Agricultural and Fish Production -Year 2000

Introduction

This report presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2000, as well as revised figures for year 1999. 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 foodcrops are given at Tables 3 and 6 respectively.

2. Sugar cane

The better climatic conditions that prevailed in 2000 resulted in an increase of 31.6% in the production of cane: 5,109,500 tonnes in 2000 as compared to 3,882,597 tonnes in 1999, which was severely affected by the prolonged drought. This increase in production is mainly explained by higher yield per hectare. Whilst total area harvested increased slightly by 0.8 % from 72,563 hectares in 1999 to 73,147 hectares in 2000, yield per hectare went up by 30.5% from 53.51 tonnes in 1999 to 69.85 tonnes.

The average extraction rate for the 2000 sugar crop also improved from 11.15 % compared to 9.62% in 1999 (+15.9%) yielding 569,289 tonnes of sugar as compared to only 373,294 tonnes in 1999.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, the 2001 sugar crop will most likely attain around 620,000 tonnes.

3. Tea

Following the diversification programme and the conversion of tea plots into sugar cane plantation, the area under tea plantation, which was around 3,000 hectares in 1994, now stands at 670 hectares only. Because of excessive rainfall in certain regions where tea is cultivated, production of green tea leaves for year 2000 was lower by 9.7%: 6,440 tonnes as compared to 7,134 tonnes for 1999.

Production of black tea dropped by 10.9% from 1,473 tonnes in 1999 to 1,313 tonnes in 2000. More details on tea are given at Table 4.

4. Tobacco

Total area harvested for tobacco in 2000 increased by 15.5%: 446 hectares as compared to 386 hectares in 1999. The production of tobacco leaves has remained nearly at the same level of 646 tonnes. However, a shift in the pattern of production has been noted. Whilst the production of "Air-cured" tobacco leaves increased by 64.5% to 102 tonnes in 2000 compared to 62 tonnes in 1999,that of "flue-cured" decreased by 6.4% from 581 tonnes in 1999 to 544 tonnes. The main reason could be the rise in the demand for cheaper brands of cigarettes produced locally following major price increases.

5. Foodcrops.

Statistics on foodcrops are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). These figures are adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Compared to the 1999 production which was adversely affected by prevailing drought conditions, a high increase of 31% was recorded in foodcrop production in 2000. Area harvested registered a rise of 19.1% from 6,059 hectares in 1999 to 7,217 hectares and because of higher yield, production went up by 25,742 tonnes from 86,083 tonnes to 112,825 tonnes. Increases registered in some of vegetables were as follows: Onion (+26%), tomato (+20%), cabbage (+32%), creepers (+37%) and other vegetables (+89%).

6. Livestock

The production of beef from live cattle increased by 4.8% in year 2000 to reach 2,705 tonnes against 2,581 tonnes in 1999: beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle rose by 7.5%, from 2,293 tonnes to 2,465 tonnes, whilst local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) fell by 14.0%, from 279 tonnes in 1999 to 240 tonnes. Local production accounts for only 8.9% of total beef production.

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a 18.4% drop: 102 in 2000 against 125 tonnes in 1999. The share of local production inclusive imports from Rodrigues was 2.6%.

On the other hand, after recording continuous declines during the past four years, from 1,112 tonnes in 1996 to 678 tonnes in 1999, production of pork increased by 31.4% and reached 891 tonnes.

7. Fish

Total fish production dropped by 25.3%, from 10,572 tonnes in 1999 to 7,892 tonnes. Following contraction in the activity of the enterprise engaged in tuna fishing, a severe drop of 33.5 % was recorded: 5,582 tonnes of tuna fish was caught in 2000 compared to 8,397 tonnes in 1999. On the other hand, fresh coastal fish production rose by 6.2%: 2,310 tonnes in 2000 compared to 2,175 tonnes in 1999.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1999 - 2000

Crops	1999		2000 [3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugarcane	72,563	3,882,597	73,147	5,109,500
Tea (green leaves)	671 [2]	7,134	670 [2]	6,440
Tobacco	386 [1]	643 [1]	446	646
Foodcrops	6,057	86,083 [1]	7,217	112,825

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

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1999 - 2000

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1999 [3]	2000 [4]
Sugar	tonnes	373,294	569,289
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,473	1,313
Beef [1]	"	2,581	2,705
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigue	"	(279)	(240)
Imported	"	(2,293)	(2,465)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	125	102
Pork [1]	"	678	891
Poultry	"	20,900	22,000
Milk	000 Litres	5,000	4,000
Fish [2]	tonnes	10,572	7,892
Coastal	"	(2,175)	(2,310)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(8,397)	(5,582)

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

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 1999- 2000

Ownership	1999			2000 [1]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)
1. Estate	33,226	2,203,244	66.31	35,884	2,877,914	80.20
2. Metayers	1,087	43,152	39.70	1,091	55,483	50.86
3. Planters	38,250	1,636,201	42.78	36,172	2,176,103	60.16
TOTAL	**72,563**	**3,882,597**	**53.51**	**73,147**	**5,109,500**	**69.85**

[1] Provisional

Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics, 1999 - 2000

Details	Unit	1999	2000 [1]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	3,879,687	5,105,700
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.62	11.15
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.5	98.5
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	5.10	7.78
5. Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.4	9.0
6. Production of sugar	"	373,294	569,289
- White	"	(2,386)	N.A
- Raw	"	(370,908)	N.A
- Special	"	-	N.A
7. Molasses	"	132,000	146,430

[1] Provisional
N.A : not available

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1999 - 2000

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	1999 [1]	2000 [2]
1. Estates	793	1,015
2. Metayers	2,357	2,143
3. Free planters	2,672	2,171
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,312	1,111
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	-	-
TOTAL	**7,134**	**6,440**

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 1999 - 2000

Variety	1999 [1]		2000 [2]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	345	581	348	544
2. Amarello (air-cured)	41	62	98	102
TOTAL	**386**	**643**	**446**	**646**

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 1999 - 2000

Foodcrops	1999 [1]			2000 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	639	15,322	24.0	615	14,340	23.3
Maize	41	201	4.9	70	612	8.7
Groundnut	117	341	2.9	121	403	3.3
Onion	315	9,066	28.8	334	11,406	34.1
Ginger	34	116	3.4	32	498	15.6
Garlic	6	38	6.3	7	46	6.6
Chillies	190	795	4.2	202	904	4.5
Tomato	777	8,037	10.3	784	9,680	12.3
Beans and Peas	296	1,301	4.4	352	1,709	4.9
Cabbage	395	8,206	20.8	422	10,820	25.6
Cauliflower	64	1,274	19.9	102	2,045	20.0
Brinjal	125	1,713	13.7	160	2,160	13.5
Creepers	1,761	20,023	11.4	2,171	27,372	12.6
Other vegetables	859	11,086	12.9	1,393	20,923	15.0
Banana	380	7,550	19.9	373	6,491	17.4
Pineapple	60	1,014	16.9	79	3,416	43.2
TOTAL	**6,059**	**86,083**	**14.2**	**7,217**	**112,825**	**15.6**

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

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional