

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

Year 2006

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2006, as well as revised figures for year 2005. 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. Details on the sugar industry and food crops are given in Tables 3 and 6 respectively.

It is to be noted that the production of sugar cane, tea, food crops and tobacco was affected by heavy rainfalls at the beginning of 2006 and to some extent by the passage of cyclone Diwa in March 2006.

2. Sugar cane

The production of sugar cane fell by 4.7% from 4,984,058 tonnes in 2005 to 4,748,903 tonnes in 2006. This was the result of unfavourable weather conditions coupled with a drop of 2.5% in area harvested, from 68,350 to 66,657 hectares. The yield per hectare followed a downward trend as well. It dropped by 2.3% from 72.92 tonnes in 2005 to 71.24 tonnes in 2006.

The average extraction rate was 10.64% as compared to 10.44% in 2005, representing an increase of 1.9%. The decrease in production of cane has led to a short fall of 2.9% in the production of sugar: from 519,816 tonnes in 2005 to 504,857 tonnes in 2006.

3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2006 was 688 hectares, representing an increase of 2.7% over the figure of 670 hectares in 2005. The production of green tea leaves rose by 12.5%: 7,649 tonnes as compared to 6,798 tonnes in 2005.

Production of manufactured tea grew by 13.0% from 1,387 tonnes in 2005 to 1,567 tonnes in 2006. Further details on tea are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

An area of 287 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2006, that is 17.5% lower than the 348 hectares harvested in 2005. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves dropped by 17.1%, from 357 tonnes in 2005 to 296 tonnes in 2006.

5. Food crops

Data on food crops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Area under food crops harvested registered a rise of 2.8% from 6,901 hectares in 2005 to 7,091 hectares in 2006. As a consequence, the production of food crops increased by 7.3% from 96,782 tonnes in 2005 to 103,881 tonnes in 2006.

6. Livestock

In 2006, the production of beef from live cattle decreased by 11.9% to 2,188 tonnes from 2,484 tonnes in 2005. The quantum of beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle receded by 13.4% from 2,411 tonnes in 2005 to 2,088 tonnes in 2006. Local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) rose by 37.0%, from 73 tonnes to 100 tonnes. Local production of beef for 2006 accounted for 4.6% of the total.

The production of goat meat and mutton moved downwards by 10.8% from 111 tonnes in 2005 to 99 tonnes in 2006. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 29.5%.

Production of pork decreased by 3.9% from 709 tonnes in 2005 to 681 tonnes in 2006.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry went up by 9.0% from 33,000 tonnes in 2005 to 36,000 tonnes in 2006.

8. Fish

Fish production fell by 4.1% from 8,982 tonnes in 2005 to 8,617 tonnes in 2006. Fresh coastal fish catch grew by 0.2% whilst other catch (tuna, bank, etc) declined by 5.2%.

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CONTACT PERSON

Mr. S. Haulcooree
Ag. Statistician (Agriculture Unit)
Central Statistics Office
5th Floor, LIC Centre
Port Louis
Tel. 213-3073
Fax. 211-4150/213-6535
Email: cso_agriculture @mail.gov.mu

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2005 - 2006

Crops	2005 ¹		2006 ²	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugar cane	68,351	4,984,058	66,657	4,748,903
Tea (green leaves)	670 ³	6,798	688 ³	7,649
Tobacco ⁴	348	357	287	296
Food crops	6,901	96,782	7,091	103,881

¹ Revised² Provisional³ Area under cultivation⁴ Crop year (April - March)**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2005 - 2006**

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2005 ¹	2006 ²
Sugar	tonnes	519,816	504,857
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,387	1,567
Beef ³	"	2,484	2,188
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	(73)	(100)
Imported	"	(2,411)	(2,088)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	111	99
Pork ³	"	709	681
Poultry	"	33,000	36,000
Milk	000 Litres	4,000	4,000
Fish ⁴	tonnes	8,982	8,617
Coastal	"	(1,897)	(1,900)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(7,085)	(6,717)

¹ Revised² Provisional³ Comprises abattoir slaughters only⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2005 - 2006

Ownership	2005 ¹			2006 ²		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield
Estates	27,699	2,270,005	81.95	27,696	2,199,153	79.40
Metayers	1,039	49,642	47.78	965	44,115	45.72
Planters	39,612	2,664,411	67.26	37,996	2,505,635	65.94
Total	68,351	4,984,058	72.92	66,657	4,748,903	71.24

¹ Revised² Provisional**Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2005 - 2006**

Details	Unit	2005 ¹	2006 ²
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	4,980,713	4,746,299
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered as a % of cane)	%	10.44	10.64
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50
Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	7.61	7.57
Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.59	9.40
Production of sugar	"	519,816	504,857
- <i>White</i>	"	1,537	-
- <i>Raw</i>	"	441,632	421,757
- <i>Special</i>	"	76,647	83,100
Production of molasses	"	145,425	139,621

¹ Revised² Provisional

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2005 - 2006

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	2005 ¹	2006 ²
Estates	1,393	1,434
Metayers	2,061	2,216
Free planters	2,145	2,703
Planters in Co-operative Societies	1,199	1,296
TOTAL	6,798	7,649

¹ Revised² Provisional**Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2005 - 2006**

Variety	2005 ¹		2006 ²	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Virginia (flue-cured)	325	331	264	278
Amarello (air-cured)	23	26	23	18
TOTAL	348	357	287	296

¹ Revised² Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2005 - 2006

Foodcrops	2005 ¹			2006 ²		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	599	12,777	21.3	504	11,969	23.7
Maize	63	475	7.5	58	452	7.8
Groundnut	137	231	1.7	183	389	2.1
Onion	253	5,637	22.3	168	4,517	26.9
Ginger	54	1,011	18.7	52	1,016	19.5
Garlic	12	93	7.8	8	61	7.6
Chillies	224	1,161	5.2	305	1,512	5.0
Tomato	918	12,840	14.0	934	14,661	15.7
Beans and Green Peas	375	1,608	4.3	339	1,488	4.4
Cabbage	224	4,766	21.3	236	4,546	19.3
Cauliflower	82	1,901	23.2	69	1,322	19.2
Brinjal	174	2,074	11.9	216	2,836	13.1
Creepers	2,197	24,203	11.0	2,369	30,132	12.7
Other vegetables	934	11,540	12.4	985	12,455	12.6
Banana	521	11,580	22.2	489	10,971	22.4
Pineapple	134	4,885	36.5	176	5,554	31.6
Total	6,901	96,782	14.0	7,091	103,881	14.6

¹ Revised² Provisional

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