AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

 **(January-June 2021)**

**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 2021, as well as revised figures for 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**

At the end of June 2021, some 511 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 38,081 tonnes of sugar cane and 4,401 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2020 were 467 hectares, 37,104 tonnes of sugar cane and 5,082 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2021 was 7.80%, lower than the 8.68% as at end of June 2020.

According to Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2021 will be around 270,000 tonnes, representing a decrease of 0.3%, compared to 270,875 tonnes in 2020.

1. **Tea**

At the end of June 2021, area under tea plantation was 685 hectares, same as the figure for the corresponding period of 2020. However, the production of green tea leaves went up by 9.6%: 2,855 tonnes in first semester of 2021 as compared to 2,606 tonnes during the same period of 2020.

Consequently, the production of manufactured tea increased by 33.3% from 493 tonnes in the first semester of 2020 to 657 tonnes in the same period of 2021. Further details on tea production are given in Table 4.

**4. Food crops**

Data on food crops 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.

The area under food crops harvested increased by 6.7% from 2,981 hectares in the first semester of 2020 to 3,182 hectares in the same period of 2021. The production of food crops increased by 19.5% from 31,120 tonnes to 37,193 tonnes during the same period.

**5. Livestock**

Data on production of beef, goat meat, mutton and pork are supplied by 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.

During the first half of 2021, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,040 tonnes, as compared to 946 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2020. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 99.3% of the total production, increased by 10.6% from 934 tonnes to 1,033 tonnes. Local beef production went down from 12 tonnes to 7 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton increased by 4.8% from 21 tonnes during the first semester of 2020 to 22 tonnes for the same period of 2021. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 18.2%.

The production of pork went up by 9.3% from 225 tonnes in the first semester of 2020 to 246 tonnes during the same period of 2021.

**6. Poultry**

The production of poultry was 22,500 tonnes in the first semester of 2021 same as the figure for the corresponding period of 2020.

**7. Fish**

Total fish production went up by 20.6% from 12,650 tonnes in the first six months of 2020 to 15,250 tonnes in the same period of 2021. This increase was attributable to a rise of 21.8% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 12,107 tonnes in 2020 to 14,743 tonnes in 2021, partly offset by a decrease of 6.6% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 543 tonnes in the first semester of 2020 to 507 tonnes during the same period of 2021.

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