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SERIES

14

2000 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Methodological Review
(1996-2005)



2000 World Census of Agriculture

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(1996-2005)

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FOREWORD

Beginning with the 1950 round, FAO has been preparing and advocating decennial Programmes for the World Census of Agriculture (WCA), and the 2000 Programme was the sixth in the series. These Programmes have provided guidance to countries in conducting agricultural censuses following standard concepts, definitions and classifications, and at the same time have promoted the availability of internationally comparable data on the structure of agriculture.

FAO member countries provide the reports of their agricultural censuses to the FAO Statistics Division. Key data on the structure of agriculture and related metadata obtained through the country reports are then disseminated through the FAO website. At the end of each round, FAO publishes a report consolidating the global information about the census conducted during the round. The report contains a compendium of metadata and key data of country censuses, internationally comparable data on selected variables characterizing the structure of agriculture in the world, and a methodological review of the censuses conducted during the round.

For the WCA 2000 round (1996-2005), the traditional contents of WCA reports have been presented in three separate publications. Two of the publications have already been issued. The first publication, a compendium of metadata and key data, was published as FAO Statistical Development Series 12. The second publication in the series, FAO Statistical Development Series 13, presents internationally comparable data on selected variables characterizing the structure of agriculture.

The current publication, which is the third report in the series, relates to a methodological review of the censuses carried out during the WCA 2000 round. Many of the findings included in the report were already used in preparation of the Programme for the WCA 2010 round. Being part of a series of the similar methodological publications since the inception of the WCA Programme, this book serves as a unique reference document for understanding the evolution of strategies and methods of data collection on structural aspects of agriculture. The material presented in this book is expected to serve as research input for further developments in methodologies of agricultural censuses and surveys.

Pietro Gennari

The Director
Statistics Division

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Basic work of compilation of information for the publication was carried out by Edward Gillin, Senior Statistician, and Paolo Amici, Consultant. Giorgi Kvinikadze, Statistician, produced the first complete draft of this publication, carefully verifying the information from relevant sources, and drawing meaningful conclusions. Adriana Neciu, Consultant, provided research support. The final technical and editorial suggestions made by David Marshall, retired FAO Senior Statistician, led to significant improvement of the report. Tomaso Lezzi and Marianne Sinko carried out the layout of the publication.

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