Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Identified needs in Samoa

Samoa Bureau of Statistics

Background to Situation in Samoa

- National Strategic Framework
  - Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012 – 2016)
    - Priority Area 1: Economic Sector
    - Key Outcome 2: Re-invigorate Agriculture
  - Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2011 – 2021)
    - Relevant, reliable, and accessible sector statistics
  - Agriculture Sector Plan (2011 – 2015)

Background to Situation in Samoa

- Samoa National Statistical System
  - Samoa Bureau of Statistics (lead agency)
  - Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (also collects agricultural statistics)
- Samoa Statistics Act 1971
  - Title 11: The statistician shall take a census of agriculture at any time directed by the Minister, and thereafter at least in every tenth year or at any time when directed by the Minister.

Short – Medium Term Needs

1. Improving the availability and regularity of agricultural production statistics

   a) Support of project planning for the 2015 Agricultural Survey.

   b) Questionnaire for agricultural survey developed.

   c) Sample selection methodology for agriculture survey developed and adopted.

Short – Medium Term Needs

2. Developing an effective data collection operation for agricultural statistics

   a) Evaluation of agriculture module tool for other national surveys.

   b) Develop the agriculture module survey tool.

3. Building capacity in agricultural statistics

   a) Improve the capacity of SBS and MAF in agricultural statistics and survey activities.

Support of project planning and questionnaire development for the 2015 Agricultural Survey

- ▣ Identified gap / deficiency
  - ▪ Lack of government funding for survey planning and questionnaire development
- ▣ Proposed activity to address issue
  - ▪ Financial support and technical assistance for survey planning and questionnaire development
- ▣ Impact of undertaking the activity
  - ▪ Reduce the gap in availability of agricultural data since last Ag data collection (Ag Census 2009).
  - ▪ Progress of agricultural developments implemented in the past 5 years can be measured by MAF.

Sample selection methodology for agriculture survey developed and adopted

- ▣ Identified gap / deficiency
  - Lack of capacity to develop sample selection strategy for Ag data collection.
- ▣ Proposed activity to address issue
  - Technical expert to develop methodology for sample selection of agricultural households
  - Technical expert to build staff capacity through hands on training.
- ▣ Impact of undertaking the activity
  - An agriculture household master frame which can be updated after each ag census (10 yrs).
  - Subsequent samples for ag surveys will be drawn from this master frame.

Evaluation & Development of agriculture module tool for other national surveys

- ▣ Identified gap / deficiency
  - ▪ Inadequate frequency of collection of core agriculture production data.
- ▣ Proposed activity to address issue
  - ▪ Develop an agriculture questionnaire module for use in non-ag national surveys and censuses
  - ▪ Technical expert to assist in evaluation and development of agriculture module
  - ▪ Technical expert to build capacity through hands on training.
- ▣ Impact of undertaking the activity
  - ▪ Increased frequency of agricultural core crops data collection between agriculture censuses (10 years).
  - ▪ Frequent assessment of core crop performance.

Improve the capacity of SBS and MAF in agricultural statistics and survey activities

- Identified gap / deficiency
  - Lack of technical capacity in agricultural statistics
- Proposed activity to address issue
  - Technical experts to train and mentor SBS and MAF staff.
  - Attendance at relevant Agriculture statistics courses offered through international statistical training centers.
- Impact of undertaking the activity
  - Increased capacity of SBS and MAF staff to understand agriculture statistics and carry out activities associated with agriculture data collection.