Agricultural Production - Year 1993

1. Introduction

This report presents data on agricultural production for the year 1993.

2. Sugar Cane

The reduction in total acreage under sugar cane observed in previous years persisted in 1993 when a further decrease of 947 hectares was noted which brought total area harvested to 74,130 hectares.

Climatic conditions during the vegetative period were unfavourable with a severe water deficit recorded from November to January. Consequently, the yield of sugar cane per hectare was lowered to 72.9 tonnes in 1993 as against 77.0 tonnes in 1992. Production of sugar cane in 1993 was 5,780,722 tonnes which represented a 6.5% decrease as compared to 5,402,401 tonnes in the previous year.

The extraction rate also suffered from adverse weather conditions dropping from 11.13% in 1992 to 10.46% in 1993. This rate is the lowest since 1990. As a result, the production of sugar in 1993 was 565,026 tonnes, that is 12.1% less than the 1992 figure of 643,168 tonnes.

3. Tea

The area under tea cultivation which stood at 3,140 hectares in 1993 was roughly the same as in the previous year (3,133 hectares). However, the production of green leaves attained 30,900 tonnes (a yield of 9.8 tonnes per hectare) in 1993 as compared to 30,374 tonnes in 1992 (a yield of 9.7 tonnes per hectare). The rise in production is attributable to favourable climatic conditions and increased use of mechanical plucking.

Consequently, the production of black tea reached 5,931 tonnes in 1993, indicating a surplus of 86 tonnes or 1.5% above the previous year's production. It is note-worthy that the average export price of black tea in 1993 registered a substantial increase of 33.9% to attain Rs 23.35 per kg as against Rs 17.44 per kg a year earlier.

4. Tobacco

In 1993, the area harvested under tobacco was 756 hectares or 5.9% less than 1992. However, production of tobacco leaves grew by 52 tonnes (5.4%) from 1992 to 1993 (963 tonnes as compared to 1,015 tonnes). This increase is due to an improvement in the yield (+11.7% over 1992) per hectare mainly as a result of better cultural practices.

5. Foodcrops

In 1993, production of foodcrops amounted to 79,050 tonnes, representing an increase of 9.7% as compared to the 1992 production of 72,070 tonnes. As regards total acreage, 5,880 hectares under foodcrops were harvested in 1993, almost similar to last year (5,856 hectares). It is worthwhile to note that increases in area harvested under some foodcrops were offset by decreases under other foodcrops. Favourable weather conditions (major part of 1993) together with the pest/disease status which was stable in 1993 resulted in an overall rise in yield per hectare.

Due to an expansion in area harvested and a better yield in 1993, significant increases were observed in the production of the following foodcrops: chillies (+37.4%), tomato (+27.4%), cabbage (+65.6%), cauliflower (+20.4%), brinjal (+50.0%), onion (+12.3%), beans and peas (+15.1%), creepers (+14.9%), other vegetables (+28.1%), banana (+15.8%), and pineapple (+76.0).

On the other hand, potato production dropped from 19,175 tonnes in 1992 to 13,855 tonnes in 1993. This lower production is explained partly by late plantation in the second season of 1993 resulting in 4,350 tonnes being harvested in January 1994. However, part of the decline is also due to a decrease in area harvested.

The production of maize continued to fall, decreasing from 1,995 tonnes in 1992 to 1,750 tonnes in 1993.

As regards groundnut, a sharp drop in area planted, due largely to limited seed availability, resulted in a decrease of 27.3% to 865 tonnes in 1993.

A poor harvest was noted in ginger production which contracted from 340 tonnes to 285 tonnes (-16.2%) in 1993 due to poor control of soft rot disease.

The production of pineapple recorded a sharp increase of 76.1% to 4,050 tonnes in 1993 as against 2,300 tonnes in 1992. This higher increase is the result of improved cultural practices.

6. Livestock and Poultry

Beef production climbed by 147 tonnes (6.2%) to 2,523 tonnes in 1993 from 2,376 tonnes a year ago. However, this increase is due to a rise of 247 tonnes (from 1,848 to 2,095 tonnes) in the slaughter of imported live cattle which more than offset a decrease of 100 tonnes (from 528 to 428 tonnes) in production from local (including Rodrigues) sources. Imports which accounted for 77.8% of total production in 1992 rose to 83.0% in 1993.

Production of goat meat and mutton was down by 4.2% from 144 tonnes in 1992 to 138 tonnes in 1993.

Pork production was higher by 6.0% in 1993 when it was 1,054 tonnes as compared to 994 tonnes the previous year.

Poultry production continued on its upward trend, reaching 17,000 tonnes in 1993; 1,500 tonnes more than the preceding year's production and 3,750 tonnes more than that of 1991.

Production of milk reduced to 9 mn litres in 1993 from 10.5 mn litres in 1992.

7. Fisheries

Total fish production in 1993 reached 19,047 tonnes, that is 1,466 tonnes or 8.3% above that of the previous year. As compared to 1992, production of fresh fish (coastal) fell to 2,650 tonnes (-2.8%) and that of tuna fish went up to 9,611 tonnes (+6.1%). Owing to an increase in the number of fishing vessels, production of frozen fish from banks attained 6,696 tonnes which is an increase of 982 tonnes as compared to the 1992 production of 5,714 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural Crops: Area Harvested and Production

CROPS	1992 1/		1993 2/	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
1. Sugar cane	75,077	5,780,722	74,130	5,402,401
2. Tea (Green Leaves)	3,133 2/	30,374	3,140 2/	30,900
3, Tobacco	803	963	756	1,015
4. Foodcrops	5,856	72,070	5,880	79,050

1/ Revised
2/ Area under cultivation
3/ Provisional

Table 2 - Production of Agro-Industrial Products

Agro-industrial Products	Unit	1992 3/	1993 4/
1. Sugar	Tonnes	643,168	565,026
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	5,845	5,931
3. Beef 1/	"	2,376	2,523
Local including Rodrigues	"	(528)	(428)
Imported	"	(1,848)	(2,095)
4. Goat meat and mutton	"	144	138
5. Pork 1/	"	994	1,054
6. Poultry	"	15,500	17,000
7. Milk	000 Litres	10,500	9,000
8. Fish 2/	Tonnes	17,581	19,047
Coastal	"	(2,725)	(2,650)
Other	"	(14,856)	(16,397)

1/ Comprises abattoir slaughters only
2/ Fresh weight equivalent
3/ Revised
4/ Provisional

Table 3 (a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics

Ownership	1992 1/			1993 2/		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)
1. Estates	39,496	3,496,690	88.53	39,752	3,269,581	82.25
2. Metayers	1,701	81,843	48.11	1,558	75,327	48.35
3. Planters	33,880	2,202,188	65.00	32,820	2,057,493	62.69
T O T A L	75,077	5,780,722	77.00	74,130	5,402,401	72.88

1/ Revised

2/ Provisional

Table 3 (b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics

Details	Unit	1992 1/	1993 2/
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,780,512	5,402,197
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		11.13	10.46
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes/ hectare	8.57	7.62
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	8.99	9.56
6. Production of sugar		643,168	565,026
(white)	"	(70,316)	(63,077)
(Raw)	"	(511,356)	(438,817)
(Special)	"	(61,496)	(63,132)
7. Molasses	"	173,201	162,000

1/ Revised

2/ Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested and production[1/]

Foodcrops	1992[2/]		1993[3/]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	998	19,175	686	13,855
Rice	1	5	-	-
Maize	450	1,995	413	1,750
Groundnut	405	1,190	274	865
Onion	214	3,240	222	3,640
Ginger	18	340	19	285
Garlic	23	170	22	180
Chillies	147	655	194	900
Tomato	963	10,220	1,084	13,020
Beans and Peas	279	1,060	295	1,220
Cabbage	175	3,330	236	5,515
Cauliflower	61	1,150	68	1,385
Brinjal	105	1,210	157	1,815
Creepers	1,070	13,045	1,101	14,985
Other vegetables	370	4,455	443	5,705
Banana	462	8,530	496	9,880
Pineapple	115	2,300	170	4,050
Total foodcrops	5,856	72,070	5,880	79,050

1/ Calendar year

2/ Revised

3/ Provisional