MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2009

Status: End December 2009

1. CLIMATE

1.1 Rainfall (Table 1a and 1b, Figure 1)

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for December was 221 mm and represented 108% of the long term mean (204 mm). Rainfall recorded was well above the long-term mean in sectors North (177%) and East (121%) with 233 mm and 253 mm, respectively while it was below the long-term mean in the remaining sectors, with 208 mm in the South (84%), 107 mm in the West (94%) and 241 mm in the Centre (92%).

Cumulative rainfall for the period October to December 2009 amounted to 659 mm for the island. It represented 184% of the long-term mean of 359 mm. During that same period, 513 mm of rainfall were recorded in the North, 813 mm in the East, 656 mm in the South, 479 mm in the West and 738 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 233%, 220%, 144%, 294% and 157% of their respective long-term mean.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of December for crops 2009, 2010 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	**51** *(39)*	**139** *(67)*	**75** *(30)*	**50** *(44)*	**171** *(65)*	**94** *(46)*
2010	**233** *(177)*	**253** *(121)*	**208** *(84)*	**107** *(94)*	**241** *(92)*	**221** *(108)*
LTM	132	209	249	114	263	204

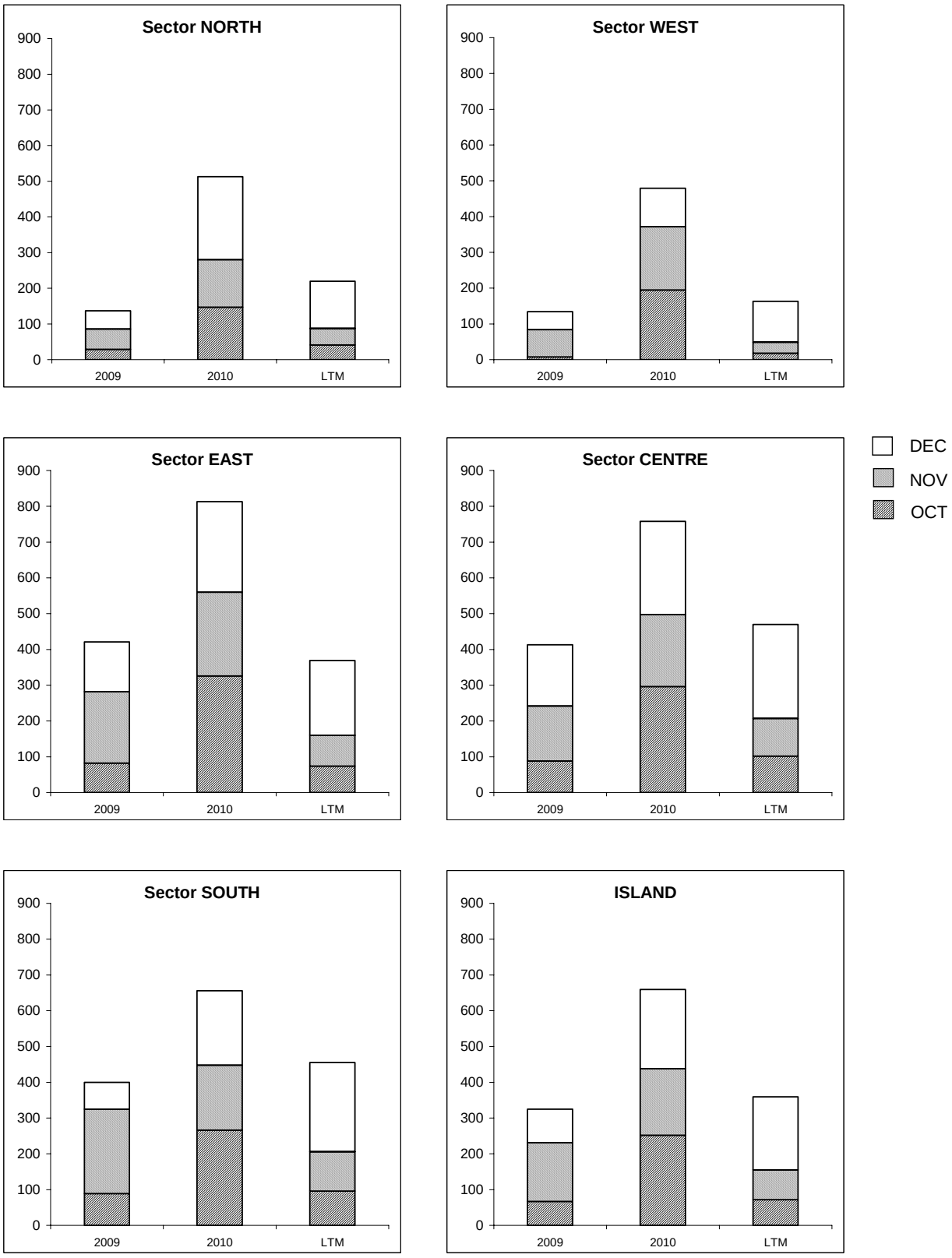
* figures in brackets are % of LTM

Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to December 2009 for crop 2010 compared to that of crop 2009 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	**137** *(62)*	**421** *(114)*	**400** *(88)*	**134** *(82)*	**413** *(88)*	**325** *(91)*
2010	**513** *(233)*	**813** *(220)*	**656** *(114)*	**479** *(294)*	**738** *(157)*	**659** *(184)*
LTM	220	369	455	163	470	359

* figures in brackets are % of LTM ***[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]***

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to December 2009 for the 2010 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2009 crop and to the long term mean for the three months



2. STALK HEIGHT (TABLE 2)

Initial measurements of stalk height were carried out during the last week of December 2009 at 63 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties, and crop categories. The measurements are compared to those of the corresponding period in December 2008 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the period 1999 to 2008 in each sector (referred to as normal).

Stalk height at end December 2009 was 24.7 cm in the North, 39.6 cm in the East, 52.0 cm in the South, 43.2 cm in the West and 47.6 cm in the Centre. Compared to the corresponding period in 2008, cane height at end December 2009 was lower by 9.7 cm in the North, 6.7 cm in the East, 9.0 cm in the South and 3.6 cm in the Centre but higher by 1.7 cm in the West.

Cane height in December 2009 was close to normal in four sectors, namely in the East where it stood at 93.4% (2.8 cm less), in the North at 99.2% (0.2 cm less), in the South at 100.4% (0.2 cm more) and in the Centre at 99.8% (0.1 cm less). It exceeded the normal by 57.7 % (15.8 cm) in the West.

At Island level, the cane height of 41.0 cm as at end-December 2009 was lower than that of end-December 2008 by 7.2 cm (14.9%) but was slightly higher than normal by 1.0 cm (2.5%)

Table 2. Stalk height at end-December

	Stalk height (cm) at end-Dec			End-Dec 2009 as % of	
Sectors	**2009**	**2008**	**Normal**	**2008**	**Normal**
North	24.7	34.4	24.9	71.8	99.2
East	39.6	46.3	42.4	85.5	93.4
South	52.0	61.0	51.8	85.2	100.4
West	43.2	41.5	27.4	104.1	157.7
Centre	47.6	51.2	47.7	93.0	99.8
Island	**41.0**	**48.2**	**40.0**	**85.1**	**102.5**

3. CROP 2010

Despite the fact that higher cumulative rainfall was recorded in all sectors compared to the same period of the 2009 crop and to the long-term means, stalk height was slightly inferior to that of December 2008 in four sectors. In the West sector, as regrowth has been much better, stalk height for the 2010 crop exceeded those of the 2009 crop and the normal at end-December. These departures can be attributed to variations in the start and end of the harvesting period as well as to the weather. Generally, the latter had been favourable to growth with regards to both temperatures and rainfall.