
Samoa – 2009 Agricultural Census - Explanatory Notes

Historical outline

Previous censuses of agriculture were undertaken in 1950, 1989 and 1999.

Legal basis and organization

The 2009 Agricultural Census was taken under the authority of the Statistics Act 1971. The census was organized and conducted by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics as a joint exercise with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

Funding sources came from the Government of Australia.

A Census Advisory Committee was established. It was chaired by the Government Statistician and comprised the following institutions:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of Agriculture (Director of Agriculture);
- Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Women Affairs;
- Farmers Associations.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community provided technical assistance.

300 field enumerators worked during the exercise.

Enumeration period

The enumeration period was October 31st to November 30th, 2009.

Reference period/date

Three reference dates were used:

Calendar year 2009 (actually the period from January 1st, 2009 to the day of interview that roughly equals the calendar year 2009) for:

- Identification of holdings operated and method of operation;
- Crops grown;
- Agricultural income;
- Use of fertilizers and chemicals;
- Fishing;
- Forestry.

The day of enumeration for:

- Area of holding and land use;
- Livestock;

The week prior to the day of enumeration for:

- Labour inputs;

Definition of the statistical unit

An agricultural holding is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising of all livestock kept on 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, or tribe or by a juridical person such as corporation, cooperative or government agency.

Holdings were classified in the following **legal status** types:

- Individual household on own account;
- In partnership;
- A Village association;
- Institution.

Land tenure is classified as:

- Family owned;

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- Leased;
 - Other.

Geographical coverage

The census covered all the country.

Statistical coverage

If agricultural activity of the household was below the following limits, only the household form was applied:

- 1/8 of an acre of any crop; or
- 20 coconuts or banana trees or 20 other crops;

Data items coverage

The household form collected information about basic characteristics of households in the country including level of agricultural activity and fishing. In households with agricultural activity the following main items were covered through the holding and parcel questionnaires:

- Land use and land tenure;
- Crops grown, sold and consumed;
- Livestock;
- Labour Inputs;
- Agricultural Income and Credit;
- Use of Fertilizers and Chemicals;
- Equipment;
- Fisheries;
- Forestry.

Frame

The census frame was the 2006 Population Census.

Methodology

The 2009 Agricultural Census in Samoa was a combination of complete enumeration and sampling survey.

The census comprised two phases.

During the first phase, all households were screened by means of the household form. If any agricultural activity was detected, then a holding form was filled. Holding forms were also applied to non-household holdings.

In the second phase, a "parcel form" was applied to 25% of holdings (households where a holding form had been applied). During the second phase a systematic sampling selection was performed, choosing one every fourth holdings detected in the first phase.

Data were collected through face-to-face interviews with paper forms.

Special features

The modular approach was used. The census included a fisheries census. Data collection was also performed in non-holding households.

Data source

Agricultural Census 2009, Analytical Report (includes methodology and questionnaires) at website.

Mailing address / Census contact Points

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