

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - JANUARY - JUNE 1988

Sugar

During the month of June 1988, some 1400 hectares of sugar cane plantation were harvested, yielding 92,000 tonnes of sugar cane. The corresponding figures for the same period last year were 1285 hectares and 109,000 tonnes.

The vegetative stage of the 1988 crop was marked by quite dry conditions prevailing during the period November 1987 to February 1988 throughout the island, particularly in the northern and western regions. Some heavy rainfall in the first half of March brought a halt to this drought situation, but was not sufficient for the 1988 crop to catch up.

Preliminary data for the first semester of 1988 already show a reduced yield of about 66 tonnes of cane per hectare as against 85 for the same period the previous year. The extraction rate is slightly better, 9.93% against 9.66%.

The latest estimates indicate a production of 615,000 tonnes of sugar for the 1988 crop as compared to 691,134 tonnes last year.

Tea

The gross area under tea remained almost stagnant at 3660 hectares. Production of green leaves during the first semester of 1988 dropped by 15% over the same period last year, reaching only 22,000 tonnes. This reduction in production was mainly due to the fact that weather conditions were quite dry, while at the same time some small holders neglected cultivation in the face of low prices as well as increased labour costs.

Tobacco

Some 140 hectares of land under tobacco were harvested during the first six months of 1988, yielding 150 tons of leaves. The increase of 17% in production over the corresponding period of 1987 however is still much below the targeted production of 250 tonnes, because of the lower yield resulting from drought conditions.

Foodcrops

The area harvested under foodcrops during the first half of 1988 was almost the same (2,100 hectares) as in the corresponding period of 1987.

An increase of over 10% was however observed in foodcrop production which attained 18,150 tonnes as compared to 16,441 tonnes in 1987.

Comparative data on foodcrop production for the first six months of the past few years show that production is still below the average attained during the recent past, as follows:

Area harvested and production of foodcrops - (January - June) 1985 - 1988

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Area harvested (hectares)	2,232	2,806	2,106	2,127
Production (tonnes)	19,568	25,451	16,441	18,150

It is to be recalled that last year foodcrops production was severely affected by excessive rainfall during the period February - April. This year production suffered from drought conditions prevailing over the period November 1987 - February 1988.

Livestock and fishing

Production of cattle meat during the first semester of 1988 reached 766 tonnes, showing an increase of 12% over the same period last year when it was 682 tonnes. However production of meat from the slaughter of local cattle was observed to decrease by 17% dropping to 513 tonnes from 619 tonnes.

There/

There was an increase of 9% in the production of goat and sheep, while production of pork meat decreased by 13%.

Fish production increased by 5% to reach 7,000 tonnes. A decrease of 3% in the production of fresh and frozen fish was more than offset by a 20% increase in fish production for the canning industry.

Central Statistical Office,

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August 1988

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	77,552	6,231,103	1,285	108,941	76,267	6,122,162	1,385	91,914
2. Tea (green leaves)	3,661	39,917	3,661 ^{1/}	25,745	3,661 ^{1/}	14,172	3,660 ^{1/}	21,957
3. Tobacco	634	903	109	128	525	775	141	150
4. Foodcrops	5,017	53,130	2,106	16,441	2,911	36,689	2,127	18,150

^{1/} Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1 9 8 7		1 9 8 8	
		Calendar Year	January-June	July-December	January-June
1. Sugar	m/tons	691,134	10,515	680,619	9,131
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	7,147	4,429	2,718	4,143
3. Cattle ^{1/}	"	1,417	682	735	766
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(1,188)	(619)	(569)	(513)
Imported	"	(229)	(63)	(166)	(253)
4. Goat and sheep ^{1/}	"	172	87	85	95
5. Pigs ^{1/}	"	732	334	398	291
6. Poultry	"	8,100	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7. Milk	'000 Litres	11,500	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
8. Fish ^{2/}	m/tons	16,459	6,670	9,789	7,010
Coastal	"	(2,297)	(1,151)	(1,146)	(1,110)
Other	"	(14,162)	(5,519)	(8,643)	(5,900)

1/ includes abattoir slaughters only

2/ fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry Factory Statistics

	Unit	1987			1988
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	M/Tons	6,231,103	108,941	6,122,162	91,914
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	11.09	9.65	11.12	9.93
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7
4. Average yield of sugar	M/Tons/Hectare	8.91	8.18	8.92	6.59
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	M/Tons	9.02	10.36	8.99	10.07
6. Production of sugar	"	691,134	10,515	680,619	9,131
7. Molasses	"	191,946	1,841	190,105	2,800

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

	1987			1988
	Calendar Year	January-June	July-December	January-June
1. Estates	3,024.1	1,917.7	1,106.4	1,826.2
2. Metayers	3,211.6	2,014.1	1,197.5	2,090.4
3. Free planters	2,244.3	1,342.6	901.7	1,452.5
4. Planters in cooperative societies	31,116.9	20,266.7	10,850.2	16,392.8
5. Other, including T.D.A.	320.6	204.2	116.4	195.2
T O T A L	39,917.5	25,745.3	14,172.2	21,957.1

