

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2008)

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 2008, as well as revised figures for year 2007. 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.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2008, around 2,390 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 175,275 tonnes of sugar cane and 15,289 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in the year 2007 were 1,650 hectares, 110,492 tonnes of sugar cane and 9,670 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at June 2008 was 8.72% compared to 8.75% 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 2008 will be around 460,000 tonnes.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2008, area under tea plantation was almost at the same level as in 2007: 709 hectares as compared to 707 hectares for the same period of 2007.

Production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2008 was around 4,901 tonnes, up by 11.2% when compared to the figure of 4,407 tonnes for the corresponding period of the preceding year. A breakdown of production by type of producer is given in Table 4.

Production of black tea went up by 9.0%, from 855 tonnes in the first semester of 2007 to 932 tonnes in the same period of 2008 (Table 2).

4. Tobacco

An area of 94 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first six months of 2008, against 78 hectares for the corresponding period of 2007, that is, an increase of 20.5%. The production of tobacco leaves was higher by 5.0% from 101 tonnes to 106 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 5.5% from 2,631 hectares in January-June 2007 to 2,487 hectares in the corresponding period of 2008. As a result, the production fell by 3.4% from 32,551 tonnes to 31,452 tonnes.

6. Livestock

During the first half of 2008, the production of beef from live cattle was 793 tonnes, which is 2.6% lower than the figure of 814 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2007. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 98.1% of the total production, increased by 0.9%, from 771 tonnes to 778 tonnes. Local production which accounts for only 1.9% of total beef production contracted by 65.1% from 43 tonnes to 15 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 4.9% from 41 tonnes during the first semester of 2007 to 39 tonnes for the same period of 2008. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 32.6%.

The production of pork decreased significantly by 42.5% from 292 tonnes in the first semester of 2007 to 168 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2008. This decrease was due to the “African swine fever” which affected pig population during last quarter of 2007.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry increased by 7.3%, from 19,200 tonnes in the first semester 2007 to 20,600 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2008.

8. Fish

Total fish production increased by 6.6%, from 3,412 tonnes in first six months of 2007 to 3,636 tonnes in the same period of 2008. This increase was attributable to a growth of 9.0% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc); whereas the production of fresh coastal fish catch stagnated at around 907 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2007 - 2008

Crops	2007						2008 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	65,259	4,235,849	1,650	110,492	63,609	4,125,357	2,390	175,275
Tea (green leaves)	709 ²	8,027	707 ²	4,407	709 ²	3,620	709 ²	4,901
Tobacco ³	252	316	78	101	174	215	94	106
Food crops	6,740 ⁴	99,130 ⁴	2,631	32,551	4,109	66,579	2,487	31,452

¹ Provisional

² Area under cultivation

³ Crop year (April-March)

⁴ Revised

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2007 - 2008

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2007			2008 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	435,972	9,670	426,302	15,289
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,563	855	708	932
Beef ²	"	1,847	814	1,033	793
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(90)	(43)	(47)	(15)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,757)	(771)	(986)	(778)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	75	41	34	39
Pork ²	"	511	292	219	168
Poultry meat	"	40,000	19,200 ³	20,800	20,600
Milk	'000 litres	3,500	1,750	1,750	1,750
Fish ⁴	tonnes	6,244 ³	3,412	2,832	3,636
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,754)	(909)	(845)	(907)
<i>Other</i>	"	(4,490)	(2,503)	(1,987)	(2,729)

¹ Provisional

² Abattoir slaughter only

³ Revised

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2007 - 2008

Factory statistics	Unit	2007			2008 ¹
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,230,629	110,492	4,120,137	175,275
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.31	8.75	10.35	8.72
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	6.68	5.86	6.70	6.40
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.70	11.43	9.66	11.46
Production of sugar	"	435,972	9,670	426,302	15,289
<i>(White)</i>	"	-	-	-	-
<i>(Raw)</i>	"	<i>(367,814)</i>	<i>(9,670)</i>	<i>(358,144)</i>	<i>(15,289)</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(68,158)</i>	-	<i>(68,158)</i>	-
Molasses	"	130,917 ²	N.A	N.A	N.A

¹ Provisional

² Revised

N.A: Not Available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2007 - 2008

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2007			2008 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,686	908	778	1,064
Metayers	2,233	1,263	970	1,312
Free planters	2,870	1,544	1,326	1,758
Planters in cooperative societies	1,238	692	546	767
Total	8,027	4,407	3,620	4,901

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2007 - 2008

Foodcrops	2007						2008 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	610	15,367	8	125	602	15,242	20	442
Maize	108	1,021	27	273	81	748	34	252
Groundnut	140	290	95	205	45	85	49	102
Onion	242	6,187	14	214	228	5,973	4	55
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(133)</i>	<i>(4,606)</i>	-	-	<i>(133)</i>	<i>(4,606)</i>	-	-
Ginger	81	1,299	12	74	69	1,225	20	212
Garlic	9	59	1	8	8	51	1	5
Chillies	282	1,421	124	523	158	898	104	504
Tomato	734	11,117	296	3,834	438	7,283	355	4,615
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(297)</i>	<i>(4,889)</i>	<i>(132)</i>	<i>(1,841)</i>	<i>(165)</i>	<i>(3,048)</i>	<i>(148)</i>	<i>(2,016)</i>
Beans & peas	306	1,447	123	529	183	918	112	430
Cabbage	226	4,430	103	1,866	123	2,564	84	1,170
Cauliflower	82	1,631	15	305	67	1,326	11	202
Brinjal	215	2,759	90	1,054	125	1,705	81	943
Creepers ²	2,078	24,679	957	10,771	1,121	13,908	887	10,408
Mixed vegetables ³	960	11,999	412	4,414	548	7,585	373	4,071
Banana	463	9,026	234	4,617	229	4,409	230	4,701
Pineapple	204	6,398	120	3,739	84	2,659	122	3,340
Total food crops	6,740	99,130	2,631	32,551	4,109	66,579	2,487	31,452

Source: Agricultural Research and 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