

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2013

Status: End February 2013

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of February 2013 was 520 mm over the sugar cane areas and represented 157% of the long-term mean (331 mm). Above normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 463 mm in the North, 680 mm in the East, 489 mm in the South, 245 mm in the West and 546 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 189%, 202%, 134%, 112% and 118% of the respective long-term mean of the sector.

Rainfall for the period October 2012 to February 2013 amounted to 1048 mm for the island. This is 111% of the island long-term mean of 947 mm for that period. During that same period, 750 mm were recorded in the North, 1317 mm in the East, 1154 mm in the South, 428 mm in the West and 1173 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 115%, 136%, 104%, 78% and 91% of the respective long-term mean.

Even if rainfall recorded during the month of February was well above the normal, water logging has occurred only for a short period as a fair amount of the rainfall was received as torrential rain during a relatively short time span. Thus excess water has been lost rapidly as surface runoff.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) in February for crops 2012, 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	110 (45)	259 (77)	268 (73)	106 (48)	294 (63)	219 (66)
2013	463 (189)	680 (202)	489 (134)	245 (112)	546 (118)	520 (157)
LTM	245	336	366	219	464	331

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

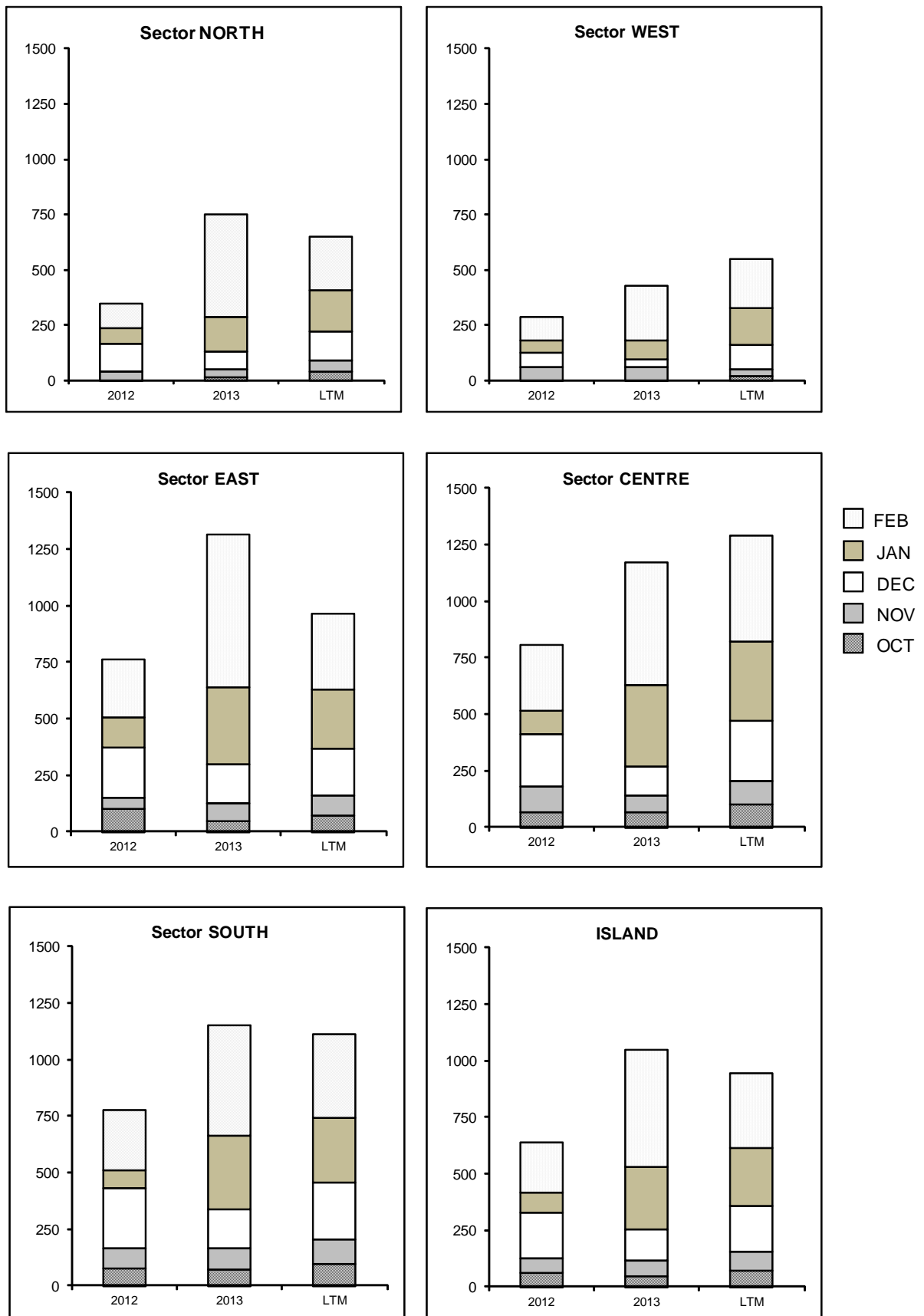
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2012 to February 2013 for crop 2013 compared to crop 2012 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	347 (53)	764 (79)	779 (70)	287 (52)	808 (63)	638 (67)
2013	750 (115)*	1317 (136)	1154 (104)	428 (78)	1173 (91)	1048 (111)
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 2012 to February 2013 for the 2013 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2012 crop and to the long term mean (LTM)



1.2 Sunshine

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations for February 2013 showed that sunshine hours were well below normal everywhere. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounted to 77% at Réduit, 72% at Belle Rive and 83% at both Union Park and Pamplemousses. Below normal solar radiation usually results into a slower rate of biomass accumulation due to reduced photosynthesis.

Table 2 Sunshine duration (hr) on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in February 2013

Station	Feb 2013	Normal*	% of Normal
Pamplemousses	177	214	83
Réduit	159	207	77
Belle Rive	118	165	72
Union Park	128	153	83

* Normal (1981-2010)

2. STALK HEIGHT

Measurements of stalk height were carried out during the last week of February 2013 at 60 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. Data collected were compared with those of the corresponding period in February 2012 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 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of February 2013 was higher than during the corresponding period in 2012 in all sectors. It amounted to 49.8 cm in the North, 54.8 cm in the East, 49.7cm in the South, 51.1 cm in the West and 44.7 cm in the Centre. These growth increments are superior to those of 2012 by 23.2 cm, 20.1 cm, 16.0 cm, 23.6 cm and 9.8 cm respectively. February 2013 elongation was also above the normal for the corresponding period in all sectors, the difference being 3.5 cm in the North, 11.9 cm in the East, 3.0 cm in the South, 2.5 cm in the West and 8.2 cm in the Centre. The island stalk elongation of 50.8 cm was higher than that for the corresponding period in 2012 by 18.9 cm (59.1%) and the normal by 4.2 cm (8.9%).

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of February

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Feb			Feb 2013 as % of	
	2013	2012	Normal	2012	Normal
North	49.8	26.6	46.3	187.2	107.6
East	54.8	34.7	42.9	157.9	127.7
South	49.7	33.7	46.7	147.5	106.4
West	51.1	27.5	48.6	185.8	105.2
Centre	44.7	34.9	36.5	128.1	122.5
Island	50.8	31.9	46.6	159.1	108.9

2.2 Cumulative Elongation (Table 3b)

Cumulative growth from end-December 2012 to end-February 2013 reached 93.8 cm in the North, 112.9 cm in the East, 86.3 cm in the South, 87.5 cm in the West and 80.1 cm in the Centre. These cumulative growths were higher than those of 2012 by 44.9 cm in the North, 42.9 cm in the East, 20.8 cm in the South and 40.8 cm in the West and 15.6 cm in the Centre.

Table 3b. Cumulative elongation at end-February

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- Feb			Feb 2013 as % of	
	2013	2012	Normal	2012	Normal
North	93.8	48.9	79.2	191.8	118.5
East	112.9	70.0	84.2	161.3	134.0
South	86.3	65.5	91.8	131.8	94.0
West	87.5	46.7	88.9	187.4	98.4
Centre	80.1	64.5	72.2	124.2	111.0
Island	94.9	61.3	85.6	154.9	110.9

For the same period, growth was above normal in sectors North, East and Centre by 14.6 cm, 28.7 cm and 7.9 cm, respectively. In the South and West, it lagged behind the normal by 5.5 cm in the South and 1.4 cm in the West. Island-wise the cumulative elongation of 94.9 cm is superior than that of the 2012 crop (61.3 cm) and to the normal (85.6 cm) by 54.9% and 10.9% respectively.

2.3 Total stalk height (Table 3c and Figure 2)

Total stalk height at end February 2013 stood at 112.5 cm in the North, 154.7 cm in the East, 123.4 cm in the South, 115.7 cm in the West and 120.4 cm in the Centre to give an island average of 128.6 cm. Stalk height at end February 2013 was higher than that of the corresponding period last year in all sectors, the difference being 42.9 cm in the North, 34.1 cm in the East, 14.7 cm in the South, 39.2 cm in the West and 17.6 cm in the Centre. Total stalk height at end-February 2013 exceeded the normal by 6.5 cm (6.2 %) in the North, 25.4 cm (19.6%) in the East and 3.1 cm (2.7%) in the Centre. In the other two sectors, it was lagging behind the normal by 19.4 cm (13.6%) in the South and 7.3 cm (6.0%) in the West.

Table 3c. Stalk height at end-February.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Feb			End-Feb 2013 as % of	
	2013	2012	Normal	2012	Normal
North	112.5	69.6	106.0	161.6	106.2
East	154.7	120.6	129.3	128.3	119.6
South	123.4	108.7	142.8	113.5	86.4
West	115.7	76.5	123.0	151.2	94.0
Centre	120.4	102.8	117.3	117.1	102.7
Island	128.6	99.8	127.9	128.9	100.6

At island level, the total stalk height of 128.6 cm at the end of February 2013 was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2012 by 28.8 cm (28.9%) but was comparable to the normal.

3. CROP 2013

Apart from the below normal solar radiation, weather in terms of rainfall and temperature during the month of February 2013 has been in general conducive to growth and development of the sugar cane crop. This is reflected in the good elongation rates, generally better than in 2012 and the normal, recorded in all sectors. With a total cumulative elongation for the island comparable to the normal and better than last year at the same date, a normal crop is expected provided that favourable climatic conditions prevail until the end of the growth season.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- February 2013.

