

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first census of agriculture (CA) to be conducted in Nepal was the CA 1961/1962, followed by the decennial CAs held in 1971/1972, 1981/1982, 1991/1992 and 2001/2002.¹ The sixth CA,² to which the metadata review and data presented here refers, was the 2011/2012 CA.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

Statistical activities in Nepal are ruled by the Statistics Act 2015 (as amended). It commits the undertaking of censuses to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). For agricultural censuses, a 10-year periodicity is established.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The agriculture census project was implemented by the Crops and Livestock Census and Survey Section of the Economic Statistics Division of the CBS. Under the direct coordination of a Steering Committee, the Director General (DG) of the CBS set up a Technical Committee, the main instrument for managing the implementation of all census activities. A hierarchical ad-hoc organization structure was established to successfully control field data collection at the district level. Technical assistance was received from FAO and from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Census staff

A total of 1 567 enumerators and 438 supervisors were deployed to undertake the data collection for the census.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: the day of the interview, for land area, number of livestock, machinery and equipment, etc.

Reference period: the calendar year 2011, for labour force, use of agricultural machinery and equipment, non-residential buildings, ancillary agricultural activities, etc.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The census enumeration work was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, from January to March 2012, enumeration was carried out in 59 districts in the *terai* and hill areas. The enumeration for the remaining 16 mountain districts was conducted from April to June 2012, when the climate was more favourable.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural (crop and animal production) activities. A community survey was also conducted.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding,³ defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock (including poultry) kept, and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, and with a physical sized answering to specific threshold criteria (specified in point 7 below).

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The CA 2011/2012 covered the entire territory of Nepal, including rural areas.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

A holding was considered to be an agricultural unit only if it satisfied one of the following thresholds: (i) having area under crops greater than or equal to a quarter of a *ropani* or four *anna* (0.01272 ha) in the hill or mountain district, or greater than or equal to eight *Dhur* (0.01355 ha) in the *terai*; (ii) keeping one or more head of cattle or buffaloes; (iii) keeping five or more head of sheep or goats; or (iv) keeping 20 or more poultry. Small agricultural operations below these thresholds were excluded from the CA.

Only agricultural holdings in the household sector were included in the CA.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The 2011/2012 CA was a sample-based classical census conducted in two phases (see section 4 and the subsection titled “Sample design” below).

¹ All censuses were conducted on a sample basis.

² The National Sample Census of Agriculture 2011/12.

³ The concept of agricultural holding was closely related to that of household. In rare cases, one household comprised more than one holding or, alternatively, one holding was operated jointly by more than one household. In the case of Nepal, an agricultural holding is generally the same as an agricultural household.

Frame

The sampling frame for the first-stage selection was based on the information collected in the Population Census (PC) 2011. The PC questionnaire included a set of questions on agriculture.⁴ This information was used in identifying the households with agricultural activities. A list of all agricultural households, with land area operated and number of livestock raised, was then compiled.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The list of agricultural holdings (including main structural variables, such as area of holdings and number of animals) was elaborated using complete enumeration.

The detailed census information was collected using sample enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

The CA used stratified two-stage sampling with districts as strata, wards/or EAs as PSUs and agricultural holdings as SSUs. The first stage used PPS systematic sampling, with the number of holdings in PSUs as the size measure. The selection of agricultural holdings during the second stage used equal probability systematic sampling (approximately 25 holdings per ward, for a total of 130 000 agricultural holdings).

Data collection method(s)

Data collection was conducted through face-to-face interviews, using the PAPI method.

Questionnaire(s)

Only one questionnaire was used for holding-level data collection in the CA 2011/2012. A questionnaire was also used for the community survey conducted jointly with the census.

All 16 core items recommended to be collected in the WCA 2010 were covered in the CA.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The census results were disseminated and are accessible online. Microdata dissemination of census results was also provided.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The processing of the census was undertaken on microcomputers and involved computer systems for data entry, editing and tabulation. Data entry was done within the CBS, using the Bureau's staff and a small number of temporarily hired persons. The programmes for data entry and other uses were developed by the CBS. Data entry was carried out using CSPro, whereas SPSS was used for editing, tabulation and analysis of the census data. All coding was done during enumeration. The questionnaires were checked thoroughly for any missing data.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

Training, supervision, completeness checks, verification of data entry and consistency checks were the quality control mechanisms established for the data. A pilot test of census questionnaires and procedures was undertaken in 2010. Sample design and census questionnaires and other forms were finalized following evaluation of that test.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The main census results were published by the CBS in a series of 85 reports, each containing the same set of 32 tables. In addition to the census reports, for the first time, census microdata was also made available for sale. Diskettes were prepared containing summary data and a computer programme that enabled users to produce limited tables of their own specification. Data files were also restructured to enable production of additional tables or application of statistical analysis techniques using SPSS or other statistical analysis packages. The CA results are available on the institution's website.

13. DATA SOURCES

Central Bureau of Statistics. 2013. *National Sample Census of Agriculture Nepal, 2011/12*, National Report. Kathmandu, Nepal. (also available at http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/ess_test_folder/World_Census_Agriculture/Country_info_2010/Reports/Reports_5/NPL_EN_REP_2011-12.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

Agriculture and Livestock Census and Survey Section, Central Bureau of Statistics

Address: Thapathali, Kathmandu 44600, Nepal

Telephone: (+977) 1 4229406

E-mail: ambikabashyal@hotmail.com

Website: www.cbs.gov.np

⁴ The sampling frame for the CA 2011/2012 was derived from the population census 2011, which collected the following items: area of the holdings and number of livestock, including poultry, by type.

NEPAL – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2011/2012 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	3 831 093	2 525 639
Single-holding household	3 791 229	n.a.
Multi-holding household	31 823	n.a.
Partnership household	8 040	n.a.

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	3 831 093	2 525 639
Holdings operated under one tenure form	3 290 263	2 041 040
Owned	3 241 881	2 014 266
Rented from others	34 984	24 416
Other tenure forms	13 398	2 359
Holdings operated under two or more tenure forms	540 829	484 599

LAND FRAGMENTATION		
	Holdings	Number of parcels
Total	3 831 093	12 096 417
1 parcel	904 925	n.a.
2–3 parcels	1 724 602	n.a.
4–5 parcels	723 389	n.a.
6–9 parcels	379 642	n.a.
10 parcels and over	98 534	n.a.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	3 831 093	2 525 639
Less than 0,1 ha	471 087	23 196
0,1–0,2 ha	461 957	68 162
0,2–0,5 ha	1 169 503	396 721
0,5–1,0 ha	984 022	695 060
1,0–2,0 ha	548 974	749 810
2,0–3,0 ha	129 364	308 569
3,0–4,0 ha	39 507	134 353
4,0–5,0 ha	14 881	65 365
5,0–10,0 ha	10 744	69 177
10,0 ha and over	1 054	15 227

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	3 831 093	2 525 639
Agricultural land	n.a.	2 415 408
Arable land	n.a.	2 162 751
Land under temporary crops	3 723 127	2 123 297
Land under temporary meadows	61 948	8 410
Land temporarily fallow	224 725	31 044
Land under permanent crops	884 001	168 457
Permanent meadows and pastures	153 273	29 310
Forest and other wooded land	333 577	54 890
Other land	3 771 220	110 231

HOLDERS BY SEX		
	Number	Area operated (ha)
Total	3 831 093	2 525 639
Male	3 104 338	2 208 282
Female	726 755	317 358

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	20 552 543
Male	10 317 681
Female	10 234 862

HOLDERS, BY SEX AND AGE	
	Number
Total	3 831 093
Male	3 104 338
Female	726 755
15–24 years	119 259
Male	81 867
Female	37 392
25–34 years	617 331
Male	442 667
Female	174 664
35–44 years	1 022 469
Male	808 775
Female	213 694
45–54 years	959 728
Male	814 701
Female	145 027
55–64 years	674 185
Male	575 363
Female	98 822
65 years and over	438 122
Male	380 965
Female	57 157

PERMANENT EMPLOYEES ON THE HOLDING, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	72 333
Male	51 779
Female	20 554

HOLDINGS, BY MAIN PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION	
	Holdings
Total producing mainly for	3 831 093
Home consumption	3 684 998
Sale	146 095

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Holdings with livestock	3 353 857	
Cattle	2 280 542	6 430 397
Buffaloes	1 668 820	3 174 389
Yaks	6 235	48 865
Sheep	96 245	608 074
Goats	2 352 453	10 990 147
Pigs/swine	444 825	818 523
Horses	9 726	17 873
Asses and mules	1 255	5 463
Poultry (1 000 head)	2 099 839	28 249
Chickens	1 808 642	26 268
Ducks	108 879	430
Pigeon	171 759	1 499
Other	10 559	52
Other animals	14 988	
Rabbits	6 242	24 239
Other	8 746	17 088
Insects		
Bees (hives)	124 150	n.a.