

Cook Islands Agricultural Census 1988 – Main Results

Please refer to the Explanatory Notes given at the end of the tables.

NUMBER AND AREA OF HOLDINGS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF TOTAL AREA OF HOLDINGS		
Holding size classes	Number of holdings	Area (ha)
Total	2 188	2 604
Under 0.1 ha	46	2
0.1 and under 0.2 ha	221	23
0.2 and under 0.4 ha	354	86
0.4 and under 0.8 ha	469	244
0.8 and under 1.2 ha	349	324
1.2 and under 2.02 ha	349	510
2.02 and under 4 ha	290	757
4 ha and above	110	658

FRAGMENTATION OF HOLDINGS	
Number of parcels	6 399

FARM POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX	Total	Male	Female
Total	11 887	6 169	5 718
Under 10 years	3 138	1 612	1 526
10 years and over	8 749	4 557	4 192

EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE: Household members engaged in agricultural work on the holding, by age and sex	Total	Male	Female
Total	5 017	3 316	1 701
10 to 19 years	1 627	1 079	548
20 to 39 years	1 583	1 033	550
40 to 59 years	1 357	863	494
60 years and over	450	341	109

TEMPORARY CROPS (on arable land)	Area (ha)
Cassava	305
Taro	233
Beans, dry edible	9
Cabbages	6
Tomatoes	17
Peppers (capsicum)	3
Watermelons	18

PERMANENT CROPS	Number of Trees		
	Total	In compact plantations	Scattered
Chestnuts	1 362	194	1 168
Coconuts	211 443	188 169	23 274
Bananas	1 87 678	177 207	10 471
Plantains	17 715	14 770	2 945
Citrus fruits	61 003	59 665	1 338
Mangoes	3 834	632	3 202
Avocados	979	169	810
Pineapples	1 587 017	1 586 904	113
Papayas	116 980	116 055	925
Jack fruit trees	1 158	131	1 027
Coffee	24 886	24 755	131
Vanilla	7 083	7 057	26

LIVESTOCK	Total number of head
Cattle	246
Goats	5 470
Pigs	16 459
Horses	355
Chickens	44 687

MACHINERY / EQUIPMENT	Units
Tractors	195

Cook Islands Agricultural Census 1988 – Explanatory Notes

Historical outline: An agricultural sample survey was undertaken in 1950 in the Cook Islands as part of the 1950 World Census of Agriculture Programme, but data were deemed to be unsatisfactory owing to insufficient response and incomplete sampling. A second attempt to conduct an agricultural census was made in 1975 but coverage was limited to the island of Rarotonga. In 1988, the census of agriculture to which present notes and data relate was successfully carried out.

Organization: The census was organized and conducted under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Statistics Office; an Agricultural Census Unit was established to coordinate all census operations. Financial and technical support was given by the UN Development Program, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Field work was carried out by 83 enumerators and 23 supervisors.

Enumeration period: The census was carried out from 1 to 30 September 1988; however, in a few areas, the field work was delayed and was not completed until December 1989.

Reference date: Data on crops and machinery refer to the 12 months preceding the census; data on employment refer to the month preceding the census (August 1988); all other data refer to the period 1 - 30 September 1988.

Definitions: A household is defined as:

- a) "Non-Agricultural" if it is not engaged in crop production (also if household members own or look after unused land or livestock);
- b) having a "Minor Agricultural Activity" if it manages less than 0.05 Ha of land under garden crops or less than 10 coconuts or other crop trees;
- c) "Agriculturally Active" if the household manages 0.05 Ha or more of land under garden crops or grows 10 or more crop trees. In this third case the household is considered as operating a holding.

Coverage: All households and holdings in the Cook Islands were covered; institutions (hospitals, hotels, prisons, other public services organizations, etc.) were excluded from the census. Data refer to holdings only, with the exception of data on livestock which refer to all households.

Frame: The frame used was the updated list of households by Enumeration Areas (EAs) compiled during the 1986 Census of Population and Dwellings.

Methods: All islands were divided, for census purposes, into Census Districts (CDs), which were in turn subdivided into EAs up to a total of 43 CDs and 124 EAs for the whole country. The census was carried out on a complete enumeration basis through direct interview.

Three questionnaire forms were used:

- Household, which was completed for all households regardless of the level of their agricultural activity.
- Holding, which was completed for all agriculturally active households (see definitions- c).
- Parcel, referring to the characteristics of parcels as reported in the Holding Form.

A Pilot Test in two phases preceded the census to ensure the effectiveness of the questionnaires. To check the accuracy of data collected, a Post Enumeration Sample Survey was launched immediately after the end of field enumeration and completed in June 1989.

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture and Statistics Office - Census of Agriculture 1988 - Rarotonga - Cook Islands.

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