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## Vanuatu – Vanuatu Agriculture Census 2006-2008 - Explanatory Notes

### Historical outline

Previous censuses of agriculture were undertaken in 1950, 1983 and 1994.

### Legal basis and organization

All statistical activities in Vanuatu are ruled by the Statistical Act 1983. The Vanuatu National Statistics Office was responsible for census operations. The census was mainly funded by: New Zealand Aid Agency. Other funders were the European Union and the Australian Aid Agency. The National budget also provided funds for the census. An eight-member national agriculture census steering committee headed by the Director General, the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries was formed. Representatives from the Departments of Economic and Sector Planning, Finance and Economic Management, Provincial Affairs, Trade and Industries, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry were included on this committee. Technical assistance was provided by the Statistics and Demography Program of the South Pacific Community and FAO. During May–June 2006, about 650 trained enumerators listed every household in Vanuatu and recorded all agricultural activities undertaken by sampled households. In August–September 2007 enumerators were again hired and trained to collect and record the different data items included in each of nine questionnaires from households. Regular staff and census supervisors collected information for the commercial farms/holdings.

### Enumeration period

Phase 1 was undertaken in May - June 2006. Phase 2 took place in August 21st to September 21st, 2007. A further one month period, from September 21st to October 21st, 2007 was allocated especially for difficult areas in the country.

### Reference period/date

Most of the data items collected in the Agriculture Census Phase II covered the period June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 (crop garden and cash crops like coconut, cocoa, coffee, kava, vanilla, and pepper).

Other reference periods used were as follows:

Day of visit for:

Number of crops currently in the garden or number of trees/plants currently in the sub-holding;  
Livestock/poultry kept.

Day of last sale for value of crops/fisheries species/forest products sold.

### Definition of the statistical unit

An agricultural farm/holding is any economic unit of agricultural production (like garden or temporary and/or permanent crops or cattle raising, cocoa/coffee/kava/ vanilla/pepper area/plantation) under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land wholly or partly used for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size.

Commercial farm holdings were classified according to **legal status** in:

- Sole proprietorship;
- Partnership;
- Corporation;
- Cooperative;
- Government institution;
- Other.

**Land tenure** types were:

- Owned;
- Rented;
- Custom used;
- Used for free.

### Geographical coverage

The Survey covers all rural households in the 18 major islands of the country.

### Statistical coverage

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The Survey covers: all rural households; crop gardening; kava sub-holding; coconut sub-holding; cocoa sub-holding; coffee sub-holding; vanilla sub-holding; pepper sub-holding; cattle sub-holding; other; livestock keeping; household fishing.

### **Data items coverage**

In Phase 1 only main characteristics of households were covered. In Phase 2 a deep investigation of all items covered by the WCA2010 FAO Programme was performed.

### **Frame**

The Population Census 1999 and listing of households May 2006 served as census frames.

### **Methodology**

The agricultural census 2007 was conducted in two phases:

Phase 1 was a listing of all households whether residing in urban or rural areas. The data refer to: gender; agricultural activities (whether engaged in crop gardening, in cash crops such as coconut, kava, cocoa, coffee, vanilla, and pepper, in fishing or in forestry and logging activities); and number of livestock kept such as cattle, pigs, goats sheep, chicken, etc. The results of Phase 1 listing were used to select the sample enumeration areas for Phase 2.

Phase 2 was planned to be a series of sample surveys focused on selected crops and livestock, e.g. coconut, cocoa, coffee, kava, vanilla, pepper, and cattle. There were separate questionnaires for each agricultural activity. Information from commercial farms/holdings was also collected in the Phase 2.

The 18 major islands of the country were classified in three groups according with number of households engaged in agriculture:

1. Small: less than 500 households;
2. Medium: 500 to 1999 households; and
3. Large: more than 2000 households engaged in agricultural activities.

For Universe 1 a complete enumeration exercise was performed; for Universe 2 one-third of Enumeration Areas (EA) were sampled and all households engaged in agricultural activities interviewed; for Universe 3, 1/3rd of EAs was selected and all households listed and of households found to have a crop garden, coconut sub-holding or kava sub-holding, one-third were selected to be further interviewed. In addition, all households listed and involved in the sub holding of cattle and cash crops like cocoa, coffee (for Tanna only), vanilla and pepper (10 or more plants) were also enumerated.

Data were collected through face-to-face interviews by means of paper forms.

### **Special features**

The modular approach advocated by the WCA 2010 FAO Programme was followed in the Vanuatu Census of Agriculture. Detailed information about production, revenues, costs, etc was collected only for commercial farms holdings. Information was also collected in non-holding households.

### **Data source**

Census of Agriculture 2007, Vanuatu at website.

### **Mailing address / Census contact Points**

Vanuatu National Statistics Office  
PMB 9019  
Port Villa  
Vanuatu  
Tel: (678) 22110 / 22111  
Fax: (678) 24583  
Email: [stats@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:stats@vanuatu.com.vu)

Website: [www.spc.int/prism/country/vu/stats](http://www.spc.int/prism/country/vu/stats)