

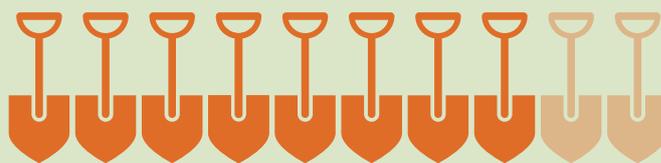
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Country Challenges

Papua New Guinea is located in the South Pacific and comprises the Eastern half of New Guinea Island and many other smaller islands. A country of great biological and cultural diversity, its mountainous and forested geography makes agriculture challenging. Though only 2.6 percent of its land is devoted to it, close to 80 percent of its citizens are engaged in growing food crops, making agriculture vital to its communities and economy. However, the country has not undertaken an agricultural census since gaining independence in 1975, and comprehensive production statistics on important food crops, vegetables and horticultural crops does not exist. Data on land use is dated, and there is no system in place to update it. Although it is understood that a large percentage of rural households take up livestock related activities, there is currently no data available for the livestock sector as well. Though Papua New Guinea does have a National Statistics Office (NSO), it does not have a unit or staff dedicated to agricultural statistics, and very few resources are dedicated to it. Furthermore, there is a severe lack of personnel in other Central Government agencies that have general statistics knowledge. The Department of Agriculture and Livestock does have five statisticians, but they are often tasked with performing other jobs unrelated directly to statistics production and use.



Only 2.6 percent of Papua New Guinea's land is designated as agricultural land



Close to 80 percent of all citizens in Papua New Guinea are employed in agriculture



Global Strategy Solutions

The In-Depth Country Assessment (IdCA) by the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific recommended a number of actions that will improve agricultural and rural statistics in Papua New Guinea both immediately and in the long-term. The first and foremost action is to begin improving the system of statistics collection, compilation and analysis for major plantation crops. In concert with this, the country should also improve the system of data collection on fishing activities, improve national accounts for the agricultural sector and improve forestry statistics, as well as information on fresh produce. The rubber and tea sectors are vital to PNG's economy, and a system of data collection for each should additionally be developed. Agricultural price statistics should be rationalized through a series of steps proposed by the Global Strategy. Finally, development of an integrated system of agricultural statistics will help bind the work and improvements together.

Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Papua New Guinea National Statistics Office and Department of Agriculture and Livestock to activate an ambitious plan that will meet the country's agricultural and rural statistics needs. The plan will concentrate on the following actions:

- Develop a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)
- Provide technical support for data processing and analysis of data collected from the demographic and health survey relating to crops production, area and livestock products, as well as data collected from the same survey related to the food insecurity expectation scale
- Conduct a pilot sample survey to estimate production of agriculture commodities and livestock products using the frame of the population census
- Improve data collection, compilation, processing, release and analysis of data on harvesting of various types of marine fish and aquaculture
- Improve data collection, database management and analysis of production of vegetables, fruits, spices and nuts
- Undertake cost of production studies for coffee, oil palm, cocoa, coconut and rubber for the concerned corporations and boards
- Build an agricultural commodity price information collection system

Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Papua New Guinea is making steady progress towards its goals improving and modernizing its agricultural statistics system and launching a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics. Two Global Strategy missions to the country have resulted in three important reports on the road to a SPARS: an In Depth Country Proposal, SPARS roadmap and country proposal for technical assistance activities. The three reports have been endorsed by the Global Strategy's government partners, and in 2017 work will be undertaken to complete the SPARS and initiate planned technical assistance activities.



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