

Country's first full count

By A Staff Reporter

The report on the country's first agricultural census on full count basis was published in Dhaka on Thursday. The 1983-84 census which provides small area statistics up to mouza level was released by Planning Minister Maj. Gen. (Rtd) M Shamsul Haq.

The previous censuses of agriculture of 1960 and 1977 were conducted on sample survey basis in rural areas only. But the just published census report covers full

count of households in all areas, both rural and municipal.

Speaking on the occasion the Planning Minister said that the census results would go a long way in providing small area statistics up to mouza level, a prerequisite for local level planning and development, in tune with the Government policy for decentralisation of administration, planning and decision making.

The Planning Minister hop-

ed that the policy makers and all other users, particularly the upazila and local government institutions, would benefit from the very "rich" data base at micro level provided in the district volumes of the agricultural census report.

He said that despite human material and financial constraints Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) had completed the census according to the schedule. He expressed his happiness over the performance of the BBS.

The Minister thanked all

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who had been associated with the census. He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the UNDP, FAO and NORAD for the material and technical assistance to the census.

The Secretary, Planning Division and the Secretary, Statistics Division and the Director-General of BBS were present at the press conference. Dr A K M Ghulam Rabbani, Secretary, Statistics Division and DG, BBS answered the questions of the newsmen.

Dr Rabbani informed that about Taka five crore including a NORAD grant of Taka one crore was spent on the agricultural census. Dr Rabbani said that the agricultural census was carried out in three phases beginning from April, 1983 to December 1984.

Some of the salient features of the agricultural census, 1983-84 (non-municipal areas) are as follows:

Total number of households — 13,817,646.
Total number of farm house-

holds — 13,817,646.

Total number of non-farm households — 3,772,347.

70.3 per cent of the farms are small, 24.7 per cent medium and 5 per cent are large.

Total operated area — 23,019,835 acres. Of this, 22,678,464 acres are under operational control of the farms. Area operated by small medium and large farms are respectively 29 per cent, 45 per cent and 26 per cent of the farm area.

Average operated area per
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household — 1.67 acres.
Average operated area of the farm household — 2.26 acres.

Total homestead area — 965,966 acres.

Total cultivated area — 20,157,564 acres.

Per capita cultivated area — 0.25 acre.

Average size of the farm household — 2 acres.

Number of farms reporting irrigation — 4,426,841 (32 per cent of the farms) who irrigated about 20 per cent of their total cultivated area.

Total number of cattle and buffalo — 22,062,257.

Total number of sheep and goat — 14,225,788.

Per capita bovine animal — 0.26.

Average bovine animal per household — 1.60.

Total number of poultry birds — 73,713,161 giving an average of 5.33 per household and 0.91 per person.

Size of the agricultural labour force — 5,495,300 house-

holds (40 per cent of the total number of households).

6.7 per cent of the household reported cottage industry in their premises.

8.7 per cent of the households own no land, 9.4 per cent own up to 0.04 acre, 28.2 per cent own 0.05 to 0.49 acre, 19.6 per cent of the households have homestead area but no cultivated area, 28.2 per cent have homestead area and operate cultivated area from 0.05 to 0.49 acre.