

Methodology Round 3

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leads the establishment of a data and analysis facility in the context of the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19) pandemic and other shocks. The objective of this facility is to improve decision making in support of the food security and livelihoods of all actors in key agricultural, livestock and fisheries value chains in high-priority, food crisis countries, with a focus on producers.

FAO Afghanistan has set up an information system to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and other related shocks to generate evidence for informed decision making. Following the second round of agriculture household's assessment in 20 provinces in February 2021, a third round data collection was conducted between 01 August – 24 September 2021 (post-harvest) using in-person interviews focusing on agriculture households in rural areas of 20 provinces. Data were collected from households and key informants. A fourth round of data collection is planned for February 2022 to coincide with the lean season.

For the households' survey, a total of 7144 households were interviewed. A two-step sampling was adopted, using NSIA (2020) as sample frame, in order to be representative at the level of the 20 provinces targeted. Within each of the 20 provinces, 30 clusters were selected with probability of selection proportional to size; 12 households per cluster were randomly selected. However, eligibility criteria were applied¹, tailoring the survey for an agricultural assessment, but with limitations (see below). Observations were weighted for demographic population by province. The sample size by province is provided in Table1.

Table 1. Sample by province and activity.

Province	Total Households	Crop Producer	Livestock Herder	Both Crop Producers and Livestock Herder	Non-Agriculture Households
Balkh	353	169	160	24	0
Bamyan	444	162	49	228	4
Farah	357	296	36	25	0
Faryab	357	239	68	50	0
Ghazni	356	151	108	96	1
Ghor	353	125	85	101	42
Helmand	342	157	150	35	0
Herat	353	176	175	2	0
Jawzjan	357	171	140	46	0
Kabul	372	208	35	120	9
Kandahar	301	88	89	124	0
Kunar	355	212	121	20	2
Kunduz	355	138	94	113	10
Nangarhar	358	213	44	101	0
Nimroz	359	205	153	1	0
Paktika	359	173	126	60	0
Parwan	352	234	11	102	5
Takhar	351	281	35	30	5
Wardak	357	174	84	72	27
Zabul	353	91	36	226	0
Total	7144	3663	1799	1576	106

¹Respondent were active farmer or livestock producers and had cultivable land.

Source: FAO, 2021; FAO assessment results

In addition to the households' survey, 110 agriculture extension officers and 249 agriculture input vendors were interviewed. The process for selection of KII respondents adhered to interviewing at least one agriculture extension officer and two agriculture input vendors in each targeted district across 20 provinces. Among the agriculture input vendors, 71 percent (n=177) were selling veterinary drugs, 55 percent (n=137) fertilizers and chemicals, 51 percent (n=128) seeds, 44 percent (n=98) livestock feeds, 39 percent (n=98) Farming tools and equipment, 34 percent (n=85) Livestock equipment. Of all the vendors, 97 percent (n=241) were operating business over the past month.

The survey had to be paused when the government changed, the 16 of August 2021, to resume in early September, thereby increasing the time required for data collection, with possible implications for the seasonality of some indicators.

Another limitation of the study is that eligibility criteria exclude the poorest segment of the society, such as the landless. This could translate into a bias for some indicators, such as the livelihood coping strategy index and food security indicators.