
Fiji Islands – Fiji National Agricultural Census 2009 - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Previous censuses were undertaken in 1950, 1960, 1968, 1978 and 1991.

Legal basis and organization

The census was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) through its Department of Agriculture at the Planning and Statistics Division. FAO provided technical assistance for the Fiji National Agricultural Census (NAC) 2009. 129 field enumerators and 26 supervisors worked during the field operation.

Enumeration period

Data collection started on October 6th, 2009 with 119 fulltime enumerators. Only one division [Central] managed to finish in the proposed timeline (2 months). The other three divisions encountered difficult field situations, including Cyclone Tomas, which further extended data collection until the 3rd week of December 2009. However, data collection in the Yasawa Group [Western Division] was not completed until February 2010 due to the impact of Cyclone Mick.

Reference period/date

Different reference dates were used:

Day of interview for:

- General characteristics of the farm;
- Information on farm household members
- Presence of crops and livestock and pastures;
- Land use;
- Machinery and equipment on holding.

Last cropping and harvesting season for:

- Participation in agricultural tasks;

October 2008-September 2009 for:

- Area sown, harvested and production of crops;
- Technical assistance

The week before for:

- Milk production;
- Employment;

Last 10 years for:

- Selected agricultural practices

Definition of the statistical unit:

The "FARM" is the reporting unit for 2009 NAC. A Farm is an "economic unit" of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan, village, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. The farm's land may consist of one or more tracts, located inside or outside the segment, in one or more separate areas or tikinas, but inside the same province, providing the tracts, share the same "production means" utilized by the farm, such as labour, farm buildings, and machinery or draught animals.

According to *legal status*, holdings were classified as:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Individual, | 4. Corporation |
| 2. Household, | 5. Co-operative |
| 3. Joint farmer, | 6. Others. |

According to *land tenure*, holders were classified as:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Owner, | 4. Partner |
| 2. Renter, Squatter, | 5. Salary/Worker, |
| 3. Family, | 6. Other |

Geographical coverage

The census covered the whole country.

Statistical coverage

The following areas were excluded: Area covered with planted forest; Non-agricultural land; Urban and peri-urban areas.

Data items coverage

The census covered 100% of core items of the WCA 2010 FAO Programme. It also covered location, area and land tenure for each parcel, area irrigated, area harvested, production for each crop type and number of fruit trees, livestock information, use of pesticides, ownership of machinery and equipment and detailed information about household members and familiar and non-familiar labour.

Frame

The Population Census 2007 constituted the agricultural census frame.

Methodology

The large number of islands of the country were split into 4 Divisions with 15 Provinces and 86 Districts. The 2009 census of agriculture was conducted using a Multiple Sampling Frame (MSF) approach for estimates at district level. The Enumeration Areas (EAs), used for the Population Census 2007, were the basis for land use stratification, these areas were adjusted depending on the uniformity of the land use.

A Multiple sampling frame was used:

- a) List component: a List Sampling Frame (LSF) elaborated by the DOA Animal Health and Production Division and Extension Division staff.
- b) Area component: The segment size was targeted at 1 km² (100 hectares) for all strata. Since some of the smaller districts consisted of only a few segments, it was decided a complete enumeration of all households in these districts. These districts became part of the Small Island Strategy (SIS).

A three-part methodology was adopted: The LSF and SIS farms were "censed" with a sampling rate of 100%. These areas were removed from the "national land areas" and the remainder of the area was stratified according to estimated agricultural intensity in the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics (FIBOS) Enumeration Areas (EAs) as used in the Population Census of 2007. An overall rate of 10% was used in the area component of the sample.

The interviews were face-to-face with paper questionnaires. Two questionnaires, NAC 1 and NAC 3, were used to record information about the segments from the sample. The NAC 1 itemized all tracts inside the segment and all associated farm tracts outside the segments. The NAC 3 documented the nonfarm tracts inside the segment. Enumerators were required to fill out these questionnaires; during the interview process the main questionnaire (NAC 2) was used. Neither the NAC 1 nor NAC 3 was necessary for List Frame farms.

Post census techniques to check census quality

No Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was performed. Intensive quality control programmes were undertaken during the first three weeks of the census data collection in the four Divisions of the country.

Data source

Website information: Report of the Fiji National Agricultural Census 2009; Census Questionnaires: NAC1, NAC2 and NAC 3; Field Team Manual.

Mailing address / Census contact Points

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