

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2012

12 September 2012

SUGAR CANE CROP 2012

Status: End August 2012

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded during the month of August over the sugar cane areas of the island was below normal with an average of 93 mm which represented 75% of the long-term mean. Sector-wise, rainfall for the month of August was below the long-term mean in the North with 46 mm, the South with 94 mm, the West with 4 mm and the Centre with 116 mm. The 148 mm rainfall received in the East sector exceeded the long-term mean by 30%.

Cumulative rainfall for the period October 2011 to August 2012 amounted to 1761 mm for the island. This is 9% lower than the island long-term mean of 1927 mm. During the same period 978 mm were recorded in the North, 2292 mm in the East, 2004 mm in the South, 646 mm in the West and 2204 mm in the Centre. Compared to their respective long-term mean, cumulative rainfall represented 76%, 117%, 83%, 73% and 84% of the respective long-term means.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of August for crops 2011, 2012 and the long-term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
Crop 2011	115 (169)	278 (244)	208 (116)	51 (196)	204 (106)	192 (154)
Crop 2012	46 (68)	148 (130)	94 (52)	4 (15)	116 (60)	93 (75)
LTM	68	114	180	26	192	125

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

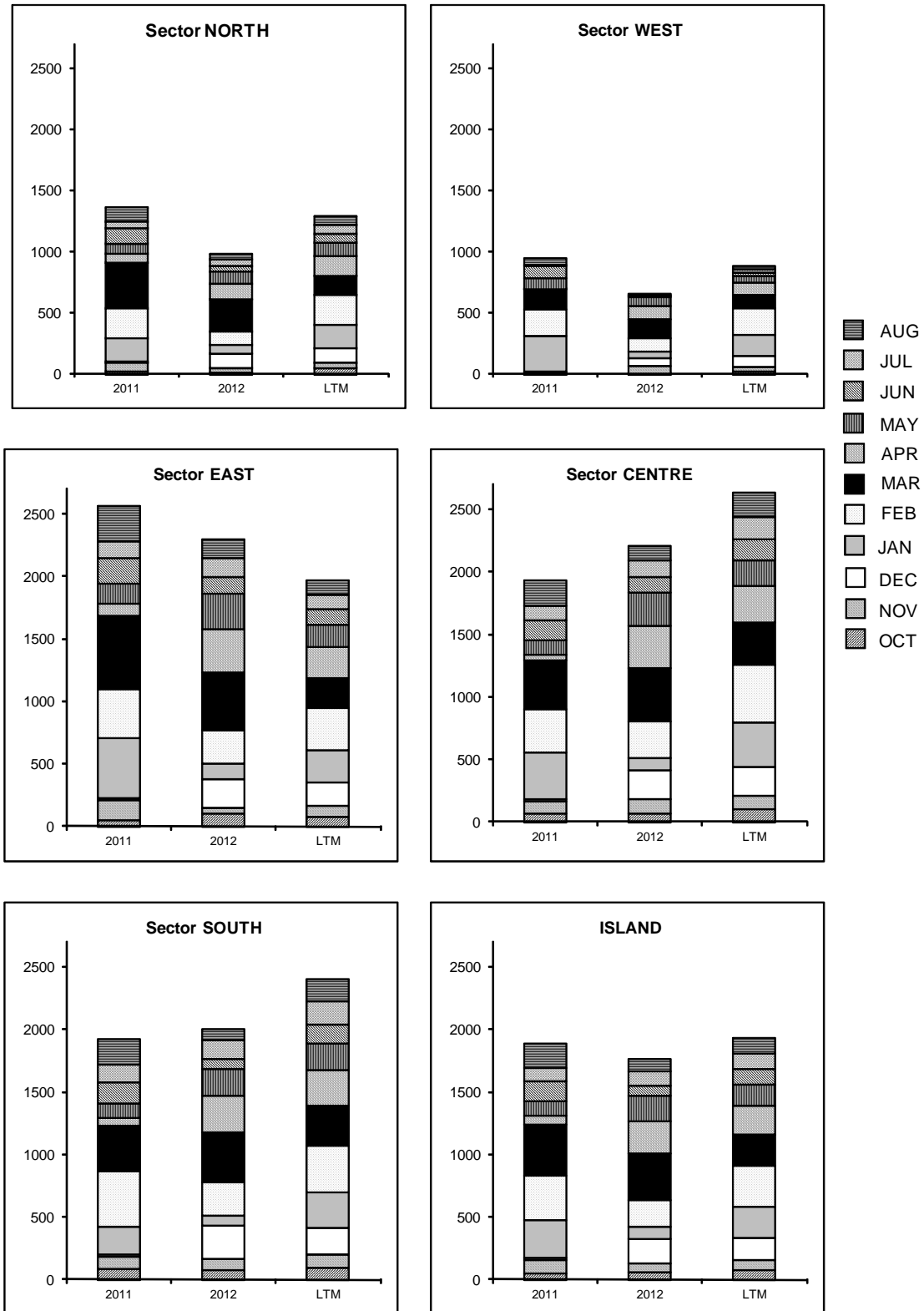
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2011 to August 2012 for crop 2012 compared to that of crop 2011 and the long-term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
Crop 2011	1362 (106)	2558 (130)	1923 (80)	943 (107)	1928 (73)	1887 (98)
Crop 2012	978 (76)	2292 (117)	2004 (83)	646 (73)	2204 (84)	1761 (91)
LTM	1286	1965	2401	881	2631	1927

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct 2011 to Aug 2012 for the 2012 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2011 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Temperature (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during the month of August 2012 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

The mean monthly maximum temperature was comparable at Belle Rive but higher than the normal by 0.6 °C at Réduit, 1.3 °C at Union Park and 0.2 °C at Pamplemousses. The mean monthly minimum temperature exceeded the normal by 0.8 °C at Pamplemousses, 0.4 °C at Réduit, 0.9 °C at Union Park and 1.1 °C at Belle Rive. The resulting mean amplitude was higher at Réduit and Union Park, but lower at the other two stations.

Table 2 Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2012

Station	Maximum (°C)	Minimum (°C)	Amplitude (°C)
Pamplemousses	25.9 (25.7) *	17.3 (16.5)	8.6 (9.2)
Réduit	23.1 (22.5)	15.7 (15.3)	7.4 (7.2)
Belle Rive	22.1 (22.0)	15.1 (14.0)	7.0 (8.0)
Union Park	22.8 (21.5)	16.2 (15.3)	6.6 (6.2)

* figures in brackets are the Normal (1981-2010)

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Total bright sunshine duration for the month of August 2012 at the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations was normal at Réduit but below at the other three stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 87 at Pamplemousses, 101 at Réduit, 77 at Belle Rive and 96 at Union Park.

Table 3 Sunshine duration (hrs) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in August 2012

Station	Aug 2012	Normal	% of Normal
Pamplemousses	216	247	87
Réduit	223	220	101
Belle Rive	156	202	77
Union Park	137	143	96

2. SUCROSE ACCUMULATION (Tables 4a and 4b)

Cane samples from miller-planters' land in all factory areas and covering the main cultivated varieties were analyzed for sucrose content. The average pol % cane (*richesse*) was calculated on the basis of area under cultivation of each variety in the different factory areas of each sector. The results are compared with those of the last two years.

Table 4a Average Pol % Cane (*richesse*) at end-August 2012.

Sectors	M 703/89	R 573	M 695/69	R 575	M 387/85	M 1246/84	M 2593/92	M 1400/86	M 1176/77	R 579	M 1394/86	M 3035/66	M 1672/90	R 570
North		15.1				13.3	13.3	14.5	15.1	14.2			13.2	13.8
East						14.3	15.2	14.9	14.7	14.5		14.7		14.2
South		15.0	15.6				13.9	14.3	15.1	14.4	14.2		13.8	13.6
West		14.8		16.1			14.6	14.5	15.4	14.8				14.5
Centre	14.7	14.2			15.1			14.5	13.9	13.6		15.0		13.5

The *richesse* at end-August 2012 was 14.2% in the North, 14.6% in the East, 14.5% in the South, 15.3% in the West and 14.4% in the Centre. Sucrose content to-date, when compared to the corresponding period in 2011, was higher by 1.1° in the East, 0.3° in the Centre and 0.9° in the remaining sectors. Sucrose content at the end of August 2012 was higher than in August 2010 by 0.6° in the Centre, but comparable in the East and lagging by 0.6° in the North and 0.4° in the South and West sectors.

Table 4b Comparison of Pol % Cane (*richesse*) at the end of July and August 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Sectors	JULY			AUGUST		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
North	14.0	12.3	12.9	14.8	13.3	14.2
East	13.6	12.4	13.6	14.5	13.5	14.6
South	14.0	12.6	13.3	14.9	13.6	14.5
West	14.4	13.4	13.2	15.7	14.4	15.3
Centre	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.8	14.1	14.4
Island	13.9	12.6	13.3	14.7	13.6	14.5

During the period end-July 2012 to end-August 2012, *richesse* improved in all sectors with the highest increment of 2.1° recorded in the West followed by 1.3° in the North, 1.2° in the South, 1.0° in the East and 0.8° in the Centre. During the corresponding period last year, the increments were 1.1° in the East, 0.2° in the Centre and 1.0° in the other three sectors. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* in 2012 of 1.2° was higher than the 1.0° and 0.8° obtained in 2011 and 2010 respectively for the same period.

Island-wise and for corresponding periods, the *richesse* of 14.5% recorded at the end of August 2012 was higher than that of 2011 (13.6%) by 0.9° but lower than that of 2010 (14.7%) by 0.2°.

3. CROP PRODUCTIVITY 2012

As at 1 September 2012, 12 239 ha, representing 35.3% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 13 889 ha (39.6%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, the harvested area reached 27.4% in the North, 41.3% in the East, 34.9% in the South, 35.2% in the West and 36.4% in the Centre. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. Because of the centralization of milling activities and since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at FUEL, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for these two sectors.

3.1 Cane productivity (Table 5a)

Cane productivity for the island as at 1 September 2012 amounted to 77.9 TCH and was slightly higher than the 77.3 TCH recorded at the same period in 2011 by 0.6 TCH (0.8%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 80.6 TCH, followed by the Centre (79.0 TCH), the North (78.6 TCH), the South (77.8 TCH) and the East (76.7 TCH). Compared to the same period in 2011, cane productivity recorded to-date was higher by 3.8 TCH in the East and 7.7 TCH in the Centre. In sectors North, South and West, cane productivity at end-August 2012 was inferior to that of last year by 3.3 TCH, 1.1 TCH and 10.5 TCH respectively.

Table 5a Cane productivity (TCH) as at end July and August for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	81.4	76.2	81.9	78.6
East	70.0	74.1	72.9	76.7
South	76.1	79.1	78.9	77.8
West	93.2	75.7	91.1	80.6
Centre	71.0	76.4	71.3	79.0
Island	73.9	76.4	77.3	77.9

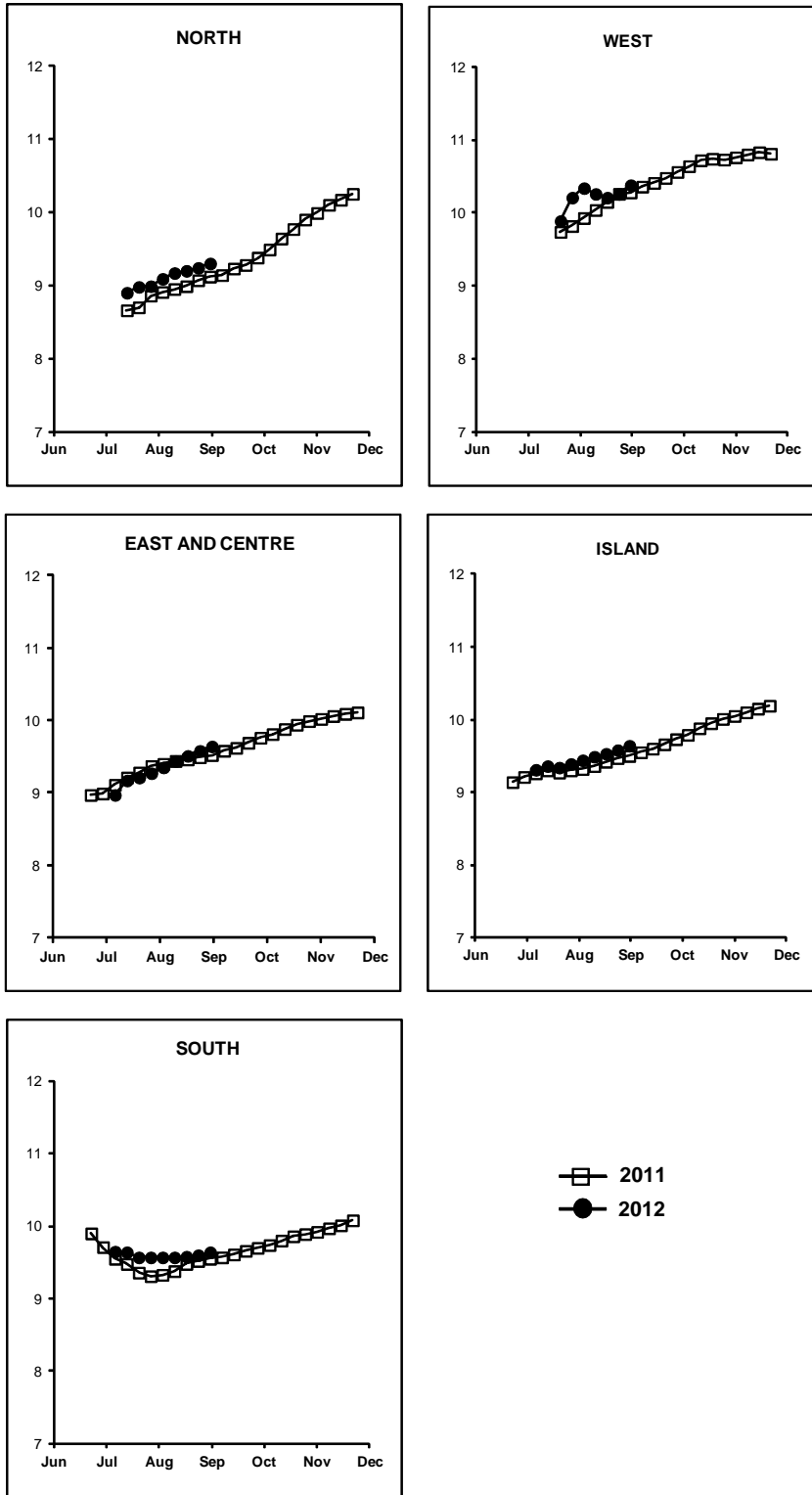
3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.64% was higher than at the corresponding period in 2011 (9.50%) by 0.14°. Sector-wise, it was 9.30% in the North, 10.38% in the West and 9.64% in both the East-Centre and South sectors. Compared to the corresponding period last year, extraction rate to-date was higher by 0.18° in the North, 0.12° in the East-Centre, 0.09° in the South and 0.10° in the West.

Table 5b Cumulative extraction rate (%) as at end July and August for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	8.86	8.99	9.12	9.30
East /Centre	9.37	9.27	9.52	9.64
South	9.31	9.57	9.55	9.64
West	9.82	10.21	10.28	10.38
Island	9.30	9.39	9.50	9.64

Figure 2 Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2011 and 2012 crops.



3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.51 TSH was higher than at the corresponding period in 2011 (7.34 TSH) by 0.17 tonne (2.3%). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 7.31 TSH in the North, 7.42 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.50 TSH in the South and 8.37 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity to-date was higher than at the corresponding period in 2011 by 0.51 TSH in the East-Centre and comparable in the South. In sectors North and West, sugar productivity at end-August 2012 was lagging behind that of the corresponding period last year by 0.16 TSH and 1.00 TSH respectively.

Table 5c Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end July and August for the 2011 and 2012 crops

Sectors	End July		End August	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
North	7.21	6.85	7.47	7.31
East / Centre	6.58	6.89	6.91	7.42
South	7.08	7.57	7.53	7.50
West	9.15	7.73	9.37	8.37
Island	6.87	7.17	7.34	7.51

4. CROP 2012

Except in the East because of rainfall exceeding the normal and crop water requirements, weather has been generally favourable to ripening despite the minimum temperatures being higher than the normal. Productivity levels are following the expected trends with lower cane yields in sectors North and West as a result of the drought spells experienced during the growth phase. Extraction is maintaining its slightly higher rate throughout the island compared to 2011. Thus, sugar productivity is lower in the North and West, comparable in the South and better in the East/Centre. At island level, the average sugar productivity this year is higher than in 2011 by 0.17 (2.3%). The productivity levels recorded to-date quite confidently reflect what can be expected of the 2012 crop as more than one third of the area has been harvested. Based on these data and no major departure in the weather from the normal, sugar productivity is expected to be comparable to that of last year. Thus sugar production will be in line with the area harvested when comparing 2012 with 2011.