

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2014

Status: End July 2014

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded in July over the sugar cane areas was slightly above normal with an island average of 128 mm, representing 103% of the long-term mean of 124 mm. Rainfall for the month of July exceeded the long-term mean by 62% in the East (188 mm) and 36% in the Centre (247 mm). In the other sectors, it was below the long-term mean with 23 mm (32% of LTM) in the North, 153 mm (85% of LTM) in the South and 10 mm (40% of LTM) in the West.

Cumulative rainfall for the period October 2013 to July 2014 amounted to 2004 mm, representing 110% of the long-term mean for the island. During the same period 1113 mm were recorded in the North, 2427 mm in the East, 2429 mm in the South, 967 mm in the West and 2504 mm in the Centre. Compared to their respective long-term mean, cumulative rainfall represented 91%, 130%, 107%, 111% 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 July for crops 2013, 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	11 (15)	94 (81)	114 (63)	1 (4)	100 (55)	73 (59)
2014	23 (32)*	188 (162)	153 (85)	10 (40)	247 (136)	128 (103)
LTM	73	116	180	25	181	124

* Figures in brackets are % of LTM

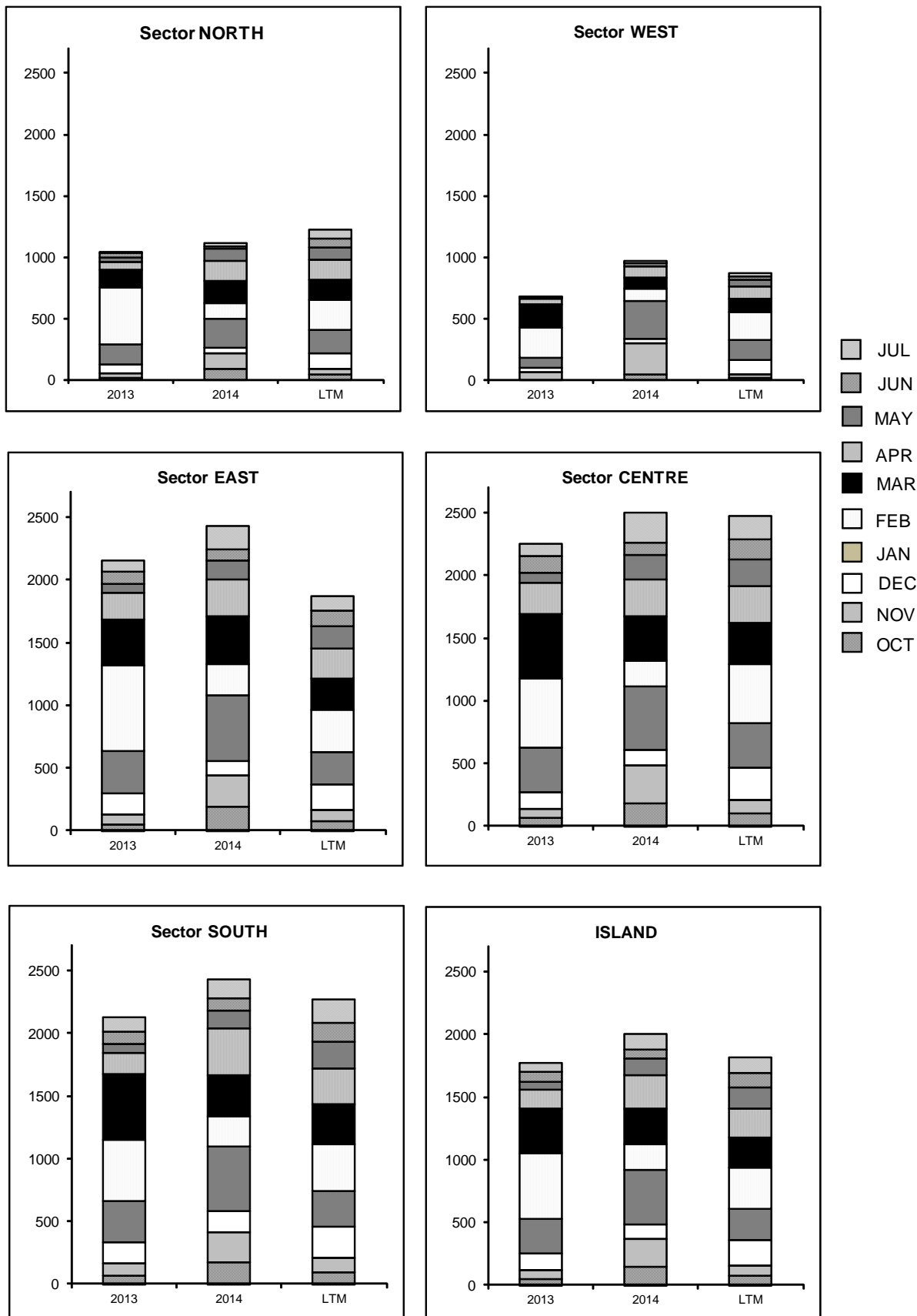
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2013 to July 2014 for crop 2014 compared to that of crop 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	1044 (85)	2158 (115)	2130 (94)	676 (78)	2251 (91)	1771 (98)
2014	1113 (91)*	2427 (130)	2429 (107)	967 (111)	2504 (101)	2004 (110)
LTM	1229	1872	2265	872	2472	1816

*Figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : provisional data from Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2013 to July 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 July 2014 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

The mean monthly maximum temperature exceeded the normal by 1.5°C at Pamplémousses, 1.0°C at Réduit and 1.2°C at Union Park, but was close to normal at Belle Rive. Above normal mean monthly minimum temperature was recorded at all stations. The resulting mean amplitude was comparable at Réduit but was lagging behind the normal at the other three stations.

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

Station	Maximum (°C)	Minimum (°C)	Amplitude (°C)
Pamplémousses	27.0 (25.5) *	18.1 (16.2)	8.9 (9.3)
Réduit	23.3 (22.3)	16.4 (15.3)	6.9 (7.0)
Belle Rive	22.1 (22.0)	15.5 (14.0)	6.6 (8.0)
Union Park	22.6 (21.4)	17.0 (15.4)	5.6 (6.0)

* 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 July 2014 were above normal at Pamplémousses, close to normal at Réduit but below normal at the other two stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal reached 105 at Pamplémousses, 101 at Réduit, 89 at Belle Rive and 84 at Union Park.

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

Station	July 2014	Normal	% of Normal
Pamplémousses	246	235	105
Réduit	225	222	101
Belle Rive	168	188	89
Union Park	112	134	84

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 July 2014. The average pol % cane (*richesse*) was computed 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 July 2014.

Sectors	M 52/78	M 703/89	R 573	M 695/69	R 575	M 387/85	M 1246/84	M 2256/88	M 2593/92	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	M 1861/89	R 579	M 1394/86	M 1672/90	R 570
North			15.5	17.5			14.1		15.1	14.8	14.9		14.1		15.7	15.1
East			15.5		15.8		14.8		15.4	15.5	16.0		12.8			14.9
South	15.4		15.7	15.5	15.8	15.1			14.9	15.0	14.2	15.4	13.4	15.1	15.0	13.8
West			14.7		13.9				11.1	12.6	12.9		12.6			9.3
Centre	15.5	13.6	14.1			13.7				14.4	12.2		11.9			11.5

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

Sectors	JUNE			JULY		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
North	10.6	13.3	12.6	12.9	15.2	15.0
East	12.3	13.5	12.7	13.6	14.0	14.4
South	12.4	13.7	12.3	13.3	14.9	14.5
West	11.6	12.8	12.2	13.2	13.7	12.7
Centre	12.5	13.5	12.7	13.6	13.9	13.4
Island	11.9	13.5	12.5	13.3	14.5	14.3

The *richesse* at end-July 2014 was 15.0% in the North, 14.4% in the East, 14.5% in the South, 12.7% in the West and 13.4% in the Centre. These figures were lagging behind those obtained at the corresponding period last year by 0.2° in the North, 0.4° in the South, 1.0° in the West and 0.5° in the Centre. In the East, it was higher than the corresponding period in 2013 by 0.4°. Compared to the corresponding period in 2012, sucrose content at end of July 2014 was higher in sectors North, East and South but inferior in the other two sectors.

Improvement in *richesse* occurred in all sectors during the month of July 2014 reaching the highest level of 2.4 in the North followed by 2.2° in the South, 1.7° in the East, 0.7° in the Centre and 0.5° in the West. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* was 1.8° in 2014 which was higher than the increment of 1.0 obtained in 2013 and 1.4 ° obtained in 2012.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 14.3% recorded at the end of July 2014 was slightly lower than that of the corresponding period in 2013 (14.5%) but higher than in 2012 (13.3%).

3. CROP 2014

As at 26 July 2014, 7078 ha representing about 20.4% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 5949 ha (17.2%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 11.8% in the North, 24.1% in the East, 22.5% in the South, 16.3% in the West and 27.1% 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)

Cane productivity for the island as at 26 July 2014 amounted to 83.8 TCH and was higher than the 75.9 TCH recorded in 2013 by 7.9 TCH (10.4%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 91.2 TCH, followed by the South (85.8 TCH), the East (82.9 TCH), the North (80.9 TCH) and the Centre (76.4 TCH).

Compared to the same period in 2013, cane productivity recorded to-date was higher in all sectors by 7.4 TCH in the North, 9.2 TCH in the East, 6.6 TCH in the South, 4.2 TCH in the West and 5.3 TCH in the Centre.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	73.5	73.7	79.2	87.0	71.1	75.9
2014	80.9	82.9	85.8	91.2	76.4	83.8

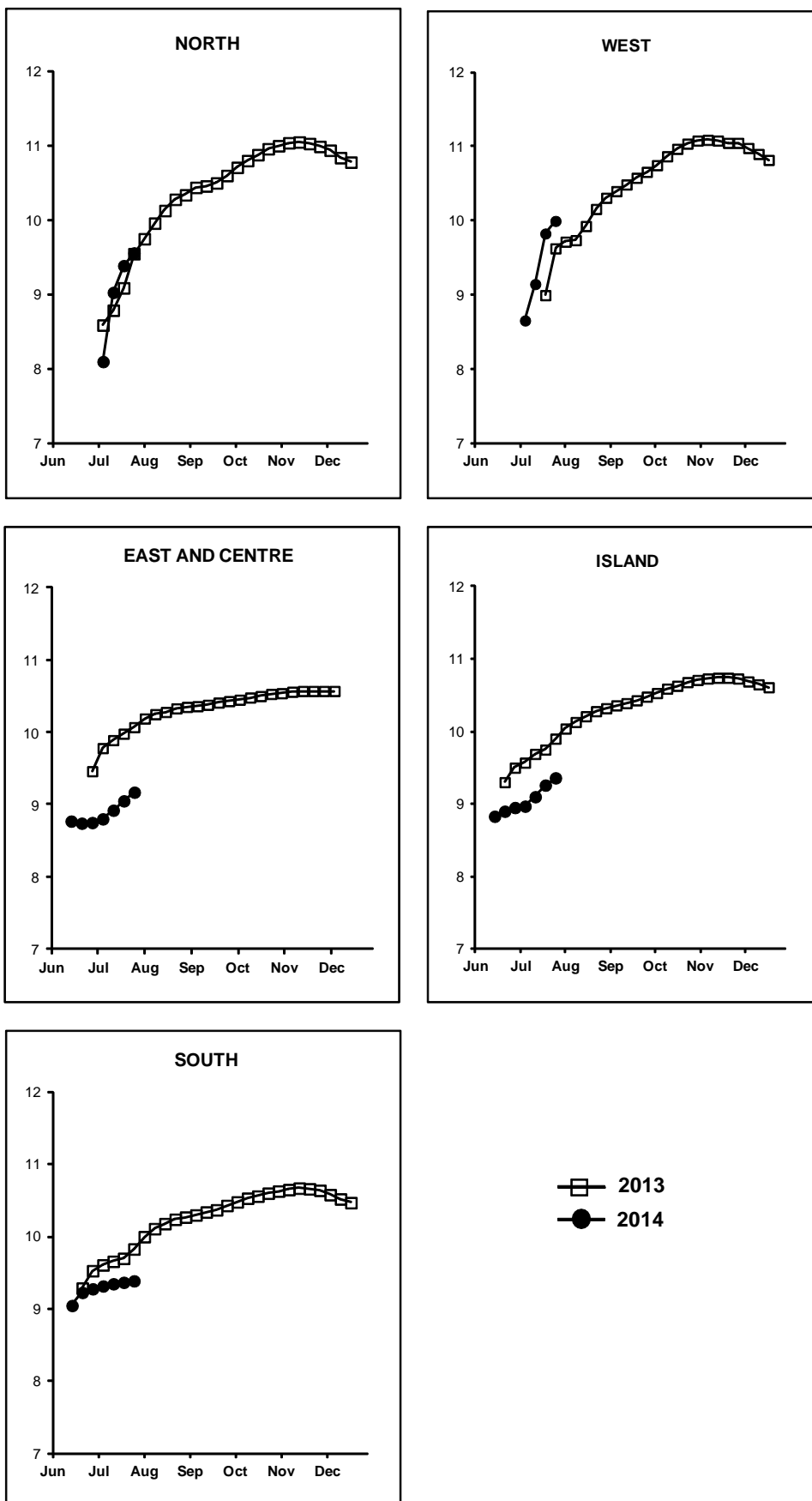
3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.36% was lower than at the corresponding period in 2013 (9.90%) by 0.54°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 9.56% in the North, 9.17% in the East-Centre, 9.39% in the South and 10.00% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was higher in the West by 0.37°, comparable in the North, but was lagging behind in the East-Centre by 0.90° and the South by 0.44°.

Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at end July for the 2013 and 2014 crops

	North	East -Centre	South	West	Island
2013	9.55	10.07	9.83	9.63	9.90
2014	9.56	9.17	9.39	10.00	9.36

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 7.84 TSH was higher than at the corresponding period in 2013 (7.51 TSH) by 0.33 tonne (4.4 %). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 7.73 TSH in the North, 7.49 TSH in the East-Centre, 8.06 TSH in the South and 9.12 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity to-date was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2013 in all sectors by 0.71 TSH in the North, 0.11 TSH in the East-Centre, 0.27 TSH in the South and 0.74 TSH in the West.

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

	North	East -Centre	South	West	Island
2013	7.02	7.38	7.79	8.38	7.51
2014	7.73	7.49	8.06	9.12	7.84

4. 2014 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Weather experienced during the month of July has been unfavourable to ripening in the East, South and Centre as a result of the high rainfall and the below normal temperature amplitude. In the North and West, the stress caused by the low rainfall contributed positively to sucrose accumulation despite the below normal temperature amplitude recorded.

Harvest has not covered extensive areas yet, with only about 20% of miller planters' land. Nevertheless, the better cane productivity recorded this year since the start of the harvest season is maintaining itself. Cane productivity is exceeding that of 2013 by 7.9 TCH (10.4%) while extraction rate is below that of 2013. Overall, sugar productivity for the island exceeds that of last year at the same period by 0.33 TSH. In the event that normal weather prevails until the end of the crop season and extraction improves, the 2014 crop is expected to be better than that of 2013.