

AGRICULTURE CENSUS IN INDIA



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AN AGRARIAN ECONOMY

- ❖ Collection and maintenance of Agriculture statistics assumes importance due to predominance of Agriculture in India.
- ❖ Though contribution of Agriculture in GDP has declined over years to about 14% in 2011 but it still remains principal source of livelihood for more than 50 percent of the population.
- ❖ India possesses only 11 percent of World's arable land whereas it has to feed about 18 percent of World population.
- ❖ This imbalance is likely to worsen in coming years.

WHY AGRICULTURE CENSUS

- ❖ Increasing population and diversion of land for non-agricultural purposes, has created tremendous pressure on this scarce resource.
- ❖ There is a need to look into the holding/area **distribution among different sizes categories**, social groups and gender for planning at micro level.
- ❖ Data on holding characteristics like tenancy status, terms of leasing, irrigation status/ source of irrigation, crop-profile etc., play important role in formulating programs for development of agriculture.

AGRICULTURE CENSUS IN INDIA

- Agriculture Census in India forms part of World Agriculture Census program of FAO.
- The first Agriculture Census in India was conducted in 1970-71.
- So far, eight Agriculture Censuses with reference years 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96, 2000-01 and 2005-06 have been conducted.
- The results of Agriculture Census is available at <http://agcensus.nic.in>.
- Agriculture Census 2010-11, ninth in the series, is presently going on in the country.

SURVEY DESIGN

- Agriculture Census is conducted in the country on **census – cum-sample survey** basis. The whole operation is completed in 3 Phases.
- In **Phase-I**, List of holdings with their operated area and social characteristics is prepared on **census basis** in land record States/UTs (covering about 86 % of reported area) and on 20 percent sample villages in non-land record States/UTs.
- In **Phase-II**, detailed data on agricultural characteristics is collected on a sample basis from **20 percent selected villages**, both in Land Record and Non-Land Record States, and the parameters are then estimated at the Tehsil/District/State level.
- In **Phase-III**, data on input use pattern are collected on a sample basis from selected holdings from selected **7 percent villages** and the parameters are estimated at the District/State level.

ITEMS OF DATA COLLECTED

Phase I:

Data on number and area of operational holdings for different size classes (marginal, small, semi-medium, medium, large), social groups (scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, others), type of holding (individual, joint, institutional) and gender (male, female) are collected.

Phase II:

Data on tenancy, terms of leasing, land-use, irrigation-status, sources of irrigation, number of wells and tube wells, crop profile, dispersal of land are collected from **selected 20 percent villages** in each Taluk/Block.

Phase III:

Data is collected on use of inputs like manures, fertilizers, livestock, agriculture implements & machinery, institutional credit, use of improved seeds besides age, educational qualification and household size of the holder from **selected 7 percent** villages in each Taluk/Block.

FREQUENCY

- The Agriculture Census in India is conducted quinquennially i.e. at the **interval of Five-Years**.
- World Census of Agriculture is carried out **decennially** i.e. at ten yearly intervals.
- The reason for conducting Agriculture Census in India quinquennially is that the structure of holdings in the country is changing fast due to fragmentation of holdings, urbanization/ industrialization etc.
- The data is needed for planning and assessment of impacts of existing policies and programs.

ORGANISATION

- Agriculture Census Division in DAC coordinates the activities with the States/UTs.
- A nucleus team of technical staff is engaged in this work in each State/UT.
- The Principal Secretary/Secretary in-charge of organizing Department (generally Revenue Deptt.) is designated as State Agriculture Census Commissioner.
- The State administrative machinery is utilized for collecting data for the scheme.
- Funds (100 percent) are provided by the Government of India to States/UTs under Central Sector Plan Scheme.

SOURCES OF DATA

- In Phase-I & Phase-II, land records maintained by the revenue functionaries in each village are the main source of information for Agriculture Census.
- Data being taken from land records, Census taking is very cost effective in India.
- In Phase-III (Input Survey), data is collected following household enquiry approach both in land record and non-land record States.
- Reference year of Input Survey is the year following reference year of Agriculture Census.

MAIN FINDINGS

- Total number of operational holdings in the country increased from 129 million in 2005-06 to 138 million(+6.61 percent) in 2010-11.
- The operated area stands at 159.18 million ha. in 2010-11.
- The average size of the operational holding declined to 1.16 ha in 2010-11 from 1.23 ha. in 2005-06.
- Share of female operational holders increased from 11.70 percent in 2005-06 to 12.79 in 2010-11.

Trend in Number of Holdings and Operated Area

Agriculture Census Years	Number of holdings (million)	Area operated (in million ha)	Average area per holding (in ha)
1	2	3	4
1970-71	71.0	162.1	2.28
1976-77	81.6	163.3	2.00
1980-81	88.9	163.8	1.84
1985-86	97.2	164.6	1.69
1990-91	106.6	165.5	1.55
1995-96	115.6	163.4	1.41
2000-01	119.9	159.4	1.33
2005-06	129.2	158.3	1.23
2010-11	137.8	159.2	1.16

MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- The vacant statistical function posts in States are being pursued to be **filled-up** on priority.
- **Infrastructural facilities** in the States/UTs are being improved by providing adequate numbers of computers with e-mail facilities, fax machines, etc.
- The field workers are being **sensitized towards importance of this data** so that they devote sufficient attention to census work.
- The States have been permitted to **engage retired officials** and even outsourcing in case of difficulties.
- States are requested to use e-mail / fax facility more intensively for communication with DAC to cut time-lag.
- Training is being organized for capacity building for District/Tehsil level officials.
- **Expediting the pace of** data processing work by States for early results.

THANKS

