AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

YEAR 1999

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents data on agricultural and fish production for the years 1999 and 1998. All data refer to the Island of Mauritius.

2. Sugar cane

The 1999 sugar crop was severely affected by the prolonged drought which prevailed during the year. Total area harvested decreased by 1,450 hectares (-2.0%) from 74,013 hectares in 1998 to 72,563 hectares in 1999. This, together with a lower yield per hectare (averaging 53.51 tonnes compared to 78.11 tonnes in 1998) brought total production of cane to 3,882,597 tonnes in 1999 compared to 5,781,095 tonnes in 1998 - a decrease of 32.8%.

The adverse climatic conditions also affected the sugar extraction rate which went down from 10.88 in 1998 to 9.62 in 1999. Thus, the total production of sugar attained only 373,294 tonnes in 1999, showing a decline of 40.6% over the 628,588 tonnes produced in 1998.

More details on sugar cane field and factory statistics are given in Tables 3.1 and 3.2

3. Tea

Area under tea cultivation stood at 671 hectares in 1999, which is 2.6% lower than the preceding year's figure of 689 hectares. Consequently, the quantity of green leaves produced fell to 7,134 tonnes (-3.5%) in 1999 against 7,393 tonnes in 1998.

Production of black tea dropped marginally by 1% from 1,488 tonnes in 1998 to 1,473 tonnes in 1999. More details on tea are given at Table 4.

4. Tobacco

Total area harvested for tobacco dropped to 402 hectares (-8.4%) in 1999 as compared to 439 hectares in 1998. However, because of a higher yield per hectare, total production of tobacco leaves reached 710 tonnes (+6.0%) in 1999 against 670 tonnes in 1998. (Table 5)

5. Foodcrops

As from 1997, data on foodcrops are compiled from information collected by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Details on area harvested, production of foodcrops and yield per hectare are given at Table 6.

Because of the drought in 1999, a substantive drop is noted in the total area of foodcrops harvested. Only 6,057 hectares were harvested in 1999, compared to 6,995 hectares in 1998, showing a reduction of 938 hectares or 13.4%.

However, total production of foodcrops decreased by a lower percentage, that is, only 6.6% from 91,618 tonnes in 1998 to 85,560 tonnes in 1999. This was largely attributable to improvements in the yield of potato, onion, cabbage and some other vegetables, the effects of which were however partially offset by substantial drops in the production of the following: groundnut (-38.1%), ginger (-72.4%), chillies (-25.0%), tomatoes (-25.1%) and brinjal (-23.4%).

6. Livestock and poultry

The production of beef from live cattle went up by 2.3% from 2,516 tonnes in 1998 to 2,575 tonnes in 1999. However, this increase is the net result of a 5.5% increase in the slaughter of imported live cattle (2,296 tonnes in 1999 against 2,175 tonnes in 1998) and a decrease of 17.9% in local production including imports from Rodrigues (340 tonnes in 1998 to 279 tonnes in 1999). The share of imports which constituted 86.5% of total production in 1998 climbed up to 89.2% in 1999.

Production of goat meat and mutton showed an increase of 5.9% from 118 tonnes in 1998 to 125 tonnes in 1999.

Pork production was 9.8% lower: 678 tonnes were produced in 1999 against 752 tonnes in the previous year.

Poultry production was 14.2% higher: 20,900 tonnes in 1999 against 18,300 tonnes in 1998.

Milk production continued on its downward trend and is estimated at 5.0 million litres in 1999 against 5.5 million litres in 1998, showing a decrease of 9.0%.

Details on livestock and poultry are given at Table 2.

7. Fish

In 1999, total fish production recorded a growth of 7.5%, attaining 10,572 tonnes compared to 9,835 tonnes in 1998. This growth is mainly attributable to an increase in tuna fishing included in the sub group "Other" (7,656 tonnes in 1998 to 8,397 tonnes in 1999) noted in other fish.

Production of fresh fish (coastal) remained at previous year's level of around 2,175 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1998 - 1999

Crops	1998 [1]		1999 [3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugarcane	74,013	5,781,095	72,563	3,882,597
Tea (green leaves)	689 [2]	7,393	671 [2]	7,134
Tobacco	439	670	402	710
Foodcrops	6,995	91,618	6,057	85,560

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

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1998 - 1999

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1998 [3]	1999 [4]
Sugar	tonnes	628,588	373,294
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,488	1,473
Beef [1]	"	2,516	2,575
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	(340)	(279)
Imported	"	(2,176)	(2,296)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	118	125
Pork [1]	"	752	678
Poultry	"	18,300	20,900
Milk	000 Litres	5,500	5,000
Fish [2]	tonnes	9,835	10,572
Coastal	"	(2,179)	(2,175)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(7,656)	(8,397)

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

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 1998- 1999

Ownership	1998 [1]			1999 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)
1. Estate	37,330	3,221,048	86.29	33,226	2,203,244	66.31
2. Metayers	1,096	61,392	56.01	1,087	43,152	39.70
3. Planters	35,587	2,498,656	70.21	38,250	1,636,201	42.78
TOTAL	**74,013**	**5,781,095**	**78.11**	**72,563**	**3,882,597**	**53.51**

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics, 1998 - 1999

Details	Unit	1998 [1]	1999 [2]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,778,571	3,879,687
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.88	9.62
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	8.49	5.10
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.2	10.4
6. Production of sugar	"	628,588	373,294
(White)	"	(4,346)	(2,386)
(Raw)	"	(624,242)	(370,908)
(Special)	"	-	-
7. Molasses	"	168,518	132,000

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1998 - 1999

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	1998 [1]	1999 [2]
1. Estates	917	793
2. Metayers	2,240	2,357
3. Free planters	2,769	2,672
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,450	1,312
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	17	-
TOTAL	**7,393**	**7,134**

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 1998 - 1999

Variety	1998 [1]		1999 [2]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	395	609	361	650
2. Amarello (air-cured)	44	61	41	61
TOTAL	**439**	**670**	**402**	**710**

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 1998 - 1999

Foodcrops	1998 [1]			1999 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	830	14,612	17.6	640	14,811	23.1
Maize	50	260	5.2	37	190	5.1
Groundnut	186	551	3.0	117	341	2.9
Onion	305	6,727	22.1	315	9,066	28.8
Ginger	27	420	15.6	34	116	3.4
Garlic	19	131	6.9	6	38	6.3
Chillies	225	1,060	4.7	190	795	4.2
Tomato	1,040	10,729	10.3	777	8,037	10.3
Beans and Peas	409	1,896	4.6	296	1,301	4.4
Cabbage	357	6,283	17.6	395	8,206	20.8
Cauliflower	227	4,260	18.8	64	1,274	19.9
Brinjal	178	2,237	12.6	125	1,713	13.7
Creepers	1,883	22,411	11.9	1,762	20,023	11.4
Other vegetables	719	9,236	12.8	859	11,085	12.9
Banana	464	9,343	20.1	380	7,550	19.9
Pineapple	76	1,462	19.2	60	1,014	16.9
TOTAL	**6,995**	**91,618**	**13.1**	**6,057**	**85,560**	**14.1**

Source: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit(AREU) and CSO estimates

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional