

1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The first census of agriculture (CA) in Vanuatu was conducted in 1983, and the second in 1993. The third CA, to which the metadata review and data presented here refer, was undertaken in 2007.

2. LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANIZATION

Legal framework

The Statistics Act of 1983 governs the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), a Government department and Vanuatu's official statistical agency.

Institutional framework and international collaboration.

The VNSO is responsible for census operations. An eight-member national agriculture census Steering Committee was formed, headed by the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries (MAQFF).¹

The census was funded by New Zealand Aid Agency, the European Union, the Australian Aid Agency, and the national budget. Technical assistance was provided by the Statistics and Demography Programme of the South Pacific Community and FAO.

Census staff

In Phase 1 of the census, 650 enumerators were involved, while in the Phase 2, 2 007 enumerators participated.

3. REFERENCE DATE AND PERIOD

Reference days:

- the day of the interview, for number of trees, livestock, etc.;
- the day of the last sale, for value of crops, fisheries species and forest products sold.

Reference periods:

- from 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007, for crop gardens and cash crops such as coconut, cocoa, coffee, kava, vanilla and pepper;
- the crop year (1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007), for arable land, permanent crops, organic land and vines, mushrooms, animal housing and labour force.

4. ENUMERATION PERIOD

The enumeration was conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1 was undertaken in May–June 2006.
- Phase 2 took place from 21 August to 21 September 2007. A further one-month period, from 21 September to 21 October 2007, was allocated for the enumeration of especially difficult areas in the country.²

5. SCOPE OF THE CENSUS AND DEFINITION OF THE STATISTICAL UNIT

The **census scope** covered agricultural activities (crop and livestock production). It also included the fishing and forestry activities performed by the households.

The **statistical unit** was the agricultural holding (farm), defined as any economic unit of agricultural production (such as a garden or temporary and/or permanent crops or cattle raising, cocoa/coffee/kava/vanilla/pepper area/plantation) under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land wholly or partly used for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. Information on agricultural holdings was collected according to their legal status.

6. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The census covered rural areas in the 18 major islands of the country.

7. CUT-OFF THRESHOLD AND OTHER EXCLUSIONS

The CA did not cover the urban areas of the country. No thresholds were applied for the CA.

8. METHODOLOGY

Methodological modality for conducting the census

The CA 2007 was a sample-based classical census (see the “Data collection method(s)” subsection below).

¹ The Steering Committee also included representatives of the Departments of Economic and Sector Planning, Finance and Economic Management, Provincial Affairs, Trade and Industries, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

² Phase II was planned to be a series of sample surveys of the following selected crops and livestock: coconut, cocoa, coffee, kava, vanilla, pepper and cattle. Owing to limited resources, the collection of information on these crops and cattle was conducted simultaneously with household characteristics and crop gardens. There were separate questionnaires for each agricultural activity (see also section 8).

Frame

The Population Census (PC) 1999 and the listing of households done in May 2006 (during Phase 1) served as the census frames.

Complete and/or sample enumeration methods

All holdings in the household sector were enumerated in Phase 1. The frame data collected in Phase 1 were used to select the sample of EAs for Phase 2. Commercial farms or holdings were covered during data collection in Phase 2.

Sample design (if sampling was used)

The 18 major islands of the country were classified in three groups, according to the number of households engaged in agriculture: (i) small – less than 500 households; (ii) medium – 500 to 1 999 households; and (iii) large – more than 2 000 households.³

Data collection method(s)

Data were collected through face-to-face interviews by means of the PAPI method.

During Phase 1 (May–June 2006), the enumerators listed every household in Vanuatu and recorded all agricultural activities undertaken by the sampled households. In Phase 2 (August–September 2007), enumerators were hired again and trained to collect census data from households. Regular staff and census supervisors collected information for the commercial farms and holdings.

Questionnaire(s)

Two types of questionnaires were used: one for listing the households (Phase 1) and one for data collection (Phase 2). Separate questionnaires were provided for different agricultural activities (nine questionnaires in total).⁴

Only one of the 16 core items recommended by FAO for the WCA 2010 was not covered by the CA 2007.⁵

9. USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The census results were disseminated online.

10. DATA PROCESSING AND ARCHIVING

Data processing was conducted in the Vanuatu National Statistics Office.⁶

11. CENSUS DATA QUALITY

In order to ensure the collection of accurate data, officers and staff members of the VNSO worked as trainers during Phase I while the main census project staff (both VNSO and the MAQFF) were responsible for supervising data collection during Phase II. Under their guidance and supervision six census coordinators performed duties as provincial coordinators in both phases.

12. DATA DISSEMINATION

The CA 2007 data were disseminated through a printed publication, which included the final census results. The results were also published on institution's website.

13. DATA SOURCE

FAO. Regional Roundtable on the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), 6-10 November 2017, Nadi, Fiji. In: *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 16 September 2019]. <http://www.fao.org/index.php?id=85857>

Vanuatu National Statistics Office. 2008. *Census of Agriculture 2007*. Port Vila, Vanuatu. (also available at <https://vnso.gov.vu/index.php/document-library?view=download&fileId=3074>).

14. CONTACT

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³ For group 1, a complete enumeration exercise was performed. For group 2, one third of the EAs were sampled and all households engaged in agricultural activities were interviewed. For group 3, one-third of the EAs was sampled; from the households in the sampled EAs that had a crop garden, coconuts or kava sub-holdings, one-third were selected to be further interviewed. In addition, all households listed and involved in raising cattle and growing cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, vanilla and pepper (ten or more plants) were also enumerated.

⁴ The following questionnaires were used: the commercial farm questionnaire, household questionnaires (demographic and agricultural activities), and specific questionnaires related to parcels and crops and livestock (kava plant, coconut, cocoa, coffee, vanilla, pepper plants, cattle).

⁵ The following item was not covered in the CA: "Other economic production activities of the holding's enterprise".

⁶ Assistance was received from FAO data processing consultant, FAO census & survey consultant, data analysis consultant from Nirmana Pty Ltd, Canberra, Australia, who assisted with data analysis

VANUATU – CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2007 – MAIN RESULTS

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS AND AREA		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total	38 909	n.a.
Subsistence farms (Household sector)	38 879	7 511
Commercial farms (Non-household sector)	30	n.a.

LAND TENURE		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total subsistence farms	38 879	7 511
Legal ownership	n.a.	5 789
Non-legal owner-like possession	n.a.	1 277
Rented from others	n.a.	59
Other	n.a.	384

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLDINGS BY LAND SIZE CLASSES		
	Holdings	Area (ha)
Total subsistence farms	38 879	7 511
Less than 1 ha	n.a.	6 668
1–2.9 ha	n.a.	545
3–4.9 ha	n.a.	109
5–9.9 ha	n.a.	188

HOLDERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SECTOR, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	38 879
Male	31 215
Female	7 664

MEMBERS OF HOLDER'S HOUSEHOLD, BY SEX	
	Number
Total	175 051
Male	90 398
Female	84 653
Engaged in agricultural activities on the holding	111 117
Male	57 427
Female	53 690

EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE HOLDING	
	Number
Total	96 949
Full-time	6 883
Part-time	11 151
Occasional	78 914

LIVESTOCK		
	Holdings	Head
Holdings with livestock	n.a.	
Cattle	n.a.	211 167
Sheep	37	258
Goats	2 099	8 792
Pigs/swine	17 981	86 698
Poultry (1 000 head)	n.a.	n.a.
Chickens	23 381	368
Other poultry	153	2

PERMANENT CROPS		
	Holdings	Number of trees/plants
Total	n.a.	n.a.
Tropical and subtropical fruits	n.a.	n.a.
Avocados	n.a.	100 682
Bananas	n.a.	1 579 476
Plantains	n.a.	1 358 384
Papayas	n.a.	559 166
Breadfruit	n.a.	218 957
Mangoes	n.a.	169 074
Citrus fruits	n.a.	60 639
Mandarins	n.a.	163 335
Limes	n.a.	n.a.
Oranges	n.a.	172 198
Pomplemousse	n.a.	129 555
Nuts	n.a.	n.a.
Chestnuts	n.a.	228 281
Oilseed crops	n.a.	n.a.
Coconuts	23 660	9 957 488
Beverage crops and spice crops	n.a.	n.a.
Coffee	1 456	600 330
Cocoa	8 484	996 820
Vanilla	9 492	823 167
Other permanent crops	n.a.	114 144