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1. ⇨ **AGRICULTURE AND FISH PRODUCTION**
(January-June 1999)
2. ⇨ **ROAD TRANSPORT AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT**
STATISTICS
Island of Mauritius
(January-June 1999)

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 1999)

Introduction.

This report presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius during the first six months of 1999, as well as revised figures for 1998. Table 1 shows area harvested and production for the main agricultural crops while table 2 shows production of the main agro-industrial products.

2. Sugarcane.

The harvest season, which usually starts in the month of June, had to be postponed for July due to the severe drought affecting the country. Cyclone Davina which did not bring much rain, passed close to the south of Mauritius in March also affecting the 1999 crop. Thus, no sugar was produced during the period under review whereas 885 hectares were harvested yielding 6,586 tonnes of sugar during the same period in 1998. More details relative to sugar are given in table 3.

3. Tea.

The diversification programme, concerning the conversion of tea plots into sugar cane plantation, started a few years earlier is now nearly completed. Area under tea plantation which stood at around 3,000 hectares in 1994, has been reduced to 689 hectares. The production of green tea during the first semester of 1999 was 4,263 tonnes, 7.4% less than the 4,605 tonnes for the same period of 1998 (table 4).

The Dubreuil tea factory closed down in March 1999, bringing down the number of factories in operation to three only.

4. Tobacco.

An area of 169 hectares under tobacco was harvested during the first semester of 1999, which is 10.5% higher than the 153 hectares in the corresponding period of 1998. However, the production of tobacco leaves was 258 tonnes as compared to 250 tonnes during the first semester of 1998, which represents a 6.1% lower yield per hectare due to bad climatic conditions associated with the drought.

5. Foodcrops.

Since July 1997, the compilation of foodcrop statistics is under the responsibility of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) which falls under the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC). Foodcrop statistics published in this report have been supplied by AREU.

Because of the severe drought in 1999, substantial drops are observed both in area harvested and foodcrops produced. During the first semester of 1999 area harvested was 21.6% lower and production fell by 28.1%. More details on selected foodcrops are given at table 5.

6. Livestock.

During the period Jan-June 1999, the production of beef from live cattle increased by 10.4% to reach 1,117 tonnes against 1,012 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1998: beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle increased by 18.7%, from 847 tonnes in January-June 1998 to 1006 tonnes in January-June 1999 (table 2). On the other hand, local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) stood at 111 tonnes, showing a decrease of 32.7% over the corresponding period of the previous year (165 tonnes). Local production accounted for around 10% of total beef production.

The production of goat meat and mutton during the reference period witnessed a 10.1% increase compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, 63 tonnes in January-June 1999 against 58 tonnes in January-June 1998. The share of local production including animals from Rodrigues stood at around 28%.

The production of pork continued its downward trend and reached 331 tonnes for the period under review. The production in the 1st semester of 1996, 1997 and 1998 were 539, 485 and 349 respectively.

7. Fish.

Total fish production increased by 15.4%, from 5033 tonnes in the first half of 1998 to 5807 tonnes during the same period in 1999 (table 2). This is attributable to increases of 19.5% in the production of tuna fishing, (from 1404 tonnes in Jan-June 1998 to 1678 tonnes in Jan-June 1999) and 17.1% in the catch of fresh coastal fish (from 1073 tonnes in Jan-June 1998 to 1256 tonnes in Jan-June 1999).

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development
Port Louis

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1998 - 1999

	1998						1999	
	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	74,013	5,781,095	885	71,675	73,128	5,709,420	-	-
Tea (green leaves)	689 ¹	7,393	759 ¹	4,605	689 ¹	2,788	689 ¹	4,263
Tobacco	434	686	153	250	281	436	169	258
Foodcrops	6,994	91,618	2,924	34,693	4,070	56,925	2,291	24,928

¹ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1998 - 1999

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1998			1999
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	628,588	6,586	622,002	-
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,488	897	591	867
Beef ¹	"	2,515	1,012	1,503	1,117
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(340)	(165)	(175)	(111)
Imported	"	(2,175)	(847)	(1,328)	(1,006)
Goat meat and mutton ¹	"	118	58	60	63
Pork ¹	"	752	349	403	331
Poultry	"	18,300	N.A	N.A	N.A
Milk	'000' Litres	5,500	N.A	N.A	N.A
Fish ²	tonnes	9,835	5,033	4,802	5,807
Coastal	"	(2,179)	(1,073)	(1,106)	(1,256)
Other	"	(7,656)	(3,960)	(3,696)	(4,551)

¹ abattoir slaughters only

² fresh weight equivalent

N.A = Not available

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory Statistics, 1998 - 1999

	Unit	1998		1999	
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,778,571	71,675	5,706,896	-
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.88	9.19	10.90	-
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50	98.50	-
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	8.49	7.44	8.51	-
Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.19	10.88	9.18	-
Production of sugar (White)	"	628,588	6,586	622,002	-
(Raw)	"	(4,346)	N.A	N.A	-
(Special)	"	(557,669)	N.A	N.A	-
Molasses	"	(66,573)	N.A	N.A	-
		168,518	2,150	166,368	-

N.A = Not available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer (tonnes), 1998 - 1999

	1998			1999
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	917	525	392	449
Metayers	2,240	1,394	846	1,358
Free planters	2,769	1,694	1,075	1,634
Planters in cooperative societies	1,450	975	475	822
Other	17	17	-	-
TOTAL	7,393	4,605	2,788	4,263

Table 5 - Foodcrops* : Area harvested and production, 1998 - 1999

Foodcrops	1998						1999	
	Calendar year		January - June		July - December		Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	829	14,612	96	831	733	13,781	15	326
Maize	50	260	33	155	17	105	9	23
Groundnut	186	551	61	243	125	308	53	172
Onion	305	6,727	27	348	278	6,379	7	38
Ginger	27	420	4	58	23	362	2	29
Garlic	19	131	-	-	19	131	-	-
Chillies	225	1,060	95	436	130	624	92	378
Tomato	1,040	10,729	514	4,876	526	5,853	337	2,723
Beans & peas	409	1,896	188	880	221	1,016	115	452
Cabbage	357	6,283	151	2,775	206	3,508	173	2,909
Cauliflower	227	4,260	99	1,788	128	2,472	20	342
Brinjal	178	2,237	83	988	95	1,249	54	667
Creepers	1,883	22,411	954	11,437	929	10,974	817	8,294
Mixed vegetables	719	9,236	339	4,173	380	5,063	351	4,178
Banana	464	9,343	237	4,853	227	4,490	208	3,874
Pineapple	76	1,462	43	852	33	610	38	523
Total foodcrops	6,994	91,618	2,924	34,693	4,070	56,925	2,291	24,928

* Foodcrops Statistics published in this report have been supplied by AREU