

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2017

12 September 2017

SUGAR CANE CROP 2017

Status: End August 2017

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded in August 2017 over the sugar cane areas was above normal with an island average of 156 mm, representing 143% of the long-term mean (LTM) of 109 mm. Above normal rainfall was recorded in the North, East, South and Centre with 95 mm, 218 mm, 164 mm and 221 mm, respectively. The recorded 15 mm rain in the West was below the LTM.

Cumulative rainfall over the period October 2016 to August 2017 amounted to 2257 mm, which is higher by 19% compared to the island long-term mean of 1898 mm for this period. During the same period 1285 mm were recorded in the North, 3084 mm in the East, 2472 mm in the South, 641 mm in the West and 2903 mm in the Centre. These figures represented 103%, 154%, 107%, 72% and 111% of the respective long-term mean.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of August for crops 2016, 2017 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	53 (87)	148 (138)	191 (126)	41 (186)	193 (117)	136 (124)
2017	95 (156)*	218 (204)	164 (109)	15 (68)	221 (134)	156 (143)
LTM	61	107	151	22	165	109

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

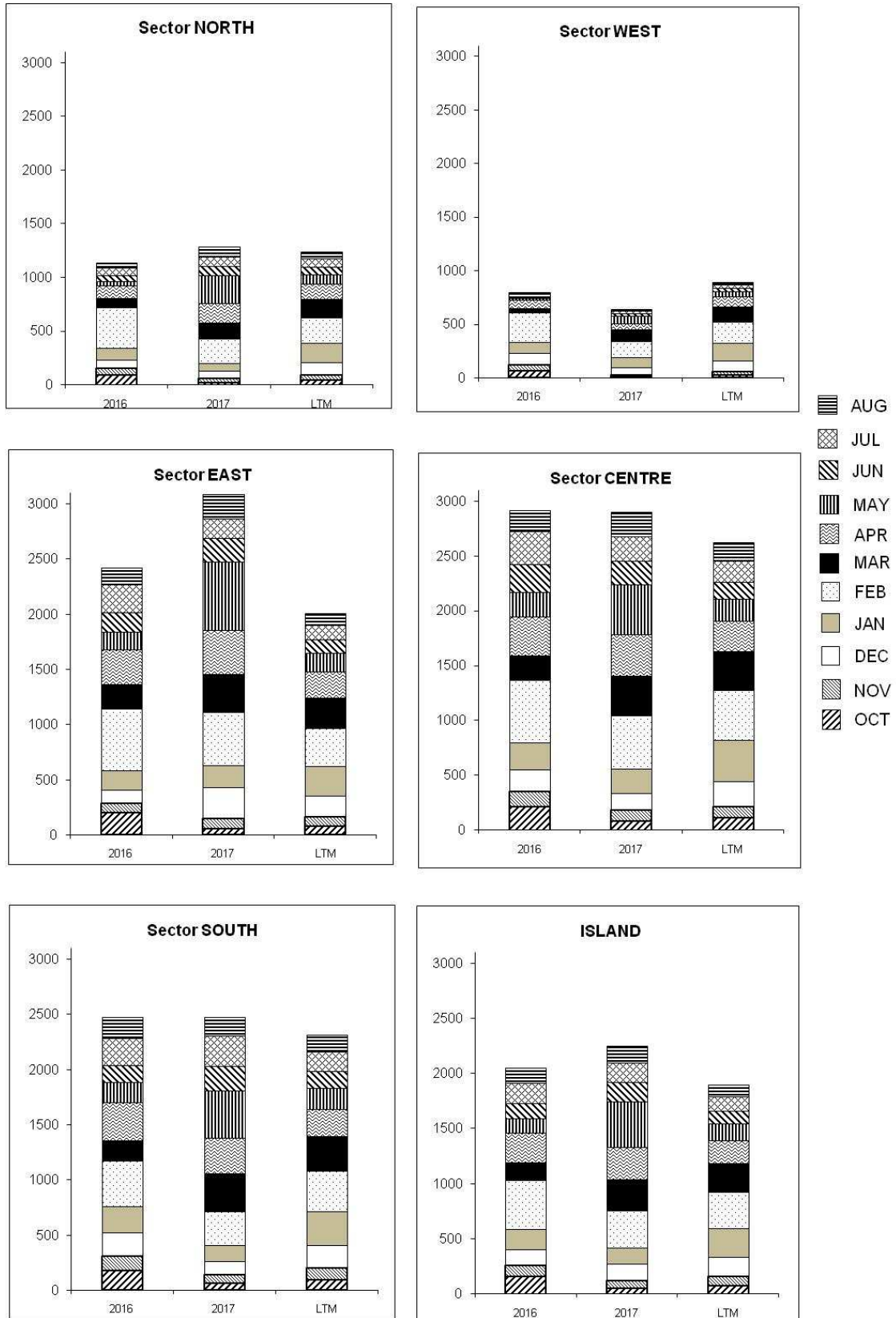
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2016 to August 2017 for crop 2017 compared to that of crop 2016 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	1141 (92)	2419 (121)	2474 (107)	796 (89)	2916 (111)	2058 (108)
2017	1285 (103)*	3084 (154)	2472 (107)	641 (72)	2903 (111)	2257 (119)
LTM	1242	2007	2313	894	2623	1898

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2016 to August 2017 for the 2017 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2016 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 2017 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Air temperature recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2017

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Amplitude (°C)	
	Aug 2017	DevN*	Aug 2017	DevN	Aug 2017	DevN
Ferret, Belle Vue	25.8	+0.1	18.4	+1.9	7.4	-1.8
Réduit	23.6	+1.1	16.7	+1.4	6.9	-0.3
Belle Rive	22.5	+0.5	16.0	+2.0	6.5	-1.5
Union Park	22.8	+1.3	16.8	+1.5	6.0	-0.2

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

Mean maximum temperature during August 2017 was above normal at all stations except at Ferret where it was close to normal. The mean minimum temperature exceeded the normal by more than 1.4°C at all stations. The resulting mean amplitude was below the normal at all stations. Lower temperature amplitudes are generally not conducive to sucrose accumulation.

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that solar radiation recorded at all stations was close to normal except at Union Park where it was above normal and below normal at Belle Rive. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 100 at Ferret, 97 at Réduit, 94 at Belle Rive and 113 at Union Park.

Table 3. Sunshine duration (h) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2017

Station	August 2017	Normal*	% of Normal
Ferret	248	247	100
Réduit	214	220	97
Belle Rive	191	202	94
Union Park	161	143	113

* Normal (1981-2010)

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 calculated on the basis of area under cultivation of each variety in the different factory areas of each sector. The results were compared with those of the last two years for the months of July and August.

Table 4a. Average Pol % cane (*richesse*) at end-August 2017.

Sectors	R 573	M 695/69	R 575	M 387/85	M 1246/84	M 2593/92	M 2283/98	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	M 1861/89	R 579	M 1672/90	R 570
North					12.6	13.2		12.0	12.1		12.9	12.9	11.5
East											12.3		12.9
South	13.8	13.7				11.8	11.7	12.6	13.2	12.5	11.8	11.7	11.5
West			12.8			13.7		13.0	14.4		12.9		13.3
Centre				12.4				11.9	12.8		11.4		

Table 4b. Comparison of Pol % cane (*richesse*) at the end of July and August 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Sectors	JULY			AUGUST		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	12.2	14.1	11.3	13.1	14.9	12.4
East	12.2	13.5	11.7	13.4	13.8	12.8
South	12.7	14.2	10.2	13.6	14.5	12.4
West	13.4	12.9	12.1	14.9	13.1	13.3
Centre	13.0	13.4	11.1	13.2	13.8	11.9
Island	12.5	13.8	11.1	13.5	14.2	12.6

The *richesse* at end-August 2017 was 12.4% in the North, 12.8% in the East, 12.4% in the South, 13.3% in the West and 11.9% in the Centre. Compared to the corresponding period in 2016, *richesse* was inferior by 2.5° in the North, 1.0° in the East, 2.1° in the South and 1.9° in the Centre. In the West, it was slightly higher by 0.2°. Sucrose content at the end of August for the present crop was also lower than that of the corresponding period in 2015 in all sectors.

During the month of August 2017, *richesse* has improved in all sectors, with an increase of 1.1° in both the North and East, 2.2° in the South, 1.2° in the West and 0.8° in the Centre. For the corresponding period last year, the increments recorded were 0.8° in the North, 0.3° in both the East and South, 0.2° in the West and 0.4° in the Centre. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* in August was 1.5° in 2017 compared to 0.4° in 2016 and 1.0° in 2015 for the same period.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 12.6% recorded at the end of August 2017 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (14.2%) and 2015 (13.5%).

3. CROP 2017

As at 2 September 2017, 12 446 ha representing about 37% of miller-planters' land have been harvested compared to 13 549 ha (39%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 30% in the North, 42% in the East, 33% in the South, 46% in the West and 33% 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 Alteo 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 2 September 2017 amounted to 79.0 TCH and was lower than that recorded in 2016 (81.3 TCH). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 83.3 TCH, followed by the East (82.5 TCH), the North (79.9 TCH), the South (74.7 TCH) and the Centre (68.4 TCH).

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

Table 5a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at 2 September for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sector	End July			2 September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	81.3	78.6	83.6	81.4	82.6	79.9
East	88.4	78.5	80.3	86.9	78.2	82.5
South	87.2	82.1	74.6	88.3	83.1	74.7
West	76.2	101.4	84.8	90.5	95.8	83.3
Centre	79.4	74.3	71.0	77.1	71.3	68.4
Island	86.3	79.8	79.0	85.9	81.3	79.0

3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 8.84% was below that of the corresponding period in 2016 (9.56%) by 0.72°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 9.03% in the North, 8.66% in the East-Centre, 8.73% in the South and 9.53% in the West. These figures were lagging behind those of the corresponding period in 2016 by 1.00° in the North, 0.41° in the East-Centre, 1.11° in the South and 0.38° in the West.

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

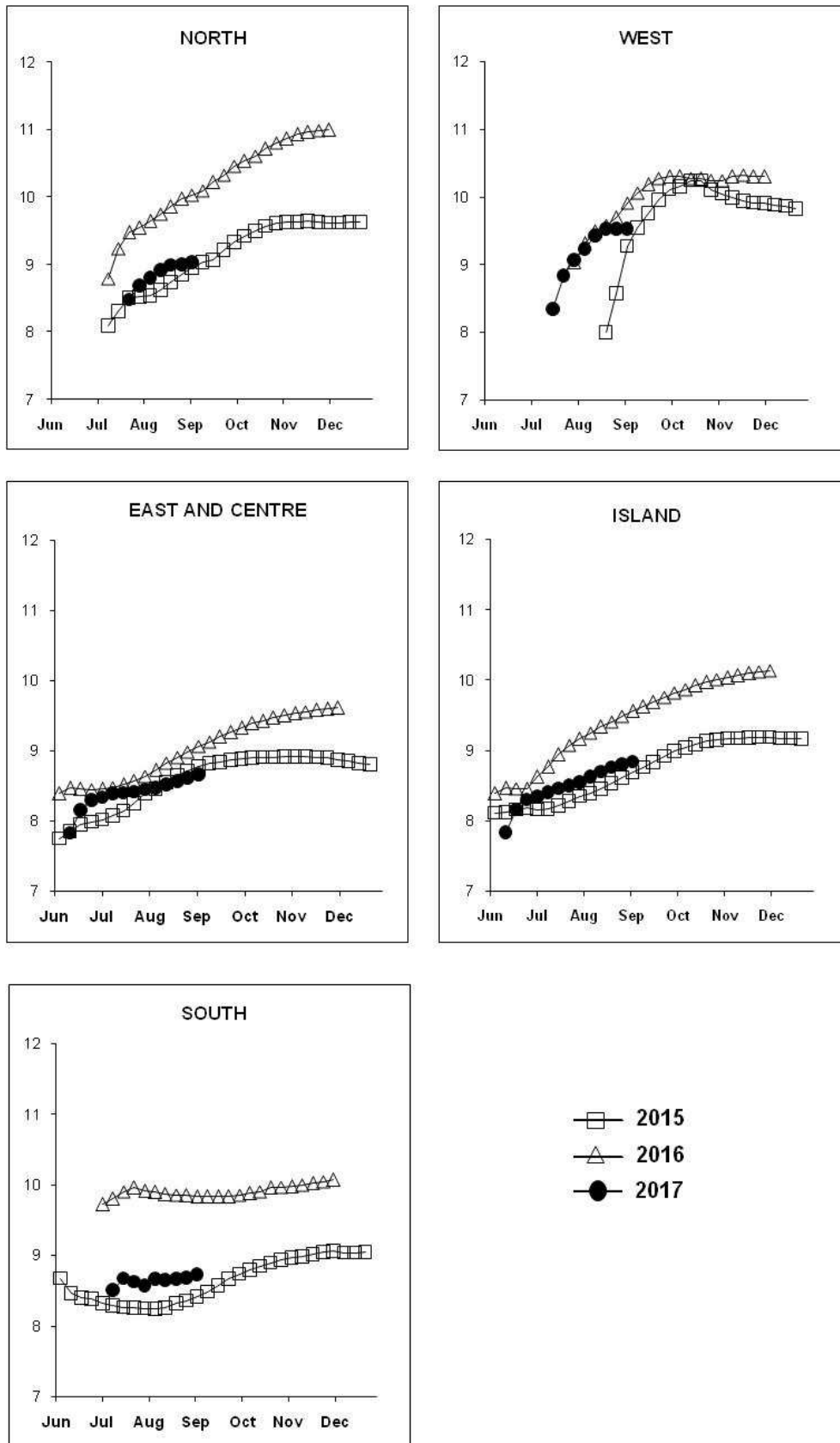


Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at 2 September for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End July			2 September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	8.52	9.54	8.69	8.95	10.03	9.03
East/Centre	8.39	8.64	8.45	8.78	9.07	8.66
South	8.25	9.92	8.58	8.42	9.84	8.73
West	-	9.03	9.06	9.27	9.91	9.53
Island	8.35	9.16	8.55	8.69	9.56	8.84

3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 6.98 TSH is inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (7.77 TSH) by 0.79 tonne (10.2%). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 7.21 TSH in the North, 6.97 TSH in the East-Centre, 6.52 TSH in the South and 7.94 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at end-August 2017 was lagging behind that of the corresponding period in 2016 by 1.07 TSH in the North, 1.66 TSH in the South and 1.55 TSH in the West but was comparable in the East-Centre.

Table 5c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at 2 September for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End July			2 September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	6.93	7.50	7.26	7.29	8.28	7.21
East/Centre	7.31	6.73	6.67	7.49	6.99	6.97
South	7.19	8.14	6.43	7.43	8.18	6.52
West	-	9.16	7.68	8.39	9.49	7.94
Island	7.21	7.31	6.75	7.46	7.77	6.98

4.0 CROP 2017

The weather conditions prevailing during the month of August 2017 resemble those of the past months characterised by above normal rainfall in most sectors coupled with below normal temperature amplitude and near normal sunshine duration which did not favour optimum sucrose accumulation.

With more than one third of the area of miller planters' land harvested, cane productivity at island level in 2017 is still lagging behind 2016 by 2.8% and 2015 by 8.0%. Extraction rate as at end August 2017 was below that of the same period last year by 7.5%. These resulted as at end of August 2017, in a sugar productivity below that of last year by 10.2% and that of 2015 by 6.4%. With 37% of the miller planters' land already harvested, the current trend is towards low sugar productivity and hence the 2017 crop is expected to be below that of 2016.