

Samoa Country Paper 2017

Regional Training Course on Costs of Agricultural Production Statistics, Communication and Advocacy for Statistics

**26 – 30 June 2017
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The Samoa Bureau of Statistics conducts surveys and 10 yearly census connected with agriculture. However, costs of agricultural production have not been collected in national household surveys and censuses. Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture does not collect data for these types of costs associated with agricultural production. In October 2016 there was a Farm Management Manual (still in draft) compiled by MAF with its primary purpose to assist commercial farmers and their advisers in making informed decisions about their farm business, and to maximize return from agriculture. This manual gives semi commercial and commercial farmers actual estimates in the startup costs for various crops common in Samoa along with potential gross earnings with each crop.

The area of collecting costs of agricultural production statistics is an area that has not really been explored before in Samoa and will likely require technical assistance in establishing this type of collection.

(c) Outlines specific plans to improve quality and coverage of agricultural costs of production statistics.

1. Work in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture to assess the need for cost of agricultural production statistics
2. Establish a methodology for collecting data in measuring costs of agricultural production
3. Assess the national statistical system and ascertain data sources if they're available and difficulty in collection and reliability of information being collected
4. Strengthen statistical system where there may be opportunities to collect this type of data