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AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION - YEAR 1995

1. Introduction

This issue presents data on agricultural and fish production for the year 1995.

2. Sugar Cane

The declining trend in total acreage under sugar cane continued in 19[illegible] with a further decrease of 982 hectares (-1.3%) which brought the total area harvested to 72,035 hectares. Of this acreage, 2,500 hectares were harvested during the mini-harvest between 24 May and 10 June, 1995.

The 1995 crop, at the vegetative period, was affected by adverse climatic conditions, in particular the passage of cyclone Ingrid. It might be recalled that the 1994 crop was also affected by the adverse effects of cyclone Hollanda which struck Mauritius early in February. In 1995, the production of sugar cane increased by 7.2% to reach 5,159,241 tonnes, including 178,956 tonnes produced during the mini-harvest.

The overall extraction rate increased marginally to 10.46% (normal harvest: 10.55% and mini-harvest: 8.01%) in 1995 from 10.39% in 1994. Sugar production went up to 539,521 tonnes in 1995, 7.9% above the 1994 production figure of 500,209 tonnes. The 1995 production of 539,521 tonnes included 14,334 tonnes produced during the mini-harvest to meet the 1994/95 quota obligations to the European Union.

3. Tea

In 1995, the area under tea cultivation was further reduced by 951 hectares (-31.4%), and stood at 2,077 hectares against 3,028 hectares in the previous year. This sharp decline is mainly due to the fact that the acreage devoted to tea contracted as growers switched to other field crops, particularly sugar cane. As a result, the quantity of green leaves produced declined to 21,419 tonnes (-21.3%) in 1995 as compared to 27,204 tonnes in 1994.

The production of black tea also decreased to 3,785 tonnes (-25.6%) in 1995 against 5,089 tonnes in the preceding year. The average export price of black tea dropped by 14.5% from Rs 20.57 to Rs 17.58 per kg between 1994 and 1995.

4. Tobacco

The total acreage under tobacco in 1995 remained at the preceding year's level, at 691 hectares. Production of tobacco leaves in 1995 was 1,017 tonnes, almost the same as that of previous year (1,025 tonnes).

5. Foodcrops

Area under foodcrops harvested in 1995 increased by 6.8% to attain 6,773 hectares as compared to 6,342 hectares in 1994. Inspite of the negative effects of cyclones in the first quarter of 1995, production of foodcrops picked up in the following months to attain 97,534 tonnes, a 19.7% increase over 1994. It might be recalled that the production of foodcrops in 1994 also suffered from the passage of cyclone Hollanda in February 1994.

Owing to a rise in area harvested and a better yield per hectare, substantial increases were noted in the production (Table 6) of the following foodcrops: cabbage (+57.1%), tomato (+47.1%), banana (+40.3%), chillies (+36.6%), creepers (+26.7%), beans and peas (+25.7%), brinjal (+23.9%), cauliflower (+11.6%) and onion (+10.6%).

On the other hand, the production of the following foodcrops registered a decrease, mainly due to a decline in area harvested: maize (-67.2%) and garlic (-22.9%).

The apparent 11.7% decline in potato production in 1995 (from 17,800 to 15,718 tonnes) is largely explained by the late harvest of 3,657 tonnes from the 1993 crop at the beginning of 1994.

Maize production continued its downward trend and stood at 289 tonnes (-67.2%) in 1995 against 880 tonnes in the previous year.

Improvement in cultural practices pushed the production of ginger up by 20.5% from 516 to 622 tonnes between 1994 and 1995.

The production of other vegetables rose significantly by 33.0% from 6,034 to 8,024 tonnes mainly due to an increase in the area harvested.

Banana production has completely recovered from the adverse effects of cyclone Hollanda in February 1994 and production jumped to 9,437 tonnes (+40.3%) in 1995 from 6,725 tonnes in 1994.

6. Livestock and Poultry

The production of beef dropped by 12% in 1995 to reach 2,296 tonnes against 2,609 tonnes in 1994. This decrease is mainly attributable to a decline of 23.2% in the slaughter of imported live cattle which fell to 1,704 tonnes in 1995 from 2,218 tonnes in 1994. On the other hand, following an increase in the imports of weaners for fattening purposes, beef production from the slaughter of local cattle, including that from Rodrigues, rose significantly by 51.4% from 391 tonnes in 1994 to 592 tonnes in 1995. The share of imports which accounted for 85% of total production in 1994 went down to 74.2% in 1995.

Production of goat meat and mutton was 127 tonnes in 1995, i.e a decrease of 14.2% as compared to the 1994 figure of 148 tonnes. The production of

goat meat was down by 14.6% to 117 tonnes in 1995 from 137 tonnes in 1994. This decrease is mainly the result of a marked reduction of 31.7% (from 82 in 1994 to 56 tonnes in 1995) observed in goat meat from imported live animals. Local production, itself, showed an increase of 10.9% from 55 tonnes in 1994 to 61 tonnes in 1995.

Pork production registered a slight decrease of 1.9% to reach 1,038 tonnes in 1995 from 1,058 tonnes in 1994.

Poultry production went up by 3.4% from 18,850 to 19,500 tonnes between 1994 and 1995.

Milk production continued its downward trend to reach 7.5 million litres in 1995 against 8 million litres in the preceding year.

7. Fisheries

In 1995, total fish production was down by 8.1% and reached 16,023 tonnes against 17,426 tonnes in the previous year. Compared to 1994, the production of both fresh fish (coastal) and tuna fish decreased to 2,393 tonnes (-8.4%) and 6,692 tonnes (-16.0%) respectively whilst that of frozen fish from banks, excluding tuna, remained almost unchanged at 6,768 tonnes.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1994 - 1995

Crops	1994[1/]		1995[3/]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Sugarcane	74,017	4,813,454	72,035	5,159,241
2. Tea (Green Leaves)	3,028[2/]	27,204	2,077[2/]	119
3. Tobacco	696	1,025	691	1,01,
4. Foodcrops	6,342	81,466	6,773	97,534

1/ Revised
2/ Area under cultivation
3/ Provisional

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1994 - 1995

Agro-Industrial Products	Unit	1994[3/]	1995[4/]
1. Sugar	Tonnes	500,209	539,521
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	5,089	3,785
3. Beef [1/]	"	2,609	2,296
Local including Rodrigues	"	(391)	(592)
Imported	"	(2,218)	(1,704)
4. Goat meat and mutton [1/]	"	148	127
5. Pork [1/]	"	1,058	1,038
6. Poultry	"	18,850	19,500
7. Milk	000 Litres	8,000	7,500
8. Fish [2/]	Tonnes	17,426	16,023
Coastal	"	(2,613)	(2,393)
Other	"	(14,813)	(13,630)

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

Table 3 (a) - Sugar Industry - Field Statistics, 1994 - 1995

Ownership	1994[1/]			1995[2/]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield tonnes/ hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)
1. Estate	38,356	2,865,993	74.72	36,337	2,899,840	79.80
2. Metayers	1,452	53,713	36.99	1,218	53,110	60
3. Planters[3/]	33,209	1,893,748	57.02	34,480	2,206,291	63.9
TOTAL	73,017	4,813,454	65.92	72,035	5,159,241	71.62

1/ **Revised**
2/ **Provisional**
3/ **Includes area harvested by Ex-Mount S.E as from 1995**

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry - Factory Statistics, 1994 - 1995

Details	Unit	1994[1/]	1995[2/]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	Tonnes	4,812,879	5,158,133
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)		10.39	10.46
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	6.85	7.49
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.62	9.56
6. Production of sugar	"	500,209	539,521
(White)	"	(39,691)	(6,510)
(Raw)	"	(398,191)	(469,298)
(Special)	"	(62,327)	(63,713)
7. Molasses	"	144,510	145,935

1/ **Revised**
2/ **Provisional**

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1994 - 1995

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	1994[1/]	1995[2/]
1. Estates	1,618	1,667
2. Metayers	1,393	1,389
3. Free planters	2,877	3,166
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	21,159	15,108
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	157	89
TOTAL	27,204	21,419

1/ Revised
2/ Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 1994 - 1995

Variety	1994[1/]		1995[2/]	
	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area Harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	649	940	638	911
2. Amarello (air-cured)	47	85	53	106
TOTAL	696	1,025	691	1,017

1/ Revised
2/ Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested and production, 1994 - 1995[1/]

Foodcrops	1994[2/]		1995[3/]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	1,013	17,800	792	15,718
Maize	236	880	76	289
Groundnut	282	1,181	273	1,049
Onion	307	5,403	324	5,974
Ginger	33	516	30	622
Garlic	36	275	27	212
Chillies	176	667	208	911
Tomato	864	9,166	1,078	13,486
Beans and Peas	304	1,301	342	1,636
Cabbage	210	4,372	311	6,868
Cauliflower	107	2,048	116	2,285
Brinjal	138	1,579	156	1,956
Creepers	1,601	19,632	1,813	24,868
Other vegetables	451	6,034	611	8,024
Banana	437	6,725	456	9,437
Pineapple	147	3,887	160	4,199
Total foodcrops	**6,342**	**81,466**	**6,773**	**97,534**

1/ Calendar year
2/ Revised
3/ Provisional