

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - (January-June 1989)

Sugar cane

As at end of June 1989 some 2,050 hectares of sugar cane were harvested, yielding 131,500 tonnes of canes. The corresponding figures for the same period last year were 1,385 hectares and 92,000 tonnes respectively.

While the 1988 crop was affected by drought conditions prevailing during the vegetative stage, the 1989 crop has suffered some damage as a result of the passage of two cyclones in the vicinity of Mauritius this year. Cyclone Firinga, which passed close to the country at the end of February did not cause much damage to sugar cane, still too short to be affected at this stage of growth by the strong winds. At the beginning of April, when the canes had somewhat recovered and were already quite high, cyclone Krissy passed near Mauritius. Sugar cane plantations particularly in the southern and eastern regions, were rather seriously affected. The overall damage to the crop is estimated to be about 15%.

Preliminary data as at 30th June 1989 indicate a yield of 64 tonnes/hectare compared to 69.8 tonnes/hectare for the same period last year. Furthermore, the extraction rate for the first semester this year being lower than that of last year, i.e. 9.64 compared to 9.93, the production of sugar for this year is forecast to be 580,000 tonnes, against 634,224 tonnes last year.

Tea

The tea sector continues on the downward trend observed during the past few years. While the gross area under tea remained almost constant at around 3,400 hectares, production of green leaves during the first semester of 1989 decreased by over 20%, dropping to almost 17,000 tonnes against 22,000 tonnes for the same period last year.

While tea production was only slightly affected by the two cyclones, the major reason for the decline was the neglect of their plantations on the part of small holders in the face of labour shortage, rising labour cost and the low price obtained for that commodity.

Tobacco

Production of tobacco for the first season this year is estimated at 215 tonnes, that is, 40% more than last year's figure of 150 tonnes. The main reason for this was an increase in the area planted : 180 hectares as against 140 hectares last year.

Foodcrops

There was no significant change in the area harvested under foodcrops during the first six months of 1989 when compared to the same period last year. Production was adversely affected by cyclones Firinga and Krissy, and reached only 19,000 tonnes, which was nevertheless higher than the 18,300 tonnes of the first half of last year. It will be recalled that last year's low production was the result of drought conditions.

It is worth mentioning that total production of tomato during the first half of 1989 was about the same as last year in spite of the cyclones, since overproduction observed during January and February made up for the effects of Firinga and Krissy. On the other hand, the apparent increase in the production of potatoes is only due to some 2,300 tonnes from the 1988 crop being harvested at the beginning of 1989. A significant increase of 35% was however noted in the production of creepers.

As a result of the two cyclones which destroyed banana plantations, mostly in the south, banana production dropped drastically by almost 50% - a fact reflected in the high prices still prevailing.

Livestock and Fisheries

Production of cattle meat from abattoir slaughters during the first semester this year shows an increase of 9% over the corresponding period for last year. This was, however, only the overall effect of a doubling of meat production from imported cattle while that from local cattle was almost halved.

The outbreak of swine fever in certain localities of the country towards the end of 1988 accounts for a shortfall in pig meat production of nearly 50% during the first half of 1989. Furthermore a significant decrease of 25% in the production of goat and sheep meat was also observed.

Total fish production amounted to 8,850 tonnes, which compares favourably with the 7,680 tonnes last year, that is, an increase of 15%. There has been an increase in the production of fish from coastal waters (+ 7%) and in that of tuna (+ 55%), while the catch from banks has fallen by 25%.

Central Statistical Office,
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Table 1 - Agricultural crops : area harvested and production

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	Calendar year		January-June		July-December		January-June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)
1. Sugar cane	76,919	5,516,869	1,385	91,914	75,534	5,424,955	2,050	131,458
2. Tea (green leaves)	3,385 ^{1/}	36,163	3,385 ^{1/}	21,957	3,385 ^{1/}	14,206	3,385 ^{1/}	17,299
3. Tobacco	754	967	141	150	613	817	181	215
4. Foodcrops	5,110	54,055	2,151	18,306	2,959	35,749	2,125	19,043

1/ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1988			1989
		Calendar Year	January-June	July-December	January-June
1. Sugar	m/tons	634,224	9,131	625,093	12,678
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	6,854	4,143	2,711	3,240
3. Cattle ^{1/}	"	1,561	766	795	837
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(959)	(513)	(446)	(285)
Imported	"	(602)	(253)	(349)	(552)
4. Goat and sheep ^{1/}	"	180	95	85	73
5. Pigs ^{1/}	"	660	291	369	158
6. Poultry	"	9,000	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7. Milk	'000' Litres	12,500	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8. Fish ^{2/}	m/tons	15,872	7,680	8,192	8,850
Coastal	"	(2,379)	(1,110)	(1,269)	(1,190)
Other	"	(13,493)	(6,570)	(6,923)	(7,660)

^{1/} includes abattoir slaughters only

^{2/} fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry Factory Statistics

Unit	1988			1989	
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June	July-December
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	5,516,869	91,914	5,424,955	131,458	
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	11.50	9.93	11.52	9.64	
3. Average polarisation	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	
4. Average yield of sugar	8.24	6.59	8.28	6.18	
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	8.70	10.07	8.68	10.37	
6. Production of sugar	634,224	9,131	625,093	12,678	
7. Molasses	179,622	3,000	176,622	4,280	

Table 4 - Tea production of green leaves by type of producer (metric tons)

	1988			1989	
	Calendar Year	January-June	July-December	January-June	
1. Estates	2,918.2	1,826.2	1,092.0	1,138.7	
2. Metayers	3,553.4	2,090.4	1,463.0	1,719.3	
3. Free planters	2,582.1	1,452.5	1,129.6	1,393.5	
4. Planters in cooperative societies	26,796.7	16,392.8	10,403.9	12,894.9	
5. Other, including T.D.A.	312.4	195.2	117.2	152.7	
TOTAL	36,162.8	21,957.1	14,205.7	17,299.1	

Table 5 - Foodcrops - Area harvested and production

Foodcrops	1988						1989	
	Calendarly year		January-June		July-December		January-June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric tons)
Potato	673	12,770	6	70	667	12,700	111	2,265
Rice	5	20	5	20	-	-	3	15
Maize	985	3,790	566	2,145	419	1,645	382	1,331
Groundnut	568	1,685	291	866	277	819	223	738
Onion	245	3,090	35	296	210	2,794	22	157
Ginger	15	220	3	39	12	181	5	77
Garlic	26	165	-	-	26	165	-	-
Chillies	125	445	57	227	68	218	49	159
Tomato	688	7,315	386	3,835	302	3,480	423	3,938
Beans & peas	290	1,010	121	439	169	571	105	354
Cabbage	121	2,915	41	900	80	2,015	58	1,133
Cauliflower	55	955	7	121	48	834	12	216
Brinjal	76	735	33	344	43	391	33	300
Creepers	506	6,335	254	2,920	252	3,415	339	3,954
Mixed vegetables	283	3,330	129	1,489	154	1,841	146	1,493
Banana	369	7,920	186	4,033	183	3,887	169	2,260
Pineapple	80	1,355	31	562	49	793	45	653
Total foodcrops	5,110	54,055	2,151	18,306	2,959	35,749	2,125	19,043