

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2013)

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 2013, as well as revised figures for year 2012. 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. Details on the sugar industry and food crops are given in Tables 3 and 5 respectively.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2013 some 1,810 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 128,252 tonnes of sugar cane and 12,178 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2012 were 1,000 hectares, 63,070 tonnes of sugar cane and 5,745 tonnes of sugar respectively. The higher figures for 2013 are mainly explained by cane crushing starting on 14 June this year as compared to 22 June last year. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2013 was 9.50% compared to 9.11% as at end of June 2012.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2013 will be around 420,000 tonnes, representing a rise of 2.6% compared to 409,200 tonnes for 2012.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2013, area under tea plantation was 669 hectares, same as the figure for the same period of 2012. However, the production of green tea leaves went down by 9.0%: 4,260 tonnes in first semester of 2013 as compared to 4,683 tonnes during the same period of 2012. This is mainly due to unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing during the first semester of 2013.

Production of manufactured tea decreased by 9.0%, from 922 tonnes in the first semester of 2012 to 839 tonnes in the same period of 2013. Further details on tea production are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

An area of only 1 hectare under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first six months of 2013, that is, 98.6% lower than the 70 hectares harvested in the corresponding period of 2012. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves decreased by 99.2% from 131 tonnes in the first semester of 2012 to only 1 tonne in the same period of 2013. This is explained by the fact all flue-cured growers have stopped planting as from second season of the 2012/2013 crop given that growing of tobacco will cease in 2015. Only a few air-cured growers will continue to grow tobacco over the next two years.

5. Food crops

Data on food crops (except paddy rice) production, are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit. Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production of banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato. Data on paddy rice was obtained from concerned establishment.

The area under food crops harvested increased by 1.9% from 3,522 hectares in the first semester of 2012 to 3,589 hectares in same period of 2013. However, the production of food crops decreased by 7.8% from 45,439 tonnes to 41,885 tonnes during the same period, mainly explained by unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing during first semester of 2013. It is to be noted that area under rice cultivation harvested declined by 1.6% from 309 hectares in the first semester of 2012 to 304 hectares in the first semester of 2013. The production of paddy rice went down by 22.3% from 831 tonnes to 646 tonnes during the same period explained by the combined effects of unfavourable climatic conditions and of brown spot disease.

6. Livestock

Data on production of beef, goat meat, mutton and pork are supplied by the Mauritius Meat Authority. It is to be noted that this data represents only animals slaughtered by the Central Abattoir, including live animals imported from Rodrigues and other countries for slaughter.

During the first half of 2013, the production of beef from live cattle was 971 tonnes, which is 1.7% lower than the figure of 988 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2012. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 94.4% of the total production, increased by 7.8%, from 851 tonnes to 917 tonnes. Local beef production went down by 60.6% from 137 tonnes to 54 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 10.3% from 29 tonnes during the first semester of 2012 to 26 tonnes for the same period of 2013. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 76.9%.

The production of pork decreased by 6.0% from 299 tonnes in the first semester of 2012 to 281 tonnes during the same period of 2013.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry was 23,500 tonnes in the first semester of 2013, same as the corresponding period of 2012.

8. Fish

Total fish production went up by 6.7%, from 2,184 tonnes in first six months of 2012 to 2,331 tonnes in the same period of 2013. This increase was attributable to a rise of 26.5% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 1,223 tonnes to 1,547 tonnes partly offset by a decrease of 18.4% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch, from 961 tonnes to 784 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2012 - 2013

Crops	2012 ¹						2013 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	54,140	3,947,285	1,000	63,070	53,140	3,884,215	1,810	128,252
Tea (green leaves)	669 ³	7,947	669 ³	4,683	669 ³	3,264	669 ³	4,260
Tobacco	173	245	70	131	103	114	1	1
Food crops	8,124	121,106	3,522	45,439	4,602	75,667	3,589	41,885

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2012 - 2013

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2012 ¹			2013 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	409,200	5,745	403,455	12,178
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,577	922	655	839
Beef ³	"	1,986	988	998	971
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(180)	(137)	(43)	(54)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,806)	(851)	(955)	(917)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	51	29	22	26
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(41)	(22)	(19)	(20)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(10)	(7)	(3)	(6)
Pork ³	"	653	299	354	281
Poultry meat	"	47,200	23,500	23,700	23,500
Milk	'000 litres	6,000	2,000	4,000	3,000
Fish ⁴	tonnes	4,191	2,184	2,007	2,331
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,888)	(961)	(927)	(784)
<i>Other</i>	"	(2,303)	(1,223)	(1,080)	(1,547)

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2012 - 2013

Factory statistics	Unit	2012 ¹			2013 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	3,942,325	63,070	3,879,255	128,252
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.38	9.11	10.40	9.50
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.56	5.75	7.59	6.73
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.30	10.98	9.62	10.53
Production of sugar	"	409,200	5,745	403,455	12,178
<i>(Plantation white sugar ³)</i>	"	<i>(278,752)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(130,448)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
Molasses	"	125,131	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ A processed raw sugar used to manufacture refined white sugar

N.A: Not Available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2012 - 2013

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2012			2013 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,397	882	515	562
Metayers	2,090	1,272	818	1,086
Free planters	3,246	1,819	1,427	1,908
Planters in cooperative societies	1,214	710	504	704
Total	7,947	4,683	3,264	4,260

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2012 - 2013

Foodcrops	2012						2013 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	876	20,442	22	418	854	20,024	54	884
Rice (paddy)	309	831	309	831	-	-	304	646
Maize	58	413	34	226	24	187	50	301
Groundnut	266	723	78	210	188	513	118	285
Onion	291	7,098	...	2	291	7,096	2	16
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(165)	(4,525)	-	-	(165)	(4,525)	-	-
Ginger	71	1,156	3	39	68	1,117	6	47
Garlic	16	98	-	-	16	98	-	-
Chillies	264	1,466	127	719	138	747	130	740
Tomato	827	13,150	377	5,407	450	7,743	407	4,266
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(782)	(12,590)	(352)	(5,125)	(430)	(7,465)	(396)	(4,169)
Beans & peas	302	1,613	146	745	156	868	123	508
Cabbage	220	4,539	109	2,071	111	2,468	99	1,565
Cauliflower	80	1,520	32	573	48	947	30	444
Brinjal	244	3,227	113	1,527	131	1,700	116	1,519
Creepers ²	2,280	28,453	1,201	15,119	1,079	13,334	1,113	13,145
Mixed vegetables ³	1,017	12,062	487	5,510	530	6,552	484	4,287
Banana	510	10,196	252	5,046	258	5,150	276	5,630
Pineapple	493	14,120	231	6,995	262	7,125	276	7,602
Total food crops	8,124	121,106	3,522	45,439	4,602	75,667	3,589	41,885

Source: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) and Statistics Mauritius 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

... Negligible