

NIUE - Agricultural Census 1989 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: An agricultural sample survey was undertaken in June and July 1950 in two villages of Niue Island as part of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture Programme, but when finally assembled and re-examined the data were deemed to be unsatisfactory; consequently, the 1989 Agricultural Census could be considered as the first one successfully carried out in Niue.

Organization: The census was conducted by the Statistics/Immigration Unit (SIU) of the Administrative Department with support from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). Technical support was given by the UN Development Program, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN through the project "Development of Agricultural Statistics." The field work was carried out by 25 enumerators and 3 supervisors recruited mostly among government employees of the Administrative Department and DAFF.

Enumeration period: The agricultural census was carried out in a two-week period ending on 16 October 1989.

Reference date: Data on crops refer to the 12 months preceding the visit of the enumerator; reference date for employment is the month preceding the enumeration day; all other data refer to the enumeration day itself.

Definition: A household is considered reporting:

- "None or Minor Agricultural Activity" if it manages less than 0.05 Ha of land under garden crops or less than 20 coconuts or other tree crops.
- A "Major Agricultural Activity" if the household manages 0.05 Ha or more of land under garden crops or grows 20 or more coconut or other tree crops. In this case the household is considered operating a holding.

Coverage: The census was designed to cover all private households forming the Traditional Sector in Niue. The Establishment Sector was also covered.

Frame: Almost the same Enumeration Areas (EAs) identified for the Population Census in 1986 were adopted for the agricultural census; the maps produced for each enumeration area were updated by the staff of the SIU in the months preceding the agricultural census. The country was divided into 30 EAs and these in turn were grouped into three supervision areas. The EAs as defined for population census purposes did not cover the uninhabited area in the centre of Niue island; in order to include this land area, two new districts reporting 9 EAs were defined. An updating of the household list was carried out by the enumerators during a pre-census of population.

Methods: The census was carried out on a complete enumeration basis through direct interview. Four different questionnaires were used:

- the Population Questionnaire, used for a population count which preceded the census of agricultural activities;
- the Household Questionnaire, used to state the level of agricultural activity of all households in the country;
- the Holding Questionnaire, to identify the households managing one or more holdings and the characteristics of holdings;
- the Parcel Questionnaire, to investigate land characteristics.

A Post-Enumeration Survey was conducted to test in particular the quality of data gathered on land area; objective measurement techniques were used in this phase.

Data source: Government of Niue - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - 1989 Niue Agricultural Census.

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