

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2004)

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2004, as well as revised figures for year 2003. 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.

It is to be noted that the production of tea, tobacco and vegetables during the first semester of 2004 was affected by the passage of cyclone Darius in January 2004.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2004, about 3,425 hectares under sugar cane for crop 2004 were harvested, yielding 250,620 tonnes of sugar cane and 23,700 tonnes of sugar. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2004 stood at 9.46%. No sugar cane was harvested during the corresponding period of 2003.

The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture has forecast 590,000 tonnes of sugar for the crop year 2004, that is 9.8% higher than the figure of 537,155 tonnes for the 2003 crop.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2004, area under tea plantation stood at 681 hectares, the same level as the corresponding period of 2003.

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2004 fell by 5.6%: 4,017 tonnes as compared to 4,254 tonnes for the same period of 2003. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea went down by 4.5%, from 858 tonnes in the first semester of 2003 to 819 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2004.

4. Tobacco

An area of 154 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first semester of 2004 compared to 133 hectares for the corresponding period of 2003, representing a rise of 15.8%. On the other hand, the production of tobacco leaves decreased by 5.0% from 179 tonnes to 170 tonnes.

5. Foodcrops

Data on foodcrops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). These figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production of banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Area harvested registered an increase of 9.3% from 2,987 hectares in January-June 2003 to 3,265 hectares in the corresponding period of 2004, while production increased by 16.4% from 36,344 tonnes to 42,320 tonnes. Though the production of vegetables during the first semester of 2004 was affected by the passage of cyclone Darius in January, the effect was not as adverse as those of cyclones Gerry and Manou which visited Mauritius during the first semester of last year (February and May respectively).

6. Livestock

During the period January-June 2004, the production of beef from live cattle amounted to 959 tonnes, which is 0.7% higher than the figure of 952 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2003. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle increased by 6.5%, from 841 tonnes to 896 tonnes, while local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) decreased by 43.2%, from 111 tonnes to 63 tonnes. Local production accounted for only 6.6% of total beef production.

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a fall of 19.7%: 49 tonnes in January-June 2004 against 61 tonnes in January-June 2003. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, stood at 25.0%.

The production of pork decreased slightly by 0.6%, from 357 tonnes in the first semester of 2003 to 355 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2004.

7. Fish

Total fish production declined by 1.8%, from 4,697 tonnes in first semester of 2003 to 4,613 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2004.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2003 - 2004

Crops	2003						2004 ¹	
	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	70,998	5,199,384	-	-	70,998	5,199,384	3,425	250,620
Tea (green leaves)	681 ²	6,973	681 ²	4,254	681 ²	2,719	681 ²	4,017
Tobacco	379	424	133	179	246	245	154	170
Foodcrops	7,228	103,455	2,987	36,344	4,241	67,111	3,265	42,320

¹ Provisional

² Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2003 - 2004

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2003			2004 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	537,155	-	537,155	23,700
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,436	858	578	819
Beef ¹	"	2,505	952	1,553	959
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(202)	(111)	(91)	(63)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(2,303)	(841)	(1,462)	(896)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	107	61	46	49
Pork ²	"	784	357	427	355
Poultry	"	30,000	13,231	16,769	13,500
Milk	'000 litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish ³	tonnes	9,142	4,697	4,445	4,613
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(2,116)	(1,045)	(1,071)	(981)
<i>Other</i>	"	(7,026)	(3,652)	(3,374)	(3,632)

¹ Provisional

² Abattoir slaughter only

³ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2003 - 2004

Factory statistics	Unit	2003			2004 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,196,843	-	5,196,843	250,620
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.34	-	10.34	9.46
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	-	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.57	-	7.57	6.92
Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.67	-	9.67	10.57
Production of sugar	"	537,155	-	537,155	23,700
<i>(White)</i>	"	<i>(547)</i>	-	<i>(547)</i>	N.A
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	<i>(536,608)</i>	-	<i>(536,608)</i>	N.A
<i>(Special)</i>	"	-	-	-	N.A
Molasses	"	160,041	-	160,041	N.A

N.A: not available

¹ Provisional

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2003 - 2004

Type of producer	2003			2004 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,216	686	530	597
Metayers	2,266	1,363	903	1,257
Free planters	2,208	1,393	815	1,382
Planters in cooperative societies	1,283	812	471	781
TOTAL	6,973	4,254	2,719	4,017

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Foodcrops : Area harvested and production, 2003 - 2004

Foodcrops	2003						2004 ¹	
	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)
Potato	588	12,359	20	347	568	12,012	10	104
Maize	27	177	11	72	16	105	31	193
Groundnut	256	893	131	489	125	404	119	397
Onion	158	4,183	10	109	148	4,074	7	96
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(69)	(2,684)	(1)	(3)	(68)	(2,681)	(6)	(90)
Ginger	29	369	8	93	21	276	6	97
Garlic	8	63			8	63		-
Chillies	204	1,056	95	461	109	595	105	602
Tomato	1,044	13,247	464	4,303	580	8,944	461	5,977
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(320)	(4,284)	(145)	(1,264)	(175)	(3,020)	(155)	(2,160)
Beans & peas	406	2,022	162	667	244	1,355	157	669
Cabbage	267	6,279	116	2,305	151	3,974	127	2,556
Cauliflower	88	1,662	21	249	67	1,413	32	814
Brinjal	153	2,097	64	949	89	1,148	95	1,277
Creepers ²	2,323	29,644	1,098	13,212	1,225	16,432	1,262	15,347
Mixed vegetables ³	1,006	12,752	459	5,255	547	7,497	517	5,961
Banana	545	12,090	275	6,081	270	6,009	268	6,100
Pineapple	126	4,562	53	1,752	73	2,810	68	2,130
Total foodcrops	7,228	103,455	2,987	36,344	4,241	67,111	3,265	42,320

Source: Agricultural and Research Extension Unit (AREU) and CSO estimates

¹ Provisional

² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash and Voehm

³ Includes Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Echalotte, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Lettuce, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper and Sweet Potato