AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION - YEAR 1997

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the year 1997.

2. Sugar Cane

Unlike the downward trend of preceding years, the total area harvested under sugar cane in 1997 increased by 1,046 hectares (+1.5%) to 72,846 hectares against 71,800 hectares in 1996. This increase is due mainly to land conversion from tea.

Climatic conditions prevailing during the vegetative period were favourable for cane growth. As a result, the yield of sugar cane per hectare improved to 79.44 tonnes in 1997 from 73.26 tonnes in 1996, bringing the total cane harvested to 5,786,729 tonnes i.e. 10.0% higher than the 1996 figure of 5,260,138 tonnes.

On the other hand, the extraction rate, which suffered from adverse climatic conditions during the maturing stage, fell to 10.73% in 1997 from 11.19% in 1996.

The 1997 crop resulted in a production of 620,589 tonnes of sugar, 5.5% above the preceding year's level of 588,455 tonnes.

3. Tea

The area under tea cultivation declined continuously since 1994 and reached 767 hectares in 1997, which is 30.8% less than the preceding year's figure of 1108 hectares. This sharp decrease is due mainly to the fact that many tea plots have been converted to sugar cane cultivation. In consequence, the quantity of green leaves produced fell to 9,026 tonnes (-31.7%) in 1997 against 13,209 tonnes in 1996.

As a result, the production of black tea went down to 1,787 tonnes in 1997 i.e a significant decrease of 28.4% over 1996, when it was 2,497 tonnes.

4. Tobacco

The production of tobacco leaves in 1997 stood at 673 tonnes, 23.3% below the 878 tonnes produced in the previous year. This substantial decrease resulted mainly from a reduction of 28.0% in area harvested which fell from 649 hectares in 1996 to 467 hectares in 1997.

5. Foodcrops

Since July 1997, the compilation of foodcrops statistics is under the responsibility of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) which falls under the aegis of a para-statal body, namely Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC).

Foodcrops statistics published in this report have been supplied by AREU.

6. Livestock and Poultry

The production of beef from live cattle went down by 2.0% from 2,321 tonnes in 1996 to 2,274 tonnes in 1997. However, this decrease is the net result of a 49.7% decline (from 586 to 295 tonnes) in local production, including Rodrigues and a 14.1% increase (from 1,735 to 1,979 tonnes) in the slaughter of imported live cattle. The share of imports which constituted 74.8% of total production in 1996 climbed to 87.0% in 1997.

Production of goat meat and mutton was 127 tonnes in 1997, i.e a decrease of 9.3% as compared to the 1996 figure of 140 tonnes.

Pork production was 14.7% lower: 948 tonnes were produced in 1997 against 1,112 tonnes in the previous year.

Poultry production continued on its upward trend, attaining 20,825 tonnes in 1997, i.e 3.6% more than the previous year's production of 20,100 tonnes.

Milk production continued on its downward trend to reach 6 million litres in 1997 against 6.6 million litres a year earlier, showing a decrease of 9.1%.

7. Fish

In 1997, total fish production recorded a growth of 11.2% to attain 12,361 tonnes compared to 11,119 tonnes in 1996. The overall growth is attributable largely to an increase of 56.5% (from 2,865 to 4,485 tonnes) noted in tuna fishing.

Production of frozen fish, excluding tuna, from banks rose marginally by 0.7% (+41 tonnes) to 5,565 tonnes whilst that of fresh fish (coastal) went down by 14.4% from 2,566 tonnes to 2,196 tonnes in 1997.

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Co-operation
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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1996 - 1997

Crops	1996 [1]		1997 [3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugarcane	71,800	5,260,138	72,846	5,786,729
Tea (Green Leaves)	1,108 [2]	13,209	767 [2]	9,026
Tobacco	649	878	467	673
Foodcrops	6,504	89,629	6,841	100,817

[1] Revised
[2] Area under cultivation
[3] Provisional

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1996 - 1997

Agro-Industrial Products	Unit	1996 [3]	1997 [4]
Sugar	tonnes	588,455	620,589
Tea (manufactured)	"	2,497	1,787
Beef [1]	"	2,321	2,274
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(586)	(295)
Imported	"	(1,735)	(1,979)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	140	127
Pork [1]	"	1,112	948
Poultry	"	20,100	20,825
Milk	000 Litres	6,600	6,000
Fish [2]	tonnes	11,119	12,361
Coastal	"	(2,566)	(2,196)
Other	"	(8,553)	(10,165)

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

Table 3 (a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics, 1996- 1997

Ownership	1996[1]			1997[2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)
1. Estate	36,375	2,988,430	82.16	38,784	3,353,652	86.47
2. Metayers	1,479	69,988	47.32	1,449	74,997	51.76
3. Planters	33,946	2,201,720	64.86	32,613	2,358,080	72.30
TOTAL	71,800	5,260,138	73.26	72,846	5,786,729	79.44

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics, 1996 - 1997

Details	Unit	1996[1]	1997[2]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,258,972	5,785,911
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	11.19	10.73
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	8.20	8.52
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	8.94	9.32
6. Production of sugar	"	588,455	620,589
(White)	"	(7,359)	(5,296)
(Raw)	"	(518,674)	(548,218)
(Special)	"	(62,422)	(67,075)
7. Molasses	"	151,527	164,751

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1996 - 1997

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	1996 [1]	1997 [2]
1. Estates	1,432	1,059
2. Metayers	1,651	2,250
3. Free planters	2,623	2,983
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	7,438	2,685
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	65	49
TOTAL	13,209	9,026

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 1996 - 1997

Variety	1996 [1]		1997 [2]	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	595	793	435	613
2. Amarello (air-cured)	54	85	32	60
TOTAL	649	878	467	673

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested and production, 1996 - 1997[1]

Foodcrops	1996[2]		1997[3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	543	10,639	815	17,620
Maize	90	438	46	232
Groundnut	217	767	228	863
Onion	341	6,067	299	5,135
Ginger	40	784	18	317
Garlic	30	235	11	82
Chillies	202	1,034	161	847
Tomato	997	10,877	1,062	12,247
Beans and Peas	402	1,876	466	2,356
Cabbage	340	7,595	327	7,874
Cauliflower	177	3,425	172	3,298
Brinjal	182	2,458	155	2,107
Creepers	1,655	22,088	1,745	25,692
Other vegetables	675	8,986	798	11,626
Banana	508	9,387	461	8,961
Pineapple	105	2,973	77	1,560
Total	6,504	89,629	6,841	100,817

[1] Calendar year
[2] Revised
[3] Provisional. Data supplied by Agricultural Research and Extension Unit(AREU) of Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC).