

General Census of Agriculture 2020

National Institute of Statistics (Istat, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica), Division for agricultural statistics and surveys (ATC, Servizio statistiche e rilevazioni sull'agricoltura)

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ITA_2020_CGA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS

TITLE

General Census of Agriculture 2020

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

CGA 2020

TRANSLATED TITLE

Censimento Generale dell'Agricoltura 2020

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Italy	ITA

STUDY TYPE

Agricultural Census [ag/census]

SERIES INFORMATION

The General Census of Agriculture (CGA) is carried out every ten years in Italy. Agricultural censuses have been conducted in the years 1930, 1961, 1970, 1982, 1990, 2000, 2010, and the latest in 2020.

ABSTRACT

The General Census of Agriculture (CGA) 2020 is a wealth of information on the structure of Italian agricultural holdings. It is part of an EU-wide programme of agricultural censuses carried out in 2020 under EU Regulation 2018/1091 on integrated farm statistics and conducted under the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (<https://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/en/>). The objectives of the CGA 2020 were to comply with EU and national regulations; obligation on statistical surveying, to compile statistics on the structure of all agricultural holdings, and to provide useful data to update and review the Farm Register managed by the National Institute of Statistics (Istat, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica).

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

Scope

NOTES

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

The questionnaire collected information on:

1. Use of the Land
2. Size of Livestock
3. Farm Management Methods
4. Related Activities and Company Head
5. Labor
6. Other Information
7. COVID-19 Health Emergency

KEYWORDS

Keyword
Structure of Agriculture

Land Use
Crops
Livestock and Poultry
Labor in the Agricultural Sector
Irrigation

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The CGA 2020 covered the entire country.

UNIVERSE

The statistical unit was the agricultural holding, defined as a single unit, both technically and economically, that has a single management and that undertakes economic activities in agriculture in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 belonging to groups A.01.1, A.01.2, A.01.3, A.01.4, A.01.5 or to the "maintenance of agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition" of group A.01.6 within the economic territory of the Union, either as its primary or secondary activity, as it is stated in the Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council on integrated agricultural statistics. Regarding activities of class A.01.49, only the activities "Raising and breeding of semi-domesticated or other live animals" (except for raising of insects) and "Beekeeping and production of honey and beeswax" were included.

The following thresholds were applied for the agricultural holdings in the CGA 2020:

- 0.2 ha of UAA
- 0.1 ha of grapes - outdoor
- 0.01 ha of UAA - under glass or high accessible cover or cultivated mushrooms
- 1 livestock unit
- 3 beehives

Thresholds were lowered compared to Regulation (EU) 2018/1091.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name
National Institute of Statistics (Istat, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica), Division for agricultural statistics and surveys (ATC, Servizio statistiche e rilevazioni sull'agricoltura)

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste)	MASAF	Government of Italy
Agency for Disbursements in Agriculture (Agenzia per le erogazioni in agricoltura)	AGEA	

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation
Statistical Office of the European Communities	Eurostat

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The CGA 2020 was composed of a core module and three thematic modules on labor force and other gainful activities, on rural development, and on animal housing and manure management. However, one-off complete enumeration was used in the CGA 2020, even for the thematic modules. Some census data for the core module and all census data regarding the rural development module were collected directly from administrative registers.

The frame used in the CGA 2020 was the Statistical Farm Register, held by Istat and updated annually based on the integration of various sources. It comprises a list of agricultural holdings defined following the context of the European Union (EU) Regulation 2018/2091 and accepted in the General Plan of the CGA. This definition is very broad and can include both agricultural businesses and family units that are believed to carry out an agricultural activity. The list was built by integrating several administrative and statistical registers and includes units that in recent years have shown signs of agricultural activity, although they are not market oriented.

The CGA 2020 was a complete enumeration of all agricultural holdings.

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2021-01-07	2021-07-30

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Computer Assisted Personal Interview [capi] Computer Assisted Web Interview [cawi] Computer Assisted Telephone Interview [cati]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The CGA 2020 involved 60 Istat experts and reviewers and about 6 000 enumerators. Data was collected using CAPI, CATI, and CAWI, and respondents were allowed to choose between the different methods. Almost 15 percent of the holdings used the CAWI method, approximately 39 percent chose both CATI methods, inbound and outbound channel, and 46 percent used the CAPI method. Data collection through the CAPI method was carried out by the network of almost 2 200 Agricultural Assistance Centers (AAC) present in all regions and autonomous provinces. Although data collection modes that are not based on face-to-face physical interviews were empowered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data collection methods remained the same. Further, aerial photos were used for better geo-localization of agricultural holdings. The Survey Management System (SGI) was developed for monitoring the phases of the census process.

Regarding administrative data as a census data source, identification data and legal status of the holding were pre-compiled in the questionnaire with information from the Farm Register. Further, several variables regarding labor force, ecological areas, livestock, etc., were obtained from different sources, such as the livestock register. All census data regarding rural development support were obtained from the Agency for Agriculture Supplies; (AGEA, Agenzia per le Erogazioni in Agricoltura) administrative data.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Istat has a quality management system. Although Istat has not formally adopted a specific quality management model, like TQM or EFQM, its quality policy is based on most of the core values of such models. Quality assurance and assessment procedures included training courses, quality guidelines, designated quality manager, quality unit and/or senior level committee, and compliance monitoring. Istat implemented different systems to ensure the quality of the CGA 2020. The SGI web application was used to monitor the phases of the collection process. Further, Istat implemented a system including rules of correctness, compatibility, consistency, and correspondence with administrative and statistical data, in compliance with the practices recommended by Eurostat, for checking and correcting data from statistical surveys on businesses.

To foster the degree of collaboration of the respondents and the commitment of the various census bodies, Istat carried out an integrated communication campaign through a plurality of actions and tools, both traditional (billboards and national and local press) and digital. Several actions were carried out to minimize non-sampling errors in the CGA 2020: the inclusion of the frame extension in the population frame to reduce under-coverage error; the removal of ineligible units from the records was performed, while the weights for the other units were left unchanged to minimize the over-coverage error; the most up-to-date contact information possible was used to build the reference list to minimize contact error; explanatory notes or handbooks for enumerators or respondents, on-line FAQ or hot-line support for enumerators or respondents, and training of enumerators to minimize measurement errors; follow-up interviews, reminders, and imputation to minimize non-response errors.

questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

One questionnaire was used in the CGA 2020. The questionnaire covered 20 out of 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020. The items from administrative sources referred to information, at the individual holding level, on subsidies received from the European Union under the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy).

data_processing

DATA EDITING

Data editing was carried out during data collection and continued after completion and was shared by Istat and the regions according to the chosen participation model. Supervisors and staff from local and central departments carried out data validation through data format checks, range checks, relational checks, comparisons with previous rounds of data collection, and comparisons with other domains in agricultural statistics. Part of the validation process was done using the SGI system. Some administrative registers were considered for data validation and imputation process. Imputation methods included random hot deck and nearest neighbor imputation. Data validation and correction were carried out using SAS, R, Banff (from Istat) software.

DATA PROCESSING NOTES

Direct data capture was ensured by the three methods of data collection used.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Division for agricultural statistics and surveys (ATC, Servizio statistiche e rilevazioni sull'agricoltura)	National Institute of Statistics (Istat, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica)	protocollo@postacert.istat.it	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

The data request procedure and the data request form : "How to apply for microdata access?" at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/farm-statistics>.

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ITA_2020_CGA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS_FAO

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Division for agricultural statistics and surveys (Servizio statistiche e rilevazioni sull'agricoltura)		National Institute of Statistics (Istat, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica)	Metadata Producer
Statistics Division		Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Metadata adapted for FAM
Development Data Group	DECDG	World Bank Group	Metadata adapted for World Bank Microdata Library

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Identical to a metadata (ITA_2020_CGA_v01_M_v01_A_ESS) published on FAO microdata repository (<https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog>). Some of the metadata fields have been edited.

data_dictionary

Data file	Cases	variables
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study_resources

questionnaires

Questionnaire in Italian

title Questionnaire in Italian
filename ITA_QUE_ITA_2020.pdf

Questionnaire in English

title Questionnaire in English
filename ITA_QUE_ENG_2020.pdf

reports

Main Results

title Main Results
filename content.pdf

technical_documents

Methodology and Instructions 3

title Methodology and Instructions 3
filename ITA_Methodology-Instructions_3.pdf

Methodology and Instructions 2

title Methodology and Instructions 2
filename ITA_Methodology-Instructions_2.pdf

Methodology and Instructions 1

title Methodology and Instructions 1
filename ITA_Methodology-Instructions_1.pdf
