

# Benin - National Census of Agriculture 2018/2021

**National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStAD), Central Bureau of the  
Census (BCR), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP), Directorate  
of Agricultural Statistics (DSA)**

Report generated on: November 21, 2025

Visit our data catalog at: <https://microdata.fao.org/index.php>

## Identification

### SURVEY ID NUMBER

BEN\_2018\_2021\_RNA\_v01\_M\_v01\_A\_ESS

### TITLE

National Census of Agriculture 2018/2021

### ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

RNA

### TRANSLATED TITLE

Recensement National De L'Agriculture 2018/2021

### COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Benin	BEN

### STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

### SERIES INFORMATION

In 1992 Benin conducted an agricultural survey, the first undertaken at national level. Although the survey was not a general census of agriculture, data on agricultural holdings and farm population was published in addition to those on crop areas and yields, which were the main subjects of the survey. The first National Census of Agriculture (RNA) was carried out in 2018/2021.

### ABSTRACT

The National Agricultural Census (RNA) is a vast statistical operation designed to collect, process and disseminate quantitative and qualitative information on the structure of agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry. In Benin, the RNA is part of an integrated approach to the development of food and agriculture statistics, as recommended by FAO in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020. It targets the exhaustive enumeration of all farms in the country with the overall aim of producing basic statistics on the agricultural sector, defined as comprising all areas where crop, livestock, and fishery production take place. The RNA 2018/2021 will also serve to capture structural aspects of the agriculture in Benin; provide data at national, regional, and local level to support the design and implementation of development programs; build up a list to be used as sampling frame for future surveys; establish a reference situation for data collected within the annual survey program.

### KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

### UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

## Scope

### NOTES

The census scope covered agriculture (crop and livestock production), fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and processing and trading of agricultural product activities.

The questionnaire collected information on:

1. Socio-demographic information
2. Activities of household members: whether any of the household members take part in crop, livestock, and fishery production, as well as sale or processing of agricultural products
3. Additional household information: such as sources of financing, and household members' affiliation to Professional Agricultural Organizations (Organisation Professionnelles Agricoles, OPAs)
4. Agricultural equipment and infrastructure as well as their use
5. Number of farm workers in the household

6. Information on paid labor
7. Land tenure system
8. Irrigation Practices
9. Crop production, including cash crops
10. Nursery: Ornamental floriculture and arboriculture
11. Fruit and aromatic trees
12. Forest species on the farm
13. Use of farming inputs: fertilizers and seeds
14. Livestock: livestock and poultry inventory, as well as inputs for animal production
15. Apiculture practices and inputs used
16. Aquaculture practices and inputs used
17. Fishing practices

#### KEYWORDS

Keyword
Structure of Agriculture
Land Use
Crops
Livestock and Poultry
Fishery and Aquaculture
Agricultural Equipment and Facilities
Apiculture
Forestry

## Coverage

#### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The RNA 2018/2021 covered the entire territory of the country except the city of Cotonou and the urban districts of Parakou, Porto-Novo, Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, Bohicon and Sèmè-Podji where the census conducted a listing of vegetable production sites and fishing areas for supplementary thematic modules.

#### UNIVERSE

The statistical unit was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit of agricultural, aquaculture, fishery production, as well as processing and marketing of agricultural products subject to a single management and comprising all the animals on it and all the land used wholly or in part for production, regardless of title of possession, legal form, or the size. Sole management may be exercised by an individual, by a household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or by a tribe, or by a legal person such as a company, collective enterprise, cooperative or State body. The holding may contain one or more blocks, located in one or more distinct regions or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, provided that they share the same means of production. No threshold was applied in the RNA 2018/2021.

Community-level data was collected at the village level along with the census.

## Producers and sponsors

#### PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStAD, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie), Central Bureau of the Census (BCR, Bureau Central du Recensement)
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche), Directorate of Agricultural Statistics (DSA, Direction de la Statistique Agricole)

## Sampling

### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The National Census of Agriculture 2018/2021 was carried out on a complete enumeration basis.

The National Census of Agriculture 2018/2021 planned the modular approach with the core module carried out on a complete enumeration basis. The country carried out five follow-up surveys on crop, animal, aquaculture and fishing production, analysis of the resilience of agricultural households, and production of modern farms. The RNA did not use the core module as the main frame for the follow-up modules. These follow-up surveys used frames based mainly on listing holdings in selected AEAs, complemented with lists of holdings from the Agricultural Development Agency and other holdings found in the RNA.

The cartography from the General Population and Housing Census 2013 (GPHC) was used and supplemented through a mapping exercise specific to the RNA due to spatial and demographic changes revealed in the field, to obtain the AEAs used in the data collection phase.

The frame was the list of households engaged in agricultural and para-agricultural (processing and marketing of agricultural products) activities in the agricultural enumeration areas (AEAs), and the list of large and special holdings, and holdings in the non-household sector (referred to as "big or modern farms") available at the level of Departmental Directorates of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries updated by snowball sampling method. Based on the information from the GPHC 2013, the AEAs in the territory covered by the census were defined with an approximate size of between 90 and 120 households engaged in agricultural activities. During the enumeration period, and prior to data collection, a complete list of households was made and those engaged in agricultural and para-agricultural activities (processing and marketing of agricultural products) were identified and georeferenced using GPS.

## Data collection

### DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2018-12-11	2019-03-31

### DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face using PAPI [f2f]

### DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The census staff involved four national technical coordinators, 23 departmental coordinators, and 29 area coordinators. For data collection, 7 619 field staff involved were distributed as follows: for listing operations, 2 526 staff including 270 team leaders and 84 municipal controllers; for data collection, 5 093 agents including 834 team leaders and 85 municipal controllers. Also, 420 data entry staff and 21 controllers were involved in data entry activities.

### \*\*QUALITY ASSURANCE\*\*

FAO reviewed and assessed the implementation process and the results of the census. A mission of national and international experts from 10 to 29 January 2021 examined the preparation, collection and processing phases and assessed the quality of data.

## Questionnaires

### QUESTIONNAIRES

Two questionnaires were used, one for holdings in the household sector and another for "modern farms". The questionnaires covered 20 out of 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020. The community survey questionnaire collected data on general information, socio-demographics characteristics, socio-economic infrastructure, financial infrastructure, production infrastructure, health facilities, training facilities, transport infrastructure, cultural and sports infrastructure, tourism and hotel infrastructure, administrative facilities, main economic activities, services and structure, and existence of projects/programs and NGOs operating in the village.

## Data Processing

### DATA EDITING

Data processing and analysis included the following steps. A pre-processing of data from the listing operation was carried out on the basis of the summary sheets made during data collection at the end of fieldwork. Then, the questionnaires were transferred from the municipalities to the main municipalities of the departments. After that, the archiving, codification, and manual data entry of questionnaires was conducted from 18 November to 31 December 2019 and from 2 June to 2 August 2020 in eight data processing centers in the municipalities of Cotonou, Parakou, Bohicon, Porto Novo, Lokossa and Natitingou.

During data editing, the clearance and tabulation steps were carried out during workshops in several stages from 3 June to the end of August 2020 and they mainly consisted in checking the completeness and consistency of the questionnaires, in writing and running programs for clearance, editing and output of main tables. The Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) was used for data entry, while the software platform SPSS was used for tabulation.

## Access policy

### CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Directorate of Agricultural Statistics (DSA, Direction de la Statistique Agricole)	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche)	dsa.maep@gouv.bj	<a href="#">Link</a>

### ACCESS CONDITIONS

For information on access conditions visit the website:  
<https://dsa.agriculture.gouv.bj/page/mentions-legales>

### \*\*DATA AND METADATA ARCHIVING\*\*

The raw and cleaned data are stored on the server of the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStAD, Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie) and the Information System Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche).

## Metadata production

### DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI\_BEN\_2018\_2021\_RNA\_v01\_M\_v01\_A\_ESS\_FAO

### PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Directorate of Agricultural Statistics (Direction de la Statistique Agricole)	DSA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche)	Metadata producer
Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM

## Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
-----------	-------	-----------