AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

 **(January-June 2024)**

**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 2024, as well as revised figures for year 2023. 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 2024, 24,322 tonnes of sugar cane were harvested, while there was no sugar cane production as at end of June 2023 since harvest for crop year 2023 started on 3 July 2023.

According to Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2024 will be around 250,000 tonnes, representing an increase of 4.7%, compared to 238,854 tonnes in 2023.

1. **Tea**

At the end of June 2024, area under tea plantation was 630 hectares, representing an increase of 0.5% over the figure of 627 hectares during the same period of 2023. However, the production of green tea leaves went down by 15.6%: 3,315 tonnes in first semester of 2024 as compared to 3,930 tonnes during the same period of 2023.

The production of manufactured tea decreased by 16.3% from 737 tonnes in the first semester of 2023 to 617 tonnes in the same period of 2024. 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 4.9% from 3,555.5 hectares in the first semester of 2023 to 3,728.2 hectares in the same period of 2024. The production of food crops increased by 7.3% from 49,277.6 tonnes to 52,883.3 tonnes during the same period.

The area harvested under food crops for under covered cultures increased by 8.0% from 46.1 hectares in the first semester of 2023 to 49.8 hectares in the same period of 2024. However, the production of food crops decreased by 15.6% from 5,450.7 tonnes to 4,602.5 tonnes during the same period.

The total area harvested under food crops increased by 4.9% from 3,601.7 hectares in the first semester of 2023 to 3,778.0 hectares in the same period of 2024. The total production of food crops went up by 5.0% from 54,728.3 tonnes to 57,485.8 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 2024, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,116 tonnes, as compared to 1,166 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2023. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 96.6% of the total production, decreased by 5.8% from 1,144 tonnes to 1,078 tonnes. Local beef production went up from 22 tonnes to 38 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton increased by 10.0% from 20 tonnes during the first semester of 2023 to 22 tonnes for the same period of 2024. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 40.9%.

The production of pork went up by 8.2% from 257 tonnes in the first semester of 2023 to 278 tonnes during the same period of 2024.

**6. Poultry**

The production of poultry decreased by 19.9% from 28,600 tonnes in the first semester of 2023 to 22,900 tonnes during the same period of 2024.

**7. Fish**

Total fish production went down by 20.0% from 19,008 tonnes in the first six months of 2023 to 15,211 tonnes in the same period of 2024. This decrease was attributable to a drop of 20.8% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 18,243 tonnes in the first semester of 2023 to 14,454 tonnes in the same period of 2024, coupled with a decrease of 1.0% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 765 tonnes in the first semester of 2023 to 757 tonnes during the same period of 2024.

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**20 September 2024**

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