

Agricultural Census in Vanuatu 2006 - snapshot

October 2006

Introduction

The aim of the Agricultural Census 2006 is to provide up-to-date and reliable statistics on agriculture, forestry and fishing activities in Vanuatu. It will also help update the National Statistics Office (NSO) list of farming businesses for future agricultural surveys. Data from all six provinces has been collected and is being analysed following a comprehensive listing of nearly every households in Vanuatu. This snapshot provides first preliminary results from the listing.

Historical outline

Vanuatu conducted a complete cattle survey in 1971 and the total number of cattle recorded was 83 550, of which 87% were on plantations. In 1976, the Department of Agriculture collected basic information from every village and every plantation. The first attempt to conduct an agricultural census in the country was in 1983. A partial agricultural census was carried out in 1993 with a limited scope.



Photo taken by Cecil Ipalawatte

Key findings

According to the results of the Census listing there were 43 312 households in Vanuatu in 2006, which is an increase of 6 897 households since the last Population Census in 1999 (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of households and population by province, 1999 and 2006.

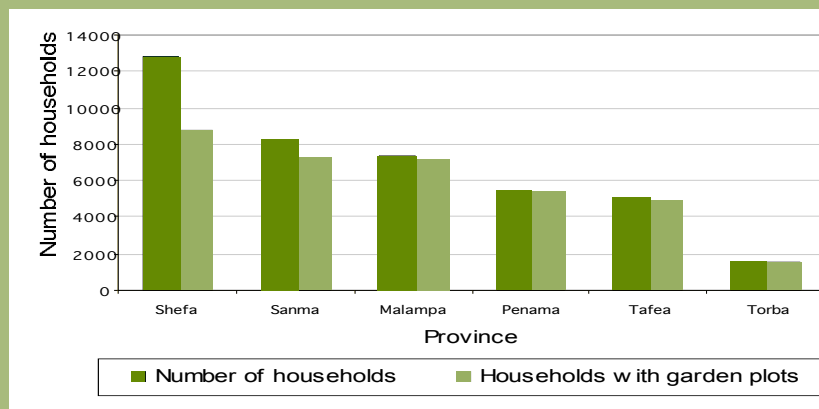
Province	Number of households		Population	
	2006	1999	2006	1999
Shefa	12 870	10 888	68 706	54 439
Sanma	8 272	6 970	41 595	36 084
Malampa	7 348	6 483	34 925	32 705
Penama	6 447	5 371	26 676	26 646
Tafea	6 577	5 364	29 398	29 047
Torba	1 798	1 339	8 620	7 757
Vanuatu	43 312	36 415	209 920	186 678

Source: Population and Housing Census 1999 and Agricultural Census 2006

Garden plots

Of the 35 122 households with garden plots in 2006, the highest number was in the Shefa province (8 774 plots), and the lowest number was in the Torba province (1 510 plots) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Household with garden plots by province 2006.



Source: Agricultural Census 2006

Enumeration and tabulation

The enumeration was completed within two weeks period during May - June 2006 and coding, processing and tabulations were completed in mid September 2006.

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Definitions

Household:

consists of people who have a common place for cooking and eating and use other household facilities together.

Home garden:

is normally temporary crops planted around the area near the house to supplement the household food requirement.

Smallholder:

operates on subsistence level and generally with no proper management or record keeping. Production is mainly for home consumption and for sale if there is an excess.

Crop garden:

is normally for both temporary and permanent crops.



Photo taken by Cecil Ipalawatte

Livestock

The total number of cattle at the time of enumeration was estimated at 142 900. The main categories of livestock other than cattle were pigs and goats. The figures were even higher for poultry with an average of 9 poultry per household (*Table 2*).

Table 2. Households by type of livestock owned by province 2006.

Province	Cattle no.	Sheep no.	Goats no.	Pigs no.	Poultry no.
Shefa	35 955	89	4 602	17 858	104 914
Sanma	63 970	46	5 409	11 704	94 247
Malampa	18 168	11	1 585	13 766	79 819
Penama	13 250	29	1 840	19 414	78 023
Tafea	9 753	14	4 967	17 184	41 969
Torba	1 819	0	53	2 506	14 443
Vanuatu	142 915	189	18 456	82 432	413 415

Source: Agricultural Census 2006

Fishing and forestry

Seventy seven percent of the households (31 230) engaged in some form of fishing activities, while a significantly high proportion of the households also engaged in forestry activities for their own consumption and sales (*Table 3*).

Table 3. Households engaged in fishing and forestry by province, 2006.

Province	Fishing	Non-timber forest product	Forest-timber product
Shefa	7 823	7 775	6 114
Sanma	6 153	6 578	6 837
Malampa	6 658	6 774	7 417
Penama	4 828	5 134	6 663
Tafea	4 260	4 623	5 376
Torba	1 508	1 390	1 817
Vanuatu	31 230	32 274	34 224

Source: Agricultural Census 2006

A detailed preliminary census report will be released in December 2006 including livestock and export crops.

For more information please contact the Vanuatu National Statistics Office.