



FERTILIZATION OF PLANT AND RATOON CANES

Sugar production needs to be maximized to enable Mauritius to meet its increased export commitment to the European Union. To achieve maximum yield, the following fertilizer rates are recommended :

	17-2-27 or 17-8-25 (kg / ha)	
	Short season	Long season
A. Plant cane		
High response soils (LRP, LHL, HL, DMC)	1000-1100	1100-1200
Low response soils (HFL, LBF, MSC)	900-1000	1000-1100
B. Ratoon cane		
High response soils	1000-1100	
Low response soils	900-1000	

It is important to note that :

- (i) *where R 570 is cultivated, an additional 350 kg/ha of 17-2-27 or 17-8-25 should be applied as this variety has a higher fertilizer requirement than other varieties;*
- (ii) *the 17-2-27 or 17-8-25 formulations are preferred to ensure an adequate N/K balance in the plant, every tonne millable cane having been shown to export 3.30 kg K₂O;*
- (iii) *the choice between 17-2-27 or 17-8-25 and the supplementary P required in the form of scums, triple super phosphate or rock phosphate should be determined by soil analysis results;*
- (iv) *while the P fertilizers should be applied in the furrows at planting, the 17-2-27 or 17-8-25 may be applied either at planting or after germination of the plant cane. In ratoons the fertilizers may be applied any time after harvest, before the end of the year.*

N.B. Please also refer to Recommendation Sheet No. 87 on fertilization for OPTIMUM yield.