AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

 **(January-June 2023)**

**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 2023, as well as revised figures for year 2022. Table 1 shows area harvested and production in respect to 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**

As at end of June 2023, no sugar cane was harvested, as compared to a production of 24,141 tonnes as at end of June 2022.

According to Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2023 will be around 220,000 tonnes, representing a decrease of 5.5%, compared to 232,707 tonnes in 2022.

1. **Tea**

At the end of June 2023, area under tea plantation was 659 hectares, same as the figure for the corresponding period of 2022. However, the production of green tea leaves went up by 12.1%: 3,930 tonnes in first semester of 2023 as compared to 3,506 tonnes during the same period of 2022.

The production of manufactured tea increased by 23.2% from 598 tonnes in the first semester of 2022 to 737 tonnes in the same period of 2023. 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 harvested under food crops for open fields increased by 11.8% from 3,181 hectares in the first semester of 2022 to 3,556 hectares in the same period of 2023. The production of food crops increased by 41.6% from 34,792 tonnes to 49,278 tonnes during the same period.

The area harvested under food crops for under covered cultures increased by 20.4% from 38.3 hectares in the first semester of 2022 to 46.1 hectares in the same period of 2023. The production of food crops increased by 15.2% from 4,732 tonnes to 5,451 tonnes during the same period.

The total area harvested under food crops increased by 11.9% from 3,219 hectares in the first semester of 2022 to 3,602 hectares in the same period of 2023. The total production of food crops went up by 38.5% from 39,524 tonnes to 54,728 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 2023, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,166 tonnes, as compared to 1,137 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2022. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 98.1% of the total production, increased by 4.7% from 1,093 tonnes to 1,144 tonnes. Local beef production went down from 44 tonnes to 22 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton decreased by 13.0% from 23 tonnes during the first semester of 2022 to 20 tonnes for the same period of 2023. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 70.0%.

The production of pork went down by 1.2% from 260 tonnes in the first semester of 2022 to 257 tonnes during the same period of 2023.

**6. Poultry**

The production of poultry increased by 7.1% from 26,700 tonnes in the first semester of 2022 to 28,600 tonnes during the same period of 2023.

**7. Fish**

Total fish production went up by 37.5% from 13,491 tonnes in the first six months of 2022 to 18,544 tonnes in the same period of 2023. This increase was attributable to a rise of 39.1% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 12,778 tonnes in the first semester of 2022 to 17,779 tonnes in the same period of 2023, coupled with an increase of 7.3% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 713 tonnes in the first semester of 2022 to 765 tonnes during the same period of 2023.

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**22 September 2023**

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