

## Agricultural Production - 1987

### Sugar

Climatic conditions were quite favourable for the growth of sugar cane during 1987. Sugar cane production reached 6,231,127 tons as compared to 6,024,962 tons in 1986, despite a decrease of 361 hectares in the area harvested (77,348 hectares in 1987 compared to 77,709 hectares in 1986).

The average yield of sugar cane per hectare consequently increased from 77.5 tons in 1986 to 80.6 tons in 1987. The 1987 crop yield constitutes the second best yield obtained so far, after that of 1982 when it reached 82.4 tons.

At the start of the harvesting season the extraction rate was quite low but it slowly improved towards the end of the season bringing the average extraction rate to 11.09%. This however still compares unfavourably with the previous year's figure of 11.73%.

As a result of this lower extraction rate, production of sugar reached only 691,134 tons, that is a decrease of 2.2% over 1986 with a production of 706,839 tons.

When expressed in terms of sugar per hectare the yield for the 1987 crop is 8.94 tons, the second best result after that of 1986 of 9.1 tons.

### Tea

The area under tea cultivation remained almost unchanged in 1987, at 3,760 hectares. However production of green leaves again decreased, dropping to 39,917 tons in 1987 as compared to 43,423 tons in 1986 and 45,291 tons in 1985.

This fall in production is attributable both to unfavourable weather conditions and to the low price offered to planters on account of the continuing fall in price of manufactured tea on the world market. The weighted average export price (F.O.B.) per kilo of manufactured tea was Rs 13.45 in 1987 as compared to Rs 16.35 in 1986 and Rs 25.13 in 1985.

Consequently production of manufactured tea decreased by nearly 10% from 7,376 tons in 1986 to 7,147 tons in 1987.

Tobacco

Production of tobacco leaf dropped from 948 tons in 1986 to 903 tons in 1987 in spite of an increase in the area harvested from 600 hectares to 634 hectares. The yield was affected by drought conditions prevailing during the second season.

Foodcrops

Foodcrops production decreased by almost 20% from 65,700 tons in 1986 to 53,130 tons in 1987. This fall in production is due both to a reduction in the area harvested (5,017 hectares in 1987 compared to 6,296 hectares in 1986) and a lower yield per hectare. Weather conditions were quite unfavourable to foodcrops production, characterised by excessive rainfall at the beginning of the year combined with dry climatic conditions towards the end of the year. Another factor contributing to this fall in the area cultivated was the shortage of labour for field operations. Pests and diseases also affected the yield of some foodcrops.

This fall in foodcrops production was quite general. Coupled with rising demand on the domestic market, it led to a substantial increase in prices. On the average, prices of foodcrops rose by some 40% in 1987 over 1986.

Potato production decreased slightly from 16,265 tons in 1986 to 15,535 tons in 1987, in spite of an increase in the area harvested. Owing to the 1986 shortfall in production, plantations started earlier in 1987. However the yield was severely affected by pests like thrips particularly during the first season, leading to shortages on the market.

Maize production was almost halved from that of 1986, dropping from 7,970 tons to 3,865 tons in 1987. This was mainly due to a reduction in area harvested (1,088 hectares in 1987 against 1,817 hectares in 1986), together with a lower yield obtained per hectare.

Production of onions was 2,145 tons in 1987 as against 2,955 tons in 1986. This was due to less area being put under cultivation, together with a lower yield resulting from the fact that in 1987, particularly at the start of the harvesting season, most of the onions were harvested green because of a shortage of onions on the market.

(iii)

Another crop showing a drastic fall in production was tomatoes. Only 6,325 tons were produced in 1987 as compared to 10,600 tons in 1986. Production was severely affected by the excessive rainfall in the first quarter of 1987.

Slight increases were observed in the production of pineapple (+4%) and banana (+1%).

#### Livestocks, Poultry and Fishing

Production of these commodities has generally increased over the previous year to meet the rising local demand as indicated in the table below:

	<u>Production (m.tons)</u>		<u>Increase</u>
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	(%)
Cattle meat	1,233	1,423	+ 15
Pig meat	595	732	+ 23
Poultry	6,800	7,500	+ 10
Fish	8,789	13,395	+ 52

Most of the increase in cattle meat production was attributable to the slaughter of local cattle. As regard fish production, the substantial increase of 52% was due to higher production in both bank fishing and tuna fish for canning.

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

C r o p	1 9 8 6		1 9 8 7	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
1. Sugar cane	77,709	6,024,962	77,348	6,231,127
2. Tea (green leaves)	3,776 <sup>1/</sup>	43,423	3,757 <sup>1/</sup>	39,917
3. Tobacco	600	948	634	903
4. Foodcrops	6,296	65,700	5,017	53,130

1/ area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1986	1987
1. Sugar	m/tons	706,839	691,134
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	7,876	7,147
3. Cattle <sup>1/</sup>	"	1,233	1,423
Local including Rodrigues	"	(894)	(1,194)
Imported	"	(339)	(229)
4. Goat and sheep <sup>1/</sup>	"	161	173
5. Pigs <sup>1/</sup>	"	595	732
6. Poultry	"	6,800	7,500 <sup>3/</sup>
7. Milk	000 Litres	10,750	11,000 <sup>3/</sup>
8. Fish	m/tons	8,083	8,705
Coastal	"	(2,108)	(2,205)
Other <sup>2/</sup>	"	(8,789)	(13,395)

1/ comprises abattoir slaughters only

2/ fresh weight equivalent

3/ estimates

Table 3(a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics

Ownership	1 9 8 6			1 9 8 7		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (per hectare.)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (per hectare.)
1. Estates	39,282	3,381,150	86.07	39,201	3,478,584	88.74
2. Metayers	2,020	107,888	53.41	1,939	108,270	55.84
3. Planters	36,407	2,535,924	69.65	36,208	2,644,273	73.03
TOTAL	77,709	6,024,962	77.53	77,348	6,231,127	80.56

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics

D e t a i l s	Unit	1986	1987
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tons	6,024,962	6,231,127
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		11.73	11.09
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tons/hectares	9.10	8.94
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	tons	8.52	9.02
6. Production of sugar	"	706,839	691,134
(white)	"	38,130	36,051
(raw)	"	668,709	655,083
7. Molasses	"	173,398	180,000

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

(metric tons)

Type of producer	1986	1987
1. Estates	3,686	3,024
2. Metayers	3,270	3,212
3. Free planters	2,287	2,244
4. Planters in Cooperative Societies	33,864	31,116
5. Other (including TDA)	316	321
Total	43,423	39,917

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf

Variety	1986		1987	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
1. Virginia (flue cured)	518	793	557	780
2. Amarello (air cured)	82	155	77	123
Total	600	948	634	903

Table 6 - Foodcrops : area harvested and production

Foodcrops	1 9 8 6 <sup>1/</sup>		1 9 8 7 <sup>1/</sup>	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
Potato	800	16,265	788	15,535
Rice	33	175	14	40
Maize	1,817	7,970	1,088	3,865
Groundnut	719	2,250	514	1,645
Onion	252	2,955	202	2,145
Ginger	18	360	15	240
Garlic	43	325	38	245
Chillies	106	385	116	365
Tomato	858	10,600	647	6,825
Beans and peas	316	970	244	780
Cabbage	123	3,270	116	2,675
Cauliflower	34	610	21	340
Brinjal	69	685	66	580
Creepers	483	7,285	484	6,040
Other vegetables	201	2,785	231	2,875
Banana	367	7,830	370	7,920
Pineapple	57	980	63	1,015
Total foodcrops	6,296	65,700	5,017	53,130

<sup>1/</sup> calendar year