

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2009

Status: End November 2009

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November was 186 mm and represented 224% of the long term mean (83 mm). Rainfall recorded was well above the long-term mean in all sectors, with 133 mm in the North, 234 mm in the East, 182 mm in the South, 177 mm in the West and 201 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 283%, 272%, 166%, 577% and 192% of the respective long-term means.

Cumulative rainfall for October and November 2009 amounted to 438 mm for the island, i.e. 283% of the long-term mean of 155 mm. During that period, 280 mm were recorded in the North, 560 mm in the East, 448 mm in the South, 372 mm in the West and 497 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 318%, 350%, 218%, 764% and 241% of the respective long-term means.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of November for crops 2009, 2010 and the long term means (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	57 (122)	200 (232)	236 (215)	76 (248)	154 (147)	164 (198)
2010	133 (283)	234 (272)	182 (166)	177 (577)	201 (192)	186 (224)
LTM	47	86	110	31	105	83

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

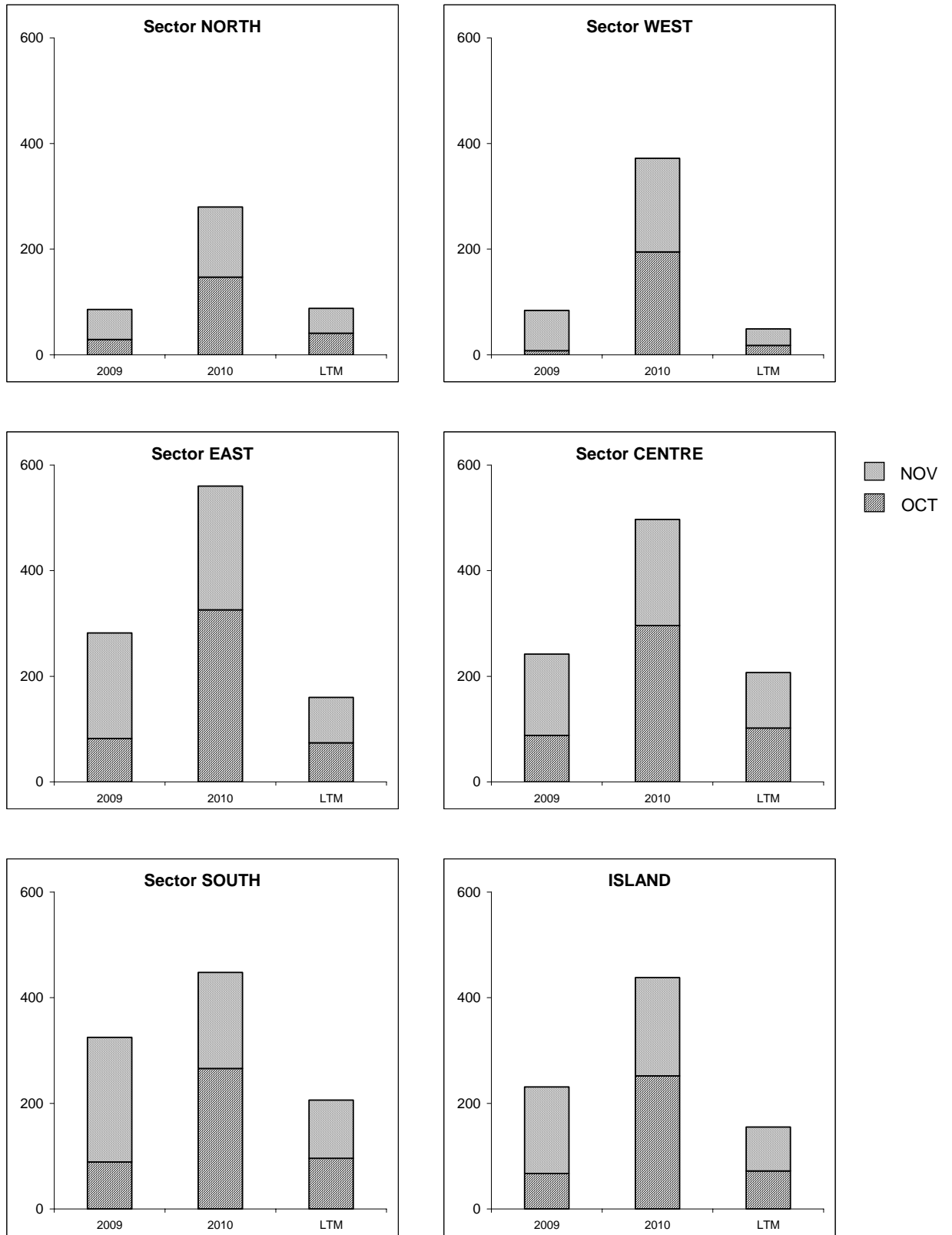
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2009 for crop 2010 compared to that of crop 2009 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	86 (98)	282 (176)	325 (158)	84 (171)	242 (117)	232 (150)
2010	280 (318)	560 (350)	448 (218)	372 (764)	497 (241)	438 (283)
LTM	88	160	206	49	207	155

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to November 2009 for the 2010 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2009 crop and to the long term mean for the two months



2. CROP 2009

As at 28 November 2009, about 88% (30 569 ha) of miller-planters' land had been harvested, an acreage slightly lower than the 30 999 ha harvested at the corresponding period last year. Sector-wise and again for miller-planters only, harvest has been completed in the West whereas in the other sectors, it reached 78% in the North, 88% in the East, 91% in the South and 88% in the Centre.

An analysis of cane and sugar productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters follows. However, following the centralization of milling activities and the transfer of canes from one factory area to another, the comparisons made are not strictly comparable for sugar productivity and extraction rates except for the North, West and South sectors where data for the same factory areas are presented. Since all the canes from the Centre sector is being sent to the East, harvest statistics in terms of extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for these two sectors.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 2a)

Cane productivity for the island as at 28 November 2009 was 83.1 TCH compared to 79.8 TCH recorded in 2008, representing an increase of about 4% over last year's performance. Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 92.4 TCH, followed by the South (84.6 TCH), the East (82.5 TCH), the North (81.7 TCH) and the Centre (71.7 TCH). Compared to the corresponding period in 2008, cane productivity to-date was lower in the Centre by 3.1 TCH whereas in the other sectors it was higher, the incremental yield being 10.1 TCH in the North, 5.3 TCH in the East, 1.7 TCH in the South and 0.4 TCH in West.

Table 2a Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2008 and 2009 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
North	70.6	81.2	71.6	81.7
East	77.3	82.8	77.2	82.5
South	83.1	84.0	82.9	84.6
West	91.9	92.6	92.0	92.4
Centre	78.6	74.1	74.8	71.7
Island	80.1	83.3	79.8	83.1

2.2 Extraction (Table 2b and Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 10.14% was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2008 (9.98%) by 0.16°. Sector-wise, extraction rates recorded to-date were 9.61% in the North, 10.35% in the East-Centre, 10.07% in the South and 10.72% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, cumulative extraction rate was higher in all the sectors, the advantage being 0.16° in the North, 0.13° in the East-Centre, 0.22° in the South and 0.25° in the West. It should be noted that last year's extraction rate for East-Centre sector included part of the cane harvested in the Mon Loisir factory area.

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate for the 2008 and 2009 crops

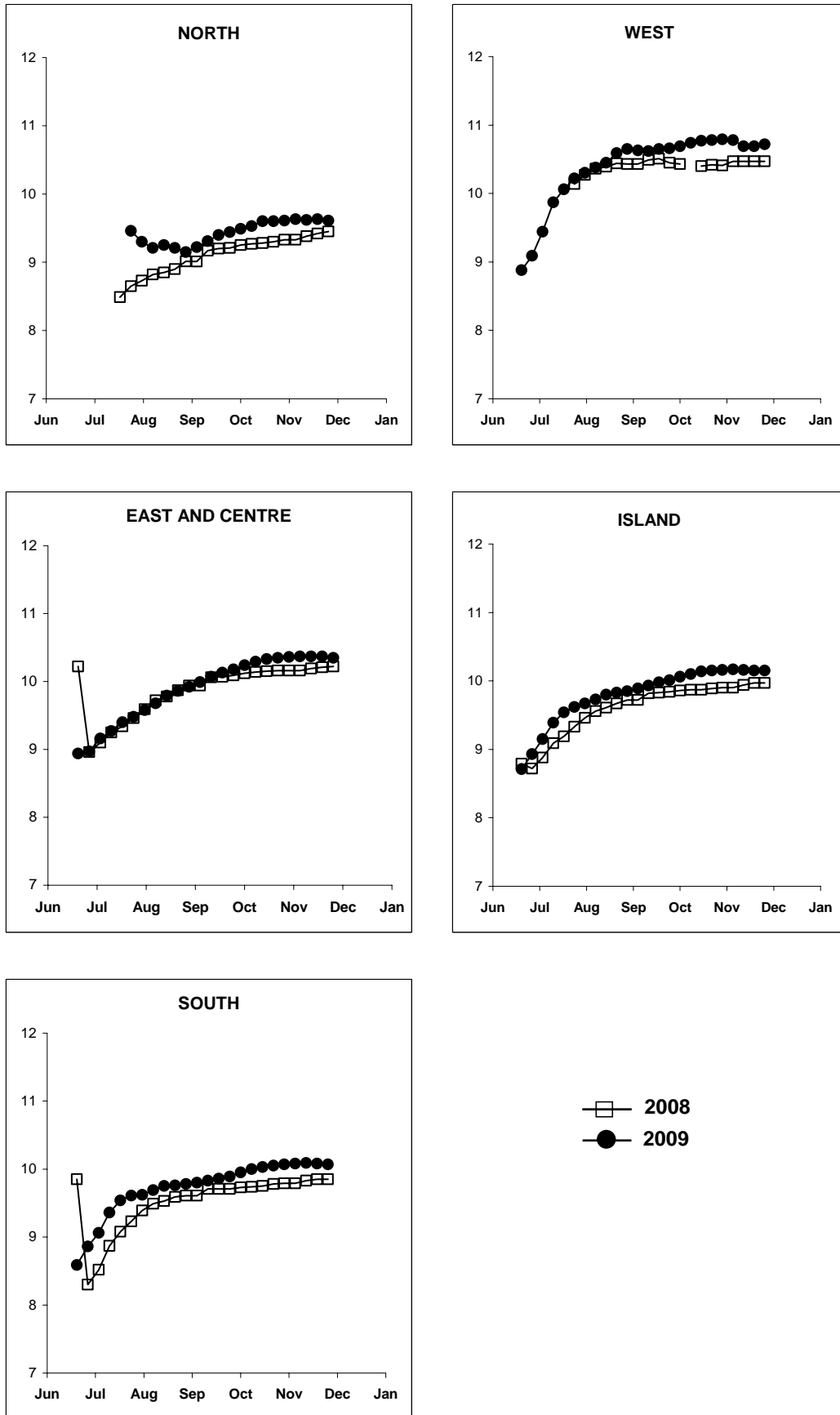


Table 2b Extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2008 and 2009 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
North	9.33	9.61	9.45	9.61
East /Centre	10.16	10.36	10.22	10.35
South	9.79	10.07	9.85	10.07
West	10.41	10.79	10.47	10.72
Island	9.90	10.16	9.98	10.14

2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 2c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 8.43 TSH exceeded that of the corresponding period in 2008 (7.96 TSH) by 0.47 tonne. Sector-wise sugar productivity was 7.85 TSH in the North, 8.25 in the East-Centre, 8.52 in the South and 9.91 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity was superior to that at the corresponding period last year in all sectors with an increment of 1.08 TSH in the North, 0.42 TSH in the East/Centre, 0.35 TSH in the South and 0.28 TSH in the West.

Table 2c Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2008 and 2009 crops

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
North	6.59	7.80	6.77	7.85
East / Centre	7.88	8.34	7.83	8.25
South	8.14	8.46	8.17	8.52
West	9.57	9.99	9.63	9.91
Island	7.93	8.46	7.96	8.43

3. 2009 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

Weather during the month of November has been unfavourable for ripening. Thus extraction has started to regress after a marginal increase in the first week of November. Mechanical harvest could not proceed smoothly and cane quality also suffered. On the contrary, cane yield is maintaining itself as there is no usual cane desiccation as when dry weather is experienced. Thus sugar yield stayed more or less constant. No major change is expected until the end of harvest as soil moisture will be available and under the hot prevailing regime, cane will start regrowing.

4. 2010 CROP

While being detrimental to this year's harvest, the weather experienced has been very favourable for regrowth of harvested crops. That regrowth can be considered to be one of the best and should contribute for an early onset of elongation.