AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

 **Year 2020**

**Introduction**

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for year 2020, as well as revised figures for year 2019. It is to be noted that the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the first semester of 2020 combined with the Wakashio oil spill during the second semester of 2020 have adversely affected production for the year 2020. 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.

1. **Sugar cane**

The production of sugar cane went down by 23.0% from 3,405,250 tonnes in 2019 to 2,620,874 tonnes in 2020. The area harvested decreased by 3.0% from 45,054 hectares in 2019 to 43,711 hectares in 2020. The average yield has decreased by 20.7% from 75.58 tonnes per hectare in 2019 to 59.96 in 2020.

The production of sugar fell by 18.2% from 331,105 tonnes in 2019 to 270,875 tonnes in 2020. Compared to 9.73% in 2019, the average extraction rate was 10.34% in 2020, representing an increase of 6.3%.

1. **Tea**

The area under tea plantation in 2020 was 685 hectares, representing an increase of 4.4% over the figure of 656 hectares in 2019. The production of green tea leaves declined by 38.7% from 8,329 tonnes in 2019 to 5,105 tonnes in 2020.

Production of manufactured tea decreased by 31.6% from 1,583 tonnes in 2019 to 1,083 tonnes in 2020. Further details on tea production are given in Table 4.

**4. 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 increased by 1.7% from 7,334 hectares in 2019 to 7,456 hectares in 2020. Production of food crops increased by 0.7% from 93,736 tonnes to 94,410 tonnes in 2020. It is to be noted that there was no rice cultivation in year 2020 compared to 6 hectares harvested in 2019 with a production of 21 tonnes of paddy rice.

**5. 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 represent only animals slaughtered by the Central Abattoir, including live animals imported from Rodrigues and other countries for slaughter.

In 2020, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,826 tonnes, which is 11.0% lower than the figure of 2,051 tonnes registered in 2019. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 99.0% of the total production, decreased by 8.6% from 1,979 tonnes to 1,808 tonnes. Local beef production went down by 75.0% from 72 tonnes to 18 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton was 42 tonnes in 2020 same as in 2019. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues stood at 35.7 %.

The production of pork increased by 0.3% from 596 tonnes in 2019 to 598 tonnes in 2020.

**6. Poultry**

The production of poultry increased by 6.9% from 51,000 tonnes in 2019 to 47,500 tonnes in 2020.

**7. Fish**

Total fish production went down by 34.6% from 35,055 tonnes in 2019 to 22,943 tonnes in 2020. This decrease was attributable to a drop of 34.6% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 33,333 tonnes in 2019 to 21,810 tonnes in 2020, as well as a decrease of 34.2% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 1,722 tonnes in 2019 to 1,133 tonnes in 2020.

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