

SAMOA - Agricultural Census 1999 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Samoa conducted its first census of agriculture in 1989. The second census was conducted in 1999.

Organization

The census was a joint undertaking of the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology. The authority for the census rested with the Government Statistician. For the implementation of the census programme a Census Advisory Committee was formed, including the Government Statistician as the chairperson and representatives from important Ministries and the Representative of the FAO Sub Regional Office. The committee was in-charge for the approval of scope, coverage, methodology, questionnaires and manuals of the census, and for monitoring the progress of the work plan. About 230 temporary enumerators were recruited. Senior officers and extension officers from the Departments of Statistics and Agriculture acted as supervisors. Technical and financial support was provided by FAO under a project.

Enumeration period

The enumeration period goes from the third week of October to 30 November 1999.

Reference date/period

The general reference period was the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December 1999. However, for the purpose of the census, the reference period is from 1 January 1999 to the time of visit or day of enumeration. Reference dates/periods used for specific data items were: (1) the calendar year 1999; for number of holdings, mode of operation, use of fertilizers and pesticides, agriculture income, fishing and forestry; (2) for total area and crop production: the enumeration day and the calendar year 1999; and (3) for livestock and labour inputs: the enumeration day.

Definition

- **Household:** one or more persons who live together and have their meals together
- **Holding:** An agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising of all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, regardless to title, legal form or size.
- **Non-Agricultural household** is a household not engaged in any crop production.
- **Household with Minor Agricultural Activity** is the household managing less than 0.05 ha of land under garden crops or less than 20 coconuts, bananas or other tree crops.
- **Household with Subsistence Agriculture** is the household that produces crops but does not sell them
- Commercial holding is the one with the main purpose of production is sale.

Coverage

The census covered the entire country, including the Apia urban area.

Frame

A list of households in respect of each enumeration block in the country was prepared in 1997 for the Household Income and Expenditure Survey: this was used as a base for the updating. Several teams of officials updated the list all over the country; thereafter, maps were prepared for each enumeration area. In total, there were 863 census blocks in Samoa for which household lists and enumeration maps were prepared.

Method

The methodology was a combination of complete enumeration and sample survey. The first part involved all households (households identified as non-agriculture only being required to complete an abbreviated questionnaire). The second part of the questionnaire was designed to cover 25 percent of all agricultural holdings as identified in the first part, with selection made on systematic sample basis. Thus, while the Household Form was canvassed in respect of all households in the country, the Parcel Form was completed in respect of 25 percent of the agricultural holdings only. A Post Enumeration Survey, considered as an integral part of the Census, was carried out.

Data source

Census of Agriculture, Report 1999. Government of Samoa.

Contact

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