

Nauru 2012/2013 HIES

Agriculture



Executive Summary

2%

of the labour force engage in agriculture as their main economic activity



10%

of the labour force engage in agriculture as their main or secondary activity



33%

of households engage in horticulture or livestock raising



4%

of household income comes from agriculture, livestock or hunting activities



Introduction

This factsheet provides a summary of information addressing the agriculture sector which was collected from the 2012/2013 Nauru Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). A range of information will be provided through this factsheet looking at the participation of workers and households in agricultural activities; the contribution of agriculture to household income (and therefore livelihoods); as well as current levels of agricultural production.

The formal agriculture sector in Nauru is small. Nevertheless, it plays an important role in the social and cultural fabric of Nauru. At the household level it also plays an integral role in supporting household food security through the consumption of fruit, vegetables and livestock. The Government of Nauru views agriculture, particularly home gardens, as a vital aspect in improving food security in Nauru through the promotion of nutritious and fresh local food and reducing Nauru's dependence on food imports. A greater consumption of nutritious and fresh food would also lead to positive health impacts.

Labour and household participation in agricultural activities



HH – 1.3: Proportion of the labour force engaged in agriculture activity

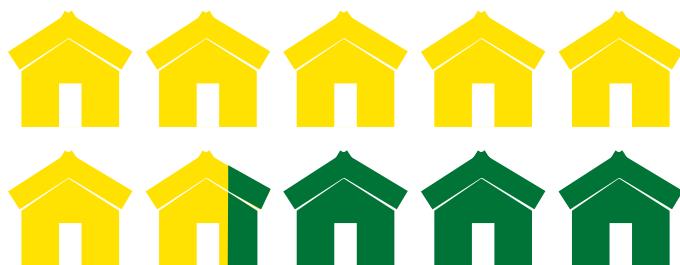
2% (Main activity)
10% (Main and secondary activity)

Agriculture is a minor activity in terms of formal employment in Nauru but it remains an important activity at the household level, particularly for home consumption. Less than **2%** of the Nauruan labour force is engaged in agricultural activities as their main activity, 60% of these are women. When primary and secondary activities are considered, **10%** of the labour force is engaged in agriculture. This means that agricultural



activities such as crop production, hunting (i.e. noddy birds) and livestock raising are more often done as a part-time activity in addition to another main economic activity. When agriculture as both a primary and secondary activity is considered, then the majority of workers (55%) are men¹.

At the household level, however, 21% of Nauruan households said that they engage in horticultural activities such as growing fruit and vegetables and 20% said that they keep livestock. Overall, **33%** of households are engaged in either horticulture and/or keeping livestock.



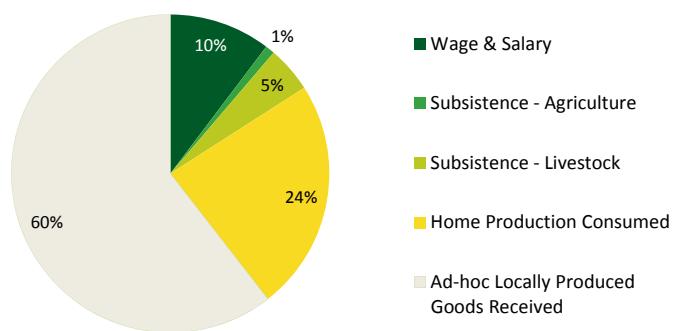
These activities are principally for home consumption. Only 20% of households that engage in horticulture or keeping livestock sold any of their produce.

Income

Household income from agriculture includes: salaries of agricultural workers; the income from the sale of subsistence agriculture and livestock; the value of own produced agricultural goods which are consumed; and, the value of locally produced agricultural goods gifted to the household. Chart 1 shows the breakdown of contributions of household income from agriculture. By far the greatest contributions comes from agricultural produce grown locally by other households and received as a gift. This is followed by the value of home production which is then consumed by the household.

Overall, the consumption of goods grown locally accounts for 84% of household income from agriculture. Income from formal employment or from the sale of agricultural goods or livestock accounts for only 16% of household income in total.

Chart 1: Composition of household agriculture income



Overall, however agriculture is only responsible for **4%** of household income within Nauru². Other subsistence activities — particularly fishing — account for a higher percentage of household income.



HH – 1.1: Proportion of household income from agriculture and forestry activities

4%

Expenditure

Household expenditure on agriculture is almost entirely (98%) on feed for livestock. Most livestock is not kept for sale hence this expense goes towards home consumption of livestock; giving gifts of livestock to other households or for community events; or, as a form of asset accumulation.

Agricultural Production

Households engaged in raising livestock principally kept pigs (81% of households keeping livestock had pigs)³, followed by chickens and then ducks respectively. Of the households that do raise pigs, the average number kept was 5. In contrast, households that keep chickens (not mutually exclusive) kept an average of 17 chickens. Across Nauru there are approximately **1,453 chickens**, **1,360 pigs** and **88 ducks** raised by households⁴.



1,453
chickens



1,360
pigs



88
ducks

Tree crops are the most commonly grown fruit and vegetables by households that engage in horticultural activities. When asked which fruit and vegetables they grow, coconut, pawpaw, banana, breadfruit and lime accounted for 76% of all responses.

¹ The majority of people engaging in agriculture (principally livestock raising or hunting) as a secondary activity are men (58%).

² This is based on a strict definition of agriculture and excludes value of handicrafts, home food processing and other subsistence activities.

³ This does not mean that 81% of households only kept pigs, they could also have kept chickens and ducks in addition.

⁴ This is based on the figures collected for the sample households and weighted according to the household weight.