

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January-June 2015)

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2015, as well as revised figures for year 2014. 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 2015 some 4,173 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 352,026 tonnes of sugar cane and 28,780 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2014 were 4,133 hectares, 319,391 tonnes of sugar cane and 28,583 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2015 was 8.18% compared to 8.95% as at end of June 2014.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2015 will be around 410,000 tonnes, representing a rise of 2.5% compared to 400,173 tonnes for 2014.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2015, area under tea plantation was 574 hectares representing a decrease of 14.6% over the figure of 672 hectares during the same period of 2014. The production of green tea leaves went down by 22.4%; 3,492 tonnes in first semester of 2015 as compared to 4,498 tonnes during the same period of 2014.

Production of manufactured tea decreased by 24.8% from 890 tonnes in the first semester of 2014 to 669 tonnes in the same period of 2015. Further details on tea production are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

There was no production of tobacco during the first semester of 2015.

5. Food crops

Data on food crops (except paddy rice) production, are supplied by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). 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 decreased by 11.5% from 3,737 hectares in the first semester of 2014 to 3,307 hectares in the same period of 2015. The production of food crops decreased by 26.2% from 41,948 tonnes to 30,944 tonnes during the same period, mainly explained by the combined effects of unfavourable climatic conditions and decreases of 46.2% and 22.6% in the production of tomato and potato respectively. It is to be noted that area under rice cultivation harvested declined by 39.0% from 403 hectares in the first semester of 2014 to 246 hectares in the same period of 2015. The production of paddy rice went down by 48.4% from 1,146 tonnes to 591 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 these 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 2015, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,014 tonnes, as compared to 972 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2014. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 93.9% of the total production, increased by 1.7% from 936 tonnes to 952 tonnes. Local beef production went up by 72.2% from 36 tonnes to 62 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 24.1% from 29 tonnes during the first semester of 2014 to 22 tonnes for the same period of 2015. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at almost 100.0%.

The production of pork increased by 6.0% from 252 tonnes in the first semester of 2014 to 267 tonnes during the same period of 2015.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry increased by 0.9% from 23,000 tonnes in the first semester of 2014 to 23,200 tonnes during the same period of 2015.

8. Fish

Total fish production went up by 6.4% from 6,805 tonnes in first six months of 2014 to 7,239 tonnes in the same period of 2015. This rise was attributable to increases of 6.7% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 6,088 tonnes to 6,495 tonnes in 2015 and 3.8% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 717 tonnes to 744 tonnes.

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

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CONTACT PERSONS:

Mr. B. Unmar
Senior Statistician

Mr. D. Chinnee
Senior Statistical Officer
Agriculture Unit
Statistics Mauritius
5th Floor, LIC Centre
Port Louis
Tel. (230) 208-1800
Fax.(230) 211-4150/(230) 213-6535
Email: cso_agriculture @govmu.org
Website: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org>

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2014 - 2015

Crops	2014 ¹						2015 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	50,694	4,044,422	4,133	319,391	46,561	3,725,031	4,173	352,026
Tea (green leaves)	672 ³	7,607	672 ³	4,498	672 ³	3,109	574 ³	3,492
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food crops	8,459	113,957	3,737	41,948	4,722	72,009	3,307	30,944

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

- No production

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2014 - 2015

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2014 ¹			2015 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	400,173	28,583	371,590	28,780
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,504	890	614	669
Beef ³	"	1,956	972	984	1,014
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(61)	(36)	25	(62)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,895)	(936)	959	(952)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	45	29	16	22
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(33)	(17)	(16)	(22)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(12)	(12)	(0)	(0)
Pork ³	"	557	252	305	267
Poultry meat	"	47,500	23,000	24,500	23,200
Milk	'000 litres	5,000	2,300	2,700	2,300
Fish ⁴	tonnes	12,351	6,805	5,546	7,239
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,409)	(717)	692	(744)
<i>Other</i>	"	(10,942)	(6,088)	(4,854)	(6,495)

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2014 - 2015

Factory statistics	Unit	2014 ¹			2015 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,038,906	319,391	3,719,515	352,026
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.91	8.95	9.99	8.18
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.89	6.92	7.98	6.90
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.09	11.17	10.01	12.23
Production of sugar	"	400,173	28,583	371,590	28,780
<i>(Plantation white sugar³)</i>	"	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
Molasses	"	138,441	<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, 2014 - 2015

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2014			2015 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,137	675	462	532
Metayers	2,111	1,123	988	959
Free planters	3,232	1,977	1,255	1,450
Planters in cooperative societies	1,127	723	404	551
Total	7,607	4,498	3,109	3,492

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2014 - 2015

Foodcrops	2014						2015 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	821	19,404	23	385	798	19,019	15	298
Rice (paddy)	412	1,186	403	1,146	9	39	246	591
Maize	69	625	29	259	40	366	28	178
Groundnut	240	618	107	281	133	337	37	77
Onion	282	5,912	1	4	281	5,909	3	42
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(158)</i>	<i>(3,808)</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>(158)</i>	<i>(3,808)</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>(0)</i>
Ginger	34	535	4	68	30	467	10	62
Garlic	27	163	-	-	27	163	-	-
Chillies	306	1,670	147	847	159	823	120	581
Tomato	857	10,997	437	4,586	420	6,411	318	2,465
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(822)</i>	<i>(10,629)</i>	<i>(418)</i>	<i>(4,410)</i>	<i>(405)</i>	<i>(6,219)</i>	<i>(259)</i>	<i>(1,974)</i>
Beans & peas	302	1,436	131	589	171	847	105	353
Cabbage	229	4,279	120	2,089	109	2,190	95	1,109
Cauliflower	115	2,105	40	682	75	1,423	32	409
Brinjal	288	3,549	136	1,848	152	1,701	117	1,100
Creepers ²	2,454	29,376	1,185	14,553	1,269	14,823	1,260	10,988
Mixed vegetables ³	1,108	12,480	520	5,148	589	7,332	457	3,576
Banana	464	8,833	243	4,641	221	4,192	250	4,202
Pineapple	450	10,788	212	4,820	239	5,968	214	4,913
Total food crops	8,459	113,957	3,737	41,948	4,722	72,009	3,307	30,944

Source: Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) 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