



# 2013 Cambodian Agriculture Census

## Background

Despite the importance of the agriculture sector in the Kingdom of Cambodia, no census of agriculture has ever been undertaken. No good frameworks exist for designing and conducting the agricultural surveys that are currently being undertaken and the data to be used as benchmarks is unavailable. Consequently, the agricultural statistical information from the current data collection is out of date, unreliable and incomplete. This situation undermines evidence-based planning and policy-making related to agricultural development and food security.

For this reason, the Royal Government of Cambodia has requested FAO's assistance to conduct the first ever agricultural census in the country in order to close the information gap and lay the foundations for future reliable surveys.

In response, FAO helped the Royal Government of Cambodia to formulate a project to prepare and implement a census that will be funded by the RGC and three development partners: USAID, AusAID and Sweden. FAO will provide support for the preparatory work through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

## Census outcome and scope

The main outcome of the census is that decision makers including the Government, Development Partners, NGOs and other users, will be able to access detailed, reliable and up-to date data on the agriculture sector.

A second outcome is increased capacity within the National Institute for Statistics of the Ministry of Planning (NIS-MoP) and the Department of Planning and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DPS-MAFF) to update the data carry out technically sound intra-censal surveys.

In order to accomplish this, the project will deliver the following outputs:

1. A strengthened agricultural statistics system and institutions (NIS-MoP, DPS-MAFF), with staff at all levels trained of producing regularly data of high quality required by the agricultural sector;
2. Detailed, accurate and up-to-date statistical information on the situation and structure of the agricultural sector at the lowest administrative units in Cambodia;
3. A sampling frame for agricultural surveys to be conducted after the census.

The 2013 Agriculture Census includes the following key areas:

- Characteristics of the agricultural holdings: area, location, main land use, land tenure, number of parcels, crops planted, area planted, etc.
- Agricultural practices and agricultural services
- Characteristics of the agricultural holder's household
- Use of hired labour
- Characteristics of livestock activities
- Characteristics of aquaculture activities
- Village information including topography, soil type, available equipment, facilities.





The census covers all rural and urban areas in the 23 provinces and selected areas in Phnom Penh.

### Census implementation

During the course of the census preparations in May 2012 to March 2013, the subsectors to be included in the census were identified, the questionnaires prepared, and the staff of NIS-MoP and DPD-MAFF trained. The enumerators and supervisors were also identified and trained based on the census manuals specifically prepared and designed for Cambodia. The questionnaires were tested repeatedly in different agro-ecological zones to ensure the clarity of the questions and the understanding of respondents. A pilot census was carried out in December 2012 to test the entire census process.

The first round of field work for the full census is scheduled to begin in April to May 2013 and last for 45 days. The second round of the census is scheduled to start in August to September and last for 22 days. This 2013 census, will required some 3 500 enumerators and 500 supervisors to implement the field work which consists of surveying all households in the country (with the exception of purely urban areas in Phnom Penh) to identify those involved in agricultural activities (estimated to be about 2.7 million). Each of these will be interviewed using a core module questionnaire.

Some weeks later, about five percent of households will be interviewed again and asked more specific questions based on one or several of five supplementary module questionnaires.

Following the field work, the encoding of the answers, quality control of the information, editing and tabulation will be undertaken. Several technical thematic papers will then be prepared followed by a detailed analysis of the results. At the same time, NIS-MoP and DPS-MAFF staff will be trained to build further capacity to interpret the data and to carry out additional surveys to complement and build on the census. The final publication of the census results is expected towards the middle of 2015.

### Funding and partnership

The total estimated budget for the 2013 Agriculture Census is USD 5.5 million, of which USD 1.4 million has been earmarked by the Royal Government of Cambodia. Three donors, USAID, AusAID and Sweden, have also generously committed their support (approximately USD 1.5 million, USD 1 million and USD 1.2 million, respectively). Through its Technical Cooperation Programme, FAO has supported the preparatory work with technical expertise and material input worth USD 369 000.

The census is under the overall responsibility of the NIS-MoP. Given the technical nature of the survey, the census will be implemented jointly by NIS-MoP and the DPS-MAFF. Technical supervision and support is provided by the Country Statistical Service of the Statistical Division of FAO headquarters and the Senior Statistician of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The FAO Representative in Cambodia has the overall supervision of the project.

