



MAURITIUS

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - 1989

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
PORT LOUIS  
MAURITIUS

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - Year 1989

### Sugar Cane

The total area harvested in 1989 remained at previous year's level of ~~around~~ 77,000 hectares.

Production of sugarcane, however, decreased to 5,436,122 tonnes from 5,516,869 tonnes in 1988. For the second consecutive year, sugar cane production has been badly affected by adverse climatic conditions. The 1988 crop had suffered from drought conditions; the 1989 crop was severely affected by the strong winds of cyclones Firinga and Krissy, more particularly in the South and the East. The northern regions, on the other hand, benefited from the rains accompanying the cyclones, resulting in a higher yield per hectare over the previous year. The average yield of sugar cane for the whole island nevertheless, dropped to around 70 tonnes per hectare which represents a shortfall of nearly 7%, when compared with the average yield in a normal year.

Sugar production was further affected by a low extraction rate, 10.45 compared to 11.50 the previous year. In fact, the shortfall in sugar production due to the lower extraction rate was more important than that due to the damage caused by the cyclones.

The production of sugar consequently dropped to 568,301 tonnes in 1989 representing a decrease of 10% over 1988, when it was 634,224 tonnes.

### Tea

The gross area under tea cultivation was further reduced by 200 hectares, and covered 3,400 hectares in 1989. After reaching a peak of 45,291 tonnes in 1985, the production of green leaves has been steadily declining over the past four years, falling to 36,163 tonnes in 1988. In 1989, the decline was more pronounced and production fell to 29,239 tonnes. The low production of

1989 was partly due to the damage caused to tea plantations by cyclones Firinga and Krissy, but the major factor was the lack of interest of the small holders and their neglect of tea plantations following the low price obtained for green leaves as opposed to the rising costs of production, and acute shortage of labour for field operations.

The production of black tea consequently decreased by 20% from 6,854 tonnes in 1988 to 5,500 tonnes in 1989.

As a result of the relatively better price obtained on the world market and an appreciation of the pound sterling, the weighted average export price of black tea increased by 20% for the second consecutive year reaching Rs 19.37 per kg in 1989. It is recalled that, in 1984, tea was exported at the record price of Rs 36.86 a kg.

#### Tobacco

The area harvested under tobacco went up by 40 hectares to reach 800 hectares in 1989. The increase in the area harvested together with a better yield led to a 9% rise in production, that is, 1,058 tonnes compared to 967 tonnes in 1988.

#### Foodcrops

Some 5,100 hectares under foodcrops were harvested in 1989, almost the same area as in 1988.

In spite of the damage caused to foodcrops plantations by cyclones Firinga and Krissy, total production of foodcrops in 1989 increased by 11%, to reach 60,300 tonnes, against 54,300 tonnes in 1988. However in 1986, food-crop production reached 65,700 metric tonnes.

Potato production increased by more than 40% from 12,770 tonnes in calendar year 1988 to 18,210 tonnes in 1989, resulting from a better yield

and an increase in the area harvested 861 hectares from 673 hectares the previous year. On a crop year basis (April-March), the 1989 crop is estimated at 19,800 tonnes compared to 15,000 tonnes for the previous year.

The production of maize continued to decline, falling from 3,800 tonnes in 1988 to 2,300 tonnes in 1989.

There was a significant increase in the production of ginger which rose to 380 tonnes from 220 tonnes the previous year. The high price of ginger that prevailed throughout 1988 led many planters to cultivate that crop, resulting in the higher production in 1989.

As a result of the damage caused to banana plantations by the two cyclones, the production of banana decreased by 40% from 7,920 tonnes to 4,640 tonnes in 1989, a fact reflected in the high price of banana throughout 1989.

#### Livestock and poultry

There was a rise in the production of cattle meat, poultry and milk, while that of goat and sheep meat had decreased over 1988, as indicated below:

	<u>Production (tonnes)</u>		<u>% Change</u>
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	
Poultry	9,000	10,300	+ 14%
Cattle meat	1,561	1,641	+ 5%
Milk (000 litres)	12,500	13,500	+ 8%
Goat and sheep	180	132	- 27%

The increase in the production of cattle meat is attributable to the slaughter of imported live animals; production from local sources, in fact, decreased by 40%.

The production of poultry continued on its upward trend, reaching 10,300 tonnes in 1989.

A significant decrease of 27% was observed in the production of goat and sheep meat.

The production of pig meat remained unchanged at 660 tonnes.

### Fisheries

Total fish production in 1989 remained at about the same level of the previous year at about 15,800 tonnes. The production of tuna fish for the canning industry rose by 25%, whilst production from the banks decreased by 17% and that of fresh fish remained constant at 13,400 tonnes.

Central Statistical Office  
PORT LOUIS

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Table 1 - Agricultural Crops : Area Harvested and Production

CROP	1988		1989	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric Tons)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric Tons)
1. Sugar cane	76,919	5,516,869	77,296	5,436,122
2. Tea (Green Leaves)	3,600 <sup>1/</sup>	36,163	3,386 <sup>1/</sup>	29,239
3. Tobacco	754	967	794	1,058
4. Foodcrops	5,133	54,300	5,173	60,300

<sup>1/</sup> Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of Agro-Industrial Products

Agro-industrial Products	Unit	1988	1989
1. Sugar	M/Tons	634,224	568,301
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	6,854	5,500
3. Cattle <sup>1/</sup>	"	1,561	1,641
Local including Rodrigues	"	(959)	(589)
Imported	"	(602)	(1,052)
4. Goat and Sheep <sup>1/</sup>	"	180	132
5. Pigs <sup>1/</sup>	"	660	660
6. Poultry	"	9,000	10,300
7. Milk	000 Litres	12,500	13,500
8. Fish	M/Tons	15,925	15,800
Coastal	"	(2,430)	(2,450)
Other <sup>2/</sup>	"	(13,495)	(13,350)

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

<sup>2/</sup> Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3(a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics

Ownership	1988			1989		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (m.tons/hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (metric tons)	Yield (m.tons/hectare)
1. Estates	38,855	3,290,960	84.70	39,363	3,180,093	80.79
2. Metayers	1,956	94,414	48.27	1,842	80,118	43.50
3. Planters	36,108	2,131,495	59.03	36,091	2,175,911	60.29
T O T A L	76,919	5,516,869	71.72	77,296	5,436,122	70.33

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics

Details	Unit	1988	1989
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	m. tons	5,516,869	5,436,122
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		11.50	10.45
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tons/hectares	8.25	7.35
5. Average tons of cane per ton of sugar	m. tons	8.70	9.57
6. Production of sugar	"	634,224	568,301
(white)	"	(36,972)	(40,000)
(Raw)	"	(597,252)	(528,301)
7. Molasses	"	179,622	177,000

Table 4 - Tea - Production of Green Leaves by Type of Producer

Type of Producer	(Metric Tons)	
	1988	1989
1. Estates	2,918	2,155
2. Metayers	3,553	2,803
3. Free Planters	2,582	2,403
4. Planters in Co-operative Societies	26,798	21,637
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	312	241
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,163</b>	<b>29,239</b>

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area Harvested and Production of Leaf

Variety	1988		1989	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric Tons)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Metric Tons)
1. Virginia (flue cured)	665	845	680	875
2. Amarello (air cured)	89	122	114	183
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>1,058</b>



Table 6 - Foodcrops : area harvested and production

Foodcrops	1 9 8 8 <sup>1/</sup>		1 9 8 9 <sup>1/</sup>	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (Metric tons)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
Potato	673	12,770	861	18,210
Rice	5	20	3	20
Maize	985	3,790	634	2,320
Groundnut	568	1,685	454	1,490
Onion	245	3,090	246	3,225
Ginger	15	220	22	380
Garlic	26	165	20	160
Chillies	130	515	112	475
Tomato	688	7,315	796	9,025
Beans and peas	300	1,055	300	1,085
Cabbage	121	2,915	132	2,945
Cauliflower	55	955	52	920
Brinjal	76	735	80	840
Creepers	505	6,335	700	9,225
Other vegetables	284	3,350	324	3,880
Banana	369	7,920	348	4,640
Pineapple	85	1,465	89	1,460
<b>Total foodcrops</b>	<b>5,130</b>	<b>54,300</b>	<b>5,173</b>	<b>60,300</b>

1/ calendar year