



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Farm Structure Survey 2004\2005 Press Conference on the Survey Main Findings

September, 2005

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Suggested Citation:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2005. *Farm Structure Survey 2004\2005. Press Conference on the Survey Main Findings.*
Ramallah-Palestine.

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Acknowledgment

The success of PCBS' teams could not be possible without the kind reception and full cooperation of the agricultural holders and their families. PCBS expresses its gratitude to all the agricultural holders and their families and appreciates their commitment to bringing this achievement into light.

Financial support for the Farm Structure Survey, 2004\2005 at the PCBS is being provided by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Core Funding Group (CFG) represented by The Representative Office of Norway to the PNA; The Representative Office of the Netherlands to PNA; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); UK Department for International Development (DFID); The European Commission (EC); and The World Bank (WB).

On this occasion, the PCBS extends special thanks to the Core Funding Group (CFG) for this support.

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Press Release
Main Findings of the Farm Structure Survey, 2004/2005

**69.5% of the Agricultural Holdings in the Palestinian Territory are Plant Holdings,
7.3% are Animal Holdings and 23.2% are Mixed Holdings**
**95.5% of the Agricultural Holders are Males, and 26.1% of the Agricultural Holdings
were Subjected to Losses Due to the Israeli Measures**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is pleased to announce the results of the Farm Structure Survey for the agricultural year 2004/2005, which was conducted during May and June 2005 and according to international recommendations. The agricultural holding was used as the statistical unit for data collection on a sample that was drawn from the database of the Agricultural Holdings Register which was established by PCBS in the fourth quarter 2004. The sample was designed on a scientific basis using the size of the 7,951 agricultural holdings and interviews were completed for 96.3% of the survey sample.

The planning of this survey began long before in order to develop a group of indicators that could give a comprehensive picture of the structure of the agriculture sector in the Palestinian Territory. This information is important in order to provide policy makers and concerned parties with the data needed to develop this vital strategic sector. Information includes demographic properties of the agriculture holders, utilization pattern of agricultural holdings, types of cultivated crops, indicators about agricultural employment, agricultural and irrigation patterns and the impact of Israeli measures on the agricultural sector. This survey will help to increase the harmonization and the complementarity between agricultural data and other related data.

Agricultural Holders:

The results show that the agricultural holders distributed in the Palestinian Territory by region are 89.0% in the West Bank and 11.0% in the Gaza Strip. The results also show that the average age of an agriculture holder in the Palestinian Territory is 50.7 years.

Data show that 95.5% of the agriculture holders in the Palestinian Territory are males, and 25.6% of the holders have a household size greater than 9 persons. Data show that the average size of the holder's household in the Palestinian Territory is about 8 persons.

Most of the agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory are household holdings, and 96.8% of the agricultural holders are the head of household. Regarding educational attainment, the results show that 24.6% of the agricultural holders that work on their holdings in the Palestinian Territory have a preparatory school certificate, and 8.5% have a bachelor's degree.

Agricultural Holdings:

The results show that plant holdings are the most common holding type, with 69.5% of the total number of agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory. The percent of mixed holdings is 23.2% and the percent of animal holdings is 7.3%; this distribution applies to both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As for the percent of plant holdings, it is 68.0% in the West Bank and 81.6% in the Gaza Strip.

Agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory are concentrated in the rural localities with 66.0% located there; the percentage of agricultural holdings in the urban localities is 33.4%

and in camps is 0.6%. The distribution differs at the regional level; the percent of agricultural holdings in the rural localities in the West Bank is 71.2%, versus 23.6% in the Gaza Strip.

The plant and mixed agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory are concentrated in the group of small size holdings of 1-10 dunums, where the percent of plant and mixed agricultural holdings is 59.3%. This is more obvious in the Gaza Strip, where the percent of the plant and mixed agricultural holdings in this group is 78.1%. The average size of the plant and mixed agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory reached 20.0 dunums, and decreases to 9.0 dunums in the Gaza Strip.

Agricultural Crops:

The area of fruit trees comprise the highest percent of the total cultivated area in the Palestinian Territory, reaching 58.7%, followed by the area of field crops with 30.5% and vegetables with 10.8%. The agricultural pattern in the West Bank differs from the Gaza Strip; fruit trees comprise 60.1% of the cultivated area of the West Bank, whereas in the Gaza Strip vegetables are concentrated in 40.5%. This result is due to the seasonal agricultural pattern which depends on irrigation in the Gaza Strip.

Livestock:

Raising more than one type of livestock is the most common practice in the Palestinian Territory, where animal and mixed holdings that breed more than one type of livestock reached 33.9%. This percent increases in the Gaza Strip to 45.5%. This is followed by sheep breeding only where the percent in the West Bank is 27.2% and 17.0% in the Gaza Strip from the total animal and mixed agricultural holdings.

Agricultural Employment:

The result show that 40.1% of the agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory use one permanent employee only in the agricultural holding, where percent of the agricultural holdings which use 6 permanent employee and above in the agricultural holding is 2.6% from the total agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory. Data show that the average number of the permanent employees in the agricultural holding in the Palestinian Territory is 2 agriculture employee.

The results show that 23.2% of the permanent agricultural employment in the Palestinian Territory are concentrated in the age group (30-39) year, where the average age of the permanent agricultural employee in the Palestinian Territory is 41.3 year. Data show that 77.8% of the permanent agricultural employment in the Palestinian Territory are males, where such percent in West Bank reach to 75.7% and in Gaza Strip reach to 92.1% of the total permanent agricultural employment in the Palestinian Territory.

The results show that 48.3% of the permanent agricultural employment in the Palestinian Territory their employment status is unpaid family members, followed by the self-employed with 32.2%, employer 13.9% and employee 5.6% from the total permanent agricultural employment in the Palestinian Territory.

Agricultural Applications:

The results show that the agricultural holdings in the Palestinian Territory use one or more than one type of agricultural applications; 12.2% of plant and mixed holdings in the Palestinian Territory use the biological control, 45.1% use organic fertilizers, 30.0% use the chemical fertilizers and 38.5% use pesticides.

Agricultural Damages Due to Israeli Measures During the Period (28\09\2000-03\05\2005):

The agricultural sector was subject to different kinds of damage from the beginning of the second intifada (Al-Aqsa intifada) to the fourth quarter 2004 due to Israeli measures against this vital sector. The data show that 26.1% of the agricultural holdings were subjected to damage due to Israeli measures in the Palestinian Territory; in the West Bank the percentage is 23.1% and in the Gaza Strip, 50.3%. Plant holdings accounted for 68.4% of the total number of the damaged holdings in the Palestinian Territory, 27.1% were mixed holdings and 4.5% were animal holdings.

Agriculture sector play a major role in the socio-economic life of the Palestinian farmers, also there is a transmitting into modern farming by introducing technology in this sector, which will increase it's contribution in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Furthermore, we have to take into consideration the continuous aggressive measures of Israeli occupation into this sector to destroy it, which putting us under our responsibility to develop this vital strategic sector.

Concepts and Definitions

- Agricultural Year:** The period extended from the beginning of October to the end of September of the next year (12 months), for this survey it cover the period extended from the beginning of October 2004 to the end of April 2005, and the expected period to the end of September 2005 .
- Agricultural Holding** It is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all kept, livestock and all land used totally or partially for agriculture production purposes regardless to title legal form or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household jointly by two or more individuals or households by a clan or tribe or by a juridical person such as: a corporation cooperative or government agency. The holdings land may consist of one or more parcels located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions.
- Agricultural Holder:** The holder is a civil or juridical person who exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation and takes major decisions regarding for the holding and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day-to-day work management to a hired manager.
- Type of Holding:** Holding type is classified to the following:
- Plant Holding:** The presence of cultivated or arable land area for any agricultural crops controlled by the holder, and must not be less than one dunum.
 - Animal Holding:** The presence of animals controlled by the holder, the holder should have any number of cattle or camels, at least 5 heads of sheep or goats or pigs, at least 50 birds of poultry (Layers and broilers), or 50 rabbits or other poultry like turkeys, ducks, fer...etc, or a mixture of them, or at least 3 beehives.
 - Mixed Holding:** If the holder manage both plant and animal holdings according to their definitions using the same Labor, machines, and building for both activities.
- Holding Area** This is obtained by summing the areas of each parcel making up the holding. Land owned by the holder but rented to others should not be included in the total area of the holding. The farmyard and land occupied by farm buildings should be included. The land area of the holder's house is also included in total area of holding if the house is located on the holding (and not for example, in a residential area of a nearby village or town). And is used solely for residential purposes. The total area of a holding based on shifting cultivation should include the area under crops during the reference period and the area prepared for cultivation but not sown or planted at the time of enumeration. Land abandoned prior to the reference period should be exclude. Holders having access to communal grazing land should not include their estimated share of such land in the total area of holding.

Area Under Permanent Crops:	Is the area devoted to fruit trees that do not need to be replanted annually, or area assumed by horticulture, i.e. scattered and in association with other crops (inter-cropped).
Land Under Temporary Crops:	This includes all land used for crops of less than one-year growing cycle, which must be newly sown or planted for further production after the harvest.
Livestock:	Refers to all animals kept or reared mainly for agriculture purposes. Including cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, mules, asses, camels, poultry, rabbits, bees and other domesticated animals as well as foxes, minks, etc.
Permanent Agricultural Workers:	Is a person whose services are utilized regularly and continuously during the agricultural year for agricultural work on the holding. Permanent Agricultural workers works for 8 month at least during the agricultural year.
Employer:	A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more wage employees.
Self-Employed:	A person who operates his or her own economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.
Employee:	A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wage, salary, commission, tips, piece-rates or pay in kind.
Unpaid Family Member:	A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a related person living in the same household.
Main Job:	The job at which the person usually works the most hours in his/her main job. If a person usually works the same number of hours at two jobs, the “main” job is the job at which the person has been employed the longest.
Biological Control:	Use of natural enemy to control the causal agent of the plant disease in the agricultural holding.
North West Bank:	This area includes Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus and Qalqiliya Governorates, and Tubas and Salfit Districts.
Middle West Bank:	This area includes Ramallah & Al-Bireh, Jericho & Al-Aghwar, and Jerusalem Governorates.
South West Bank:	This area includes Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates.
Symbols Used in Tables:	(-) Null (0) Percent less than 0.05