

COUNTRY PAPER:

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This is an account of the situation regarding Agriculture Statistics in Papua New Guinea from the perspective of the National Statistical Office (PNG NSO) where I am a currently employed:

- To date, NSO has not been involved in any agricultural survey or census of national significance with the main agency responsible for development of agriculture - The Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Therefore, documenting the sampling methods and techniques for agricultural surveys conducted in the country on the topics outlined for Modules 3 – 6 in section V from my perspective will be quite difficult as the NSO has not had the experience of conducting a national agriculture survey or census as yet.
- The only agriculture statistics that the NSO has are basic information about agricultural activities of individual households collected during the Population and Household Census conducted at ten year intervals since 1980.
- The first census on indigenous food crops in the country was conducted in 1960-61 (under colonial administration) and this data is well out of date for any use. Few surveys conducted since then include Food Crop Market Survey in late 1980s which focused mainly on cash rather than food crops and were only done on urban markets in the country.
- In 1986, FAO conducted a series of study in the member countries which PNG was one of them. This study was conducted to develop agriculture price index for the country.
- Information and Data on agriculture is compiled by individual sectors/agencies and commodity boards and not coordinated for the central database. Almost all government agencies do not have a agriculture unit dealing with agriculture.
- According to the governments' Vision 2050 Plan, the first Agriculture Census is to be conducted in 2020 consistent with the World Agriculture Census.
- As the agency responsible for the planning and conduct of the National Population and Household Census and other major surveys such as the Demographic & Health Survey (DHS), Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES) in the country, PNG NSO has the main register of all villages and census units and households by their respective government administrative boundary divisions and are also plotted on maps.
- Therefore, my participation in this training course will be useful for planning the Agriculture Census in the not too distant future and am looking forward to learning from this workshop.

To conclude, I come from the field background which I can readily use to apply any statistical sampling methods I can gain from this training.