

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2012

9 January 2013

### SUGAR CANE CROP 2013 Status: End December 2012

#### 1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded during December 2012 was below the long-term mean in all sectors of the island. The island average of 135 mm represented only 66% of the long-term mean (204 mm) for the sugar cane areas. Rainfall recorded in December was 79 mm in the North, 174 mm in the East, 169 mm in the South, 36 mm in the West and 130 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 60%, 83%, 68%, 32% and 49% of the long-term mean for these sectors, respectively.

Cumulative rainfall for the period October to December 2012 reached 130 mm in the North, 300 mm in the East, 336 mm in the South, 95 mm in the West and 270 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 59%, 81%, 74%, 58% and 58% of the respective long-term mean. The island average of 253 mm for this period represented 71% of the long-term mean (359 mm).

Rainfall has been insufficient to meet the crop water requirements during the month of December, especially for the rainfed crops of the North, West and the lowland areas of the East and South.

**Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of December for crops 2012, 2013<sup>+</sup> and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2012</b>	123 (93)	226 (108)	263 (106)	64 (56)	230 (87)	201 (99)
<b>2013</b>	<b>79</b> (60)*	<b>174</b> (83)	<b>169</b> (68)	<b>36</b> (32)	<b>130</b> (49)	<b>135</b> (66)
<b>LTM</b>	132	209	249	114	263	204

+ Crop year is from October to September \* figures in brackets are % of LTM

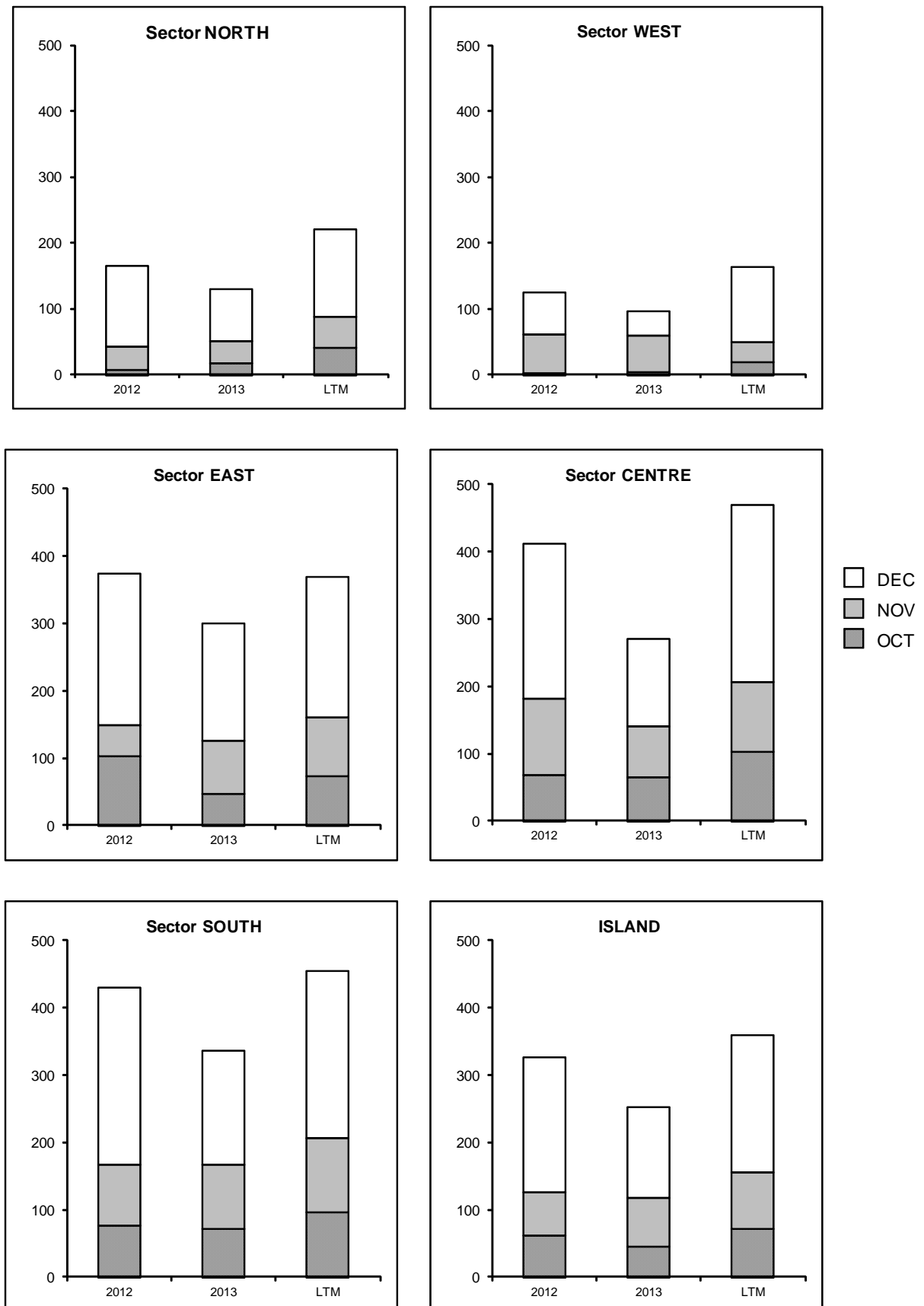
**Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to December 2012 for crop 2013 compared to that of crop 2012 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2012</b>	165 (75)	375 (102)	430 (94)	124 (76)	412 (88)	327 (91)
<b>2013</b>	<b>130</b> (59)*	<b>300</b> (81)	<b>336</b> (74)	<b>95</b> (58)	<b>270</b> (58)	<b>253</b> (71)
<b>LTM</b>	220	369	455	163	470	359

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to December 2012 for the 2013 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2012 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).**



## 2. STALK HEIGHT (*Table 2*)

Stalk height measurements were initially made during the last week of December 2012 at 60 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These selected sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. The measurements are compared to those of the corresponding period in December 2011 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the period 2003 to 2012 in each sector (referred to as normal).

Stalk height at end-December 2012 averaged 18.7 cm in the North, 41.8 cm in the East, 37.1 cm in the South, 28.2 cm in the West and 40.3 cm in the Centre. Sector-wise except for the Centre, these figures are inferior to those recorded during the corresponding period in December 2011 by 9.7% in the North, 17.4% in the East, 14.1% in the South and 5.4% in the West. In the Centre it was superior by 5.2%.

Stalk height in December 2012 was also below the normal in all sectors. It was lagging by 30.3% (8.1 cm) in the North, 7.2% (3.3 cm) in the East, 27.3% (13.9 cm) in the South, 17.4% (5.9 cm) in the West and 10.6% (4.8 cm) in the Centre.

At island level, the cane height of 33.7 cm as at end-December 2012 was shorter than that at the corresponding period in December 2011 by 4.8 cm (12.5%) and the normal by 8.6 cm (20.4%).

**Table 2. Stalk height at end-December**

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Dec			End-Dec 2012 as % of	
	2012	2011	Normal	2011	Normal
North	18.7	20.7	26.8	90.3	69.7
East	41.8	50.6	45.1	82.6	92.8
South	37.1	43.2	51.0	85.9	72.7
West	28.2	29.8	34.1	94.6	82.6
Centre	40.3	38.3	45.1	105.2	89.4
<b>Island</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>79.6</b>

## 3. CROP 2013

Weather in terms of cumulative rainfall during the initial part of the regrowth period has been less favourable for the 2013 crop as compared to that experienced by the 2012 crop. This is supported by the initial island stalk height for the 2013 crop being inferior to both, that of 2012 crop and the normal. However, the passage of tropical storm *Dumile* in the proximity of Mauritius during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 has brought sufficient amount of rainfall over the island. This has eliminated soil water stress and has replenished the soil moisture reserve over the entire sugar cane areas. The crop is expected to maintain normal growth for at least the coming fortnight, as it will be benefiting from the existing soil moisture reserve.