

# AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January – June 1998)

## 1. Introduction

This report presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius during the first six months of 1998.

## 2. Sugarcane

During the first semester of 1998, some 885 hectares of sugarcane were harvested, producing 71,675 tonnes of canes. The corresponding figures for the same period in 1997 were 1531 hectares and 111,031 tonnes respectively. It is to be noted that harvesting started earlier in 1997 compared to 1998.

Climatic conditions prevailing during the vegetative stage were favourable. Consequently the yield of sugar cane per hectare for the first half of 1998 reached 80.99 tonnes against 72.52 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1997. Conditions for maturation were also favourable and the extraction rate, as at the end of June 1998 was 9.19% compared to 8.95% for the same period in the previous year.

Total production of sugar for the year 1998 is forecast at around 640,000 tonnes vis-à-vis 620,589 tonnes in 1997.

## 3. Tea

The conversion of tea plots to sugar cane plantations has caused the area under tea cultivation to decrease continuously from 3,028 hectares in 1994 to 806 hectares in June 1997 and 759 hectares in June 1998. The production of green tea during the first semester of 1998 was 4,605 tonnes, which is 16.6% lower than the 5,520 tonnes for the same period of 1997.

## 4. Tobacco

The production of tobacco leaves during the first semester of 1998 was 250 tonnes, a 29.5% increase over the same period of the previous year, when the production was 193 tonnes.

On the other hand, the area harvested during the first half of 1998 was 153 hectares, which is 35.4% less than the figure of 237 hectares for the first half of 1997. The increase in production in spite of a decrease in area harvested is attributable to climatic conditions which were bad in 1997 and favourable in 1998

## **5. Foodcrops**

Since July 1997, the compilation of foodcrops statistics is under the responsibility of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) which falls under the aegis of a parastatal body, namely Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC).

Foodcrops statistics published in this report have been supplied by AREU.

## **6. Livestock**

During the period January-June 1998, the production of beef from live cattle increased by 5.7% to reach 1,012 tonnes against 957 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1997. Local beef production (including live cattle imported from Rodrigues) stood at 165 tonnes in January-June 1998, showing an increase of 21.3% over the corresponding period of the preceding year. Beef production from slaughter of imported live cattle has increased by 3.2% from 821 tonnes in January-June 1997 to 847 tonnes in January-June 1998.

The production of goat meat and mutton during the reference period has decreased to 58 tonnes, a decline of around 10.8% when compared to 65 tonnes in January-June 1997.

Pork production was 28.0% lower: 349 tonnes were produced during the first six months of 1998 compared to 485 tonnes for the same period in 1997.

## **7. Fish**

Total fish production decreased by 25.3% from 6,736 tonnes in the first half of 1997 to 5,033 tonnes during the same period in 1998. This decline is the result of a decrease of 45.4% (from 2,572 tonnes to 1,404 tonnes) in the production of tuna fishing, a decrease of 13.0% (from 1,233 tonnes to 1,073 tonnes in 1998) in the production of fresh fish (coastal) and a decrease of 13.4% from 2,895 tonnes to 2,506 tonnes in the production of frozen fish excluding tuna from banks.

**Central Statistical Office  
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development  
Port Louis**

**November, 1998**

**Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1997 - 1998**

|                                 | 1997                      |                     |                           |                     |                           |                     | 1998                      |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
|                                 | 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                      | 72,758                    | 5,787,070           | 1,531                     | 111,031             | 71,227                    | 5,676,039           | 885                       | 71,675              |
| Tea (green leaves) <sup>1</sup> | 767                       | 9,026               | 806                       | 5,520               | 767                       | 3,506               | 759                       | 4,605               |
| Tobacco                         | 467                       | 673                 | 237                       | 193                 | 230                       | 480                 | 153                       | 250                 |
| Foodcrops                       | 6,868                     | 100,692             | 2,686                     | 36,085              | 4,182                     | 64,607              | 2,966                     | 36,914              |

<sup>1</sup> Area under cultivation

**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1997 - 1998**

| Agro-industrial products          | Unit         | 1997          |              |               | 1998    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
|                                   |              | Calendar year | January-June | July-December |         |
| Sugar                             | tonnes       | 620,589       | 9,934        | 610,655       | 6,586   |
| Tea (manufactured)                | "            | 1,787         | 1,067        | 720           | 897     |
| Beef <sup>1</sup>                 | "            | 2,274         | 957          | 1,317         | 1,012   |
| Local (including Rodrigues)       | "            | (295)         | (136)        | (159)         | (165)   |
| Imported                          | "            | (1,979)       | (821)        | (1,158)       | (847)   |
| Goat meat and mutton <sup>1</sup> | "            | 127           | 65           | 62            | 58      |
| Pork <sup>1</sup>                 | "            | 948           | 485          | 463           | 349     |
| Poultry                           | "            | 20,825        | N.A          | N.A           | N.A     |
| Milk                              | '000' Litres | 6,000         | N.A          | N.A           | N.A     |
| Fish <sup>2</sup>                 | tonnes       | 12,361        | 6,736        | 5,625         | 5,033   |
| Coastal                           | "            | (2,196)       | (1,233)      | (963)         | (1,073) |
| Other                             | "            | (10,165)      | (5,503)      | (4,662)       | (3,960) |

<sup>1</sup> abattoir slaughters only

<sup>2</sup> fresh weight equivalent

N.A = Not available

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory Statistics, 1997 - 1998

|   | Unit           | 1997          |              |               | 1998         |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|   |                | Calendar year | January-June | July-December | January-June | July-December |
| Tonnage of canes crushed                            | tonnes         | 5,786,249     | 111,031      | 5,675,218     | 71,675       |               |
| Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane) | %              | 10.73         | 8.95         | 10.76         | 9.19         |               |
| Average polarisation                                | degrees        | 98.78         | 98.78        | 98.78         | 98.78        |               |
| Average yield of sugar                              | tonnes/hectare | 8.53          | 6.49         | 8.57          | 7.44         |               |
| Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar         | tonnes         | 9.32          | 11.18        | 9.29          | 10.88        |               |
| Production of sugar (White)                         | "              | 620,589       | 9,934        | 610,655       | 6,586        | N.A           |
| (Raw)   | "              | (5,296)       | N.A          | N.A           | N.A          | N.A           |
| (Special)   | "              | (548,218)     | N.A          | N.A           | N.A          | N.A           |
| Molasses  | "              | (67,075)      | N.A          | N.A           | 2,150        |               |
|   |                | 165,802       | 3,800        | 162,002       |              |               |

N.A = Not available

**Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer (tonnes), 1997 - 1998**

|  | 1997          |              |               | 1998         |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|  | Calendar year | January-June | July-December | January-June |
| <b>Estates</b>                           | 1,059         | 551          | 508           | 525          |
| <b>Metayers</b>                          | 2,250         | 1,137        | 1,113         | 1,394        |
| <b>Free planters</b>                     | 2,983         | 1,595        | 1,388         | 1,694        |
| <b>Planters in cooperative societies</b> | 2,685         | 2,208        | 477           | 975          |
| <b>Other</b>                             | 49            | 29           | 20            | 17           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>9,026</b>  | <b>5,520</b> | <b>3,506</b>  | <b>4,605</b> |

Table 5 - Foodcrops : Area harvested and production, 1997 - 1998

| Foodcrops              | 1997                      |                     |                           |                     |                           |                     | 1998 *                    |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
|                        | 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                 | 815                       | 17,584              | 65                        | 895                 | 750                       | 16,689              | 102                       | 2,080               |
| Maize                  | 46                        | 232                 | 16                        | 91                  | 30                        | 141                 | 23                        | 138                 |
| Groundnut              | 228                       | 863                 | 73                        | 277                 | 155                       | 586                 | 72                        | 309                 |
| Onion                  | 294                       | 5,036               | 8                         | 71                  | 286                       | 4,965               | 10                        | 88                  |
| Ginger                 | 18                        | 317                 | 2                         | 41                  | 16                        | 276                 | 4                         | 58                  |
| Garlic                 | 11                        | 82                  | -                         | -                   | 11                        | 82                  | -                         | -                   |
| Chillies               | 161                       | 845                 | 80                        | 406                 | 81                        | 439                 | 94                        | 480                 |
| Tomato                 | 1,061                     | 12,226              | 513                       | 5,549               | 548                       | 6,677               | 462                       | 4,866               |
| Beans & peas           | 482                       | 2,406               | 189                       | 935                 | 293                       | 1,471               | 196                       | 862                 |
| Cabbage                | 331                       | 7,898               | 126                       | 2,875               | 205                       | 5,023               | 151                       | 2,858               |
| Cauliflower            | 171                       | 3,261               | 49                        | 907                 | 122                       | 2,354               | 99                        | 1,788               |
| Brinjal                | 155                       | 2,107               | 71                        | 944                 | 84                        | 1,163               | 79                        | 985                 |
| Creepers               | 1,751                     | 25,693              | 878                       | 13,083              | 873                       | 12,610              | 972                       | 11,881              |
| Mixed vegetables       | 806                       | 11,626              | 328                       | 4,790               | 478                       | 6,836               | 345                       | 4,312               |
| Banana                 | 461                       | 8,957               | 251                       | 4,482               | 210                       | 4,475               | 322                       | 5,435               |
| Pineapple              | 77                        | 1,559               | 37                        | 739                 | 40                        | 820                 | 35                        | 774                 |
| <b>Total foodcrops</b> | <b>6,868</b>              | <b>100,692</b>      | <b>2,686</b>              | <b>36,085</b>       | <b>4,182</b>              | <b>64,607</b>       | <b>2,966</b>              | <b>36,914</b>       |

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