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 *(January - June 1997)*

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 1997)

1. Introduction

This report presents data on agricultural and fish production during the first six months of the year 1997.

2. Sugar Cane

During the first semester of 1997, some 1531 hectares were harvested, producing 111,031 tonnes of canes. The corresponding figures for the same period in 1996 were 1,509 hectares and 108,344 tonnes respectively.

Climatic conditions prevailing during the vegetative stage were favourable. Consequently, the yield of sugar cane per hectare for the first half of 1997 stood at 72.5 tonnes against 71.8 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1996. However, conditions for maturation were not so favourable and the extraction rate, as at end of June 1997, was 8.95% compared to 9.73% for the same period in the previous year.

Total production of sugar for the year 1997 is forecast at around 610,000 tonnes vis-à-vis 588,455 tonnes in 1996.

3. Tea

The area under tea cultivation decreased continuously since 1994 and reached 806 hectares in June 1997; 35.0% below the previous year's level of 1,239 hectares. This substantial decline is attributable mainly to the fact that many tea plots have been uprooted to plant sugar cane. As a result, production of green leaves during the first semester of 1997 decreased by 38.6% to reach 5,520 tonnes against 8,996 tonnes for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

4. Tobacco

The production of tobacco leaves during the first semester of 1997 was 193 tonnes, 42.6% less than the 336 tonnes produced in the corresponding period of 1996. This significant decrease is attributable to the combined effects of adverse climatic conditions and a reduction of 15.7% in area harvested (from 281 hectares in the first half of 1996 to 237 hectares during the same semester of 1997).

5. Foodcrops

During the first six months of 1997, the area harvested for some foodcrops was on the rise whilst decreases were registered for others. However, the net result was an increase of 2.5% from 2,612 hectares in the first semester of 1996 to 2,677 hectares in the same period of 1997. Production of foodcrops went up by 9.5% from 32,788 tonnes in January - June 1996 to 35,909 tonnes during the corresponding period of 1997.

Table 5 shows production data for individual foodcrops. Comparison of the data for the first six months of 1996 and 1997 indicates substantial increases, largely on account of an expansion in area harvested, for the following foodcrops: tomato (+ 11.0%), cauliflower (+17.5%), beans and peas (+19.9%) and potato (+ 1654.9%).

On the other hand, significant decreases were observed in the production of the following foodcrops mainly as a result of a decline in area harvested: onion (-73.5%), maize (-48.6%), ginger (-39.7%) and brinjal (-16.7%).

The large increase recorded in potato production in the first half of 1997 is largely explained by the fact that, unlike the preceding years, the bulk of the second season crop for 1995 was harvested in 1995 itself and only 41 tonnes were reaped in January 1996.

An expansion in area harvested together with an increase in yield per hectare pushed up the production of creepers by 23.0% (from 10,627 to 13,073 tonnes) and mixed vegetables by 18.6% (from 3,877 to 4,600 tonnes) in the first semester of 1997.

As regards pineapple, a sharp decrease in the yield per hectare, coupled with a substantial reduction in area harvested, lowered production by 52.0% from 1,538 tonnes to 739 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the period January - June 1997, the production of cattle meat from live cattle went down by 12.2% to 957 tonnes against 1,090 tonnes in the same period a year ago. Local beef production (including Rodrigues) dropped sharply by 37.9% to 136 tonnes in the first half of 1997 against 219 tonnes during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Beef production from imports also decreased by 5.7% to 821 tonnes in the first semester of 1997 from 871 tonnes in the same period in 1996.

The production of goat meat and mutton during the reference period remained at the same level of 65 tonnes as in the corresponding period of 1996.

Pig production was 10.0% lower; 485 tonnes were produced during the first six months of 1997 compared to 539 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

7. Fish

Total fish production rose markedly by 22.7% from 5,452 tonnes in the first half of 1996 to 6,689 tonnes during the same period in 1997. The overall rise is attributable mainly to an increase of 53.4% (from 1,677 to 2,572 tonnes) in tuna fishing coupled with an increase of 21.7% (from 2,340 to 2,848 tonnes in 1997) in the production of frozen fish, excluding tuna, from banks. On the other hand, the production of fresh fish (coastal) decreased by 7.6% from 1,335 tonnes in the first semester of 1996 to 1,233 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1997.

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Co-operation,
PORT LOUIS

October, 1997

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1996 - 1997

	1996						1997	
	Calendar year		January-June		July-December		January-June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
Sugar cane	71,800	5,260,138	1,509	108,344	70,291	5,151,794	1,531	111,031
Tea (green leaves) ¹	1,109	13,209	1,239	8,996	1,109	4,213	806	5,520
Tobacco	649	878	281	336	368	542	237	193
Foodcrops	6,504	89,629	2,612	32,788	3,892	56,841	2,677	35,909

¹ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1996 - 1997

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1996			1997
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	
Sugar	tonnes	588,455	10,543	577,912	9,934
Tea (manufactured)	"	2,497	1,658	839	1,067
Beef ¹	"	2,321	1,090	1,231	957
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(586)	(219)	(367)	(136)
Imported	"	(1,735)	(871)	(864)	(821)
Goat meat and mutton ¹	"	140	65	75	65
Pork ¹	"	1,112	539	573	485
Poultry	"	20,100	N.A. ³	N.A	N.A
Milk	'000' Litres	6,600	N.A	N.A	N.A
Fish ²	tonnes	11,060	5,452	5,608	6,689
Coastal	"	(2,566)	(1,335)	(1,231)	(1,233)
Other	"	(8,494)	(4,117)	(4,377)	(5,456)

¹ abattoir slaughters only

² fresh weight equivalent

³ Not available

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory Statistics, 1996 - 1997

	Unit	1996			1997
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,258,972	108,344	5,150,628	111,031
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	11.19	9.73	11.22	8.95
Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78	98.78	98.78
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	8.19	6.99	8.22	6.49
Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	8.94	10.28	8.91	11.18
Production of sugar	"	588,455	10,543	577,912	9,934
(White)	"	(7,359)	N.A. ¹	N.A	N.A
(Raw)	"	(518,674)	N.A	N.A	N.A
(Special)	"	(62,422)	N.A	N.A	N.A
Molasses	"	151,527	3,835	147,692	3,800

¹ Not available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer (tonnes), 1996 - 1997

	1996			1997
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,432	783	649	551
Metayers	1,651	867	784	1,137
Free planters	2,623	1,693	930	1,595
Planters in cooperative societies	7,438	5,614	1,824	2,208
Other, including T.D.A.	65	39	26	29
TOTAL	13,209	8,996	4,213	5,520

Table 5 - Foodcrops : Area harvested and production, 1996 - 1997

Foodcrops	1996						1997	
	Calendar year		January - June		July - December		January - June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	543	10,639	4	51	539	10,588	65	895
Maize	90	438	35	177	55	261	16	91
Groundnut	217	767	83	283	134	484	73	277
Onion	341	6,067	26	268	315	5,799	8	71
Ginger	40	784	3	68	37	716	2	41
Garlic	30	235	1	10	29	225	-	-
Chillies	202	1,034	87	436	115	598	80	406
Tomato	997	10,877	484	5,005	513	5,872	513	5,555
Beans & peas	402	1,876	167	780	235	1,096	189	935
Cabbage	340	7,595	160	2,939	180	4,656	126	2,875
Cauliflower	177	3,425	41	772	136	2,653	49	907
Brinjal	182	2,458	79	1,133	103	1,325	71	944
Creepers	1,655	22,088	825	10,627	830	11,461	878	13,073
Mixed vegetables	675	8,986	308	3,877	367	5,109	320	4,600
Banana	508	9,387	255	4,824	253	4,563	250	4,500
Pineapple	105	2,973	54	1,538	51	1,435	57	739
Total foodcrops	6,504	89,629	2,612	32,788	3,892	56,841	2,677	35,909