

28 February 2017

1. FOREWORD

I have the pleasure to present the third 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 2016, this office considered 1,888 applications and delivered 1,444 licences and 444 clearances. These activities also generated revenues which amounted to about Rs 34.7 million compared to Rs 29.3 Million in 2015. All money received were credited to the Consolidated Fund.

H. Ramahotar
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 former grades are listed below:

Name	Former Grades
Mr H. Ramahotar	General Manager, Tobacco Board
Mr R. Jalloo	STO
Mrs M. D Nunkoo	TO
Mr D. Jharia	OMA, Tea Board
Mrs J. Dhayam	CS, Tea Board
Mrs K. Bungaleea	MSO, Tea Board
Mr R.Beegoo	Technical Assistant, Tobacco Board
Chandra Kumar Ramkorun	Office Attendant/Driver, Tea Board
Mrs Marie Daniele Thompson	Warehouse Worker, Tobacco Board
Naness Sing Daharee	Office Attendant/Driver, Tea Board

In May 2016, Mr R. Jalloo and Mrs M.D Nunkoo were appointed Senior Technical Officer and Technical Officer respectively.

Mr C.K Ramkorun was transferred to the transport section of the Ministry as from March 2016.

Mr R.Beegoo joined the office on 23 August 2016.

Mr. R. Jalloo attended a seminar on Food Security for developing countries in China from 19 to 25 September 2016.

Miss Y. Murden and Miss N. Ibrahim joined the office under the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) as from 13 December 2016.

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	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
Cigarettes	217	222	1,106 Mn units	1,105 Mn units
Cigarillos	32	23	744,035 units	350,000 units
Cigars	42	36	1,064 Kg	695 Kg
Chewing Tobacco	21	23	2,517 Kg	2,023 Kg
Smoking Tobacco	5	7	152 Kg	332 Kg

Import of cigarettes was almost the same as last year. However the quantity of cigarillos imported doubled that of last year and import of cigars increased by about 53%. Import of smoking tobacco decreased by about 54%.

4.1.3 Importers of tobacco products

The following 12 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
Ammenah Ebrahim

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 9,861,800 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 2015-16, (1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016), 877 cultivators and 328 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 7,409 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 2015-2016 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	287
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	41
Sub-Total	328
Free Cultivators	
Société de Plantation de Bois Chéri	0
Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	331
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co Ltd	142
Other free cultivators	92
Sub-Total	565
Estates	6
TOTAL	1205

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 Cheri

7,409 tonnes of green leaves were received by the factories during the contractual tea year 2015-16 and the amount of made tea are as follows:

Factory	Weight of green leaf (Kgs)	Tea made (Kgs)
Corson Tea Estate Ltd	1,718,629	308,507
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	3,206,905	622,913
Société Usinière de Bois Cheri	2,484,284	488,492
Total	7,409,818	1,419,912

An increase of 0.5 % has been noted in green leaf production compared to the last crop (2014-2015) when 7,371,945 Kgs were produced.

The three tea producers manufactured 1,419 tonnes of black tea that was mainly sold on the domestic market.

Although the crop season under review witnessed a 0.5% increase in green leaf production, the quantity of made tea was about 18 tonnes lower compared to year 2014-15 when 1,438 Tonnes were manufactured. The outturn for crop year 2015-16 was 17.95% compared to 19.0% for 2014-15 due to coarser plucking of tea leaves leading to wastage during the manufacture of black tea.

At the end of the crop year, i.e., June 2016, stocks stood at a low 1.5 months as compared to 3.5 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.

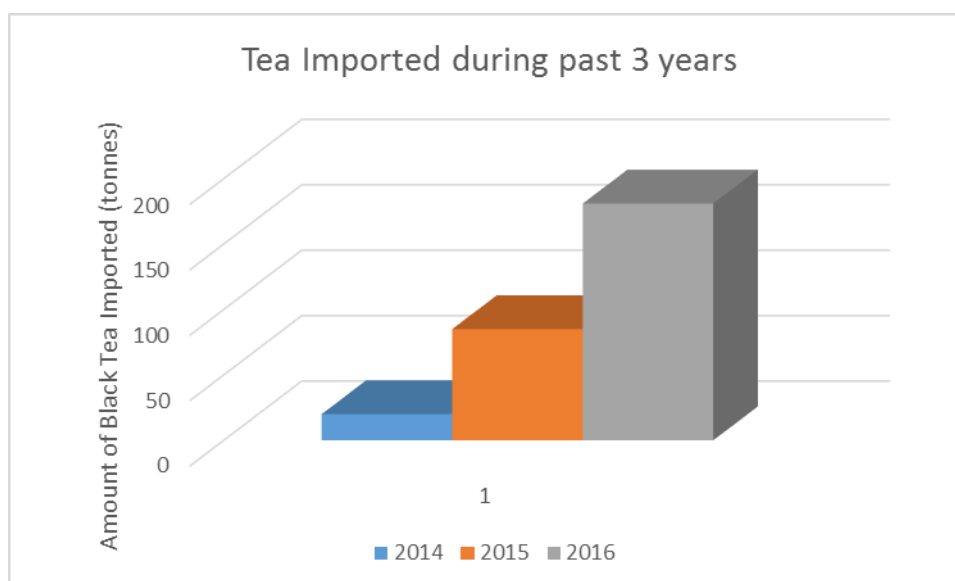
For the short term, one of the measures taken by the Ministry to meet the demand of consumers was to allow the 3 manufacturers to import a higher percentage for blending purposes.

4.2.3 Importation of Tea

The quantity of tea and tea products imported during year 2016 (Jan - Dec) and the previous year were as follows:

Product	Quantity (Kg)	
	2016	2015
Black Tea for blending purposes	190,250	85,000
Green Tea (bulk)	6,126	5,286
Other Tea Products	26,065	15,008
Total	222,441	105,294

Chart 1: Black Tea imported in 2015 & 2016



Under normal conditions, import of black tea in bulk for blending purposes is about 2.5% of production. However for year 2015/ 2016, the percentage imported for that purpose rose to about 14%.

4.2.4 Export Clearances

During the year 111 export clearances were issued for the export of 50,449 Kg tea products.

	2016	2015
No of Export Clearances	111	117
Quantity (kgs)	50,449	65,221

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 2015-16. The rates are as follows:

(i) First Partial Payment (FPP), Crop year 2015-16

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 2015-16

Producer/Cultivator	Final Price (Rs/kg) of green leaf supplied	
	Cultivator	Métayer
Corson Tea Estate	15.9003	13.9703
La Chartreuse Tea Manufacturing Co Ltd	15.5409	-
Société Usinière de Bois Chéri	15.6729	
Société des Plantations de Bois Chéri	-	12.3974

(iii) Minimum Interim Price (MIP), Crop year 2016-17

The Minimum Interim Price for crop year 2016-17 was determined in June 2016 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. 8.20 per kilo
Cultivator to Métayer	-	Rs. 7.70 per kilo

4.2.6 Production & Sales

Chart 2: Production & Sales from 2006 to 2015



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 is being 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.
- Sticking of tea cuttings on raised beds were initiated towards the end of December 2016 and was ongoing.
- 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 will be constructed in field No 10 at Cpe ES. In 2017. The design and construction plans have already been approved.
- Of the 1,000 arpents available in the ex-tea belt, some 582 will be put under tea.

4.2.7.2 Provision of incentives – Tea Sector Support Scheme

- **Fertiliser Scheme**

NAPRO initiated working sessions with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) to provide fertiliser 22:7:7 free of charge 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.

- **Distribution of plucking shears for mechanical harvesting**

1,400 hand held plucking shears were purchased from Gem Allied Industries Private Limited, India. The shears will be used to facilitate harvest of tea leaves and help palliate to the lack of labour through an increase in labour productivity. The official ceremony for the handing over of the plucking shears was carried out by the on 16th November 2016 at Grand Bois. The Honourable Minister, Mr. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun attended the function and launched the distribution. One plucking shear was distributed to each registered tea grower.



4.2.7.3 Setting up of Tea Unit at Wooton

Subsequent to the suggestion to set up a Tea Unit, NAPRO sought the views of the Engineering Division to refurbish the building that previously housed the office of the Vallée d'Osterlog Endemic Garden Foundation at Wooton. The unit will be responsible for tea project.

4.2.7.4 Mauristea Investment Company Limited

Mauristea Investment Company Limited, a company registered in Mauritius and led by a foreign investor presented its intention to re-open the ex-Dubreuil Tea Factory and to establish a tea nursery on its premises.

The company carried out tests to manufacture “green tea”, “oolong tea” and “puerr tea”. Also, black tea purchased from other manufacturers are aged, reprocessed and marketed in value-added packaging for export and the local market. Mauristea Investment Company Limited has over the recent years exported tea to China. According to the promoter, the company has a niche market as the island has little pollution and no pesticide is used in the cultivation.

4.2.7.5 Meetings with representatives of Tea cultivators

During year 2016, five 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, 112 licences were issued to meat shop operators for sale of beef, mutton, goat, venison and pork meat.

4.3.2 Meat Processors

5 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
41	Game venison dealers
10	Venison dealer's close season
14	Venison dealer
43	Venison retailer

4.3.5 Illegal Sale of Venison Meat

Following representations made by Venison Dealers, meetings were held with the President and members of the Mauritius Meat Producers Association, the Mauritius Police Force and Venison Retailers so as to prohibit the illegal sales of venison meat along roadsides and other places. 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 2016 celebrations, organised by the Ministry, at the Domaine Les Pailles from 15th to 16th and at Mahebourg Waterfront on 22nd and 23rd October 2016. Various exhibits as per the theme “**Climate is changing Food and Agriculture must too**” 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 2016, some Rs 34,704,968 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	374,000	-
2	Importation of -		
(a)	Cigarettes		21,803,952
(b)	Cigarillos		15,140
(c)	Leaf tobacco, including cut-rag		.
(d)	Smoking tobacco		8,150
(e)	Cigars		53,900
(f)	Other tobacco products		276,980
(g)	Black tea products for blending purposes		3,805,000
(h)	Green tea products in pk of 125g or above		157,880
(i)	Black tea products, green tea products & other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended for-		87,200
	(i) for own consumption		6,600
	(ii) for gift, or		-
	(iii) to be used as sample		5,100
(j)	Other tea products		7,826,520
(k)	Meat and meat products		-
3	Licence for Export of tea products		63,440
4	Duplicate of any clearance		-
	Total	374,000	34,483,862

Statistics for the year 2016

	2016			
	No. of licences	Application fees (Rs.)	Licence fees (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
Tea nursery licence	-	-	-	-
Tea seed garden licence	-	-	-	-
Cultivation of green leaf licence	1,205	-	46,226	46,226
Tea blending plant licence	4	800	21,040	21,840
Tea factory licence	3	600	15,000	15,600
Tea packing plant licence	6	1,200	31,040	32,240
Licence for meat shop	112	11,200	22,400	33,600
Game venison dealer	41	8,200	12,300	20,500
Venison dealer's close season	10	2,000	2,000	4,000
Venison dealer	14	2,800	7,000	9,800
Venison retailer	43	8,600	21,500	30,100
Slaughterhouse operator	1	200	1,000	1,200
Producer of meat products	5	1,000	5,000	6,000
Duplicate of any licence	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1,444	36,600	184,506	221,106

Area Licensed in 2015 and 2016

Appendix II

Licences	2016		2015	
	Number of individuals	Area (Arpents)	Number of individuals	Area (Arpents)
Cultivator	876	1,133.05	792	949.03
Cultivator - metayer Corson Tea Estate Co Ltd	41	30.38	36	29.98
Societe des Plantations de Bois Cheri	2880	313.52	350	355.41
Total	1,205	1,476.95	1178	1,334.42

Tea Exported in 2015 and 2016 - By Destination

Destination	2016			2015		
	No of Export Permits issued	Quantity Kg	% of Total Quantity	No of Export Permits issued	Quantity Kg	% of Total Quantity
Australia	2	36.0	0.07	2	98.4	0.22
Belgium	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.00
Botswana	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	5	125.0	0.25	1	2,000.0	4.49
France	6	705.8	1.40	14	1,269.0	2.85
Freeport	56	45,414.5	90.02	53	36,314.0	81.46
Luxembourg	1	6.0	.01	-	-	-
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius Duty Free Paradise	38	3,819.0	7.57	43	4,070.9	9.13
Mayotte	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reunion	-	-	-	6	741.1	1.66
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	2	288.3	0.57	3	83.6	0.19
Comoros	1	54.8	0.11	-	-	-
Total	111	50,449.4	100.00	123	44,577.3	100.00

CLEARANCE FEES (2015 and 2016)

	2016		2015	
	Application fees Rs	Clearance fees Rs	Application fees Rs	Clearance fees Rs
1 Application fees for imports	374,000	-	336,000	
2 Importation of -				
(a) Cigarettes		21,803,952		22,114,880
(b) Cigarillos		15,140		7,000
(c) Leaf tobacco including cut rag		-		-
(d) Smoking tobacco		8,150		16,600
(e) Cigars		53,900		34,750
(f) Other tobacco products		276,980		222,640
(g) Black tea for blending purposes		3,805,000		1,700,580
(h) Green tea products		245,080		211,520
(i) Black tea products, green tea products & other tea products not exceeding 2kgs and intended for-				
(i) for own consumption		6,600		-
(ii) for gift, or		-		300
(iii) to be used as sample		5,100		-
(j) Other tea products		7,826,520		4,506,600
(k) Meat and meat products		-		-
3 Export of tea products		63,440		48,000
4 Duplicate of any clearance		-		-
TOTAL	374,000	34,109,862	336,000	28,862,870