

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January-June 2018)

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the first six months of 2018, as well as revised figures for year 2017. 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 5 respectively.

2. Sugar cane

At the end of June 2018, some 1,658 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 116,353 tonnes of sugar cane and 14,350 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2017 were 2,643 hectares, 197,192 tonnes of sugar cane and 16,454 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2018 was 8.89%, compared to 8.34% as at end of June 2017.

According to Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2018 will be around 330,000 tonnes, representing a decrease of 7.1%, compared to 355,213 tonnes in 2017.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2018, area under tea plantation was 656 hectares representing an increase of 5.5% over the figure of 622 hectares during the same period of 2017. However, the production of green tea leaves went down by 3.3%: 4,136 tonnes in first semester of 2018 as compared to 4,279 tonnes during the same period of 2017, mainly due to unfavourable climatic conditions.

The production of manufactured tea decreased by 11.7% from 815 tonnes in the first semester of 2017 to 720 tonnes in the same period of 2018. Further details on tea production are given in Table 4.

4. Food crops

Data on food crops (except paddy rice) production, are supplied by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI). Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production of banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato. Data on paddy rice was obtained from concerned establishment.

The area under food crops harvested decreased by 16.3% from 3,332 hectares in the first semester of 2017 to 2,789 hectares in the same period of 2018. The production of food crops decreased by 33.4% from 41,989 tonnes to 27,965 tonnes during the same period, mainly explained by unfavourable climatic conditions. It is to be noted that area under rice cultivation harvested declined by 76.4% from 55 hectares in the first semester of 2017 to 13 hectares in the same period of 2018. The production of paddy rice went down by 87.8% from 156 tonnes to 19 tonnes during the same period.

5. Livestock

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

During the first half of 2018, the production of beef from live cattle was 1,169 tonnes, as compared to 1,173 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2017. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 98.0% of the total production, decreased by 1.9% from 1,167 tonnes to 1,145 tonnes. Local beef production went up from 6 tonnes to 25 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton went up by 11.5% from 26 tonnes during the first semester of 2017 to 29 tonnes for the same period of 2018. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 65.5 %.

The production of pork decreased by 13.9% from 288 tonnes in the first semester of 2017 to 248 tonnes during the same period of 2018.

6. Poultry

The production of poultry increased by 2.1% from 23,500 tonnes in the first semester of 2017 to 24,000 tonnes during the same period of 2018.

7. Fish

Total fish production went up by 21.4% from 11,090 tonnes in the first six months of 2017 to 13,462 tonnes in the same period of 2018. This increase was attributable to a rise of 21.8% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 10,206 tonnes in 2017 to 12,427 tonnes in 2018, coupled with an increase of 17.1% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 884 tonnes in the first semester of 2017 to 1035 tonnes during the same period of 2018.

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

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CONTACT PERSONS:

Mr. D. Chinnee
Statistician

Mr. Z. Kausmaully
Senior Statistical Officer
Agriculture Unit
Statistics Mauritius
5th Floor, LIC Centre
Port Louis
Tel. (230) 208-1800
Fax.(230) 213-0234/(230) 213-6535
Email: cso_agriculture @govmu.org
Website: <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org>

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2017 - 2018

Crops	2017 ¹						2018 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	49,974	3,713,331	2,643	197,192	47,331	3,516,139	1,658	116,353
Tea (green leaves)	622 ³	7,309	622 ³	4,279	622 ³	3,030	656 ³	4,136
Food crops	7,780	106,621	3,332	41,989	4,448	64,632	2,789	27,965

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2017 - 2018

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2017 ¹			2018 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	355,213	16,454	338,759	14,350
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,379	815	564	720
Beef ³	"	2,078	1,173	905	1,169
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(86)	(6)	(80)	(25)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,992)	(1,167)	(825)	(1,145)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	56	26	30	29
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(48)	(23)	(25)	(19)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(8)	(3)	(5)	(10)
Pork ³	"	606	288	318	248
Poultry meat	"	47,500	23,500	24,000	24,000
Milk	'000 litres	3,600	2,100	1,500	1,400
Fish ⁴	tonnes	22,732	11,090	11,642	13,462
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,758)	(884)	(874)	(1,035)
<i>Other</i>	"	(20,974)	(10,206)	(10,768)	(12,427)

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2017 - 2018

Factory statistics	Unit	2017 ¹			2018 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	3,710,919	197,192	3,513,727	161,489
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.57	8.34	9.64	8.89
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.11	6.23	7.16	8.66
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.45	11.98	10.37	11.25
Production of sugar	"	355,213	16,454	338,759	14,350
<i>(Plantation white sugar³)</i>	"	<i>(215,473)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(139,740)</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>	<i>N.A</i>
Molasses	"	122,273	<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, 2017 - 2018

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2017			2018 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	785	481	304	443
Metayers	1,682	1,004	678	891
Free planters	3,447	1,981	1,466	2,001
Planters in cooperative societies	1,395	813	582	801
Total	7,309	4,279	3,030	4,136

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2017 - 2018

Foodcrops	2017						2018 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	710	14,124	27	432	683	13,692	4	45
Rice (paddy)	56	160	55	156	1	4	13	19
Maize	59	442	26	199	33	243	25	139
Groundnut	91	269	50	140	41	129	34	68
Onion	247	5,134	5	101	242	5,033	3	65
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(165)</i>	<i>(4,095)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(97)</i>	<i>(160)</i>	<i>(3,998)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(55)</i>
Ginger	48	562	6	49	42	513	6	47
Garlic	14	96	-	-	14	96	-	-
Chillies	281	2,030	136	975	145	1,056	109	411
Tomato	722	10,651	344	4,469	378	6,182	276	2,506
<i>of which hybrid</i>	<i>(720)</i>	<i>(10,615)</i>	<i>(344)</i>	<i>(4,469)</i>	<i>(376)</i>	<i>(6,146)</i>	<i>(275)</i>	<i>(2,496)</i>
Beans & peas	300	1,794	125	734	175	1,060	96	367
Cabbage	256	4,779	130	2,640	126	2,139	92	1,185
Cauliflower	103	1,723	38	650	65	1,073	16	223
Brinjal	273	3,099	127	1,423	146	1,676	113	932
Creepers ²	2,367	28,914	1,116	13,175	1,251	15,739	996	9,502
Greens ³	247	2,406	120	1,160	127	1,246	85	626
Mixed vegetables ⁴	1,098	13,035	563	6,517	535	6,518	455	4,088
Banana	507	8,644	252	4,459	255	4,185	251	3,479
Pineapple	401	8,760	213	4,712	188	4,048	215	4,263
Total food crops	7,780	106,621	3,332	41,989	4,448	64,632	2,789	27,965

Source: Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) and Statistics Mauritius estimates

¹ Provisional

- : Nil

² Includes Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Courgette, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash and Voehm

³ Includes "Brede Baton blanc/vert/ de chine/ Chouchou/ Giraumon/ Malabar/ Tom pouce"

⁴ Includes Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Echalotte, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Lettuce, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper and Sweet Potato