



AGRICULTURE CENSUS:  
CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS  
*FAO SESSION 2*

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Holding – commercial and household holdings
- Household
- Farm Household - Linked PHC-AC concepts
  
- **NOT NEEDED FOR LINKED PHC-AC**
- Holder
- Parcel, plot, field
- Reference period – census year/census day
- Cut off limits





“An **agricultural holding** is an economic unit of **agricultural production** under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. **Single management** may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. The holding’s land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels **share the same production means**, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals.” *FAO World Census of Agriculture Programme 2020, para 6.2*



*...an **economic unit of agricultural production** under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size.....*

- Produces agricultural products under ISIC 4.0: Section A – Division 1: Groups 011 Growing of non perennial crops; Group 012 Growing of perennial crops; Group 013 Plant propagation; Group 014 Animal production; Group 015 Mixed farming
- Does not include agricultural services with no production: e.g. milk processing off farm with no production; tractor rental
- Agriculture census sometimes extended to aquaculture, forestry, fisheries although not agriculture holdings
- Includes production for own consumption & for sale



*“.....**Single management** may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. ...*

- Management is key NOT ownership of the land
  - Land rented for fee or share of crops- land owner not managing holding
- Management by physical person / corporation, government etc.
- Management: 1 person, jointly by 2+ persons – in same household – or – in different households
  - E.g. Husband-Wife – joint management (WCA 2010 introduced)
  - E.g. Father – Son – living in different households – joint management



.....The holding's land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels **share the same production means**, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals.....

- Land can be split into separate parcels
- These may be in the same village or in different villages
  - To be considered the same holding must share the same production means (and be under the same management)
  - So land parcels which are far away from each other difficult to share production means
- In practice often considered to be within a single administrative unit, such as a district or province (lowest tabulation level)



Example 1: Mrs A owns three plots in Cassala with an area of 2.5 ha and lives in Khartoum. Mr.Y lives on the farm (Z) and works on Ms.A's land as sharecropper. Mr.Y is also a breeder and he makes all the decisions concerning the plots and the animals. He has 5 sheep and 15 hens, part of which belongs to Mrs.A. The farm is managed by Mr.Y. The animals are assigned to the farm.

Example 2: Mr B cultivates wheat on his plot of 2 ha and has 12 goats and 30 hens. At the same time, Mr. B. is the manager of a 5 ha parcel owned by his cousin Mr C who lives in Cassala and who makes the main decisions regarding the use of the said parcel. There are 2 farms: Farm 1 of Mr. B (where the operator is Mr. B). Farm 2 of his cousin Mr C (the farm manager is Mr. B but holder/operator is his cousin Mr C) .





Example 3: Mr D cultivates his land (2 plots) with sorghum and breeds 5 cattle on his land. In addition, he takes care of the land of his wife's family (3 plots of 2 ha), belonging to his wife and his two brothers who live abroad. Mr D is the only one to make decisions and he is paid in kind (part of the harvest). There is one farm which consists of Mr D's 2 plots and his wife and family's 3 plots.

Example 4: Mr L works the land of his wife's family in joint possession with her family (3 plots of 2.4 ha against part of the harvest) and raises for his own account 5 cows, 15 goats and 60 hens. He and his wife make all the decisions. There is one single farm (the holder is a joint holder Mr L and Mrs L).



“The concept of household is based on the arrangements made by persons, individually or in groups, for providing themselves with food or other essentials for living. A household may be either (a) a **one person household**, that is to say, a person who makes provision for his or her own food or other essentials for living without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household, or (b) a **multi-person household**, that is to say, a group of two or more persons living together who make **common provision for food or other essentials for living**. The persons in the group may pool their resources and may have a common budget; they may be related or unrelated persons, or constitute a combination of persons both related and unrelated” (UN Principles and Recommendations....Rev 3., paragraph 2.33)

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- House keeping concepts used not dwelling concept
  - De jure (usually resident) and de facto (in place)



## **NOT A CONCEPT IDENTIFIED IN A POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**

***The agricultural holder*** is defined as the civil person, group of civil persons or juridical person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation. The agricultural holder has technical and economic responsibility for the holding and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day to day work management to a hired manager. WCA para 6.17

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- Person/Persons major decisions on resource use and exercising management control over the agricultural holding operations
    - Individual/2+ individuals (joint holders); juridical person
  - Holder may do other non-farm work, farming may be secondary occupation
  - Hired manager is not a holder – not applicable in household farms



## Not collected in Population Census

FAO WCA Item 0103 Legal Status

- Non-household sector/commercial farms: Corporations, co-operatives, government institutions.
- Also tribes, clans, private schools and religious institutions



## Collected in Population Census

Household sector (often majority)

- Households with **own account agriculture**
- Excludes those who are only agricultural labourers





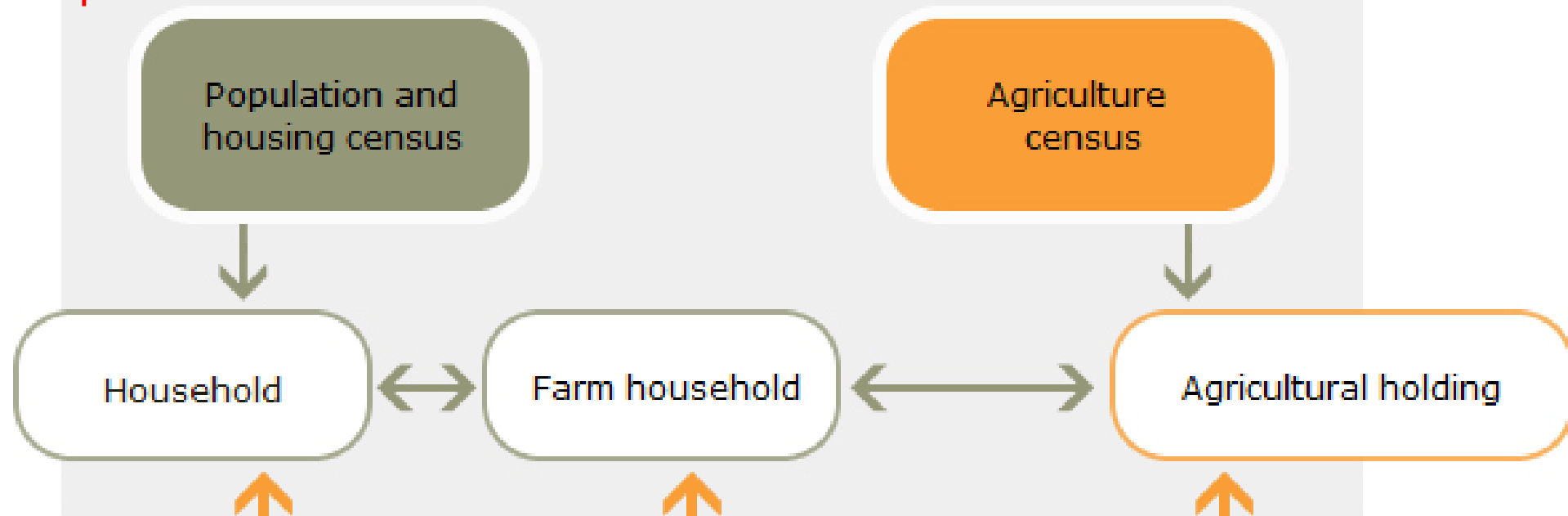
## Common concept Population Census and Agriculture Census

*One conceptual 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 economic unit of agricultural production, while the units of enumeration in the population census are the **household** and the individual within the household. In many developing countries, however, there is **usually a one-to-one relationship between households with own-account agricultural production and agricultural holdings**. In these cases the **same unit is enumerated** in both types of censuses. For countries where most agricultural production activities are carried out by households (that is in the household sector), establishing **links between the two censuses is particularly relevant**. UN Principles and Recommendations, para 1.45*

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- Household sector large share of agricultural production in developing countries
  - One to one relationship between agricultural holding and household with own-account production
  - Both Agricultural Census and PHC collect data from same unit – the household
  - Therefore agriculture questions can be collected in PHC



Unit identified in Population Census is the Farm Household



One of the units of enumeration of the population and housing census is the **household**.

A subset of households are also **farm households** - that is, households with own-account agricultural production (either for sale or own consumption).

The unit of enumeration of the agriculture census is the **holding**.



In order to identify holdings, the **entry point during enumeration is the farm household.**

There is often a **one-to-one match between farm households and holdings.** However, where the management arrangements are more complex (i.e. where one household manages more than one holding, or more than one household manages one holding), the farm household is not equivalent to the holding.





Q1. Did this household operate any land for agricultural purposes during the last agricultural year?  
(or Has any member of this household operated any land for agricultural purposes during the last agricultural year?)

Yes  1 → Q2 or Q3

No  2 → Q4

Q2. What is the total area of all the land used for agricultural purposes? (if area is known)

Local units .....

ha .....

Q4. Is any member of this household now raising any livestock?  
(or Has any member of this household raised any livestock during the last agricultural year?)

Yes  1

No  2

Q5. Is any member of this household engaged in fishing or aquaculture or..?  
(or Has any member of this household engaged in fishing or aquaculture or...during the last agricultural year?) [WHERE RELEVANT, ESPECIALLY IN SMALL ISLAND COUNTRIES]

Yes  1

No  2

### Basic items (Household Level)

1: Whether the household is engaged in any form of own-account agriculture production

2: Measure of farm size, such as the area of land (or number of plots) used for agricultural production purposes, and the number of livestock

- The list from the Population Census is start of frame for household sector of agricultural census
- Reference year last 12 months



## Countries from Africa Region including Agriculture Questions in PHC

- In 2010 round of censuses 7 out of 22 (33%) of censuses in Africa region included questions in the Population and Housing Census to obtain the list of household farms
- Including countries with similar structure of agriculture and households to Sudan
  - Burkina Faso
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Niger
  - Cabo Verde
  - Mauritius
  - Seychelles



### Concept Not applied to Population Census



**Parcel** is any piece of land of one land tenure entirely surrounded by other land, water, road, forest or other features not forming part of the holding, or forming part of the holding under a different land tenure type. A parcel may consist of one or more fields or plots adjacent to each other

- Not always same as cadastral
- Census reference day

- **Field** is a piece of land in a parcel separated from the rest of the parcel by easily recognizable demarcation lines, such as paths, cadastral boundaries, fences, waterways or hedges. A field may consist of one or more plots.

- **Plot** is a part or whole of a field on which a specific crop or crop mixture is cultivated, or which is fallow or waiting to be planted



## Concept Not applied to Population Census

- Holding identified by whether it is an agricultural production unit at the time of the agricultural census
  - Seasonality is covered by asking whether it grew crops or livestock over the last 12 months
- Reference year - period of twelve months, usually either a calendar year or an agricultural year
- Reference day - used for livestock numbers and other inventory items
- Reference year and Reference day are **not** applied in the agricultural items in the Population Census
  - To identify farm households only need to ask if farm household was in operation in the last 12 months



## Concept Not applied to Population Census

- Minimum threshold for size of farm to be included in census
  - Number of very small holdings making little contribution to total production
- Set by countries based on land area; number livestock; produced for market; value

### HOWEVER

- Agriculture Census aims to be inclusive as possible
- Small scale holdings important for household food supplies/supplementary household income
- Womens participation in agriculture more concentrated in small holdings
- Often in Agriculture Census some minimum questions asked to all farm households and a more detailed questionnaire to those over the threshold
- Population census asks minimum questions to all households. Does not attempt to apply thresholds

## References

[E Learning: Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agricultural Censuses \(fao.org\)](https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=184)

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=184>

[Guidelines for Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agricultural Censuses \(fao.org\)](http://www.fao.org/3/i2680e/i2680e00.htm)

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[http://www.fao.org/world-census-](http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wcarounds/wca2020/ar/)

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