

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2012

11 December 2012

SUGAR CANE CROP 2012

Status: End November 2012

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded during the month of November over the sugar cane areas of the island was below normal with an average of 72 mm which represented 86% of the long-term mean (83 mm) for the month. November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 24 mm in the West. In the other sectors, rainfall for the month was lagging behind the long-term mean by 13 mm in the North, 7 mm in the East, 14 mm in the South and 30 mm in the Centre.

Rainfall for the months of October and November 2012 cumulated to 118 mm for the island, i.e. 76% of the long-term mean of 155 mm. During that two-month period, 51 mm were recorded in the North, 126 mm in the East, 167 mm in the South, 59 mm in the West and 140 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 58%, 79%, 81%, 121% and 68% of the respective long-term mean.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of November for crops 2012, 2013⁺ and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	35 (74)	46 (53)	90 (82)	59 (192)	113 (108)	65 (78)
2013	34 (72)*	79 (92)	96 (87)	55 (179)	75 (72)	72 (86)
LTM	47	86	110	31	105	83

+ Crop year is from October to September

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

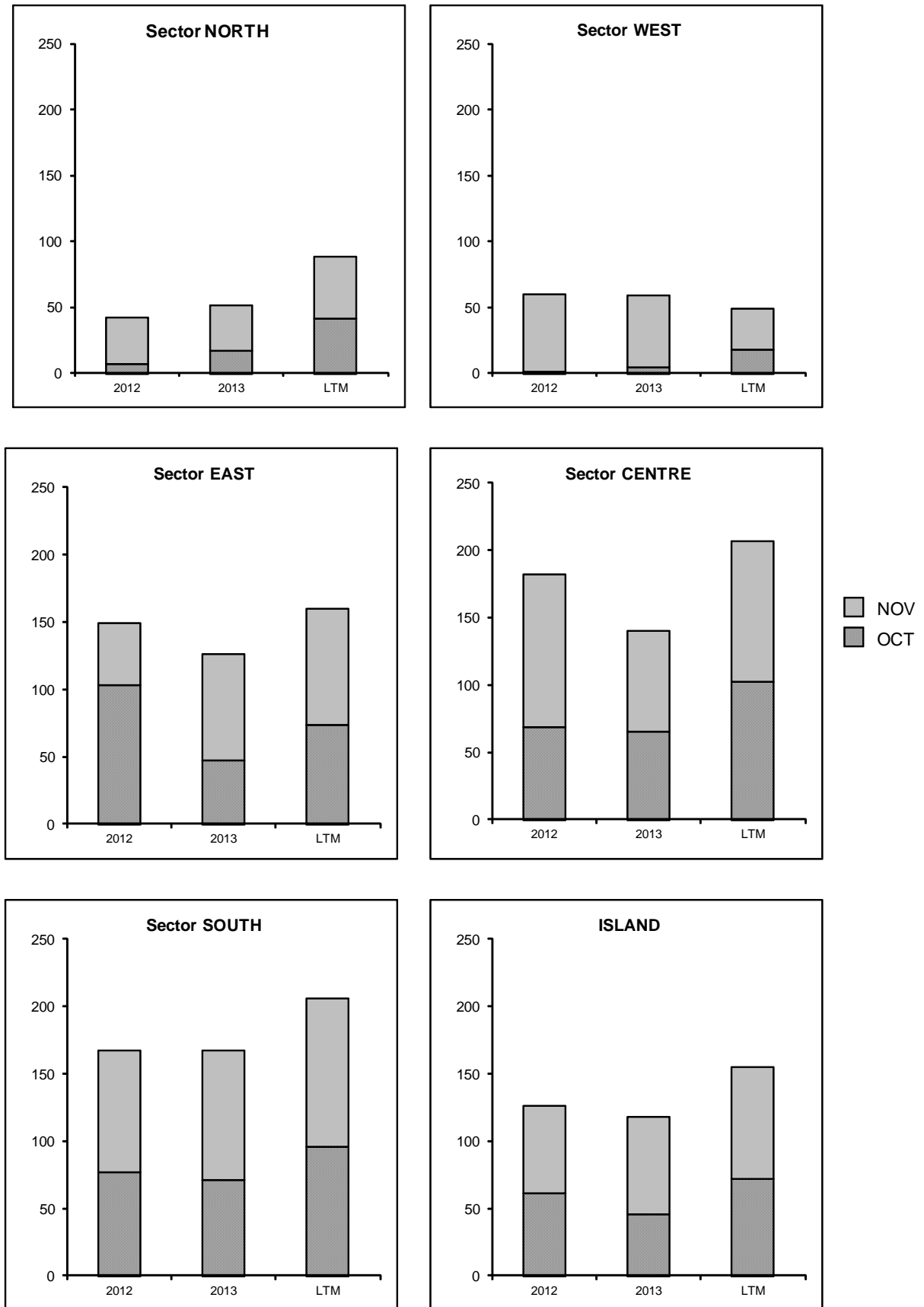
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2012 for crop 2013 compared to that of crop 2012 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	42 (48)	149 (93)	167 (81)	60 (123)	182 (88)	126 (81)
2013	51 (58)*	126 (79)	167 (81)	59 (121)	140 (68)	118 (76)
LTM	88	160	206	49	207	155

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct to Nov 2012 for the 2013 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2012 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



2. CROP 2012

As at 1 December 2012, 31 170 ha, representing 90% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 33 159 ha (94%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, the harvested area reached 86% in the North and 84% in the South while harvest in the other sectors is nearing completion with more than 95% of the area already harvested. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. Since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at FUEL due to the centralization of milling activities, the harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for sectors East and Centre.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 2a)

Cane productivity for the island as at 1 December 2012 amounted to 78.1 TCH compared to 80.0 TCH in 2011. It represented a shortfall of about 2.4% when compared to last year's performance. Sector-wise, the highest cane productivity to-date was again recorded in the West with 83.2 TCH, followed by East with 78.7 TCH, the South with 78.5 TCH, the Centre with 78.1 TCH and the North with 73.7 TCH. Cane productivity recorded to-date in sectors North, South and West lagged behind that of the corresponding period last year by 6.8 TCH, 4.0 TCH and 5.6 TCH, respectively. In the other two sectors, cane productivity at the end of November 2012 exceeded that of 2011 with an advantage of 1.6 TCH in the East and 8.0 TCH in the Centre.

Table 2a Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	81.0	75.2	80.5	73.7
East	75.7	78.4	77.1	78.7
South	81.0	77.6	82.5	78.5
West	88.4	82.4	88.8	83.2
Centre	70.9	77.3	70.1	78.1
Island	79.1	77.9	80.0	78.1

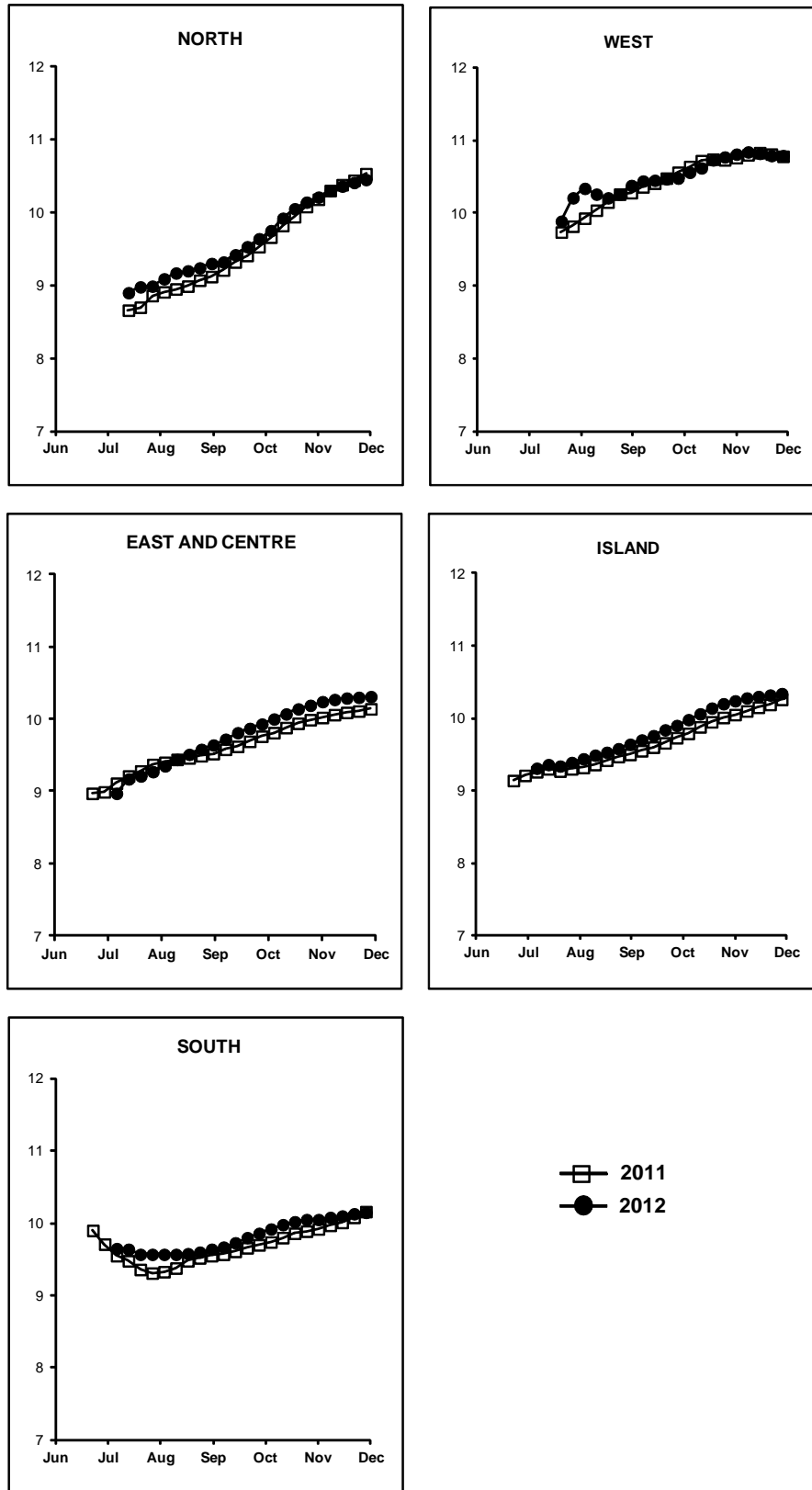
2.2 Extraction (Table 2b, Figure 2)

The recorded cumulative island extraction rate of 10.34% exceeded that of the corresponding period in 2011 (10.26%) by 0.08%.

Table 2b Cumulative extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	10.08	10.14	10.53	10.45
East /Centre	9.99	10.19	10.14	10.31
South	9.89	10.05	10.16	10.15
West	10.73	10.77	10.78	10.79
Island	10.01	10.20	10.26	10.34

Figure 2 Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2011 and 2012 crops.



Sector-wise, the cumulative extraction rates recorded at end-November 2012 amounted to 10.45% in the North, 10.31% in the East-Centre, 10.15% in the South and 10.79% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was comparable in the South and West, higher by 0.17° in the East-Centre but lagging behind by 0.08° in the North.

2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 2c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 8.08 TSH was lower than at the corresponding period in 2011 (8.21 TSH) by 0.13 tonne (1.6%). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 7.70 TSH in the North, 8.10 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.97 TSH in the South and 8.98 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity to-date was higher than at the corresponding period in 2011 in the East-Centre only by 0.42 TSH. In the other three sectors sugar productivity at end-November 2012 was lagging behind that of the corresponding period last year by 0.78 TSH in the North, 0.41 TSH in the South and 0.59 TSH in the West.

Table 2c Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	8.16	7.63	8.48	7.70
East / Centre	7.46	7.97	7.68	8.10
South	8.01	7.80	8.38	7.97
West	9.49	8.87	9.57	8.98
Island	7.92	7.95	8.21	8.08

3. CROP PRODUCTIVITY 2012

The 2012 crop is nearing its end and following the dry weather experienced during November, cane productivity during the month has increased marginally and at the end of November 2012 it was still lagging behind that of last year by 1.9 TCH. The weather encountered has also led to an increase of 0.14° in extraction rate from end-October to end-November in 2012 compared to 0.25° in 2011. These have resulted in a slight gain in sugar productivity of 0.13 TSH at island level during the month of November 2012 compared to 0.29 TSH in sugar productivity during November 2011. With 10% of miller planters land remaining to harvest, no major changes in productivity are expected until the end of the season.

4. CROP 2013

Weather up to now can be considered as favourable to normal growth and development of the crop except for rainfed fields of the North and West which should be experiencing some water stress presently after the dry months of October and November. But this is not expected to be detrimental to final cane production as most crops are tillering and recovery is still possible.