
FIJI - Agricultural Census 1991 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Fiji's first agricultural census was taken in 1968, the second in 1978 (both with technical assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN Development Program), while the last one, to which present notes and data refer, was conducted in 1991.

Organization: The Census was organized and conducted under the responsibility of the Statistics Unit of the Agricultural Planning and Statistics Division of the Ministry of Primary Industries and Cooperatives. Financial and technical assistance was given by the UN Development Program, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Field work was carried out by 72 enumerators and 20 supervisors; photointerpreters, data processing experts, and clerical staff should also be mentioned.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out during the period 10 June - second week of August 1991.

Reference date: Data on number and area of holdings, land tenure, legal status, land use, permanent crops, number of livestock and poultry, refer to census day. Data on employment and farm population refer to the week preceding the enumeration day. Data on temporary crops, farm produce, use of fertilizers, use of machinery, refer to census year 1 July 1990 - 30 June 1991.

Definition: A holding is an economic unit of agricultural production reporting at least:

- 0.01 Ha of temporary crops, or permanent crops, or fallow land, or pastures;
- any piece of land, even less than 0.01 Ha and uncultivated, but with at least one head of cattle or one goat, pig, horse, sheep, poultry;
- any livestock or poultry without any land to manage.

Coverage: All farms (reporting units) existing in Fiji on the census day were covered; the urban sector (cities and towns) and lands totally under forests or one hundred percent not suitable for agriculture, were excluded from the coverage.

Frame: The Area Sampling Frame methodology was used. The Segment (SM) was the primary sampling unit. The complete list of SMs was used as frame.

Methods: A stratified two-stage sample survey was carried out. The 895 Enumeration Areas (EAs), 646 rural and 249 urban, used for the 1986 Population Census, were classified into 9 main strata and 21 sub-strata, according to importance, intensity and type of agriculture (land use). The EAs were divided into segments (SMs), i.e. pieces of land with physically defined boundaries of different sizes. 1220 SMs out of 14413 in rural sector, and 50 SMs out of 1933 in peri-urban areas, were systematically sampled all over the country; all farms (reporting units) in the sample SMs were investigated, following a weighted-segment method, by enumerators through direct interview.

Data source: Ministry of Primary Industries and Cooperatives - Agricultural Planning and Statistics Division - Statistics Unit - Fiji National Agricultural Census 1991 - Suva, Fiji 1992.

Mailing address: Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests - P.O. Box 358 Rodwell Road - Suva, Fiji - Tel. 00679 311233; Fax 00679 302478.