

30th March, 2018

1. FOREWORD

I have the pleasure to present the fourth Annual Report of the National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office, (NAPRO), a division within the Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security. The office took over the regulatory functions of:

- (i) the Mauritius Meat Authority
- (ii) the Tea Board, and
- (iii) the Tobacco Board,

and started to operate on the 29th November 2013 with some of the redeployed staff of the ex-Tea Board and the ex-Tobacco Board. The merging of the regulatory functions formed part of the restructuring programme whereby the Ministry would perform regulatory functions and its parastatals other operations.

During year 2017, this office considered 1,882 applications and delivered 1,407 licences and 475 clearances. These activities also generated revenues which amounted to about Rs 43 million compared to Rs 34.7 Million in 2016. All money received were credited to the Consolidated Fund.

R. Jalloo
Officer in Charge

Réduit

Tel: 467 8041; 467 8046; 467 8057

Fax: 467 8043

Email: napro@govmu.org
napromru@gmail.com

2. OVERVIEW

The National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office Act 2013, under which this office, (NAPRO), has been set-up was proclaimed on the 26th November 2013, Proclamation No. 52 of 2013. The office operates as a division within the Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security and ensures that regulated products imported, exported and produced in the country are in conformity with the Act.

2.1 Vision

To regulate the activities related to national products effectively, efficiently and economically.

2.2 Mission

- To license stakeholders for production, availability and disposability of regulated agricultural products
- To ensure that stakeholders of a regulated agricultural product obtain a fair share of the proceeds
- To ensure satisfaction of consumers of regulated agricultural products

2.3 Values

- Customer focus
- Creativity
- Team work
- Integrity

2.4 Mandate

Its mandate, as laid out at Section 4 (2) of the NAPRO Act includes the following:

- To control and regulate the import, export, production and sale of regulated products;
- To control and regulate the preparation, processing, packing and manufacturing of regulated products;
- To regulate the activities and premises in connection with the slaughtering of animals;
- To determine the prices at which tea / tobacco leaves may be sold to a producer of tea / tobacco products.

Section 8 of the NAPRO Act stipulates that no person shall, without a licence:

- (a) operate as a cultivator

- (b) operate as a producer
- (c) kill an animal to obtain meat for sale except on the occasion of a religious ceremony listed under the second schedule.
- (d) construct, operate or maintain a slaughterhouse
- (e) sell, prepare, prepack, process or store meat or meat products
- (f) construct, operate or maintain a place for the preparation, prepacking, processing, storage or sale of meat or meat products
- (g) sell, supply raw hides or skins to tanneries
- (h) operate as a venison dealer or retailer
- (i) sell game venison during the close season

Regulated agricultural products listed under the First Schedule of the Act are:

- (i) Meat and meat products;
- (ii) Tea and tea products;
- (iii)** Tobacco and tobacco products.

NAPRO has therefore been conferred with the powers to licence:

- (a) Meat shop operators
- (b) Meat processors
- (c) Slaughterhouse Operators
- (d) Importers of meat & meat products
- (e) Storage of meat & meat products
- (f) Tannery operators
- (g) Venison dealers & retailers
- (h) Tea cultivators, manufacturers, importers & exporters
- (i) Tobacco cultivators, manufacturers, importers & exporters

3. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING ISSUES

The organisation structure with the specific grades has not yet been fully established. Nonetheless operations are being performed by officers redeployed from the former Tea Board and Tobacco Board. The office is being directed by an Officer in Charge who is under the administrative control of the Supervising Officer of the Ministry.

The Officers & their specific grades are listed below:

Name	Grades
Mr H. Ramahotar	Officer-in-Charge
Mr R. Jalloo	Senior Technical Officer
Mrs M. D Nunkoo	Technical Officer
Mr D. Jharia	Ex.OMA, Tea Board
Ms. J. Nunkoo	Confidential Secretary
Mrs K. Bungaleea	Ex.MSO, Tea Board
Mrs Marie Daniele Thompson	General Development Worker
Naness Sing Daharee	Ex.Office Attendant/Driver, Tea Board

Mr. H. Ramahotar retired from service on 24th November 2017 and Mr. R. Jalloo acted as Officer-in-Charge as from that date.

Miss N. Ibrahim joined the office under the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) as from 13th December until 30th June, 2017.

Miss Y. Murden joined the office under the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) as from 13 December 2016 until 12th December 2017.

4. REVIEW

4.1 Tobacco & Tobacco Products

4.1.1 Registration of Cultivators

No cultivator was registered for the production of leaf tobacco.

4.1.2 Import of Tobacco Products

Tobacco products are imported for the sale on the domestic market and duty free outlets, and by incoming passengers for own consumption. So as to minimise dwell time, NAPRO authorised, upon application, the transfer of cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos consignments from the port area to bonded warehouses. Inspections are carried out in the bonded warehouse prior to authorising delivery. The number of clearances and quantity authorised compared to the previous year are presented in the table below:

Product	No. of Clearances		Quantity	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Cigarettes	223	217	1,149 Mn units	1,106 Mn units
Cigarillos	15	32	454,450 units	744,035 units
Cigars	16	42	372 kg	1,064 Kg
Chewing Tobacco	26	21	3,265 kg	2,517 Kg
Smoking Tobacco	2	5	741 kg	152 Kg

An increase of 4% was noted for the import of cigarettes during 2017 compared to 2016. However, quantity of cigarillos imported decreased by 39% compared to last year. Import of smoking tobacco increased by 48%.

4.1.3 Importers of tobacco products

The following 14 importers were registered with this office:

Flemingo Distribution Ltd
 Flemingo Duty Free Mauritius Ltd
 Flemingo MSCL Duty Free
 Grays INC Ltd
 Indigo Marketing Company Ltd
 IOI Tobacco Traders Ltd
 Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Ltd
 Scott & Company Ltd
 TNS Tobacco Company Ltd

Hajee Ahmed Darvesh
New Seasons Overseas Ltd
Ameenah Ebrahim
Miskeen's Ltd
New Scale Co Ltd

4.1.4 Destruction of tobacco products

At the request of importers and/or the Mauritius Revenue Authority, Officers of the Division inspected consignments listed for destruction and authorised the destruction of 661,420 cigarettes. A Customs Officer, the importer concerned, and an Officer of NAPRO were present at the time and place of ploughing-in or incineration.

4.2 Tea & Tea Products

4.2.1 Registration of Cultivators

During contractual tea year 2016-17, (1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017), 875 cultivators and 323 métayers were registered with this office. 296 formed part of the 6 Cooperative Societies, 11 in an Association and the rest were registered as free planters as shown hereunder. Together, they produced 6,873 Tonnes of green leaves which were delivered to the 3 factories. 622 Hectares were under tea cultivation during the period under review.

The number of cultivators and métayers for the crop 2016-2017 were as follows:

	Number of cultivators
Cooperative Societies	
Amarnath	45
Bois Cheri	96
Caledonia	50
Grand Bois	63
La Flora	5
Nouvelle France	37
Sub-Total	296
Association	
Midlands Dam	11
Metayers	
Societe de Plantation de Bois Chéri	281
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	42
Sub-Total	323
Free Cultivators	
Société de Plantation de Bois Chéri	0
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	273
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co Ltd	142
Other free cultivators	146
Sub-Total	561
Estates	7
TOTAL	1198

Tea plantations are located in the following regions:

Region	Area (Ha)
Curepipe	11
Forest Side	5
Nouvelle France	34
Union Park	4
La Flora	42
Grand Bois	80
Bois Chéri	246
Total	622

4.2.2 Tea Factories

Three tea factories were in operation namely:

Corson Tea Estate Ltd

La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Société Usinière de Bois Chéri

6,873 tonnes of green leaves were received by the factories during the contractual tea year 2016-17 and the amount of made tea are as follows:

Factory	Weight of green leaf (Kgs)	Tea made (Kgs)
Corson Tea Estate Ltd	1,438,472	277,329
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd	3,085,914	625,416
Société Usinière de Bois Chéri	2,348,804	491,520
Total	6,873,190	1,394,265

A decrease of 7.2% has been noted in green leaf production compared to the last crop (2015-2016) when 7,409,818 Kgs were produced.

The three tea producers manufactured 1,394 tonnes of black tea that was mainly sold on the domestic market.

The outturn for crop year 2016-17 was 20.29% compared to 17.95% for 2015-16.

At the end of the crop year, i.e., June 2017, stocks stood at a low 1.0 month as compared to 1.5 months for the previous year. In addition, reduced amounts of black tea along the distribution chain together with higher than normal purchases by consumers have also contributed to a temporary shortage.

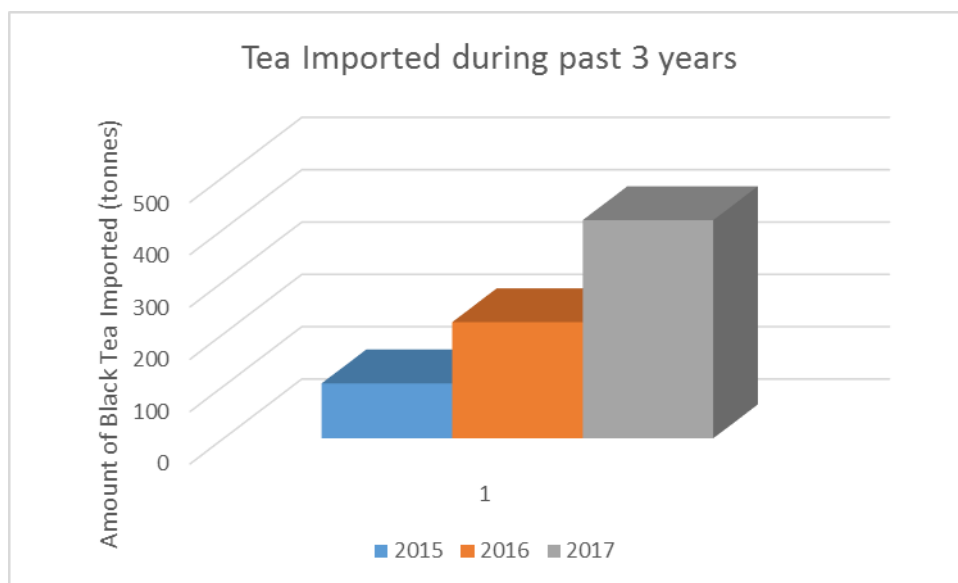
For the short term, one of the measures taken by the Ministry to meet the demand of consumers was to allow the 3 manufacturers to import a higher percentage for blending purposes.

4.2.3 Importation of Tea

The quantity of tea and tea products imported during year 2017 (Jan - Dec) and the previous year were as follows:

Product	Quantity (Kg)	
	2017	2016
Black Tea for blending purposes	371,000	190,250
Green Tea (bulk)	6,379	6,126
Other Tea Products	40,172	26,065
Total	417,551	222,441

Chart 1: Black Tea imported in 2014, 2015 & 2016



4.2.4 Export Clearances

During the year 104 export clearances were issued for the export of 54,745 Kg tea products.

	2017	2016
No of Export Clearances	104	111
Quantity (kgs)	54,745	50,449

4.2.5 Price of Tea Leaves

In accordance with Section 34 of the National Agricultural Products Regulations, this office determined the rates for the First Partial Payment (FPP) of the final price payable and the final price to be paid to a cultivator or to a métayer for green leaves delivered during contractual year 2016-17. The rates are as follows:

(i) First Partial Payment (FPP), Crop year 2016-2017

Factory		FPP (Rs/Kg)
Société Usinière de Bois Cheri	Cultivators	2.50
Société des Plantations de Bois Cheri	Metayers	2.00
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	Cultivators	2.50
Corson Tea Estate Ltd	Cultivators	2.50
	Metayers	2.00

(ii) Final Price, Crop year 2016-17

Producer/Cultivator	Final Price (Rs/kg) of green leaf supplied	
	Cultivator	Métayer
Corson Tea Estate	17.3097	15.2797
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co Ltd	17.0211	-
Société Usinière de Bois Chéri	17.5710	-
Société des Plantations de Bois Chéri	-	13.6925

(iii) Minimum Interim Price (MIP), Crop year 2017-18

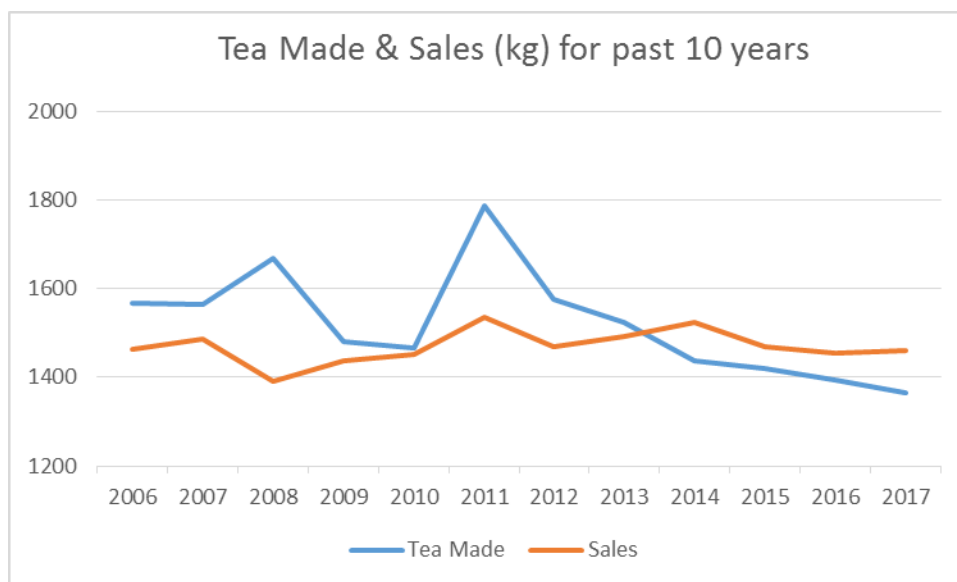
The Minimum Interim Price for crop year 2017-18 was determined in June 2017 and to provide for the increase in the cost for plucking the prices were set as follows:

Producer of tea products (Manufacturer)
to Cultivator (Planter & Cooperative Society) - Rs. 10.00 per kilo

Cultivator to Métayer - Rs. 9.50 per kilo

4.2.6 Production & Sales

Chart 2: Production & Sales from 2008 to 2017



4.2.7 Revitalisation of Tea Sector

The Tea Industry provides a means of livelihood directly and indirectly to about 2,000 families. Demand for green tea leaves and consumption of black tea has increased with the coming into operation of Mauristea Investment Ltd. That company has brought value addition to local teas and has initiated production of other types of tea.

The need to revitalise the sector with a view to encouraging tea planters and manufacturers not to abandon their tea plantations, remain in and enhance business was recognised. In that context, the Ministry included in its strategic plan (2016 – 2019) several projects to revitalise the sector:

4.2.7.1 New Nursery

- Under this plan, the Petit Merlo nursery (collection of mother plants) was rehabilitated. Cleaning, pruning and fertiliser application were carried out. These plants will provide cuttings for vegetative propagation.
- A new nursery was set-up at Curepipe Experiment Station (Cpe ES) at La Brasserie for production and seedlings and plantlets. In this context, 8 shade-tunnels, (4 Blocks) have been constructed at the station to shelter the cuttings.
- Newly recruited general workers were given basic training in nursery operations especially in the preparation of cuttings for sticking in the soil.
- Concurrently tea seedlings were uprooted from Petit Merlo Nursery and were planted in polythene pots for an infilling programme which aims at enabling growers to fill gaps and consolidate existing plantations. This will result in higher production per unit area of land.
- A shade-house, a potting shed have been constructed in field No 10 at Cpe ES. In 2017.
- Of the 1,000 arpents available in the ex-tea belt, some 253 Ha will be put under tea. Clearing works have been carried out by the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority on 21.09 Ha at La Grande Chartreuse.

4.2.7.2 Provision of incentives – Tea Sector Support Scheme

• Fertiliser Scheme

Work sessions were carried out with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) for the provision of fertilisers to registered tea growers to assist them boosting up their production. The scheme was officially launched by the Honourable Minister, Mr. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun on 5th October 2016 and it was imperative for beneficiaries to register with the SFWF. Tea growers were provided with fertiliser 22:7:7 and CAN free of charge for crop 2017/2018.

4.2.7.3 Mauristea Investment Company Limited

Mauristea Investment Company Limited, a company registered in Mauritius and led by a foreign investor re-opened the ex-Dubreuil Tea Factory in September 2017. Leaves from local tea growers were used to manufacture “green tea”, “oolong tea”, “puerr tea” and “black tea”, Production is mainly geared for the local market although the company has over the recent years exported tea to China.

4.2.7.4 Meetings with representatives of Tea cultivators

During year 2017, six meetings were held with representatives of tea cultivators mainly to discuss their constraints and to consider their suggestions for a sustainable tea sector.

4.3 Meat & Meat Products

Meat means the carcass, offal or other edible parts of animals but does not include the edible parts of a bird, fish, hare or rabbit. Meat product means any product derived from the processing of meat.

4.3.1 Meat Shops

The NAPRO Act stipulates that no person shall sell fresh meat except from the premises in respect of which a licence has been issued.

During the year, 81 licences were issued to meat shop operators for sale of beef, mutton, goat, venison and pork meat.

4.3.2 Meat Processors

3 licences were issued for processing of pork meat during the period under review.

4.3.3 Slaughterhouse

Slaughterhouse means premises or any other place used to slaughter or kill an animal to obtain meat for sale. Section 9 of the NAPRO Act specifies that no person shall slaughter an animal or cause an animal to be slaughtered at a place other than at the abattoir or in a slaughterhouse approved by NAPRO. Hence any person who intends to operate a slaughterhouse needs to apply to NAPRO for a licence.

One slaughterhouse with 3 separate slaughter halls was registered.

4.3.4 Venison Dealers

The NAPRO Act requires venison dealers and retailers to be licenced by NAPRO and in addition no person shall operate as a Venison Dealer or

Venison Retailer or sell Game Venison during the close season without a licence.

Section 14 of the Act further stipulates that no Venison Dealer shall, except with approval of NAPRO, sell venison to any person other than to a Venison Retailer. No Venison Retailer shall buy venison except from a Venison Dealer. No person shall without lawful authority have in his possession game venison during the close season and where he is a Venison Dealer or Retailer, have venison at any place other than his place of business or a place approved by NAPRO. It is an offence therefore to deal in venison without a valid licence and to be in possession of venison which has been killed or is thought to have been killed illegally.

For the year 2016 the number of operators licensed were:

Number	Purpose
39	Game venison dealers
11	Venison dealer's close season
16	Venison dealer
36	Venison retailer

4.3.5 Illegal Sale of Venison Meat

A communiqué was set in the press to inform the public and Venison operators that a fine not exceeding Rs 25,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years will be imposed to person dealing illegally in venison.

4.4 Other activities

4.4.1 Site Visits

Officers carried out site visits and reported for applications received for land conversion. Reports on four sites were submitted to the Land Conversion Unit of the Ministry.

4.4.2 World Food Day

NAPRO participated at the World Food Day 2017 celebrations, organised by the Ministry, at the Domaine Les Pailles from 13th to 15th October 2017. Various exhibits as per the theme “**Change the future of Migration, Invest in Food Security and Rural Development**” chosen by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to commemorate the World Food Day were displayed.

4.5 Revenue

The operations of the Division generate revenue and in the course of year 2017, some Rs 42,739,770 were received as application, clearance and licence fees.

NAPRO Act 2013, First Schedule (Regulation 3) PART I - LICENCE FEES

		Application fees (Rs)	Clearance fees (Rs)
1	Application fees for imports	405,000	-
2	Importation of -		
(a)	Cigarettes		22,998,970
(b)	Cigarillos		9,720
(c)	Leaf tobacco, including cut-rag		-
(d)	Smoking tobacco		37,050
(e)	Cigars		19,100
(f)	Other tobacco products		359,370
(g)	Black tea products for blending purposes		6,620,000
(h)	Green tea products in pk of 125g or above		255,160
(i)	Black tea products, green tea products & other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended for-		
	(i) for own consumption		1,500
	(ii) for gift, or		2,400
	(iii) to be used as sample		1,500
(j)	Other tea products		12,030,000
(k)	Meat and meat products		-
3	Duplicate of any clearance		-
	Total	405,000	42,334,770

Appendix I

Statistics for the year 2017

	2017			
	No. of licences	Application fees (Rs.)	Licence fees (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
Tea nursery licence	-	-	-	-
Tea seed garden licence	-	-	-	-
Cultivation of green leaf licence	1,198	-	49,860	49,860
Tea blending plant licence	3	600	15,000	15,600
Tea factory licence	4	800	20,000	20,800
Tea packing plant licence	7	1,400	35,000	36,400
Exports of Tea Products	9	1,800	45,000	46,800
Licence for meat shop	81	16,200	8,10	24,300
Game venison dealer	39	7,800	11,700	19,500
Venison dealer's close season	11	2,200	2,200	4,400
Venison dealer	16	3,200	8,000	11,200
Venison retailer	36	7,200	18,000	25,200
Slaughterhouse operator	1	200	1,000	1,200
Producer of meat products	3	600	3,000	3,600
Duplicate of any licence	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1,407	42,000	216,860	258,660

Area Licensed in 2016 and 2017

	2017		2016	
	Number of Individuals	Area (Arpents)	Number of Individuals	Area (Arpents)
Cultivator	875	1,231.47	876	1,133.05
Cultivator - Metayer				
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	42	29.34	41	30.38
Société des Plantations de Bois Chéri	281	293.75	2880	313.52
TOTAL	1,198	1,554.56	1,205	1,476.95

Tea Exported in 2016 and 2017- By Destination

Destination	2017			2016		
	No of Export Permits issued	Quantity Kg	% of Total Quantity	No of Export Permits issued	Quantity Kg	% of Total Quantity
Australia	3	789.00	1.44	2	36.0	0.07
Canada	6	160.31	0.29	-	-	-
China	9	4,158.90	7.60	5	125.0	0.25
Comoros	-	-	-	1	54.8	0.11
Czech Republic	1	2.00	-	-	-	-
France	10	21,771.40	39.77	6	705.8	1.40
Freeport	1	987.5	1.80	56	45,414.5	90.02
Germany	4	294.80	0.54	-	-	-
Japan	1	10.00	0.02	-	-	-
Luxembourg	1	8.05	0.01	1	6.0	.01
Madagascar	2	165.80	0.30	-	-	-
Mauritius Duty Free Paradise	39	5,182.72	9.47	38	3,819.0	7.57
Reunion	16	20,141.05	36.79	-	-	-
Seychelles	5	348.55	0.64	-	-	-
Taiwan	1	126.60	.23	-	-	-
United Kingdom	3	461.00	0.84	2	288.3	0.57

Total	104	54,744.68	100.00	111	50,449.4	100.00
--------------	------------	------------------	---------------	------------	-----------------	---------------

CLEARANCE FEES (2016 and 2017)

		2017		2016	
		Application fees Rs	Clearance fees Rs	Application fees Rs	Clearance fees Rs
1	Application fees for imports	405,000	-	374,000	-
2	Importation of -				
(a)	Cigarettes		22,998,970		21,803,952
(b)	Cigarillos		9,720		15,140
(c)	Leaf tobacco including cut rag		-		-
(d)	Smoking tobacco		37,050		8,150
(e)	Cigars		19,100		53,900
(f)	Other tobacco products		359,370		276,980
(g)	Black tea for blending purposes		6,620,000		3,805,000
(h)	Green tea products		255,160		245,080
(i)	Black tea products, green tea products & other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended for-				
	(i) for own consumption		1,500		6,600
	(ii) for gift, or		2,400		-
	(iii) to be used as sample		1,500		5,100
(j)	Other tea products		12,030,000		7,826,520
(k)	Meat and meat products		-		-
3	Export of tea products		-		63,440
4	Duplicate of any clearance		-		-
	TOTAL	405,000	42,334,770	374,000	34,109,862