

Introduction

Agricultural census is a statistical process based on collecting, processing, and disseminating data on the structure of agriculture, which often covers the whole country or a large part of it. It usually involves collecting agricultural data such as the size of properties, land usage, cropping areas, irrigation, number of farm animals, resources, and manpower. Censuses are conducted regularly every ten years to provide more recent data for agricultural policy purposes.

The data provided by the census is important for food security policies and Qatar's vision 2030, which aims at the development and expansion of the agricultural sector. This requires the introduction of "finest practices" and an agricultural business model focused on economic efficiency, profitable and sustainable agriculture, optimal use of scarce resources, and a minimal impact on the environment.



Methodology

The agricultural census in Qatar includes all plant and livestock in the State of Qatar, in addition to poultry farms and farms with apiaries.

The agricultural census in Qatar 2021 follows the traditional standard method as recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in which the information is gathered and recorded in one-time.

The traditional method follows the principle of the short-long questionnaire, and the long questionnaire can be completed on a second visit.

The traditional method also includes listing and collecting all the basic items, which include determining the agricultural and livestock and their location, the total areas, the areas planted with crops, irrigation methods, agriculture, economic activities and agricultural labor.

The census in Qatar is carried out during the agricultural year, which usually begins in September until the end of August. This period is supposed to include winter and summer seasonal crops.

The preliminary results of the census are expected to be published in the last quarter of 2021.

Work Team

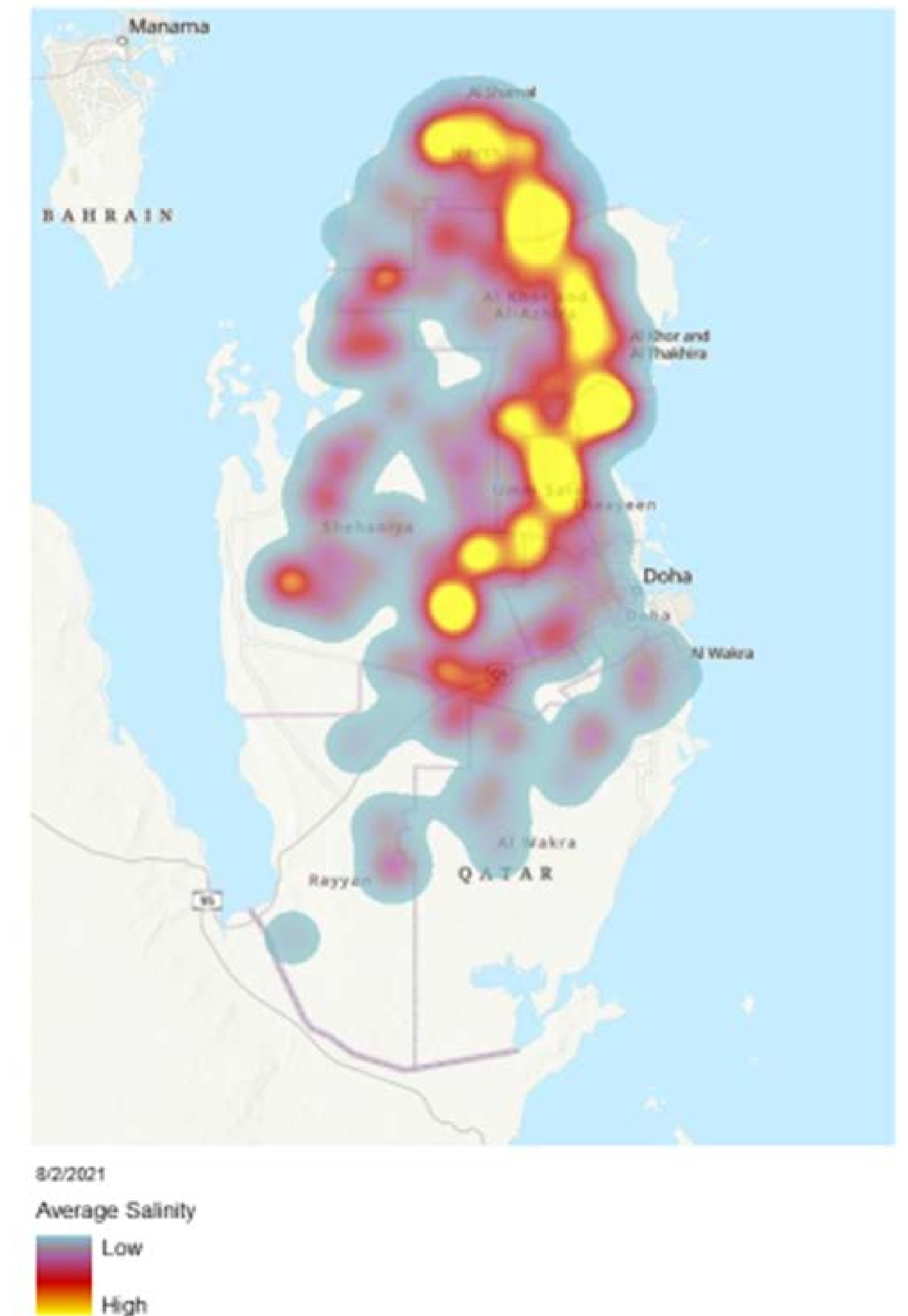
A high ministerial committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of the agricultural census in Qatar, comprising members from the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, the Social and Economic Research Survey Institute - Qatar University, and the Planning and Statistics Authority, which in turn formed a technical committee comprising specialists and experts in the field of agricultural affairs, livestock, statistics, surveys, and censuses.

A team of 115 researchers that include veterinarians and agricultural engineers carry out the actual counting process across the plant and animal holding facilities in Qatar.



Hi-Tech Computers

Hi-Tech computers connected to the internet and geographic information systems are used during the data collection. Those computers are equipped with special systems for measuring areas and generating maps such as the crop map for each plant and livestock facilities in the country upon completion of the inventory process and the average salinity map (as shown below).



Outcome

1. Provide a comprehensive and accurate framework for plant and livestock
2. Estimate the production cost of livestock and agriculture
3. Measure productivity and cost
4. Help in setting policies and drawing strategic plans for the agricultural sector, through providing an accurate picture of the reality of the agricultural sector in Qatar, which in turn will facilitate the process of supporting the agriculture sector in line with the Qatar Food Security Strategy.

Acknowledgment

This project is funded by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment. The researchers would like to acknowledge the members of the Supreme Committee & the members of the Technical Committee for giving so generously of their time at various stages of the survey. The researchers extend sincere thanks to the farm owners and farm managers who have contributed their time to participate in this survey research.

Objective

- Provide samples frame for agricultural surveys
- Provide data of agriculture structure in the state of Qatar, which include properties, resources, production, and cost
- Provide up-to-date data for crops, vegetables, livestock, and used areas

This agricultural census project in Qatar is based on the following:

- A comprehensive listing of farms
- A comprehensive listing of EZABA
- Survey of winter agricultural season
- Survey of summer agricultural season
- Survey of cost & production

Survey Instrument and Guide

Previous censuses provided tools and questionnaires to collect census information at all stages. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has also developed a guide for technical assistance and support, which was reviewed and approved by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. This guide was the basis for the 2021 Qatar agricultural census. The tools that are used in this project are developed and adapted in line with the State of Qatar's needs.