

# TONGA - Agricultural Census 2001 - Explanatory Notes

## Historical outline

The first Census of Agriculture of Tonga was conducted in 1985. Before and after that census, some important surveys were undertaken in the agricultural sector covering subject like Consumption and Production of Crops, Livestock and Fish (1970 and 1980), Coconut Palms (1979), Coconut Age Distribution and Productivity (1980), Agricultural Inputs (1982/83), Land Utilization (1982), Animal Health Survey (1994), Annual Crop Survey (1991/92), Land Use and Crop Survey (1993), and Inventory of Coconut Palm Resources (1996) Then, in 2001 the second Census of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Tonga was conducted, to which data here reported refer.

## Organization

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) was entrusted with the responsibility to lead the implementation of the agricultural census project through the assistance of the Statistics Department (SD). The Chief of the Policy and Planning Section of the Corporate Services Division of MAF were appointed as the National Project Coordinator, with the assistance of the Principal Statistician of the SD to guide and supervise the entire census exercise. A National Agriculture Census Committee was constituted. Technical and financial assistance was provided, as for 1985 census, by FAO.

## Enumeration period

The Agricultural Census enumeration was done in mid-December 2001.

## Reference date/period

For Ownership of Api Tukuha; Crops and Trees grown by Minor Agricultural Households, Household Membership and Economic Characteristics, Livestock and Poultry: the Date of Enumeration / Time of Visit. For Level of Agricultural Activity, Method of Operation of holding, Household, Fisheries and Parcel details: 31 October 2000 to 30 September 2001. For Agricultural Income and Loan: last 5 years. Also, the week preceding the enumeration was used for some items.

## Definition

- **Agricultural Holding** is an economic unit of agricultural production under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. The holding's land may consist of one or more separate parcels, providing the parcels share the same production means.
- **Parcel Plot** is a part or whole of a parcel on which a specific crop or crop mixture is cultivated.

## Coverage

The census included all households residing in Tonga during the enumeration period.

## Frame

The list of households in respect of each enumeration area was prepared updated by enumerators.

## Method

The census methodology adopted was to undertake a complete count of all agricultural holdings and parcels, to establish the structure of agriculture at village level. A Pilot Census and a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) were conducted before and after the main census.

Three questionnaires were designed, i.e. 1. A Household Form, to determine the level of agricultural activities in the households. 2. A Holding Form, to determine the characteristics of the agricultural holdings. 3. A Parcel Form, to determine the composition of the holding in terms of plots and crops planted and harvested. Enumerator and Supervisor Manuals were also prepared.

## Data source

FAO PROJECT ES: TCP/TON/0165 (A) - Technical Cooperation Programme – Agriculture Census and Statistics, Kingdom of Tonga – Terminal Statement prepared for the Kingdom of Tonga by the FAO of the UN.

## Contact

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## Website

[http://www.spc.int/prism/country/to/stats/pdfs/agcen\\_01/agcen01.pdf](http://www.spc.int/prism/country/to/stats/pdfs/agcen_01/agcen01.pdf)