



AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

VANUATU COUNTRY PAPER

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INTRODUCTION

This country report provides some highlights on the Agriculture productive sector of my small country in the south pacific. It also provides some background information of my country and some statistical information on the agriculture sector of my country.

Geographically, we are small nation state in the pacific with very small land mases that huge industrial activities are not suitable to operates. Our population is small compare to our pacific neighbors such as Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand.

Regardless of our small geographical identity we still make our names known in the region and internationally from some of our agriculture production such as Kava, Coffee and Beef export production. Vanuatu kava and beef export has been on high demand from our overseas partner countries. However, this high demand from outside have affected our supplies locally. Tourism industry is another industry that is bringing into the country huge amount of revenue. Therefore, the national governments have emphasis a lot in the promotion of tourism infrastructure around the country.

For the purpose of this workshop, I will provide a brief analysis on our Agriculture Production Sector with its challenges and some specific plans for the improvement of this sector.

GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

Vanuatu consists of six provinces: Torba, Sanma, Penama, Malampa, Shefa, and Tafea, spread over an area of 612,300 km² in the South Pacific with a total land area of 12,281 km², stretching from Hiu Island up north to Mathew and Hunter Islands down south. It includes 83 main islands, of which, about 63 are permanently inhabited. Port Vila, the capital, is located on the island of Efate (province of Shefa) which is the most populous island although Santo Island is the biggest island in terms of land area, and is located in Sanma province. Port Vila is 1,288 km due south east of Honiara, Solomon Islands; 1,071 km west of Suva, Fiji; and 2,394 km east of Cairns, Australia.

The 2009 population census recorded the population to be 234,023 people. This is an increase of 47,345 people since the 1999 population census.

Vanuatu is a tiny nation in the South West Pacific that was colonized by two political administrations, the France and British in the 1800s to 1900s. These condominium systems of government have divided the country into their own administrations, beginning from language spoken to the infrastructures development throughout the country. The French and English were the principle language taught in separated institutions, separated health services were provided by two separated hospitals and two separated public administrations were engaged in operating their own socio-economic services throughout the country.

In 1980, New Hebrides was renamed to “Vanuatu” and a political administration was instituted with a democratic political administration. The newly independent country elected a Prime Minister as the head of government and President as the representation of peace throughout the country. Vanuatu’s shift into self-reliance comes with its challenges as the newly elected government was trying to merge

both (France and British) public administration to ensure service delivery is still available and opportunities to improve its socio and economic activities is generated.

Agriculture sector was the main sector that both governments were focus on to generate their national revenue. Huge production of cash crops was being promoted in all the 80 small islands and market were being generated locally. Agricultural activities such as livestock raising, huge hectares of coconut, cocoa and coffee plantations were being planted for processing locally and internationally.

Unfortunately, these huge agricultural investments have been affected tremendously after the country has gained its independence. Our colonial partners withheld funding and grants to allow for our small and new independent country to run its own affairs. The impact of self-reliance still exists as our governments are trying to resurrect the agriculture production sector as seen to be the main revenue generating sector for the country.

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

Vanuatu as small nation with its fertile vegetation intact, about 75% of its population still inhabit in the rural areas (176,828 people) leaving 25% (57,195 people) residing in the urban centers. This allows them to have a very close link to their indigenous hectares of locally owned land. They depend entirely on small subsistence farming for their day to day livelihoods and small plots of land use for coconut, cocoa, kava and coffee farms. Some concentrates on livestock farming at small scale production.

Table 11: Current Prices GDP by Industry

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
AGRICULTURE, FISHING & FORESTRY	9,611	10,201	11,087	12,440	12,868	14,075	16,216	18,115	18,945	19,932
Crop Production	7,522	8,180	9,068	10,119	10,183	11,154	13,009	14,201	14,947	15,501
Animal Production	1,002	1,073	1,040	1,309	1,532	1,724	1,928	2,632	2,636	2,952
Forestry	698	548	566	613	703	758	798	794	877	979
Fishing	389	399	413	399	449	439	482	488	485	501
INDUSTRY	3,386	3,935	4,205	5,453	7,082	8,364	6,887	5,455	5,962	6,429
Mining and Quarrying	-	10	130	24	26	19	16	24	20	19
Manufacturing	1,639	1,756	1,645	1,531	1,861	3,242	2,986	2,604	2,442	2,621
Electricity and Water Supply	810	917	1,024	1,300	1,118	1,300	1,386	1,429	1,437	1,518
Construction	937	1,252	1,406	2,598	4,078	3,803	2,499	1,398	2,063	2,271
SERVICES	26,872	30,848	33,837	37,971	39,886	41,686	43,803	44,291	46,045	47,889
Wholesale and Retail Trade and repair of Motor vehicles	721	735	783	870	955	1,028	1,076	979	989	1,066
Other Wholesale Trade	1,657	2,056	2,081	2,485	2,297	1,822	1,863	2,709	2,766	2,863
Retail Trade	3,622	5,095	5,512	6,191	6,819	7,664	8,094	8,806	9,101	10,049
Transport	3,000	3,009	3,352	2,876	3,632	3,658	3,952	3,792	3,673	3,627
Accommodation and Food Services	1,885	1,986	2,267	2,612	3,169	3,299	3,279	3,604	3,838	3,878
Information and Communication	727	1,760	2,168	2,703	3,107	3,355	3,695	2,685	3,097	3,357
Finance and Insurance	827	4,214	4,113	5,202	4,354	4,307	5,011	4,842	5,464	5,470
Real Estate	113	3,611	3,800	3,970	4,045	4,311	4,438	4,928	5,096	5,478
Professional, Scientific, Technical and Administrative	210	1,306	1,438	1,807	2,177	2,121	2,239	1,857	1,881	1,912
Government services	4,800	5,776	7,115	7,917	8,140	8,002	8,843	8,723	8,793	8,666

According to the National Statistics Office, the productive sector contributed largely to the total revenue in the past decades and is still exist as one of the active sectors to development. This is demonstrated in the

latest

National Accounts reports of 2014.

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The 2014 report of national accounts recorded the Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry to have contributed an amount of **19,932 million vatu (182,297 USD)** into the economy. This certifies the economic base of the country to be agriculture base compare to other sector to development.

Crop production confirms its status to be the highest production and seconded by animal production. Crop production is derived from the CPI basket data, while the rest of the crop productions are received from Vanuatu Commodities Marketing Board (VCMB), and the main coffee producer in the country. The data are provided to compile the Quarterly Statistical Indicators (QSI) which is used in the National Accounts. Some crop production volume is sourced from the 2007 Agriculture where ratios are being calculated and factorized in order to estimate certain crop productions.-The last agriculture census was conducted in 2007. The data are outdated but ratios calculated are still used to estimate national averages.

Scope of Agriculture Productive Sector

The National statistics office is faced with the challenge of maintaining its reporting of indicators. Especially the National Accounts reporting annually. Agriculture Productive sector is one the main component of the NA. The delay in defining a national average and estimates can pro-long reporting of national reports. Other internal and external factors constitutes to these delays are;

- Human resource- limited staff and high rate of staff turnover within VNSO and respective stakeholders
- Long periods between national censuses and surveys
- No funding availability for national surveys and censuses
- In consistency in meeting international requirements
- Delay re-coding requirement of specific items
- Etc.

These factors play a huge part in the delay of regular compilation and reporting of the annual reporting of the Agriculture Productive Sector and other reports combine.

Dissemination is another major activity for the VNSO to ensuring its stakeholders are being able to access publications. This activity is done through organizing of launching of reports, distribution through subscribers listing through emailing list and through YouTube and Facebook link of VNSO.

Data sources

The 2007 Agriculture census data though was not considered to be relevant for national estimates, however ratios are being factorized and used with data from the QSI for actual national estimates.

Quarterly Statistical Indicators (QSI) is a very important data source that are used for national estimate and also used by the department of national policy and strategic managements. The QSI is being sourced from various raw data sources including the Vanuatu Commodities Marketing Board (VCMB), the coffee companies, Energy companies, rates and customs department, including some other data users and providers.

The Consumer Price index data and the VAT data are both important data source for national estimates to derive certain agricultural products. The data from the two sources are being used with the ratios derived from the 2007 Agriculture census for certain Agricultural products in the national estimates.

Some of the main sources of data are;

- Agriculture Census and Surveys
- Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
- Consumer Price Index
- Quarterly Statistical Indicators (QSI)

All national surveys and census are conducted by the National Statistics Office. This includes the planning, implementation, data compilation, analysis and dissemination. For some surveys and census, we seek the assistance of our developing partners such as the South Pacific Community (SPC) who are very actively involved in providing the technical assistance in most of our surveys and censuses.

In the Agriculture sector, FAO have been very active in providing the government with funding towards agriculture projects and programs. The 2007 census was core funded by the FAO. The report allows the government to realize the importance of having in place agriculture statistical data for the improvement of the productive sector.

Weakness in current methods

Some of the weaknesses identified in these data collection processes and systems would be;

- Censuses and Surveys are too costly and the national government do not have the financial capacity to regularly conducted these activities
- The Household income and Expenditure surveys are used for the rebasing of the CPI and the National accounts estimates. The current HIES was in 2010 and the data is outdated. The Vanuatu government is planning to conduct another in 2017. Again, securing funding for this operation is still a challenge.
- All estimates for the National Accounts is done using the CPI data which is collected from the quarterly market surveys done in our city market centers (pricing and weight collection)

Outline Plans of Improvements

Some current plans for the improvement of the Agriculture Production Sector in relation to its coverage and data quality improvements are;

- The Ministry of Agriculture with VNSO to conduct another Agriculture Census-Consultation is underway.
- A new Agriculture Statistical Unit is created within the new Vanuatu National Statistics structure, and an officer has already been assigned to this position. This unit will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and the 5 departments to improve the statistical collection and assisted the ministry of Agricultures in their surveys and census.

- The VNSO have outlined its activities for all sectors within its Vanuatu National Strategic for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The setting up of the Agriculture Statistical Unit within VNSO is part of the NSDS to improve the Agriculture Productive Sector. This will cost the government approximately 40 Million vatu (366,760 USD).
- The Ministry of Agriculture has recently launched its 2015-2030 national policy. This policy have detailed all indicators need to measure the Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030.
- Vanuatu Government have recently (November of 2016) launched its National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 that contains indicators of all sectors to ensures these indicators meets the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Market survey is a regular activity performed by VNSO each quarter. The data being used in CPIs and for determining other productive sector indicators.
- The new VNSO restructure have also include the Agriculture Statistical Unit to be a separate sections within the office.
- A Baseline Survey (HIES) is also under consultation between the government and the developing partners. The baseline survey is purposely to measure the national government policy, the National Sustainable Development Goals (NSDP). This baseline survey will cover most developing sectors and productive sector will be a priority in this survey.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Vanuatu government under the ministry of Agriculture have realized the importance of improving the Agriculture sector and therefore the minister responsible for the Agriculture have been participating in the promotion of different types of agricultural activities to ensure farmers engage in developing their land and focus on agricultural production activities.

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office also place emphasis on the ministry of agriculture to ensure the production sector be closely monitored and data must be collected for reporting on the success of these projects and programs.

At the national level, it is very important for the government to be informed of the progress of the productive sector. It is only through detailed analysis of the agriculture productive sector data from surveys and census and department administrative data that the government can be informed on the progresses on the sector development and more timely and informed decision can be made to improve the productive sector.