

## **Census Innovations: Integrating the Population and Housing Census with the Agricultural Census**

Nancy Chin, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome Italy\*  
[nancy.chin@fao.org](mailto:nancy.chin@fao.org)

Many national statistical systems in developing countries face problems in finding adequate resources for censuses and other data collections. There is also an increasing demand to reduce the cost of data collections and provide more frequent and timely data. Many countries in all regions, but particularly in small island developing states, already include some questions on agriculture in their population censuses. However, this is often ad hoc and does not provide adequate information about the structure of agriculture for use by the ministries of agriculture, nor realize other benefits of coordination such as reduced cost and development of a reliable sample frame for agricultural surveys are often not realized.

The paper will look at the recommendations of the FAO/UNFPA Guidelines for Linking Population and Housing Censuses with Agricultural Censuses and how integration has been achieved in practice during the 2010 round of population censuses, using case studies from countries. It will cover the areas of integration relevant to census data collection: items recommended, common definitions, development of a module for the population census questionnaire, approaches to integration and various considerations for the field work

**Key words:** questionnaire design, data collection, official statistics, agriculture