

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2015

14 December 2015

SUGAR CANE CROP 2015 Status: End November 2015

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November was 97 mm and represented 120% of the long term mean (81 mm). November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean (LTM) by 14 mm in the North, 26 mm in the South and 28 mm in both the West and the Centre. In the East, it was comparable to the long-term mean.

Rainfall for the months of October and November 2015 cumulated to 256 mm for the island, i.e. 163% of the long-term mean. During that period, 156 mm were recorded in the North, 286 mm in the East, 313 mm in the South, 122 mm in the West and 348 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 171%, 171%, 154%, 203% and 162% of the respective LTM.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2015, 2016⁺ and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2015	49 (102)	107 (124)	134 (126)	12 (38)	122 (116)	96 (118)
2016	62 (129)*	85 (99)	132 (125)	60 (188)	133 (127)	97 (120)
LTM	48	86	106	32	105	81

⁺ Crop year is from October to September

* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-10)

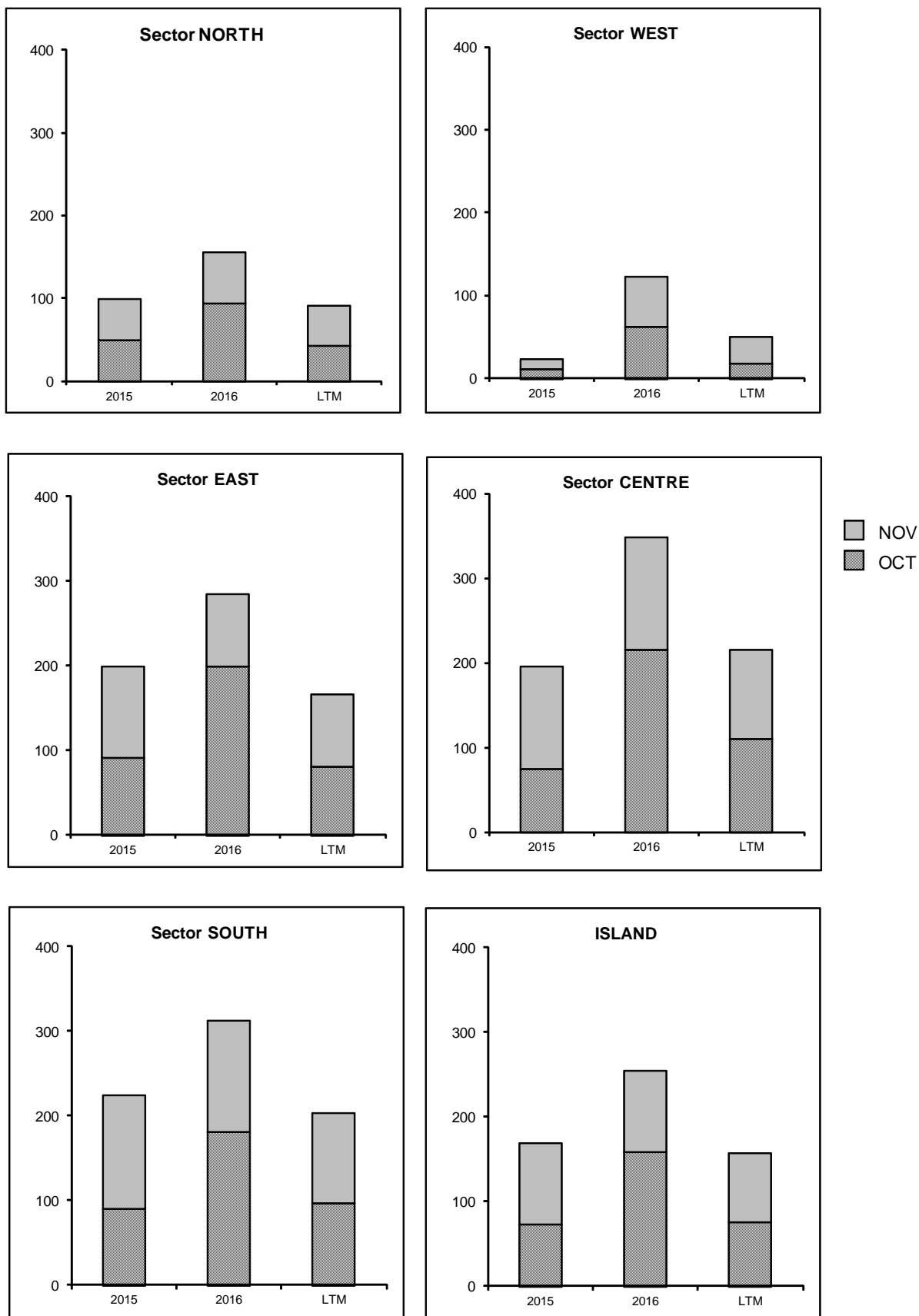
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2015 for crop 2016 compared to that of crop 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2015	99 (109)	199 (119)	224 (110)	23 (38)	196 (91)	170 (108)
2016	156 (171)*	285 (171)	313 (154)	122 (203)	348 (162)	256 (163)
LTM	91	167	203	60	215	157

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to November 2015 for the 2016 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2015 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Air Temperature and Sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures together with sunshine duration recorded during the month of November 2015 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine duration recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in November 2015

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Nov 2015	DevN*	Nov 2015	DevN	Nov 2015	% Normal
Pamplemousses	30.4	+0.5	19.9	+0.7	261	95
Réduit	27.2	+0.6	17.4	-1.0	210	84
Belle Rive	26.0	+0.4	17.4	+0.7	223	102
Union Park	26.8	+1.4	19.0	+1.1	216	106

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean monthly maximum temperature was above normal at all stations, the difference ranging from 0.4°C at Belle Rive to 1.4°C at Union Park. Similarly, the mean monthly minimum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations except at Réduit. Sunshine hours during November 2015 were below normal at Pamplemousses and Réduit but above normal at the other two stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal was 95 at Pamplemousses, 84 at Réduit, 102 at Belle Rive and 106 at Union Park. To note that above normal temperature and solar radiation are conducive to growth of the crop.

2. CROP 2015

As at 28 November 2015, 29 030 ha representing about 83% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 26 267 ha (80%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 80% in the North, 82% in the East, 92% in the South, 58% in the West and 88% 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.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 3a)

The cane productivity of 82.2 TCH for the island as at 28 November 2015 was lower than that recorded for the corresponding period in 2014. Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 92.7 TCH, followed by the East (85.4 TCH), the South (81.7 TCH), the North (79.0 TCH) and the Centre (69.7 TCH). Sector-wise, compared to last year, cane productivity of November 2015 was higher in the North by 2.5 TCH, in the East by 1.0 TCH, and the West by 1.6 TCH but lagged behind in sectors South and Centre by 3.7 TCH and 7.6 TCH, respectively.

During the month of November 2015, cane productivity has decreased in all sectors except in the West where an increment of 2.1 TCH was noted.

Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2014 and 2015 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
North	76.6	79.3	76.5	79.0
East	83.7	85.7	84.4	85.4
South	85.2	83.8	85.4	81.7
West	90.2	90.6	91.1	92.7
Centre	76.6	72.2	77.3	69.7
Island	83.1	83.1	83.5	82.2

2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.19% was again lagging behind that of the corresponding period in 2014 (10.20%) by 1.01°. Sector-wise, extraction rates recorded to-date were 9.63% in the North, 8.90% in the East/Centre, 9.05% in the South and 9.91% in the West. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded at end of November 2015 was inferior to that obtained at the same period last year, the difference ranging from 0.67° in sector West to 1.05° in the South.

During the month of November 2015, extraction rate over the island has improved marginally by 0.04°.

Table 3b Cumulative extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2014 and 2015 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
North	10.64	9.61	10.67	9.63
East/Centre	9.78	8.92	9.84	8.90
South	10.06	8.94	10.10	9.05
West	10.54	10.10	10.58	9.91
Island	10.15	9.15	10.20	9.19

2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 3c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.55 TSH was lower by 0.97 tonne (11.4%) compared to the corresponding period in 2014 (8.52 TSH). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 7.61 TSH in the North, 7.34 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.39 TSH in the South and 9.19 TSH in the West. Compared to the corresponding period in 2014, sugar productivity in 2015 is lagging behind in all sectors by 0.55 TSH in the North, 0.82 TSH in the East-Centre, 1.24 TSH in the South and 0.45 TSH in the West.

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

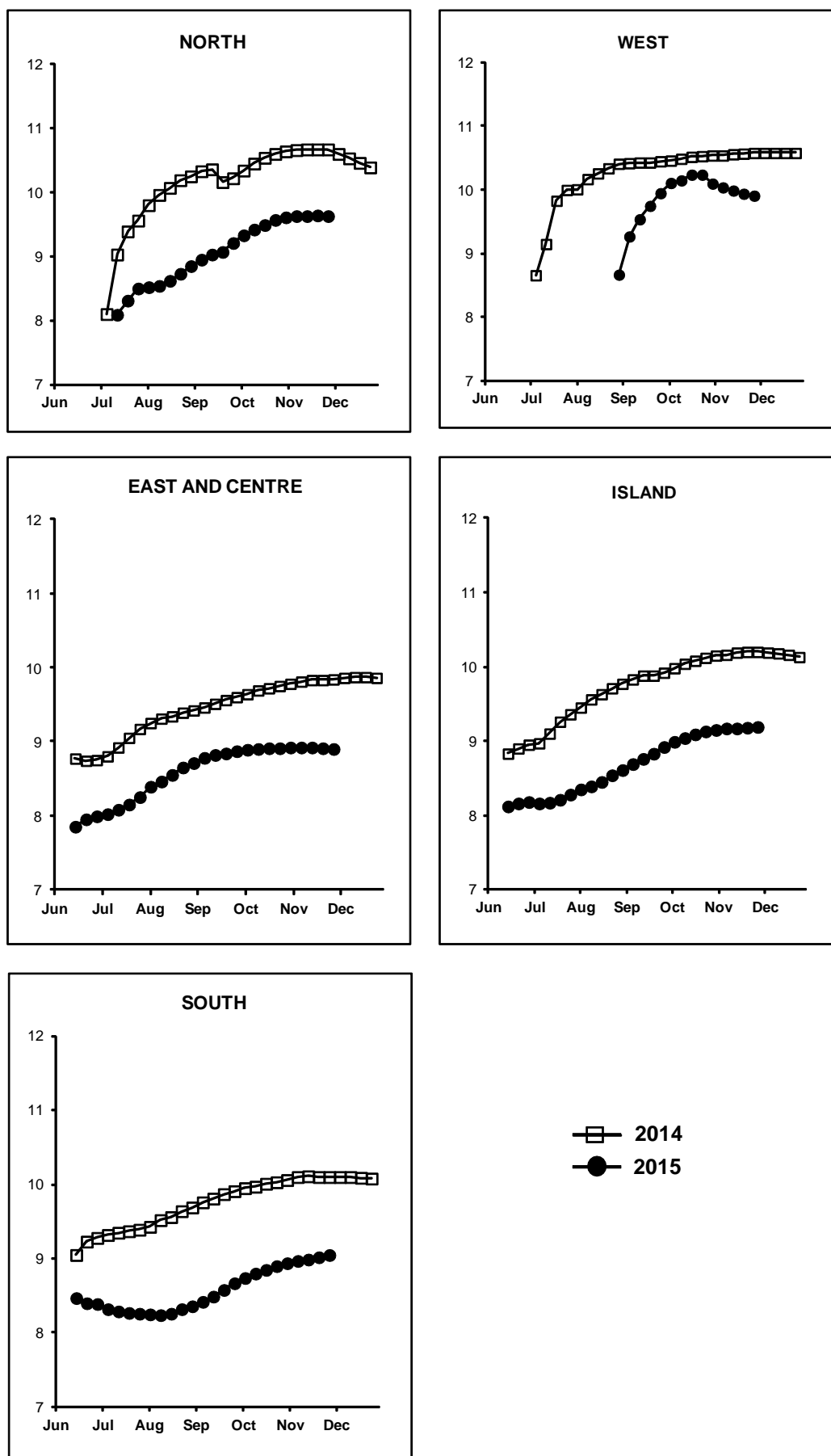


Table 3c Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2014 and 2015 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2014	2014	2014	2015
North	8.15	7.62	8.16	7.61
East/Centre	8.03	7.43	8.16	7.34
South	8.57	7.49	8.63	7.39
West	9.51	9.15	9.64	9.19
Island	8.43	7.60	8.52	7.55

3. 2015 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

The generally rainy weather experienced during the month of November has prevented cane desiccation but has hampered ripening. No major change has been observed in cumulative extraction rate while cane productivity over the island has dropped by nearly 0.9 TCH, thus resulting in a net regression in sugar productivity since end-October. This trend is expected to maintain itself until the end of the crop season with sugar productivity lagging behind that of last year by almost 1.0 TSH.

4. CROP 2016

Weather since the start of the crop season has been generally favourable for good regrowth of harvested fields. The rainfall recorded, particularly during October and November coupled with overall higher temperatures has been very beneficial to the crop. Taking into consideration that cumulative rainfall recorded to-date is above the long-term mean in all sectors, the initial conditions for the 2016 crop are considered promising.