

STATISTICAL METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS FOR A NATIONAL SAMPLE CENSUS IN ECUADOR

Víctor Hugo Bucheli and Barbara R. Rater

In order to meet the challenge of providing a benchmark that would serve to nourish a permanent and constant supply of statistical information about its agricultural sector, Ecuador conducted a National Agricultural Census in 2000, its first in nearly 30 years. Conducting a census using the traditional approach of a census by complete enumeration is a time and resource consuming process. Ecuador opted to conduct a national sample census using multiple sampling frame methodology. The questionnaire contained approximately 4,500 variables and yielded over 10 million census data items from its farm operators.

This paper describes the statistical methods and processes used in Ecuador to maximize the value of the census data set and the pivotal role it will play in Ecuador's future economic and social development. Interesting approaches to data summarization will also be discussed.