

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The Agricultural Census is conducted to meet the information needs of planning for the development of agriculture in India. This Census has been conducted at five-yearly intervals, commencing from 1970-71. The Census is followed by an Input Survey. So far, this Department has completed five Agricultural Censuses. The results of the Sixth Agricultural Census with reference year 1995-96, have been finalised. The Seventh Agricultural Census with reference year 2000-01, followed by an Input Survey with reference year 2001-02, is about to be completed. The preparatory work for the next Agricultural Census with reference year 2005-06, has also been initiated.

22.2 Through the Agricultural Census, data is generated using 'Operational Holding' as the unit of study. The data is compiled according to size-classes and size-groups (marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large) of holdings, social-group (SC, ST and Others) of the holder, type (Individual, Joint and Institutional) and gender of holder (Male and Female). The data collected through the Agricultural Census throws light on the structural changes in Indian agriculture brought about by socio-economic and technological factors. The data includes information on number and area of operational holdings, land utilisation, tenancy pattern, cropping pattern and irrigation status. Through the Input Survey, data is collected on the use of vital agricultural inputs like use of fertilisers, manures, pesticides, agricultural machinery and equipment, livestock and agricultural credit.

22.3 **Financing of the Scheme:** The expenditure on the Agricultural Census is met from a centrally-sponsored plan scheme under which full financial assistance is given to the states/UTs for payment of salaries to staff allowed for the purpose, the related office expenses, travel expenses, honorarium and tabulation cost, printing of schedules and instructions, etc.

22.4 The targets fixed for the year 2006-07 are as follows:

- To conduct the field work of Agricultural Census 2005-06
- To initiate the process for Input Survey 2006-07
- Release of funds during 2006-07
- To finalise the results of Agricultural Census 2000-01 at all-India level.
- To process the result of Input Survey 2001-02.

22.5 The achievements made during the year 2006-07 are as follows:

- The results of Agricultural Census 2000-01 on number and area of holdings has been finalised in the states/UTs and the Tables 2-4 for different parameters are expected to be finalised shortly.
- Generation of output results of Input Survey 2001-02 is in progress in most of the states and UTs. Tables 1-10 have been generated in the case of 13 states/UTs.; and in the remaining states, the work is being expedited.
- The field work for data collection for the next Agricultural Census with reference year 2005-06 has been taken up in most of the states and UTs.

- Required funds during 2006-07 have been released to states and UTs.

22.6 **Programmes for North-Eastern States:** The details of the programme being executed in the North-Eastern states are indicated in **Annexure – 22.1**.