

Agricultural and Fish Production

(January - June 2005)

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AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2005)

1. Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2005, as well as revised figures for year 2004. 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 the production of sugar cane, tobacco and foodcrops during the first semester of 2005 was affected by heavy rainfall in the first quarter of the year and the passage of cyclone Hennie in March 2005.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2005, around 3,800 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 307,346 tonnes of sugar cane and 27,670 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in the preceding year were 3,425 hectares, 250,620 tonnes of sugar cane and 23,700 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at June 2005 was 9.00% compared to 9.46% for the corresponding period a year ago. More details relative to sugar are given in Table 3.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2005 will be around 550,000 tonnes.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2005, area under tea plantation stood at 674 hectares, the same level as the corresponding period of 2004.

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2005 increased by 7.1%: 4,302 tonnes as compared to 4,017 tonnes for the same period of 2004. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea went up by 3.4%, from 819 tonnes in the first semester of 2004 to 847 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2005 (Table 2).

4. Tobacco

An area of 98 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first semester of 2005, against to 154 hectares for the corresponding period of 2004, representing a fall of 36.4%. The production of tobacco leaves decreased by 42.9% from 170 tonnes to 97 tonnes. This drop was mainly due to the combined effect of unfavourable climatic conditions and a shortage of fertilisers on the local market.

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 18.0% from 3,324 hectares in January-June 2004 to 2,727 hectares in the corresponding period of 2005, while production decreased by 24.5% from 40,971 tonnes to 30,934 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the first six months of 2005, the production of beef from live cattle was 800 tonnes, which is 16.6% lower than the figure of 959 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2004. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 95.4% of total, decreased by 14.8%, from 896 tonnes to 763 tonnes. Local production which accounts for only 4.6% of total beef production went down from 63 to 37 tonnes (-41.3%).

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a rise of 30.6%: 64 tonnes in the first semester of 2005 against 49 tonnes in January-June 2004. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, stood at 14.5%.

The production of pork decreased by 7.6%, from 355 tonnes in the first semester of 2004 to 328 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2005.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry increased by 3.7%, from 14,020 tonnes in the first semester 2004 to 14,542 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2005.

8. Fish

Total fish production increased by 11.9%, from 4,066 tonnes in first semester of 2004 to 4,550 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2005. Fresh coastal fish catch edged down 0.9%, while other catch (tuna, bank etc) rose by 16.0%.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2004 - 2005

Crops	2004						2005 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	69,698	5,280,370	3,425	250,620	69,698	5,280,370	3,800	307,346
Tea (green leaves)	674 ²	7,229	674 ²	4,017	674 ²	3,212	674 ²	4,302
Tobacco	294	357	154	170	140	187	98	97
Foodcrops	7,553	111,633	3,324	40,971	4,229	70,662	2,727	30,934

¹ Provisional

² Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2004 - 2005

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2004			2005 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	572,316	23,700	572,316	27,670
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,482	819	663	847
Beef ¹	"	2,456	959	1,497	800
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(137)	(63)	(74)	(37)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(2,319)	(896)	(1,423)	(763)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	107	49	58	64
Pork ²	"	743	355	388	328
Poultry	"	30,000	14,020	15,980	14,542
Milk	'000 litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish ³	tonnes	9,430	4,066	5,364	4,550
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,993)	(981)	(1,012)	(972)
<i>Other</i>	"	(7,437)	(3,085)	(4,352)	(3,578)

¹ Provisional

² Abattoir slaughter only

³ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2004 - 2005

Factory statistics	Unit	2004			2005 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	5,277,137	250,620	5,277,137	307,346
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.85	9.46	10.85	9.00
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	8.21	6.92	8.21	7.28
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.22	10.57	9.22	11.11
Production of sugar	"	572,316	23,700	572,316	27,670
<i>(White)</i>	"	-	-	-	-
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	<i>(572,316)</i>	<i>(23,700)</i>	<i>(572,316)</i>	<i>(27,670)</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	-	-	-	-
Molasses	"	155,763	N.A	155,763	N.A

N.A: not available

¹ Provisional

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2004 - 2005

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2004			2005 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,426	596	830	877
Metayers	2,228	1,257	971	1,311
Free planters	2,268	1,382	886	1,350
Planters in cooperative societies	1,307	782	525	764
TOTAL	7,229	4,017	3,212	4,302

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Foodcrops : Area harvested and production, 2004 - 2005

Foodcrops	2004						2005 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	607	11,246	10	104	597	11,142	31	470
Maize	57	369	30	193	27	176	16	130
Groundnut	212	610	123	405	89	205	85	138
Onion	181	4,682	7	94	174	4,588	12	146
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(166)</i>	<i>(4,488)</i>	-	-	<i>(166)</i>	<i>(4,488)</i>	-	-
Ginger	38	791	6	97	32	694	22	324
Garlic	8	76	-	-	8	76	-	-
Chillies	220	1,322	105	604	115	718	100	481
Tomato	953	14,400	472	3,878	481	10,522	399	4,004
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(290)</i>	<i>(4,684)</i>	<i>(160)</i>	<i>(2,236)</i>	<i>(130)</i>	<i>(2,448)</i>	<i>(98)</i>	<i>(964)</i>
Beans & peas	403	2,138	158	675	245	1,463	154	616
Cabbage	287	6,522	130	2,603	157	3,919	91	1,394
Cauliflower	115	2,852	32	814	83	2,038	8	178
Brinjal	202	2,819	95	1,277	107	1,542	77	804
Creepers ²	2,508	32,424	1,285	15,709	1,223	16,715	982	9,339
Mixed vegetables ³	1,097	14,892	537	6,263	560	8,629	415	4,332
Banana	528	12,000	266	6,126	262	5,874	260	5,800
Pineapple	137	4,490	68	2,129	69	2,361	75	2,778
Total foodcrops	7,553	111,633	3,324	40,971	4,229	70,662	2,727	30,934

Source: Agricultural and Research Extension Unit (AREU) and CSO estimates

¹ Provisional

² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash and Voehm

³ Includes Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Echalotte, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Lettuce, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper and Sweet Potato