

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first Census of Agriculture (CA) in the country was conducted in 1973, followed by CAs conducted in 1988, 1993 and 2003. The CA 2014, to which the metadata review and main results refer, is the last CA to be conducted by the country.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

On the basis of the law and regulations of the National Statistical System of Iran (NSS), the Statistical Centre of Iran (SCI) is responsible for conducting the CA every ten years, in collaboration with the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture (MJA).

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The SCI was responsible for designing and implementing the CA 2014, as well as for data processing and for publishing the census results. The MJA and provincial governors' offices were responsible for collaborating to prepare and implement the census, and for collecting the census data. The national government provided the funds for conducting the CA. The total budget for conducting the CA 2014 was of approximately USD 15 million.

Census staff

The technical staff involved in the CA 2014 comprised 1 835 supervisors and 5 549 enumerators. In addition, the technical census staff included 4 942 people.¹

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: the day of enumeration, for inventory items, such as the number of livestock.

Reference period: the crop year (from September 2013 to September 2014), for crops, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The CA 2014 was carried out from 27 September to 9 November 2014.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural (crop and livestock production) activities. A community survey (using a village questionnaire) was conducted jointly with the CA 2014.

The **statistical unit** of the CA is the agricultural holding – an agricultural production unit, which includes all agricultural activities run under a single management. This unit is managed by the members of one or more households (natural persons) or by a company or a public institution (legal entity). The thresholds established for the holdings are listed in section 7.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The entire country was covered by the CA 2014 (urban and rural areas).

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The following thresholds were used to define the holding (at least):

- 400 m² (0.04 ha) of arable land;
- 200 m² (0.02 ha) of orchards and nurseries;
- one large livestock;
- two small livestock; or
- ten chickens or any other types of poultry.

No cut-off limits were used for activities related to greenhouses, apiculture, aquaculture and sericulture.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The census was conducted using the classical approach.

Frame

A listing operation was undertaken to identify the holdings in the household sector and in the non-household sector. Rural areas were divided into two parts: (i) rural areas with important agricultural activities and (ii) rural areas without important agricultural activities (having less than 6 percent of agricultural holdings). The distinction between those two types of areas was made on the basis of the results of the CA 2003.

In the first case, the enumerator was responsible for conducting the listing, based on which the holder households were identified. In rural areas without important agricultural activities, the list of agricultural holdings was updated by the local authorities (trustees).

A similar approach was used for urban areas.

¹ The technical staff included: technical and training deputy, executive director in the province, vehicle drivers, etc.

Complete and/or sample enumeration method(s)

A complete enumeration was used in the CA.

Sample design

No sampling was applied.

Data collection method(s)

Enumerators filled in the census questionnaire for all agricultural holdings through face-to-face interviews. For the first time in the census history of Iran, the CA 2014 was carried out using CAPI (with tablets).

Questionnaire(s)

Four types of listing forms (specific for different types of units) were used to identify the holdings. Two census questionnaires were used to collect census data: (i) the holding questionnaire and (ii) the village questionnaire.

The CA 2014 covered 11 of the 16 core items recommended by FAO for the WCA 2010.²

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAPI method (with tablets) was used to collect census data. Mapping software was used in the tablet for determining the enumerators' working area. The census results were disseminated and are accessible on-line.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Data entry was done by the enumerators using tablets. Data editing in a web-based system was done by experts. The SCI applied imputations to improve the quality of the census data.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

The SCI monitored all phases of the census. Online daily reports of census progress from all executive levels were provided to the SCI. The SCI conducted a PES to evaluate the census results. The use of tablets for data capture resulted in increased accuracy of the collected data.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The census results were disseminated through printed publications and electronic means.

The census data at national and provincial level are available online on the SCI's website.

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/>

Statistical Centre of Iran. 2019. National Census of Agriculture – 2014. In: *Statistical Centre of Iran* [online]. Tehran, Iran. [Cited 26 July 2019]. <https://www.amar.org.ir/english/Census-of-Agriculture>

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² The following core items were not covered by the CA 2014: (i) "Household size"; (ii) "Main purpose of production of the holding"; (iii) "Land tenure types on the holding"; (iv) "Presence of forest and other wood land on the holding"; and (v) "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2014 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	4 032 467	16 476 609
Civil persons	4 023 439	n.a.
Juridical persons	9 028	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	4 032 467	16 476 609
Holdings without land	673 058	
Holdings with land	3 359 409	16 476 609
Less than 1 ha	1 238 159	403 061
1 - 5 ha	1 276 221	2 813 403
5 - 20 ha	680 699	5 987 737
20 - 50 ha	129 265	3 548 277
50 ha and above	35 065	3 724 131

IRRIGATION BY LAND USE TYPES		
	Holdings	Area irrigated (ha)
Holdings with irrigated land	2 668 979	7 619 219
Land under temporary crops	1 687 204	5 996 635
Horticulture land	1 550 539	1 622 584

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	695 526	4 231 993
Buffaloes	16 001	106 517
Sheep	881 271	31 420 569
Goats	657 371	12 333 273
Camels	12 597	108 584

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Cereals	n.a.	12 990 240
Wheat	1 330 467	6 475 643
Barley	716 236	2 070 292
Rice	420 441	383 013
Other crops	1 133 057	2 629 299