



A New Paradigm for Agricultural Statistics—A World Without Censuses

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The paper questions the current and historical ideas about the need for agricultural censuses and their use in a statistical system relying on decades old methodology. For example, the periodic censuses take so long to implement and complete that the results are out of date before they are published. The value of the census data for sampling purposes also declines rapidly over time. This paper suggests a new paradigm for the future of agricultural and rural statistics. A strategy to use a master sampling frame that would form the foundation for an integrated survey program with continuous data collection is described. The paper concludes with a view of how the master sampling frame could be kept current and up-to-date without an agricultural census.

Keywords: Paradigm; Master Sampling Frame; Integrated Survey Program