

CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

INTRODUCTION

For better appreciation of census data it is most important that the data user understands and becomes thoroughly familiar with the concepts and definitions used in the census of Agriculture some of the concepts and definitions along with illustrations are given below.

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

An Agricultural Census is a large scale, periodic government sponsored operation for the collection and derivation of quantitative information about nations agriculture, using the agricultural holding as the statistical unit.

CENSUS UNIT

Census units are the units listed in the pre-listing form F 1 at the Census of Population and Housing 1981. Three types of units were listed:

- (1) Housing unit has been defined as a place of residence -
 - (a) where there are walls or partitions separating it so that persons occupying it can live separately from other persons in the building or locality and
 - (b) which has independent access i.e. it has a separate entrance so that the occupants can enter and leave without passing through anybody else living quarters.
- (2) Living quarters other than housing units This is a building or group of buildings where a number of persons, generally not related, reside under the supervision of a central authority eg. Convent schools, hostels, hospitals, police barracks, boarding houses etc.
- (3) Non-housing unit
Every building or part of a building which is not a place of residence and does not form part of a housing unit is regarded as a non-housing unit eg. office, petrol shed.

HOUSEHOLD

A household may be (I) a one person household or (II) a multi-person household.

A one person household is one where a person lives by himself and makes separate provision for his food (either looking it himself or purchasing it).

A multi-person household is one in which a group of 2 or more persons live together and have common arrangements for cooking and partaking of food (in short, living and eating together). The household includes not only members of the family such as father, mother and children but also, others who live with the family and share meals with them such as relatives, boarders and servants. The members of the household could be unrelated.

In case of lodgers living with the household and having their own arrangements for meals, each lodger should be treated as a separate household. But boarders who share meals should be treated as members of the household.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATOR

An agricultural operator is the person responsible for operating the agricultural land and or livestock. He may carry out the agricultural operations by himself or with the assistance of others or simply direct day to day operations.

This means that a person may attend to all the work needed to cultivate a land or tend livestock but will not be considered the operator if there is some one else directing day to day work on the holding. It also means that a person may supervise the work in a holding appearing for all purposes to be in charge of the operation of the holding but if there is someone else who is giving day to day directions, he does not become the operator.

The operator may himself cultivate the land and/or tend the livestock. He may do so with the assistance of labour hired or otherwise or he may not do any physical labour at all but only direct day to day operation on the holding. It is important to note that the operator need not necessarily be the owner of land or livestock and also that mere ownership does not entitle a person to be considered as an operator.

In respect of livestock any person who is actually responsible for the management of livestock in the same way that a land operator is responsible for his holding will be considered the operator. The livestock may be owned, obtained on "Ande" or lease or any other arrangement. While most livestock operators will also be land operators, there would be cases of livestock operators who are not land operators and therefore have no land holdings.

The term agricultural operator includes both land operator as well as purely livestock or poultry operator.

The enumerator was instructed to take all these points into consideration and decide who the operator of a holding is. In case of doubt then he was advised to decide in favour of the person on the spot rather than some one who is far away. While most of the operators will have only one holding there will be cases of one operator having more than one holding. Some examples of one operator having one holding or more than one holding are given below:

1. One Operator - one holding

Example 1:

Karunaratne Operates following lands:

- a) His home garden of 1 Rood consisting of several coconut trees and some other highland crops.
- b) A highland of 1 Acre and 2 Roods belonging to him but situated away from his home garden, where he has planted coconut.
- c) A paddy land adjoining to this highland 3 Roods in extent which he cultivates under "Ande" system.
- d) Another paddy land of 1 Acre which is his wife's dowry situated in another village.

Here the operator Karunaratna has only one holding of total extent 3½ acres.

Example II

Perera is the Superintendent appointed by a private institution, to manage the large poultry farm. He does not have any other agricultural activities on his own or with someone else.

He is the operator of this poultry holding.

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2. **One operator with more than one holding.**

Example III

- a) Jayasuriya is looking after a coconut parcel of extent 18 Acres which belong to some one in Colombo. He receives a monthly salary from the owner and he looks after the day to day work.
- b) Jayasuriya again cultivates on "his own" a paddy land which he obtained under a lease, the management of this being entirely different from the coconut holding which he looks after.

Now Jayasuriya is the operator for two holdings.

Example IV

- a) Ran Banda operates a highland of 1 Acre and 2 Roods on his own.
- b) Again he cultivates a chena land of extent 3 Acres, jointly with Wijedasa who lives separately. This land belongs to the Crown, but they cultivate illicitly.

Here Ran Banda is the operator of highland holding as well as the joint operator of the chena.

OPERATIONAL STATUS is categorised into four classes:

1. **Operation on own account**

If the operator bears by himself the full economic responsibility and does not share this with anybody else nor is he answerable to any other person or institution, then he is operating "on own account". He may or may not employ labour and have family members to help him. Refer to the example 1 of 3.5 Here Karunaratna operates all that land "on own account".

2. **For an Institution**

In this case the operator manages the operation of the holding on behalf of an institution, such as a private company, or government or semi government organization.

Refer to the example 11, where Perera is the Operator of the poultry farm "for an institution".

3. **For a private person.**

Here the operator manages the operation of the holding for an individual and not for an institution. The operators managing land and/or livestock on behalf of owners living in the same place or away will come under this category.

Refer to the example III. (a) where Jayasuriya is the operator of the Coconut holding in the capacity of "for a private person".

4. **Operating in partnership**

Here he operates the holding jointly with others and shares the responsibility including management with one or more person. Refer to the example IV (b). Ran Banda operates the chena "in partnership" with Wijedasa.

Please note that a single agricultural operator could have more than one operational status, as in the example of III and IV. In example III Jayasuriya is the operator "For a private person" as

well as an operator "on own account". In example IV Ran Banda is the operator of the Highland "on own account" and also a joint operator "In partnership".

AGRICULTURAL HOLDING

An agricultural holding consists of all lands and/or livestock used wholly or partly for agricultural production irrespective of title, size legal form or location and is operated under one operational status.

This means that it does not matter whether the land is one parcel or is composed of more than one parcel, whether the parcels are scattered and where they are located, whether in the same G.S. Division or not.

This also means that it does not matter whether the land is owned or not, whether the land is legally operated or not.

The requirements for considering it as a holding is only that it should be under one management and under one operational status.

Please note that an agricultural holding may be a purely land holding, land and livestock holding or purely a livestock holding.

PARCEL

A parcel of the holding is any piece of land entirely surrounded by land, water, road, forest etc. not belonging to the same holding. It may consist of one or more fields adjoining to each other. But should be under the same tenureship. In the example of 1.a of section 3.5 the paddy land is adjoining to the highland but is owned by some one else and has a different tenureship here the paddy land is to be treated as a separate parcel. In this example there are altogether 4 parcels.

Note that neither the crops grown on a land, nor the type of land has any bearing in determining a parcel. If a piece of highland of a holding adjoins an asweddumized paddy land belonging to the same holding that is having common boundary that piece of highland and asweddumized paddy land together will form one parcel.

TOTAL AREA OF HOLDING

The total area of the holding is the combined area of all its parcels. It includes the area owned and operated, area rented from others and area operated under other forms of land tenure. It will however exclude the area owned but rented to others.

In the example 1 of section 3.5 the total area of the holding is 3 Acres and 2 Roods.

The total area of the holding includes cultivated and uncultivated land. Example:- Suppose an operator owns a highland of 2 Acres but cultivates only, 3 Roods due to lack of water then the total area of the holding is 2 acres.

The holding comprises the land occupied by the farm house, farm yard and farmstead. If the house of the holder is used solely for residential purposes and is located off the holding say in a residential area of a village or town nearby - the land area of the house should not be included in the total area of the holding.

HOME GARDEN

1. A piece of land which has a dwelling house and having some form of cultivation can be considered as home garden if the total area of that piece of land is twenty or less than twenty perches.

2. A piece of land which has a dwelling house and having some form of cultivation, the total area of which is more than twenty perches can also be considered as home garden if the following two conditions are satisfied.

- (a) It is mainly meant for residential purposes.
- (b) The produce of the cultivated land in the home garden is largely for home consumption

"Having some form of cultivation" will mean any cultivation for agricultural production and will include even one coconut palm or arecanut palm if they are not too old to bear, or a couple of chili plants etc. However, flower plants, wild trees unproductive bushes will not be treated as cultivation for agricultural production.

Examples for Home Garden

- (a) A land of extent of 20 perches or less has a dwelling house and a few bearing coconut trees.
- (b) A land of 20 perches or less, has a dwelling house and having extensive cultivation mainly for commercial purposes.

By definition (1) this land becomes a home garden.

- (c) A two acre land has a dwelling house. Although the extent covered by the house is comparatively small, due to the low quantity of the land, few crops grown, are mainly for home consumption.

According to definition (2) this land is also a home garden.

- (d) A small house has been built in an area of two roods. But the usable land has been intensively cultivated with vegetable crops which are mainly for sale.

Although this land has a dwelling house and also the extent is small as the produce from the land is not mainly for home consumption, it will not be treated as a home garden.

LAND OWNED

Land owned for the purpose of the census means both land legally owned which would be the land over which the holder possesses title of ownership and consequently the right to determine to what use it should be put to as well as the right for transfer and land held in ownerlike possession.

Land is said to be in ownerlike possession when the holder operates it in a ownerlike way even though he does not possess the title of ownership.

Some examples of ownerlike possession are:

1. Land operated under perpetual lease, hereditary tenure and under long term leases ranging from 30 to 40 years.
2. Land which without legal title of ownership nor of a long term lease, has been peacefully and uninterruptedly operated by the holder for a period of 30 years without payment of rent.
3. Land owned by wife but operated by the husband who also is the operator. This land should be considered owned by the operator in ownerlike possession. A similar case may arise where lands are owned by minors.

AGRICULTURAL WORK

By agricultural work is meant any farm work necessary for the operation of agricultural holding. It will include the physical work of carrying out the various operations on the farm as well as

other work such as planning of farm work, keeping of farm accounts. It will also include work done outside the holding but necessary for the operation of the holding such as bringing of fertilizer and other farm necessities to the holding, taking produce to market etc., work related to the operation of the home and construction work done on contract will not be included.

For purposes of 4.1 of AC 3 agricultural work include agriculture labour done by the operator in other holdings also.

REFERENCE PERIODS OR DATES

In answering the several questions in the schedules the following reference periods or dates should be adhered to:

Items	Reference Date or Period
1. Operational status	1.7.82
2. Area under paddy and all temporary crops	1.7.81 - 30.6.82
3. Area under permanent crops	Date of Enumeration
4. Livestock and poultry	1.7.82
5. Irrigation: a) Extent b) Units	1.7.81 - 30.6.82 1.7.82
6. Agricultural machinery and implements a) number owned b) used	1.7.81 - 30.6.82 30.6.82