



# MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## Recommendation Sheet

March 2002, No. 129

### GUIDELINES ON OPERATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SUGAR CANE FIELDS AFTER A CYCLONE

It should be noted that no immediate operations should be carried out in lodged cane as this might result in stalk breakage. However after two or three weeks, when the cane will have assumed an upright position, the following operations may be considered. When lodging has not occurred, these operations may be carried out without delay.

#### FERTILIZATION

Supplementary nutrients will not help the sugar cane plant to recover from the effects of a cyclone. Therefore additional fertilizers to the field should not be contemplated particularly since, as per our recommendations, fertilization must have been completed at latest in December.

*However, on sloping lands fertilized during the last fortnight of December, if there were signs that runoff and erosion had occurred, one half of the recommended rate of nitrogen (as CAN or sulphate of ammonia) should be applied again.*

#### WEED CONTROL

If cane canopy has been affected with exposure of the interrow to light, or canopy closure is being delayed on account of the adverse effects of a cyclone on growth, weed control should be reviewed, taking into account the period for the new canopy to be formed. The following measures should be accordingly adopted:

- if new canopy formation is expected in **more than 8 weeks**, a full dose of recommended rates of pre/post-emergence herbicide treatments should be applied. Choice of herbicides will depend on weed species present, localities and cane varieties.
- if new canopy formation is expected **between 4 and 8 weeks**, reduced rates\* of recommended pre-emergence herbicide treatments should be applied. However if weeds are present, rates of post-emergence herbicide in the tank-mix should be kept unchanged (full dose). Choice of herbicides will depend again on weed species, localities and cane varieties.  
\* *Please contact your extension officer or MSIRI for reduced rates.*
- If new canopy formation is expected in **less than 4 weeks**, no herbicide treatment may be required.





### PEST CONTROL

In cases where cane lodging is severe, damage by rodents is to be expected. The fields should be regularly monitored and at first signs of presence of rodents, a rodenticide should be applied. Anticoagulant rodenticides would give best results.

### TRASHING

Early trashing (March to mid-May) is known to cause an adverse effect on cane growth and yield. It should be avoided after a cyclone.

### IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommendations concerning the anchorage of centre pivot system have previously been made as per Recommendation Sheet No. 82 of December 94. Item No. 3, 'Operating the Pivot after a cyclone' reads as follows:

The extent of damage, if any, should be assessed and necessary repairs effected. If there are no apparent damages, the following tasks should be performed before putting the system back into operation:

- Check the couplings at the towers and the pivot point as well as the pivot attachment to the foundation base.
- Inspect all electrical connections and ensure that there is no water inside the protective boxes of the electrical equipment.
- Check the state of the motors by starting them and verify the alignment of the system.
- Flush the system and start irrigation (effective rainfall should be taken into consideration).

***Note : A complete overhaul of the Centre Pivot installation is necessary if major cyclone damages are detected. In case of doubt, please call the supplier.***