

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2017

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2017

Status: End January 2017

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane area of the island in January 2017 was 145 mm and represented only 56% of the long-term mean (LTM). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 66 mm in the North, 195 mm in the East, 147 mm in the South, 98 mm in the West and 224 mm in the Centre.

Rainfall for the period October 2016 to January 2017 cumulated to 199 mm in the North, 630 mm in the East, 407 mm in the South, 194 mm in the West and 563 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 51%, 102%, 57%, 60% and 68% of the respective LTM. The island average of 417 mm for this period represented 70% of the long-term mean (593 mm).

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	104 (58)	181 (68)	240 (80)	97 (57)	246 (65)	182 (70)
2017	66 (37)*	195 (74)	147 (49)	98 (58)	224 (59)	145 (56)
LTM	180	265	300	170	379	260

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

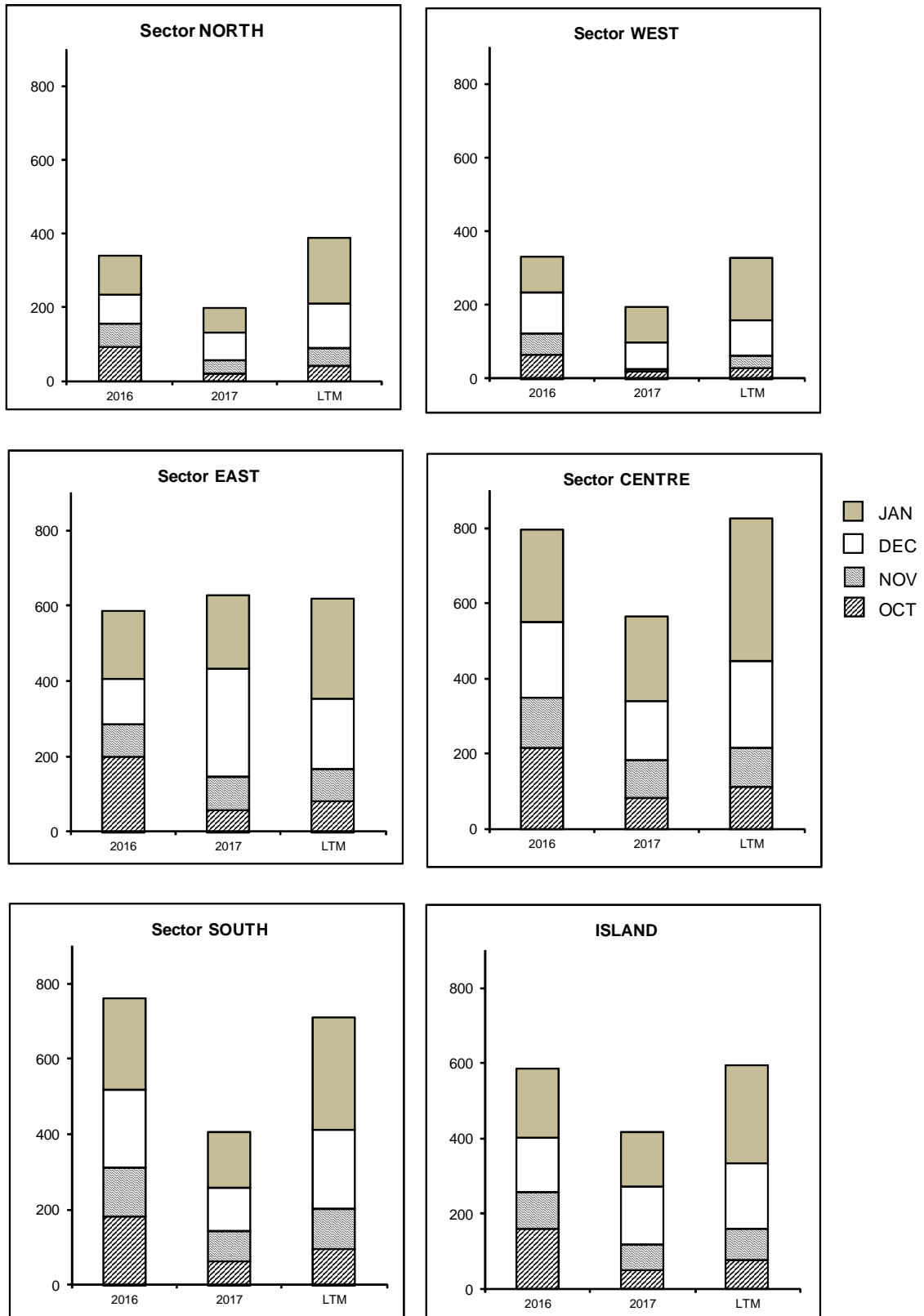
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2016 to January 2017 for crop 2017 compared to that of crop 2016 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	341 (87)	587 (95)	761 (107)	329 (101)	796 (96)	586 (99)
2017	199 (51)*	630 (102)	407 (57)	194 (60)	563 (68)	417 (70)
LTM	391	620	712	326	825	593

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

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

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine duration recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in January 2017

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Jan 2017	DevN*	Jan 2017	DevN	Jan 2017	% Normal
Pamplemousses	31.8	+0.6	22.1	-0.1	300	122
Réduit	29.3	+0.9	21.0	-0.6	267	115
Belle Rive	27.3	-0.2	19.1	-0.5	259	132
Union Park	28.3	+0.8	20.8	+0.1	263	142

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean monthly maximum temperature in January 2017 exceeded the normal at all stations except at Belle Rive. As for the mean monthly minimum temperature, it was close to the normal at Pamplemousses and Union Park but below normal at the other two stations. Sunshine hours during January 2017 exceeded the normal at all stations with a recorded bright sunshine hour, expressed as a percentage of the normal, of 122 at Pamplemousses, 115 at Réduit, 132 at Belle Rive and 142 at Union Park. Above normal temperature and solar radiation are favourable to the growth of the crop.

2. STALK HEIGHT

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2017 was inferior to that of the same period in 2016 in all sectors except in the Centre where it was higher than that of last year. Highest stalk growth was observed in the East with 40.7 cm, followed by the Centre (35.3 cm), South (30.9 cm), North (20.2 cm) and the West (15.0 cm). With respect to the normal for the corresponding period, growth in January 2017 was comparable to that of the East, it exceeded the normal by 2.0 cm in the Centre, but was inferior to the normal by 13.9 cm in the North, 9.5 cm in the South and 29.4 cm in the West. The island stalk elongation of 30.4 cm in January 2017 was below that of the corresponding period in 2016 by 7.3 cm (19.4%) and that of the normal by 7.4 cm (19.6%).

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of January

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during January			January 2017 as % of	
	2017	2016	Normal	2016	Normal
North	20.2	40.5	34.1	49.9	59.2
East	40.7	43.3	40.9	94.0	99.5
South	30.9	33.0	40.4	93.6	76.4
West	15.0	32.9	44.4	45.6	33.8
Centre	35.3	33.4	33.3	105.7	106.1
Island	30.4	37.7	37.8	80.6	80.4

2.2 Total stalk height (Table 3b and Figure 2)

Total stalk height at end January 2017 stood at 39.6 cm in the North, 86.3 cm in the East, 71.3 cm in the South, 43.9 cm in the West and 78.2 cm in the Centre which gave an island average of 67.1 cm. Compared to the corresponding period in 2016, stalk height lagged behind in all sectors by 25.0 cm in the North, 2.1 cm in the East, 3.1 cm in the South, 27.1 cm in the west and 6.3 cm in the Centre. Total stalk height at end-January 2017 was higher than the normal by 2.0 cm in the Centre but was below normal in the other sectors by 20.1 cm in the North, 2.0 cm in the East, 14.3 cm in the South and 38.8 cm in the West.

At island level, the total stalk height of 67.1 cm at end of January 2017 was lower than both the corresponding period in 2016 by 9.4 cm (12.4%) and the normal by 11.7 cm (14.9 %).

Table 3b. Stalk height at end-January.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-January			End-January 2017 as % of	
	2017	2016	Normal	2016	Normal
North	39.6	64.6	59.7	61.3	66.3
East	86.3	88.4	88.3	97.6	97.7
South	71.3	74.4	85.6	95.8	83.3
West	43.9	71.0	82.7	61.8	53.1
Centre	78.2	84.5	76.2	92.5	102.6
Island	67.1	76.5	78.8	87.6	85.1

3. CROP 2017

The month of January especially during the first fortnight has been relatively dry in the North, West and lowland areas of the other sectors, which resulted into slow cane growth and development. This is reflected in the stalk elongation, in various sectors, which lagged behind that of last year at the same period and is considered among the lowest recorded as in 2005, 2011 and 2012. However, at this stage cane elongation is not considered irreversibly affected to the extent that would be detrimental to the 2017 crop.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- January 2017

