

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January - June 2012)

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 2012, as well as revised figures for year 2011. 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 2012 around 1,000 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 63,070 tonnes of sugar cane and 5,745 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2011 were 3,950 hectares, 262,151 tonnes of sugar cane and 24,132 tonnes of sugar respectively. The lower figures for 2012 are mainly explained by cane crushing starting on 22 June this year as compared to 9 June last year. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2012 was 9.11% compared to 9.21% as at end of June 2011. More details are provided in Table 3.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2012 will be around 410,000 tonnes, representing a drop of 5.8% compared to 435,310 tonnes for 2011.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2012, area under tea plantation was 684 hectares, representing an increase of 5.1% over the figure of 651 hectares during the same period of 2011. However, the production of green tea leaves went down by 11.8%: 4,683 tonnes in first semester of 2012 as compared to 5,307 tonnes during the same period of 2011. This is mainly due to the unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing during the first semester of 2012.

Production of manufactured tea decreased by 12.4%, from 1,053 tonnes in the first semester of 2011 to 922 tonnes in the same period of 2012. (Table 2)

4. Tobacco

An area of 70 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested during the first six months of 2012, same as in the corresponding period of 2011. The production of tobacco leaves went up by 5.6% from 124 tonnes in the first semester of 2011 to 131 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2012.

5. Food crops

Data on food crops (except paddy rice) 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. Data on paddy rice for 2011 and 2012 being now available from concerned establishment, food crops estimate for 2011 has been revised accordingly.

The area under food crops harvested increased by 8.9% from 3,075 hectares in the first semester of 2011 to 3,348 hectares in the first semester of 2012. The production of food crops rose by 5.5% from 41,295 tonnes to 43,548 tonnes during the same period. It is to be noted that area under rice cultivation harvested increased by 157.5% from 120 hectares in the first semester of 2011 to 309 hectares in the first semester of 2012. The production of paddy rice went up by 163.0% from 316 tonnes to 831 tonnes during the same period.

6. Livestock

Data on production of beef, goat meat, mutton and pork are supplied by the Mauritius Meat Authority (MMA). It is to be noted that this data represents only animals slaughtered by the Central Abattoir, including live animals imported from Rodrigues and other countries for slaughter.

During the first half of 2012, the production of beef from live cattle was 988 tonnes, which is 2.8% higher than the figure of 961 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2011. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 86.1% of the total production, decreased by 2.9%, from 876 tonnes to 851 tonnes. Local beef production went up by 61.2% from 85 tonnes to 137 tonnes. This increase is mainly the result of different schemes put under the “Food Security Fund” of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security.

The production of goat meat and mutton went down by 12.1% from 33 tonnes during the first semester of 2011 to 29 tonnes for the same period of 2012. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 75.9%.

The production of pork decreased by 1.0% from 302 tonnes in the first semester of 2011 to 299 tonnes during the same period of 2012.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry went up by 2.2%, from 23,000 tonnes in the first semester of 2011 to 23,500 tonnes in the corresponding period of 2012.

8. Fish

Total fish production declined by 28.8%, from 3,069 tonnes in first six months of 2011 to 2,184 tonnes in the same period of 2012. This decrease was attributable to a drop of 36.6% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 1,929 tonnes to 1,223 tonnes as well as a decrease of 15.7% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch, from 1,140 tonnes to 961 tonnes.

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September 2012

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2011 - 2012

Crops	2011 ¹						2012 ²	
	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	56,668	4,230,174	3,950	262,151	52,718	3,968,023	1,000	63,070
Tea (green leaves)	651 ³	8,975	651 ³	5,307	651 ³	3,668	684 ³	4,683
Tobacco ⁴	222	345	70	124	152	221	70	131
Food crops	7,484	115,934	3,075	41,295	4,409	74,639	3,348	43,548

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

⁴ Crop year (April-March)

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2011 - 2012

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2011 ¹			2012 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	435,310	24,132	411,178	5,745
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,787	1,053	734	922
Beef ³	"	2,023	961	1,062	988
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	<i>(136)</i>	<i>(85)</i>	<i>(51)</i>	<i>(137)</i>
<i>Imported</i>	"	<i>(1,887)</i>	<i>(876)</i>	<i>(1,011)</i>	<i>(851)</i>
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	62	33	29	29
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	<i>(50)</i>	<i>(27)</i>	<i>(23)</i>	<i>(22)</i>
<i>Imported</i>	"	<i>(12)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>
Pork ³	"	650	302	348	299
Poultry meat	"	47,000	23,000	24,000	23,500
Milk	'000 litres	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fish ⁴	tonnes	5,542	3,069	2,473	2,184
<i>Coastal</i>	"	<i>(2,100)</i>	<i>(1,140)</i>	<i>(960)</i>	<i>(961)</i>
<i>Other</i>	"	<i>(3,442)</i>	<i>(1,929)</i>	<i>(1,513)</i>	<i>(1,223)</i>

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2011 - 2012

Factory statistics	Unit	2011 ¹			2012 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	4,224,566	262,151	3,962,415	63,070
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.30	9.21	10.38	9.11
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.68	6.11	7.80	5.75
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.70	10.86	9.64	10.98
Production of sugar	"	435,310	24,132	411,178	5,745
<i>(Plantation white sugar ³)</i>	"	<i>(322,266)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(113,044)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
Molasses	"	138,579	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ A processed raw sugar used to manufacture refined white sugar

N.A: Not Available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2011 - 2012

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2011			2012 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,807	1,045	762	882
Metayers	2,494	1,489	1,005	1,272
Free planters	3,390	2,006	1,384	1,819
Planters in cooperative societies	1,284	767	517	710
Total	8,975	5,307	3,668	4,683

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2011 - 2012

Foodcrops	2011						2012 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	1,011	21,561	40	485	971	21,076	8	142
Rice (paddy)	120	316	120	316	-	-	309	831
Maize	43	320	8	41	35	279	21	134
Groundnut	163	499	80	199	83	300	54	148
Onion	237	5,241	8	42	229	5,199	...	2
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(148)</i>	<i>(3,850)</i>	-	-	<i>(148)</i>	<i>(3,850)</i>	-	-
Ginger	43	748	6	28	37	720	4	39
Garlic	5	34	-	-	5	34	-	-
Chillies	246	1,383	119	686	127	697	127	718
Tomato	761	11,354	360	5,045	401	6,309	349	4,905
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(709)</i>	<i>(10,761)</i>	<i>(333)</i>	<i>(4,764)</i>	<i>(376)</i>	<i>(5,997)</i>	<i>(325)</i>	<i>(4,624)</i>
Beans & peas	278	1,696	126	727	152	969	145	742
Cabbage	245	5,119	115	2,251	130	2,868	109	2,072
Cauliflower	81	1,648	24	486	57	1,162	31	554
Brinjal	231	3,202	97	1,333	134	1,869	113	1,528
Creepers ²	2,471	28,798	1,143	14,665	1,328	14,133	1,170	14,710
Mixed vegetables ³	675	12,649	383	4,404	292	8,245	528	5,195
Banana	497	10,544	254	5,342	243	5,202	237	4,888
Pineapple	377	10,922	192	5,245	185	5,677	230	6,940
Total food crops	7,484	115,934	3,075	41,295	4,409	74,639	3,348	43,548

Source: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) and Statistics Mauritius estimates

¹ Provisional

² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Courgette, 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

... Negligible