



# Planning of the Samoa Agriculture Census 2020

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# Main Features of the Samoa Agriculture Census 2020 (SAC 2020)

- SAC 2020 is the fourth agricultural census in Samoa – previous censuses were in 1989, 1999 and 2009.
- The census will be conducted in March-April 2020, with census results expected to be available by October 2020.
- The census covers all households in Samoa (most households have some agricultural activity). Agricultural activity outside the household sector is also covered.
- The census is based on the 2016 Population Census, with household lists to be updated during the census enumeration.
- CAPI is to be used for the census data collection.
- Tabulation is to be done using Stata.
- FAO is providing technical support.

# Work plan for SAC 2020

- Census development: January 2019-January 2020.  
*Prepare tabulation plan, user workshop, questionnaire design, determine validation checks, CAPI development, develop field system, pilot testing, develop tabulation system, prepare field manuals, purchase tablets.*
- Fieldwork: February-April 2020.  
*Training of field staff, census enumeration.*
- Processing: May-September 2020.  
*Data editing, tabulation, data analysis, report preparation.*
- Dissemination: October-December 2020.  
*Release census report, data dissemination workshops, prepare electronic dissemination products, develop plan for further census analysis.*

# Main innovations in SAC 2020

- CAPI is being used for the first time in a census in Samoa.
- SAC 2020 is based on WCA 2020, taking into account the SDGs and the Agriculture Sector Plan. Census data will be used to formulate the next sector plan.
- Many new topics are included – irrigation, beekeeping, crops grown under protective cover, sources of planting materials, aquaculture, sources of agricultural information, assessment of MAF’s programmes/services. (The household food security topic was assessed but not considered feasible.)
- Data on employment of household members are improved by collecting data on main and secondary jobs and including items on occupation and industry.
- Processing of the census is streamlined to enable census results to be available much sooner than in previous censuses.
- SAC 2020 can be linked with the 2016 Population Census to enable more data analysis.

# Features of the CAPI system for SAC 2020

- The CAPI system has been developed using Survey Solutions.
- FAO technical support has been received for the development of the CAPI system.
- The CAPI system incorporates over 500 validation checks applied during the census enumeration, with enumerators resolving issues on the spot.
- The validation system covers error checks (data that are wrong and must be corrected) and warning checks (data that may be wrong and must be verified).
- The validation system will greatly improve data quality.
- Enumerators electronically transmit completed questionnaires to census headquarters for checking. Questionnaires considered unacceptable are returned to the enumerator for correction.
- Data will be close to “clean” as soon as the data collection is completed, which will greatly simplify data processing.

# Challenges faced in using CAPI in SAC 2020

- Need for technical assistance for CAPI development.
- Organization of the field system for CAPI, including defining roles for field supervisors (to oversee fieldwork) and CAPI supervisors (to check completed questionnaires).
- Developing procedures for overall management of the census fieldwork.
- Need for extensive field testing to test the CAPI questionnaire, as well as to assess field systems, data transmission, and other logistical and operational issues. A major pilot test of over 200 households was conducted for SAC 2019.
- Enumerators need to have in-depth knowledge of relationships between data items on the questionnaire to resolve issues raised by the validation checks.
- Purchase of tablet computers for census (about 100 needed).

# Other challenges faced in developing SAC 2020

- Updating household lists from the 2016 Population Census – field procedures were developed to determine changes to previous households and identify new households.
- Difficulties in collecting data on number of cattle, because of complexities in applying the concepts of owning and raising cattle – new questions were added to improve data quality.
- Difficulties in reporting crop area because of continuous cropping and the prevalence of mixed/scattered crops – the option of reporting as number of trees/plants was provided, with data converted to area using planting density factors.
- Difficulties in collecting land related data because of land tenure arrangements – data are being collected separately for: land operated by the household; and family land that the household accesses together with other households.

# Data dissemination plan: census report

- The main dissemination will be via a census report.
- The report will show the main tables, together with commentary, charts and maps to highlight the main findings.
- The report will be divided into chapters corresponding to the main census topics of interest such as crops, livestock, etc.
- The report will also describe the census methodology.
- About 150 copies of the report will be printed, with the emphasis on on-line dissemination of the report via the SBS website.
- The census report will be formally released through a high profile launch to help publicize the availability of census data.



# Other data dissemination activities

- One or more dissemination workshops will be held to promote the use of the census results.
- The census metadata and other census documentation will be shown on the SBS website.
- All census tables in Excel format will be available on the SBS website.
- SBS will produce additional tables requested by users.
- Consideration will be given to the release of census microdata to government and international agencies, subject to usual conditions.
- Further census analysis will be undertaken; this might include in-depth thematic studies, an agricultural atlas, and linking agricultural and population census data.

# Lessons learnt

- Allow plenty of time for census development, especially with the use of new methodologies and technologies.
- Make sure that the CAPI field system is designed so that it is suitable for local conditions and can be incorporated into existing field systems.
- Conduct at least one substantial pilot test to ensure that all aspects of the CAPI field system work properly.
- Put a lot of work into defining the validation checks, as this is the key to ensuring data quality and speeding up the data processing.
- Prepare the tabulation plan early in the census development to ensure that the census questionnaire provides the data necessary for tabulation.
- Develop the tabulation system before the census enumeration to avoid delays in the census results.

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