



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE



Agricultural Land Uses

2016

Introduction

Agriculture statistics provide data on plant production activity covering the changes that occur from one season to another, as well as providing information on the food security situation and the surplus or deficit in plant products. The Agricultural policy of Abu Dhabi aims to enhance the contribution of agriculture in economic development and to utilize the available resources technically, economically and environmentally in the best possible way to achieve sustainable development. This includes preserving and increasing agricultural areas to raise agricultural production which will support agro-industry and increase its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP).

It is essential to study land uses in accordance with international recommendations. It provides a comprehensive picture on the available agricultural area in agricultural holdings and methods of use. Land uses are classified based on the activity carried out in the land. It represents the actual area of the plant holding.

Data related to land uses are collected from the holdings. Holdings are defined as economic units for agriculture production that should be run under a single management. This includes animals and land that is fully or partially used for agriculture production purposes regardless of ownership, legal form and size. According to international definitions, plant holding should include vegetables crops, field crops or fruit trees with a size of one donum or more or any area planted under greenhouses.

Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD) is continuously providing a large number of statistical agricultural data, which reliably helps to study the changes that occur in the agricultural sector. These efforts are carried out in coordination with the relevant bodies aiming to create a complete database on the agricultural sector in line with the latest international recommendations.

Summary of indicators

The bulletin consists of a number of statistical tables that include detailed statistical data on the agricultural land uses for 2016. The hereunder are key indicators:

Indicator	Unit	Value
Area of agricultural holdings	donum	749,868
Number of agricultural holdings	holding	24,018
Area of working agricultural holdings	donum	700,939
Number of working agricultural holdings	holding	21,976
Crop area with fruit trees	donum	272,323
Crop area with field crops	donum	60,208
Crop area with vegetables (opened field)	donum	14,054
Crop area with vegetables (under protective cover)	donum	5,504

Plant Holdings

The number of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi amounted to 24,018 holdings in 2016, with a total area of 749,868 donums, forming about 1% of the total area of the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The average area of each holding was 31 donums approximately.

The majority of plant holdings are located in Al Ain region with 11,046 holdings, making a total area of 425,396 donums or 56.7% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Al Dhafra region accommodates 8,492 plant holdings, making a total area of 207,686 donums or 27.7% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The number of plant holdings in Abu Dhabi region amounted to 4,480 holdings, making a total area of 116,786 donums or 15.6% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Data shows that 72.5% of the plant holdings in Abu Dhabi region fall under the 20 - 29 donums category, making 11.3% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate. The less than 20 donums category accounted for 10.0% of the total plant holdings area in Abu Dhabi region and 1.6% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The remaining area was distributed among other categories.

In Al Ain region, 71.7% of the plant holdings fall under the 30 - 39 donums category, forming 40.7% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The more than 60 donums category accounted for 18.5% of the total agricultural area in Al Ain region, and 10.5% of the total plant holdings area the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The remaining area was distributed among other categories.

In Al Dhafra region, 45.7% of the plant holding fall under the 40 - 49 donums category, forming 12.7% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The 20 - 29 donums category accounted for 26.4% of the total agricultural area in Al Dhafra region, and 7.3% of the total plant holdings area the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The remaining area was distributed among other categories.

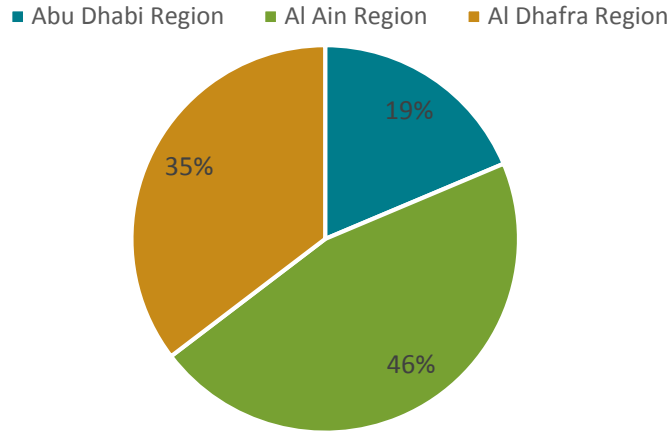
Number and area of plant holdings (farms) by region, 2010 to 2016*

(Area in Donums)

Year	Total		Abu Dhabi Region		Al Ain Region		Al Dhafra Region	
	Number	Area	Number	Area	Number	Area	Number	Area
2010	24,290	747,679	3,837	95,483	11,894	441,637	8,559	210,559
2011	24,394	752,839	3,837	95,483	11,985	446,898	8,572	210,458
2012	24,394	752,839	3,837	95,483	11,985	446,898	8,572	210,458
2013	24,394	752,839	3,837	95,483	11,985	446,898	8,572	210,458
2014	24,018	749,868	3,605	89,679	11,921	452,503	8,492	207,686
2015	24,018	749,868	3,605	89,679	11,921	452,503	8,492	207,686
2016	24,018	749,868	4,480	116,786	11,046	425,396	8,492	207,686

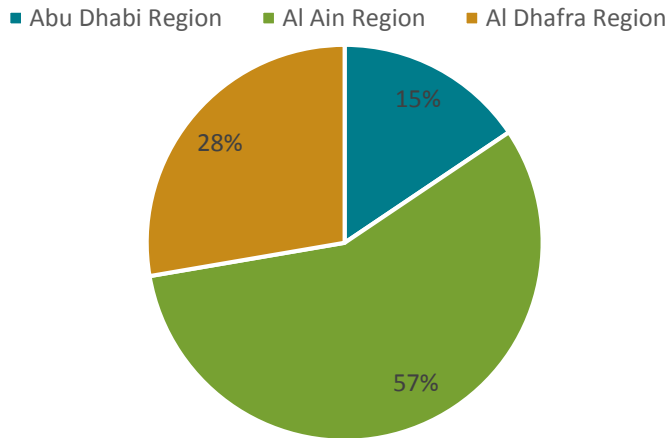
* There is no change on the number and size of plant holdings during time series.
Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of number of plant holdings by region, 2016



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of area of plant holdings by region, 2016



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Land uses of plant holdings

Land uses of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi were classified based on the activity carried out in part of the land area. It represents the actual size of the plant holding that can be exploited in accordance with international classifications recommended by international organizations.

Fruit trees occupy the largest proportion or 36.3% of the total plant holdings area. Palm trees are the most important type of fruit trees due to the conditions in the Emirate. The amount of dates produced in 2016 was 96,037 tons, increased by 3.2% compared with 2015.

Crops occupy 8.0% of the total plant holdings area, a significant increase of 25.0% compared with 2015. The quantity of field crops produced in the emirate in 2016 was 225,342 tons.

Vegetable crops grown in open fields and under greenhouses constituted 2.6% of the total plant holdings area. Cucumber accounted for 20.7% of the total area of vegetable crops, followed by Tomatoes at 19.8%. Cabbage, Onion, accounted for 11.2%, 7.6% respectively, meanwhile rest of the crops formed 40.7% of the total area of vegetable crops in 2016.

Forest trees and windbreaks occupied 2.2% of the total plant holdings area. The current fallow area represented 35.9% and buildings area represented 1.7%. Data shows that the potentially productive area accounted for 13.2% of the total plant holdings in 2016.

Area of plant holdings by land use and region, 2012 to 2016

(Area in Donums)

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	752,839	752,839	749,868	749,868	749,868
Fruit Trees	303,084	303,084	272,322	272,322	272,323
Field Crops	17,960	18,280	59,198	48,177	60,208
Vegetables in Opened Field	14,766	12,666	15,834	13,797	14,054
Vegetables Under Protective Cover	1,756	3,010	4,656	5,558	5,504
Current Fallow	262,189	262,715	269,145	281,300	269,385
Windbreaks	25,460	25,460	16,702	16,702	16,702
Building	15,980	15,980	12,725	12,725	12,725
Potentially Productive Area	111,644	111,644	99,287	99,287	98,968

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Area of plant holdings by land use and region, 2016

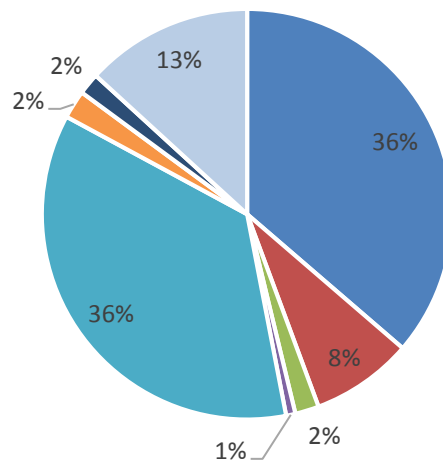
(Area in Donums)

Item	Total	Abu Dhabi Region	Al Ain Region	Al Dhafra Region
Total	749,868	116,786	425,397	207,686
Fruit Trees	272,323	28,952	140,003	103,368
Field Crops	60,208	6,328	43,479	10,401
Vegetables in Opened Field	14,054	3,584	6,585	3,885
Vegetables Under Protective Cover	5,504	693	3,421	1,390
Current Fallow	269,385	30,894	173,013	65,478
Windbreaks	16,702	5,588	3,839	7,275
Building	12,725	1,953	7,207	3,565
Potentially Productive Area	98,968	38,794	47,850	12,324

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of agricultural area by land use, 2016

- Fruit Trees
 - Vegetables in Opened Field
 - Current Fallow
 - Building
- Field Crops
 - Vegetables Under Protective Cover
 - Windbreaks
 - Potentially Productive Area



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Distribution of plant holdings (number – area categories)

The number of plant holdings in 2016 was 24,018 holdings, making 749,868 donums. Thus, the average area of a holding is 31 donums, however 43.7% of plant holdings fall under the 30 - 39 donums category. Holdings exceeding 60 donums formed 2.0% of total plant holdings.

The total area of agriculture holdings less than 30 donums accounted for 27.9% of the total plant holdings area, meanwhile plant holdings with area category 30 donums and above accounted for 72.1% of the total plant holdings area.

Number and area of agriculture holdings by Area Category and Region, 2016

Area: Donums

Area category	Total		Abu Dhabi Region		Al Ain Region		Al Dhafra Region	
	Number	Area	Number	Area	Number	Area	Number	Area
Total	24,018	749,868	4,480	116,786	11,046	425,396	8,492	207,686
Less than 20	4,490	49,476	726	11,661	502	6,564	3,262	31,251
20- 29	6,450	159,733	3,325	84,689	781	20,147	2,344	54,897
30- 39	9,774	327,690	245	8,376	9,114	305,202	415	14,112
40- 49	2,661	107,958	109	4,613	188	8,333	2,364	95,012
50- 59	172	9,424	18	988.349	118	6,461	36	1,975
60 and above	471	95,587	57	6,459	343	78,688	71	10,440

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Working Plant holdings

The working plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi totaled 700,939 donums in 2016. Data shows that 58.4% of the total working holdings in the Emirate are located in Al Ain region, followed by Al Dhafra region by 27.6% and Abu Dhabi region by 14.0% of the total working holdings in the Emirate in 2016.

Number and area of working plant holdings by region, 2012 to 2016

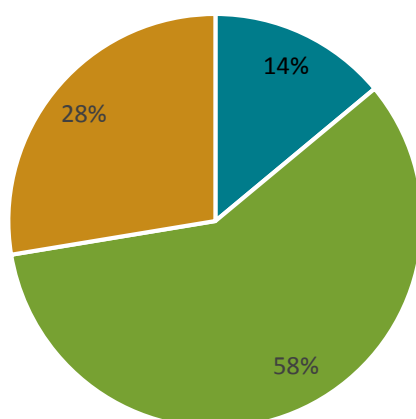
(Area in Donums)

Region	Unit	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	Number	23,705	23,683	21,976	21,976	21,976
	Area	736,939	739,064	700,939	700,939	700,939
Abu Dhabi region	Number	3,859	3,837	3,017	3,017	3,695
	Area	93,358	95,483	76,636	76,636	97,888
Al Ain region	Number	11,964	11,964	11,273	11,273	10,595
	Area	442,977	442,977	430,800	430,800	409,547
Al Dhafra region	Number	7,882	7,882	7,686	7,686	7,686
	Area	200,604	200,604	193,503	193,503	193,503

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of area of working plant holdings by region, 2016

■ Abu Dhabi Region ■ Al Ain Region ■ Al Dhafra Region



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Explanatory notes

Definitions and classifications

- **Agriculture Holding:** An agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes. The holding's land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels share the same production means, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals.
- **Agricultural Land Uses:** Land uses refer to the activities carried out on the land or part of the land. It represents the actual size of the holding that be exploited in agriculture. It also includes buildings used for agriculture purposes.
- **Land under Temporary Crops (Exposed):** It refers to all exposed land used for crops of less than one-year growing cycle, which must be newly sown or planted for further production after the harvest. It includes field crops, vegetables and cut flowers.
- **Land under Temporary Crops (Covered):** The area covered with protective glass, fiberglass or plastic or any other material in order to protect plants from external factors, so that internal weather factors are controlled. Irrigation method and amount of water used in agriculture are also accurately controlled. In this type of agriculture, technical be distributed on a regular basis, and tracking methods in determining the times of technology and periodic agricultural production during the year, and this method is often used in the cultivation of vegetables and cut flowers protected.
- **Land under Permanent Crops:** The area devoted to crops that do not need to be replanted annually such as fruit trees.
- **Land under Temporary Crops:** The area used for crops of less than five-year growing cycle, it is used for animal feed.
- **Forest Land:** The area that contains heavily wooded trees, found by nature or human-induced. It is used to produce wood or as windbreaks.
- **Nursery (Plantation):** A part of the holding used to produce seedlings. The seedlings might be vegetables such as tomato or field crops such as tobacco or trees. Forest trees nurseries are excluded.
- **Fallow Land (for rest):** Fallow land refers to the area that is usually exploited for agricultural production within the agricultural cycle, which is left without cultivation to rest. This should be done under specific conditions.
- **Potentially Productive Area:** The land left without exploitation for more than three agricultural seasons, it needs reclamation to be able to production.
- **Other Types of Land:** This includes all other types of land in the holding that is not mentioned elsewhere. This type might be productive or non-productive, and it also includes the unexploited land.

Data sources

The report data was sourced from Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority. SCAD thereafter subjected the data to further checking and research.

Notes on tables

- The term plant holding in this bulletin means plant farm.
- There is no change on the number and size of plant holdings during 2011 to 2013.
- There is no change on the number and size of plant holdings during 2014 to 2016.
- Some figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit shown. Consequently, discrepancies may exist within a table between totals and sums of constituent items.

More information

For more information about agricultural land uses and agricultural statistics, please visit the statistics link on the SCAD website at <http://www.scad.ae>

The next release is expected in August 2018 for 2017 data

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