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Integrated data collection and dissemination
(Report of the Technical Sub-Group 2.1)*

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Report of the Technical Sub-Group 2.1 – Integrated data collection and dissemination

The work of Technical Sub-Group (TSG) 2.1 was focused on paras 1.28-1.49 and 1.318-1.350 of the current Principles and Recommendations (P&R).

Paras 1.28-1.49 focus on the relationship between the various censuses, namely: between the population and housing census (1.28-1.31); the relationship of population and housing censuses to inter-censal sample surveys (1.32-1.33); the relationship of population and/or housing censuses to other types of censuses and other statistical investigations [census of agriculture (1.34-1.41); census of establishments (1.42-1.43); census of buildings (1.44); system of current housing statistics (1.45); and, civil registration and vital statistics (1.46-1.48)]; and, the relationship of the population census to continuous population registers (1.49).

Paras 1.318-1.350 focus on units, place and time of enumeration for population and housing censuses, namely; units of enumeration (1.318-1.336); place of enumeration (1.337-1.345); enumeration point of time (1.346-1.349) and time reference period for data on the characteristics of the population and of living quarters.

The TSG made some limited use of the discussion forum. In addition, there was some exchange of e-mail correspondence. The Chair of the TSG also had the benefit of his participation in the UNECE Steering Group for Population and Housing Censuses where the relationship between the population and housing censuses and the census of agriculture was actively discussed.

The members of the TSG reviewed the assigned paragraphs and a summary of comments received is provided in annex 1. With the exception of the section relating to the relationship between the population and housing censuses and the census of agriculture, where major changes are proposed, the comments received were in the form of editorial comments on specific sections of the text.

Concerning the relationship between the population and housing censuses and the census of agriculture, FAO proposes to replace paras 1.34-1.41 with the text set out in annex 2. It is also proposed to add two new non-core topics one in the population census and one in the housing census. These non-core topics could be used by countries that wish to synchronise their population and housing censuses with their agriculture census and wish to use the population and housing census to identify households or individuals operating an agricultural holding. The proposed non-core topics are set out in annex 3.

Cognisant of the need not to overload the census questionnaire, and the pressure from many interested parties to include new items on a range of topics, consideration could also be given to collecting information to identify agricultural holdings as part of the pre-census listing exercise.

On a related issue the need to retain two existing non-core items related to agriculture was also reviewed as part of the work of the UNECE steering group. The question on whether a building is a farm building or not (para 2.420) and the question on farm or non-farm residence (population geographic characteristic non-core topic 2 - UNECE recommendations only). For the ECE region, in response to a survey conducted in 2004, some 16 countries responded in the affirmative to the question on whether or not they would include either or both of these questions in the 2010 round. These countries were then approached to find out

how important it was to retain these items, especially given that two new non-core topics were being proposed for inclusion to address the specific issue of developing a frame of household operated agricultural holdings. The response to this enquiry was poor and those countries that did respond gave low priority to these two existing items. It is, therefore, proposed that they should be dropped from the 2010 principles and recommendations.

Comments by UNSD (posted) on the FAO proposal include the problems of nomadic pastoralists, the non-household agricultural holdings, privacy and confidentiality implications and timing of data collections.

Sections requiring further work:

The section on the relationship of the population census to continuous population registers (para 1.49) needs to be further expanded to include the option of using the population register as the basis for the population census. Countries using this approach are invited to propose revised text.

Annex 1

General comment: Terminology used should be consistent throughout the document. “Inquiry” and “investigation” should be replaced with “survey” wherever possible. Similarly “living quarters” should be replaced with “housing units” (ILO)

Para 1.29 Suggest to delete last sentence in brackets (ILO).

Para 1.32 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.33 While we appreciate the need for comparison with other studies, it should be emphasized that this need should NOT deter us from collecting information in line with current objectives/priorities. The comparison with the past should be secondary to current objectives. (UBS)

Para 1.34 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.37 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.39 If information from the Population Census is to be jointly with that from the Census of Agriculture, they should be close. This report should give the longest acceptable time frame between the two activities. Unfortunately, I don't have any proposal at the moment. (UBS)

Para 1.40 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.41 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.42 The Population Census can be used to collect basic information (Volume, Activity and Employment) of Business establishments with employment below the minimum number of persons. However, special care should be taken in the choice of the Unit of Enumeration to ensure that there is no double counting of establishments owned by more than one persons/households. (UBS)

Para 1.43 Last sentence needs clarification (ILO)

Para 1.44 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.44 If a listing of households is to be carried out before the actual enumeration, this would be most ideal for carrying out such an exercise. (UBS)

Para 1.45 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.46 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.47 Last sentence in brackets does not belong here (ILO)

Para 1.49 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.315 Replace second sentence with “A sampling frame is a list of all (or most) of the N units in the universe.”(ILO)

Para 1.322 In addition to having clear definitions of the ‘Units of Enumeration’, the population who are the source of the information MUST be conversant with the unit chosen. It complicates data collection if the respondents are made to refer to a unit that they do not ordinarily live with. If the population is organized by compounds, it is hard for them to give accurate information about families or households. (UBS)

Para 1.323 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.323 This should take care of floating population. This is partly mentioned in Para 1.327. (UBS)

Para 1.330 Editorial (ILO)

Para 1.339 Special care should be taken when dealing with area of usual residence to avoid double counting e.g. in the case of Polygamous husbands. (UBS)

Para 1.348 In the definition of living quarters, there should be some specification of the minimum living conditions e.g. must have walls or a roof or both. (UBS)

Para 1.350 The reference period is very important in the case of housing conditions especially when dealing with household utilities e.g. source of water, number of habitable rooms, type of toilet facility. Such conditions may be affected by the season of the year, number of persons present, etc. In any case, they should be the usual conditions prevailing NOT those at one point in time. (UBS)

ILO- International Labour Organization
UBS- Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Introductory paragraphs for the “Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region”, and
To replace paras 1.34-1.41 of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (Rev 1) UN 1998

1. While the population and housing censuses have a close relationship, their relationship with the agricultural census is less well defined. However, as the result of increasing integration within programmes of data collection, the relationship between the population and housing census and the agricultural census is now far closer than in the past and countries are increasingly looking at new ways to strengthen this relationship.
2. One issue in relating the two censuses is that they use different units of enumeration. The unit of enumeration in the agricultural census is the agricultural holding, which is the techno-economic unit of agricultural production, while the unit of enumeration in the population census is the household and the individual within the household. However, in many developing countries, most agricultural production activities are in the household sector and households and agricultural holdings are very closely related, often in a one-to-one relationship.
3. The agricultural census collects various household/individual data for members of the agricultural holder’s household. The *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010*¹, recommends the collection of data on household size and limited data on demographic characteristics and economic activity of members of the holder's household, as well as some limited information on persons working as employees on the holding. To get a complete picture, agricultural data users will need both agricultural census data and data from the population census to meet their needs. Users may find some agricultural activity data from the agricultural census more comprehensive than from the population census because the latter normally investigates only the principal economic activity of each person during a short time-reference period and this may not identify persons connected with agricultural activity on a seasonal or part-time basis. On the other hand, the population census provides data on agricultural employment and agricultural population, which is not available from the agricultural census because it only covers households associated with agricultural holders.
4. In planning the population and housing census, every opportunity for developing the relationship between this census and the agricultural census should be explored. This can take several forms. Definitions used in the population and housing censuses should be compatible with those used in the agricultural census so that meaningful comparisons can be made between the two data sets. The population and housing census can also be of use in the preparation of the agricultural census, such as in the demarcation of enumeration areas, the preparation of the frame for the agricultural census or, if applicable, the sample design.

¹ FAO Statistical Development Series No. 11 (Rome, 2005)

5. In planning the National Census Programme, consideration should also be given to the possibility of collecting additional agricultural information in the population and housing census that would facilitate the preparation of a subsequent agricultural census. For this purpose, an additional item at the household level on whether any member of the household is engaged in own-account agricultural production activities should be included in the population census to serve as a convenient means of identifying agricultural holdings for a subsequent agricultural census. Alternatively, additional data at the individual person level to identify persons involved in agricultural activities during a longer period, such as a year, could be collected in the population census to help in providing a frame for an agricultural census. These items are included in these principles and recommendations as non-core items.

6. The opportunity of linking population and agricultural census data should also be explored. This could add considerable analytical value to data sets from both censuses and save on data collection costs. Much of the demographic and activity status data collected in the population census are also collected in the agricultural census. If data from the two censuses could be linked, it would no longer be necessary to collect these data again in the agricultural census.

7. Some countries conduct the data collection for the population and agricultural censuses as a joint field operation. Normally, each census retains its separate identity and uses its own questionnaire, but field operations are synchronized so that the two data collections can be done at the same time by the same enumerators. Occasionally, the two censuses are merged into one. This may have a number of advantages, but its effect on field operations and data quality needs to be carefully considered.

**Proposal on draft text for the agricultural topics
in the population census recommendations**

Household data:

**OWN-ACCOUNT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
(non-core topic)**

Some countries may want to use the population census to identify households engaged in own-account agricultural production to provide additional data for agriculture-related analysis of the population census and for use as a frame for a subsequent agricultural census. In this case, information should be collected for all households on whether any member of the household is engaged in any form of own-account agricultural production activities.

Where possible, information should be collected separately on the type of activity under the broad headings of crop production and livestock production. For countries where household level agriculture is particularly important, additional information on the size (area) of the agricultural holding and the numbers of livestock by type may also be collected in the population census.

Where aquacultural production is important at the household level, information can also be collected on whether any member of the household is engaged in any form of own-account aquacultural production activities.

Agricultural production activities refer to Groups 011,012 and 013 of ISIC (Rev 3.1) namely:

- Group 011: Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture.
- Group 012: Farming of animals.
- Group 013: Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming).

Aquacultural production activities refer to Class 0502 of ISIC (Rev 3.1), namely:

- Class 0502: Aquaculture

An own-account worker in agricultural production (agricultural holder) is a person who is working on his/her own account (self-employed), or with one or more partners, and where that person has overall responsibility for the management of the agricultural production unit.

Individual person data (all economically active persons):

CHARACTERISTICS OF ALL AGRICULTURAL JOBS DURING THE LAST YEAR (non core topic)

The population census normally collects employment data in respect of a person's main activity during a short reference period, which may not cover all persons working in agriculture because of the seasonality of many agricultural activities. To overcome this problem, information should be collected for all economically active persons on all agricultural jobs carried out during the year preceding the population census day. The information to be collected should normally be limited to occupation and status of employment, but can be expanded to identify main or secondary occupation and time worked.

Information on occupation and status in employment of all agricultural jobs can be used as an alternative way of identifying households engaged in own-account agricultural production activities (topic reference code), for use as a frame for an agricultural census. It can also provide additional data for agriculture-related analysis of the population census.

Where aquacultural production is important in a country, an additional topic on occupation and status in employment of all aquacultural jobs, carried out during the year preceding the population census day, can also be included and expanded to identify main or secondary occupation and time worked, as required.

An agricultural job is defined as a job in the agricultural industry as defined by Groups 011,012 and 013 of ISIC (Rev 3.1); namely:

- Group 011: Growing of crops; market gardening; horticulture.
- Group 012: Farming of animals.
- Group 013: Growing of crops combined with farming of animals (mixed farming).

An aquacultural job is defined as a job in the aquacultural industry as defined by Class 0502: Aquaculture of ISIC (Rev 3.1).