# AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

## Year 2005

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# AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

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### Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2005, as well as revised figures for year 2004. 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 food crops are given in Tables 3 and 6 respectively.

It is to be noted that the production of sugar cane, tea, food crops and tobacco was affected by the abnormal climatic conditions, more particularly the passage of cyclone Hennie in March 2005.

### 2. Sugar cane

The production of sugar cane fell from 5,280,370 tonnes in 2004 to 4,984,003 tonnes in 2005 (-5.6%). This was the result of unfavourable weather conditions coupled with a drop of 1.2% in area harvested, from 69,698 to 68,333 hectares. The yield per hectare followed a downward trend as well. It dropped by 4.4% from 75.76 tonnes in 2004 to 72.41 tonnes in 2005.

The average extraction rate was 10.44% as compared to 10.85% in 2004, representing a decline of 3.8%. The decrease in production of cane, coupled with a lower extraction rate, has led to a short fall of 9.2% in the production of sugar: from 572,316 tonnes in 2004 to 519,816 tonnes in 2005.

### 3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2005 was 670 hectares, representing a slight drop of 0.6% over the figure of 674 hectares in 2004. The production of green tea leaves fell by 6.0%: 6,798 tonnes as compared to 7,229 tonnes in 2004.

Production of black tea edged down by 6.4% from 1,482 tonnes in 2004 to 1,387 tonnes in 2005. Further details on tea are given in Table 4.

### 4. Tobacco

An area of 348 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2005, which is 8.7% lower than the 381 hectares harvested in 2004. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves dropped by 16.4% from 427 tonnes to 357 tonnes in 2005.

## 5. Food crops

Data on food crops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Area under food crops harvested registered a fall of 7.7% from 7,553 hectares in 2004 to 6,971 hectares in 2005, while production of food crops decreased by 10.7% from 111,633 tonnes to 99,738 tonnes.

## 6. Livestock

The production of beef from live cattle decreased by 2.4% in 2005, going down to 2,397 tonnes from 2,456 tonnes in 2004. The quantum of beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle remained almost the same whilst local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) fell by 46.7%, from 137 tonnes to 73 tonnes. Local production of beef accounted for 3.0% of the total.

The production of goat meat and mutton moved up by 3.7% from 107 tonnes in 2004 to 111 tonnes in 2005. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 23.7%.

Production of pork decreased by 4.6% from 743 tonnes in 2004 to 709 tonnes in 2005.

## 7. Poultry

The production of poultry went up by 1.9% in 2005 to reach 31,500 tonnes.

## 8. Fish

In 2005, fish production fell by 4.8% from 9,430 tonnes in 2004 to 8,982 tonnes. Fresh coastal fish catch and other catch (tuna, bank, etc) went down by 4.8% and 4.7% respectively.

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**Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2004 - 2005**

| Crops | 2004 [1] | | 2005 [2] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) |
| Sugar cane | 69,698 | 5,280,370 | 68,833 | 4,984,003 |
| Tea (green leaves) | 674 [3] | 7,229 | 670 [3] | 6,798 |
| Tobacco [4] | 381 | 427 | 348 | 357 |
| Food crops | 7,553 | 111,633 | 6,971 | 99,738 |

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

[3] Area under cultivation

[4] Crop year (March - April)

**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2004 - 2005**

| Agro-industrial products | Unit | 2004 [1] | 2005 [2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sugar | tonnes | 572,316 | 519,816 |
| Tea (manufactured) | " | 1,482 | 1,387 |
| Beef [3] | " | 2,456 | 2,397 |
| Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues) | " | (137) | (73) |
| Imported | " | (2,319) | (2,324) |
| Goat meat and mutton [3] | " | 107 | 111 |
| Pork [3] | " | 743 | 709 |
| Poultry | " | 30,900 | 31,500 |
| Milk | 000 Litres | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Fish [4] | tonnes | 9,430 | 8,982 |
| Coastal | " | (1,993) | (1,897) |
| Other (tuna,bank,etc) | " | (7,437) | (7,085) |

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

[3] Comprises abattoir slaughters only

[4] Fresh weight equivalent

**Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2004 - 2005**

| Ownership | 2004 | | | 2005 [1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Area harvested (hectares) | Cane produced (tonnes) | Yield (tonnes per hectares) | Area harvested (hectares) | Cane produced (tonnes) | Yield (tonnes per hectare) |
| Estate | 28,022 | 2,350,322 | 83.87 | 28,937 | 2,393,984 | 82.73 |
| Metayers | 1,013 | 48,540 | 47.92 | 1,039 | 49,642 | 47.78 |
| Planters | 40,664 | 2,881,507 | 70.86 | 38,857 | 2,540,376 | 65.38 |
| **TOTAL** | **69,698** | **5,280,370** | **75.76** | **68,833** | **4,984,003** | **72.41** |

[1] Provisional

Note: Total may not add due to independent rounding.

**Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2004 - 2005**

| Details | Unit | 2004 | 2005 [1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tonnage of canes crushed | tonnes | 5,277,137 | 4,980,713 |
| Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered as a % of cane) | % | 10.85 | 10.44 |
| Average polarisation | degrees | 98.5 | 98.5 |
| Average yield of sugar | tonnes per hectare | 8.21 | 7.60 |
| Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar | tonnes | 9.22 | 9.58 |
| Production of sugar | " | 572,316 | 519,816 |
| - *White* | " | *N.A* | *N.A* |
| - *Raw* | " | *572,316* | *519,816* |
| - *Special* | " | *N.A* | *N.A* |
| Production of molasses | " | 155,763 | 145,875 |

[1] Provisional

**Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2004 - 2005**

**(Tonnes)**

| Type of Producer | 2004 | 2005 [1] |
|---|---|---|
| Estates | 1,426 | 1,393 |
| Metayers | 2,228 | 2,061 |
| Free planters | 2,268 | 2,144 |
| Planters in Co-operatives Societies | 1,307 | 1,200 |
| **TOTAL** | **7,229** | **6,798** |

[1] Provisional

**Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2004 - 2005**

| Variety | 2004 [1] | | 2005 [2] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) |
| Virginia (flue-cured) | 353 | 360 | 325 | 331 |
| Amarello (air-cured) | 28 | 67 | 23 | 26 |
| **TOTAL** | **381** | **427** | **348** | **357** |

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

**Table 6 - Food crops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2004 - 2005**

| Food crops | 2004 [1] | | | 2005 [2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) | Yield per hectare(tonne) | Area harvested (hectares) | Production (tonnes) | Yield per hectare(tonne) |
| Potato | 607 | 11,246 | 18.5 | 599 | 16,302 | 27.2 |
| Maize | 57 | 369 | 6.5 | 63 | 467 | 7.4 |
| Groundnut | 212 | 610 | 2.9 | 137 | 231 | 1.7 |
| Onion | 181 | 4,682 | 25.9 | 253 | 5,659 | 22.4 |
| Ginger | 38 | 791 | 20.8 | 54 | 1,011 | 18.7 |
| Garlic | 8 | 76 | 9.5 | 12 | 92 | 7.7 |
| Chillies | 220 | 1,322 | 6.0 | 223 | 1,156 | 5.2 |
| Tomato | 953 | 14,400 | 15.1 | 900 | 12,491 | 13.9 |
| Beans and Peas | 403 | 2,138 | 5.3 | 372 | 1,589 | 4.3 |
| Cabbage | 287 | 6,522 | 22.7 | 219 | 4,711 | 21.5 |
| Cauliflower | 115 | 2,852 | 24.8 | 81 | 1,893 | 23.4 |
| Brinjal | 202 | 2,819 | 14.0 | 173 | 2,070 | 12.0 |
| Creepers | 2,508 | 32,424 | 12.9 | 2,185 | 23,999 | 11.0 |
| Other vegetables | 1,097 | 14,892 | 13.6 | 927 | 11,421 | 12.3 |
| Banana | 528 | 12,000 | 22.7 | 635 | 11,558 | 18.2 |
| Pineapple | 137 | 4,490 | 32.8 | 138 | 5,088 | 36.9 |
| **TOTAL** | **7,553** | **111,633** | **14.8** | **6,971** | **99,738** | **14.3** |

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

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