

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2009)

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 2009, as well as revised figures for year 2008. 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 2009, around 3,500 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 278,481 tonnes of sugar cane and 24,876 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in the year 2008 were 2,390 hectares, 175,275 tonnes of sugar cane and 15,289 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at June 2009 was 8.93% compared to 8.72% 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 2009 will be around 490,000 tonnes.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2009, area under tea plantation reached 721 hectares which was 2.9% higher when compared to the same period of 2008 : 701 hectares (Table 1).

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2009 was around 4,509 tonnes, down by 8.0% when compared to the figure of 4,901 tonnes for the corresponding period of the preceding year. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of manufactured tea went down by 9.9%, from 932 tonnes in the first semester of 2008 to 840 tonnes in the same period of 2009 (Table 2).

4. Tobacco

An area of 85 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first six months of 2009, against 94 hectares for the corresponding period of 2008, that is, a decrease of 9.6%. The production of tobacco leaves was higher by 12.1% from 116 tonnes to 130 tonnes.

5. Food crops

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 increased by 10.9% from 2,525 hectares in January-June 2008 to 2,799 hectares in the corresponding period of 2009. Consequently, the production rose by 19.0% from 32,107 tonnes to 38,193 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the first half of 2009, the production of beef from live cattle was 902 tonnes, which is 13.7% higher than the figure of 793 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2008. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 97.7% of the total production, increased by 13.2%, from 778 tonnes to 881 tonnes. Local production which accounts for only 2.3% of total beef production went up by 40.0% from 15 tonnes to 21 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went up by 7.7% from 39 tonnes during the first semester of 2008 to 42 tonnes for the same period of 2009. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 36.8%.

The production of pork contracted by 6.0% from 168 tonnes in the first semester of 2008 to 158 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2009.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry expanded by 6.5%, from 20,000 tonnes in the first semester 2008 to 21,300 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2009.

8. Fish

Total fish production fell by 13.6%, from 3,636 tonnes in first six months of 2008 to 3,143 tonnes in the same period of 2009. This decrease was attributable to a decline of 22.8% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 2,729 tonnes to 2,108 tonnes. As regards the production of fresh coastal fish catch, it increased by 14.1% from 907 tonnes to 1,035 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2008 - 2009

Crops	2008 ¹						2009 ²	
	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	62,024	4,533,000	2,390	175,275	59,634	4,473,366	3,500	278,481
Tea (green leaves)	701 ³	8,672	701 ³	4,901	701 ³	3,771	721 ³	4,509
Tobacco ⁴	260	349	94	116	166	233	85	130
Food crops	6,266	93,021	2,525	32,107	3,741	60,914	2,799	38,193

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

⁴ Crop year (April-March)

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2008 - 2009

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2008 ¹			2009 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	452,062	15,289	436,773	24,876
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,668	932	736	840
Beef ³	"	1,903	793	1,110	902
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(27)	(15)	(12)	(21)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,876)	(778)	(1,098)	(881)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	76	39	37	42
Pork ³	"	330	168	162	158
Poultry meat	"	42,000	20,000	22,000	21,300
Milk	'000 litres	3,300	1,650	1,650	1,700
Fish ⁴	tonnes	6,025	3,636	2,389	3,143
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,802)	(907)	(895)	(1,035)
<i>Other</i>	"	(4,223)	(2,729)	(1,494)	(2,108)

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2008 - 2009

Factory statistics	Unit	2008 ¹			2009 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,528,225	175,275	4,352,950	278,481
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.98	8.72	10.03	8.93
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.3	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.29	6.40	7.32	7.11
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.01	11.46	9.97	11.19
Production of sugar	"	452,062	15,289	436,773	24,876
<i>(White)</i>	"	<i>(2,852)</i>	-	<i>(2,852)</i>	-
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	<i>(377,337)</i>	<i>(15,289)</i>	<i>(352,048)</i>	<i>(24,876)</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(71,873)</i>	-	<i>(71,873)</i>	-
Molasses	"	141,347	N.A	N.A	N.A

¹ Revised

² Provisional

N.A: Not Available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2008 - 2009

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2008			2009 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,788	1,064	724	756
Metayers	2,424	1,312	1,112	1,355
Free planters	3,113	1,758	1,355	1,655
Planters in cooperative societies	1,347	767	580	743
Total	8,672	4,901	3,771	4,509

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2008 - 2009

Foodcrops	2008						2009 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	648	14,868	21	456	627	14,412	56	876
Maize	61	460	29	218	32	242	15	50
Groundnut	143	320	64	133	79	187	92	227
Onion	225	5,558	4	56	221	5,502	15	184
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(133)</i>	<i>(3,900)</i>	-	-	<i>(133)</i>	<i>(3,900)</i>	-	-
Ginger	53	709	20	215	33	494	4	57
Garlic	3	20	1	5	2	15	1	6
Chillies	208	969	104	504	104	465	118	539
Tomato	744	11,518	349	4,791	395	6,727	340	4,592
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(347)</i>	<i>(6,134)</i>	<i>(147)</i>	<i>(2,250)</i>	<i>(200)</i>	<i>(3,884)</i>	<i>(207)</i>	<i>(2,956)</i>
Beans & peas	272	1,187	114	440	158	747	116	465
Cabbage	202	3,732	85	1,170	117	2,562	92	1,415
Cauliflower	62	1,209	11	203	51	1,006	12	298
Brinjal	162	1,810	81	942	81	868	88	1,275
Creepers ²	1,893	23,279	897	10,496	996	12,783	1,053	13,496
Mixed vegetables ³	860	10,525	373	4,009	487	6,516	430	5,108
Banana	502	10,463	250	5,123	252	5,340	242	5,598
Pineapple	228	6,394	122	3,346	106	3,048	125	4,007
Total food crops	6,266	93,021	2,525	32,107	3,741	60,914	2,799	38,193

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

¹ Provisional

² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Courgette, 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