

# The Agricultural Census Act, 1958

( ACT NO. XLI OF 1958 )

♣ **An Act to provide for certain matters for the purpose of taking agricultural census.**

WHEREAS in a general meeting of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations a decision has been taken urging the member countries to take agricultural census;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to take agricultural census in pursuance of the said decision and to provide for certain matters for that purpose;

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of the proviso to Article 108 of the Constitution the Governors of the Provinces of East Pakistan and West Pakistan have been consulted;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**Short title,  
extent and  
commencement**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Agricultural Census Act, 1958.

(2) It extends to the whole of <sup>1</sup>[Bangladesh].

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

**Definitions**

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-

(a) "census" means agricultural census;

(b) "census officer" means an officer appointed for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act <sup>2</sup>;

(c) "Director-General" means the Director-General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.]

**Census  
officers**

3. <sup>3</sup>[(1) The Director-General may-

(a) make plan and supervise the taking of census throughout Bangladesh;

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 (b) appoint census officers to take, aid in or supervise the taking of, the census within any specified area.]

(2) [Omitted by section 5 of the Agricultural Census (Amendment) Ordinance, 1983 (Ordinance No. XXII of 1983).]

(3) A declaration in writing, signed by any authority authorised by the <sup>4</sup>[Director-General] in this behalf, that a person has been duly appointed a census officer shall be conclusive proof of such appointment.

**Collection  
of  
information  
for census**

4. (1) For the purpose of taking census, information shall be collected on or with respect to the following matters, namely:-

(a) land ownership and land tenure;

(b) land unit and subdivision of land;

(c) land utilisation;

(d) crop acreage and production;

(e) livestock and poultry;

(f) employment in agriculture;

(g) agricultural population;

(h) agricultural power and machinery;

(i) irrigation and drainage;

(j) fertilisers and soil dressing;

(k) wood and fishery products;

(l) agricultural credit;

(m) agriculture and sericulture;

(n) fruit and vegetable products; and

(o) such other matters as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify.

(2) For the purpose of collecting information referred to in sub-section (1), the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, prepare such questionnaire as it thinks fit and a census officer may require any person

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within his jurisdiction to give answers to such questionnaire and to such other questions relevant to the questionnaire as he may think fit to ask.

(3) Any person who is required to give answers to the questionnaire and other relevant questions under sub-section (2) shall be legally bound to give answers to the best of his knowledge or belief.

**Crop-cutting experiment**

5. (1) For the purpose of collecting information referred to in sub-section (1) of section 4, crop-cutting experiments may be conducted, and for such experiments any land in any area may be selected.

(2) The owners or occupiers of lands or their agents or servants shall allow such access to the census officers and other persons assisting them to their lands as may be necessary for the conduct of crop-cutting experiments.

(3) The owner or other person entitled to the crop shall be paid such compensation for any loss or damage caused to him by the conduct of crop-cutting experiments as the Government may prescribe.

**Access to census officers to premises and lands**

6. Every person owning or occupying any house, premises or lands shall allow the census officers such access thereto as they may require for the purposes of the census and shall allow them to paint on, affix to, or dig in, the house, premises or lands such letters, mark or objects as may be necessary for the said purpose.

**Penalties**

7. (a) Any census officer or any person lawfully required to give assistance towards the taking of a census who refuses or neglects to use reasonable diligence in performing any duty imposed upon him or in obeying any order issued to him in accordance with this Act or any rule made thereunder, or any person who hinders or obstructs another person in performing any such duty or in obeying any such order, or

(b) any census officer who knowingly makes any false return or, without the previous sanction of the <sup>5</sup>[Government], discloses any information which he has received by means of, or for the purposes of, a census return, or