



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE



Agricultural land uses 2012

Statistical Report

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Agriculture Section

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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.

Plant holdings

The number of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi amounted to 24,394 holdings in 2012, with a total area of 752,839 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 11,985 holdings, making a total area of 446,898 donums or 59% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Al Gharbia region accommodates 8,572 plant holdings, making a total area of 210,458 donums or 28% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The number of plant holdings in Abu Dhabi region amounted to 3,837 holdings, making a total area of 95,483 donums or 13% of the total area of plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Data shows that 80% of the plant holdings in Abu Dhabi region fall under the 20 - 29 donums category, making 10% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate. The less than 20 donums category accounted for 10% of the total plant holdings area in Abu Dhabi region and 1.3% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The remaining area was distributed among other categories.

In Al Ain region, 72% of the plant holdings fall under the 30 - 39 donums category, forming 43% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The more than 60 donums category accounted for 16% of the total agricultural area in Al Ain region, and 9.5% of the total plant holdings area the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The remaining area was distributed among other categories.

In Al Gharbia region, 47% of the plant holding fall under the 40 - 49 donums category, forming 13% of the total plant holdings area in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The 20 - 29 donums category accounted for 24% of the total agricultural area in Al Al Gharbia region, and 7% 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, 2005 to 2012*

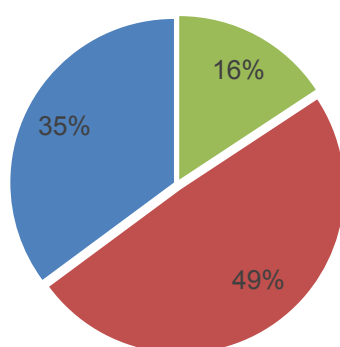
(Area in Donums)

| Year | Total | | Abu Dhabi | | Al Ain | | Al Gharbia | |
|------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| | Number | Area | Number | Area | Number | Area | Number | Area |
| 2005 | 23,704 | 739,686 | 4,793 | 111,452 | 11,529 | 438,820 | 7,382 | 189,414 |
| 2006 | 23,648 | 720,651 | 4,556 | 103,815 | 11,572 | 429,463 | 7,520 | 187,373 |
| 2007 | 23,198 | 703,748 | 4,072 | 98,314 | 11,701 | 423,083 | 7,425 | 182,351 |
| 2008 | 24,015 | 731,512 | 3,854 | 97,045 | 11,751 | 443,988 | 8,410 | 190,479 |
| 2009 | 24,097 | 737,957 | 3,814 | 94,380 | 11,782 | 436,656 | 8,501 | 206,921 |
| 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 |

* There is no change on the number and size of plant holdings in 2012 compared to 2011.
Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of number of plant holdings by region, 2012

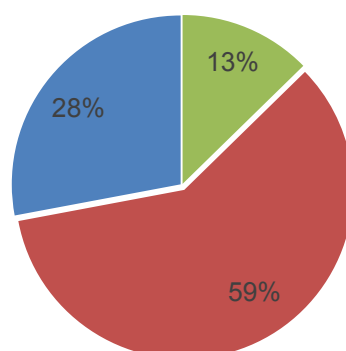
■ Abu Dhabi ■ Al Ain ■ Al Gharbia



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

Percentage distribution of area of plant holdings by region, 2012

■ Abu Dhabi ■ Al Ain ■ Al Gharbia



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 40% 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 2012 was 80,461 tons, an increase of 10.4% compared with 2011.

Crops occupy 2% of the total plant holdings area, a significant decrease of 90% compared with 2011. The quantity of field crops produced in the emirate in 2012 was 32,850 tons.

Vegetable crops grown in open fields and under greenhouses constituted 2% of the total plant holdings area. Dry onion accounted for 28% of the total area of vegetable crops, followed by watermelon and tomatoes at 13% each. Cabbage and cucumber accounted for 14% and 7% respectively, meanwhile rest of the crops formed 25% of the total area of vegetable crops in 2012. The quantity of vegetable crops supplied to agricultural marketing centers was around 58,873 tons.

Forest trees and windbreaks occupied 3.4% of the total plant holdings area. The current fallow area represented 34.8% and buildings area represented 2.1%. Data shows that the potentially productive area accounted for 14.8% of the total plant holdings in 2012.

Area of plant holdings by land use and region, 2009 to 2012

(Area in Donums)

| Item | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 737,957 | 747,679 | 752,839 | 752,839 |
| Fruit Trees | 245,693 | 283,976 | 293,022 | 303,084 |
| Crops | 232,141 | 231,919 | 179,513 | 17,960 |
| Vegetable | 15,543 | 11,910 | 10,500 | 14,766 |
| Green Houses | 2,555 | 2,825 | 3,375 | 1,756 |
| Current Fallow | 126,691 | 92,364 | 139,404 | 262,189 |
| Windbreaks | 32,784 | 25,479 | 25,460 | 25,460 |
| Building | 11,103 | 15,293 | 15,306 | 15,980 |
| Potentially Productive Area | 71,448 | 83,913 | 86,260 | 111,644 |

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Area of plant holdings by land use and region, 2012

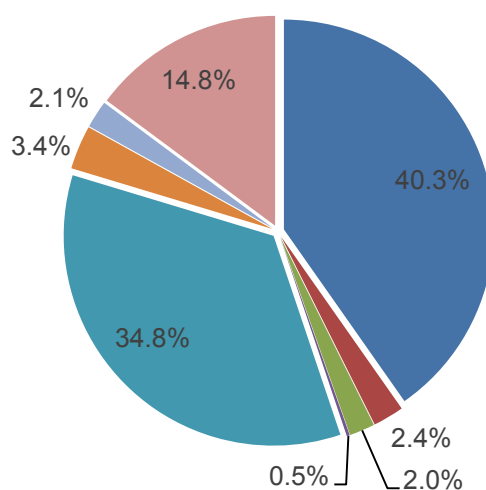
(Area in Donums)

| Item | Total | Abu Dhabi | Al Ain | Al Gharbia |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | 752,839 | 95,483 | 446,898 | 210,458 |
| Fruit Trees | 303,084 | 26,210 | 194,465 | 82,409 |
| Field Crops | 17,960 | 2,500 | 14,900 | 560 |
| Vegetable | 14,766 | 5,227 | 4,501 | 5,038 |
| Green Houses | 1,756 | 135 | 827 | 794 |
| Current Fallow | 262,189 | 33,003 | 154,659 | 74,527 |
| Windbreaks | 25,460 | 6,260 | 8,340 | 10,860 |
| Building | 15,980 | 4,207 | 7,207 | 4,566 |
| Potentially Productive Area | 111,644 | 17,941 | 61,999 | 31,704 |

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of agricultural area by land use, 2012

- Fruits
- Green Houses
- Building
- Crops
- Current Fallow
- Potentially Productive Area
- Vegetable
- Windbreaks



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

Distribution of plant holdings (number – categories)

The number of plant holdings in 2012 was 24,394 holdings, making 752,839 donums. Thus, the average area of a holding is 31 donums, however 47% of plant holdings fall under the 30 - 39 donums category. Holdings exceeding 60 donums formed 1.7% of plant holdings.

The total area of agriculture holdings less than 30 donums accounted for 26% of the total plant holdings area, meanwhile plant holdings exceeding 30 donums accounted for 74% of the total plant holdings area. This reveals that small size holdings constitute a low proportion of holdings.

Number and area of agriculture holdings by Area Category and Region, 2012

Area: Donums

| Area category | Total | | Abu Dhabi | | Al Ain | | Al Gharbia | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Number | Area | Number | Area | Number | Area | Number | Area |
| Total | 24,394 | 752,839 | 3,837 | 95,483 | 11,985 | 446,898 | 8,572 | 210,458 |
| Less than 20 Donum | 3,738 | 42,176 | 722 | 9,721 | 537 | 8,109 | 2,479 | 24,346 |
| 20- 29 Donum | 6,413 | 155,347 | 2,941 | 76,544 | 1,130 | 27,525 | 2,342 | 51,278 |
| 30- 39 Donum | 10,898 | 356,985 | 87 | 2,931 | 9,612 | 323,088 | 1,199 | 30,966 |
| 40- 49 Donum | 2,757 | 110,068 | 55 | 2,308 | 231 | 9,870 | 2,471 | 97,890 |
| 50- 59 Donum | 163 | 8,740 | 13 | 699 | 120 | 6,365 | 30 | 1,676 |
| More than 60 Donum | 425 | 79,523 | 19 | 3,280 | 355 | 71,941 | 51 | 4,302 |

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Operating Plant holdings

The operating plant holdings in the emirate of Abu Dhabi totaled 736,939 donums in 2012, an increase of 6% compared with 2011. Data shows that 60% of the total operating holdings in the Emirate are located in Al Ain region, followed by Al Gharbia region by 27% and Abu Dhabi region by 13% of the total operating holdings in the Emirate.

Number and area of working plant holdings by region, 2010 to 2012

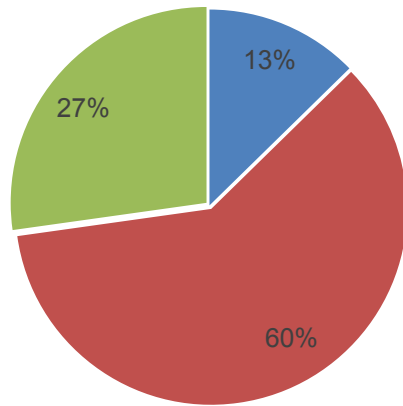
(Area in Donums)

| Region | Unit | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total | Number | 22,285 | 22,315 | 23,705 |
| | Area | 706,341 | 704,761 | 736,939 |
| Abu Dhabi | Number | 3,308 | 3,290 | 3,859 |
| | Area | 85,472 | 84,970 | 93,358 |
| Al Ain | Number | 11,519 | 11,549 | 11,964 |
| | Area | 430,879 | 429,883 | 442,977 |
| Al Gharbia | Number | 7,458 | 7,476 | 7,882 |
| | Area | 189,990 | 189,908 | 200,604 |

Source: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

Percentage distribution of area of working plant holdings by region, 2012

■ Abu Dhabi ■ Al Ain ■ Al Gharbia



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 farms in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- There is no change on the number and size of plant holdings in 2012 compared to 2011.
- 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 2014 for 2013 data

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