

*Sub Regional Training Course on Sampling Methods for
Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural
Statistics*

Suva, FIJI

Agricultural census: From a Tongan Experience

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Agricultural and Rural Statistics*

INTRODUCTION

The 2015 Tonga National Agriculture Census Methodology

- Set Project Timeline
- Supervisors and Enumerators
 - Recruitments
 - Responsibilities
 - Trainings
 - Manuals
 - Supervisor , Enumerators , Appendix 6 , Appendix 7 , Area
- Census Instruments
 - Questionnaires
 - Listing Forms
 - Village Forms
 - PES Form

Confidentiality of public data

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WHAT TO BE CAPTURED FROM AN AGRICULTURAL CENSUS?

➤ 1. IDENTIFICATION

- Holding ID: Village No. + Census Block No. + Household No.
- Village Name
- Head of Household

➤ 2. DEMOGRAPHIC HOUSEHOLD BIODATA

- Names of household members
- Gender
- Age of household members
- Relationship to Head of Household
- Educational Level

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A1. CROPS:

- **Land Issues** – status of **ownerships, leased and rented**, number of **parcels**
- **Tax Allotments** – **Town/Bush Allotments, Size** of Land area (poles, acres, etc.), **Land tenure, Land Locations, Land Use**
- **Existing Crop Varieties** – List of **all crops** in the cropping area, **Method and Type** of planting, **Size** of crop area (acres)
 - *(Main focus: Yam, Taro, Cassava and Sweet potato)*
- **Harvested Crops** – List of **harvested crops** in the last 12 months, and **quantitative estimations** of **harvested produces**

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A2. LIVESTOCK:

- **Breeds**: Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Goats, Chickens, etc.
- **Life stages**: e.g. Pigs: piglets, weaner, barrow, sow, boar)
- **Numbers**: individual counts for each life stages category in each livestock breed
- **Disposal**: Consumed, Social Obligations, Sold, Lost
- **Veterinary Services**: Yes or No

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A3. FISHERIES:

- **Fishing Type**: the **type of fishing** the household is engaging, Avg. weekly no. of trips, Avg. person hour/trip, Avg. weekly catch, Avg. weekly value of sold fish
- **Main purpose**: the main purpose of the household fishing activity
- **Main species harvested**: list of main species catches (e.g. tuna & pelagic fish, lobster, shellfish, sea cucumber, seaweed, ornamental fish, reef finfish, sea urchins, others)
- **Type of fishing habitat**: the fishing ground e.g. flat reef, lagoon, sea grass, reef slope, open sea)
- **Time of fishing**: when fishing are done e.g. day, night or both

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A4. FORESTRY:

- **Numbers** and **Intended Use** of trees/shrubs in Holding e.g. food sources, timbers, soil improvements, high value woods, fuel, shade/shelter/windbreaks, boundaries, handicrafts, medicinal, conservations, ornamentals, etc.

A5. HANDICRAFTS:

- **Raw Material productions:** Proportions of raw materials buy or selling
- **Total handicrafts produced:** Proportions of Total finished products sold and values
- **Engaged in group productions of handicrafts** for the purpose of *katoanga* and **estimated values** if yes

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A6. OTHER INFORMATION:

- **Labour:** Use of group or permanent labours, labour gender, working hours, rate and benefits if paid
- **Machinery & Equipments:** List of all equipments owned in Farming, Fishing, Transport, Energy supply, and Livestock activities
- **Agricultural Income and Loan:** Proportion of income comes from the agricultural sector activities, loan amount, sources, purposes and rate of repayment
- **Opinions and prioritising current Challenges in the agricultural sector:** Lack of production inputs, lack of finance sources, lack of management skills, lack of markets, lack of new technologies and infrastructures

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CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES

➤ Unpreparedness

- results in frequent delaying of census activities
- may have an impact with the collected data accuracy

➤ Spatial distances and Remoteness

- may affect communications and trip arrangements

➤ National events

- may draw away large population from outer islands e.g. coronation and church conference events in July

➤ Delays due to resources unavailability

- unavailability of resources (human, funds, tools, etc.) may delay all planned census activities

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LESSONS LEARNT:

➤ Preparation time should be sufficient:

- required much time in preparations (e.g. 2 – 3 years ahead in preparations)
- public familiarisations with the questions to be asked
- census promotions and publicity required much time
- budget allocations should be in hand

➤ Stability of implementing staff to conduct the census

- keep and use the same staff throughout the census during implementations
- be neutral throughout the census period

➤ Get the right people, the right time, and right tools and equipments

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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Give sufficient time in preparations for an agricultural census
- ~~Promotion exercises and public programs~~ should be very active in outlining the questions to be asked to get the public familiar with the questions as to give the most accurate information
- Carry out annual surveys between census years as to have estimated benchmark data for the next census program
- Reduce the gap of census interval to not more than 10 years period
- Require sufficient time for supervisors' and enumerators' training

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MĀLŌ 'AUPITO

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