



# FAAILOA

*"...enhancing partnerships to develop and sustain agriculture and fisheries..."*



**JUNE 2020**

## **Agriculture Census Survey 2020.**

### **A Condensed Background on the Agriculture Census:**

The Agriculture Census is a once per decade initiative by the government to monitor the progress of the Sector within our country. Samoa has little of its mountainous land area devoted to agriculture, but close to 40% of its population employed in the sector. Though we have been engaged in these survey activities for more than thirty years, our government heavily relies on external financial assistance.

In September 2017, Samoan government requested the Food and Agriculture Organization to assist our country in its preparations for the Ag Census emphasizing the need for technical expertise. Technical survey skills are also a constraint, with a need for more training in gathering and using good data.

In 2018, the Agriculture Census Taskforce was established and since then this group held regular meetings and their latest meeting was in July of this year, 2020.

In August 2019, Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted a pilot survey to test out the software for personal interviewing. A survey software called Survey Solutions is a free offline application used for personal interviewing for the Census and this contains the survey questionnaire.

On February 24, this year a one week training was conducted and facilitated for twenty six (26) MAF and thirty one (31) SBS staff. On the 2nd of March this year, a two weeks training started for enumerators and later divided into teams and their allocations.

In the same month, teams were deployed into the villages. After the first four days of the work, the survey was stopped as the State of Emergency orders became effective for the whole of Samoa.

### **Survey Starts again.**

The Agriculture Census Survey field work restarted in the beginning of the month after Independence Day since it was stopped due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency restrictions.

The survey aims to cover every household in Samoa putting emphasis on the crops, livestock and fish farms the families are engaged in. The survey is planned to be completed within seven weeks ending in the beginning of the third week of July 2020.

In this survey, Samoa is divided into four regions; Apia Urban Area, North West Upolu, Rest of Upolu and Savaii. Each region is covered by teams consisting of CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) and Field supervisors, enumerators and each had one headquarter to guide and assist their daily work.

### **Additional Information:**

**37% employed in agriculture**

**12.4% land area devoted to agriculture**

**10% share of agriculture in GDP**



# Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

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