Planning of the Samoa Agriculture Census 2020

N. Edith Faaola – Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Samoa Bureau of Statistics
Samoa
edith.faaola@sbs.gov.ws

John Allen Colwell – International Expert on Agriculture Census
FAO
Main Features of the Samoa Agriculture Census 2020 (SAC 2020)

• SAC 2020 is the fourth agricultural census in Samoa – previous censuses were in 1989, 1999 and 2009.

• The census will be conducted in March-April 2020, with census results expected to be available by October 2020.

• The census covers all households in Samoa (most households have some agricultural activity). Agricultural activity outside the household sector is also covered.

• The census is based on the 2016 Population Census, with household lists to be updated during the census enumeration.

• CAPI is to be used for the census data collection.

• Tabulation is to be done using Stata.

• FAO is providing technical support.
Work plan for SAC 2020

  Prepare tabulation plan, user workshop, questionnaire design, determine validation checks, CAPI development, develop field system, pilot testing, develop tabulation system, prepare field manuals, purchase tablets.

• Fieldwork: February-April 2020.
  Training of field staff, census enumeration.

• Processing: May-September 2020.
  Data editing, tabulation, data analysis, report preparation.

• Dissemination: October-December 2020.
  Release census report, data dissemination workshops, prepare electronic dissemination products, develop plan for further census analysis.
Main innovations in SAC 2020

• CAPI is being used for the first time in a census in Samoa.

• SAC 2020 is based on WCA 2020, taking into account the SDGs and the Agriculture Sector Plan. Census data will be used to formulate the next sector plan.

• Many new topics are included – irrigation, beekeeping, crops grown under protective cover, sources of planting materials, aquaculture, sources of agricultural information, assessment of MAF’s programmes/services. (The household food security topic was assessed but not considered feasible.)

• Data on employment of household members are improved by collecting data on main and secondary jobs and including items on occupation and industry.

• Processing of the census is streamlined to enable census results to be available much sooner than in previous censuses.

• SAC 2020 can be linked with the 2016 Population Census to enable more data analysis.
Features of the CAPI system for SAC 2020

• The CAPI system has been developed using Survey Solutions.
• FAO technical support has been received for the development of the CAPI system.
• The CAPI system incorporates over 500 validation checks applied during the census enumeration, with enumerators resolving issues on the spot.
• The validation system covers error checks (data that are wrong and must be corrected) and warning checks (data that may be wrong and must be verified).
• The validation system will greatly improve data quality.
• Enumerators electronically transmit completed questionnaires to census headquarters for checking. Questionnaires considered unacceptable are returned to the enumerator for correction.
• Data will be close to “clean” as soon as the data collection is completed, which will greatly simplify data processing.
Challenges faced in using CAPI in SAC 2020

• Need for technical assistance for CAPI development.
• Organization of the field system for CAPI, including defining roles for field supervisors (to oversee fieldwork) and CAPI supervisors (to check completed questionnaires).
• Developing procedures for overall management of the census fieldwork.
• Need for extensive field testing to test the CAPI questionnaire, as well as to assess field systems, data transmission, and other logistical and operational issues. A major pilot test of over 200 households was conducted for SAC 2019.
• Enumerators need to have in-depth knowledge of relationships between data items on the questionnaire to resolve issues raised by the validation checks.
• Purchase of tablet computers for census (about 100 needed).
Other challenges faced in developing SAC 2020

• Updating household lists from the 2016 Population Census – field procedures were developed to determine changes to previous households and identify new households.

• Difficulties in collecting data on number of cattle, because of complexities in applying the concepts of owning and raising cattle – new questions were added to improve data quality.

• Difficulties in reporting crop area because of continuous cropping and the prevalence of mixed/scattered crops – the option of reporting as number of trees/plants was provided, with data converted to area using planting density factors.

• Difficulties in collecting land related data because of land tenure arrangements – data are being collected separately for: land operated by the household; and family land that the household accesses together with other households.
Data dissemination plan: census report

• The main dissemination will be via a census report.
• The report will show the main tables, together with commentary, charts and maps to highlight the main findings.
• The report will be divided into chapters corresponding to the main census topics of interest such as crops, livestock, etc.
• The report will also describe the census methodology.
• About 150 copies of the report will be printed, with the emphasis on on-line dissemination of the report via the SBS website.
• The census report will be formally released through a high profile launch to help publicize the availability of census data.
Other data dissemination activities

• One or more dissemination workshops will be held to promote the use of the census results.

• The census metadata and other census documentation will be shown on the SBS website.

• All census tables in Excel format will be available on the SBS website.

• SBS will produce additional tables requested by users.

• Consideration will be given to the release of census microdata to government and international agencies, subject to usual conditions.

• Further census analysis will be undertaken; this might include in-depth thematic studies, an agricultural atlas, and linking agricultural and population census data.
Lessons learnt

• Allow plenty of time for census development, especially with the use of new methodologies and technologies.

• Make sure that the CAPI field system is designed so that it is suitable for local conditions and can be incorporated into existing field systems.

• Conduct at least one substantial pilot test to ensure that all aspects of the CAPI field system work properly.

• Put a lot of work into defining the validation checks, as this is the key to ensuring data quality and speeding up the data processing.

• Prepare the tabulation plan early in the census development to ensure that the census questionnaire provides the data necessary for tabulation.

• Develop the tabulation system before the census enumeration to avoid delays in the census results.
Thank you!

edith.faaola@sbs.gov.ws
SAP-SRC@fao.org