary results obtained during Phase-I of the ninth Agriculture Census with reference year 2010-11 (July to June). Phase-I of the census operation is carried out for all the agricultural operational holdings in the country.

1.3 The Census is carried out in three Phases. During Phase-1, a list of all the holdings with data on primary characteristics like area, gender and social group of the holder and its location code etc. are prepared. During Phase-II detailed data on irrigation status, tenancy particulars, cropping pattern, number of crops taken etc. are collected. Phase III, popularly known as Input Survey, relates to collection of data on the pattern of input use across various crops, regions and size groups of holdings.

1.4 In States where the revenue agency maintains the record of ownership of holdings and regular crop inspections are carried out, such records form the basis for conducting Phase-I of the Census operations. In non-land record States & UTs, viz. Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Mizoram, such data are not available for preparing the frame for Agriculture Census. In these States, a list of land holding household is prepared in 20 percent villages which are same as those selected for the scheme Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS) for the reference year of the Census. The data for Phase-I is collected on all the holdings in these 20 percent sample villages. Punjab, though a land record State, followed the procedure for data collection as in case of non-land States. For Phase II, further sampling of holdings is carried out for collection of detailed data. The sampling procedure, however, varies from State to State, depending upon the size and other relevant characters of the States/UT.

1.5 In the Land Record States, the data on the number and area of holdings is collected in the specified schedules using the land records as

benchmark. However, as per the concepts and definitions followed in the Census, effort is made to obtain the de facto position rather than de jure position. A number of parcels of land scattered within a tehsil but operated by an individual or a single household are clubbed together to make a single holding. Similarly, such holdings on which partitions had taken place in practice, though not legally, are counted as separate holdings. The list of operational holdings is manually sorted according to social groups, viz. SCs, STs and others, of the holder and size of the holding at village level. Collection of the data on number and area of operational holdings according to gender of the holder was introduced for the first time during 1995-96 Census. Various tables prepared at village level are aggregated at Taluka, District, State and finally at all India level.

## **2. The Highlights of the Report on Number and Area of Operational Holdings, 2010-11:**

2.1 As per the Agriculture Census, 2010-11, the total number of operational holdings in the country has increased from 129 million in 2005-06 to 138 million 2010-11 i.e. an increase of 6.61%.

2.2 There is a marginal increase in the operated area from 158.32 million ha. in 2005-06 to 159.18 million ha. in 2010-11 showing an increase of 0.54%. The operated area has primarily increased because the State of Jharkhand participated for the first time in Agriculture Census 2010-11 since the State came into being in the year 2000.

2.3 The average size of operational holding has declined to 1.16 ha. in 2010-11 as compared to 1.23 in 2005-06.

2.4 The percentage share of female operational holders has increased from 11.70 in 2005-06 to 12.79 in 2010-11 with the corresponding operated area of 9.33 and 10.36.

2.5 The small and marginal holdings taken together (below 2.00 ha.) constitute 84.97 percent in 2010-11 against 83.29 in 2005-06 and the operated area at 44.31 percent in the current Census as against the corresponding figure of 41.14 percent in 2005-06.

2.6 The semi-medium and medium operational holding (2.00 ha. – 10.00 ha.) in 2010-11 were 14.30 percent with the operated area at 44.77 percent. The corresponding figures for 2005-06 Census were 15.86 and 47.05 percent.

2.7 The large holdings (10.00 ha. & above) were 0.73 percent of total number of holdings in 2010-11 with a share of 10.92 percent in the

operated area as against 0.85 percent and 11.82 percent respectively for 2005-06 Census.

2.8 Out of 35 States/UTs in the country, it was found that 13 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal account for about 91% in terms of number of operational holdings with almost equal share of operated area (about 88%) in 2010-11.

2.9 In a total of 137.76 million operational holdings in the country, the highest number belonged to Uttar Pradesh (22.93 million) followed by Bihar (16.19 million), Maharashtra (13.70 million), Andhra Pradesh (13.18 million), Madhya Pradesh (8.87 million), Tamil Nadu (8.12 million), Karnataka (7.83 million), West Bengal (7.12 million), Rajasthan (6.89 million), Kerala (6.83 million) etc. with the lowest number of only 714 operational holdings in U.T. of Chandigarh.

2.10 Out of a total of 159.18 million hectares operated area in the country in 2010-11, the highest contribution was made by Rajasthan (21.14 million ha.) followed by Maharashtra (19.84 million ha.), Uttar Pradesh (17.09 million ha.), Madhya Pradesh (15.84 million ha.), Andhra Pradesh (14.29 million ha.), Karnataka (12.16 million ha.), Gujarat (9.98 million ha.) etc. with the lowest operated area of 923 hectares in U.T. of Chandigarh.

2.11 As compared to 2005-06, percentage variation in number of operational holdings in 2010-11 was highest in case of Madhya Pradesh (12.19 percent) followed by Rajasthan (11.35 percent), Bihar (10.47 percent), Daman & Diu (9.60 percent), Andhra Pradesh (9.39 percent), Goa (9.04 percent), Chhattisgarh (8.26 percent), Odisha (7.14 percent), Puducherry (5.56 percent), Jammu & Kashmir (5.20 percent), Nagaland (5.06 percent) etc. However, operated area showed declining trend in most of the States.

2.12 A set of tables giving all India distribution of number of holdings and area operated and the state-wise breakup of distribution of the number of operational holdings and area operated by major size groups is presented in the tables that follow.

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