

CoSPSI Database Report 2006



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Report on CoSPSI Database

1. Introduction

The application of the new record sales/purchase book has enabled buying agents in liaison with the LPM to properly track the production of dried seaweed in each participating sites. As more sites are involved in 2006, records of sales of seaweed have been one of the important activities in the village. In 2006, new sites such as Reef Islands, Sulufou in North Malaita and Ontong Java have been incorporated and information gathered from sales are provided each month from buying agents from these particular sites.

The back-logging of data experienced in the previous recording system has been sorted and the adoption of the new record sale book has provided a smooth record of sales which attributed to the write-up of this report. The experience gained from the previous record system has enabled the LPM and buying agents to share the information in a more understandable manner. Also limiting the number of people involved in data entry has lessened the errors in the database.

The 2006 purchase/sales recorded by each buying agent provided the valuable data that forms the basis of the database. This report presents the data for 2006.

2. Objective of the database

The objective of the database is basically to consolidate the purchase/sales data gathered from the daily sales book recorded by the buying agents. The data recorded in the purchase book was recorded each day whenever the farmer came with his/her dried seaweed. Each date, person's ID number, sex and weight of dried seaweed with the corresponding income were recorded. At the end of each month, the record is closed and the completed form is sent to the exporter in Honiara and passed on to CoSPSI office where the data are entered.

3. Farmers ID Number

Each farmer that produces seaweed are allocated an ID Number corresponding to the database ID and a list of IDs for each Village, Region and Province are recorded in the database template. The template also allows for more names and IDs especially for new areas where the project expands to. These ID numbers are provided to each buying agents to avoid confusions and updated ID are also sent immediately. Also each ID are processed into ID Cards and distributed to each farmer. Where new farmers are identified by the buying agent, his name is given to the CoSPSI and ID number is allocated to the new farmer based on the list provided by the database. This enables the buying agent to correctly record the new ID number for the new farmer for that particular region.

4. Data Entry

As the sales data are received for a particular month from a particular site, the data are entered in the database accordingly. In most cases, sales record from the agents normally reach this office few weeks or even months later depending on the boat schedule and the effectiveness of the buying agent in closing and preparing the monthly sales report also attributed to the time the records are received.

5. Cross checks and Data Analysis

As soon as the data are entered they are available for analysis and results of any form can be performed by the data base. However, before the analysis is performed, the data are crossed check with the corresponding report from the agent to ensure that data are correct. Cross checks on the data is performed prior to any further analysis are undertaken. When data entered are and justified, proceed on further analysis is carried out.

6. Further Analysis

Further analysis cannot be performed for Rarumana for 2006 as data sheets were not received from Rarumana. The following analysis were performed:

6.1. Performance of farmers (Active)

The performances of farmers from each area are provided in Fig.1. From the database record, there were 228 registered farmers from Wagina and only 175 farmers were active in 2006, about 75%. In North Malaita there were 241 registered farmers and about 91 were active, about 38%. In Reef Islands there were 117 registered farmers and only 43 were active, about 37%. There were 450 registered farmers in OTJ and only 89 were active, about 20%. A total of 1036 registered farmers were recorded of which 398 were active in 2006 about more than 30%.

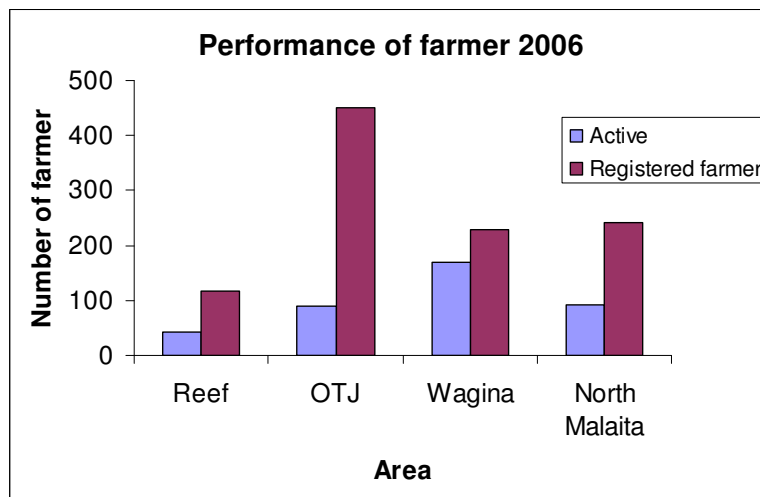


Fig.1. Registered and active farmers

6.2. Top 10 Farmers

The performance of each farmer is recorded each time whenever the farmer weighs his dried seaweed at the warehouse. It is always a case that some farmers put extra effort in the farm and the effort is paid off. The following illustrations showed the top 10 farmers from each site who benefited from the harvest during 2006 (Fig. 2a-2d). The money gained is based on the farm-gate price of \$1.50 per Kilogram.

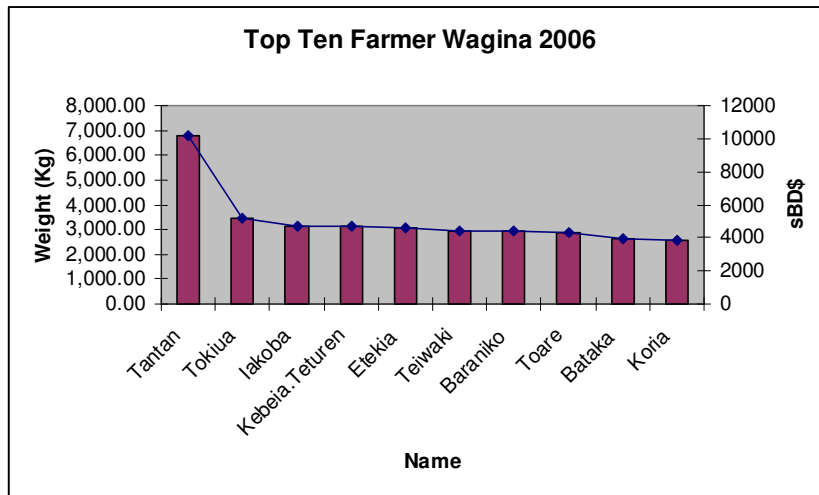


Fig.2a. Top 10 farmers from Wagina

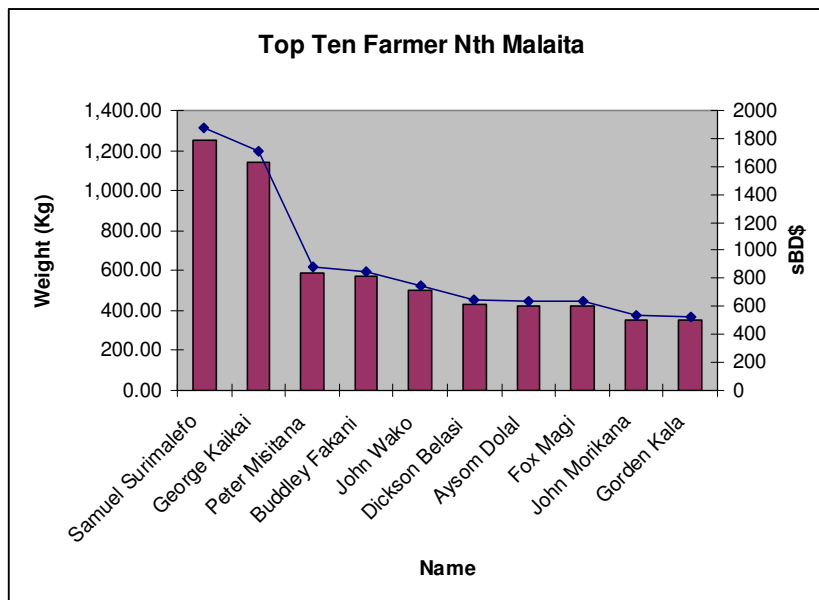


Fig.2b. Top 10 farmers from North Malaita

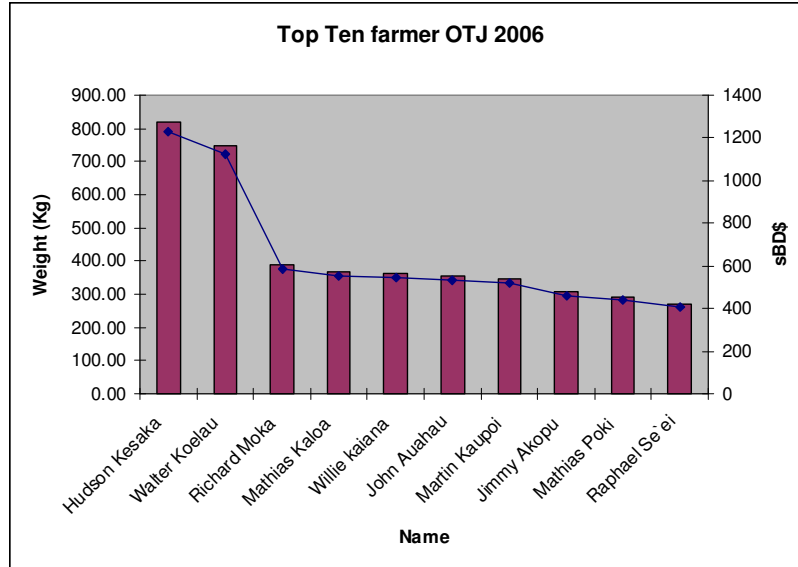


Fig. 2c. Top 10 farmers from OTJ

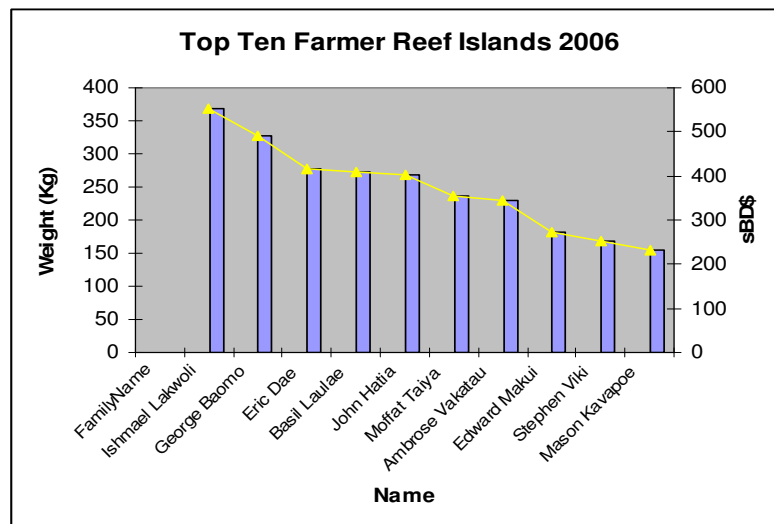


Fig.2d. Top 10 farmers from Reef Islands

6.3. Production

Productions from all sites are provided in Fig 3. It can be seen that Wagina has been consistent as an important seaweed production site for 2006. This year more than 164 MT is produced and Wagina contributed more than 82% of the total production. As farms were established in North Malaita, OTJ and Reef Islands production from these sites were noted. North Malaita contributed more than 8%, OTJ about 6% and Reef Islands about 4%.

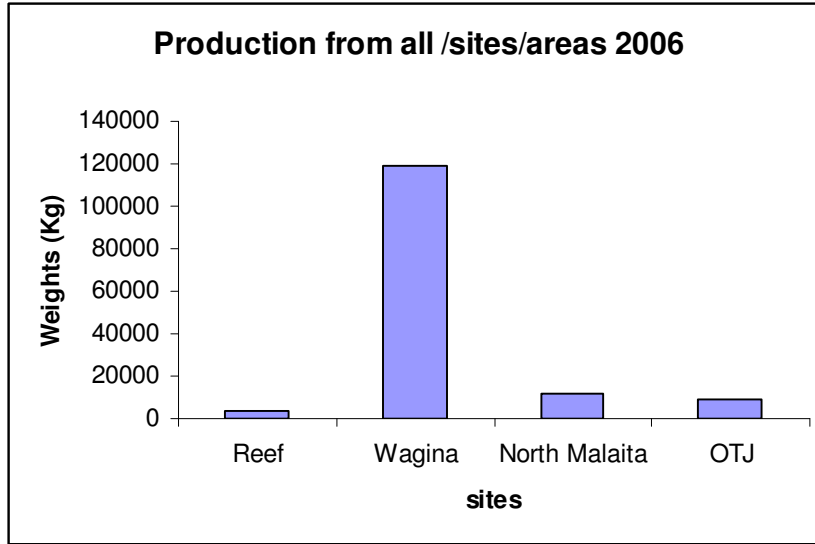


Fig. 3. Production for all sites for 2006

6.4. Village Comparisons (Benefits)

This analysis was to illustrate the comparison of villages within the producing sites. All results are provided in Fig 4a-4c (Database Output). In Wagina, Cookson village benefit more than other villages from cultivating seaweed for 2006 (Fig. 4a). In North Malaita, Sulufou village benefited more than other villages (Fig. 4b). In Reef Islands, Nifiloli village benefited more than other villages (Fig. 4c). In OTJ, only one village (Luaniua) is engaged in farming seaweed.

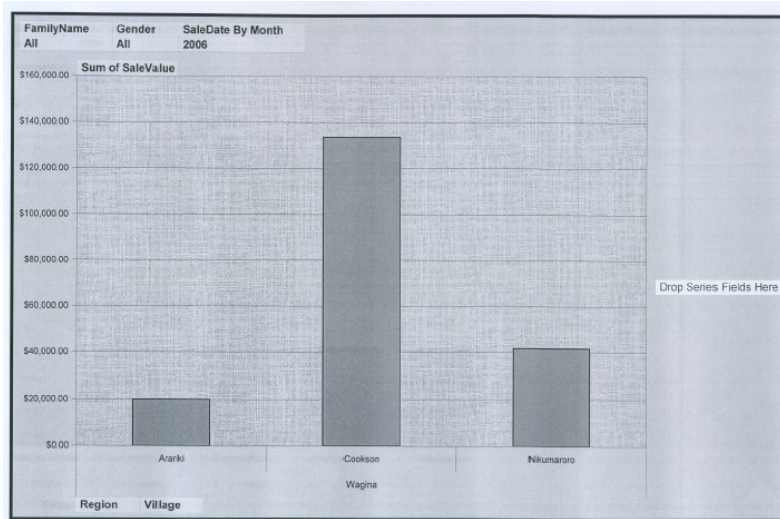


Fig. 4. Cookson village an important producing village in Wagina

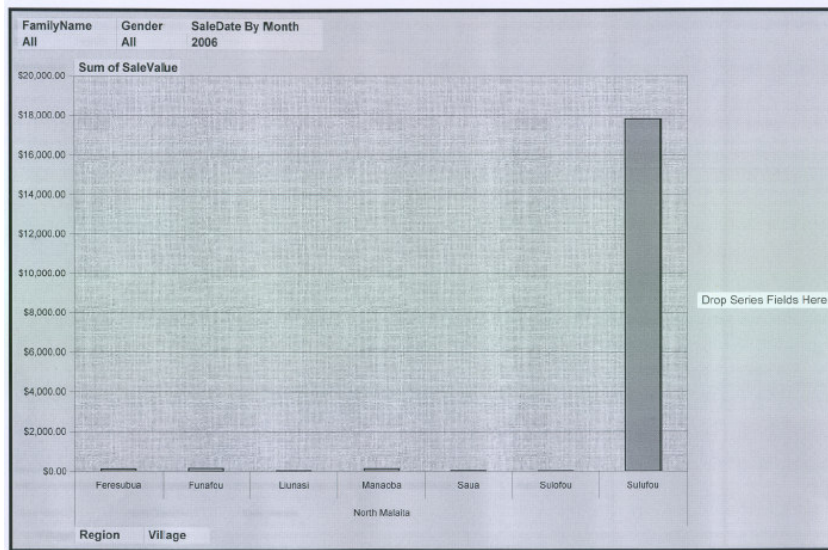


Fig. 4b. Sulufou an important producing village in North malaita

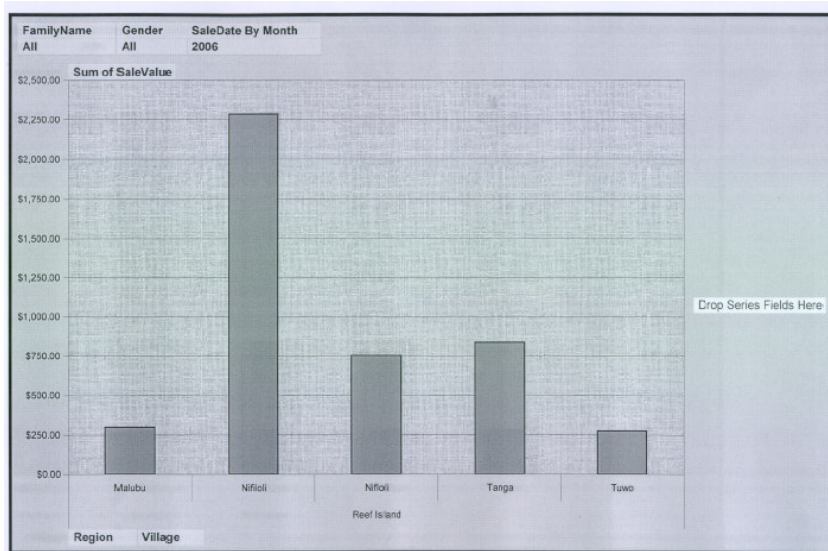


Fig. 4c. Nifiloli an important producing village in Reef Is.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

The data entry for 2006 is time consuming and requires an outside assistance. The project normally engaged students in the data entry and we try to limit the number of people to do the task to avoid errors. As is always the case, there are few errors noted in the reporting by buying agents but always spotted and corrected. The introduction of the new sales data form has eased the problem in data entry. As awareness and education on the use of the data form has been provided for the new sites, it can be seen that there has been a big improvement in the data entry,. However, incoming sales data from buying agents is always delayed and should be sent to this office on a more- timely basis so that data are entered for further analysis and reporting of the database can be processed.

This report is based on the data for 2006 and I hope it provides some important information that the project is trying to reveal. A total of more than 160 MT was produced in 2006 compared to more than 300 MT in the previous year (2005). This reduction in production perhaps attributed to several of problems including: reduction of farm gate price from \$2.00 to \$1.50 effective in 2006, fish grazing, and strong winds. From the database record, total registered farmers reached more than 1000 but only a total of 398 were active in 2006, about more than 30%. More information could have been extracted from the database if the understanding on the program is fully attained. Certainly experience has been gained whilst working with the database however, the database expert is always consulted whenever we have problems.

In light of the above, it is recommended that data entry should involve one person with basic computer and database knowledge. Also data received from buying agents are delivered to this office without delay.

9. Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the followings that have contributed in entering the data. Mr. Ben Lakwai who voluntarily entered the data and Mr. James Ngwaerobo who has tirelessly checking and ensures that the data for 2006 is correct and that further analysis is ready to be performed for 2006.