

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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9 September 2014

SUGAR CANE CROP 2014

Status: End August 2014

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded in August over the sugar cane areas was slightly below normal with an island average of 119 mm, representing 97% of the long-term mean of 123 mm. Sector-wise, rainfall for the month of August was below the long-term mean in the North with 57 mm, in the South with 121mm and Centre with 177 mm. The 173 mm rainfall received in the East sector and 51 mm in the West exceeded the long-term mean by 51% and 97% respectively.

Rainfall for the period October 2013 to August 2014 cumulated to 2123 mm, representing 109% of the long-term mean for the island. During the same period 1170 mm were recorded in the North, 2600 mm in the East, 2550 mm in the South, 1018 mm in the West and 2681 mm in the Centre. Compared to their respective long-term mean, cumulative rainfall represented 90%, 131%, 104%, 113% and 101% of the respective long-term means in the North, East, South, West and the Centre respectively.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of August for crops 2013, 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	49 (72)	159 (139)	139 (77)	37 (142)	161 (84)	118 (94)
2014	57 (85)*	173 (151)	121 (67)	51 (197)	177 (92)	119 (97)
LTM	68	114	180	26	192	123

* Figures in brackets are % of LTM

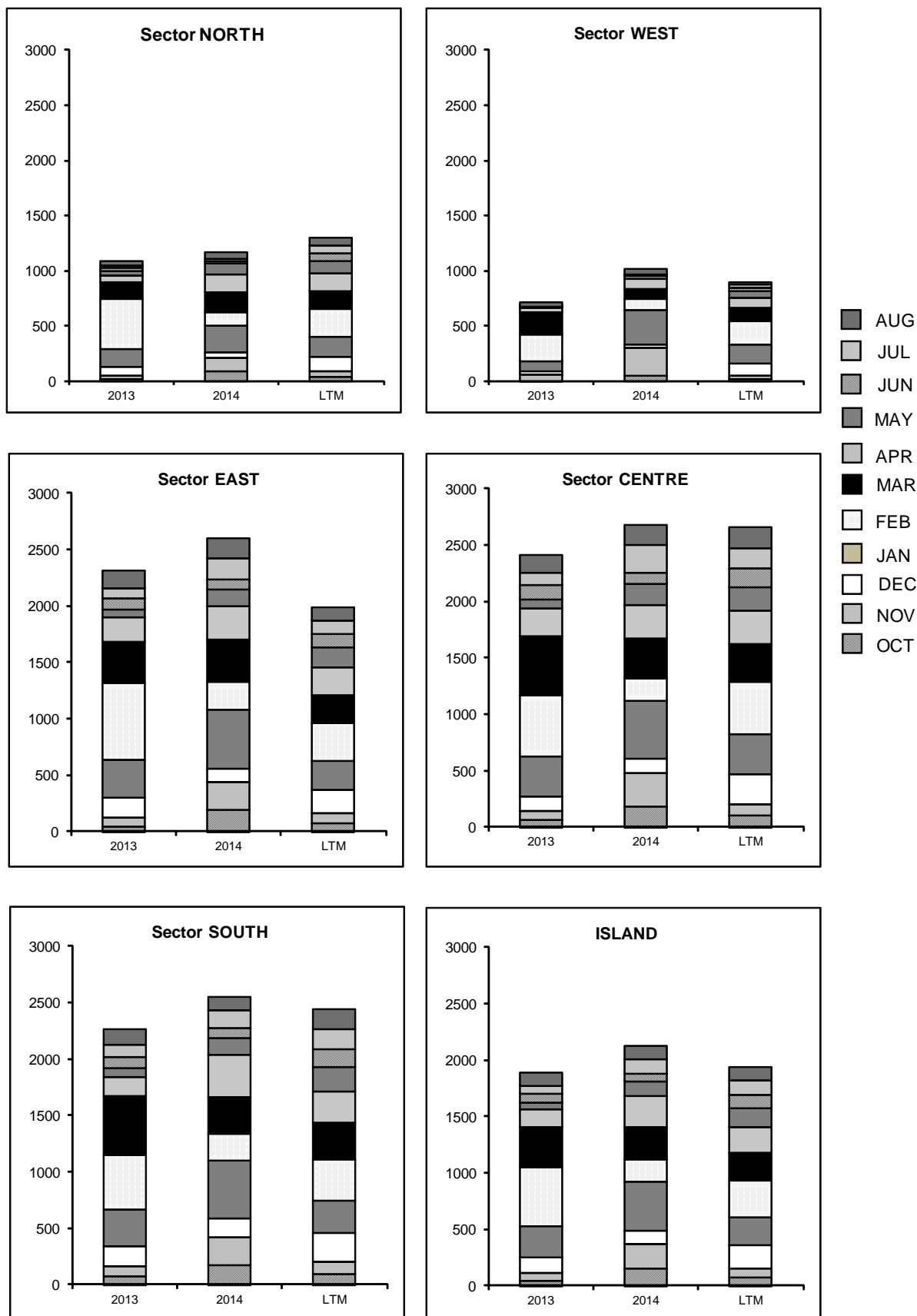
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2013 to August 2014 for crop 2014 compared to that of crop 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	1093 (84)	2317 (117)	2269 (93)	713 (79)	2412 (91)	1887 (97)
2014	1170 (90)*	2600 (131)	2550 (104)	1018 (113)	2681 (101)	2123 (109)
LTM	1297	1986	2445	898	2664	1939

*Figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: provisional data from Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2013 to August 2014 for the 2014 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2013 crop and to the long term mean (LTM)



1.2 Temperature (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during the month of August 2014 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

The mean monthly maximum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations ranging from 0.4°C at Belle Rive to 1.4°C at Pamplémousses. Above normal mean monthly minimum temperature was recorded at all stations except at Réduit where it was similar. The resulting mean amplitude was below normal at Belle Rive but above normal at the other three stations.

Table 2. Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2014

Station	Maximum (°C)	Minimum (°C)	Amplitude (°C)
Pamplémousses	27.1 (25.7) *	16.8 (16.5)	10.3 (9.2)
Réduit	23.4 (22.5)	15.3 (15.3)	8.1 (7.2)
Belle Rive	22.4 (22.0)	14.9 (14.0)	7.5 (8.0)
Union Park	22.6 (21.5)	16.2 (15.3)	6.4 (6.2)

* figures in brackets are the Normal (1981-2010)

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that sunshine hours during August 2014 were above normal at all four stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal reached 104 at Pamplémousses, 101 at Réduit, 105 at Belle Rive and 110 at Union Park.

Table 3. Sunshine duration (h) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2014

Station	August 2014	Normal	% of Normal
Pamplémousses	258	247	104
Réduit	223	220	101
Belle Rive	213	202	105
Union Park	157	143	110

2. SUCROSE ACCUMULATION (Tables 4a and 4b)

Cane samples from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and covering the main cultivated varieties were analyzed for sucrose content during the last week of August 2014. The average pol % cane (*richesse*) was calculated on the basis of area under cultivation of each variety in the different factory areas of each sector. The results are compared with those of the last two years.

Table 4a. Average Pol % cane (richesse) at end August 2014.

Sectors	M 52/78	R 573	M 695/69	R 575	M 387/85	M 1246/84	M 2593/92	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	M 1861/89	R 579	M 1394/86	M 1672/90	R 570
North		17.9				17.1	17.6	16.7	16.8		17.4		17.4	17.2
East						17.3	18.2	16.8	18.3		15.7			17.4
South	16.4	15.6	17.0		15.6			16.4	16.9	16.6	15.9	15.0	16.1	16.0
West		16.9		16.6			16.0	16.5	16.7		16.0			16.4
Centre	16.1	15.1			15.7			15.3	15.7		14.6			15.0

Table 4b. Comparison of Pol % cane (richesse) at the end of July and August 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Sectors	JULY			AUGUST		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
North	12.9	15.2	15.0	14.2	15.0	17.2
East	13.6	14.0	14.4	14.6	14.6	16.9
South	13.3	14.9	14.5	14.5	15.1	16.1
West	13.2	13.7	12.7	15.3	15.2	16.5
Centre	13.6	13.9	13.4	14.4	14.5	15.3
Island	13.3	14.5	14.3	14.5	14.9	16.5

The *richesse* at end-July 2014 stood at 17.2% in the North, 16.9% in the East, 16.1% in the South, 16.5% in the West and 15.3% in the Centre. These figures were higher than those obtained at the corresponding period last year by 2.2° in the North, 2.3° in the East, 1.0° South, 1.3° in the West and 0.8° in the Centre. Sucrose content at the end of August 2014 was higher than in August 2012 in all sectors.

During the period end-July 2014 to end-August 2014, *richesse* has improved in all sectors by 2.2° in the North, 2.5° in the East, 1.6° in the South, 3.8° in the West and 1.9° in the Centre. These increments were higher than those observed during the corresponding period last year. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* in 2014 amounted to 2.2° and was higher than the 0.4° and 1.2° obtained in 2013 and 2012 respectively for the same period.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 16.5% recorded at the end of August 2014 was superior to those of the corresponding period in 2013 (14.9%) and 2012 (14.5%).

3. CROP 2014

As at 30 August 2014, 12 164 ha representing about 35% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 12 748 ha (37%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 28% in the North, 35% in the East, 36% in the South, 40% in the West and 42% in the Centre. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. On account of the centralization of milling activities and since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at factories in the East, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for these two sectors.

3.1 Cane productivity (Table 5a)

The cane productivity of 83.7 TCH for the island as at 30 August 2014 was higher than the 75.9 TCH recorded in 2013 by 7.8 TCH (10.3%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 88.5 TCH, followed by the South (86.8 TCH), the East (82.2 TCH), the North (80.5 TCH) and the Centre (75.8 TCH). These figures when compared to the same period in 2013 were higher in all sectors by 8.7 TCH in the North, 6.5 TCH in the East, 7.7 TCH in the South, 8.6 TCH in the West and 6.9 TCH in the Centre.

Table 5a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end July and August for the 2013 and 2014 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	73.5	80.9	71.8	80.5
East	73.7	82.9	75.7	82.2
South	79.2	85.8	79.1	86.8
West	87.0	91.2	79.9	88.5
Centre	71.1	76.4	68.9	75.8
Island	75.9	83.8	75.9	83.7

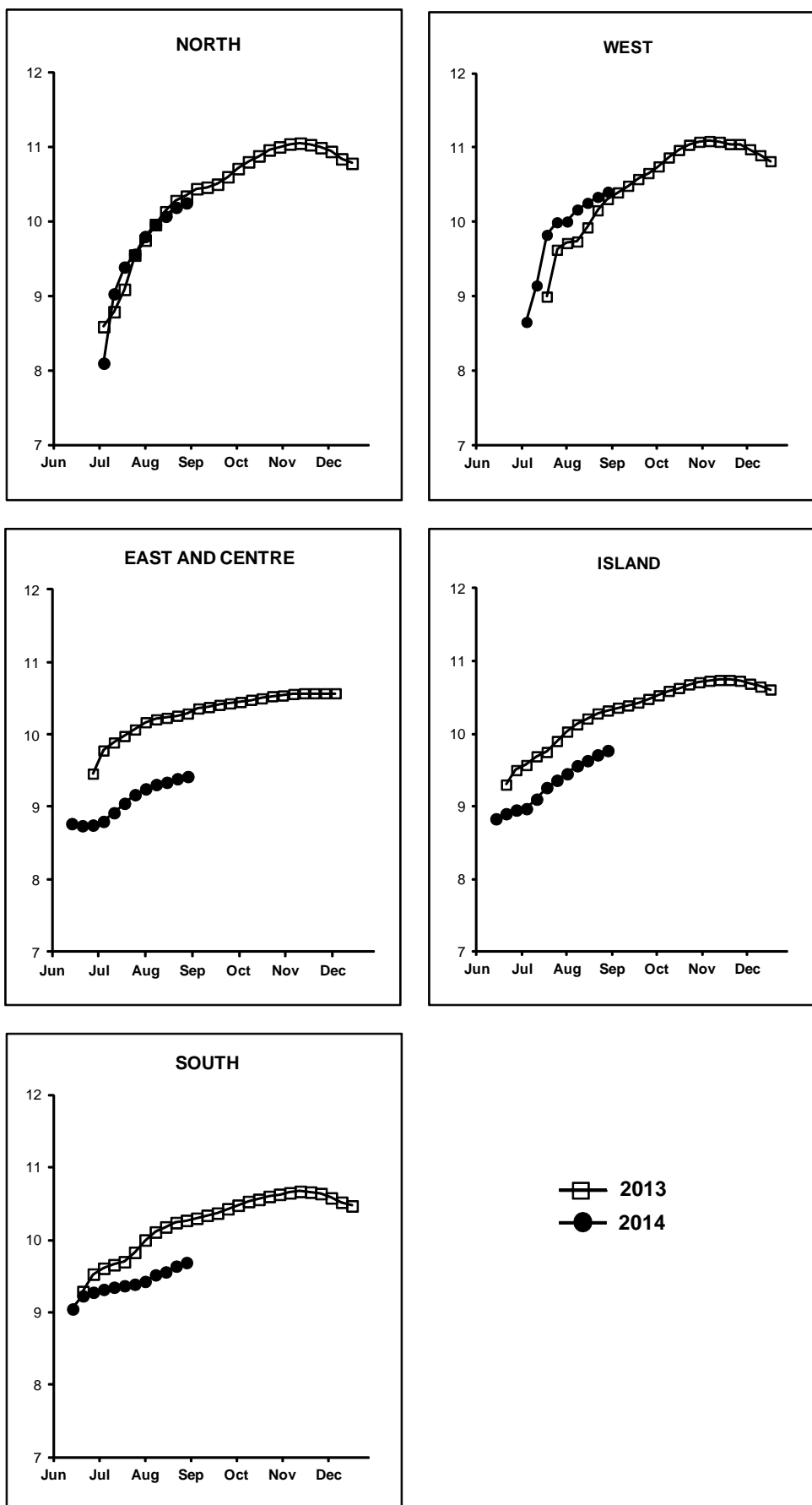
3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded cumulative island extraction rate of 9.77% was lower than at the corresponding period in 2013 (10.32%) by 0.55%. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 10.25% in the North, 9.42% in the East-Centre, 9.69% in the South and 10.41% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was higher in the West by 0.10%, comparable in the North, but was lagging behind in the East-Centre by 0.87% and in the South by 0.58%.

Table 5b Cumulative extraction rate (%) as at end July and August for the 2013 and 2014 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	9.55	9.56	10.34	10.25
East /Centre	10.07	9.17	10.29	9.42
South	9.83	9.39	10.27	9.69
West	9.63	10.00	10.31	10.41
Island	9.90	9.36	10.32	9.77

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2013 and 2014 crops



3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 8.18 TSH was higher than at the corresponding period in 2013 (7.83 TSH) by 0.35 tonne (4.5 %). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 8.25 TSH in the North, 7.62 TSH in the East-Centre, 8.41 TSH in the South and 9.21 TSH in the West. Compared to the corresponding period in 2013, sugar productivity to-date was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2013 in the North by 0.83 TSH, in the South by 0.29 TSH and in the West by 0.97 TSH. In sector East-Centre, sugar productivity in August 2014 was comparable to that of the corresponding period in 2013.

Table 5c Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end July and August for the 2013 and 2014 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	7.02	7.73	7.42	8.25
East / Centre	7.38	7.49	7.66	7.62
South	7.79	8.06	8.12	8.41
West	8.38	9.12	8.24	9.21
Island	7.51	7.84	7.83	8.18

4. 2014 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Weather has been generally favourable to ripening with above normal temperature amplitude and solar radiation, except for the East and Centre where rainfall exceeded the crop water requirements. With more than one third of the area of miller planters' land harvested, productivity levels are following the expected trends with higher cane yields in all sectors compared to 2013. At island level, cane productivity is exceeding that of 2013 by 7.8 TCH (10.3%). However, extraction rate in August 2014 compared to the same period last year is maintaining its slightly lower rate in sector East-Centre and South. However, it should be pointed out that the improvement in extraction rate during the month of August 2014 is comparable to that obtained during the same month in 2013. Thus, sugar productivity to-date is comparable in sector East-Centre but higher than 2013 in all the remaining sectors. At island level, the average sugar productivity this year is higher than in 2013 by 0.35 TSH (4.5%). Based on these data and with no major departure in the weather from the normal, sugar productivity is expected to be higher than that of last year.