(January - March 2004)

1. Introduction

The Producer Price Index-Agriculture (PPI-A) gives a measure of the average change in the selling prices which producers receive for their agricultural products. It covers about 90% of total agricultural production, excluding forestry and fishing.

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents monthly PPI-A indices for the months of January, February and March 2004 as well as figures for preceding months updated in the light of additional information that have now become available.

A technical note on the construction of the PPI-A is annexed.

2. Producer Price Index – Agriculture: 1st Quarter 2004

2.1 Structure of the PPI-A (Base period: 1997=100)

The PPI-A covers two sub-groups, namely "Crop Products" and "Animals and Animal Products". "Crop Products" is further subdivided into "Sugar Cane" and "Other Crop Products". Sugar cane heavily influences both the "overall" index and that of sub-group "Crop Products", of which it constitutes 69.6% and 82.2% respectively.

2.2 Changes in the monthly index

The PPI-A stood at 127.7 at the end of March 2004, following an increase of 4.3% in January, a slight drop of 0.4% in February and a rise of 2.7% in March. (Table1)

(a) Crop Products

The index for the sub-group "Crop Products", which carries 84.6% of the total weight, went up by 4.6% in January 2004, followed by a fall of 1.1% in February and an increase of 3.0% in March.

The price of sugar cane, which represents 82% of this subgroup or 70% of the "overall" index becomes available in final form only at the end of the crop year (July to June) and this price is assumed to have prevailed during the whole of the crop year. Thus the Producer Price Index for sugar cane does not show any change during this quarter.

The index for the sub-group "Other Crop Products" went up considerably by 24.3% or 32.0 points to reach 163.9 in January 2004 mainly due to increases of 46.7%, 8.9% and 4.2% in the prices of fresh vegetables, "flowers, ornamental plants" and fruits respectively. The substantial rise in the producer prices of fresh vegetables was due to the passage of cyclone Darius in the first week of January 2004 and excessive rainfall during the first half of the same month. The index then declined by 5.0% or 8.2 points to reach 155.7 in February, mainly influenced by drops of 24.6%, 24.0% and 3.5% in the prices of root crops, fruits and "flowers, ornamental plants" respectively. Subsequently, the index rose by 13.4% or 20.9 points to reach 176.6 in March, being the combined effect of increases of 26.3% and 9.3% in prices of fresh vegetables and root crops respectively and a fall of 30.9% in the prices of fruits.

(b) Animals and Animal Products

The index for the sub-group "Animals and Animal Products" registered three consecutive increases of 2.0%, 4.2% and 1.3% in January, February and March respectively, the main contributors to these changes being increases in the producer prices of eggs and poultry. Prices of eggs went up by 6.3% in January, 6.8% in February and 1.0% in March. In the case of poultry, prices grew by 0.2%, 3.7% and 1.7% respectively.

More details of changes on a month-to-month basis are given in Table 2 and changes over the corresponding month of the previous year in Table 3.

2.3 Changes in the quarterly index

Table 4 gives the evolution of the Producer Price Index - Agriculture on a quarterly basis. The overall index for the first quarter of 2004 stood at 126.1, showing a rise of 6.2% over the previous quarter and an increase of 4.0% over the corresponding quarter of 2003.

Percentage changes on a quarterly basis and the net contributions of commodity groups and products are presented in Table 5.

2.4 Annual index

The annual indices for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, annual changes and the net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change are presented in Table 6. The Producer Price Index - Agriculture for 2003 stood at 121.6, representing an increase of 3.5% over 2002, mainly as a consequence of a 4.5% or 5.1 points in the average price of sugar cane.

Central Statistics Office Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Port Louis

June 2004

CONTACT PERSON

Mr. B.Unmar Statistician (Agriculture Unit) Central Statistics Office 5th Floor, LIC Centre Port Louis Tel. 213-3073 Fax 211-4150 Email: cso_agriculture@mail.gov.mu Website: http://statsmauritius.gov.mu

(Base period:Year 1997=100) Table 1: Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2002 - March 2004

			2004	
Commodity Group	Weight	January	February	March
Crop Products	846.2	126.1	124.7	128.4
Sugar cane ¹	695.9	118.0	118.0	118.0
Other crop products	150.3	163.9	155.7	176.6
Root Crops	13.2	164.0	123.7	135.2
Fruits	18.7	209.7	159.3	110.1
Fresh vegetables	89.4	162.8	166.2	209.9
Flowers, Ornamental plants ¹	14.2	131.5	126.9	127.6
Tea ¹	8.8	141.7	141.7	141.7
Tobacco ¹	6.0	146.0	146.0	146.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	117.5	122.4	124.0
Cattle	4.2	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	96.9	96.9	96.9
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	135.8	135.8	135.8
Poultry	86.2	110.3	114.4	116.4
Eggs	43.2	137.3	146.7	148.2
Milk	6.4	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	124.8	124.3	127.7

¹ Provisional

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 1(Cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2002 - March 2004

							20	003					
Commodity Group	Weight	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Crop Products	846.2	118.1	123.7	129.1	128.2	130.1	127.1	122.0	120.2	118.5	118.5	120.6	120.5
Sugar cane	695.9	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0 ²	118.0 ²				
Other crop products	150.3	118.3	149.9	180.5	175.7	186.2	169.1	140.7	130.5	120.7	120.7	132.5	131.9
Root Crops	13.2	146.9	153.5	141.5	164.5	157.3	149.2	157.0	157.8	157.4	171.2	172.3	174.2
Fruits	18.7	157.3	137.8	122.6	110.2	101.4	102.7	102.5	113.2	136.1	189.0	206.6	201.2
Fresh vegetables	89.4	102.3	158.9	215.8	207.1	227.1	199.5	149.8	130.2	107.9	94.6	111.7	111.0
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	115.4	113.0	109.3	107.9	111.7	110.8	115.8	116.3	123.2	124.7	117.3	120.8 1
Tea	8.8	141.7 ¹	141.7 ¹	141.7 1	141.7 1	141.7 1	141.7 1	141.7 ²	141.7 ²	141.7 ²	141.7 ²	141.7 ²	141.7 ²
Tobacco ¹	6.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0	146.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	109.6	110.8	111.8	112.5	115.9	119.6	120.0	117.2	115.9	110.4	111.7	115.2
Cattle	4.2	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	129.8	129.8	129.8	126.3	126.3	126.3	107.7	107.7	102.4	99.7	99.7	99.7
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	133.2	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.8	135.8	135.8	135.8
Poultry	86.2	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.3	108.3	110.1	110.3	110.3	110.1	110.1	110.1
Eggs	43.2	110.2	114.4	117.2	120.1	131.8	144.7	145.1	134.7	130.9	112.1	116.7	129.2
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	116.8	121.7	126.4	125.8	127.9	125.9	121.7	119.7	118.1	117.3	119.2	119.7

¹ Revised

² Provisional

4

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 1 (Cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2002 - March 2004

			2002										
Commodity Group	Weight	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Crop Products	846.2	116.8	124.6	127.8	116.8	111.3	113.1	118.6	119.4	120.8	120.7	119.7	121.9
Sugar cane	695.9	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0
Other crop products	150.3	158.2	202.5	220.4	158.4	127.8	137.9	121.3	125.7	133.7	133.3	127.5	140.2
Root Crops	13.2	139.7	164.2	179.2	142.2	170.2	160.0	157.3	155.9	157.7	156.2	154.5	157.0
Fruits	18.7	156.8	137.1	125.5	135.9	134.5	138.1	146.0	153.2	143.9	122.1	220.3	280.5
Fresh vegetables	89.4	171.3	246.3	277.8	177.4	121.7	139.2	109.6	115.4	130.4	133.9	106.2	113.4
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	114.2	113.9	106.4	102.5	105.4	106.8	109.9	111.1	112.5	116.0	101.9	109.2
Tea	8.8	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.4	141.7	141.7	141.7	141.7	141.7	141.7
Tobacco	6.0	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2	137.2
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	109.7	112.2	112.3	113.2	115.2	115.9	116.7	116.5	113.7	108.6	106.4	108.7
Cattle	4.2	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	106.8	117.3	117.3	117.3	117.3	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	130.3	130.3	130.3	130.3	132.9	133.2	133.2
Poultry	86.2	106.5	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3
Eggs	43.2	117.5	124.5	125.0	128.0	135.1	136.6	139.3	138.8	128.5	110.3	102.1	110.3
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Overall Index	1,000.0	115.7	122.7	125.4	116.2	111.9	113.5	118.3	119.0	119.7	118.8	117.7	119.9

¹ Revised

S

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 2 : Percentage changes from previous month by commodity groups and products , April 2003 - March 2004

			Percentage changes from										
Commodity Group	Weight	Mar 03 to Apr 03	Apr 03 to May 03	-	June 03 to July 03	July 03 to Aug 03	0	-	Oct 03 to Nov 03	Nov 03 to Dec 03			Feb 04 1 Mar 04
Crop Products	846.2	-0.7	1.5	-2.3	-4.0	-1.5	-1.4	0.0	1.8	-0.1	4.6	-1.1	3.0
Sugar cane	695.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other crop products	150.3	-2.7	6.0	-9.2	-16.8	-7.2	-7.5	0.0	9.8	-0.5	24.3	-5.0	13.4
Root Crops	13.2	16.3	-4.4	-5.1	5.2	0.5	-0.3	8.8	0.6	1.1	-5.9	-24.6	9.3
Fruits	18.7	-10.1	-8.0	1.3	-0.2	10.4	20.2	38.9	9.3	-2.6	4.2	-24.0	-30.9
Fresh vegetables	89.4	-4.0	9.7	-12.2	-24.9	-13.1	-17.1	-12.3	18.1	-0.6	46.7	2.1	26.3
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	-1.3	3.5	-0.8	4.5	0.4	5.9	1.2	-5.9	3.0	8.9	-3.5	0.6
Tea	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	0.6	3.0	3.2	0.3	-2.3	-1.1	-4.7	1.2	3.1	2.0	4.2	1.3
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pigs	6.2	-2.7	0.0	0.0	-14.7	0.0	-4.9	-2.6	0.0	0.0	-2.8	0.0	0.0
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	6.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poultry	86.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.7	1.7
Eggs	43.2	2.5	9.7	9.8	0.3	-7.2	-2.8	-14.4	4.1	10.7	6.3	6.8	1.0
Milk	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall Change	1,000.0	-0.5	1.7	-1.6	-3.3	-1.6	-1.3	-0.7	1.6	0.4	4.3	-0.4	2.7

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 3 : Percentage changes from corresponding month of previous year by commodity groups and products , April 2003 - March 2004

						Per	centage o	hanges	from				
Commodity Group	Weight	Apr 02 to Apr 03	May 02 to May 03	Jun 02 to Jun 03	Jul 02 to Jul 03	Aug 02 to Aug 03	Sept 02 to Sept 03	Oct 02 to Oct 03	Nov 02 to Nov 03	Dec 02 to Dec 03	Jan 03 to Jan 04	Feb 03 to Feb 04	Mar 03 to Mar 04
Crop Products	846.2	9.8	16.9	12.4	2.9	0.7	-1.9	-1.8	0.8	-1.1	6.8	0.8	-0.5
Sugar cane	695.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other crop products	150.3	10.9	45.7	22.6	16.0	3.8	-9.7	-9.5	3.9	-5.9	38.5	3.9	-2.2
Root Crops	13.2	15.7	-7.6	-6.8	-0.2	1.2	-0.2	9.6	11.5	11.0	11.6	-19.4	-4.5
Fruits	18.7	-18.9	-24.6	-25.6	-29.8	-26.1	-5.4	54.8	-6.2	-28.3	33.3	15.6	-10.2
Fresh vegetables	89.4	16.7	86.6	43.3	36.7	12.8	-17.3	-29.4	5.2	-2.1	59.1	4.6	-2.7
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	5.3	6.0	3.7	5.4	4.7	9.5	7.5	15.1	10.6	14.0	12.3	16.7
Tea	8.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	-0.6	0.6	3.2	2.8	0.6	1.9	1.7	5.0	6.0	7.2	10.5	10.9
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pigs	6.2	7.7	7.7	-2.7	-17.0	-17.0	-21.1	-23.2	-23.2	-23.2	-25.3	-25.3	-25.3
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	6.2	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Poultry	86.2	1.3	1.5	1.9	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.0	5.8	7.7
Eggs	43.2	-6.2	-2.4	5.9	4.2	-3.0	1.9	1.6	14.3	17.1	24.6	28.2	26.5
Milk	6.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0
Overall Change	1,000.0	8.3	14.3	10.9	2.9	0.6	-1.3	-1.3	1.3	-0.2	6.8	2.1	1.0

Quarterly Producer Price Index - Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 4: Quarterly indices ¹ by commodity groups and products, 2nd Quarter 2002 - 1st Quarter 2004

		2002			200)3		2004
Commodity Group	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr
Crop Products	113.5	119.6	121.5	123.2	128.4	120.3	119.9	127.0
Sugar cane	107.8	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0 ³	118.0 ³	118.0 ³
Other crop products	139.7	126.9	137.5	147.2	176.4	130.7	128.8	168.5
Root Crops	159.3	157.1	155.9	147.0	154.2	157.4	173.0	157.7
Fruits	136.2	147.5	242.2	146.6	104.6	117.6	200.9	180.6
Fresh vegetables	143.1	118.5	117.1	153.5	210.7	129.3	106.1	178.0
Flowers, Ornamental plants	104.9	111.2	109.0	112.6	110.1	118.4	120.9 ²	$128.7^{\ 3}$
Tea	141.4 ²	141.7 ³	141.7 ³	141.7 ³				
Tobacco	137.2	137.2	137.2	146.0 ²	146.0 ²	146.0 ²	146.0 ²	146.0 ³
Animals & Animal Products	114.8	115.6	107.9	110.8	116.0	117.7	112.4	121.3
Cattle	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	121.5	129.8	129.8	129.8	126.3	105.9	99.7	96.9
Goat	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	129.4	130.3	133.1	133.2	133.8	135.3	135.8	135.8
Poultry	106.6	106.3	106.3	108.1	108.2	110.2	110.1	113.7
Eggs	133.2	135.5	107.6	113.9	132.2	136.9	119.3	144.1
Milk	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.9	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	113.7	119.0	119.4	121.3	126.5	119.9	118.7	126.1

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

² Revised

³ Provisional

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 5: Quarterly changes (%) and I	Net Contributions of commodity groups and products to the change, 1s	st Quarter 2003 - 1st Quarter 2004

		Pe	rcentage (Changes fi	rom	Percenta	ge Change	s from cor	responding	Net Contributions from					
				s quarter			·	previous y							
Commodity Group	Weight	-	-	-	34th Qr 03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		to 2nd Qr 03	to 3 3rd Qr 0	to 34th Qr 0	to 31st Qr 04	to 2nd Qr 0	to 33rd Qr 0	to 34th Qr 03	to 3 1st Qr 04	to 2nd Qr 0.	to 33rd Qr 03	to 34th Qr 03	to 1st Qr 04		
Crop Products	846.2	4.2	-6.3	-0.3	5.9	13.1	0.6	-1.3	3.1	4.38	-6.88	-0.26	5.96		
Sugar cane	695.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Other crop products	150.3	19.8	-25.9	-1.5	30.8	26.3	3.0	-6.3	14.5	4.38	-6.88	-0.26	5.96		
Root Crops	13.2	4.9	2.1	9.9	-8.8	-3.2	0.2	11.0	7.3	0.10	0.04	0.21	-0.20		
Fruits	18.7	-28.6	12.4	70.8	-10.1	-23.2	-20.3	-17.1	23.2	-0.79	0.24	1.56	-0.38		
Fresh vegetables	89.4	37.3	-38.6	-17.9	67.8	47.2	9.1	-9.4	16.0	5.11	-7.28	-2.07	6.43		
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	-2.2	7.5	2.1	6.5	5.0	6.5	10.9	14.3	-0.04	0.12	0.04	0.11		
Tea	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Tobacco	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	4.7	1.5	-4.5	7.9	1.0	1.8	4.2	9.5	0.80	0.25	-0.81	1.36		
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Pigs	6.2	-2.7	-16.2	-5.9	-2.8	4.0	-18.4	-23.2	-25.3	-0.02	-0.13	-0.04	-0.02		
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Deer	6.2	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.0	3.4	3.8	2.0	2.0	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00		
Poultry	86.2	0.1	1.8	-0.1	3.3	1.5	3.7	3.6	5.2	0.01	0.17	-0.01	0.31		
Eggs	43.2	16.1	3.6	-12.9	20.8	-0.8	1.0	10.9	26.5	0.79	0.20	-0.76	1.07		
Milk	6.4	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	5.6	5.6	3.6	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total	1,000.0	4.3	-5.2	-1.0	6.2	11.3	0.8	-0.6	4.0	5.18	-6.63	-1.07	7.32		

9

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 6 : Annual indices, Annual cha	nges (%) and Net contributions	of commodity groups and	products to the change, 2001 - 2003

Commodity Group	Weight		Annual index	1	Percentage Ch	anges fron	Net Contri	butions from
commonly Group	() eight	2001	2002	2003	2001 to 20022	002 to 2003	2001 to 200	22002 to 2003
Crop Products	846.2	106.2	118.4	123.0	11.5	3.9	10.39	3.86
Sugar cane	695.9	102.5	112.9	118.0	10.1	4.5	7.24	3.55
Other crop products	150.3	123.1	144.0	146.1	17.0	1.5	3.15	0.31
Root Crops	13.2	138.9	156.0	164.3	12.3	5.3	0.23	0.11
Fruits	18.7	116.4	168.7	162.8	44.9	-3.5	0.98	-0.11
Fresh vegetables	89.4	121.2	143.3	145.2	18.2	1.3	1.98	0.17
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	111.1	109.2	115.5	-1.7	5.8	-0.03	0.09
Tea	8.8	139.4	141.6	141.7	1.6	0.1	0.02	0.00
Tobacco	6.0	143.0	137.2	146.0	-4.1	6.4	-0.03	0.05
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	114.2	112.5	114.2	-1.5	1.5	-0.27	0.28
Cattle	4.2	84.0	84.8	84.8	1.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
Pigs	6.2	106.3	123.9	115.1	16.6	-7.1	0.11	-0.05
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
Deer	6.2	124.9	130.4	134.5	4.4	3.1	0.03	0.03
Poultry	86.2	106.3	106.5	109.2	0.2	2.5	0.02	0.23
Eggs	43.2	134.6	124.7	125.6	-7.4	0.7	-0.43	0.04
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	104.7	0.0	4.7	0.00	0.03
Total	1,000.0	107.4	117.5	121.6	9.4	3.5	10.12	4.14

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

<u>ANNEX</u>

Technical Note Producer Price Index - Agriculture (PPI-A)

Methodology for the construction of the PPI-A

Weighting scheme

The weights are derived by multiplying the average of production during 1996, 1997 and 1998 by the average of unit prices in 1997, the reference period. The weight is assigned to each commodity group on the basis of total production (as a proxy for sales) pertaining to the particular group. At commodity level, the weights are apportioned within the commodity group on the basis of production of each product.

Quarterly and annual indices have been computed using a weighting system based on the production value for the base period.

Price collection

In principle, prices collected should refer to farm-gate prices, but it is extremely difficult to obtain such prices for vegetables, not only because of the enormous resources to be mobilised but also because of the unavailability of a list of planters. Hence, in lieu of the farm-gate price, the wholesale price of the produce is recorded at the two auction markets (Vacoas and Port-Louis) once a week.

In the case of commodities for which prices are fairly stable, data suppliers are visited on a quarterly basis, but prices are collected for each month of the quarter.

Prices of the main commercial crops like sugarcane, tea leaf and tobacco leaf, which are normally fixed for the crop year, are supplied by the respective marketing agencies.

Index calculation

The PPI-A is calculated according to a modified Laspeyres formula:

$$I_{t} = \sum W_{i}(P_{ti}/P_{oi}) \times 100$$

$$\sum W_{i}$$

where :

 $\mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{t}}$ is the index for the current period t

P_{ti} is the price of commodity i in the current period t

P_{oi} is the price of the commodity i in the reference period o (1997)

Wi is the weight associated with commodity i