

VANUATU - Agricultural Census 1993 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Estimates on area and production of some crops and livestock numbers were made in the country (at that time called New Hebrides) in 1930 and 1950. The first Agricultural Census in Vanuatu was undertaken in 1983, and the second one was conducted in 1993.

Organization: The Survey Unit, established within the Statistics Office, carried out the census with the assistance of the Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture. In addition to Statistical Office and Agriculture Department officers, representatives from Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry Departments and from Planning Office participated in the Census Advisory Committee. The field work was carried out by the Agriculture Field Assistants (AFA) and the Agriculture Extension Officers (AEO) participating as supervisors or enumerators in the various phases of the census: in total, 95 enumerators were employed. Technical and financial assistance were provided by the New Zealand Government, by the Stabilization System for Export Earnings (STABEX), and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

Enumeration period: The enumeration of the first phase of the census began on 13 March and was completed by early May 1993. The enumeration of the second phase started on 19 June and was completed by early October 1993. The enumeration of the third phase of the census, the Garden Survey, began on 25 October 1993 and was completed before December 1993.

Reference date: Data on agricultural activities of household's members, and data on crop planting and production, refer to the 12 months preceding the enumeration day. Data on livestock numbers refer to the enumeration day, and data on livestock disposals refer to the 12 months preceding the census.

Definition: A household is a group of people who eat in the same place at the same time: rural households were enumerated in phase I of the census.

Coverage: The census was designed to cover the entire country but, due to time requirements for implementation, difficulties in approaching some areas, refusals to co-operate with census officers, and natural calamities, some areas in Tanna, Pentecost, Shepherds and Epi Islands, and the area of Middle Bush Santo, were not enumerated. For the Garden Survey, it was decided to enumerate the larger islands only, namely Santo, Malekula, Pentecost Ambrym, Epi and Tanna. The 1993 census did not cover plantations, schools, hospitals, etc.

Frame: The enumerators were provided with detailed maps listing villages and enumeration areas. Lists of farmers prepared during phase I were used to provide a sampling frame for phase II. During phase II, farmers were questioned about their number of gardens to provide a frame for the subsequent Garden Survey.

Methods: The census was conducted in three phases:

- Phase I consisted of a complete rural households listing exercise. Two questionnaires were, in turn, used by enumerators: a village questionnaire, to collect data on items shared among many households, and a separate questionnaire for each head of household.
- Phase II involved conducting seven surveys covering the following subjects: Household, Coconuts, Cocoa, Kava, Coffee, Cattle and Fish; for each of the seven subjects, a sampling frame, consisting of only those households involved in that specific agricultural activity, was constructed; each of the seven frames was stratified into 39 Field Assistant Areas (AFA); a systematic sample of clusters, with a minimum of 20 households per cluster, was chosen from each of the 39 strata, with probability proportional to the number of households in the cluster. To achieve a sample of minimum 15% of all households, ten farmers were selected, with equal probability, from each of the already chosen clusters, and interviewed.
- Phase III consisted of a garden measurement survey: a 10% sample was selected from the 15% of households already selected in phase II, providing a 1.5% sample of all households. All gardens in this 1.5% sample were investigated by applying objective measurement techniques.

Data source: Vanuatu - National Agriculture Census 1993 - Main Report.

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