

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

(January-June 2020)

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 2020, as well as revised figures for year 2019. It is to be noted that the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected production in first semester of 2020. Additionally, unfavourable climatic conditions have affected the production of agricultural crops. 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 2020, some 467 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 37,104 tonnes of sugar cane and 5,082 tonnes of sugar. The corresponding figures for the same period in 2019 were 1,228 hectares, 96,747 tonnes of sugar cane and 11,709 tonnes of sugar respectively. The average extraction rate as at end of June 2020 was 8.68%, higher than the 8.48% as at end of June 2019.

According to Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, production of sugar for the crop year 2020 will be around 290,000 tonnes, representing a decrease of 12.4%, compared to 331,105 tonnes in 2019.

3. Tea

At the end of June 2020, area under tea plantation was 685 hectares representing an increase of 4.4% over the figure of 656 hectares during the same period of 2019. However, the production of green tea leaves went down by 47.6%: 2,606 tonnes in first semester of 2020 as compared to 4,970 tonnes during the same period of 2019.

Consequently, the production of manufactured tea decreased by 45.2% from 899 tonnes in the first semester of 2019 to 493 tonnes in the same period of 2020. 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 7.9% from 3,238 hectares in the first semester of 2019 to 2,981 hectares in the same period of 2020. The production of food crops decreased by 17.8% from 37,846 tonnes to 31,120 tonnes during the same period. It is to be noted that there was no rice cultivation in the first semester of 2020 compared to 6 hectares harvested during the same period of 2019. There was no production of paddy rice in the first semester of 2020 compared to 21 tonnes during the same period of 2019.

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 2020, the production of beef from live cattle was 946 tonnes, as compared to 1,161 tonnes registered in the corresponding period of 2019. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle, accounting for 98.7% of the total production, decreased by 16.6% from 1,120 tonnes to 934 tonnes. Local beef production went down from 41 tonnes to 12 tonnes.

The production of goat meat and mutton dropped by 22.2% from 27 tonnes during the first semester of 2019 to 21 tonnes for the same period of 2020. The share of local production, inclusive of Rodrigues, stood at 28.6%.

The production of pork fell by 17.0% from 271 tonnes in the first semester of 2019 to 225 tonnes during the same period of 2020.

6. Poultry

The production of poultry decreased by 8.5% from 24,600 tonnes in the first semester of 2019 to 22,500 tonnes during the same period of 2020.

7. Fish

Total fish production went down by 22.3% from 15,800 tonnes in the first six months of 2019 to 12,278 tonnes in the same period of 2020. This decrease was attributable to a drop of 21.4% in the production of other catch (tuna, bank etc) from 14,932 tonnes in 2019 to 11,736 tonnes in 2020, as well as a decrease of 37.6% in the production of fresh coastal fish catch from 868 tonnes in the first semester of 2019 to 542 tonnes during the same period of 2020.

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
Port Louis

September 2020

CONTACT PERSONS:

Mr. D. Chinnee

Statistician

Mr. Z. Kausmaully

Senior Statistical Officer

Agriculture Unit

Statistics Mauritius

2nd 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, 2019 - 2020

Crops	2019 ¹						2020 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	45,054	3,405,250	1,228	96,747	43,826	3,308,503	467	37,104
Tea (green leaves)	656 ³	8,329	656 ³	4,970	656 ³	3,359	685 ³	2,606
Food crops	7,334	93,736	3,238	37,846	4,096	55,890	2,981	31,120

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2019 - 2020

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2019 ¹			2020 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	331,105	11,709	319,396	5,082
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,583	899	684	493
Beef ³	"	2,051	1,161	890	946
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(72)	(41)	(31)	(12)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(1,979)	(1,120)	(859)	(934)
Goat meat and mutton ³	"	42	27	15	21
<i>Local (including Rodrigues)</i>	"	(18)	(12)	(6)	(6)
<i>Imported</i>	"	(24)	(15)	(9)	(15)
Pork ³	"	596	271	325	225
Poultry meat	"	51,000	24,600	26,400	22,500
Milk	'000 litres	2,500	1,400	1,100	1,000
Fish ⁴	tonnes	35,055	15,800	19,255	12,278
<i>Coastal</i>	"	(1,722)	(868)	(854)	(542)
<i>Other</i>	"	(33,333)	(14,932)	(18,401)	(11,736)

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ Abattoir slaughter only

⁴ Fresh weight equivalent

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory statistics, 2019 - 2020

Factory statistics	Unit	2019 ¹			2020 ²
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Cane crushed	tonnes	3,403,310	138,094	3,265,216	58,543
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.73	8.48	9.78	8.68
Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5	98.5	98.5
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	7.35	9.54	7.29	10.88
Average tonnes of cane for one tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.28	11.79	10.22	11.52
Production of sugar	"	331,105	11,709	319,396	5,082
<i>(Plantation white sugar³)</i>	"	<i>(195,884)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>(Special)</i>	"	<i>(135,221)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>
Molasses	"	119,545	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>

¹ Revised

² Provisional

³ A processed raw sugar used to manufacture refined white sugar

NA: Not available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2019 - 2020

(Tonnes)

Type of producer	2019			2020 ¹
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	1,156	740	416	277
Metayers	1,823	1,085	738	610
Free planters	3,991	2,409	1,582	1,191
Planters in cooperative societies	1,359	736	623	528
Total	8,329	4,970	3,359	2,606

¹ Provisional

Table 5 - Food crops : Area harvested and production, 2019 - 2020

Foodcrops	2019						2020 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	714	14,822	10	138	704	14,684	7	35
Rice (paddy)	6	21	6	21	0	0	0	0
Maize	69	495	37	256	32	239	31	251
Groundnut	186	392	89	188	97	204	85	298
Onion	244	3,219	...	4	244	3,215	0	0
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(62)	(1,029)	(0)	(0)	(62)	(1,029)	(0)	(0)
Ginger	28	268	5	39	23	229	21	323
Garlic	8	48	0	0	8	48	0	0
Chillies	265	1,981	138	1,055	127	926	129	1,070
Tomato	643	8,684	328	4,025	315	4,659	258	2,612
<i>of which hybrid</i>	(643)	(8,684)	(328)	(4,025)	(315)	(4,659)	(258)	(2,612)
Beans & peas	250	1,453	106	501	144	952	106	449
Cabbage	238	3,477	124	1,807	114	1,670	135	1,403
Cauliflower	61	725	12	126	49	599	16	107
Brinjal	276	3,385	142	1,747	134	1,638	130	1,510
Creepers ²	2,066	24,702	1,114	13,335	952	11,367	1,017	10,174
Greens ³	255	2,257	122	1,028	133	1,229	114	854
Mixed vegetables ⁴	1,110	12,082	535	5,464	575	6,618	489	4,109
Banana	508	7,266	244	3,592	264	3,674	255	4,044
Pineapple	407	8,459	225	4,520	182	3,939	188	3,881
Total food crops	7,334	93,736	3,238	37,846	4,096	55,890	2,981	31,120

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

¹ Provisional

0 : Nil ... : Negligible

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