MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2011 5 December 2011

SUGAR CANE CROP 2011

Status: End November 2011

1. CLIMATE`

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island during November 2011 was 65 mm and represented 79% of the long-term mean. November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 27 mm in the West and by 8 mm in the Centre. In the other three sectors, rainfall for the month was inferior to the long-term mean by 13 mm in the North, 40 mm in the East and 16 mm in the South.

Cumulative rainfall for the months of October and November 2011 amounted to 126 mm for the island, i.e. 82% of the long-term mean of 154 mm. During that two-month period, 42 mm were recorded in the North, 149 mm in the East, 167 mm in the South, 60 mm in the West and 182 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 47%, 93%, 83%, 120% and 88% of the respective long-term mean.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of November for crops 2011, 2012 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2011	**72** *(150)*	**160** *(186)*	**105** *(99)*	**11** *(35)*	**95** *(91)*	**104** *(126)*
2012	**35** *(73)*	**46** *(53)*	**90** *(85)*	**59** *(184)*	**113** *(108)*	**65** *(79)*
LTM	48	86	106	32	105	82

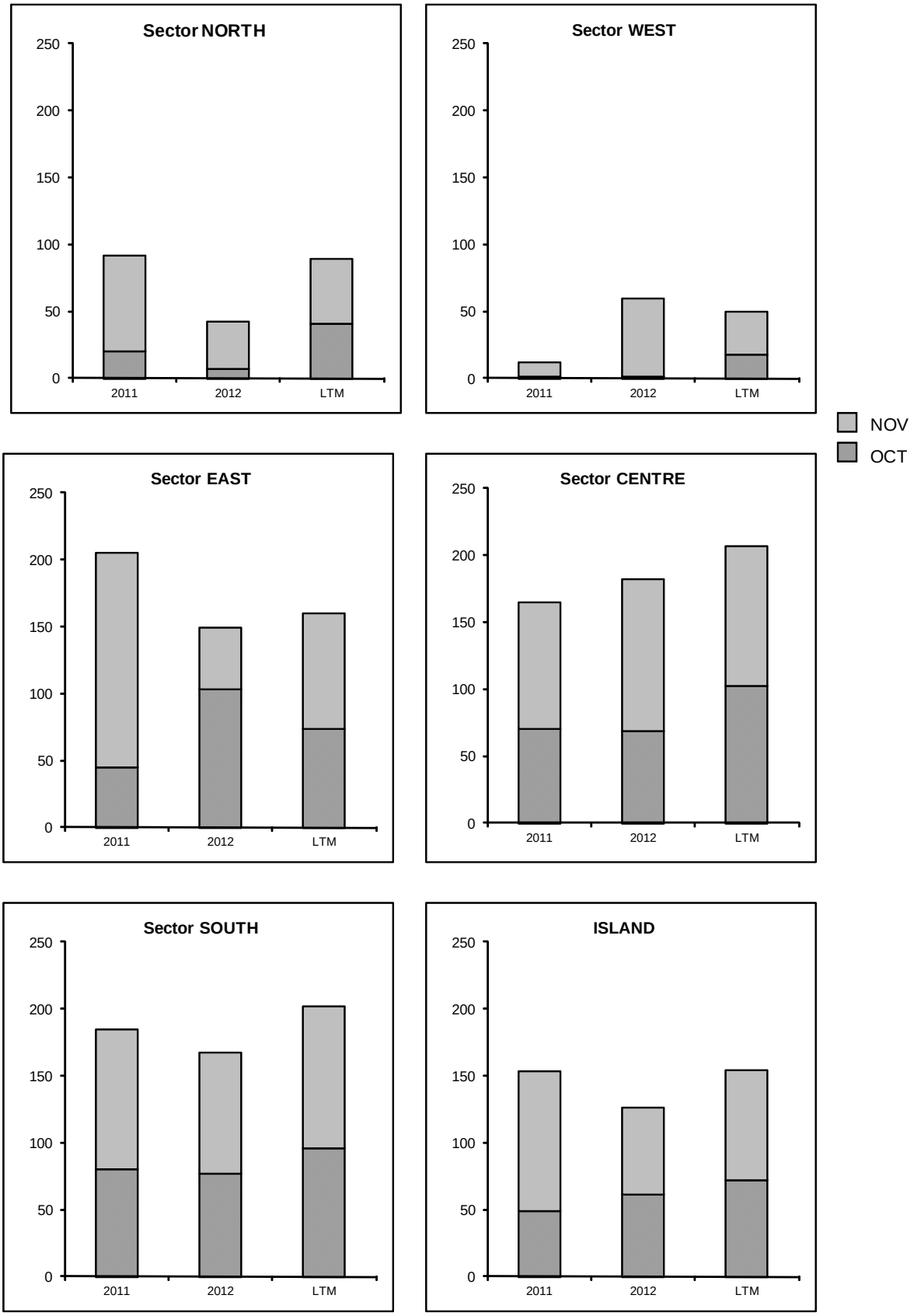
* figures in brackets are % of LTM

Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2011 for crop 2012 compared to that of crop 2011 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2011	**92** *(104)*	**205** *(128)*	**185** *(92)*	**12** *(24)*	**165** *(80)*	**153** *(100)*
2012	**42** *(47)*	**149** *(93)*	**167** *(83)*	**60** *(120)*	**182** *(88)*	**126** *(82)*
LTM	89	160	202	50	207	154

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

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct to Nov 2011 for the 2012 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2011 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



2. CROP 2011

As at 26 November 2011, 31 755 ha (88%) of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 33 126 ha (94%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, the harvested area has reached 83% in the North, 82% in the South and 87% in the West while harvest is almost complete in the East and Centre. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. Because of the centralization of milling activities and since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at FUEL, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for these two sectors.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 2a)

Cane productivity for the island as at 26 November 2011 was 79.7 TCH compared to 81.4 TCH recorded in 2010. It represented a shortfall of about 2% when compared to last year's performance. Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date has been recorded in the West with 88.6 TCH, followed by the South (82.3 TCH), the North (80.6 TCH), the East (76.7 TCH) and the Centre (70.1 TCH). Compared to the same period in 2010, cane productivity recorded to-date was comparable in the South and Centre but inferior in the other sectors. The difference amounted to 1.7 TCH in the North, 1.9 TCH in the East and 6.3 TCH in the West.

Table 2a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2010 and 2011 crops

	End October		End November	
Sectors	**2010**	**2011**	**2010**	**2011**
North	84.7	81.0	82.3	80.6
East	79.8	75.7	78.6	76.7
South	82.8	81.0	82.2	82.3
West	96.0	88.4	94.9	88.6
Centre	73.2	70.9	69.7	70.1
Island	**82.8**	**79.0**	**81.4**	**79.7**

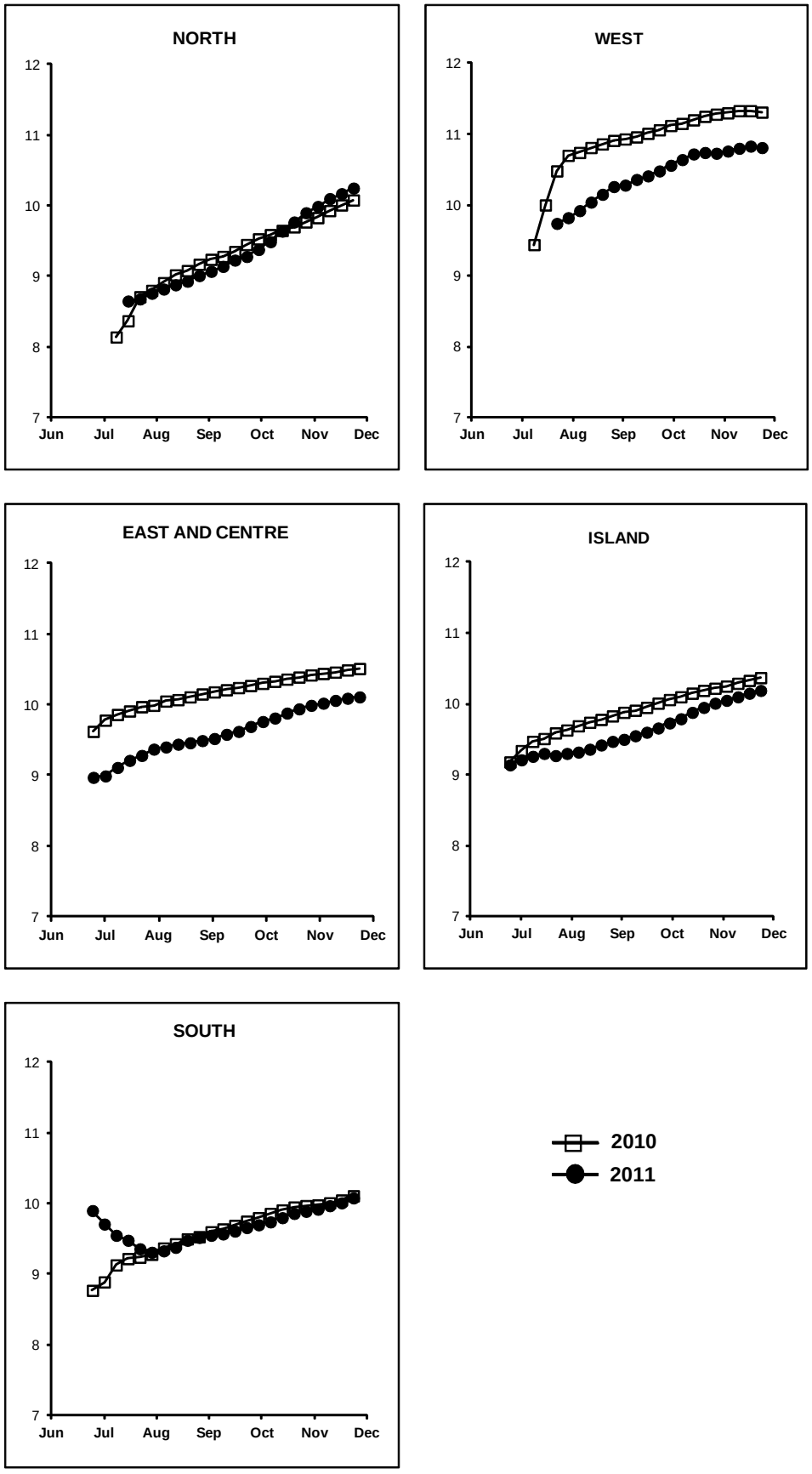
2.2 Extraction (Table 2b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 10.19% was lower than that at the corresponding period in 2010 (10.37%) by 0.18^{o}. Sector-wise, the cumulative extraction rates recorded at end-November 2011 amounted to 10.25% in the North, 10.11% in the East-Centre, 10.08% in the South and 10.81% in the West. Extraction rates are thus lagging behind those recorded during end-November of last year in the East-Centre by 0.40^{o}, in the South by 0.03^{o} and in the West by 0.50^{o}. In the North extraction rate is higher than that of last year by 0.17^{o}.

Table 2b. Cumulative Extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2010 and 2011 crops

	End October		End November	
Sectors	**2010**	**2011**	**2010**	**2011**
North	9.77	9.90	10.08	10.25
East /Centre	10.42	9.99	10.51	10.11
South	9.97	9.89	10.11	10.08
West	11.28	10.73	11.31	10.81
Island	**10.22**	**10.01**	**10.37**	**10.19**

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2010 and 2011 crops



2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 2c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 8.12 TSH was lower by 4% (0.32 tonne) than that at the corresponding period in 2010 (8.44 TSH). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 8.26 TSH in the North, 7.62 TSH in the East-Centre, 8.30 TSH in the South and 9.58 TSH in the West. Compared to the corresponding period in 2010, sugar productivity recorded to-date was comparable in the South and North but inferior in sectors East-Centre by 0.46 TSH and West by 1.15 TSH.

Table 2c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2010 and 2011 crops

	End October		End November	
Sectors	**2010**	**2011**	**2010**	**2011**
North	8.28	8.02	8.30	8.26
East / Centre	8.18	7.46	8.08	7.62
South	8.26	8.01	8.31	8.30
West	10.83	9.49	10.73	9.58
Island	**8.46**	**7.91**	**8.44**	**8.12**

3. CROP PRODUCTIVITY 2011

Apart from a lower rainfall than normal, the climatic parameters in November did not depart significantly from the long-term means. The weather encountered has led to an increase of 0.18^{o} in extraction rate from end-October to end-November in 2011 compared to 0.15^{o} in 2010. Usually cane productivity decreases during this period as exemplified by the reduction of 1.4 TCH recorded in 2010 and 0.02 in 2009. This year however it has increased from 79.0 TCH to 79.7 TCH. This unforeseen evolution has enabled this year's sugar productivity to catch up substantially over that of last year. Thus the difference is now only 4% as opposed to 7% at the end of October, pointing definitely towards a national production of close to 420 000 tonnes sugar this year.

4 CROP 2012

Crop 2012 has benefited up to now from more or less normal conditions. The dry period experienced during the months of October and November is not considered to be detrimental to the crop. If the normal weather pattern persists during the remaining part of the crop cycle a normal crop can be expected in 2012.