

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The metadata review and data here presented refer to the last agricultural census (AC) conducted in France, in 2010. Previous agricultural censuses were conducted in 1955, 1970, 1979, 1988 and 2000. The first AC was carried out only in France, in Europe. In French territories (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Réunion and Martinique), ACs were conducted starting from 1970.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The legal basis for the AC 2010 was provided by:

- the FAO WCA 2010;
- EU legislation related to farm structural surveys and other relevant regulations;²
- Decree No. 2009-529 of 11 May 2009 on conducting a general agricultural census in 2010,³ which sets the precise scope of the census;
- Law No. 51-711 of 7 June 1951 on the obligation, coordination and confidentiality of statistics; and
- Decree No. 86-1169 of 31 October 1986 which establishes (Article 3) that agricultural statistics in the French territories of Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion will be under the authority of the French Minister of Agriculture through the Director of Agriculture and Forest.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The AC 2010 and the SAPM, carried out jointly with the census, were conducted entirely by the Ministry of agriculture. Its statistical service, the Service for Statistics and Prospective (SSP)⁴, which is an integral part of the public statistics system, was responsible for designing the operation, drafting the census tools (questionnaires, instruction manuals, etc.), training the regional services, running the final check on the quality of the data collected and the dissemination of census results. Data collection and first-level validation were entrusted to the regional services of the SSP⁵.

In the French territories, the Statistical Service of the Direction of Food, Agriculture and Forest, within the Ministry in charge of agriculture was responsible for undertaking the census.

The census was funded by the national budget.

Census staff

The number of enumerators involved in the fieldwork was approximately 3 200 people, including 3 000 persons in France in Europe; 66 in French Guyana, 58 in Guadeloupe, 35 in Martinique and 59 in Réunion.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference day: 1 November 2010, for inventory items, such as livestock numbers.

Reference periods:

- the 2009/2010 agricultural production year (1 November 2009–31 October 2010) for crops, machinery and equipment, production methods and labour; and
- calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010 for rural development characteristics.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

Data collection took place between September 2010 and June 2011 (completeness checks and feedback included; see also section 11).

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

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

The **statistical unit** in the AC 2010 was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit that participates in agricultural production and meets the following criteria:

- it has an agricultural activity either of production, or of maintenance of the lands in good agricultural and environmental

¹ For statistical purposes, agricultural censuses in French territories (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Réunion and Martinique) are recorded separately in the World Census of Agriculture Database. Consequently, the metadata review for France includes specific metadata regarding its territories. The census results are presented for all of France. The first table with main results shows the total number and area of holdings broken down by continental France, on one hand, and its overseas territories, on the other.

² EU regulations: (1) Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 571/88; (2) Council Regulation (EEC) No. 357/79 of 5 February 1979 on statistical surveys of areas under vines; (3) Regulation (EC) No. 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008, establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2186/93, etc.

³ Decree No. 2009-529 of 11 May 2009 on conducting a general agricultural census in 2010 entrusts the survey to the responsible body; defines the geographical scope and logic (1 ha threshold); defines the census objectives; authorizes local advisory committees to meet in preparatory phases; specifies that the answers collected come under the Statistical Confidentiality Act (No. 51-711 of 7 June 1951) and the Information Technology and Freedoms Act (No. 78-17 of 6 January 1978).

⁴ *Service de la Statistique et de la Prospective*.

⁵ In the SSP, national responsibility for the survey lies with the Sub-Directorate for Agricultural, Forestry and Agri-Food Statistics (SDSAFA), and more specifically the Office of Structural, Environmental and Forestry Statistics (BSSEF), the national unit responsible for the operation.

conditions, which allows it to receive decoupled aids for production tools (DPU), or of creating available collective grazing areas, which allows it to file a request for an agri-environmental grassland premium (PHAE);

- it is of a certain size (see section 7 below),
- its current management is independent of any other unit.⁶

6. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The geographical scope covers all of France in Europe. In the French overseas departments, the territories of Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy and Mayotte were not covered by the AC.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The threshold established for the agricultural holdings in France in Europe was that stipulated in Regulation (EC) No. 1166/2008. The general threshold was 1 ha, except for cases of intensive agricultural production (including growing crops under protective cover), for which it was lower.

The French overseas territories (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guyana and Reunion) had specific thresholds. The AC covered agricultural holdings that met at least one of the following criteria:

- agricultural area is greater or equal to 1 ha;
- has at least 0.2 ha of any specialized crop (vegetables or fruits);
- has at least: one broodmare or mule, one cow, two cattle older than two years, one sow mother, six sheep mothers, six goats, ten breeding rabbits (female), 100 head of poultry, 1 000 hatching eggs capacity, or ten beehives in production; or
- cultivates at least one of the following crops: 20 acres of asparagus or cabbage sauerkraut; 15 acres of strawberries; 5 acres gardening (not for only consumption) or of floral and ornamental crops; 10 acres under vine producing original appellation wines (AOC); 5 acres of vineyards in Champagne or of nurseries (wine, ornamental, fruit, forest); or 40 individual fruit trees; or
- during the agricultural year 2009/2010 produced at least: two horses for slaughtering, five calves, five pork, ten sheep or ten goats for slaughtering, 200 rabbits for meat, 500 broiler poultry, 50 fat poultry, 10 000 eggs, or 2 tons of chicory or 1 ton of mushrooms or watercress for sale; or
- holdings breeding fur animals such as mink, nutria, chinchillas, goats and angora rabbits, as well as game farms in captivity for slaughter or sale-out hunting.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The classical approach was used in the AC. Administrative registers were also used as a source of census data.

Frame

The basic list of agricultural holdings was built using the SSP farm register, the SIRENE register (business register), the list of farmers who had applied for aid (area declarations),⁷ and some additional sources for beekeeping, olive oil, aromatic plants. The holding lists were checked at local level by communal commissions.

Complete and/or sample enumeration method(s)

The AC and SAPM were conducted using complete enumeration.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

Sampling was not used.

Data collection method(s)

The field collection operation was conducted using the face-to-face CAPI method. Extensive use was made of the administrative data that supports the EU programmes for agriculture, such as on areas receiving aid, bovine livestock, organically farmed areas and livestock, and the vineyard register. These data were used to improve the coverage, lighten the response requirements, and check the quality of census data.⁸

Questionnaire(s). Three questionnaires were used: one for France in Europe (including questions of regional interest) and two for France's overseas territories: one for Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion and another for Guyana.

The census covered all 16 core items recommended in the WCA 2010.

⁶ The existence of a record in the Companies and Establishments Register (SIRENE) or a Common Agricultural Policy aid application identifier presumes the presence of independent management.

⁷ This first list of 1 063 000 units was examined in local committees to create a list of 665 000 potential holdings. Around 516 100 agricultural holdings were finally counted, of which 1 410 are "common land" holdings.

⁸ Whenever possible, the information was copied on to the computerized questionnaires used in the personal interviews. Respondents were only required to confirm, amend or supplement that information; that reduced the length of the interview and respondent burden. The geographic coordinates of the holdings were based on the headquarters of the farm (farm house and farm buildings grouped), otherwise the farm buildings, or the largest parcel when there were no buildings.

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The CAPI method was applied, using tablets for field data collection. Some census items were collected using administrative registers. Census results were disseminated and are accessible online. An online database enables users to retrieve customized tables with census data at the national and subnational levels.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

The CAPI interface included controls to ensure that there were responses to all questions. In addition, interactive range and consistency checks were included for each variable so that corrections could be made by the enumerator during the interview. Further edits and imputations were completed at the central office where the census validation and tabulation was completed. To ensure that the list of holdings was complete, several tests were conducted at the end of collection. All available administrative sources were used to verify that existing holdings had been identified and included. The key databases and registers used included that for EU agriculture aid applications, the national database of bovine identification, the computerized vineyard register, organic producer records, and some local registers for small productions. The data, after validation, were archived on secured servers.

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

To assess the quality of field data collection, completeness checks and feedback were performed at the end of field data collection operation, from March to June 2011. Data checking began during the collection phase on the farmer's premises. It then continued throughout the processing chain.

A special effort was made to check the AC's coverage by using the administrative data available. The nonresponse rate was of only 0.96 percent, and the missing data were imputed using the hot deck method.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The first provisional census results were disseminated in September 2011, ten months after the end of the reference period. The main final results were made available at the end of February 2012, 16 months after the end of the reference period.

The AC 2010 results were disseminated online and are available on the SSP website.⁹ The "ADEL" tool allows web users to build their own tables.

13. DATA SOURCES

Agreste, Secrétariat Général, Service de la statistique et de la prospective (SSP), Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Recensement agricole 2010. In: *Agreste, Secrétariat Général, Service de la statistique et de la prospective (SSP)* [online]. Paris, France. [Cited 11 September 2018]. <http://agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr/enquetes/structure-des-exploitations-964/recensement-agricole-2010/>

Eurostat. 2019a. Archive: Agricultural census in France. In: *European Commission: Eurostat* [online]. Luxembourg. [Cited 26 August 2019]. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Archive:Agricultural_census_in_France

Eurostat. 2019b. Database, Agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In: *European Commission: Eurostat* [online]. Luxembourg. [Cited 26 August 2019]. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

14. CONTACT

Ministry of Agriculture, Service for Statistics and Prospective, Office of Structural, Environmental and Forest Statistics

Address: BP 32 688, 31 326 Castanet Tolosan, France

E-mail: agreste-info@agriculture.gouv.fr

Website: SSP – www.agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr

⁹ The Primeur journal, four to eight pages long by theme and at national and regional levels; municipal files setting out the main data for the 36 000 communes of France; general tables for all types of public data; and interactive *Géoclip* mapping.

FRANCE– AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2010 – MAIN RESULTS¹

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total France	516 100	29 546 440
France in Europe	491 390	29 393 620
French Guiana	5 980	38 150
Guadeloupe	7 810	34 040
Réunion	7 620	52 390
Martinique	3 310	28 260

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA, BY LEGAL STATUS		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	516 100	29 546 440
Civil persons	404 080	18 684 320
An individual (sole holder holdings) ²	365 500	12 780 530
Two or more individuals (group holdings)	38 580	5 903 790
Juridical persons (legal entities)	112 030	10 862 130

DISTRIBUTION OF UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA (UAA), LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	516 100	27 837 290
Legal ownership and owner-like possession (owned land)	361 100	6 555 990
Rented from others (land rented)	337 170	20 949 070
Other form of tenure (shared farming or other modes)	22 490	332 230

DISTRIBUTION OF UAA, BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	UAA (ha)
Total	516 100	27 837 290
Holdings without UAA	9 490	
Holdings with UAA	506 620	27 837 290
Less than 2 ha	66 580	62 450
2–4.99 ha	62 690	204 860
5–9.99 ha	46 640	332 500
10–19.99 ha	50 150	718 070
20–29.99 ha	33 280	818 870
30–49.99 ha	55 240	2 186 620
50–99.99 ha	97 780	7 059 970
100 ha and over	94 250	16 453 960

LAND USE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	516 100	29 546 440
UAA	506 620	27 837 290
Arable land	356 660	18 386 080
Land temporarily fallow	133 390	628 910
Land under permanent crops	127 670	1 018 330
Permanent meadows and pastures	295 620	8 418 880
Kitchen garden	82 400	14 000
Other land	474 800	1 709 160
Wooded area	139 900	1 003 370
Unutilised agricultural land and other areas	470 960	705 790

MANAGERS BY SEX ³		
	Number	UAA operated (ha)
Total	516 100	27 837 290
Male	398 990	24 079 160
Female	117 120	3 758 130

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX ⁴	
	Number
Total engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	165 950
Male	82 610
Female	83 350

LABOUR FORCE OF THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	1 014 750
Male	691 960
Female	322 800
Family labour force	568 350
Male	386 790
Female	181 560
Regular non family labour force	446 410
Male	305 170
Female	141 240

MANAGERS BY SEX AND AGE ³	
	Number
Total	516 100
Male	398 990
Female	117 120
Less than 35 years	45 090
Male	37 770
Female	7 320
35–44 years	109 440
Male	90 920
Female	18 520
45–54 years	166 990
Male	136 370
Female	30 630
55–64 years	132 720
Male	95 570
Female	37 150
65 years and over	61 870
Male	38 370
Female	23 500

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Total holdings with livestock	309 370	
Cattle	199 620	19 506 210
Sheep	56 480	7 475 000
Goats	17 510	1 432 570
Pigs/swine	24 450	13 921 520
Equines (Equidae)	54 640	433 890
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Poultry – broilers	41 720	143 600
Laying hens	76 320	78 060
Other	35 470	74 470
Other animals	n.a.	n.a.
Rabbits (breeding females)	30 790	855 790
Holdings with other livestock	2 130	
Insects		
Bees (hives)	12 560	818 420

METHODS OF IRRIGATION		
	Holdings	Irrigable area (ha)
Total holdings with irrigable area	157 680	2 341 200
Holdings with irrigated area⁵	75 160	1 583 610
Surface	5 800	n.a.
Sprinkler	60 350	n.a.
Localized irrigation (drop irrigation)	19 570	n.a.

¹ Data source – Eurostat database, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/data/database>

² The categories in brackets are presented as indicated in the Eurostat database (if different from the WCA 2010).

³ According to Eurostat, managers include holders that manage the holding themselves, and managers that are not holders, including of legal units

⁴ Data are presented without holders.

⁵ Excluding kitchen garden and area under glass.