

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2010

Status: End January 2010

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island in January 2010 was 367 mm and it represented 143% of the long-term mean. January rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 30 mm (16%) in the North, 264 mm (102%) in the East and 132 mm (46%) in the South. In the West and Centre sectors rainfall for the month was inferior to the long-term mean by 52 mm (31%) and 40 mm (11%), respectively.

Rainfall for the period October 2009 to January 2010 amounted to 1026 mm for the island. This is 67% higher than the island long-term mean of 616 mm for that period. During that same period, 729 mm were recorded in the North, 1337 mm in the East, 1078 mm in the South, 594 mm in the West and 1052 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 179%, 213%, 145%, 180%, and 128% of the respective long-term mean.

January 2010 has been characterized by heavy downpours, isolated region-wise, and this explains the high variability recorded with respect to the long-term mean. Rainfall received was generally adequate to meet crop water requirements.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of January for crops 2009, 2010 and the long-term means (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	192 (103)	205 (79)	275 (95)	222 (133)	383 (108)	243 (94)
2010	216 (116)	524 (202)	422 (146)	115 (69)	314 (89)	367 (143)
LTM	186	260	290	167	354	257

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

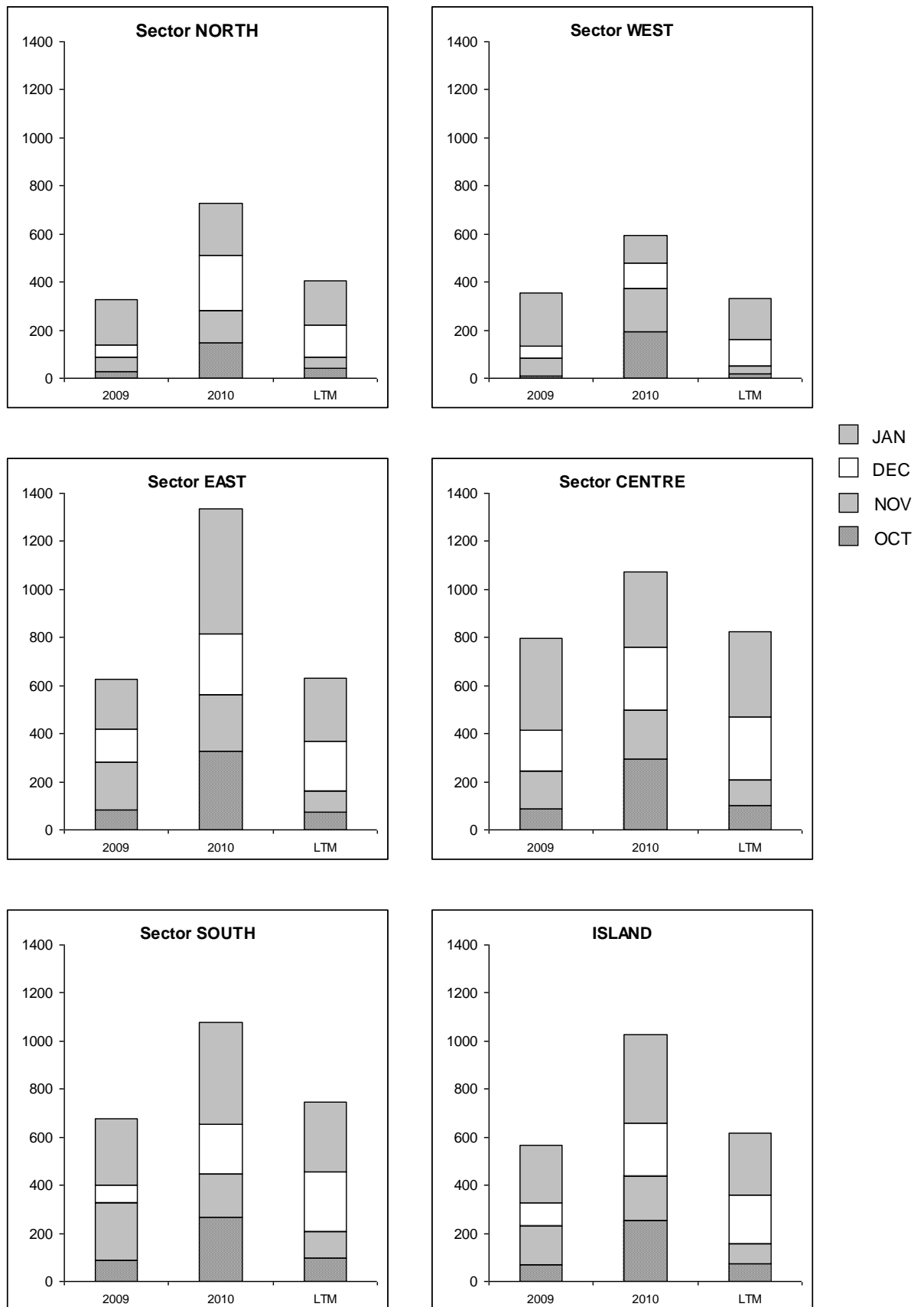
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2009 to January 2010 for crop 2010 compared to that of crop 2009 and the long-term means (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	329 (81)	626 (100)	675 (91)	356 (108)	796 (97)	568 (92)
2010	729 (179)	1337 (213)	1078 (145)	594 (180)	1052 (128)	1026 (167)
LTM	406	629	745	330	824	616

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2009 to January 2010 for the 2010 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2009 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



2. STALK HEIGHT (TABLE 2)

Cane growth was assessed during the last week of January 2010 in the 63 sites representative of the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These sites cover the various agro-climatic zones, varieties under cultivation and stages of development of the crop. Data collected are compared to those of the corresponding period in January 2009 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the last ten years in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 2a)

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2010 was inferior to that of the same period in 2009 in all sectors, except in the North and East. During January 2010, the best growth was observed in the West with 46.0 cm followed by 43.7 cm in the South, 40.7 cm in the East, 38.3 cm in the North and 31.6 cm in the Centre. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth lagged by 2.5 cm in the East, 7.4 cm in the South and 13.5 cm in the Centre whereas in the North and West it exceeded the normal by 4.9 cm and 6.9 cm respectively. The stalk elongation of 40.6 cm for the island was lower than that for the corresponding period in 2009 by 0.8 cm (2.0%) and the normal by 3.4 cm (7.7%).

Table 2a. Stalk elongation during the month of January.

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Jan			Jan 2010 as % of	
	2010	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
North	38.3	33.1	33.4	115.7	114.7
East	40.7	37.7	43.2	108.0	94.1
South	43.7	49.3	51.1	88.6	85.5
West	46.0	48.0	39.1	95.8	117.5
Centre	31.6	41.4	45.1	76.3	70.1
Island	40.6	41.4	44.0	98.0	92.3

2.2 Total cane height (Table 2b and Figure 2)

Total cane height at end January 2010 was 63.0 cm in the North, 80.3 cm in the East, 95.0 cm in the South, 89.2 cm in the West and 79.2 cm in the Centre to give an island average of 81.6 cm. Compared to end-January 2009, cane height was comparable only in the West sector but was lagging by 4.5 cm in the North, 3.7 cm in the East, 15.3 cm in the South and 13.4 cm in the Centre. Total cane height at the end of January 2010 exceeded the normal in sectors North and West by 0.8 cm (1.3%) and 20.1 cm (29.1%) respectively but lagged by 7.6 cm (8.7%) in the East, 7.8 cm (7.6%) in the South and 11.6 cm (12.7%) in the Centre.

At island level, the total cane height of 81.6 cm at the end of January 2010 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2009 by 8.0 cm (8.9%) and the normal by 5.1 cm (5.9%).

Table 2b. Stalk height at end-January

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Jan			End-Jan 2010 as % of	
	2010	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
North	63.0	67.5	62.2	93.3	101.3
East	80.3	84.0	87.9	95.6	91.3
South	95.0	110.3	102.8	86.1	92.4
West	89.2	89.5	69.1	99.7	129.1
Centre	79.2	92.6	90.8	85.5	87.3
Island	81.6	89.6	86.7	91.1	94.1

3. 2010 CROP

Overall weather since October, when the first substantial rainfall event was recorded, has been conducive to growth as temperatures have also been generally higher than the normal. The late end of harvest partly explains the lower total cane height recorded at the end of January 2010 in some sectors. The impact of harvest date and favourable weather can be seen in the West sector where total stalk height for the 2010 crop widely exceeds the normal. Based on these observations, a normal crop can be expected if the forthcoming climatic conditions remain normal.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- January 2010.

