Library

MAURITIUS

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
PORT LOUIS-MAURITIUS

Economic Indicators

An Occasional Paper

9 May, 1997

Issue No 248

1. Agricultural and Fish Production - Year 1996

2. Road Transport and Road Traffic Accident Statistics Year 1996

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION - YEAR 1996

1. Introduction

This issue presents data on agricultural and fish production for 1996 on a semester as well as annual basis.

2. Sugar Cane

The decrease in total acreage under sugar cane noted in the preceding years continued in 1996 when a further reduction of 185 hectares was registered, which brought total area harvested to 71,825 hectares. It is worthwhile to point out that the decline of 185 hectares recorded in 1996 was much less than the figures for the three preceding years (i.e. 1993, 1994 and 1995) which were 1,046, 1,014 and 1,007 hectares respectively.

Climatic conditions during the vegetative period were unfavourable and cane growth was affected to some extent by cyclone Edwige in February 1996. It may be recalled that the 1995 crop was also affected at the vegetative period by adverse climatic conditions, in particular the passage of tropical cyclone Ingrid in February 1995. Production of sugar cane, in 1996, was 5,260,138 tonnes which represents an increase of 2.0% as compared to 5,159,244 tonnes in 1995. The figure for 1995 includes 178,956 tonnes produced during the mini-harvest.

Favourable climatic conditions which prevailed during the period of maturation led to a higher extraction rate of 11.19% against 10.46% in 1995. The production of sugar was 588,455 tonnes, representing an increase of 9.1% over the 1995 figure of 539,521 tonnes. It is important to note that the 1995 production included 14,334 tonnes produced during the mini-harvest in order to meet the 1994/95 quota obligations to the European Union.

3. Tea

The area under tea cultivation decreased continuously since 1994 and reached 1,109 hectares in 1996; a reduction of 968 hectares or 46.6% below the previous year's level of 2,077 hectares. This significant decrease is largely due to the fact that many tea plots have been cleared for sugar cane. Consequently, production of green leaves went down to 13,209 tonnes in 1996, which implies a decrease of 38.3% as compared to 21,419 tonnes in 1995.

As a result, the production of black tea fell to 2,497 tonnes in 1996, indicating a decline of 1,288 tonnes or 34.0% below the previous year's production of 3,785 tonnes.

4. Tobacco

In 1996, the area harvested under tobacco was 649 hectares or 3.6% less than that of 1995 (673 hectares). The reduction in area harvested together with a fall of 10.6% recorded in the yield per hectare largely because of unfavourable climatic conditions reduced production of tobacco leaves to 878 tonnes in 1996, i.e.13.6% less than the 1,016 tonnes produced in 1995.

5. Foodcrops

The area harvested for some foodcrops was on the rise whilst decreases were noted for others. However, the net result was a decrease of 3.9% from 6,769 hectares in 1995 to 6,504 hectares in 1996. Foodcrops production fell by 8.1% to 89,629 tonnes in 1996 from 97,533 tonnes in 1995.

Significant decreases were reported in the production (Table 6) of the following foodcrops mainly as a result of a reduction in area harvested: potato (-32.3%), pine-apple (-29.2%), groundnut (-26.9%) and creepers (-11.2%).

On the other hand, the production of the following foodcrops recorded sharp increases mainly on account of a rise in area harvested: cauliflower (+49.9%); brinjal (+25.7%), ginger (+26.0%), beans and peas (+ 14.7%), other vegetables (+12.0%), cabbage (+10.6%) and garlic (+10.8%).

Potato production decreased by 32.3% from 15,718 tonnes in calendar year 1995 to 10,639 tonnes in 1996, resulting mainly from a decline in the acreage harvested from 792 hectares in the preceding year to 543 hectares. On a crop year basis (April - March), the 1996 crop stood at 11,154 tonnes vis-à-vis 14,606 tonnes in 1995.

The production of chillies went up by 13.5% from 911 tonnes to 1,034 tonnes between 1995 and 1996. This increase is due to a rise in yield per hectare.

An increase of 20.0% in area harvested coupled, with a rise of 25.6% in yield per hectare pushed up the production of maize to 438 from 289 tonnes in 1995, an increase of 51.6%.

Tomato production fell by 19.3% to reach 10,877 tonnes in 1996 against 13,486 tonnes in 1995. This decline in production is attributable to a lower acreage harvested (997 hectares as compared to 1,078 hectares in 1995) and also to a drop in the yield per hectare (10.9 tonnes compared to 12.5 tonnes in 1995).

In spite of an expansion of 11.4% noted in area harvested, production of banana inched down 0.5% to 9,387 tonnes in 1996 from 9,437 tonnes in the previous year mainly on account of a fall of 10.6% in yield per hectare caused by a disease known as "Black Sigatoka".

6. Livestock and Poultry

Beef production from live cattle inched up 1.1% from 2,296 tonnes in 1995 to 2,321 tonnes in 1996. This increase is the direct consequence of a marginal rise of 1.5% in imports of cattle for slaughter (1,730 tonnes against 1,704 tonnes in 1995). Production from local (including Rodrigues) sources remained more or less at previous year's level at 591 tonnes. The share of imports in total production which was 74.2% in 1995 remained almost the same in 1996 (74.5%).

Production of goat meat and mutton was 140 tonnes in 1996, representing an increase of 10.2% over the 1995 figure of 127 tonnes. Production of mutton remained unchanged at 10 tonnes in 1996. As regards goat meat, an increase of 11.1% was recorded in production (130 tonnes against 117 tonnes in 1995). This increase is the net result of a rise of 48.2% (83 tonnes compared to 56 tonnes in 1995) registered in goat meat from imported animals and a decline of 23.0% in local production (47 tonnes against 61 tonnes in 1995).

Pork production was 7.1% higher; 1,112 tonnes were produced in 1996 compared to 1,038 tonnes in 1995.

Poultry production continued its upward trend attaining 20,550 tonnes in 1996 i.e. 6.3% over the 1995 figure of 19,325 tonnes.

Milk production continued its downward trend to reach 6.6 million litres in 1996 compared to 7.5 million litres in the preceding year, which represents a decrease of 12.0%.

7. **Fish**

As in the two preceding years, total fish production continued its declining trend in 1996 when a further decrease of 27.5% (from 15,181 tonnes in 1995 to 11,010 tonnes in 1996) was noted. The overall decline resulted mainly from a substantial 54.4% drop (from 6,179 tonnes to 2,815 tonnes in 1996) recorded in tuna fishing coupled with a decrease of 15.1% (from 6,439 tonnes to 5,465 tonnes) in the production of frozen fish, excluding tuna, from banks. The decrease of 54.4% noted in tuna fishing is attributable to decreased number of trips. Conversely, the production of fresh fish (coastal) surpassed the 1995 production of 2,393 tonnes by 7.2% to attain 2,566 tonnes in 1996.

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Planning, Information and Telecommunications,
Port Louis.

April, 1997

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1995 - 1996

Crops	1995 [1]						1996 [3]					
	January-June		July-December		Year		January-June		July-December		Year	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Sugar cane	3,148	218,130	68,862	4,941,114	72,010	5,159,244	1,509	108,344	70,316	5,151,794	71,825	5,260,138
2. Tea (Green leaves)	2,900 [2]	13,893	2,077 [2]	7,526	2,077 [2]	21,419	1,239 [2]	8,996	1,109 [2]	4,213	1,109 [2]	13,209
3. Tobacco	275	305	398	711	673	1,016	281	336	368	542	649	878
4. Foodcrops	2,566	32,618	4,203	64,915	6,769	97,533	2,612	32,788	3,892	56,841	6,504	89,629

[1] Revised

[2] Area under cultivation as at end of period

[3] Provisional

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1995-1996

Agro-Industrial Products	Unit	1995 [3]			1996 [4]		
		January-June	July-December	Year	January-June	July-December	Year
1. Sugar	Tonnes	17,564	521,957	539,521	10,543	577,912	588,455
2. Tea (manufactured)	"	2,415	1,370	3,785	1,658	839	2,497
3. Beef [1]	"	1,023	1,273	2,296	1,090	1,231	2,321
Local including Rodrigues	"	(266)	(326)	(592)	(224)	(367)	(591)
Imported	"	(757)	(947)	(1,704)	(866)	(864)	(1,730)
4. Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	67	60	127	65	75	140
5. Pork [1]	"	488	550	1,038	539	573	1,112
6. Poultry	"	N.A	N.A	19,325	N.A	N.A	20,550
7. Milk	000 Litres	N.A	N.A	7,500	N.A	N.A	6,600
8. Fish [2]	Tonnes	7,981	7,200	15,181	4,848	6,162	11,010
Coastal	"	(1,315)	(1,078)	(2,393)	(1,289)	(1,277)	(2,566)
Other	"	(6,666)	(6,122)	(12,788)	(3,559)	(4,885)	(8,444)

[1] Comprises abattoir slaughters only
[2] Fresh weight equivalent
[3] Revised
[4] Provisional
N.A : Not available

Table 3(a) - Sugar Industry : Field Statistics, 1995 - 1996

Ownership	1995 [1]			1996 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane Produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes/ hectare)
1. Estate	36,362	2,899,758	79.75	36,395	2,988,430	82.11
2. Metayers	1,231	53,114	43.15	1,479	69,989	47.32
3. Planters	34,416	2,206,371	64.11	33,951	2,201,720	64.85
Total	**72,009**	**5,159,243**	**71.65**	**71,825**	**5,260,139**	**73.24**

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 3(b) - Sugar Industry : Factory Statistics, 1995 - 1996

Details	Unit	1995 [1]			1996 [2]		
		January-June	July-December	Year	January-June	July-December	Year
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	Tonnes	218,130	4,940,003	5,158,133	108,344	5,150,628	5,258,972
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	8.05	10.57	10.46	9.73	11.22	11.19
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.78	98.78	98.78	98.78	98.78	98.78
4. Average yield of sugar	Tonnes/hectare	5.58	7.58	7.49	6.99	8.22	8.19
5. Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	Tonnes	12.42	9.46	9.56	10.28	8.91	8.94
6. Production of sugar	"	17,564	521,957	539,521	10,543	577,912	588,455
(White)	"	N.A	N.A	(6,510)	N.A	N.A	(7,359)
(Raw)	"	N.A	N.A	(469,298)	N.A	N.A	(518,674)
(Special)	"	N.A	N.A	(63,713)	N.A	N.A	(62,422)
7. Molasses	"	6,360	144,040	150,400	3,835	148,505	152,340

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer, 1995 - 1996

Type of Producer	1995 [1]			1996 [2]		
	January-June	July-December	Year	January-June	July-December	Year
1. Estates	819	848	1,667	783	649	1,432
2. Metayers	796	593	1,389	867	784	1,651
3. Free planters	1,768	1,398	3,166	1,693	930	2,623
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	10,453	4,655	15,108	5,614	1,824	7,438
5. Other (including T.D.A.)	57	32	89	39	26	65
Total	**13,893**	**7,526**	**21,419**	**8,996**	**4,213**	**13,209**

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco : Area harvested and production of leaf, 1995 - 1996

Variety	1995 [1]						1996 [2]					
	January-June		July-December		Year		January-June		July-December		Year	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	275	305	344	606	619	911	280	335	315	458	595	793
2. Amarello (air-cured)	-	-	54	105	54	105	1	1	53	84	54	85
Total	**275**	**305**	**398**	**711**	**673**	**1,016**	**281**	**336**	**368**	**542**	**649**	**878**

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested and production [1], 1995 - 1996

Foodcrops	1995 [2]						1996 [3]					
	January-June		July-December		Year		January-June		July-December		Year	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	112	1,163	680	14,555	792	15,718	4	51	539	10,588	543	10,639
Maize	45	171	30	118	75	289	35	177	55	261	90	438
Groundnut	132	506	141	543	273	1,049	83	283	134	484	217	767
Onion	8	101	316	5,873	324	5,974	26	268	315	5,799	341	6,067
Ginger	10	226	20	396	30	622	3	68	37	716	40	784
Garlic	1	6	26	206	27	212	1	10	29	225	30	235
Chillies	74	289	134	622	208	911	87	436	115	598	202	1,034
Tomato	457	5,080	621	8,406	1,078	13,486	484	5,005	513	5,872	997	10,877
Beans and Peas	116	504	226	1,131	342	1,635	167	780	235	1,096	402	1,876
Cabbage	107	1,903	204	4,965	311	6,868	160	2,939	180	4,656	340	7,595
Cauliflower	31	676	85	1,609	116	2,285	41	772	136	2,653	177	3,425
Brinjal	61	644	95	1,312	156	1,956	79	1,133	103	1,325	182	2,458
Creepers	834	10,933	977	13,935	1,811	24,868	825	10,627	830	11,461	1,655	22,088
Other vegetables	247	2,728	363	5,296	610	8,024	308	3,877	367	5,109	675	8,986
Banana	230	4,932	226	4,505	456	9,437	255	4,824	253	4,563	508	9,387
Pineapple	101	2,756	59	1,443	160	4,199	54	1,538	51	1,435	105	2,973
Total	**2,566**	**32,618**	**4,203**	**64,915**	**6,769**	**97,533**	**2,612**	**32,788**	**3,892**	**56,841**	**6,504**	**89,629**

[1] Calendar year
[2] Revised
[3] Provisional