

B/689            The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues  
(Mr Leopold)

*To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security –*

**Whether, in regard to the farming community, he will state if an assessment of the population thereof has been made with a view to ensuring continuity of production of agricultural products?**

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The House may wish to note that on a bi-annual basis, the Small Farmers Welfare Fund which operates under my Ministry carries out a registration of growers of foodcrops, fruits and flowers, as well as livestock and poultry breeders, among others in both Mauritius and Rodrigues.

According to the last exercise carried out for the year 2017/18, Mauritius counted 9,060 planters and 1,452 breeders. Whilst Rodrigues had 93 planters and 34 breeders registered.

It is to be noted these figures exclude sugar cane planters.

The registration for the year 2019-2020 is presently being carried out and is ongoing.

The information collected from this exercise which includes, inter-alia, location and extent cultivated, the various crops grown, the animals being bred etc. is used to update the socio-economic database of the whole farming community in Mauritius and Rodrigues; keep track of the demographic changes occurring in the farming community; evaluate and assess constraints and new challenges and

come up with appropriate policies and strategies to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector as well as our food security.

In my replies to PQs B/368 of 3 May 2016 and B/573 of 9 July 2019, I gave details to the House of the measures recommended in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan for the foodcrop sector elaborated by my Ministry and the package of support and incentives being given to the farming community to enable it to stay in operation and thus sustain and scale up our agricultural production.

I also indicated the impact that these measures have had on our foodcrop production level which since last year has been on a rising trend and has reached 118,607 T last year.