

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2020

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### SUGAR CANE CROP 2020

**Status: End November 2020**

#### 1. CLIMATE

##### 1.1 Rainfall (Tables 1a and 1b, Figure 1)

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island during November 2020 averaged 78 mm and represented 89% of the long-term mean (LTM, 88 mm) for the month. No rainfall was recorded in the West while it was below the long-term mean in sectors North with 20 mm, 79 mm in the East as well as in the Centre. In the South above normal rainfall was recorded with 138 mm.

Cumulative rainfall for the months of October and November 2020 amounted to 132 mm for the island, i.e. 77% of the long-term mean. During that period, 44 mm were recorded in the North, 158 mm in the East, 199 mm in the South, 4 mm in the West and 150 mm in the Centre. These figures represented 51%, 76%, 90%, 8% and 76% of the respective LTM.

**Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2020, 2021<sup>+</sup> and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2020</b>	<b>16</b> (36)	<b>75</b> (70)	<b>165</b> (145)	<b>69</b> (223)	<b>124</b> (131)	<b>95</b> (108)
<b>2021</b>	<b>20</b> (44)*	<b>79</b> (74)	<b>138</b> (121)	<b>0</b> (0)	<b>79</b> (83)	<b>78</b> (89)
<b>LTM</b>	45	107	114	31	95	88

<sup>+</sup> Crop year is from October to September

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-10)

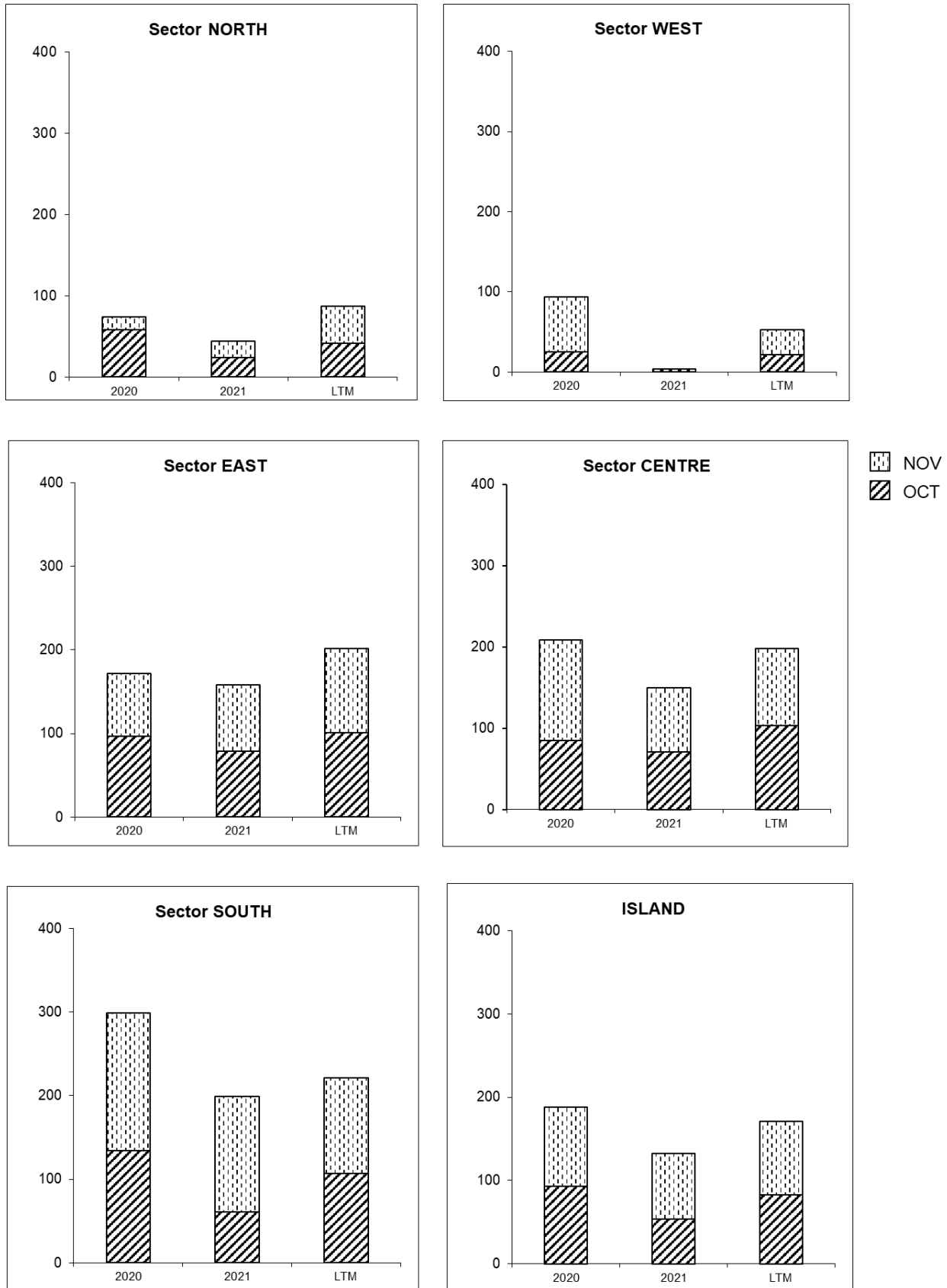
**Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2020 for crop 2021 compared to that of crop 2020 and the LTM**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2020</b>	<b>74</b> (85)	<b>172</b> (83)	<b>299</b> (135)	<b>94</b> (177)	<b>209</b> (106)	<b>188</b> (110)
<b>2021</b>	<b>44</b> (51)*	<b>158</b> (76)	<b>199</b> (90)	<b>4</b> (8)	<b>150</b> (76)	<b>132</b> (77)
<b>LTM</b>	87	208	221	53	198	171

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October and November 2020 for the 2021 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2020 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).**



## 1.2 Air Temperature and sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on air temperature together with sunshine duration recorded during the month of November 2020 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

**Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hours recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in November 2020**

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Nov 2020	DevN*	Nov 2020	DevN	Nov 2020	% Normal
<b>Ferret</b>	29.0	-0.9	20.5	+1.3	259	99
<b>Réduit</b>	26.2	-0.4	18.0	-0.4	254	101
<b>Union Park</b>	25.2	-0.2	18.1	+0.2	150	74
<b>Belle Rive</b>	23.9	-1.7	16.7	0.0	203	93

Mean maximum temperature was below normal at all stations. The mean minimum temperature was equal to the normal at Belle Rive, exceeded the normal at Ferret and Union Park but was below normal at Réduit. Sunshine duration during November 2020 was close to the normal at Réduit and Ferret but below normal at the other two stations. Recorded bright sunshine during November 2020 as a percentage of the normal was 99% at Ferret, 101% at Réduit, 74% at Union Park and 93% at Belle Rive.

## 2. CROP PRODUCTIVITY 2020

As at 28 November 2020, 27 333 ha representing 92% of miller-planters' land was harvested compared to 25 487 ha (82%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 80% in the North, 95% in the East, 96% in the South, 97% in the West and 96% in the Centre. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters follows.

### 2.1 Cane productivity (Table 3a)

As at end-November 2020, cane productivity for the island was 65.2 TCH and was lower than that recorded in 2019 (80.9 TCH) by 15.7 TCH (19.4 %). Sector-wise, cane productivity stood at 67.7 TCH in the North, 66.8 TCH in the East, 67.0 TCH in the South, 64.4 TCH in the West and 45.2 TCH in the Centre. Compared to the same period in 2019, cane productivity recorded to-date was lagging behind in all sectors, the deficit ranging from 12.7 TCH in the North to 24.6 TCH in the West.

When compared to the corresponding period in 2018, cane productivity in November 2020 was lower in all sectors by 4.8 TCH in the North, 1.0 TCH in the East, 5.5 TCH in the South, 15.8 TCH in the West and 7.0 TCH in the Centre.

**Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end- October and end-November for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 crops**

Sector	End October			End November		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
North	73.3	80.9	70.8	72.5	80.4	67.7
East	68.9	80.9	68.2	67.8	79.5	66.8
South	71.3	83.3	67.9	72.5	82.4	67.0
West	80.2	90.1	65.4	80.2	89.0	64.4
Centre	53.9	69.4	50.9	52.2	66.7	45.2
<b>Island</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>65.2</b>

## 2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

The island extraction rate of 10.27% at end-November 2020 was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2019 (9.77%) and comparable to that in 2018. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 11.19% in the North, 9.88% in the East-Centre, 10.04% in the South and 10.50% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was higher in all sectors, the difference ranging from 0.21<sup>o</sup> in the South to 0.88<sup>o</sup> in the North. The extraction rate of November 2020 as compared to that of November 2018 was higher in sectors North and West but lower in the East-Centre and South sectors.

**Table 3b. Extraction rate (%) as at end-October and end-November for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 crops**

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
North	10.58	10.13	11.10	10.73	10.31	11.19
East/Centre	9.90	9.22	9.91	9.93	9.34	9.88
South	10.10	9.85	10.04	10.20	9.83	10.04
West	10.27	9.87	10.46	10.38	9.95	10.50
<b>Island</b>	<b>10.17</b>	<b>9.67</b>	<b>10.24</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>9.77</b>	<b>10.27</b>

## 2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 3c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 6.70 TSH was lower than that at the corresponding period in 2019 (7.90 TSH) by 1.20 tonne (15.2%). Sector-wise, sugar productivity was 7.58 TSH in the North, 6.19 TSH in the East-Centre, 6.73 TSH in the South and 6.76 TSH in the West. Compared to the corresponding period in 2019, these figures were lagging behind in all sectors by 0.71 TSH in the North, 1.05 TSH in the East-Centre, 1.37 TSH in the South and 2.10 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity in November 2020 was also inferior to that of November 2018 in all sectors.

**Table 3c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end-October and end-November for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 crops**

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
North	7.76	8.20	7.86	7.78	8.29	7.58
East/Centre	6.57	7.29	6.46	6.47	7.24	6.19
South	7.20	8.21	6.82	7.40	8.10	6.73
West	8.24	8.89	6.84	8.32	8.86	6.76
<b>Island</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>7.92</b>	<b>6.87</b>	<b>7.23</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>6.70</b>

### 3. CROP 2020

The weather recorded during November 2020 has been dry except in sector South while maximum temperature was below normal with near normal to below normal solar radiation. A decreasing trend in cane and sugar yields were observed in October and November 2020. As compared to that of November 2019, island cane and sugar productivity in November 2020 were lagging behind by 19.4% and 15.2%, respectively.

### 4. CROP 2021

The dry regime experienced in October and November 2020 has so far not been favourable to regrowth of harvested fields, especially under rainfed conditions. It is important that cultural practices are adopted for the good development of the new crop as soon as more favourable weather conditions prevail.

**Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 crops**

