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1 ⇨ **AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION – YEAR 1998**

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION - YEAR 1998

1. Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents provisional figures on agricultural and fish production for the year 1998 and revised data for 1997.

2. Sugar cane

The total area harvested under sugar cane in 1998 was 74,028 hectares, which shows an increase of 1,270 hectares (+1.7%) over 1997 (72,758 hectares). For the second successive year, the area under sugar cane registered an increase which is the result of land conversion from tea plantations and the various measures taken to make optimum use of agricultural land.

In spite of the increase in area harvested, inadequate rainfall during the vegetative period of sugar cane caused the total cane produced to remain at almost the same level as that of 1997: 5,781,095 tonnes in 1998 compared to 5,787,070 tonnes in 1997. Thus, the yield per hectare in 1998 dropped to 78.09 from 79.54 in 1997.

On the other hand, the extraction rate for 1998 improved to 10.88 from 10.73 in 1997 and this resulted in a higher production of sugar 628,588 tonnes for 1998 (+1.3%) against 620,589 tonnes in 1997.

3. Tea

The area under tea cultivation continued its decline and reached 688 hectares in 1998 which is 10.3% lower than the preceeding year's figure of 767 hectares. This decrease is mainly due to the fact that tea plots continued to be converted into sugar cane plantations. Production of green tea leaves therefore decreased by 18.1% to 7,393 tonnes in 1998 from 9,026 tonnes in 1997.

Consequently the production of black tea also fell to 1,488 tonnes (-16.7%) in 1998 as against 1,787 tonnes in 1997.

4. Tobacco

The area harvested for tobacco dropped to 434 hectares (-7.1%) in 1998 from 467 hectares in 1997. However, due to a higher yield in 1998, the production of tobacco leaves reached 686 tonnes against 673 tonnes in 1997.

5. Foodcrops

Data on foodcrops for the years 1997 and 1998 have been obtained from the Agricultural Research and Extention unit (AREU)

In 1998, area under foodcrops recorded a slight increase of 1.2%, from 6,913 hectares in 1997 to 6,994 hectares in 1998 but total production of foodcrops decreased by 9.7% from 101,442 tonnes in 1997 to 91,618 tonnes in 1998.

Details on production by type of foodcrops are given in table 6. Substantial increases were observed in the production of onion (+33.6%) due to the introduction of new varieties as well as an increase in the area under cultivation.

The production of maize increased by 12.1% mainly due to increases in yield and in area under cultivation. Higher production was also recorded in ginger, garlic, chillies, cauliflower and brinjal following increase in area under cultivation.

These increases were however offset by substantial drops in the production of crops such as potato (-16.9%), cabbage (-20.4%) and creepers (-12.8%) mainly due to decrease in yield. Other crops which also registered decline in production were groundnut, beans and peas, tomato and other vegetables. These drops were due to decreases in both yield and area under cultivation.

6. Livestock and Poultry

The production of beef from live cattle increased by 10.6% from 2,274 tonnes in 1997 to 2,516 tonnes in 1998. This increase is the result of a 15.3% increase in local production including Rodrigues (from 295 tonnes in 1997 to 340 tonnes in 1998) and a 10.0% increase in the slaughter of imported live animals (from 1,979 tonnes in 1997 to 2,176 tonnes in 1998). The share of local production in the total remained at 13.5%.

Production of goat meat and mutton continued its decline (-7.8%) and reached 118 tonnes in 1998 compared to 128 tonnes in 1997.

Production of pork witnessed a substantial decrease of 20.7%, from 948 tonnes in 1997 to 752 tonnes in 1998.

Poultry production also decreased by 12.1% (18,300 tonnes in 1998 compared to 20,825 tonnes in 1997).

Milk production continued on its downward trend and is estimated at 5.5 million litres in 1998 against 6.0 millon litres in 1997, showing a decrease of 8.3%.

7. Fish

In 1998, a total of 9,835 tonnes of fish were produced which represents a decrease of 2,527 tonnes or 20.4% over 1997 (12,362 tonnes). This decrease was mainly attributable to a decrease of 35.8% in tuna fishing and 16.4% in other frozen fish. The production of frozen fish excluding tuna dropped to 4,652 tonnes in 1998 from 5,566 tonnes in 1997. Production of fresh fish (coastal) for 1998 stood at 2,179 tonnes, about the same level as in 1997.

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Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development
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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1997 - 1998

Crops	1997 [1]		1998 [3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugarcane	72,758	5,787,070	74,028	5,781,095
Tea (Green Leaves)	767 [2]	9,026	688 [2]	7,393
Tobacco	467	673	434	686
Foodcrops	6,913	101,442	6,994	91,618

[1] Revised

[2] Area under cultivation

[3] Provisional

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1997 - 1998

Agro-Industrial Products	Unit	1997 [3]	1998 [4]
Sugar	tonnes	620,589	628,588
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,787	1,488
Beef [1]	"	2,274	2,516
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(295)	(340)
Imported	"	(1,979)	(2,176)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	128	118
Pork [1]	"	948	752
Poultry	"	20,825	18,300
Milk	000 Litres	6,000	5,500
Fish [2]	tonnes	12,362	9,835
Coastal	"	(2,196)	(2,179)
Other	"	(10,166)	(7,656)

[1] Comprises abattoir slaughters only

[2] Fresh weight equivalent

[3] Revised

[4] Provisional

Table 3 (a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics, 1997- 1998

Ownership	1997 [1]			1998 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)
1. Estate	38,783	3,353,793	86.48	37,342	3,221,047	86.26
2. Metayers	1,470	74,548	50.71	1,096	61,393	56.02
3. Planters	32,505	2,358,729	72.57	35,590	2,498,657	70.21
TOTAL	72,758	5,787,070	79.54	74,028	5781095 [3]	78.09

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

[3] Total do not match due to rounding of figures

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics, 1997 - 1998

Details	Unit	1997 [1]	1998 [2]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,786,249	5,778,571
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.73	10.88
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	8.53	8.49
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.32	9.19
6. Production of sugar	"	620,589	628,588
(White)	"	(5,296)	(4,346)
(Raw)	"	(548,218)	(557,669)
(Special)	"	(67,075)	(66,573)
7. Molasses	"	165,802	168,891

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1997 - 1998

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	1997 [1]	1998 [2]
1. Estates	1,059	917
2. Metayers	2,250	2,240
3. Free planters	2,983	2,769
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	2,685	1,450
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	49	17
TOTAL	9,026	7,393

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 1997 - 1998

Variety	1997 [1]		1998 [2]	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	435	613	390	625
2. Amarello (air-cured)	32	60	44	61
TOTAL	467	673	434	686

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops [1]: area harvested and production, 1997 - 1998 [2]

Foodcrops	1997 [3]		1998 [4]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	815	17,584	830	14,612
Maize	46	232	50	260
Groundnut	228	863	186	551
Onion	294	5,036	305	6,727
Ginger	18	317	27	420
Garlic	11	82	18	131
Chillies	161	845	225	1,060
Tomato	1,061	12,226	1,040	10,729
Beans and Peas	482	2,406	409	1,896
Cabbage	331	7,898	357	6,283
Cauliflower	171	3,261	227	4,260
Brinjal	155	2,107	178	2,237
Creepers	1,751	25,693	1,883	22,411
Other vegetables	821	11,776	719	9,236
Banana	491	9,557	464	9,343
Pineapple	77	1,559	76	1,462
Total	6,913	101,442	6,994	91,618

[1] Foodcrops data supplied by Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)

[2] Calendar year

[3] Revised

[4] Provisional