

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

Year 2007

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 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. 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 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

The production of sugar cane fell by 10.8% from 4,748,973 tonnes in 2006 to 4,235,849 tonnes in 2007. This was the result of unfavourable weather conditions coupled with a drop of 2.2% in area harvested, from 66,732 hectares to 65,259 hectares. The yield per hectare followed a downward trend as well. It declined by 8.8% from 71.16 tonnes in 2006 to 64.91 tonnes in 2007.

The average extraction rate was 10.31% as compared to 10.64% in 2006, representing a fall of 3.1%. The reduction in production of cane and in extraction rate has led to a decrease of 13.6% in the production of sugar: from 504,857 tonnes in 2006 to 435,972 tonnes in 2007.

3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2007 was 709 hectares, representing an increase of 3.1% over the figure of 688 hectares in 2006. The production of green tea leaves rose by 4.9%: 8,027 tonnes as compared to 7,649 tonnes in 2006.

Production of black tea edged 0.3% lower from 1,567 tonnes in 2006 to 1,563 tonnes in 2007. Further details on tea are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

An area of 259 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2007, that is, 4.0% higher than the 249 hectares harvested in the preceding year. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves increased by 8.1% from 298 tonnes in 2006 to 322 tonnes in 2007.

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 fall of 9.4% from 7,207 hectares in 2006 to 6,528 hectares in 2007. Consequently production of food crops decreased by 11.3% from 106,902 tonnes in 2006 to 94,822 tonnes in 2007.

6. Livestock

In 2007, the production of beef from live cattle decreased by 15.5% to 1,847 tonnes from 2,187 tonnes in 2006. The production of beef from the slaughter of imported cattle receded by 15.9% from 2,088 tonnes to 1,757 tonnes in 2007. Local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) fell by 9.1%, from 99 tonnes to 90 tonnes. Local production of beef for 2007 accounted for 4.9% of the total.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 24.2% from 99 tonnes in 2006 to 75 tonnes in 2007. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 38.1%.

Production of pork decreased by 25.0% from 681 tonnes in 2006 to 511 tonnes in 2007. This decrease was mainly attributable to the spread of “African swine fever” during the last quarter of 2007.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry grew by 11.1% in 2007 to reach 40,000 tonnes compared to 36,000 tonnes in the previous year.

8. Fish

In 2007, fish production fell by 33.3% from 8,885 tonnes in 2006 to 5,926 tonnes. Fresh coastal fish catch and other catch (tuna, bank, etc) went down by 16.3% and 37.9% respectively.

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

Crops	2006		2007 ¹	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugar cane	66,732	4,748,973	65,259	4,235,849
Tea (green leaves)	688 ²	7,649	709 ²	8,027
Tobacco ³	249	298	259	322
Food crops	7,207	106,902	6,528	94,822

¹ Provisional² Area under cultivation³ Crop year (April - March)**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2006 - 2007**

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2006	2007 ¹
Sugar	tonnes	504,857	435,972
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,567	1,563
Beef ²	"	2,187	1,847
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	(99)	(90)
Imported	"	(2,088)	(1,757)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	99	75
Pork ²	"	681	511
Poultry	"	36,000	40,000
Milk	000 Litres	4,000	3,500
Fish ³	tonnes	8,885	5,926
Coastal	"	(1,900)	(1,590)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(6,985)	(4,336)

¹ Provisional² Comprises abattoir slaughters only³ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2006 - 2007

Ownership	2006 ¹			2007 ²		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield
Estate	26,614	2,124,273	79.82	25,414	1,849,930	72.79
Metayers	965	44,115	45.72	964	40,312	41.82
Planters	39,153	2,580,585	65.91	38,881	2,345,607	60.33
Total	66,732	4,748,973	71.16	65,259	4,235,849	64.91

¹ Revised² Provisional**Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2006 - 2007**

Details	Unit	2006	2007 ¹
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	4,746,299	4,230,629
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered as a % of cane)	%	10.64	10.31
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50
Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	7.57	6.68
Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.40	9.70
Production of sugar	"	504,857	435,972
- White	"	0	0
- Raw	"	421,959	367,815
- Special	"	82,898	68,157
Production of molasses	"	139,621	131,010

¹ Provisional

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2006 - 2007**(Tonnes)**

Type of Producer	2006	2007 ¹
Estates	1,434	1,686
Metayers	2,216	2,233
Free planters	2,703	2,870
Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,296	1,238
TOTAL	7,649	8,027

¹ Provisional**Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2006 - 2007**

Variety	2006 ¹		2007 ²	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Virginia (flue-cured)	232	283	236	306
Amarello (air-cured)	17	15	23	16
TOTAL	249	298	259	322

¹ Revised² Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2006 - 2007

Foodcrops	2006			2007 ¹		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	589	14,522	24.7	591	14,848	25.1
Maize	58	452	7.8	47	354	7.5
Groundnut	183	390	2.1	140	290	2.1
Onion	170	4,550	26.8	208	5,141	24.7
Ginger	52	1,016	19.5	81	1,299	16.0
Garlic	8	61	7.6	9	59	6.6
Chillies	305	1,512	5.0	283	1,426	5.0
Tomato	935	14,671	15.7	704	10,156	14.4
Beans and Peas	340	1,487	4.4	305	1,442	4.7
Cabbage	236	4,547	19.3	226	4,430	19.6
Cauliflower	69	1,323	19.2	81	1,631	20.1
Brinjal	216	2,839	13.1	214	2,749	12.8
Creepers	2,368	30,129	12.7	2,043	24,260	11.9
Other vegetables	992	12,502	12.6	931	11,349	12.2
Banana	510	11,347	22.2	461	8,990	19.5
Pineapple	176	5,554	31.6	204	6,398	31.4
Total	7,207	106,902	14.8	6,528	94,822	14.5

¹ Provisional

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