



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 74

(August 1993)

MAIZE VARIETIES, DENSITIES AND SEED RATES

Two maize varieties are recommended for grain production, one for growing in pure stands and the other for intercropping with sugar cane.

Pure Stands

Only the hybrid MSIRI 6 is recommended. It has the following characteristics:

Variety	Grain colour	Crop Cycle (days)	Seed rate (kg/ha)
MSIRI 6	Yellow	120-130	20-24

It should be planted at a density of 73,750 plants per hectare, i.e. at 80 cm between rows and 17 cm between seeds within the row.

(See also notes 1 & 2 below).

It should not be grown in sugar cane interrows because it is relatively tall and late-maturing.

Sugar cane interrows

Only one variety, the hybrid MSIRI 4 is recommended. Its main characteristics are:

Variety	Grain colour	Crop Cycle (days)	Seed rate (kg/ha interrow)
MSIRI 4	Yellow	110-120	7-8

It should be planted at a density of 20,575 plants per hectare of sugar cane interrows, i.e. one row of maize in every alternate interrow of sugar cane at a spacing of 15 cm between seeds.

(See also notes 1 & 2 below).

Note:

1. The two recommended varieties being hybrids, their seeds should **not** be saved from one generation to the next for planting.
2. The recommended plant population densities refer to plant densities that give optimum grain yields. In practice, slightly more seeds should be planted to cater for inevitable losses due to attacks from birds and other pests and to irregular germination in the field. Moreover, it is advisable to check the germination rates of all seed lots prior to planting.

This recommendation sheet cancels No. 31 (Oct. 1985).