

# **AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION**

## **(January - June 2007)**

### **1. Introduction**

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2007, as well as revised figures for year 2006. 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 sugar cane, tobacco and food crops was affected by heavy rainfall at the beginning of the year and the passage of cyclone "Gamede" in February 2007.

### **2. Sugar cane**

At the end of June 2007, around 1,650 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 110,492 tonnes of sugar cane and 9,670 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in the year 2006 were 2,800 hectares, 218,210 tonnes of sugar cane and 19,246 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at June 2007 was 8.75% compared to 8.82% a year ago. More details relative to sugar are given in Table 3.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2007 will be in the region 465,000 tonnes.

### **3. Tea**

At the end of June 2007, area under tea plantation increased by 2.8%: 707 hectares as compared to 688 hectares for the same period of 2006.

Production of green tea leaves during the first half of 2007 was around 4,407 tonnes, almost the same compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea dropped by 4.1%, from 892 tonnes in the first semester of 2006 to 855 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2007 (Table 2).

### **4. Tobacco**

An area of 78 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first semester of 2007, against 95 hectares for the corresponding period of 2006, i.e. a decline of 17.9%. The production of tobacco leaves decreased by 6.5% from 108 tonnes to 101 tonnes.

### **5. Food crops**

Data on food crops 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 a decrease of 19.5% from 3,199 hectares in January-June 2006 to 2,576 hectares in the corresponding period of 2007. As a consequence, the production fell by 22.5% from 40,648 tonnes to 31,521 tonnes.

## **6. Livestock**

During the first six months of 2007, the production of beef from live cattle was 814 tonnes, which is 12.9% lower than the figure of 935 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2006. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 94.7% of the total production, decreased by 14.0%, from 897 tonnes to 771 tonnes. Local production which accounts for only 5.3% of total beef production rose by 13.2% from 38 tonnes to 43 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 25.5%: 55 tonnes in the first semester of 2006 against 41 tonnes in January-June 2007. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, stood at 41.5%.

The production of pork decreased by 8.2%, from 318 tonnes in the first semester of 2006 to 292 tonnes in the same period of 2007.

## **7. Poultry**

The production of poultry increased by 5.3%, from 19,000 tonnes in the first semester 2006 to 20,000 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2007.

## **8. Fish**

Total fish production decreased by 31.8%, from 5,189 tonnes in first semester of 2006 to 3,538 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2007. Fresh coastal fish catch and other catch (tuna, bank etc) also dropped by 17.5% and 35.5% respectively.

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**Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2006 - 2007**

Crops	2006						2007 <sup>1</sup>	
	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	66,732	4,748,973	2,800	218,210	63,932	4,530,763	1,650	110,492
Tea (green leaves)	688 <sup>2</sup>	7,649	688 <sup>2</sup>	4,425	688 <sup>2</sup>	3,224	707 <sup>2</sup>	4,407
Tobacco <sup>3</sup>	249	298	95	108	154	190	78	101
Food crops	7,207 <sup>4</sup>	106,902 <sup>4</sup>	3,199	40,648	4,008	66,254	2,576	31,521

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Area under cultivation

<sup>3</sup> Crop year (April-March)

<sup>4</sup> Revised

**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2006 - 2007**

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2006			2007 <sup>1</sup>
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	504,857	19,246	485,611	9,670
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,567	892	675	855
Beef <sup>2</sup>	"	2,187	935	1,252	814
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(99)	(38)	(61)	(43)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(2,088)	(897)	(1,191)	(771)
Goat meat and mutton <sup>2</sup>	"	99	55	44	41
Pork <sup>2</sup>	"	681	318	363	292
Poultry meat	"	36,000	19,000	17,000	20,000
Milk	'000 litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish <sup>3</sup>	tonnes	8,885 <sup>4</sup>	5,189	3,696	3,538
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,900)	(1,061)	(839)	(875)
<i>Other</i>	"	(6,985)	(4,128)	(2,857)	(2,663)

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Abattoir slaughter only

<sup>3</sup> Fresh weight equivalent

<sup>4</sup> Revised

**Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2006 - 2007**

Factory statistics	Unit	2006			2007 <sup>1</sup>
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,746,299	218,210	4,528,089	110,492
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.64	8.82	10.72	8.75
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.57	6.87	7.60	5.86
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.40	11.34	9.32	11.43
Production of sugar	"	504,857	19,246	485,611	9,670
<i>(White)</i>	"	-	-	-	-
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	(421,959) <sup>2</sup>	(19,246)	402,713) <sup>2</sup>	(9,670)
<i>(Special)</i>	"	(82,898) <sup>2</sup>	-	(82,898) <sup>2</sup>	-
Molasses	"	139,621 <sup>2</sup>	N.A	N.A	N.A

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Revised

N.A: Not Available

**Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2006 - 2007**

Type of producer	2006			2007 <sup>1</sup>
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,434	753	681	908
Metayers	2,216	1,294	922	1,263
Free planters	2,703	1,587	1,116	1,544
Planters in cooperative societies	1,296	791	505	692
Total	7,649	4,425	3,224	4,407

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

**Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2006 - 2007**

Foodcrops	2006						2007 <sup>1</sup>	
	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	589	14,522	17	266	572	14,256	8	121
Maize	58	452	23	149	35	303	12	94
Groundnut	183	390	133	279	50	111	95	206
Onion	170	4,550	10	122	160	4,428	14	214
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(84)</i>	<i>(3,013)</i>	-	-	<i>(84)</i>	<i>(3,013)</i>	-	-
Ginger	52	1,016	11	164	41	852	12	74
Garlic	8	61	-	2	8	59	1	8
Chillies	305	1,512	127	545	178	967	124	523
Tomato	935	14,671	466	6,463	469	8,208	283	3,472
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(366)</i>	<i>(6,019)</i>	<i>(181)</i>	<i>(2,599)</i>	<i>(185)</i>	<i>(3,420)</i>	<i>(116)</i>	<i>(1,427)</i>
Beans & peas	340	1,487	146	545	194	942	122	529
Cabbage	236	4,547	124	2,110	112	2,437	103	1,866
Cauliflower	69	1,323	14	257	55	1,066	15	305
Brinjal	216	2,839	90	1,110	126	1,729	90	1,053
Creepers <sup>2</sup>	2,368	30,129	1,193	14,296	1,175	15,833	941	10,502
Mixed vegetables <sup>3</sup>	992	12,502	502	5,880	490	6,622	406	4,256
Banana	510	11,347	257	5,697	253	5,650	230	4,558
Pineapple	176	5,554	86	2,763	90	2,791	120	3,740
Total food crops	7,207	106,902	3,199	40,648	4,008	66,254	2,576	31,521

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

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash and Voehm

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