

## **Non-Sugar Agricultural Sector**

# **The Ministry of Agro Industry will implement the Strategic Plan**

Following the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the Non-Sugar Agricultural Sector in August 2007, the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries, in partnership with all the stakeholders of the sector, is working on the implementation of the Action Plan.

The global objective of this ambitious plan is to lessen our dependency on food importation, and boost our local food production. In this regard, a committee has been setup, under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, to see the proper implementation of the Action Plan.

2008 is also the Year of the Potato, and Government is leaving no stone unturned to boost its production locally. Moreover, this year will also witness the second edition of the Agri-Business Forum.

In November 2007, the Ministry in consultation with the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) agreed to liberalize the price of high yielding onion varieties, increase the floor price of local high yielding onion varieties purchased by AMB to Rs 17,000/tonne, liberalize the import as from January 2009. This is to reverse the alarming trend of decreasing local onion production during the past years. With liberalization, planters will be able to sell their local production at a more competitive price. Concerning the availability of onion seeds, the AMB has already confirmed an order for 650kg of high yielding onion seeds.

The AMB has already confirmed an order for 1545 tonnes of imported seeds for ware production. With a stock of 530 tonnes local seed potatoes, the amount of seed potatoes put in earth for the coming campaign 2008 will be around 1950 tonnes (compared to 1739 tonnes in 2007). Moreover, there is also the possibility of liberalization of import of seed potatoes in the forthcoming Campaign 2009.

As regards the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM), one key partner in the implementation of the Action Plan, operators who propose to invest in Agri Business and Agro Industry can benefit from loans up to a maximum of 80% of the project cost with interest rate at 14% p.a. Start-ups and Entrepreneurs who are engaged in value addition activities in Agriculture and Agro Industry are eligible to obtain Quasi Equity Financing up to a maximum of Rs 400,000 on flexible conditions without having to provide collateral security.

## **IMPORTS**

### **Potatoes**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>QTY IMPORTED (Tons)</b>	<b>TOTAL INVOICE VALUE</b>
2004	6724	97 Millions
2005	6243	82 Millions
2006	5386	81 Millions
2007	4022	62 Millions

### **Onions**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>QTY IMPORTED (Tons)</b>	<b>TOTAL INVOICE VALUE</b>
2004	11147	125 Millions
2005	10996	114 Millions
2006	11797	125 Millions
2007	11510	212 Millions

### **Seed Potatoes**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>QTY IMPORTED (Tons)</b>	<b>TOTAL INVOICE VALUE</b>
2004	732	18 Millions
2005	834	22 Millions

2006	963	25 Millions
2007	1178	35 Millions

## LOCAL PRODUCTION

YEAR	POTATOES	ONIONS
	QTY PRODUCED (Tons)	QTY PRODUCED (Tons)
2005	12,777	5,637
2006	14,522	4,549
2007	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE

Source: CSO

## YEAR 2008

### PLAN TO IMPORT

Onions	-	10,000 Tons
Table Potatoes	-	4,000 Tons
Seed for Ware	-	1,545 Tons
Seed for Seed	-	150 Tons

### COSTS PRICE

Onions	-	Around Rs 24,000/ton
Seed Potatoes (Ware)	-	Rs 37,500/ton
Seed Potatoes (Seed)	-	Rs 45,000/ton
Seed Potatoes (Local Seed)	-	Rs 42,400/ton

## SEED POTATOES

2005	2006	2007
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### **For Ware Production**

Qty Sold	Loc	992	775	711
	Imported	411	825	1028
	Total	1403	1600	1739
Price	Selling Price	31,000	31,000	33,500
Floor Price for Ware Potatoes		13,650	14,080	15,300
<b>For Seed Production</b>				
Qty Sold	Loc	167	127	173
	Imported	367	194	67
	Total	534	321	240
Local Seeds Produced for		1309	1087	533
Price	Selling Price	27,000	27,000	33,500
Producer Price (For Local Seeds)		19,215	20,200	24,725