

China - Third National Agricultural Census 2016

National Bureau of Statistics of China

Report generated on: April 15, 2026

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

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

CHN_2016_TNAC_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

Third National Agricultural Census 2016

TRANSLATED TITLE

第三全国农业普查

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
China	CHN

STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

SERIES INFORMATION

The Third National Agricultural Census 2016 is the third agricultural census conducted in China after the censuses of 1996 and 2006.

ABSTRACT

The National Agricultural Census is a major study of national conditions to understand the development of agriculture, rural areas and farmers ("three agricultures" for short) in an all-round way. Census data is fundamental to scientifically formulate agricultural policies, to promote the modernization of agriculture, and to build a well-off society.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

Scope

NOTES

The census scope included agricultural activities (crop and animal production), forestry, aquaculture and capture fishery activities as well as agricultural services.

The core questionnaire collected data on:

1. General information on the holding
2. Workers employed in agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries, and services for agriculture
3. Land ownership or management rights
4. Crops
5. Tea garden, mulberry field, orchard and edible nut forest (garden)
6. Woodland
7. Livestock
8. Grassland (meadow)
9. Culturing/fishing of aquacultural products
10. Cultural machinery operation, irrigation, tree grafting, hatching, propagation of superior seeds (seedlings) and other services provided to other households or entities in 2016
11. Agricultural machines ownership
12. Operational characteristics of the holding

The administrative village questionnaire collected data on:

1. General Information
2. Population at the End of the Year
3. Social Security

4. Basic Social Services
5. Land Management and Circulation
6. Land for Non-agricultural Usage
7. Irrigation and Water Conservancy
8. Characteristic Farming and Cultivation Products
9. Condition of the Sub-area Where Livestock and Poultry are Bred Concentratedly
10. Finance of Village Collective Economy Organization
11. Village Cadres

The town and township questionnaire collected data on:

1. General Information
2. Population
3. Economy
4. Trading and Marketing
5. Education, Culture and Healthcare
6. Living Security
7. Utility
8. Economic and Social Condition of Towns

The crop field survey questionnaire was used for field verification and field survey on crops with the aid of remote sensing images.

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Structure of agriculture
Land use
Crops
Livestock and poultry
Agricultural machinery and equipment
Agricultural labour
Forestry
Capture fisheries
Aquaculture

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The census covered the entire country, both urban and rural areas. The Taiwan Province of China, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Macao Special Administrative Region were not covered by the census.

UNIVERSE

The statistical units of the Third National Agricultural Census were household-based agricultural operators, rural households having a land contract with the state collective or possessing the means of agricultural production, agricultural enterprises, villages committees and town and township governments.

The following minimum size limits were used to define a household an agricultural holding:

1. the holding operates arable land, garden plot, and aquaculture water surface cover with an area of 0.1 mu (approximately 67 m²) or more within the year
2. the holding operates woodland and pasture cover with an area of 1 mu or more within the year
3. the holding keeps at least one large or medium livestock, such as cattle, horse, pig and sheep within the year
4. the holding keeps at least 20 heads of rabbits and other small animals and fowls within the year
5. the value of sold and self-produced agricultural products in the whole year exceeds 1000 Renminbi (RMB also known as Yuan)
6. the operating revenue from crop farming, forestry, livestock and aquaculture and fisheries service provided for other households exceeds 1000 RMB

A community survey was conducted along with the census. Data was collected from village (resident) committees as well as towns and townships that were covered by the census.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
National Bureau of Statistics of China (国家统计局)

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The enumeration areas (EAs) are standard village-level administrative entities used by the NBS for statistics. The EAs were divided by the areas under the jurisdiction of the villager (resident) committees. Each EA was equipped with at least one census supervisor. Sub-EAs were set up under EAs.

A combination of complete and sample enumeration was applied in the Third National Agricultural Census. Census data was collected based on a complete enumeration basis. Sampling methods were used to collect data for the Crop Field Survey.

For the Crop Field Survey, five survey segments (with a size of 200 m x 200 m) were selected in each EA by simple random sampling. The natural plots covered by the selected segments were surveyed. In total, about 20 000 EAs and 110 000 segments were covered in the Crop Field Survey.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End	Cycle
2017-01-01	2017-03-31	Data collection for the core questionnaire
2017-05-01	2017-05-31	Data collection for the community questionnaire
2026-04	2026-08	Crop Field Survey

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer Assisted Personal Interview [capi]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The information from the households and entities was collected using computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) using personal digital assistants (PDA). The community survey was completed directly by Agricultural Census Offices and relevant information was collected. More than 50 000 staff members participated in the measurement of the sown area of grain, cotton and other staple crops using satellite remote sensing technology (the sown area was collected by a questionnaire at the same time).

Nearly four million census staff (including enumerators, supervisors and staff members) were involved in fieldwork activities. The number of enumerators and supervisors amounted to 3 953 776.

Field data collection took place between 1 January to 31 March 2017. A community survey was conducted in May 2017. A Crop Field Survey (CFS) was carried out in several waves, depending on the sowing time (during April - May 2016 and August 2016).

QUALITY ASSURANCE

In accordance with international practice, the Steering Group Office of the census carried out the post-enumeration survey (PES) for quality assessment. The survey results indicate that the percentage of coverage omission of registered households was 0.19 percent and the rate of difference with the census data was 0.4 percent, which fulfilled the designed data quality standard.

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

Six types of questionnaires were used in the Third National Agricultural Census:

1. Household questionnaire
2. Large-scale household questionnaire
3. Corporate questionnaire
4. Administrative village questionnaire
5. Town and township questionnaire
6. Crop field survey questionnaire

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Email	URL
National Bureau of Statistics of China (国家统计局)	baoyu@stats.gov.cn	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

For data access and use information please contact the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

Email: baoyu@stats.gov.cn

Website: <http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/>

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_CHN_2016_TNAC_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
National Bureau of Statistics of China (国家统计局)			Metadata producer
Statistics Division	ESS	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM

Data Dictionary

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