

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first attempt to conduct an agricultural census in the country was the Census of Production, held in 1921. Partial agricultural censuses were then carried out in 1924 and 1929. Subsequently, agricultural censuses were carried out in 1946, 1952, 1962, 1973, 1982 and 2002. The present metadata review and data refer to the Economic Census – Agricultural Activities¹ (EC-AA) 2013/2014.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The legal power to conduct censuses and surveys is assigned to the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) of the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs (MNPEA), by: Statistics Ordinance (rev. 1956) Chapter 372, Ordinance 44 of 1935, Act No. 22 of 1955, Census Ordinance, Section 2, Chapter 143.

The EC-AA 2013/2014 was taken in accordance with the Census Amendment Bill, gazetted and issued on 25 March 2013.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The Director General of the DCS was charged with the responsibility of conducting the EC. He was assisted by a team of senior officials at the head office, who were designated as Deputy Superintendents of Census by means of a special Gazette notification. District Secretaries and Government Agents of the Districts were appointed as Commissioners of Census within their respective areas of authority. The Commissioners were assisted in their task by Deputy Commissioners.

Census staff

The number of staff involved in the census operation comprised 15 806 persons, including 14 021 enumerators, 1 320 supervisors and 465 coordinators.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 30 June 2014, for inventory items.

Reference period: from October 2013 to September 2014, for other items.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Field data collection was performed from October to November 2014.

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

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and animal production) and aquaculture activities.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding, which consists of all land and/or livestock used wholly or partly for agricultural production, which is operated under one operational status, regardless of land ownership or type of tenure; the land can consist of one or more parcels, which can be located in one Divisional Secretary's Division or can be spread across various Divisional Secretary's Divisions.

The statistical units covered by the census were distributed according to the following two sectors: (i) the "estate" or large holding sector; and (ii) the small holding sector (SHS). An agricultural holding with the same tenure having at least 20 acres (8.09 ha) of land is considered an "estate". SHS holdings were classified into two groups, namely:

- "marginal holdings" – holdings operating less than or equal to 40 perches (0.10 ha), having some form of cultivation, rearing livestock or aquaculture, and the production of which is mainly for home consumption; and
- "economically viable holdings" – holdings operating more than 40 perches (0.10 ha) or producing agricultural output, mainly for marketing. From this category, information was collected through the Small Holding 2 Form (SH-2).

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The EC-AA covered all 25 administrative districts in the island, including urban and rural areas.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

"Marginal holdings" (see section 5, above) were not enumerated in the EC-AA.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The EC-AA was conducted in two stages:

- Stage 1: listing of estates (conducted in 2013, form E1)
- Stage 2: this included the following activities and was undertaken in the third quarter of 2014: (i) data collection from estates (form E2); (ii) listing of small holdings (using SH1); and (iii) data collection from small holdings (using SH2).

As part of the EC-AA 2013/2014 programme, a community survey and a survey on household food security were carried out.

¹ The EC 2013/2014 covered: (i) the agriculture sector ("EC 2013/14 – Agricultural activities") and (ii) the industry, trade and service sectors ("EC 2013/14 – Industry, Trade and Services").

Frame

The information provided by the Population and Housing Census 2011 was used as a basis to identify *small agricultural holdings*. A complete enumeration was carried out to list all small holdings (using the listing form SH1 for each “census block” of a *Grama Niladhari*, or GN). To elaborate the list for the *estates*, a separate listing activity was carried out by GN (using Form E1 for each census block of a GN).

Complete and/or sample enumeration method

Complete enumeration was applied to collect the data from the agricultural holdings (using census questionnaires E2 and SH2; see the “Questionnaires” subsection below).

Sampling was applied for the food security survey.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Two-stage stratified sampling was used to collect data for the food security survey. The sample size was 28 000 households (or 1.2 percent of the total number of households).

Data collection method(s)

Face-to-face interviewing (the PAPI method) was used for data collection.

Questionnaire(s)

Two listing forms were used for the listing operation: (i) form E1 (for *estates*) and (ii) form SH1 (for small holdings). Two types of questionnaires were used for holding-level data collection: (i) E2 (for *estates*) and (ii) SH2 (for small holdings).

Along with the above census forms, two other questionnaires were used: (i) a community-level questionnaire and (ii) a food security questionnaire.

The EC-AA 2013/2014 covered all 16 core items recommended for the WCA 2010 round.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

New technology was used for data capturing (optical scanning) and for the dissemination of census results (on the website of the DCS).

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The census questionnaires were scanned and then the census data processed and tabulated by the staff of the Agriculture and Environmental Statistics Division of the DCS, with the assistance of the Information and Communication Technology Division.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

A pre-test and a pilot census were conducted to test all census tools.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The census report with final results for the small holding sector (at district level) and the estate sector were made available to users in 2016–2017. Summarized district data were disseminated through the website of the DCS.

13. DATA SOURCES

Department of Census and Statistics. 2019. Publications. In: *Department of Census and Statistics* [online]. Colombo, Sri Lanka. [Cited 13 September 2019]. <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/page.asp?page=Publications>

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

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NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	4 353 121	2 283 753
Small holding sector	4 345 674	1 879 472
Holdings operating above 0.1 ha	2 311 343	1 782 478
Holdings operating less than or equal to 0.1 ha	2 034 331	96 994
Large holding sector	7 447	404 281

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS ABOVE 0.1 HA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	2 318 790	2 186 759
Less than 0.2 ha	369 774	n.a.
0.2–0.4 ha	564 050	n.a.
0.4–0.8 ha	589 523	n.a.
0.8–1.2 ha	317 079	n.a.
1.2–1.6 ha	192 996	n.a.
1.6–2.0 ha	93 436	n.a.
2.0–2.8 ha	61 947	n.a.
2.8–4.0 ha	84 402	n.a.
4.0–8.0 ha	33 404	n.a.
8.0 ha and over	12 179	n.a.

LAND USE, FOR HOLDINGS ABOVE 0.1 HA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	2 318 790	2 186 759
Agricultural land	n.a.	1 992 421
Arable land	n.a.	885 810
Paddy land prepared for cultivation	n.a.	693 059
Temporary crops	n.a.	177 434
Abundant paddy land	n.a.	15 318
Land under permanent crops	n.a.	1 004 346
Permanent meadows and pastures	n.a.	102 266
Land under forest	n.a.	42 275
Other land	n.a.	152 062

HOLDERS IN SMALL HOLDING SECTOR FOR HOLDINGS ABOVE 0.1 HA, BY SEX AND AGE	
	Number
Total	2 311 366
Male	1 879 633
Female	431 733
10–19 years	1 669
Male	1 321
Female	348
20–29 years	81 641
Male	68 602
Female	13 039
30–39 years	384 304
Male	334 463
Female	49 841
40–49 years	556 815
Male	478 161
Female	78 654
50–59 years	591 795
Male	480 839
Female	110 956
65 years and over	695 142
Male	516 247
Female	178 895

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total members	9 133 268
Male	4 519 152
Female	4 614 116

LIVESTOCK	
	Head
Cattle	1 124 097
Buffaloes	327 909
Sheep	8 184
Goats	383 472
Pigs/swine	127 615
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.
Chickens	24 437
Insects	
Bees (hives)	30 506

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	
	Used on the holding (units)
Four-wheel tractors	312 432
Two-wheel tractors	538 680
Combine harvesters	178 884
Other (machine-powered)	n.a.
Sprayer	88 193
Thresher with winnowing machine	258 121
Thresher	109 023
Winnowing fan	66 452
Agricultural water pump	160 761
Seeding machine	1 278
Reaper	68 317
Milking machine	865
Agricultural grass cutter	22 923
Digging machine	4 601
Tea harvesting machine	365

TEMPORARY CROPS HARVESTED	
	Area (ha)
Total	n.a.
Rice	693 059
Sugar cane	11 621