

## **1. General Background on the Census**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Department of Statistics (DoS) has carried out the Sixth Agricultural Census in Jordan in 2007 for the agricultural season 2006/2007. The agricultural Census has significant importance because it provides comprehensive data on the characteristics of the agricultural sector, by administrative divisions at various levels which provides updated and integrated frame for different agricultural sample surveys for the years that follow the census. The agricultural census is a large-scale statistical process implemented by the Government to collect quantitative information on the composition of the agricultural sector (structure of the agricultural sector), using the agricultural holding as the enumeration unit. The census process covers all areas of the Kingdom within a complete agricultural year.

### **1.2 Census Objectives**

The Agricultural Census is intended to provide updated and comprehensive frame for the purposes of annual and quarterly agricultural statistical surveys concerning the crops and livestock sectors. It also provides statistical data at small administrative units. The census provides also comprehensive and detailed data on various aspects of the agricultural sector to serve the planners in the public and private sectors. In addition to providing any shortage in certain types of agricultural data to meet the needs of users in various fields.

### **1.3 Census Coverage**

The Agricultural Census of 2007 covers any holder who owns one dunum or more of agricultural land, or any protected area, or more than ten heads of sheep, or ten goats, or both, or one or more of the female cattle, or one camel or more, or five beehives or more, thirty or more domestic poultry, or organized farm (such as cattle and poultry farms.... and others).

## **2. Census Preparatory Stage**

### **2.1 Preparatory Works**

The preparatory stage took a period exceeded fifteen months due to the large number and variety of activities. A permanent administration for the census was identified and the organizational structure was adopted. The main activities of this stage were the formation of specialized committees for managing all census stages. The Preparatory Committee, the Technical Committee and the Higher Ministerial Committee were formed. These committees have agreed to set up coordination committees in the governorates and districts, headed by the Administrator Governor. During the preparatory stage, the Media Committee was formed.

The geographic preparation process was carried out during the preparatory stage, where the field teams have enumerated all population localities and re-fixing the necessary signs on the borders of localities and within it, in addition to updating the buildings and housing units frame in terms of deletions and additions. Tens of trained personnel have participated in this process over the span of seven months from September 2006 until the end of March 2007.

## **2.2 Census Main Documents**

The Agricultural Census included the following documents:

### **1. Agricultural Holdings Register**

The agricultural holdings enumeration was performed through visits to all households in the Kingdom to identify those individuals that conditions of the agricultural holder apply to them. The register was designed electronically using the hand-held devices (PDAs) to include the names of all heads of household whether these households were agricultural or non-agricultural.

### **2. Census and the Post Enumeration Questionnaires**

The Census questionnaire included the identification data concerning the location of the holder, the holding and its parcels, as well as demographic data on the holder, workers by type, sex and nationality, main water sources of the crops holding, land use, crops data, number of livestock according to breed, sex and age group. The questionnaire also included data on the types of organized farms, domestic poultry, bees, fish, information on the number and types of machines and equipment used in the holding, in addition to the numbers and areas of all buildings and structures built on the holding and agricultural applications. The post enumeration questionnaire also contained some of the main items mentioned in the census questionnaire.

### **3. Instructions' Manual of the Census**

The instructions manual of the agricultural Census included the census objectives and methodology, all the necessary terms and definitions, identification of the duties and responsibilities of all census personnel and instructions to complete and edit the agricultural holdings register and the census questionnaire.

## **2.3 Census Staff**

The staff that have participated in the administrative and fieldwork of the census such as the administrative staff, the technical support staff, coordinators, inspectors, counterparts, supervisors, enumerators, the technical support teams as well as the drivers and support services staff have been organized.

Therefore, the Agricultural Census Administration began to mobilize the necessary manpower for implementation of the geographic preparation stage of the enumeration areas as of the beginning of October 2006. This process lasted till end of March 2007. The total number of participating staff was about 850 employees. In view of the large numbers of participating staff in the census and for hiring qualified enumerators, a two-stage training plan was set up, the first for training the administrative staff of the census, and the second for training the supervisors and enumerators.

## **2.4 Media Plan**

A comprehensive awareness media plan was prepared to aware the public and data users. Its objectives were to highlight the goals of the census, importance of the statistical data, to hence confidence between public in general and agricultural holders in particular with the staff responsible for census implementation and for effective responding. Many governmental and private institutions such as the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and the press took part in the campaign.

## **2.5 The Central Operations Room**

The Operations Room was equipped with the necessary maps, direct telephone lines, computer sets and Internet lines to facilitate communication between the central operations room staff and the enumeration centers. Specialized technical staff was assigned to respond to technical questions and queries from the public, and to receive information on completion of daily work and to pass all the remarks, technical and administrative clarifications to all census coordinators and inspectors in the governorates and districts of the Kingdom.

## **2.6 Census Pre-Test**

A group of field teams conducted a pre-test in all areas of the Jordan Valley and highlands of the governorate of Karak for a period of 14 days during April 2007. The goal of this step was to test the questionnaire, the register, the time required to collect data, estimate the number of field personnel required in the actual count stage, testing and use of the agricultural census electronic system and effectiveness of the hand-held devices (PDAs).

## **3. Enumeration Stage**

In view of the peculiarity of the organized agricultural units in the Jordan Valley, the technical committee has decided to obtain the data by visiting the agricultural unit at site. The census methodology provided that the statistical enumerator should visit each housing unit within his work area to obtain the required data. Work in the counting stage has begun on the beginning of June 2007 and continued until the end of September 2007.

#### **4. Data-Processing Stage**

The Technical Support Team used to transfer the data from hand-held devices (PDAs) to computers daily in the counting centers and then transferred electronically to the database in the Department of Statistics (DoS). The data used to be stored on CD-ROMs as well as on the hard disk during the counting period to ensure its preservation. Editing of the data received from the counting centers was performed through use of computers under supervision of specialized technical personnel from the Census Administration.

#### **5. Tabulation Stage**

Technical personnel from the census administration have prepared the data tabulation plan within the preparatory stage after approving the questionnaire in its final form. The information technology (IT) directorate has been provided with this plan in order to design the programs for extracting the results. These programs were tested on the pre-test questionnaire.

After completion of all electronic preparation processes, the tables began to be extracted. The concerned personnel have edited the output tables in terms of consistency and logicity of results and carrying out the necessary comparisons. The tables were also checked in relation to form and language prior to approval in its final form.