

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2017

20 November 2017

SUGAR CANE CROP 2017

Status: End October 2017

1. CLIMATE

1.1 Rainfall (Table 1)

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island during October 2017 averaged 71 mm and represented 94% of the long-term mean (76 mm) for the month. Rainfall was below the long-term mean in sectors North with 41 mm, South with 79 mm and West with 6 mm. In the other sectors rainfall recorded in October 2017 was above the LTM with 91 mm in the East and 120 mm in the Centre.

October is known to be a dry month and most of the rainfall in October 2017 occurred towards the second half on the month.

Table 1. Rainfall in mm and as a percentage of the long term mean (LTM) for September and October during crops 2016 and 2017

	Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
September	2016	16 (24)	58 (53)	68 (53)	2 (6)	94 (65)	50 (49)
	2017	21 (31)	71 (65)	85 (66)	9 (29)	87 (60)	61 (59)
	LTM	67	109	129	31	145	103
October	2016	20 (47)	59 (73)	65 (67)	19 (68)	82 (75)	50 (66)
	2017	41 (95)*	91 (112)	79 (81)	6 (21)	120 (109)	71 (94)
	LTM	43	81	97	28	110	76

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

1.2 Temperature (Table 2)

Data on air temperatures recorded during the month of October 2017 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

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

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Amplitude (°C)	
	Oct 2017	DevN*	Oct 2017	DevN	Oct 2017	DevN
Ferret, Belle Vue	28.9	+0.7	19.6	+1.6	9.3	-0.9
Réduit	26.2	+1.3	17.9	+0.9	8.3	+0.4
Belle Rive	24.9	+0.9	17.2	+1.7	7.7	-0.8
Union Park	25.3	+1.7	18.0	+1.3	7.3	+0.4

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

Both mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures during October 2017 were above normal at all stations by more than 0.7°C. The resulting mean amplitude was above normal at Réduit and Union Park by 0.4°C but was below the normal at Ferret and Belle Rive by 0.9°C and 0.8°C respectively.

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that solar radiation recorded at all stations was above normal. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 106 at both Ferret and Réduit, 111 at Belle Rive and 120 at Union Park.

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

Station	Oct 2017	Normal*	% of Normal
Ferret	281	264	106
Réduit	271	256	106
Belle Rive	239	215	111
Union Park	206	172	120

* Normal (1981-2010)

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

Cane samples from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and covering the main cultivated varieties were analyzed for sucrose content during the last week of October 2017. 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. In the Centre, all fields earmarked for sucrose accumulation have been harvested.

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

Sectors	R 573	M 2593/92	M 1400/86	R 579	R 570
North		17.1	15.6	15.0	17.3
East				13.8	
South	17.4			13.7	16.8
West				15.4	

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

Sectors	SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	15.8	16.1	13.9	16.3	17.3	16.4
East	15.0	14.2	13.4	15.1	16.8	13.8
South	14.8	16.2	13.6	16.3	16.1	15.1
West	15.6	13.7	14.5	17.1	14.4	15.4
Centre	14.1	13.6	12.6	-	14.9	-
Island	15.1	15.2	13.6	16.0	16.3	15.0

The *richesse* at end-October 2017 reached 16.4% in the North, 13.8% in the East, 15.1% in the South and 15.4% in the West. In comparison to the corresponding period in 2016, sucrose content to-date was lagging behind by 0.9° in the North, 3.0° in the East and 1.0° in the South. In the West, it was higher by 1.0°. Sucrose content at the end of October 2017 compared to that of October 2015 was inferior by more than 1.2° in all sectors except in the North.

Sucrose content from end-September 2017 up to end-October 2017 has improved in all sectors. The highest incremental margin of 2.5° was observed in the North followed by 1.5° in the South, 0.9° in the West and 0.4° in the East. On average for the island, the increase in sucrose content was 1.4° in 2017 which was higher than that obtained in 2016 and 2015.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 15.0% recorded at the end of October 2017 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (16.3%) and 2015 (16.0%).

3. CROP 2017

As at 28 October 2017, 23 680 ha representing about 69% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 25 140 ha (72%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 64% in the North, 70% in the East, 69% in the South, 89% in the West and 60% in the Centre. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. 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 28 October 2017 amounted to 79.1 TCH and was comparable to that recorded in 2016 (79.2 TCH). The best cane productivity was recorded in the West sector with 85.5 TCH, followed by the East (82.1 TCH), the North (80.7 TCH), the South (74.7 TCH) and the Centre (68.3 TCH).

Compared to the same period last year, cane productivity recorded to-date was lagging behind in sectors South, West and Centre. In the other two sectors, cane productivity was higher by 1.4 TCH in the North and 5.0 TCH in the East. Cane productivity in 2017 was also inferior to that of 2015 in all sectors except for sector North.

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

Sector	End September			End October		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	80.3	81.3	81.1	79.3	79.3	80.7
East	85.6	78.3	82.6	85.7	77.1	82.1
South	85.4	81.5	75.3	83.8	79.9	74.7
West	90.8	91.6	86.2	90.6	90.6	85.5
Centre	74.7	70.5	69.2	72.2	69.2	68.3
Island	84.1	80.5	79.8	83.1	79.2	79.1

3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 1)

The recorded island extraction rate was 9.37% and was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2016 (10.01%) by 0.64^o but higher than that of 2015 (9.15%) by 0.22^o. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 9.76% in the North, 9.12% in the East/Centre, 9.22% in the South and 9.85% in the West. These figures were inferior to those of the corresponding period in 2016 in all sectors but were higher than those of the same period in 2015 except in the West sector.

From end September 2017 to end October 2017, extraction rate over the island has increased by 0.27% compared to 0.19% in 2016 and 0.16% in 2015.

Figure 1. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

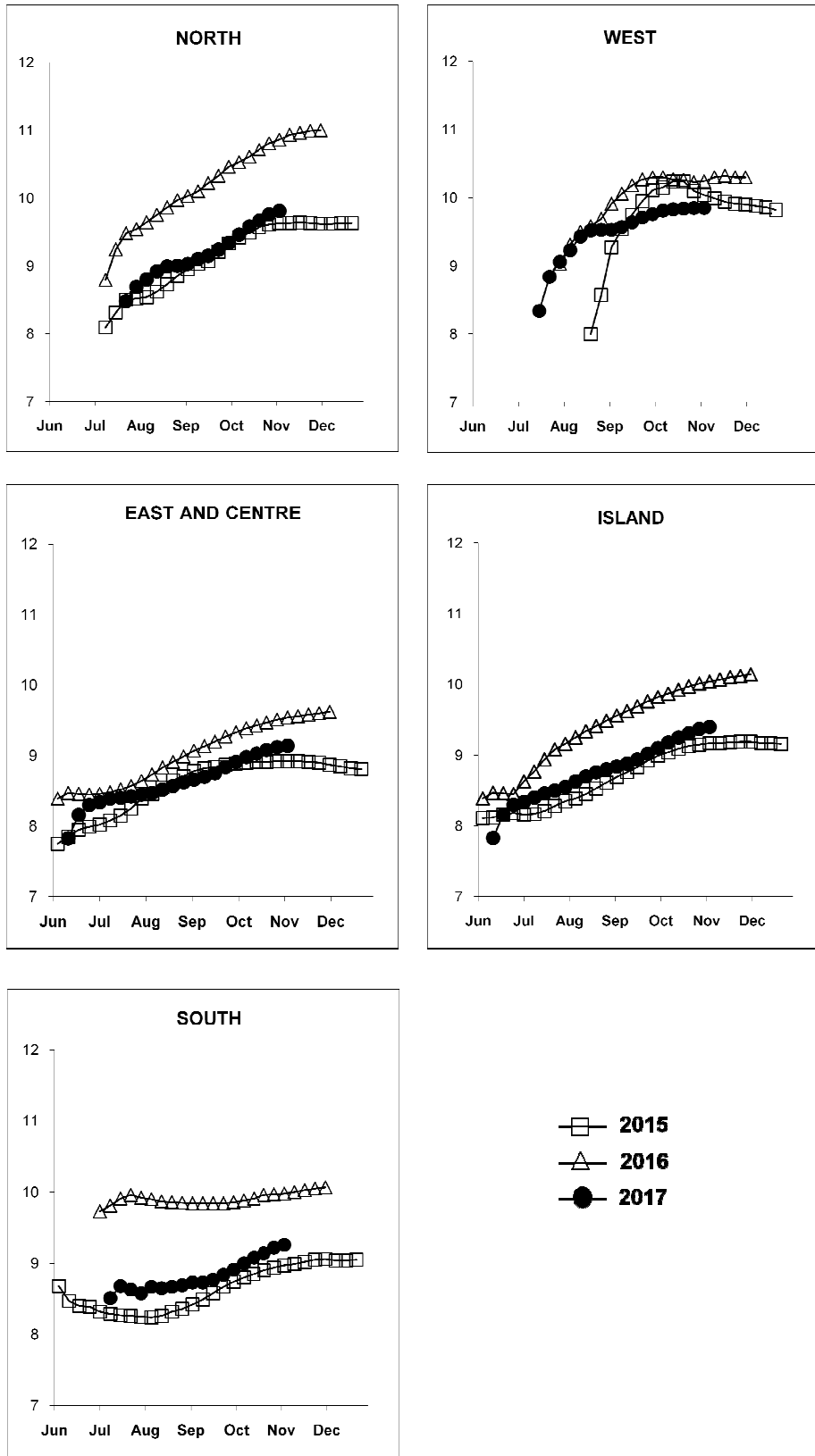


Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at end-September and end-October for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End September			End October		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	9.33	10.46	9.34	9.61	10.81	9.76
East/Centre	8.89	9.33	8.91	8.92	9.51	9.12
South	8.74	9.86	8.91	8.94	9.97	9.22
West	10.11	10.30	9.76	10.10	10.23	9.85
Island	8.99	9.82	9.10	9.15	10.01	9.37

3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.41 TSH is inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (7.93 TSH) by 0.52 tonne (6.6%) and that of the same period in 2015 (7.60 TSH) by 0.19 tonne (2.5%). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 7.88 TSH in the North, 7.29 TSH in the East-Centre, 6.89 TSH in the South and 8.42 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at end-October 2017 was still lagging behind that of the corresponding period in 2016 by 0.69 TSH in the North, 1.08 TSH in the South and 0.85 TSH in the West but was comparable in the East-Centre

From end September to end October sugar productivity for the island has increased by 0.15 TSH in 2017 compared to a negligible increment of 0.02 TSH in 2016 and 0.04 TSH in 2015.

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

Sectors	End September			End October		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	7.49	8.50	7.57	7.62	8.57	7.88
East/Centre	7.45	7.18	7.18	7.47	7.20	7.29
South	7.46	8.04	6.71	7.49	7.97	6.89
West	9.18	9.43	8.41	9.15	9.27	8.42
Island	7.56	7.91	7.26	7.60	7.93	7.41

4.0 CROP 2017

Weather during the month of October has generally favoured ripening on account of the overall dry and hot weather conditions. This is reflected in the increasing trend in extraction rate that has been noted since end September over the island and at end October 2017 was higher than that of last year. On the other hand cane productivity over the island during the month of October has decreased marginally and at the end of October 2017 it was comparable to that of 2016. Sugar productivity over the island has thus increased during the month of October 2017 by 0.15 TSH compared to negligible increase during October 2016. With nearly 70% of the area harvested the production level for 2017 remains dependent on the forthcoming weather. With no major departure in the weather from the normal, sugar productivity in 2017 is expected to be comparable to that of crop 2015 but will lag behind that of crop 2016.