

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2017

20 October 2017

SUGAR CANE CROP 2017

Status: End September 2017

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of September 2017 over the sugar cane areas was 61 mm. It represented 59% of the long-term mean (103 mm). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 21 mm, 71 mm, 85 mm, 9 mm and 87 mm in the North, East, South, West and Centre, respectively. These amounts represented 31% of the long-term mean in the North, 65% in the East, 66% in the South, 29% in the West and 60% in the Centre.

Total rainfall over the period October 2016 to September 2017 amounted to 2317 mm, which is higher than the island long-term mean of 2001 mm (+16%) for this period. During the same period 1306 mm were recorded in the North, 3155 mm in the East, 2557 mm in the South, 650 mm in the West and 2990 mm in the Centre. These figures represented 100%, 149%, 105%, 70% and 108% of the respective long-term mean.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
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

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

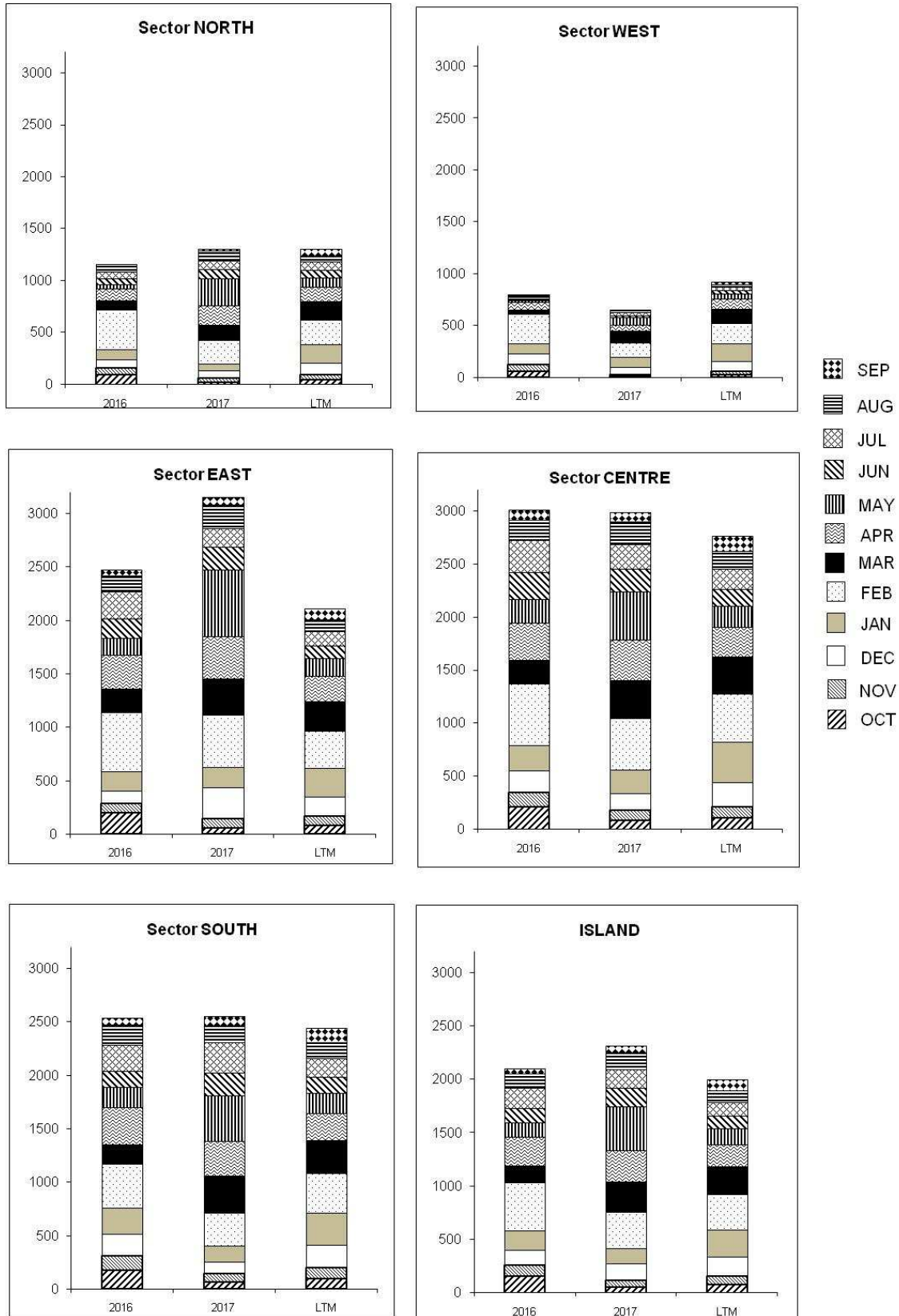
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2016 to September 2017 for crop 2017 compared to that of crop 2016 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	1157 (88)	2477 (117)	2542 (104)	798 (86)	3010 (109)	2108 (105)
2017	1306 (100)*	3155 (149)	2557 (105)	650 (70)	2990 (108)	2317 (116)
LTM	1309	2116	2442	925	2768	2001

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

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

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

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Amplitude (°C)	
	Sep 2017	DevN*	Sep 2017	DevN	Sep 2017	DevN
Ferret, Belle Vue	26.8	0.0	18.3	+1.5	8.5	-1.5
Réduit	24.1	+0.6	16.5	+0.7	7.6	-0.1
Belle Rive	23.7	+0.9	16.1	+1.6	7.6	-0.7
Union Park	24.0	+1.6	16.8	+1.0	7.2	+0.6

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean maximum temperature during September 2017 was above normal at all stations except at Ferret where it was equal to the normal. The mean minimum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations by 1.5°C at Ferret, 0.7°C at Réduit, 1.6°C at Belle Rive and 1.0°C at Union Park. The resulting mean amplitude was below the normal at Ferret and Belle Rive, close to normal at Réduit and above normal at Union Park.

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from MSIRI agro-meteorological stations showed that solar radiation recorded at Belle Rive and Union Park was above normal but below normal at the other two stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 94 at Ferret, 96 at Réduit, 104 at Belle Rive and 112 at Union Park.

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

Station	September 2017	Normal*	% of Normal
Ferret	220	233	94
Réduit	209	217	96
Belle Rive	204	197	104
Union Park	168	150	112

* 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 September 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.

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

Sectors	R 573	M 1246/84	M 2593/92	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	M 1861/89	R 579	M 1672/90	R 570
North		14.7	14.5	13.6	13.9		13.2	13.9	14.0
East							12.9		14.2
South	14.5		12.8	14.8		15.7	13.0		13.1
West			15.1	13.9			14.8		
Centre				13.2			12.1		

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

Sectors	August			September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	13.1	14.9	12.4	15.8	16.1	13.9
East	13.4	13.8	12.8	15.0	14.2	13.4
South	13.6	14.5	12.4	14.8	16.2	13.6
West	14.9	13.1	13.3	15.6	13.7	14.5
Centre	13.2	13.8	11.9	14.1	13.6	12.6
Island	13.5	14.2	12.6	15.1	15.2	13.6

The *richesse* at end-September 2017 stood at 13.9% in the North, 13.4% in the East, 13.6% in the South, 14.5% in the West and 12.6% in the Centre. In comparison with the corresponding period in 2016, sucrose content to-date was lagging behind by 2.2° in the North, 0.8° in the East, 2.6° in the South and 1.0° in the Centre. In the West, it was higher by 0.8°. Sucrose content at the end of September 2017 when compared to that of September 2015 was inferior by more than 1.1° in all sectors.

Sucrose content from end-August 2017 up to end-September 2017 has improved in all sectors. The highest incremental margin of 1.5° was observed in the North followed by 1.2° in both the South and West, 0.7° in the Centre and 0.6° in the East. On average for the island, the increase in sucrose content was 1.0° in 2017 which is similar to that obtained in 2016 but was lower than the 1.6° increment obtained in 2015.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 13.6% recorded at the end of September 2017 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (15.2%) and 2015 (15.1%).

3. CROP 2017

As at 30 September 2017, 18 019 ha representing about 53% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 19 215 ha (55%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 46% in the North, 56% in the East, 51% in the South, 69% in the West and 46% 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 30 September 2017 amounted to 79.8 TCH and was slightly lower than that recorded in 2016 (80.5 TCH). The West sector recorded the best cane productivity with 86.2 TCH, followed by the East (82.6 TCH), the North (81.1 TCH), the South (75.3 TCH) and the Centre (69.2 TCH).

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

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

Sector	End August			End September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	81.4	82.6	79.9	80.3	81.3	81.1
East	86.9	78.2	82.5	85.6	78.3	82.6
South	88.3	83.1	74.7	85.4	81.5	75.3
West	90.5	95.8	83.3	90.8	91.6	86.2
Centre	77.1	71.3	68.4	74.7	70.5	69.2
Island	85.9	81.3	79.0	84.1	80.5	79.8

3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.10% was below that of the corresponding period in 2016 (9.82%) by 0.72°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 9.34% in the North, 8.91% in both the East/Centre and the South sectors and 9.76% in the West. These figures were lagging behind those of the corresponding period in 2016 by 1.12° in the North, 0.42° in the East-Centre, 0.95° in the South and 0.54° in the West. Compared to that of 2015, extraction rate in September 2017 was higher in the South, comparable in the North and East/Centre but was lower in the West.

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

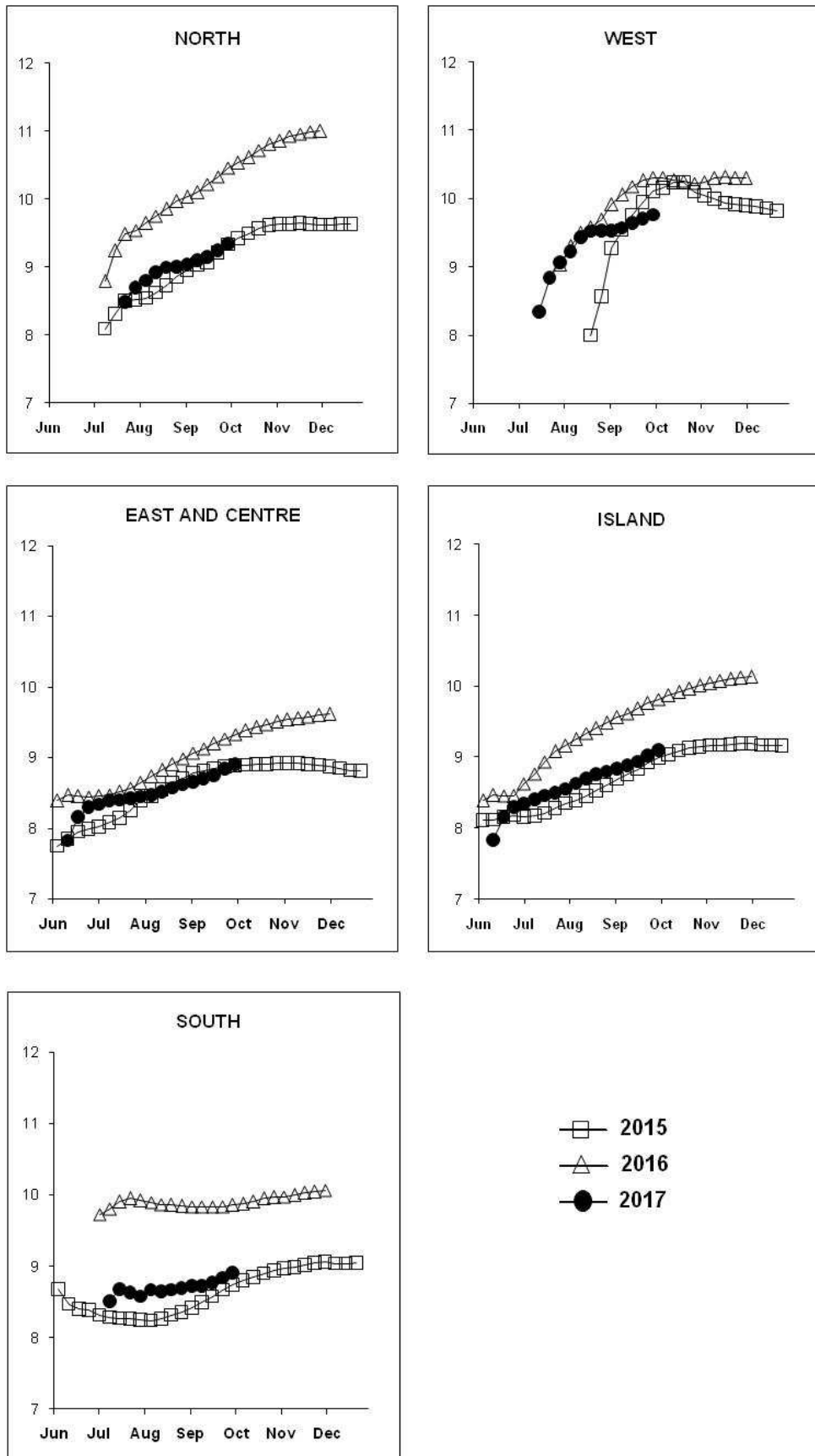


Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at end-August and end-September for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End August			End September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	8.95	10.03	9.03	9.33	10.46	9.34
East/Centre	8.78	9.07	8.66	8.89	9.33	8.91
South	8.42	9.84	8.73	8.74	9.86	8.91
West	9.27	9.91	9.53	10.11	10.30	9.76
Island	8.69	9.56	8.84	8.99	9.82	9.10

3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.26 TSH is inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (7.91 TSH) by 0.65 tonne (8.2%). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 7.57 TSH in the North, 7.18 TSH in the East/Centre, 6.71 TSH in the South and 8.41 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at end-September 2017 was similar to that of the corresponding period in 2016 in the East/Centre but lagged behind in the other sectors by 0.93 TSH in the North, 1.33 TSH in the South and 1.02 TSH in the West.

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

Sectors	End August			End September		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	7.29	8.28	7.21	7.49	8.50	7.57
East/Centre	7.49	6.99	6.97	7.45	7.18	7.18
South	7.43	8.18	6.52	7.46	8.04	6.71
West	8.39	9.49	7.94	9.18	9.43	8.41
Island	7.46	7.77	6.98	7.56	7.91	7.26

4.0 CROP 2017

The weather conditions that prevailed during September 2017 were characterised by below normal rainfall in all sectors coupled with near normal to above normal solar radiation. Temperature amplitude was near normal to below normal in most stations. These conditions did not favour optimum sucrose accumulation.

With slightly more than half of the area of miller planters' land harvested, cane productivity at island level in 2017 is still lagging behind that of 2016 by 0.8%. Moreover, extraction rate at end-September 2017 compared to the corresponding period in 2016 was lagging behind in all sectors. Hence, the island sugar productivity of 7.26 TSH at end-September 2017 is still below that of 2016 and 2015 at the same period by 8.2% and 4.0%, respectively. Based on these data and with no major departure in the weather from the normal, sugar productivity is expected to be inferior to those of crop 2016 and 2015.