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Agricultural Production - 1988

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
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## Agricultural Production - 1988

### Sugar

The cane area harvested decreased by some 600 hectares over the previous year, a general downward trend that has been observed over the past years.

Production of sugarcane decreased from 6,230,700 tonnes in 1987 to 5,517,045 tonnes in 1988 i.e. a drop of 11.5%. Weather conditions were quite unfavourable for cane growth. Rainfall was well below normal during the growing season (from November to February) throughout the island and more particularly in the northern and western regions. This led to a reduction in the yield of cane per hectare from 80.34 tonnes to 71.75 tonnes. *1.2 - 10.7%*

Fortunately weather conditions were better for the ripening of canes, leading to a higher extraction rate of 11.50 against 11.09 in 1987. *+ 3.7%* The dry weather conditions at harvest time were more favourable for the extraction rate in those factory areas situated around the central plateau and the south, leading to record sugar production by four sugar estates.

The 1988 crop resulted in a production of 634,224 tonnes of sugar i.e. a decrease of 8.2% over 1987, when it was 691,134 tonnes.

### Tea

The area cultivated under tea decreased slightly by some 60 hectares to reach 3,600 hectares in 1988. Production of green leaves continued its downward trend, dropping to 36,163 tonnes in 1988 as compared to 39,917 tonnes in 1987 and 43,423 tonnes in 1986.

This decrease in production is mainly due to the two-week strike by small holders towards the end of the year. Another reason which led to this decline was the abandonment of plantations by some small holders.

The production of black tea consequently decreased by 4%, reaching 6,857 tonnes as against 7,147 in 1987.

After reaching a peak of Rs 36.86 per kg in 1984 the average export price of made tea has decreased steadily to reach Rs 13.45 in 1987. Last year however, the price rose by 20%, attaining Rs 16.15, mainly as a result of an appreciation of the pound sterling.

### Tobacco

Production of tobacco went up by 6% from 912 tonnes in crop year 1987 to 970 tonnes in crop year 1988 (April to March). This was the result of an increase in the area harvested, 760 hectares as compared to 633 hectares in 1987.

*+ 20%  
+ 6.3%*

The yield per hectare obtained for the 1988 crop was however lower than that of 1987 by some 10%, mainly because of the unfavourable weather conditions. The 1988 crop was affected by the dry weather conditions prevailing during the growing season combined with excess rainfall at harvest stage. Furthermore there was a shortfall of some 50 tonnes of leaves as a result of cyclone Firinga towards the end of the harvest. Consequently actual production was well below the target production of 1130 tonnes.

### Foodcrops

The table below gives the area harvested and production of foodcrops over the past five years.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Area harvested (hectares)	5,308	5,345	86,296	35,017	75,106
Production (tonnes)	60,955	267,195	339,65,700	19,53,130	7,54,055

Despite an increase of 2% in the production of foodcrops in 1988 over 1987, the 1988 crop still compares unfavourably with that of previous years. The 1987 crop, it will be recalled, was seriously affected by excessive rainfall, while that of 1988 suffered from drought conditions. Rainfall deficits observed over the period November 1987 to October 1988 seriously hampered production. Abundant rainfall towards the end of 1988 brought a halt to this situation, leading to a sharp fall in the price of vegetables in December 1988.

Production of potatoes decreased from 15,535 tonnes in 1987 to 12,770 tonnes in 1988. However, it must be noted that plantations for the second season were delayed, and by the end of December 1988 there were still some 125 hectares under potato due for harvest. On a crop year basis, the 1988 crop is expected to yield some 15,000 tonnes of potatoes.

The area harvested under maize decreased by some 100 hectares while production stagnated around 3,800 tonnes. This stagnation is due both to the dry weather conditions and the lack of interest in maize cultivation because of rising costs of production.

There was a substantial increase of more than 40% in the production of onions from 2,145 tonnes in 1987 to 3,090 tonnes in 1988. New areas were cultivated with high yielding varieties.

Banana production remained unchanged around 7,900 tonnes while that of pineapple increased by 30% to reach 1,335 tonnes.

*This sentence may be correct but needs to be checked as usual for error*

(iii)

Livestock, Poultry and Fishing

There was an increase in the production of cattle meat, poultry and milk while that of pig meat and fish showed small decreases over 1987 as indicated below.

	<u>Production (tonnes)</u>		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
Cattle meat	1,417	1,561	+ 10%
Poultry	8,100	9,500	+ 17%
Milk	11,500	12,500	+ 9%
Pig meat	732	660	- 10%
Fish	16,149	15,840	- 2%

This increase in cattle meat production was attributable to the slaughter of imported live animals which more than made up for the 20% decrease in production from local cattle.

The drop of 10% in pork production resulted from the temporary stoppage in the slaughter of pigs following an outbreak of swine fever in certain parts of the country.

An increase of 3.6% in the production of fresh fish was more than offset by a drop of 6% in production from the banks, while the production of tuna fish remained almost constant. This resulted in an overall drop of 2% in total fish production.

Central Statistical Office  
Rose Hill

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops : area harvested and production

C r o p	1 9 8 7		1 9 8 8	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
1. Sugar cane	77,552	6,230,700	76,891	5,517,045
2. Tea (green leaves)	3,661 <sup>1/</sup>	39,917	3,600 <sup>1/</sup>	36,163
3. Tobacco	633	912	760	970
4. Foodcrops	5,017	53,130	5,106	54,055

<sup>1/</sup> area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1987	1988
1. Sugar	m/tons	691,134	634,224
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	7,147	6,857
3. Cattle <sup>1/</sup>	"	1,417	1,561
Local including Rodrigues	"	(1,188)	(959)
Imported	"	(229)	(602)
4. Goat and sheep <sup>1/</sup>	"	172	180
5. Pigs <sup>1/</sup>	"	732	660
6. Poultry	"	8,100	9,500
7. Milk	000 Litres.	11,500	12,500
8. Fish	m/tons	16,149	15,840
Coastal	"	(2,359)	(2,444)
Other <sup>2/</sup>	"	(13,790)	(13,396)

<sup>1/</sup> comprises abattoir slaughters only

<sup>2/</sup> fresh weight equivalent

Table 3(a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics

Ownership	1987			1988		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (m.tons/hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (m.tons/hectare)
1. Estates	39,191	3,478,583	88.76	39,161	3,309,226	84.50
2. Metayers	1,936	108,278	55.93	1,953	94,425	48.35
3. Planters	36,425	2,643,839	72.58	35,777	2,113,394	59.07
TOTAL	77,552	6,230,700	80.34	76,891	5,517,045	71.75

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics

Details	Unit	1987	1988
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	m.tons	6,230,700	5,517,045
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		11.09	11.50
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tons/hectares	8.91	8.25
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	m.tons	9.02	8.70
6. Production of sugar	"	691,134	634,224
(white)	"	(43,262)	(40,000)
(raw)	"	(647,872)	(594,224)
7. Molasses	"	191,946	160,000

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

(metric tons)

Type of producer	1987	1988
1. Estates	3,024	2,918
2. Metayers	3,211	3,553
3. Free planters	2,244	2,582
4. Planters in Cooperative Societies	31,117	26,798
5. Other (including TDA)	321	312
Total	39,917	36,163

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf

Variety	1987		1988	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
1. Virginia (flue cured)	556	787	667	840
2. Amarello (air cured)	77	125	93	130
Total	633	912	760	970

Table 6 - Foodcrops : area harvested and production

Foodcrops	1 9 8 7 <sup>1/</sup>		1 9 8 8 <sup>1/</sup>	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
Potato	788	15,535	672	12,770
Rice	14	40	5	20
Maize	1,088	3,865	985	3,790
Groundnut	514	1,645	568	1,685
Onion	202	2,145	245	3,090
Ginger	15	240	14	220
Garlic	38	245	26	165
Chillies	116	365	124	445
Tomato	647	6,825	689	7,315
Beans and peas	244	780	289	1,010
Cabbage	116	2,675	121	2,915
Cauliflower	21	340	54	955
Brinjal	66	580	77	735
Creepers	484	6,040	506	6,335
Other vegetables	230	2,875	283	3,350
Banana	371	7,920	369	7,920
Pineapple	63	1,015	79	1,335
Total foodcrops	5,017	53,130	5,106	54,055

1/ calendar year