

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1986

Sugar

Following favourable weather conditions prevailing during the crop year 1986, sugar cane production increased in spite of a 700 arpents decrease in area harvested, to reach 6,024,962 metric tons as compared with 5,583,367 metric tons the previous year. Area harvested dropped from 184,866 arpents in 1985 to 184,165 arpents in 1986.

A

Average sugar cane yield per arpent consequently rose from 30.2 metric tons in 1985 to 32.7 metric tons in 1986, a level usually reached during a normal crop season.

An extraction rate of 11.73% led to the production of 706,839 metric tons of sugar, as compared to 645,797 metric tons in 1985, when the extraction rate was 11.57%. This is the second time that sugar production has exceeded the 700,000 metric tons mark, the first one being the record crop of 1973, when 718,464 metric tons were produced. It should however be noted that there has been a reduction of over 7,500 arpents between the two periods so that actually the sugar yield per arpent is higher during the present crop relative to the 1973 one. In fact the sugar yield per arpent in 1986 of 3.84 metric tons is an all-time record, the corresponding figure for 1973 being 3.75.

Tea

The area under tea cultivation remained almost unchanged at 9,250 arpents in 1986 with a production of green leaves of about 43,423 metric tons. This production is about 4% lower than in the previous year.

The production of manufactured tea amounted to 7,876 metric tons in 1986, as against 8,115 metric tons a year ago, this registering a fall of about 3%.

Tobacco

Production of tobacco leaves increased by nearly 18% over 1985, to reach 982 metric tons in 1986. This was mainly a result of a larger harvested area which stood at almost 11% over the 1985 level. The

area/

area harvested in 1986 was 1,426 arpents as against 1,280 in 1985.

Foodcrops

Foodcrop production showed a slight overall decrease of about 2% over the previous year and amounted to 65,700 metric tons in 1986, in spite of an 18% increase in area harvested, of about 15,000 arpents. A relatively reduced potato harvest was mainly responsible for this fall in foodcrop production.

The 1986 potato crop was about 30% below the level of 1985 due to a combination of both a smaller area under cultivation (1,895 arpents against 2,043) and a lower yield per arpent (8.6 metric tons against 11.4). This was mainly attributable to some over production in 1985, when 23,305 metric tons were produced. As a result plantation in 1986 was delayed as well as reduced, since less potato seeds were available. In addition, the lower yield is partly explained by the prevalence of a pest known as thrips.

On the other hand, an excellent maize harvest yielded about 8,000 metric tons, a level of production never reached before in recent times. The production last year was about 4,900 metric tons. The 60% increase in production was mainly accounted for by the larger area harvested in 1986: about 4,300 arpents as against 2,450 arpents the previous year.

Tomato cultivation increased substantially from 1,643 arpents to 2,034 arpents in 1986, resulting in an enhanced production of about 10,600 metric tons in 1986, a rise of about 18% over the 1985 production of 9,000 metric tons.

Another important foodcrop whose production went up significantly during 1986 was onions. The increase is of the order of about 14%, from 2,595 metric tons in 1985 to 2,955 metric tons in 1986. The area under cultivation was the main factor contributing to the increase being larger in the latter year, i.e. 600 arpents against 500.

Production of pineapples and bananas also grew significantly over the two periods, to reach 980 metric tons and 7,830 metric tons in 1986, as compared to 790 and 7,150 respectively in 1985.

Livestock, poultry and fishing

There has been a general increase in the production of the commodities as indicated below:

	<u>Production</u>		<u>Increase</u>
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	
Cattle meat (m. tons)	949	1,229	30 %
Milk (thousand litres)	10,700	11,500	7.5%
Fish (m. tons)	7,054	7,977	13 %

Most of the increase in cattle meat was attributable to the slaughter of local cattle. As regards fish the increase is mostly accounted for by higher production from high seas which amounted to almost 6,000 tons as compared with 5,000 tons the previous year.

Production of pigmeat, goatmeat and poultry remained almost stationary at the level of 1985 at 573,158 and 6,000 metric tons respectively.

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Rose Hill.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops : area harvested and production

C r o p	1 9 8 5		1 9 8 6	
	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)
1. Sugar cane	184,866	5,583,367	184,165	6,024,962
2. Tea (green leaves)	9,259 ^{1/}	45,291	9,250 ^{1/}	43,423
3. Tobacco	1,280	831	1,426	982
4. Foodcrops	12,663	67,195	14,917	65,700

^{1/} area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1985	1986
1. Sugar	m/tons	645,797	706,839
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	8,115	7,876
3. Cattle ^{1/}	"	949	1,229
Local including Rodrigues	"	(587)	(870)
Imported	"	(362)	(359)
4. Goat and sheep ^{1/}	"	146	158
5. Pigs ^{1/}	"	541	573
6. Poultry	"	6,000	6,000 ^{3/}
7. Milk	000 litres	10,700	11,500 ^{3/}
8. Fish	m/tons	7,054	7,977
Coastal	"	(2,034)	(2,027)
High Seas ^{2/}	"	(5,020)	(5,950)

^{1/} includes abattoir slaughters only

^{2/} fresh weight equivalent

^{3/} estimates

Table 3(a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics

Ownership	1 9 8 5			1 9 8 6		
	Area harvested (arpents)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (per arpent)	Area harvested (arpents)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (per arpent)
1. Estates	97,193	3,281,095	33.76	94,380	3,434,333	36.39
2. Metayers	4,675	99,673	21.32	4,792	107,888	22.51
3. Planters	82,998	2,202,599	26.54	84,993	2,482,741	29.21
TOTAL	184,866	5,583,367	30.20	184,165	6,024,962	32.72

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics

Detail	Unit	1985	1986
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tons	5,583,367	6,024,962
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		11.57	11.73
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tons/arpent	3.48	3.84
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	tons	8.65	8.52
6. Production of sugar	"	645,797	706,839
(white)	"	(48,698)	(38,129)
(raw)	"	(597,099)	(668,710)
7. Molasses	"	154,149	166,000

Table 6 - Foodcrops : area harvested and production

Foodcrops	1 9 8 5 ^{1/}		1 9 8 6 ^{1/}	
	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)
Potato	2,043	23,305	1,895	16,265
Rice	71	135	77	175
Maize	2,441	4,890	4,304	7,970
Groundnut	1,657	2,165	1,704	2,250
Onion	501	2,595	598	2,955
Ginger	58	455	42	360
Garlic	85	240	103	325
Chillies	282	435	251	385
Tomato	1,643	8,985	2,034	10,600
Beans and peas	800	1,240	748	970
Cabbage	265	2,955	291	3,270
Cauliflower	76	530	81	610
Brinjal	161	870	164	685
Creepers	1,193	7,630	1,145	7,285
Other vegetables	487	2,825	477	2,785
Banana	800	7,150	869	7,830
Pineapple	100	790	134	980
Total Foodcrops	12,663	67,195	14,917	65,700

^{1/} calendar year

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer

(metric tons)

Type of producer	1985	1986
1. Estates	4,165	3,686
2. Metayers	3,623	3,270
3. Free planters	2,306	2,287
4. Planters in Cooperative Societies	34,903	33,864
5. Other (including TDA)	294	316
Total	45,291	43,423

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf

Variety	1985		1986	
	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (arpents)	Production (metric tons)
1. Virginia (flue cured)	1,108	673	1,233	825
2. Amarello (air cured)	172	158	193	157
Total	1,280	831	1,426	982