

1. Introduction

Before any planned improvement in a system of agriculture can take place it is necessary to have a considerable amount of information about the existing system. Thus facts and figures relating to the soils, water supply, ecology, land use and population density of the area are essential. The investigation of land use requires information on such factors as estimated production and acreage of crops grown, the planting and cultural techniques used, and the equipment employed in the production of these crops, the crop rotations used, the incidence of pests and diseases and the form of land tenure. Such information can only be obtained through some form of survey of the area and the farms concerned.

The several different types of survey possible include censuses, individual surveys and various types of random sample surveys.