

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2015

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2016

Status: End August 2016

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded in August 2016 over the sugar cane areas was above normal with an island average of 133 mm, representing 123% of the long-term mean (LTM) of 108 mm. Sector-wise, rainfall for the month of August exceeded the LTM in the East with 148 mm, the South with 191 mm, the West with 41mm and Centre with 193 mm. The amount of 53 mm rainfall recorded in the North was lagging behind the long-term mean by 13%.

The rainfall for the period October 2015 to August 2016 cumulated to 2043 mm, which was higher (by 8%) than the island LTM of 1889 mm for this period. During the same period 1141 mm were recorded in the North, 2419 mm in the East, 2474 mm in the South, 796 mm in the West and 2916 mm in the Centre. These figures represented 92%, 121%, 107%, 89% and 111% of the respective LTM.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2015	46 (75)	207 (193)	207 (137)	39 (177)	208 (126)	154 (142)
2016	53 (87)*	148 (138)	191 (126)	41 (186)	193 (117)	133 (123)
LTM	61	107	151	22	165	108

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

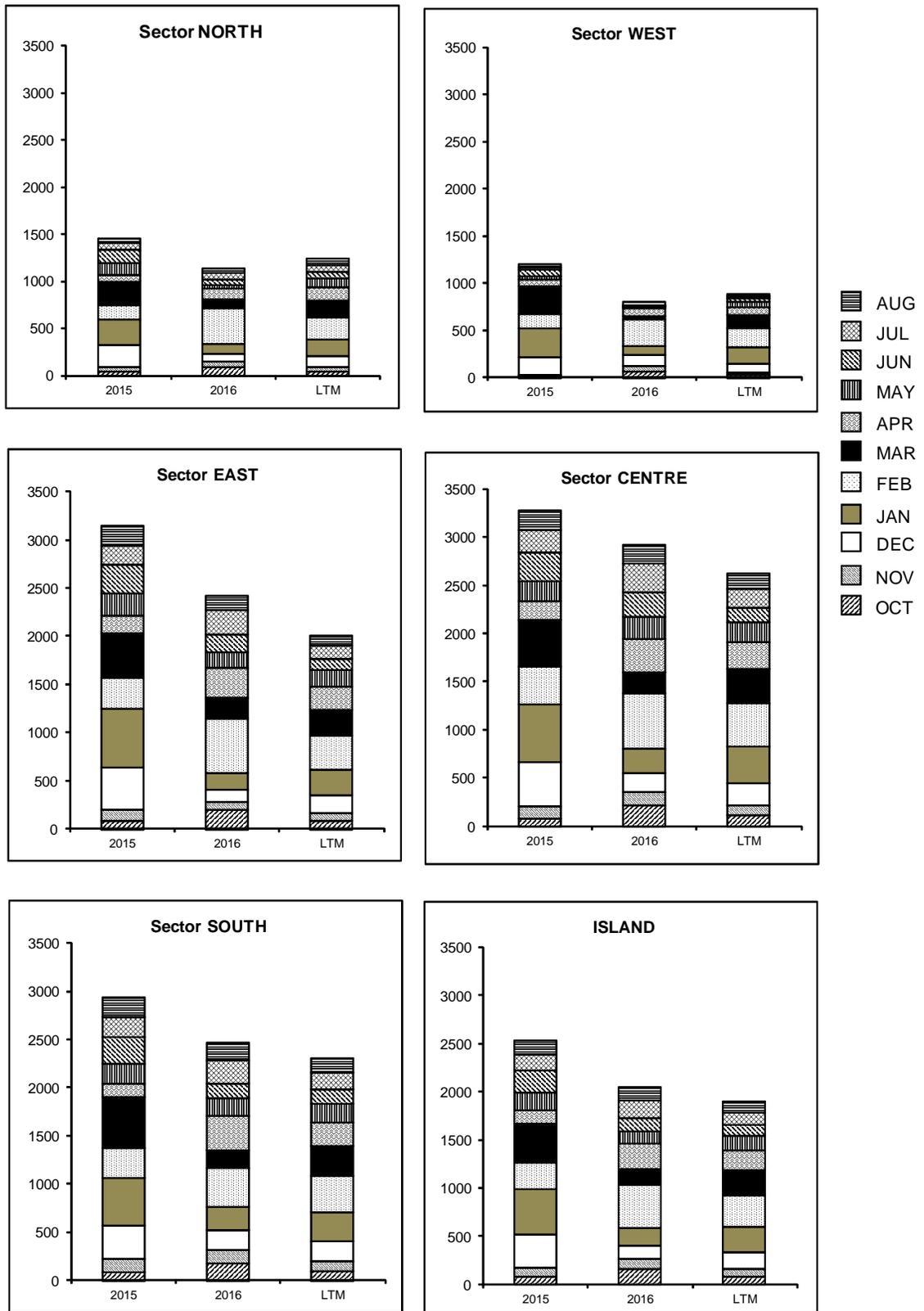
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2015 to August 2016 for crop 2016 compared to that of crop 2015 and the long-term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2015	1455 (117)	3145 (157)	2947 (127)	1202 (134)	3274 (125)	2533 (134)
2016	1141 (92)*	2419 (121)	2474 (107)	796 (89)	2916 (111)	2043 (108)
LTM	1242	2007	2313	894	2623	1889

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2015 to August 2016 for the 2016 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2015 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Temperature (Table 2)

Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded during the month of August 2016 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2016

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Amplitude (°C)	
	Aug2016	DevN*	Aug 2016	DevN*	Aug 2016	DevN*
Pamplemousses	26.1	+0.4	17.6	+1.1	8.5	-0.7
Réduit	23.5	+1.0	16.3	+1.0	7.2	0.0
Belle Rive	22.1	0.1	15.6	+1.6	6.5	-1.5
Union Park	22.7	+1.2	16.6	+1.3	6.1	-0.1

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

Mean maximum temperature during August 2016 was comparable to the normal at Belle Rive but was above normal at the other three stations. Mean minimum temperature was above normal by more than 1.0° at all four stations. The resulting mean amplitude was close to the normal at Réduit and Union Park but below normal at the other two stations. Below normal temperature amplitude is not conducive to sucrose accumulation.

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that sunshine hours during August 2016 were near normal at all stations except at Belle Rive. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 101 at Pamplemousses and Union Park, 100 at Réduit and 88 at Belle Rive.

Table 3. Sunshine duration (h) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2016

Station	August 2016	Normal	% of Normal
Pamplemousses	249	247	101
Réduit	221	220	100
Belle Rive	178	202	88
Union Park	144	143	101

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

Cane samples were analysed for sucrose content during the last week of August 2016 from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and representing the main cultivated varieties. 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-August 2016.

Sectors	M 52/78	R 573	M 695/69	R 575	M 387/85	M 1246/84	M 1861/89	M 2593/92	M 2283/98	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	R 579	M 1672/90	R 570
North						15.1		15.0		14.9	15.4	14.2	14.2	14.1
East										14.8		14.0		12.5
South	15.6	15.0	15.1				15.0		12.8		16.0	14.0	12.7	13.3
West		14.7		13.9				13.5		12.9	13.2	12.6		8.3
Centre					13.7					14.2	14.2	13.3		

Table 4b. Comparison of Pol % cane (*richesse*) at the end of July and August 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Sectors	JULY			AUGUST		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	15.0	12.2	14.1	17.2	13.1	14.9
East	14.4	12.2	13.5	16.9	13.4	13.8
South	14.5	12.7	14.2	16.1	13.6	14.5
West	12.7	13.4	12.9	16.5	14.9	13.1
Centre	13.4	13.0	13.4	15.3	13.2	13.8
Island	14.3	12.5	13.8	16.5	13.5	14.2

The *richesse* at end-August 2016 was 14.9% in the North, 13.8% in the East, 14.5% in the South, 13.1% in the West and 13.8% in the Centre. These figures were higher than those obtained at the corresponding period last year (with the lowest extraction rate on record) in all sectors except in the West where it was lagging behind by 1.8°. However, compared to the corresponding period in 2014, sucrose content at end of August 2016 was lagging behind in all the sectors, the difference ranging from 1.5° in the Centre to 3.4° in the West.

Sucrose content from end-July 2016 up to end-August 2016 has improved slightly in all sectors. The highest increment of 0.8° was observed in the North whilst the lowest increment of 0.2° occurred in the West. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* was only 0.4° in 2016 compared to 1.0° in 2015 and 2.2° in 2014.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 14.2% recorded at the end of August 2016 was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2015 (13.5%) but lagged behind that of 2014 (16.5%).

3. CROP 2016

As at 3 September 2016, 13 547 ha representing about 39% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 12969 ha (37%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 34% in the North, 47% in the East, 37% in the South, 27% in the West and 41% in the Centre. On account of the centralization of milling activities, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for the East and Centre sectors since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at factories in the East. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows.

3.1 Cane productivity (Table 5a)

Cane productivity for the island as at 3 September 2016 was 81.3 TCH and was lower than that recorded in 2015 (85.9 TCH) by 4.6 TCH (5.4%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 95.8 TCH, followed by the South (83.1 TCH), the North (82.7 TCH), the East (78.2 TCH) and the Centre (71.3 TCH).

Compared to the same period last year and in 2014, cane productivity recorded to-date was lagging behind in all sectors except in the North and West.

Table 5a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at 3 September for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sector	End July			3 September		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	81.9	81.3	78.6	80.6	81.4	82.7
East	83.3	88.4	78.5	82.1	86.9	78.2
South	85.8	87.2	82.1	86.8	88.3	83.1
West	90.4	76.2	101.4	88.3	90.5	95.8
Centre	76.0	79.4	74.3	75.4	77.1	71.3
Island	84.0	86.3	79.8	83.7	85.9	81.3

3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.56% was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2014 (9.83%) by 0.27°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 10.03% in the North, 9.07% in the East-Centre, 9.84% in the South and 9.91% in the West. These figures were lagging behind by 0.30° in the North, 0.39° in the East-Centre and 0.51° in the West but was comparable to that in the South.

Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at 3 September for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sectors	End July			3 September		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	9.80	8.52	9.54	10.33	8.95	10.03
East/Centre	9.25	8.39	8.64	9.46	8.78	9.07
South	9.43	8.25	9.92	9.76	8.42	9.84
West	10.01	-	9.02	10.42	9.27	9.91
Island	9.45	8.35	9.16	9.83	8.69	9.56

3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.77 TSH was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2015 (7.46 TSH) by 0.31 tonne (4.2%) but lower than that of the same period in 2014 (8.23 TSH) by 0.46 tonne (5.6%). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 8.29 TSH in the North, 6.99 TSH in the East-Centre, 8.18 TSH in the South and 9.49 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at 3 September 2016 was higher than those at the corresponding period in 2015 by 1.00 TSH in the North, 0.75 TSH in the South and 1.10 TSH in the West but lagged behind by 0.50 TSH in the East-Centre. Compared to the corresponding period in 2014, sugar productivity to-date was higher in the West but lower in the other sectors.

Table 5c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at 3 September for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sectors	End July			3 September		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	8.03	6.93	7.50	8.33	7.29	8.29
East/Centre	7.57	7.31	6.73	7.77	7.49	6.99
South	8.09	7.19	8.14	8.47	7.43	8.18
West	9.05	-	9.15	9.20	8.39	9.49
Island	7.94	7.21	7.31	8.23	7.46	7.77

4. 2016 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Weather conditions that prevailed during the month of August 2016 were similar to those observed in July 2016 with above normal rainfall in most sectors coupled with below normal temperature amplitude and near normal sunshine duration which did not favour optimum ripening.

With more than one third of the area of miller planters' land harvested, cane productivity at island level in 2016 is still lagging behind that of 2015 by 5.4% and 2014 by 3.2%. Moreover, extraction rate at 3 September 2016 compared to the corresponding period in 2014 is lagging behind in all sectors except in the South sector. Hence, sugar productivity of 7.77 TSH at 3 September 2016 although exceeding that of 2015 is still lower than that of 2014 at the same period by 5.6%. 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 crop 2015 but below that of crop 2014.

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

