

# SAMOA

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## COUNTRY REPORT

10/6/2016



## Background to situation in Samoa

- National Strategic Framework
  - Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012-2016)
    - Priority Area 1: Economic Sector
    - Key Outcome 2: Re-invigorate Agriculture
  - Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2011-2012)
    - Relevant, reliable and accessible sector statistics
  - Agriculture Sector Plan
- Samoa National Statistical System
  - Samoa Bureau of Statistics (lead agency)
  - Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (also collects agricultural statistics)

### 1. Dissemination practices

#### a. Website

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics has a website at <http://www.sbs.gov.ws> housing official statistics for the country, and is accessible to external users. SBS has undertaken considerable redevelopment of its website in the past year, including establishing a new Document Library page from where all released data can be assessed.

Both Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have Facebook pages which helps a lot in spreading out news about projects and development in the ministry to improve agriculture developments and also the Bureau with showcasing its statistics compiled.

#### b. Publications



All statistical reports are prepared and disseminate hard copies to all users. For surveys and census reports, reports are disseminated after the official launch of such reports as this is where all users are invited to witness the hard work and also importance of the data collected.

These publications and reports are made available to all the users, stakeholders of agriculture on the Ministry / Bureau websites

- Monthly reports (local market report)
- Monthly newsletter
- Article publication in the newspaper
- Training of farmers through extension officers
- Gross margin - assessment of individual crops and livestock to strengthen farmer participation in production

- Market link –newsletter to link farmers to markets
- Agriculture Sector Plan



## 2. Communication Practices

We focused on being clear, meaningful and relevant in all communication with our stakeholders. We ensure we understand our audience and tailor our communication to meet their needs

### 1. Participatory Approach

#### a. National Stakeholders Consultations

For every census and surveys conducted, consultation is one of the main activities as this is an important forum for every data users to come together to discuss and share their data needs to be collected in the survey/census and also to make suggestions on the survey/census instruments.



#### b. Trainings of enumerators

Training of enumerators is a very important activity in any survey as they need to familiarise and understand the survey instrument in order to collect the relevant and accurate information needed for the survey.

#### c. Data Workshops with stakeholders and community



After every census/surveys data collection and tabulation, the Bureau once again invited participants from other ministries to participate in the report writing workshop. This is a good avenue to share, discuss and understand the output of the data collected from the survey and work together on the data analysis.



#### d. Career talks



This is where ministries and organisations come together to showcase their products to the public. A good chance to share the data with users that hardly gets the information. Explanations given to them of what we collect and compile and their importance in the development of the country.



### 3. The Use of Data and Statistics in Agricultural Policy Making

There has been a number of examples that data and statistics being gathered from various sources can be used for making the evidence based agricultural policies. These are as follows:

- Data and statistics that have been collected regularly the SBS and the MAF staffs through agricultural census, surveys, studies, etc are considered to be the baseline to monitor the progress of current agriculture and fisheries development projects and programs, the actual performance of agriculture sector to national GDP and the livelihoods of local people.
- Another usage of these data and statistics in agricultural policy making is that when there is a decrease in number of livestock animals (cattle) due to the over-slaughtering of cattle for social/cultural obligations (faalavelave). In response, the MAF must be in a strong position to formulate the appropriate livestock policy (e.g. the exchange of live animals and/or the use of cash) that would help in resolving this development issue as in fact, if it cannot be resolved strategically, this would jeopardize the effort of using the Mobile Slaughtering Unit (MSU) and building the national abattoir for livestock slaughtering. The use of MSU and national abattoir for livestock slaughtering must be enforced by MAF, MWCSO, MOH and MOP.
- Similarly, if there has been a decrease in taro exports, the MAF would have to react instantly by identifying the factors contributing to the problem like the supply side of market is the cause, the policy must address the need to push the distribution of planting materials, the availability and accessibility to best taro varieties, chemicals, labour, access roads for transport.

As part of the In-depth Country Assessment process, several short to medium term projects requiring technical assistance and training were identified.

**Six projects were included in the Country Proposal document:**

**1. Improving the availability and regularity of agricultural production statistics**

Project 1a. Support of project planning for the 2015 Agricultural Survey

Project 1b. Questionnaire for agricultural survey developed

Project 1c. Sample selection methodology for agriculture survey developed and adopted

The Samoa Agricultural Survey 2015 was carried out by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). The survey is part of the national census/survey programme included in the Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2011-2021. The strategy provides for an agricultural census to be conducted every ten years and an agricultural survey to be conducted in between the agricultural censuses. Agricultural censuses in Samoa were conducted in 1989, 1999 and 2009. This is the second agricultural survey – the previous survey was conducted in 2005. The aim of the agricultural censuses is to provide basic structural data on agriculture such as farm size, cropping patterns, and use of machinery and inputs. Because the census is done ten-yearly, the focus is on aspects that do not change significantly from year to year. The purpose of the agricultural surveys is to update the census information and provide some additional data on current agricultural conditions.

The Samoa Agricultural Survey 2015 was carried in October/November 2015. Tabulation is completed and the analytical report is now in its editing stage expecting the final report to be launched in July 2016.

**2. Developing an effective data collection operation for agricultural statistics**

Project 2a. Evaluation of agriculture module tool for other national surveys

Project 2b. Develop the agriculture module survey tool

There is no agriculture module being developed as the agriculture survey was recently conducted in 2015 and most of the information regarding agriculture has been collected. However only few agricultural questions added to the 2016 population census questionnaire.

**3. Building capacity in agricultural statistics**

Project 3. Improve the capacity of SBS and MAF in agricultural statistics and survey activities

The 2015 Agriculture survey was done in partnership with the ministry. Both bureau and ministry staff were involved in this project. This project involves training of staff with the survey questionnaire and practice their interview skills. The same staff were also invited in the report writing workshop which involves discussions and analysis of the survey data.