

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2010

03 March 2010

SUGAR CANE CROP 2010

Status: End February 2010

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of February 2010 was 410 mm. It exceeded the long-term mean by 79 mm (24%). Sector-wise, rainfall for February 2010 was comparable to the long-term mean in the West but was superior in sectors East and South by 288 mm (86%) and 95 mm (26%). Rainfall of February 2010 was below the long-term mean by 99 mm (40%) in the North and 32 mm (7%) in the Centre.

Rainfall for the period October 2009 to February 2010 amounted to 1437 mm for the island. This is 52% higher than the island's long-term mean of 947 mm for that period. During that same period, a total of 875 mm was recorded in the North, 1961 mm in the East, 1539 mm in the South, 815 mm in the West and 1484 mm in the Centre. Compared to the respective long-term mean of these sectors, cumulative rainfall represented 134% in the North, 203% in the East, 139% in the South, 149% in the West and 115% in the Centre.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	240 (98)	365 (109)	310 (85)	122 (56)	348 (75)	297 (90)
2010	146 (60)	624 (186)	461 (126)	221 (101)	432 (93)	410 (124)
LTM	245	336	366	219	464	331

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

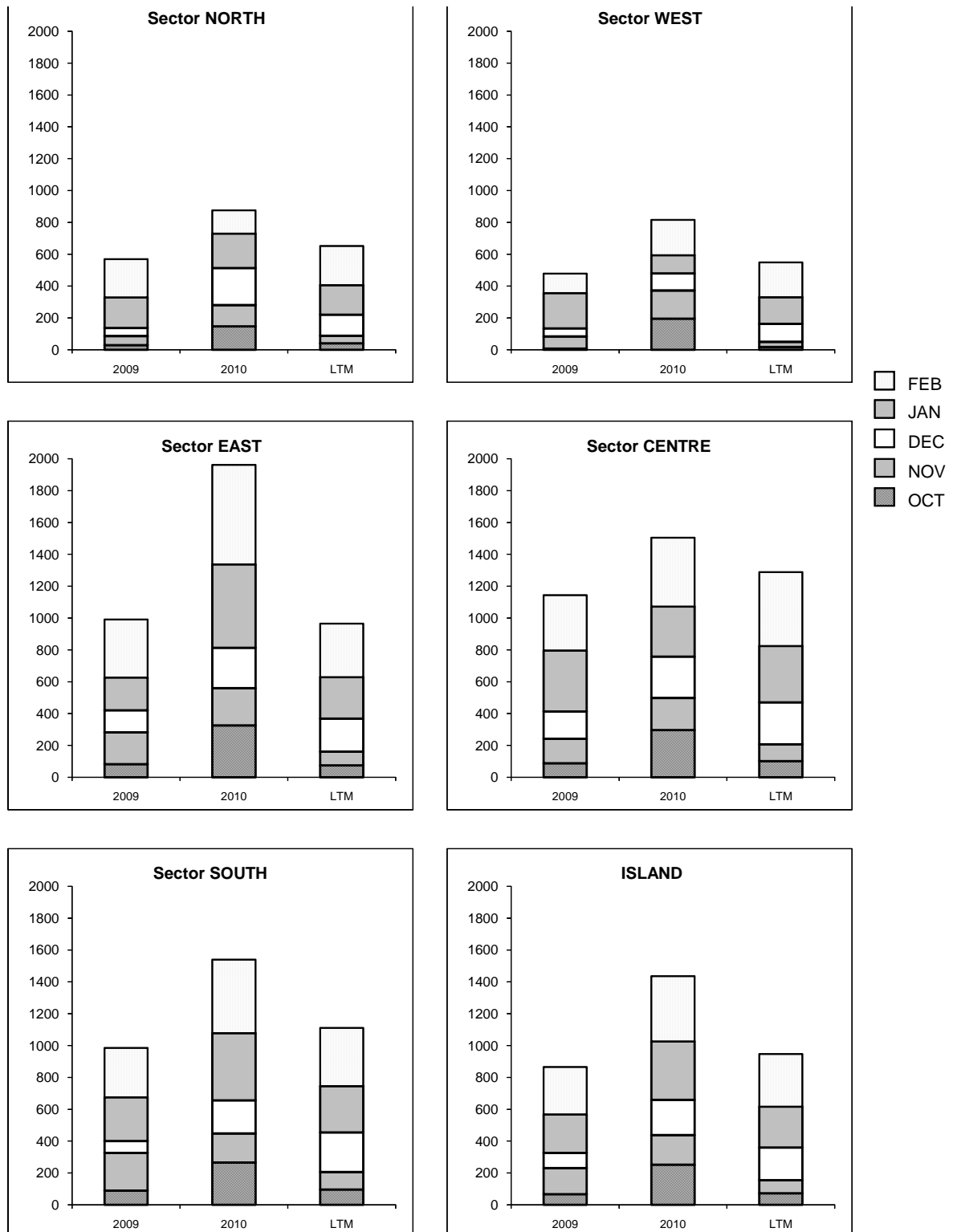
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2009 to February 2010 for crop 2010 compared to that of crop 2009 and the long-term means (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2009	569 (87)	991 (103)	985 (89)	478 (87)	1144 (89)	865 (91)
2010	875 (134)	1961 (203)	1539 (139)	815 (149)	1484 (115)	1437 (152)
LTM	651	965	1111	549	1288	947

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2009 to February 2010 for the 2010 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2009 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



2. STALK HEIGHT (TABLE 2)

Cane growth was assessed during the last week of February 2010 in the 63 sites representative of the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These sites cover the various agro-climatic zones, varieties under cultivation and stages of development of the crop. Data collected are compared to those of the corresponding period in February 2009 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the last ten years in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 2a)

Stalk elongation during the month of February 2010 was superior to that recorded during the same period in 2009 except in the North sector. During February 2010, the best growth was observed in the West with 49.3 cm followed by 45.7 cm in the South, 43.6 cm in the East, 40.6 cm in the North and 36.2 cm in the Centre. The elongation rates of February 2010 were below the normal in all sectors, the difference being 8.6 cm in the North, 2.5 cm in the East, 3.9 cm in the South, 0.4 cm in the West and 0.2 cm in the Centre. The 43.3 cm average elongation for the island represented 109.8% of that recorded in February 2009 (39.4 cm) and 91.1% of the normal (47.5 cm).

Table 2a. Stalk elongation during the month of February.

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Feb			Feb 2010 as % of	
	2010	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
North	40.6	43.5	49.2	93.3	82.5
East	43.6	38.3	46.1	113.8	94.5
South	45.7	41.8	49.6	109.3	92.2
West	49.3	35.3	49.7	139.7	99.3
Centre	36.2	27.1	36.4	133.6	99.3
Island	43.3	39.4	47.5	109.8	91.1

2.2 Cumulative Elongation (Table 2b)

Cumulative growth from end-December 2009 to end-February 2010 amounted to 78.9 cm in the North, 84.3 cm in the East, 89.4 cm in the South, 95.3 cm in the West and 67.8 cm in the Centre. These cumulative growths exceeded those of 2009 by 2.3 cm (3.0%) in the North, 8.3 cm (10.9%) in the East and 12.0 cm (14.4%) in the West but lagged by 1.7 cm (1.9%) in the South and 0.7 cm (1.0%) in the Centre.

Table 2b. Cumulative elongation at end-February.

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- Feb			Feb 2010 as % of	
	2010	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
North	78.9	76.6	82.6	103.0	95.5
East	84.3	76.0	89.4	110.9	94.3
South	89.4	91.1	100.7	98.1	88.8
West	95.3	83.3	88.8	114.4	107.3
Centre	67.8	68.5	81.5	99.0	83.2
Island	83.8	80.8	91.5	103.8	91.6

For the same period, growth was below normal by 3.7 cm in the North, 5.1 cm in the East, 11.3 cm in the South and 13.7 cm in the Centre, but in the West it was above the normal by 6.5 cm. Island-

wise the cumulative elongation of 83.8 cm was higher than that of the 2009 crop (80.8 cm) by 3.8% but lagging behind the normal (91.5 cm) by 8.4%.

2.3 Total cane height (Table 2c and Figure 2)

Total stalk height at end-February 2010 stood at 103.6 cm in the North, 123.9 cm in the East, 140.7 cm in the South, 138.5 cm in the West and 115.4 cm in the Centre. Compared to end-February 2009, cane was taller by 1.6 cm in the East and 13.7 cm in the West but was shorter by 7.4 cm in the North, 11.4 cm in the South and 4.3 cm in the Centre. Total cane height at the end of February 2010 was below the normal by 7.8 cm (7.0%) in the North, 10.2 cm (7.6%) in the East, 11.7 cm (7.7%) in the South and 11.8 cm (9.3%) in the Centre but exceeded the normal by 19.8 cm (16.6%) in the West.

Island-wise the total cane height of 124.8 cm at end-February 2010 was lower than at end-February 2009 by 4.2 cm (3.2%) and the normal by 9.4 cm (7.0%).

Table 2c. Stalk height at end-February.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Feb			End-Feb 2010 as % of	
	2010	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
North	103.6	111.0	111.4	93.3	93.0
East	123.9	122.3	134.1	101.3	92.4
South	140.7	152.1	152.4	92.5	92.3
West	138.5	124.8	118.7	111.0	116.6
Centre	115.4	119.7	127.2	96.4	90.7
Island	124.8	129.0	134.2	96.8	93.0

3. 2010 CROP

Weather during February has been on the overall very favourable to growth over the sugarcane areas except for some rainfed crops of the North sector as a result of localized rainfall deficiency. This is reflected in the good elongation rates, generally better than in 2009, recorded in all sectors apart from the North. With a total cumulative elongation better than last year at the same date and taking into consideration the late end of harvest in most sectors, a normal crop is expected provided that no severe prolonged drought periods are experienced until the end of the growth season.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- February 2010.

