



FAAILOA

NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
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Enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries

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AGRICULTURE CENSUS CONCLUDES

The Agriculture Census had been experiencing some major challenges in its continuation since its initial inception last year.

The decision to postpone the Census was not taken lightly and was based on a number of factors. Foremost in the decision making, was the need to ensure the safety of the general public and MAF and SBS field staff, coupled with the need to deliver a Census that achieves the highest possible response rate, across all facets of our Samoan society.

Given these challenges, the Census main facilitators persevered through it all and have finally accomplished their goal and concluded the field enumeration.

The hired enumerators concluded their work on August 7th 2020 and the MAF and SBS employees that supervised the field work spent the week after to enumerate the rest of the households that have not been interviewed and finished on August 14th 2020.

Assistant Chief Executive Officer for SBS, Edith Faaola in her speech for the official closing of the Agriculture Census said: "As of the last week of enumerators there were 202,000 households covered". Of course this number increased again when the staff spent the next two weeks enumerating families that have not been interviewed since the initiation of the census, adding up to 228,000 households being interviewed by the second week of August.





Participants at the end of Agriculture Census field work celebration. Taumeasina Island Resort.

Photo by SBS

A milestone worth celebrating

Venue: Taumeasina Resort.

On the 20th of this month, the employees and staff of MAF and SBS together with our kind partners at the FAO came together to celebrate the completion of the field work for the Census in the last two months.

The master of ceremony for the event was the Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Economic Division of SBS, Edith Faaola, welcomed the participants and gave a speech on the holistic overview of the Agriculture Census. Speaking of the Census, Government Chief Statistician, Ali'imuumua Malaefono Taaloga, thanked the staff and employees that contributed to the advancement of the Census in all its aspects and the efforts exerted in order to provide benchmark statistics on the number of farms in Samoa and also the structure in terms of farm enterprise.

One of the representatives from Food Agriculture Organisation and Assistant FAO Representative Fata Phillip Tuivavalagi also

said a few words and reassured the government ministries involved; of the assistance and support that their team can offer for the advancement of our Samoan communities.

Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries thanked all the staff from both ministries for their effective contribution and highlighting the advantage of the statistics gathered for the MAFs purposes.

The evening included the presentation of certificates as appreciation for all the staff that supervised and were at the forefront of the census, including twenty five employees from MAF.

The participants enjoyed a delicious meal afterwards provided by Taumeasina Resort.

A Primary perspective



One of the enumerators for the Rest of Upolu region team, was able to share her experience during the Agriculture Census

Survey. Oriana is from the villages of Falelatai and Fagaloa and this is her second survey as an interviewer under the government through Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

“This survey will provide data to measure the agricultural and fisheries economy and wealth of our people and country.”, Oriana emphasized while focusing on the area/region she was enumerating. She

shared that there are families with well developed and maintained farms and most households requested for further assistance for their farms in terms of resources and planting materials.

Oriana reiterated on the significance of this work; “It is important we have these surveys and be able to plan and mobilise more effective ways to help our farmers and inspire our people to work and develop their families through agriculture and also fisheries activities.”.

Like any initiative there were challenges faced. “During the survey we came across vicious dogs attacking us, families and people refusing to participate and also people giving false information.”, she said.