

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2006)

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2006, as well as revised figures for year 2005. 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.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2006, around 2,800 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 218,210 tonnes of sugar cane and 19,246 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in the preceding year were 3,800 hectares, 307,346 tonnes of sugar cane and 27,670 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at June 2006 was 8.82% compared to 9.00% 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 2006 will be around 500,000 tonnes.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2006, area under tea plantation stood at 670 hectares, the same level as at June 2005.

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2006 increased by 2.9%: 4,426 tonnes as compared to 4,302 tonnes for the same period of 2005. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea went up by 5.3%, from 847 tonnes in the first semester of 2005 to 892 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2006 (Table 2).

4. Tobacco

An area of 95 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first semester of 2006, against to 98 hectares for the corresponding period of 2005. The production of tobacco leaves increased by 11.3% from 97 tonnes to 108 tonnes.

5. Foodcrops

Data on food crops 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 an increase of 15.9% from 2,727 hectares in January-June 2005 to 3,161 hectares in the corresponding period of 2006, while production increased by 29.5% from 30,934 tonnes to 40,051 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the first six months of 2006, the production of beef from live cattle was 935 tonnes, which is 16.9% higher than the figure of 800 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2005. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 95.9% of the total production, increased by 17.6%, from 763 tonnes to 897 tonnes. Local production which accounts for only 4.1% of total beef production rose by 2.7% from 38 tonnes to 37 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a decrease of 14.1%: 55 tonnes in the first semester of 2006 against 64 tonnes in January-June 2005. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, stood at 25.2%.

The production of pork decreased by 3.0%, from 328 tonnes in the first semester of 2005 to 318 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2006.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry increased by 11.8%, from 17,000 tonnes in the first semester 2005 to 19,000 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2006.

8. Fish

Total fish production increased by 23.7%, from 4,550 tonnes in first semester of 2005 to 5,628 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2006. Fresh coastal fish catch increased by 9.2%, while other catch (tuna, bank etc) rose by 27.6%.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2005 - 2006

Crops	2005						2006 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	68,351	4,984,058	3,800	307,346	64,551	4,676,712	2,800	218,210
Tea (green leaves)	670	6,798	670	4,302	670	2,496	670	4,426
Tobacco ³	348	357	98	97	250	260	95	108
Foodcrops	6,901	96,782	2,727	30,934	4,174	65,848	3,161	40,051

¹ Provisional

² Area under cultivation

³ Crop year (April-March)

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2005 - 2006

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2005			2006 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	519,816	27,670	492,146	19,246
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,387	847	540	892
Beef ²	"	2,397	800	1,597	935
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(73)	(37)	(36)	(38)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(2,324)	(763)	(1,561)	(897)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	111	64	47	55
Pork ²	"	709	328	381	318
Poultry meat	"	33,000	17,000	16,000	19,000
Milk	'000 litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish ⁴	tonnes	8,982	4,550	4,432	5,628
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,897)	(972)	(925)	(1,061)
<i>Other</i>	"	(7,085)	(3,578)	(3,507)	(4,567)

¹ Provisional

² Abattoir slaughter only

³ Revised

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2005 - 2006

Factory statistics	Unit	2005			2006 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,984,058	307,346	4,676,712	218,210
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.44	9.00	10.44	8.82
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.61	7.28	7.62	6.87
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.59	11.11	9.50	11.34
Production of sugar	"	519,816	27,670	492,146	19,246
<i>(White)</i>	"	<i>(1,537)</i>	-	<i>(1,537)</i>	-
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	<i>(518,279)</i>	<i>(27,670)</i>	<i>(490,609)</i>	<i>(19,246)</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	-	-	-	-
Molasses	"	145,425	N.A	145,425	N.A

¹ Provisional

N.A: not available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2005 - 2006

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2005			2006 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,393	877	516	753
Metayers	2,061	1,311	750	1,294
Free planters	2,145	1,350	795	1,587
Planters in cooperative societies	1,199	764	435	792
TOTAL	6,798	4,302	2,496	4,426

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Foodcrops : Area harvested and production, 2005 - 2006

Foodcrops	2005						2006 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	599	12,777	31	470	568	12,307	17	266
Maize	63	475	16	130	47	345	23	149
Groundnut	137	231	85	138	52	93	129	271
Onion	253	5,637	12	146	241	5,491	10	122
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(140)</i>	<i>(3,688)</i>	-	-	<i>(140)</i>	<i>(3,688)</i>	<i>(10)</i>	<i>(122)</i>
Ginger	54	1,011	22	324	32	687	11	164
Garlic	12	93	-	-	12	93	1	2
Chillies	223	1,161	100	481	123	680	127	546
Tomato	918	12,840	399	4,004	519	8,836	458	6,360
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(268)</i>	<i>(4,040)</i>	<i>(98)</i>	<i>(964)</i>	<i>(170)</i>	<i>(3,076)</i>	<i>(181)</i>	<i>(2,586)</i>
Beans & peas	375	1,608	154	616	221	992	145	543
Cabbage	224	4,766	91	1,394	133	3,372	124	2,109
Cauliflower	82	1,901	8	178	74	1,723	14	257
Brinjal	174	2,074	77	804	97	1,270	90	1,110
Creepers ²	2,198	24,203	982	9,339	1,216	14,864	1,179	14,083
Mixed vegetables ³	934	11,540	415	4,332	519	7,208	497	5,705
Banana	521	11,580	260	5,800	261	5,780	250	5,600
Pineapple	134	4,885	75	2,778	59	2,107	86	2,764
Total foodcrops	6,901	96,782	2,727	30,934	4,174	65,848	3,161	40,051

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