



SAMOA – Agricultural Census 2019 – Metadata Review

1. Historical outline

The first Agricultural Census (AC) in Samoa was conducted in 1950 followed by the ones conducted in 1989, 1999 and 2009. The AC 2019, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, is the fourth AC carried out in the country.

2. Legal basis and organization

Legal framework

The AC 2019 was conducted under the Statistics Act 2015.

Institutional framework and international collaboration

The AC 2019 was conducted by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). An Agricultural Census Office (ACO) was established in SBS to conduct the census. The ACO was headed by the Census Administrator who had overall responsibility for the census.

Census staff

The AC 2019 involved 16 CAPI supervisors, 11 field supervisors, and 90 enumerators.

3. Reference date and period

Reference day: the day of enumeration for inventory items such as area of the holding and livestock numbers, land use, and permanent crops grown.

Reference period:

- the calendar year 2019 (1 January to 31 December 2019) for temporary crops grown, income and credit, livestock sales and agriculture implements;
- the week prior to the day of enumeration for household composition, farm labour and number of fishing trips;
- three months prior to the day of enumeration for fisheries items.

4. Enumeration period

The enumeration period was from 16 March to 31 August 2020. Fieldwork of the AC 2019 commenced on 16 March 2020 but was halted after three days because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It eventually resumed on 29 May 2020 and finished by 31 August 2020.

5. Scope of the census and definition of the statistical unit

The **census scope** covered agricultural (crop and livestock) and fishery activities.

The **statistical unit** for the AC data collection was the agricultural holding, defined as an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising of all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. The holding's land consists of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas. There were three types of agricultural holding in the AC: (i) agricultural household; (ii) joint family holding; and (iii) institutional holdings. Institutions include churches, government organizations and commercial farmers.

Community-level data

There were no community-level data collected along with the census.

6. Census coverage

Geographic coverage

The AC 2019 covered the entire country.

Cut-off threshold and other exclusions

The following minimum size limits were used for households engaged in agricultural activity: (i) one eighth of an acre (0.05 ha) of any crop; (ii) 20 coconuts or banana trees; or (iii) 20 other trees. Households living in institutional housing such as hotels and boarding schools were excluded from the census.

7. Methodology

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The AC 2019 used the classical approach.

Relation to other censuses

The AC 2019 used the list of households from the Population Census (PC) 2016. Each village in Samoa was divided into enumeration areas (EAs). Household lists were provided for each EA and these were updated during the census enumeration, so that the census covered all households in Samoa as at the time of the census. The household updating process involved identifying changes in the households living in an existing house, vacant or demolished houses, and new houses constructed since 2016.

Frame

The census frame for the agricultural holdings in the household sector was drawn from the PC 2016. A list of agricultural institutions was obtained from MAF.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

The census was a complete enumeration exercise of all agricultural holdings and institutions from the frame, according to the census scope.

Sample design

No sampling was used.

Data collection method(s)

The data collection method was face-to-face interviewing using CAPI (tablets).

Questionnaire(s) and items covered

Data were collected using two questionnaires: (i) household questionnaire, which covered agricultural households and joint family holdings; and (ii) institution questionnaire.

The AC 2019 covered 22 out of the 23 essential items recommended in the WCA 2020.¹

8. Use of technology

The census data collection was done using CAPI (tablets). Census results were disseminated and are accessible online at the SBS website (www.sbs.gov.ws).

9. Data processing

CAPI based on the Survey Solutions software was used to conduct the interview and capture the data. Completed questionnaires were received in the ACO by the CAPI supervisors. Each questionnaire was checked and, if any errors or missing data were found, the CAPI supervisor returned the questionnaire to the enumerator (electronically). The enumerator was required to complete or correct the data, revisiting the household if necessary, before returning the questionnaire to the CAPI supervisor. Data processing was done using STATA.

10. Quality assurance

A comprehensive array of data validation checks was incorporated into the CAPI data collection system to help enumerators identify errors or possible errors in the data reported. This was done as the responses were recorded so that enumerators could correct the data on the spot. The CAPI system also provided operational data to help senior census officials to monitor progress with the census and provide feedback to field staff. It also allowed generation of summary statistics data which was valuable in assessing data quality as well as in providing early indications of the final statistics.

11. Data and metadata archiving

Data storage and data archiving were under the care of SBS following their data access agreements currently in place, and are accessible through the SBS website.

12. Data reconciliation

¹ The following essential item was not covered by the AC: (i) 0302 Area of land actually irrigated: fully controlled and partially controlled irrigation.

There was no reconciliation process of the AC 2019 data.

13. Dissemination of census results and microdata

The AC 2019 data were disseminated by means of printed reports and through the SBS website. The final report of the AC 2019 was published on 12 November 2021 with a combination of tabulation and analytical report, and is available online. Aside from the printed report, pamphlets and a video presentation outlined the main results of the census. The lowest geographical level of reporting is at the District level. Regarding microdata access to external users, it rests with SBS, although there is no microdata policy in place as of yet.

14. Data sources

Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS). 2021. *Samoa Agricultural Census 2019. Report.* Apia, Samoa. (also https://www.sbs.gov.ws/images/sbs-documents/Economics/SAMOA-AGRICULTURE-CENSUS/SAMOA_AGRICULTURE_CENSUS_2019.pdf).

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