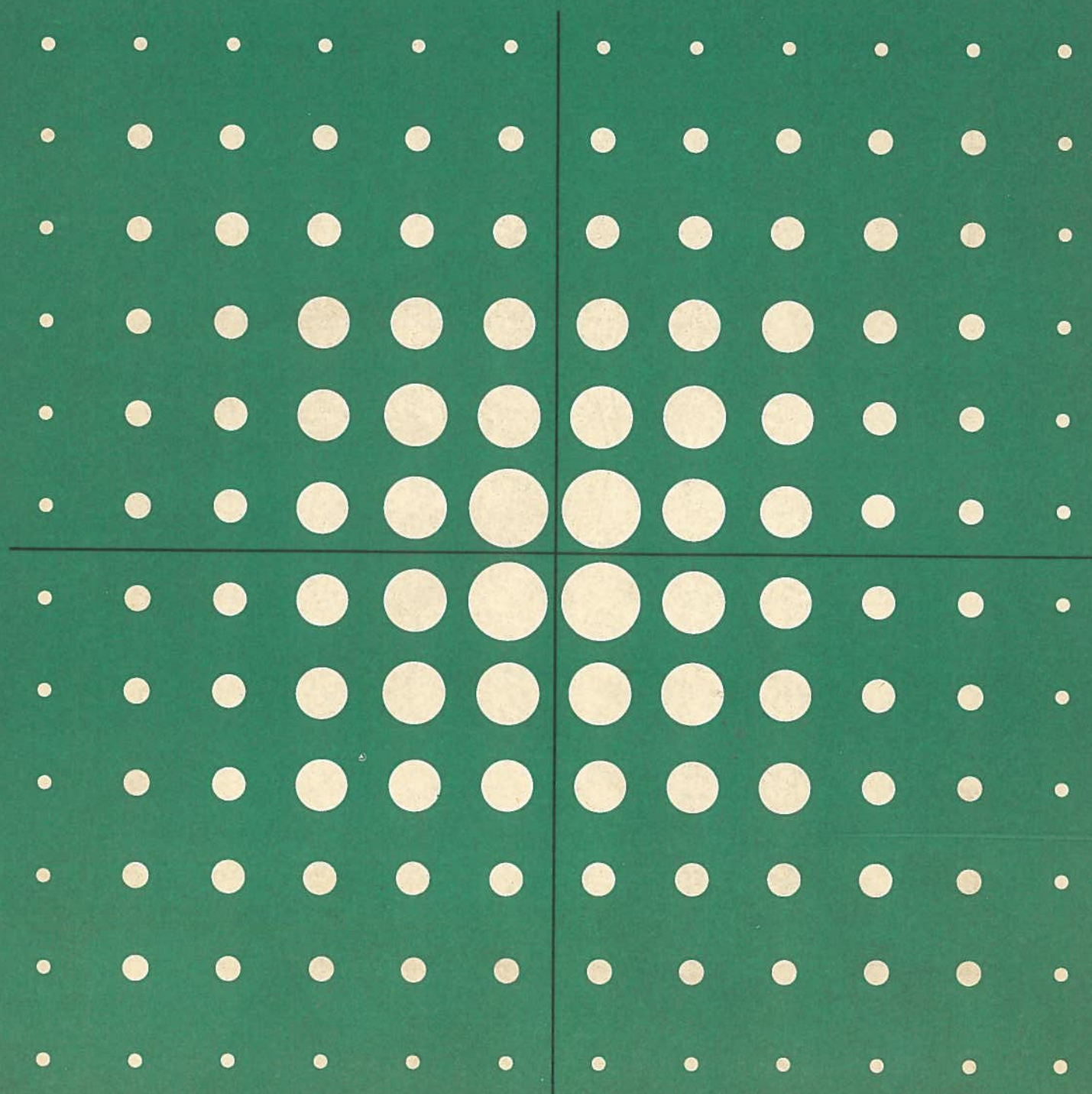


III

report on the 1960 world census of agriculture

METHODOLOGY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



REPORT ON THE 1960 WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

VOLUME III

M E T H O D O L O G Y

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FOREWORD

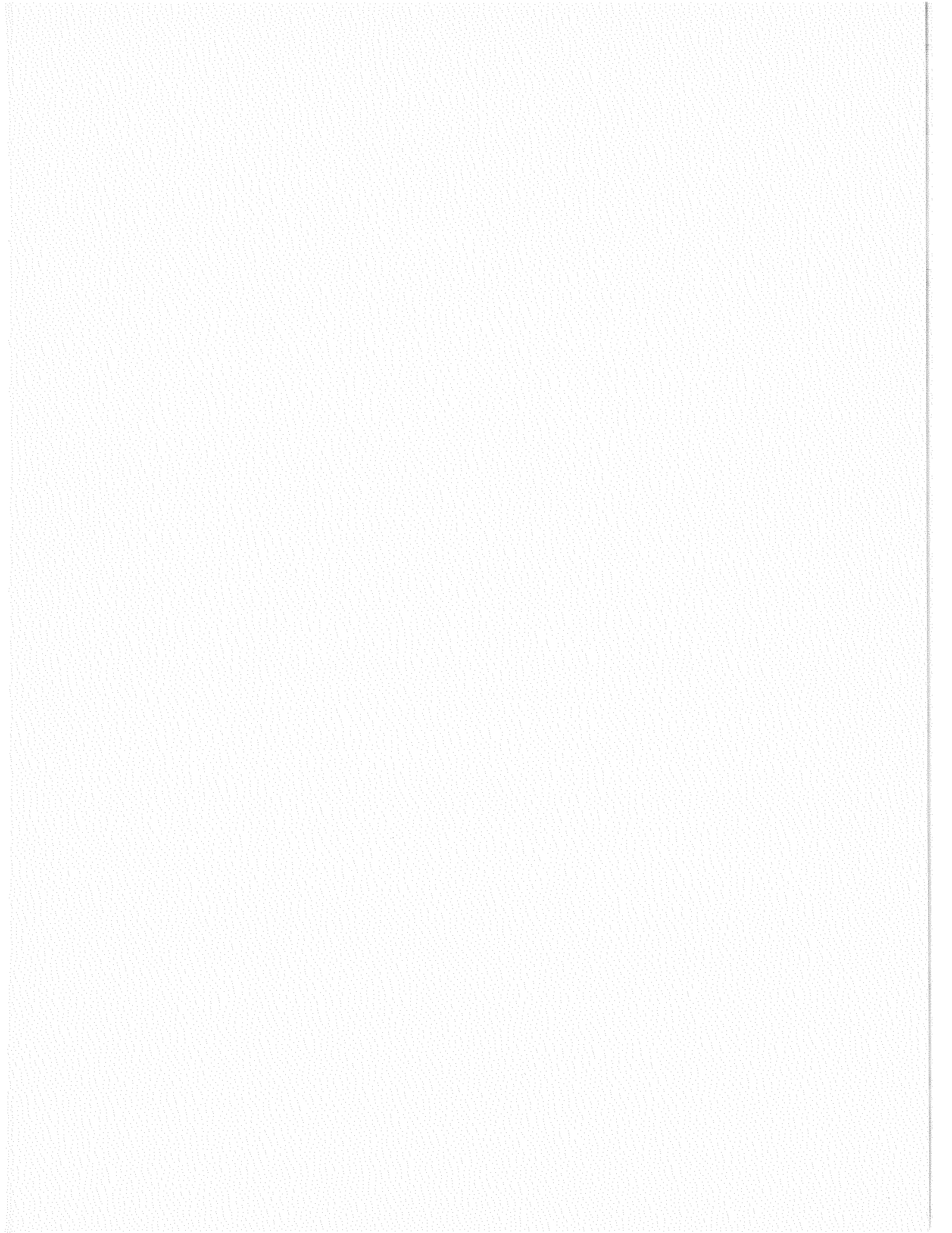
This is the third in a series of the Volumes of the Report on the 1960 World Census of Agriculture. It deals with the methodological aspects of census-taking as applied by the countries participating in the 1960 World Census of Agriculture. It is divided into two parts: Part I describes in six chapters some aspects of the methodology, including uses of sampling methods, quality checks and pre-testing, as applied by the countries in taking the census of agriculture. They are illustrated by the factual examples drawn from the 1960 censuses. The material presented in this part is drawn from the available national reports, documents of various FAO meetings and sessions and from the FAO experts who were actually involved in the preparation of the 1960 censuses in these countries.

Part II contains five case studies preceded by a paper summarizing the different methodological problems which arise in census taking in the developing countries and distinct from those which arise in collecting current agricultural statistics. The case studies present details of the methodology of census taking in Ceylon, France, Japan, United Kingdom and U.S.A. These case studies are intended to provide a comprehensive picture of the complexity of census problems and of the relationships between various aspects of the census methodology. Such a picture could not be presented in a study of specific issues separately such as those dealt with in Part I. These case studies further provide substantial material concerning the relationship between the methodology used and the underlying local circumstances. The studies have been made possible with the cooperation of the national experts whose names have been given against each of them.

It is realized that the utility of this volume would have been enhanced immensely if it were possible to present also a review of the problems encountered and of the solutions adopted in the censuses taken around 1960, but most of the national reports - the basic source of information - did not give the detailed description of the preparations and methodology procedures. In some cases the information was presented in such a summarized form that it could hardly be used for this purpose. These limitations reflect correspondingly on the contents of this issue.

Despite these handicaps it is hoped that this volume will fill the gap in the information required in this field, with possibilities for future expansion. This can be fruitfully used at the training centres on agricultural census techniques and may prove to be of guidance to some countries, especially in correlating the various aspects of methodology in agricultural census-taking.

P. V. Sukhatme
Director, Statistics Division



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