

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2013

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### SUGAR CANE CROP 2013

#### Status: End January 2013

## 1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island in January 2013 was 275 mm and it represented 107% of the long-term mean. January rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 77 mm (30%) in the East and 39 mm (13%) in the South. In the Centre it was close to the long-term mean, whereas in the North and West sectors rainfall for the month was inferior to the long-term mean by 29 mm (15%) and 79 mm (47%), respectively.

Rainfall for the period October 2012 to January 2013 amounted to 528 mm for the island. This is 86% of the island long-term mean of 616 mm for that period. During that same period, 287 mm were recorded in the North, 637 mm in the East, 665 mm in the South, 183 mm in the West and 627 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 71%, 101%, 89%, 56%, and 76% of the respective long-term mean.

January 2013 has been characterized by heavy downpours that contributed in correcting the soil moisture deficit which prevailed during November and December, especially in the low-lying areas.

**Table 1a Rainfall (mm) in January for crops 2012, 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2012</b>	72 (39)*	130 (50)	81 (28)	57 (34)	102 (29)	92 (37)
<b>2013</b>	<b>157</b> (85)	<b>337</b> (130)	<b>329</b> (113)	<b>88</b> (53)	<b>357</b> (101)	<b>275</b> (107)
<b>LTM</b>	186	260	290	167	354	257

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

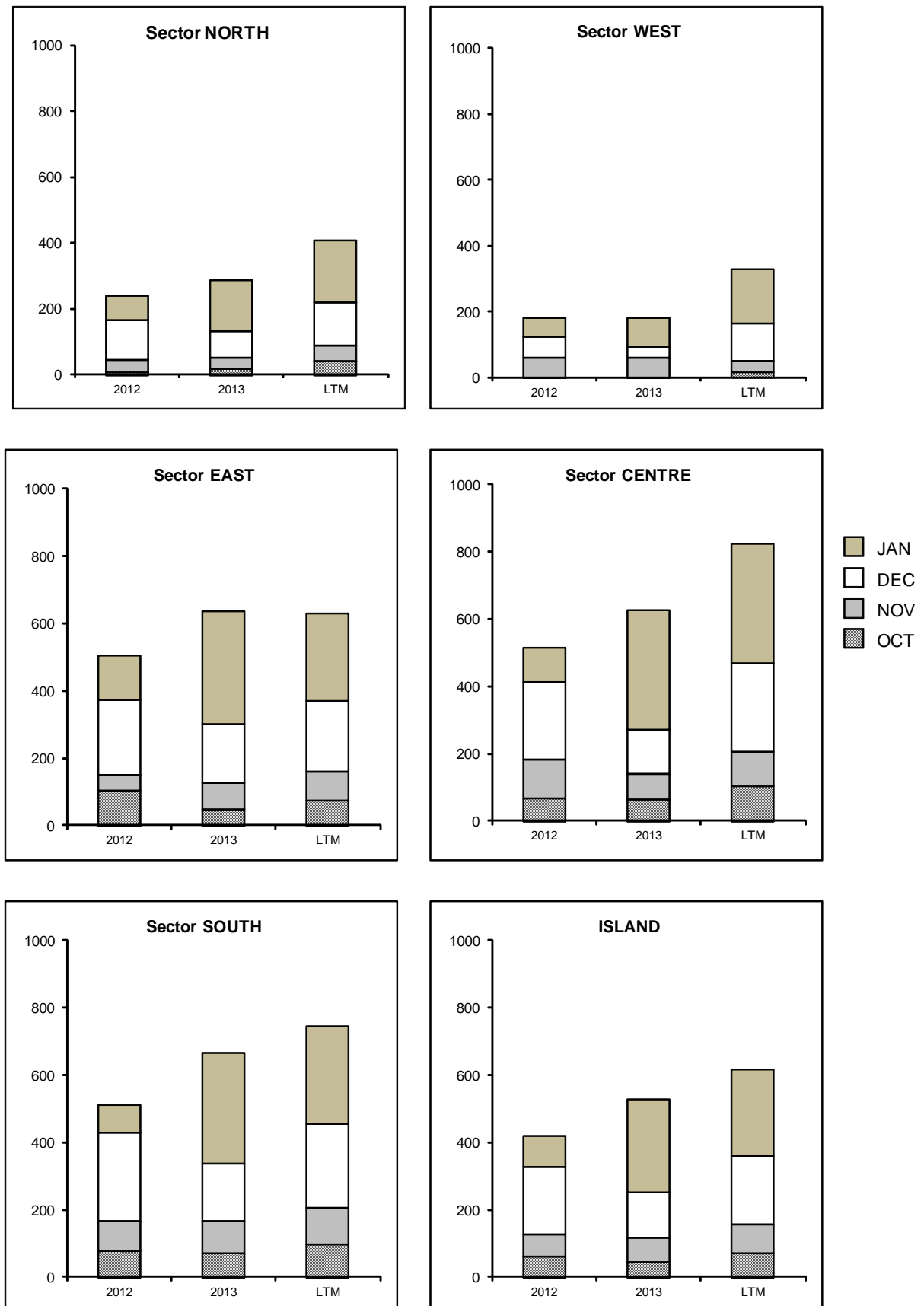
**Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2012 to January 2013 for crop 2013 compared to that of crop 2012 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2012</b>	237 (58)	505 (80)	511 (69)	181 (55)	514 (62)	420 (68)
<b>2013</b>	<b>287</b> (71)*	<b>637</b> (101)	<b>665</b> (89)	<b>183</b> (56)	<b>627</b> (76)	<b>528</b> (86)
<b>LTM</b>	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 2012 to January 2013 for the 2013 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2012 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).**



## 2. STALK HEIGHT

Measurements of stalk height were carried out during the last week of January 2013 at 60 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. Data collected are compared with those of the corresponding period in January 2012 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 2013 was superior to that of the same period in 2012 in all sectors. During January 2013, the highest stalk growth was observed in the East with 58.1 cm followed by the North (44.0 cm), South (36.6 cm), West (36.4 cm) and the Centre (35.4 cm). Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth exceeded the normal by 11.1 cm in the North, 18.9 cm in the East and 1.9 cm in the Centre. In the South and West, it lagged behind by 8.5 cm and 3.9 cm, respectively. The island stalk elongation of 44.1 cm was higher than that for the corresponding period in 2012 by 14.8 cm (50.3%) and the normal by 5.2 cm (13.3%).

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Jan			Jan 2013 as % of	
	2013	2012	Normal	2012	Normal
North	44.0	22.3	32.9	197.3	133.9
East	58.1	35.3	39.2	164.6	148.3
South	36.6	31.8	45.1	115.1	81.2
West	36.4	19.2	40.3	189.6	90.3
Centre	35.4	29.6	33.5	119.6	105.7
<b>Island</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>150.3</b>	<b>113.3</b>

### 2.2 Total stalk height (Table 2b and Figure 2)

Total stalk height at end January 2013 stood at 62.7 cm in the North, 99.9 cm in the East, 73.7 cm in the South, 64.6 cm in the West and 75.7 cm in the Centre to give an island average of 77.8 cm. Compared to end-January 2012, stalk height was taller by 19.7 cm in the North, 14.0 cm in the East, 15.6 cm in the West and 7.8 cm in the Centre. In the South, it lagged behind that of the corresponding period last year by 1.3cm. Total stalk height at end-January 2013 exceeded the normal by 3.0 cm (5.1 %) in the North and 7.6 cm (8.2%) in the East. In the other sectors, it was below normal by 22.4 cm (23.3%) in the South, 9.9 cm (13.2%) in the West and 5.1 cm (6.3%) in the Centre.

At island level, the total stalk height of 77.8 cm at the end of January 2013 was superior to that of the corresponding period in 2012 by 9.9 cm (14.7%) but lagged behind the normal by 3.4 cm (4.2 %).

**Table 2b. Stalk height at end-January.**

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Jan			End-Jan 2013 as % of	
	2013	2012	Normal	2012	Normal
North	62.7	43.0	59.7	145.8	105.1
East	99.9	85.9	92.3	116.3	108.2
South	73.7	75.0	96.1	98.3	76.7
West	64.6	49.0	74.5	131.8	86.8
Centre	75.7	67.9	80.8	111.5	93.7
<b>Island</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>95.8</b>

### 3. CROP 2013

Weather during the month of January 2013 has been in general conducive to growth and development of the sugar cane crop. This is reflected in a higher stalk elongation in all sectors compared to that of the corresponding period last year. However, the lower total stalk height recorded at the end of January 2013 in some sectors compared to the normal can be attributed to the late end of harvest together with the period of water stress sustained during the months of November and December 2012. The heavy downpours during January 2013 have replenished the soil moisture reserve and will easily meet the crop water requirement for the next two to three weeks. The crop will surely benefit from the stored moisture and the prevailing high temperatures being recorded across the island.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- January 2013.

