MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2015

Status: End July 2015

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded in July over the sugar cane areas was above normal with an island average of 159 mm, representing 122% of the long-term mean (LTM) of 131 mm. Rainfall for the month of July exceeded the LTM by 50% in the East (196 mm), 21% in the South (215 mm) and 18% in the Centre (231 mm). In the other sectors, it was below the LTM.

Rainfall over the island during the period October 2014 to July 2015 cumulated to 2379 mm, which is higher than the island LTM of 1768 mm for this period (+32%). During the same period, a total of 1409 mm was recorded in the North, 2938 mm in the East, 2740 mm in the South, 1163 mm in the West and 3066 mm in the Centre. Compared to the respective long-term mean of these sectors, cumulative rainfall represented 118% in the North, 154% in the East, 125% in the South, 133% in the West and 125% in the Centre.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of July for crops 2014, 2015 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2014	23 *(29)*	188 *(144)*	153 *(86)*	10 *(32)*	247 *(127)*	128 *(98)*
2015	**64** *(80)**	**196** *(150)*	**215** *(121)*	**27** *(87)*	**231** *(118)*	**159** *(122)*
LTM	80	131	177	31	195	131

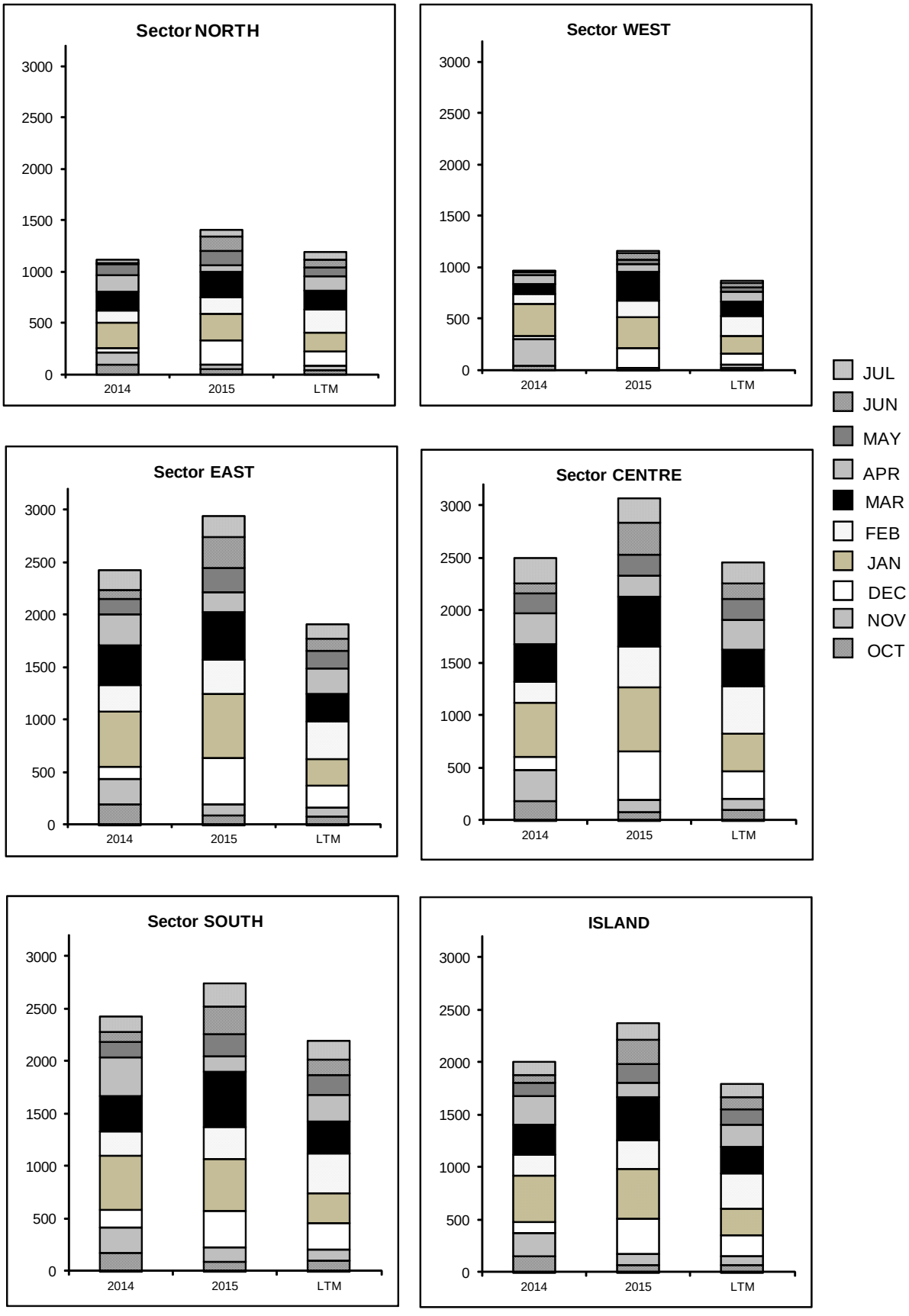
* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-2010)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2014 to July 2015 for crop 2015 compared to that of crop 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2014	113 *(93)*	2427 *(127)*	2429 *(111)*	967 *(110)*	2504 *(102)*	2006 *(112)*
2015	**1409** *(118)**	**2938** *(154)*	**2740** *(125)*	**1163** *(133)*	**3066** *(125)*	**2379** *(132)*
LTM	1196	1909	2195	876	2457	1768

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

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2014 to July 2015 for the 2015 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2014 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 2015 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in July 2015

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Amplitude (°C)	
	July 2015	DevN*	July 2015	DevN*	July 2015	DevN*
Pamplemousses	26.0	+0.5	17.1	+0.9	8.9	-0.4
Réduit	23.6	+1.3	15.8	+0.5	7.8	+0.8
Belle Rive	22.7	+0.7	14.9	+0.9	7.8	-0.2
Union Park	22.7	+1.3	16.5	+1.1	6.2	+0.2

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean maximum temperature during July 2015 was above normal at all stations. Similarly, the mean monthly minimum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations ranging from 0.5°C at Réduit to 1.1°C at Union Park. The resulting mean amplitude exceeded the normal only at Réduit whereas at Pamplemousses it was below normal and comparable to the normal at Belle Rive and Union Park.

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that sunshine hours during July 2015 were close to normal at Réduit and above normal at the other three stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal reached 108 at Pamplemousses, 100 at Réduit, 105 at Belle Rive and 106 at Union Park.

Table 3. Sunshine duration (h) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in July 2015

Station	July 2015	Normal*	% of Normal
Pamplemousses	253	235	108
Réduit	221	222	100
Belle Rive	198	188	105
Union Park	142	134	106

* Normal (1981-2010)

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

During the last week of July 2015, cane samples from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and representing the main cultivated varieties were analyzed for sucrose content. The average Pol % cane (*richesse*) was computed on the basis of area under cultivation for each variety in the different factory areas of each sector. The results were compared with those of the last two years.

Table 4a. Average Pol % cane (richesse) at end-July 2015.

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 1989/99	R 579	M 1672/90	R 570
North			12.6	13.9			13.4	11.6	11.3	12.5	12.5		13.2	11.1	12.5
East			13.6			14.0	10.1		13.2	11.7	14.6		11.1		11.9
South		13.6	14.6	13.6		14.9			13.2	13.5	14.2		11.1	11.8	11.2
West			14.6		14.8				12.5	12.2	13.7	12.7	13.7		11.4
Centre	15.4	13.2				13.3				11.1	13.3		12.0		

Table 4b. Comparison of Pol % cane (richesse) at the end of June and July 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Sectors	JUNE			JULY		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
North	13.3	12.6	10.8	15.2	15.0	12.2
East	13.5	12.7	11.5	14.0	14.4	12.2
South	13.7	12.3	11.8	14.9	14.5	12.7
West	12.8	12.2	11.8	13.7	12.7	13.4
Centre	13.5	12.7	11.7	13.9	13.4	13.0
Island	**13.5**	**12.5**	**11.5**	**14.5**	**14.3**	**12.5**

The *richesse* at end-July 2015 amounted to 12.2% in both the North and the East, 12.7% in the South, 13.4% in the West and 13.0% in the Centre. Compared to the corresponding period in 2014, *richesse* was inferior by 2.8^{o} in the North, 2.2^{o} in the East, 1.8^{o} in the South and 0.4^{o} in the Centre. In the West, it was higher by 0.7^{o}. Sucrose content at the end of July for the present crop was also lower than that of the corresponding period in 2013 in all sectors.

From end-June 2015 up to end-July 2015, *richesse* has improved in all sectors, with an increase of 1.4^{o} in the North, 0.7^{o} in the East, 0.9^{o} in the South, 1.6^{o} in the West and 1.3^{o} in the Centre. For the corresponding period last year, the increments recorded were 2.4^{o} in the North, 1.7^{o} in the East, 2.2^{o} in the South, 0.5^{o} in the West and 0.7^{o} in the Centre. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* in July was 1.0^{o} in 2015 compared to 1.8^{o} in 2014 and 1.0^{o} in 2013 for the same period.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 12.5% at the end of July 2015 lagged behind the 14.5% and 14.3% recorded in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

3. CROP 2015

As at 1 August 2015, 7414 ha representing about 21% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 8042 ha (24%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 13% in the North, 28% in the East, 26% in the South, 1% in the West and 23% 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 1 August 2015 amounted to 86.5 TCH and was higher than that recorded in 2014 (84.0 TCH) by 2.5 TCH (3%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the East with 88.9 TCH, followed by the South (87.2 TCH), the North (81.3 TCH), the Centre (79.4 TCH) and the West (76.2 TCH).

Compared to the same period in 2014, cane productivity recorded to-date was higher in the East by 5.6 TCH, South by 1.4 TCH and 3.4 TCH in the Centre. It was comparable to that of last year in the North but inferior to last year in the West by 14.2 TCH.

Table 5a.Cane productivity (TCH) as at end July for the 2014 and 2015 crops

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2014	81.9	83.3	85.8	90.4	76.0	84.0
2015	81.3	88.9	87.2	76.2	79.4	86.5

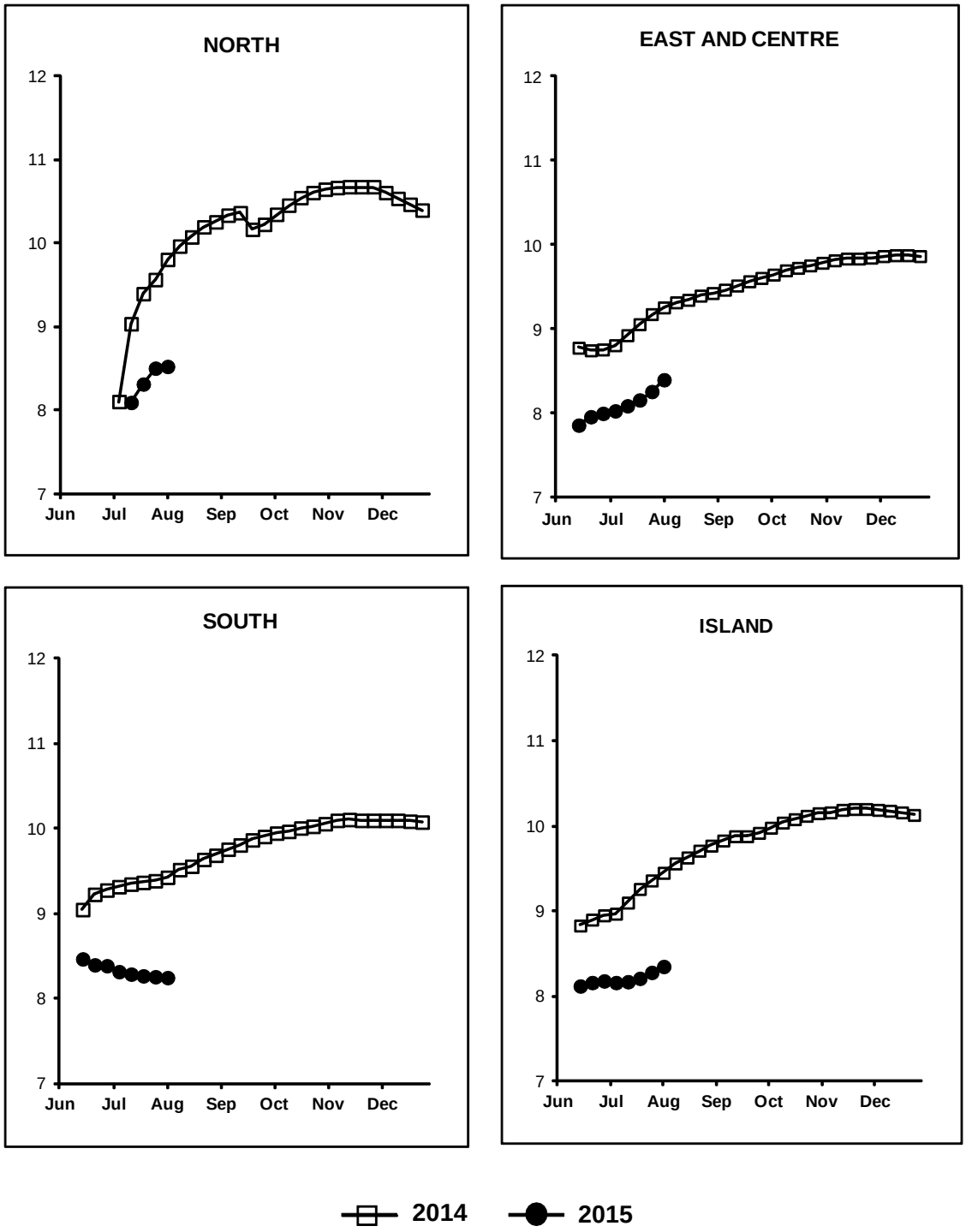
3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 8.35% was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2014 (9.45%) by 1.10^{o}. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 8.52% in the North, 8.39% in the East-Centre, and 8.25% in the South. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was lower by 1.28^{o} in the North, 0.86^{o} in the East-Centre and 1.18^{o} in the South.

Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at end July for the 2014 and 2015 crops

	North	East -Centre	South	Island
2014	9.80	9.25	9.43	9.45
2015	8.52	8.39	8.25	8.35

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2014 and 2015 crops



3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.22 TSH was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2014 (7.94 TSH) by 0.72 tonne (9%). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 6.93 TSH in the North, 7.34 TSH in the East-Centre and 7.19 TSH in the South. Sugar productivity at end-July 2015 was lower than at the corresponding period in 2014 by 1.10 TSH in the North, 0.23 TSH in the East-Centre and 0.90 TSH in the South.

Table 5c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end July for the 2014 and 2015 crops

	North	East -Centre	South	Island
2014	8.03	7.57	8.09	7.94
2015	6.93	7.34	7.19	7.22

4. 2015 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Weather conditions during the month of July had not been favourable to the 2015 crop. Rainfall during the month has exceeded the normal in most sectors coupled with above normal maximum and minimum temperatures which have been detrimental to sucrose accumulation. As a result, the recorded *richesse* at end-July 2015 reached 12.5% compared to 14.3% in 2014 and 14.5% in 2013 for the same period.

Harvest has not covered extensive areas yet, with only about 21% of miller planters' land. Although cane productivity at island level was higher than that recorded during the same period last year, extraction rate was inferior. Hence, these resulted in a sugar productivity that lagged behind that of 2014 at the same period by 9%. However, there is still room for further sucrose accumulation if normal winter conditions prevail in the coming months.