

Historical outline

The 2000 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) is the second conducted nationwide in the Cook Islands. The first one was conducted in 1988. There was a previous attempt to conduct an agricultural census in 1975, but the coverage was limited to the island of Rarotonga.

Organization

The 2000 CAF was jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the Statistics Office. A National Agricultural Census Committee was formed, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Statistics Office, the Ministry of Land Administration, the Ministry of Marine Resources and the FAO Sub-Regional Office (SAPA). A National Project Coordinator was appointed from the MOA to coordinate the activities of the census project. A Census Planning Unit (CPU) was also established, responsible for the preparatory phase, the enumeration, data processing, tabulation, analysis and publication of the census. Financial and technical support was provided by the FAO of the UN. About 110 enumerators were assigned to one or more EAs, and provided with maps and household lists. The supervision was exercised by 30 supervisors.

Enumeration period

The enumeration period lasted one month, from 13 November to 13 December 2001.

Reference date/period

Data on household composition and livestock refer to the day of enumeration. Data on labour inputs refer to the month prior to enumeration. Data on agricultural activity, farm details, crops, agricultural income, equipment, livestock disposal and fishing activities, refer to the 12 months prior to enumeration.

Definition

A household is defined as: Agriculturally Active if it manages at least 0.05 ha of land under garden crops or at least 10 coconuts or other crop trees. An Agriculturally Active household could be either: Subsistence Only, Subsistence with Cash Cropping, Commercial Producer. Minor Agricultural if it manages less than 0.05 ha of land under garden crops or less than 10 coconuts or other crop trees. Non-Agricultural if it is not engaged in crop production.

Coverage

The 2000 CAF covered all households and holdings in the Cook Islands but excluded institutions and agricultural lands operated by the community or government.

Frame

The frame used in the 2000 CAF was the listing of households by enumeration area (EA) compiled during the 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings (CPD) and the 1988 Household Income and Expenditures Survey (HIES). During the enumeration these lists were updated. For census purposes, each island was divided into Census Districts (CDs) in turn subdivided into EAs.

Method

The CPU did a simple pre-test of questionnaires two weeks before the start of the census training. Aside from the regular census questionnaires, the enumerators completed also the Census Household Listing and the Field Sheet for each EA. This was done to update the Listing of Households, to enter the level of agricultural activity of the household (see "definitions") and to record the number of questionnaires used.

Data source

Census of Agriculture and Fisheries 2000, September 2001. Ministry of Agriculture and Statistics Office, Rarotonga Cook Islands.

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