

WESTERN SAMOA - Agricultural Census 1989 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: Although a survey of food and agriculture was undertaken in Western Samoa in 1950 by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, the Census of Agriculture carried out in 1989 could be considered the very first to report complete information on many aspects of agriculture in the country.

Organization: The census was a joint undertaking of the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries. Authority for the census rested with the Government Statistician. Financial and technical support was given by the UN Development Program, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN through the project "Agriculture Census and Statistics". The field work was carried out by 200 full-time recruited enumerators, supported by 30 officials from the Department of Statistics who also worked as enumerators. Most enumerators were supervised by Agricultural Extension officers, supported by some senior officers from the Department of Statistics and the Department of Agriculture.

Enumeration period: The enumeration period was 1 October to 30 November 1989, extended in some instances to 31 January 1990.

Reference date: The general reference period is calendar year 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989. Specific reference dates are:

- for number, area, mode of operation of holdings, crops, use of fertilizers: the calendar year 1989;
- for employment: the month prior to the day of enumeration;
- for livestock: the day of enumeration.

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, bananas or other tree crops.
- A "Major Agricultural Activity" if it manages 0.05 Ha or more of land under garden crops or grows 20 or more coconut, bananas or other tree crops. In this case the household is considered as operating a holding.

Coverage: The census was designed to cover all private households in Western Samoa; (see definition above for level of agricultural activity and minimum size of holding).

Frame: For census purposes, the country was divided into 4 Regions, divided into 43 Districts, reporting 330 villages, reporting, in turn, 862 census blocks. A list of households, in respect to each enumeration block in the country, was prepared; it was based on a refreshed and updated version of the household list for the 1986 Population Census.

Methods: The methodology was a combination of complete count and sample survey; thus, the census was basically a two-part enumeration. In the first part the Household Questionnaire was used, to state the level of agricultural activity of all households and identify those households with none or minor agricultural activity, which were required to complete an abbreviated questionnaire only. In the second part the Holding Questionnaire was used, to investigate the households managing a holding and the characteristics of holdings; 25 percent of all agricultural holdings, as identified in the first part, were covered with selection being made on a quota sampling basis (every fourth holding selected). Lastly, the Parcel Questionnaire was applied to the above mentioned 25 percent of agricultural holdings, to investigate land characteristics. A Pilot Survey preceded the census, and a post-enumeration check (PEC) was conducted during April to May 1990.

Data source: Department of Statistics - Department of Agriculture - Report on the 1989 Census of Agriculture - Western Samoa.

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