FOREWORD

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has been conducting Agriculture Census quinquennially in collaboration with States/Union Territories since 1970-71 as part of the World Agriculture Census programme. ‘Operational holding’ which is distinct from ‘ownership holding’ is taken as basic unit of data collection in Agriculture Census since operational holding is fundamental unit for taking decisions in programmes for agricultural development. The Agriculture Census 2005-06 is the eighth in the series.

Organization of Agriculture Census in a vast country like India, is a voluminous work as it involves collection, compilation and tabulation of data in respect of about 130 million operational holdings spread all over the country. This work necessarily requires sincere effort on part of the functionaries at various levels in States/Union Territories. The cooperation extended by them in completing this voluminous task is gratefully acknowledged. Needless to say that timely completion of the Census is critical for effective use of the available information. The endeavour of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has, therefore, been to complete the Agriculture Census in time. With the publication of this report, a firm ground has been laid for timely completion of the next Census 2010-11.

I would like to appreciate the efforts made by officers and staff of the Agriculture Census Division in this Department for constantly monitoring and providing administrative/technical support to the State Governments in completing Census work. The assistance rendered by National Informatics Centre/DOEACCs in computerizing the Agriculture Census data is also acknowledged.

I hope the information presented in the report would be found useful by policy makers, researchers and students involved in the field of agriculture.

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