

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION (January - June 2003)

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius during the first six months of 2003, as well as revised figures for year 2002. Table 1 shows area harvested and production in respect of the main agricultural crops while Table 2 shows production of the main agro-industrial products.

It is to be noted that crop production during the first semester of 2003 was adversely affected, following the passage of cyclones Gerry in February and Manou in May and also by excessive rainfall during the period under review.

2. Sugar cane

No sugar cane was harvested during the period January to June 2003, as was the case in the corresponding period of 2002.

The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture has revised its forecast for the 2003 crop to 540,000 tonnes of sugar, that is 3.7% higher than the 520,887 tonnes obtained during the 2002 crop.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2003, area under tea plantation stood at 680 hectares, representing an increase of 3.0% over the corresponding period of 2002.

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2003 increased by 10.1%: 4,254 tonnes as compared to 3,863 tonnes for the same period of 2002. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea went up by 11.9%, from 767 tonnes in the first semester of 2002 to 858 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2003.

4. Tobacco

An area of 156 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first semester of 2003 compared to 100 hectares for the corresponding period of 2002, representing a rise of 56.0%. The production of tobacco leaves went up accordingly by 68.1% from 166 tonnes to 279 tonnes.

5. Foodcrops

Data on foodcrops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). These figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production of banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Area harvested registered a decrease of 8.5% from 3,231 hectares in January-June 2002 to 2,957 hectares in the corresponding period of 2003, while production dropped by 5.8% from 38,063 tonnes to 35,869 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the period January-June 2003, the production of beef from live cattle amounted to 961 tonnes, which is 0.9% higher than the figure of 952 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2002. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle decreased slightly by 0.2%, from 841 tonnes to 839 tonnes, while local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) increased by 9.9%, from 111 tonnes to 122 tonnes.

Local production accounted for only 12.7% of total beef production.

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a fall of 9.8 %: 55 tonnes in January-June 2003 against 61 tonnes in January-June 2002. The share of local production inclusive of imports from Rodrigues stood at 36.8%.

The production of pork went up slightly by 0.8%, from 357 tonnes in the first semester of 2002 to 360 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2003.

7. Fish

Total fish production declined by 4.8%, from 4,788 tonnes in first semester of 2002 to 4,558 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2003.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2002 - 2003

Crops	2002						2003 ¹	
	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	72,264	4,873,897	-	-	72,264	4,873,897	-	-
Tea (green leaves)	680 ²	6,870	660 ²	3,863	680 ²	3,007	680 ²	4,254
Tobacco	340	474	100	166	240	308	156	279
Foodcrops	7,262	103,876	3,231	38,063	4,031	65,813	2,957	35,869

¹ Provisional | ² Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2002 - 2003

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2002			2003
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	520,887	-	520,887	-
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,381	767	614	858
Beef ¹	"	2,454	952	1,502	961
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(208)	(111)	(97)	(122)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(2,246)	(841)	(1,405)	(839)
Goat meat and mutton ¹	"	141	61	80	55
Pork ¹	"	756	357	399	360
Poultry	"	29,305	13,231	16,074	13,610
Milk	'000 Litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish ²	tonnes	9,314	4,788	4,526	4,558
Coastal	"	(2,252)	(1,148)	(1,104)	(1,045)
Other	"	(7,062)	(3,640)	(3,422)	(3,513)

¹ abattoir slaughters only | ² fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2002 - 2003

	Unit	2002			2003
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	4,870,051	-	4,870,051	-
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.7	-	10.7	-
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	-	98.5	-
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.2	-	7.2	-
Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.35	-	9.35	-
Production of sugar	"	520,887	-	520,887	-
(White)	"	(7,091)	-	(7,091)	-
(Raw)	"	(443,180)	-	(443,180)	-
(Special)	"	(70,616)		(70,616)	
Molasses	"	140,814	-	140,814	-

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer (tonnes), 2002 - 2003

Type of producer	2002			2003
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	830	423	407	686
Metayers	2,182	1,243	939	1,363
Free planters	2,669	1,515	1,154	1,393
Planters in cooperative societies	1,189	682	507	812
TOTAL	6,870	3,863	3,007	4,254

Table 5 - Foodcrops* : Area harvested and production, 2002 - 2003

Foodcrops	2002						2003 ¹	
	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	606	13,339	59	1,403	547	11,936	20	347
Maize	38	295	8	67	30	228	11	70
Groundnut	116	284	52	110	64	174	130	489
Onion	238	7,117	9	79	229	7,038	10	109
<i>of which hybrid</i>	130	5,034	-	-	130	5,034	-	-
Ginger	31	473	2	29	29	444	8	93
Garlic	4	25	-	-	4	25	-	-
Chillies	210	826	92	297	118	529	96	460
Tomato	947	11,738	439	4,108	508	7,630	464	4,302
<i>of which hybrid</i>	242	2,921	129	1,252	113	1,669	145	1,264
Beans & peas	394	2,240	193	1,026	201	1,214	162	667
Cabbage	330	8,252	157	3,357	173	4,895	116	2,305
Cauliflower	85	1,796	28	559	57	1,237	21	249
Brinjal	174	2,359	71	813	103	1,546	64	944
Creepers ²	2,124	27,649	1,137	13,941	987	13,708	1,093	13,158
Mixed vegetables ³	1,281	18,364	645	8,392	636	9,972	446	5,127
Banana	600	7,200	299	3,000	301	4,200	263	5,797
Pineapple	83	1,917	40	882	43	1,035	53	1,752
Total foodcrops	7,261	103,874	3,231	38,063	4,030	65,811	2,957	35,869

* Data supplied by AREU and adjusted for backyard production | ¹ Provisional | ² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash, Voehm | ³ Includes Beet, Carrot, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Lettuce, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper, Sweet Potato, Broccoli, Echalotte