CHAPTER 2

Concepts, Definitions, Methodology and Scope of Census Data

2.1 Operational Holding
2.1.1 All land which is used wholly or partly for Agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to the title, legal form, size or location.

2.2 Technical Unit
2.2.1 A technical unit has been defined as the unit which is under the same management and has the same means of production such as labour force, machinery, animals, credit etc.

2.3 Agricultural Production
2.3.1 Agricultural production includes growing of field crops including jute, oilseeds, fodder grass, seeds, tree nurseries (except those of forest trees), fruits, vegetables and flowers, plantation crops (coffee, tea, cocoa, rubber), etc.

2.3.2 Grass would be treated as a crop if special efforts are made to raise it.

2.4 DE FACTO Versus DE JURE Position
2.4.1 In most of the States, land records comprising records of the rights, tenancy and crop inspection of each survey number are maintained in various registers/forms by the revenue official, namely, patwaris. In these States, generally Agriculture Census data are compiled on the basis of retabulation approach. The question that arose in adopting this approach was about the reliability of data regarding tenancy particulars, as the de facto position may be different from de jure position. The de facto position related to what was actually the situation on the ground. In order to get reliable data on de facto position, the concerned States undertook updating of records on the eve of the Census to reduce de jure error. However, marginal differences may still exist though the primary workers were generally knowledgeable enough to record accurately the actual situation as far as possible.

2.5 Operated area
2.5.1 Operated area includes both cultivated and uncultivated area, provided part of it is put to Agricultural production during the reference period. If, for instance, an operational holding consists of four survey numbers out of which one survey number is put to non-
Agricultural uses, the total area of the operational holding is equal to the total geographical area of all the four survey numbers.

2.5.2 It would also cover the land occupied by the farm buildings, including the house of the holder, provided such buildings are located within the operated area. If the farms buildings are located outside the cultivated area and are covered under abadi area, such area of buildings are not included under operated area.

2.5.3 Operated area exclude government forest land, government waste land, village common grazing land, abadi area etc. If Government wasteland is allotted to an individual then it is included in the holding.

2.5.4 If the entire area of the holding (the area of all the survey numbers of an operational holding) is put to non-Agriculture use and/or it is under old fallow, it is not considered as operational holding. If, however, the entire area of operational holding is under current fallow during the reference year but was cultivated in the preceding year, this is still considered as operational holding.

2.5.5 In some cases, land is divided amongst all the members of the family. Where it is divided between the husband, wife and minor children and the cultivation is done by the husband as the head of the family, the land may appropriately be treated as one operational holding.

2.5.6 There might be cases where in the records, a holding is shown jointly in the name of more than one co-sharer while in fact the land may have been privately divided and the co-sharers are independently cultivating. In such cases where there is no dispute, they are treated as many operational holdings as the number of independent cultivators. This is because in Agriculture Census the data is collected on the basis of de facto position rather then de jure position.

2.5.7 In some States, in the Zambandi register against a Khata, name of three or four persons are shown. While from the records it appears that there is only one holding, in practice, all the three or four brothers are actually cultivating the land independently of each other although there is no legal partition of land. From the Census point of view, this constituted three or four operational holdings.
2.5.8 Cultivated areas in the State Forests for which no detailed land records are available with the revenue agency, are excluded for Census purposes.

2.5.9 The operated area comprise of:
   i) Land owned and self operated.
   ii) Land leased in
   iii) Land otherwise operated.

2.5.10 **Land owned and self-operated:** Land for which the cultivator has the right to permanent heritable possession is considered as owned. This include:
   i) Land held from Government or others under grant or lease or assignment with right of permanent heritable possession with or without right of transfer
   ii) Land operated under perpetual lease.

Self-operated land include:
   i) Self cultivation
   ii) Land cultivated through members of the family
   iii) Land cultivated with the help of hired labour. Land owned and self operated should not include land leased out to others.

2.5.11 **Leased in:** Area leased in is defined as land taken on lease from others without any permanent right of possession for the lessee. Land may be leased in for:
   i) Fixed money
   ii) Fixed produce
   iii) Share of produce
   iv) Usufructuary mortgage: Ownership of the property remains with the mortgager but the possession is with the mortgagee (i.e. the person to whom the mortgage is made or given). Income from the property accrues to the mortgagee and the mortgage is terminated as soon as the full amount is realized.
   v) Other terms: It includes combination of two or more terms of leasing.

2.5.12 **Area otherwise operated:** This include encroachment, land forcibly occupied, unauthorized or land in dispute etc., which cannot be treated as owned or leased in, as per the definitions given above.
2.6 Operational holder

2.6.1 An Operational holder is the person who has the responsibility for the operation of the Agricultural holding and who exercises the technical initiative and is responsible for its operation. He may have full economic responsibility or may share it with others. The operational holder may be Individual/Joint/Institutional.

i) **Individual**: If the holding is being operated either by one person alone or by group of persons who are the members of the same household it is considered as an individual holding.

ii) **Joint**: If two or more persons belonging to different households, share jointly as partners in the economic and technical responsibility for the operation of an Agricultural holding, such holding are considered as joint.

iii) **Institutional**: Holdings such as government farms, sugarcane factories farms, cooperative farms, lands managed by trust is treated as institutional.

2.7 Resident and Non-resident operational holder

2.7.1 All the cultivators residing in a particular village and cultivating some land within the same tehsil are resident cultivators of that village irrespective of the fact whether they are cultivating land in that village or not. A resident cultivator may, therefore, have: either (i) entire area of the holding located in the village of his residence; or (ii) partly within the village of residence and partly outside; or (iii) entirely outside the village of residence.

2.7.2 An operational holder operating area outside the tehsil in which his village of residence falls, will not be treated as a resident cultivator of the village of his residence for Agriculture Census purposes rather he will be treated as a resident cultivator of that village outside the tehsil where the area falls.

2.7.3 If the area in a particular village is operated by a cultivator who resides outside that village but within the same tehsil, he is a non-resident operational holder for that area. However, if this operational holder is resident of a village lying outside the tehsil in which the area is located, he is treated as a resident operational holder (deemed resident) of the village where the area is located.
2.8 **Complete/Part-Holding**

2.8.1 A holding is said to be complete holding if the entire operated area of that holding is located in one village. If the operated area is spread over more than one village, it is considered as part-holding.

2.8.2 Tehsil/Block is taken as the outer limit for consolidation of part holdings.

2.9 **Wholly Irrigated, Partly Irrigated and Wholly Unirrigated Holdings**

2.9.1 If the entire net area sown in an operational holding is equal to net area irrigated, such holdings are considered as wholly irrigated holding. In case part of the net sown area is irrigated, it is partly irrigated and if the entire sown area has not received any irrigation during the year of reference, such holding are wholly unirrigated.

2.10 **Land Utilization**

2.10.1 Operated area is classified into six broad categories:

i) Net area sown

ii) Current fallow

iii) Fallow land other than current fallow

iv) Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land

v) Culturable waste; and

vi) Not available for cultivation.

2.10.2 **Net area sown**: Total area sown with crops and orchards counting area sown more than once in the same year only once.

2.10.3 **Current fallow**: Cropped area, which are kept fallow during the current year but was cultivated in the previous year. For example with any seedling area is not cropped in the same year, it may be treated as current fallow.

2.10.4 **Fallow land other than current fallow**: All lands, which are taken up for cultivation but are temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years i.e. equal or greater than one year but less than or equal to five years.

2.10.5 **Other uncultivated land excluding fallow**: This include:-

i) **Permanent pastures and other grazing lands**: All grazing lands, whether they are permanent pastures and meadows or not. Village common grazing lands is, however, excluded.

ii) **Land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops**: Cultivable land, which is not included in the net area sown but is put to some Agricultural use. Land under casuarina trees,
thatching grasses, bamboo bushes and other groves for fuel which are not included under `Orchards’, are covered under this category.

2.10.6 **Culturable Waste:** All lands available for cultivation whether not taken up for cultivation or taken up for cultivation once but not cultivated during the current year and the last five years or more in succession for one reason or the other i.e. >5 years in succession. Such lands may be either wholly or partly covered with shrubs and jungles, which are not put to any use. Land once cultivated but not cultivated for five years in succession are also included in this category.

2.10.7 **Not available for cultivation:** This include Forest area under non-Agriculture use, barren and uncultivable land belonging to the operational holder.

i) **Forest:** All lands classed as `Forests’ under any legal enactment dealing with forests or administered as forests whether State owned or private and whether weeded or maintained as potential forest land. The area of crops raised in the forest and grazing land or areas open for grazing within the forests would be included under the forest area. Only private forest is covered for the purpose of Agriculture Census.

ii) **Area under Non-Agricultural Uses:** All lands occupied by buildings or ponds or lands put to use other than agriculture is included in this category. Only such lands within the cultivated holding of operational holder should be covered in the Census.

iii) **Barren and Uncultivable Land:** All barren and uncultivable land within the cultivated holding of the operational holder should be covered in the Census.

2.11 **Methodology adopted for Agriculture Census**

2.11.1 The methodology adopted for carrying out the Agriculture Census for Land Record and non-Land Record States is as follows:-

a) **Land Record States**

i) In States having comprehensive land records, information was collected on complete enumeration basis for all villages by retabulation method from the land records in respect of data on number and area of operational holdings. For collection of data on other characteristics, namely, tenure and tenancy, leased in area, land use, irrigation, area under different crops, etc., 20 percent of the villages selected randomly from each tehsil constituted the basis. In these 20 percent villages, information
relating to the above characteristics were compiled from the relevant khatauni and khasra registers in respect of all the resident cultivators. Resident cultivators of urban areas were also covered. These 20 percent villages were the same as selected under TRS.

ii) In most of the States in India, a fairly comprehensive system of land records consisting of various village forms and registers giving detailed information, on land and its utilisation exists. The current Agricultural statistics, particularly those in respect of cropwise area of individual fields, are collected and cropwise abstracts prepared for the village as a whole for each cropping season. These data are then aggregated at successive levels like patwari circle to revenue inspector circle, to tehsil, district, State and all-India levels. In Agriculture Census, the data available in the village land records, is required to be retabulated for generating information on the holdings. The procedure adopted for retabulation of data in States where retabulation approach is adopted, differs from State to State depending on the land records system followed. By and large, the patwari consults the khasra register and notes down the name of the cultivator against each khasra number and places together the survey number/sub-survey numbers cultivated by the same cultivator. Some of the other existing land records like Khatauni are also used in preparing the list of cultivators. The names of cultivators not owning but operating the land are added with the help of khasra register.

b) Non-Land Records States

i) In States where comprehensive land records do not exist and where the system of crop enumeration on a complete field-to-field basis is not in vogue, sample surveys through household enquiries were conducted to provide information on all the items covered by the Census.

ii) In the non-land records States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep, no village revenue agency exists for collection of crop statistics on a regular basis. In these States and Union Territories, a stratified two-stage sampling, design was followed for Agriculture Census. The development block was generally taken as the stratum. The first stage unit within the stratum was the village and the second stage unit was the operational holding in the sample village. From each stratum, at least 20 percent of
the villages were selected by simple random sampling method. A sample of 25 percent of the operational holdings from each of the categories of the holdings on the basis of circular systematic sampling method and all the holdings from the last two size-classes was selected. Detailed information was collected from these sampled operational holdings. However, for Table-1, that is, Number and Area of Operational Holdings, all the holdings in the sample village were taken for estimation of total number of holdings and area operated.

iii) In smaller States and Union Territories, where comprehensive land records were not available, the information was collected from a larger sample of villages than 20 percent.

iv) In each State/Union Territory referred to above, household enquiry method was adopted for collection of data. All the Agriculture households in selected villages were listed for enquiry. The sample size varied from State to State depending upon the prevalent local conditions.

v) Two different set of schedules which were used to compile the data in Agriculture Census 2005-06 are available in separate manuals for land record States/UTs and non-land record States/UTs.

2.12 Size Classes and Broad Size Groups of Holdings

2.12.1 The data are presented at All India level and for all States and Union Territories in the following size classes and size groups of operational holdings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Classes (in hectares)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>1. Below 0.50</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. 0.50 – 1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>3. 1.00 – 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Semi-Medium</td>
<td>4. 2.00 – 3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. 3.00 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>6. 4.00 – 5.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7. 5.00 – 7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. 7.50 – 10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>9. 10.00 – 20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>10. 20.00 and above</td>
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