

Tonga - Agricultural Census 2001

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Statistics Department

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

TON_2001_AC-W2_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS

Overview

ABSTRACT

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) was entrusted with the responsibility to lead the implementation of the agricultural census project with the assistance of the Statistics Department (SD). The Census was conducted under the National Statistics Act 1978 which provides for obligation of the citizens to provide information, confidentiality of information provided and the duties of the census staff. A National Agriculture Census Committee was constituted to guide and supervise the entire census exercise. Technical and financial assistance for undertaking the census was provided by the FAO of the UN. The undertaking of the AC 2001 was envisioned to:

1. provide benchmark or basic data on the structure of agricultural holdings and their main characteristics;
2. use this information to develop a regular system of agricultural statistics;
3. build up some important village and regional level statistics;
4. establish a technical and organizational foundation on which to build up a comprehensive and integrated system of food and agricultural statistics; and
5. provide a frame from which samples can be drawn to study certain aspects of agricultural activities in greater depth.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Agricultural holdings

Scope

NOTES

The 2001 Agricultural Census covered the following items:

HOUSEHOLD

1. Level of Agricultural Activity
2. Ownership of Tax Allotment ('Api Tukuhaui)
3. Agricultural Holdings and Method of Operation
4. Crops and Trees Grown by Minor Agricultural Household Only
5. Household Membership and Economic Characteristics
6. Livestock Including Dogs
7. Fisheries

HOLDING

1. Parcel Details
2. Agricultural Income and Loan
3. Labour Inputs
4. Use of Fertilizers and Agricultural Chemicals
5. Equipment Used
6. Agro-Forestry on the Holding
7. Handicraft Making

PARCEL

1. Number of Separate Parcels
2. Plot Details
3. Scattered/Boundary Crops/Trees Growing on this Parcel
4. Crops Planted and Already Harvested on this Parcel

TOPICS

| Topic | Vocabulary | URI |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Agriculture & Rural Development | FAO | |
| Forests & Forestry | FAO | |
| Livestock | FAO | |
| Labor | FAO | |
| Access to Finance | FAO | |

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

UNIVERSE

The Agricultural Census 2001 was conducted at the household level and a complete enumeration of all households residing in Tonga during the period of the census enumeration. However, households that left for abroad and came back after the period of the census taking and those that were permanently living in other countries were no longer included.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

| Name | Affiliation |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | Government of Tonga |
| Statistics Department | Government of Tonga |

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

| Name | Affiliation | Role |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Food and Agriculture Organization | United Nation | Technical support |

FUNDING

| Name | Abbreviation | Role |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Food and Agriculture Organization | FAO | Financial support |
| Government of Tonga | GovTON | Financial support |

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

| Name | Abbreviation | Affiliation | Role |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Office of Chief Statistician | OCS | Food and Agriculture Organization | Adoption of the metadata for FAM |
| Development Data Group | DECDG | The World Bank | Generation of the DDI |

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

TON_2001_AC-W2_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_v01

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_TON_2001_AC-W2_v01_EN_M_v01_A_OCS_FAO

Sampling

No content available

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

| Start | End | Cycle |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 2001-10-03 | 2001-12-15 | N/A |

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

Other forms of Data Appraisal

Data Limitations:

The AC 2001, as stated in one of its objectives, provides basic information on the structure of agricultural holdings in the Kingdom and its characteristics that do not change over a certain period of time. Like any other census and surveys, it has limitations which are enumerated in the following:

1. No data on crop production was included in this census since this information would be better asked in a follow up survey specifically designed for major crops.
2. The level of agricultural activity of a household was determined only through its involvement in the cultivation/growing of crops and size of its agricultural land which should be more than 1/8 of an acre. A household having only livestock or poultry was not considered to have an agricultural holding for this census.
3. The size of the agricultural holding, to be considered as an agricultural holder, was more than 1/8 of an acre.
4. The economic characteristics of the household members were asked for member 15 years old and over as recommended and being done internationally and in other local surveys.
5. Apart from Livestock animals, only information on dogs was included in the Livestock Section of this census. Other domesticated animals such as cats and birds like parrots were excluded.
6. Fisheries Section was asked for only few data items such as main purpose of fishing, type of fishing method engaged in, use of fishing boats and proportion of fish/other sea products sold.
7. The holding and parcels included only those agricultural lands cultivated by the holder whether owned or leased from other households. On the other hand, all lands owned by the holder but rented out to other households whether for a fee or for free were excluded in the Holding Questionnaire and Parcel Questionnaire.
8. Sections on Agricultural Income and Loan, Agro-Forestry on the Holding and Handicraft Making were asked only for agriculturally active households. The nonagricultural and minor agricultural households did not have such information.
9. Questions on the use of fertilizers were answerable only by "Yes" or "No" and questions on agricultural chemicals were the name of chemical and crops it was used on. Quantities on these agricultural inputs were not taken for it is best to include these items in a follow-up survey.
10. Small implements such as knife, spade and other gardening tools were not included in this census since it is assumed that almost all agriculturally active households owned and used such small tools.
11. The section on Agro-forestry was limited to the name of the trees/shrubs and its uses, not on the number of trees for this would create problems on data processing. Hence, a follow-up survey using this information as a frame can be done to get additional information on agro-forestry.
12. The section on Crops Planted and Already Harvested of the Parcel Questionnaire was supposed to be answered by all agricultural holders who answered the section on Parcel Details of the Holding Questionnaire. However, due to memory recall of the respondents, information on this section might have been under reported.
13. The quality of the data collected can be affected by many factors. For example, the complete enumeration and coverage limits the completeness of data, the concepts and interpretation of questionnaires may not be fully understood by enumerators, inadequate supervision and others.