

The World Census of Agriculture 2010 Programme: a Modular Approach

Hiek Som and Jack Colwell
FAO, Rome

FAO is now preparing the World Census of Agriculture 2010 programme, covering agricultural censuses to be undertaken between 2006 and 2015. Previous census programmes have been successful, but countries have faced problems because of the increasing demands for data, the high costs of census taking, and the complexity of census topics.

A new approach will be used for the 2010 programme. Countries will undertake the agricultural census in modules: the core module, based on complete enumeration, will provide a limited range of key data required by national policy-makers and for sample frame construction; and sample based supplementary modules will be implemented to provide more in-depth data. This will reduce costs and allow countries to collect a greater range of data. The censuses will also be developed within the framework of the agricultural survey programme, which will enhance the usefulness of data from different sources. The programme will also provide for the collection of infra-structure data at the community level.

This paper outlines FAO's preliminary proposals for the World Census of Agriculture 2010 programme. The census core and supplementary modules are discussed and the new topics to be added to the programme are highlighted. The coordination of the agricultural and population censuses is also discussed. Areas for further work by FAO are explored.