

Pretest 2 Report

Objective of Pretest 2

Pretest 2 aims to address other aspects of the census operations, to gather data on areas and cases not covered during Pretest 1 and to explore other concerns for improvement.

Specifically, it aims to:

- a. measure workload standards based on the revised questionnaire;
- b. gather more information that will be the basis in formulating basic concepts;
- c. determine appropriate operational procedures in this particular census taking; and
- d. determine problems, issues and concerns that may arise during the actual census operations.

Venue and Date

Pretest 2 was conducted from February 12 – 13, 2001 in Victoria, Tarlac and on February 14 – 15, 2001 in San Fabian and Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

Two pretest areas were identified in Victoria, Tarlac, namely: Barangay Maluid and Barangay Baculong. Similarly, two pretest areas were identified in Pangasinan and these were Barangay Longos-Amangonan-Parac-Parac Fabrica, in San Fabian and Barangay Osiem, in Mangaldan.

Unlike in Pretest 1, both the agriculture and fisheries questionnaires were pretested in these areas simultaneously. Listing of households in the sample areas was also done.

The identification of the sample barangays was done by the NSO Provincial Statistics Officers (PSOs) of the selected provinces. The selection was based on the main activity engaged in by most of the residents.

Forms Used in the Pretest

There were (4) types of forms used in this pretest, namely CAF Forms 2, 3 and 4 with some questions either deleted or improved and the number of pages for each question lessened. This pretest also used for the first time CAF Form 1 or the Listing of Agriculture and Fishing Operators. This was a two-face listing sheet measuring 11 x 17 inches.

Participants

Six (6) selected Household Statistics Department (HSD) and one (1) Information Resources Department (IRD) personnel acted as interviewers and observers. Two (2) staff each from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) were tapped to act also as observers. The Provincial Statistics Officers (PSOs) of Tarlac and Pangasinan were utilized as field coordinators, as well as guides and observers. The District Statistics Officers (DSOs) and Statistical Coordination Officers (SCOs) were tapped as enumerators to facilitate the translation of questions into local dialect. The Regional Directors (RDs) of NSO Region I and Region III, the Regional Director of BAS Region I, the Assistant Provincial Agricultural Statistics Officer (PASO) and staff of BAS Pangasinan, and the PASO and one assistant of BAS Tarlac also participated as field coordinators and observers.

Coordination with Barangay Officials

Prior to the conduct of Pretest 2 in the selected areas, proper coordination with the barangay officials was made to ensure the success of the activity. In response, the barangay officials accepted the proposal with much enthusiasm and wholeheartedly welcomed the group during the actual pretest. The barangay officials informed their constituents in their locality about the activity and gathered them for the interview. They also served as guides for some teams, and even provided meals for the group. In Barangay Longos-Amangonan-Parac-Parac Fabrica, San Fabian, Pangasinan, the barangay officials also provided the group with data board.

Briefing/Debriefing

A four-day briefing was conducted from February 6 – 9, 2001 to discuss the concepts/definitions of each data item of the three sets of questionnaires, including the listing sheet. Mock interviews were also conducted to familiarize the enumerators with the flow of and questions in the questionnaire. Personnel from BAS and BFAR acted as resource persons during the briefing while selected Census Planning and Operations Division (CPOD) personnel acted as trainers. Five (5) DSOs and SCOs each from Tarlac and Pangasinan also attended the briefing at the NSO Central Office.

Debriefing was done in each day of the pretest period, after the questionnaires were administered to record problems encountered and solicit suggestions as the basis for revising the questionnaires and the manual.

Number of Operators and Households Interviewed and Interview Time

The teams interviewed a total of 266 households during the conduct of Pretest 2 in Tarlac and Pangasinan. Of this total, 164 households were engaged in economic activity: 127 were agricultural operators, 24 were commercial and municipal fishing operators, and 13 were aquafarm operators.

Table 7.1. Average Interview Time and Number of Households and Operators Interviewed by Type of Questionnaire

Type of Questionnaire	Average Interview Time (In Minutes)	Number of Households Interviewed	Number of Operators Interviewed
Form 2	15 – 55		127
Form 3	15 – 30		24
Form 4	10 – 25		13
Total		266	164

On the average, the interview took 15 to 55 minutes for Form 2, 15 to 30 minutes for Form 3, and 10 to 25 minutes for Form 4.

Mechanics of the Pretest

Data collection for this activity used the team approach method. There were eight (8) teams formed, each team composed of one (1) observer and one (1) interviewer.

Before the conduct of the pretest, the teams were briefed on the specific area assignments and other characteristics of the pretest areas. To facilitate the collection of data, each pretest area (barangay) was subdivided into smaller areas according to the number of teams.

Unlike in Pretest 1, a listing was done in Pretest 2 wherein all households in the assigned areas were covered. For households with operators in agriculture, municipal and commercial fishing, and aquafarm activities, CAF Forms 2, 3 and 4 were used.

Observations and Recommendations

a. Operational

Some respondents in Bgy. Osiem, Mangaldan, Pangasinan refused to be interviewed because an alleged local government agent surveyed the area weeks ago for taxation purposes. Proper coordination with barangay officials should be made prior to the conduct of the census.

c. Technical

i. CAF Form 2 – Agriculture Questionnaire

Enumerators had difficulty in classifying a respondent as either an operator or not, as in the following cases:

- The respondent or any household member had been involved in any agricultural activity anytime during the last 12 months but for consumption only.
- Said person raised work animals like carabaos, cows, etc.
- Caretakers
- An owner of land, livestock, poultry, etc. just accepted proceeds from the sale of such properties but had no administrative or technical supervision over them.

Respondents had difficulty in recalling the number of paid workers by sex, age and quarter. Sex may at times be determined but not age. In some cases, the harvesting period when the operators usually hire employees overlapped with the other quarter period. Thus, the number of paid employees may be entered repeatedly in the succeeding quarter(s).

Problems arose in the estimation of the actual physical area applied with fertilizers and pesticides when the farmer is engaged in multi-cropping. Parcels operated under alternate, intercropping or multi-cropping system.

ii. CAF Form 3 – Municipal and Commercial Fishing Questionnaire

- Identify items separately under municipal and commercial fishing.
- Respondent had more than enough fishing gears used for fishing for personal consumption but did not consider himself/herself as an operator.
- Some fishing gears like electro-fishing gear were not listed in the codebook.

iii. CAF Form 4 – Aquaculture Questionnaire

An operator had set up a fishcage in the river owned by the government. Ownership of aquafarm was asked by unit. Thus, the operator was asked whether he owns the fishcage or not.

A screening question is required for fishing operations that use straight or modular method. If an operation uses straight method, then the pond/pen/cage/tank is just a rearing one.

Any equipment or facility that is indispensable should not be listed like bamboo which is used for oyster farming.

Tour at BFAR Facility in Pangasinan

As a sidelight of the pretest, the group had the opportunity to tour the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (NIFTDC), a BFAR facility in Bonoan-Bisloc, Pangasinan. The tour, which was organized by BFAR personnel, gave the interviewers and observers, especially NSO personnel, additional information regarding fishing and aquafarm operations.