

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2013

Status: End July 2013

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of July 2013 was 74 mm over the sugar cane areas and it represented 59% of the long-term mean (126 mm). Rainfall for the month of July 2013 lagged behind the long-term mean by 85% in the North (11 mm), 19% in the East (94 mm), 37% in the South (114 mm), 96% in the West (1 mm) and 45% in the Centre (100 mm).

Cumulative rainfall for the period October 2012 to July 2013 amounted to 1044 mm in the North, 2158 mm in the East, 2130 mm in the South, 676 mm in the West and 2251 mm in the Centre for an average of 1781 mm for the island. Recorded rainfall represented 85%, 115%, 94%, 78%, 91% and 97% of the respective normal which stands at 1229 mm in the North, 1872 mm in the East, 2265 mm in the South, 872 mm in the West, 2471 mm in the Centre and 1837 mm for the island.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	57 (78)	153 (132)	151 (84)	7 (28)	128 (71)	116 (92)
2013	11 (15)*	94 (81)	114 (63)	1 (4)	100 (55)	74 (59)
LTM	73	116	180	25	181	126

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

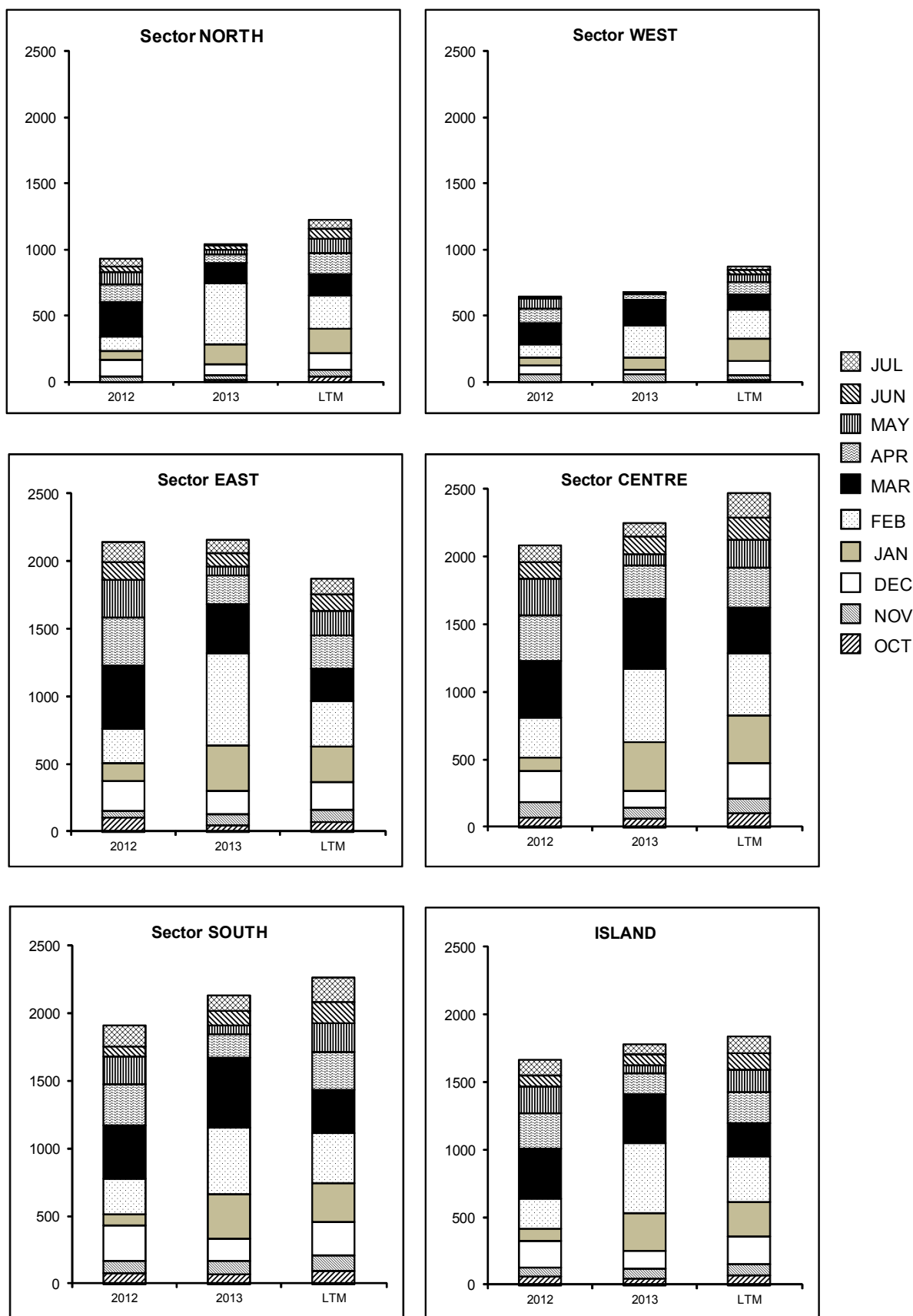
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2012 to July 2013 for crop 2013 compared to crop 2012 and the long-term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	932 (76)	2144 (114)	1910 (84)	642 (74)	2088 (84)	1662 (90)
2013	1044 (85)*	2158 (115)	2130 (94)	676 (78)	2251 (91)	1781 (97)
LTM	1229	1872	2265	872	2471	1837

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

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



1.2 Temperature (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures recorded during the month of July 2013 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

The mean monthly maximum temperature was above normal by 0.6°C at both Pamplémousses and Belle Rive, 0.8° at Réduit and 1.2° at Union Park. The mean minimum temperature was below normal at all stations, the difference ranging from 0.6°C at Belle Rive to 1.5°C at Réduit. Consequently, the resulting mean amplitude was higher than the normal by 2.0°C at both Pamplémousses and Union Park, 2.3°C at Réduit and 1.2°C at Belle Rive.

Table 2. Maximum and minimum air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in July 2013

Station	Maximum (°C)	Minimum (°C)	Amplitude (°C)
Pamplémousses	26.1 (25.5) *	14.8 (16.2)	11.3 (9.3)
Réduit	23.1 (22.3)	13.8 (15.3)	9.3 (7.0)
Belle Rive	22.6 (22.0)	13.4 (14.0)	9.2 (8.0)
Union Park	22.6 (21.4)	14.6 (15.4)	8.0 (6.0)

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

1.3 Sunshine (Table 3)

Data from the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations during July 2013 showed that above normal sunshine hours were recorded at all stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a % of the normal amounted to 103 at Pamplémousses, 108 at Réduit, 110 at Belle Rive and 125 at Union Park.

Table 3 Sunshine duration (hr) recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in July 2013

Station	July 2013	Normal	% of Normal
Pamplémousses	241	235	103
Réduit	239	222	108
Belle Rive	206	188	110
Union Park	168	134	125

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 during the last week of July 2013. 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 July 2013

Sectors	M 52/78	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	M 1861/89	R 579	M 3035/66	M 1672/90	R 570
North			15.2	15.4			15.9	15.0	15.2	15.1		15.7		14.5	14.7
East		14.9				13.7	13.0	14.4	15.0	15.1		13.2			14.1
South			15.3	15.3				15.9	15.6	15.0	12.8	14.8		14.1	14.6
West					13.5			13.0	13.7	14.2		14.9			12.0
Centre	15.1	13.7	13.7			14.0			14.1	14.0		13.3	13.3		13.1

The *richesse* at end-July 2013 amounted to 15.2% in the North, 14.0% in the East, 14.9% in the South, 13.7% in the West and 13.9% in the Centre. Sucrose content to-date, when compared to the corresponding period in 2012, was higher in all sectors by 2.3° in the North, 0.4° in the East, 1.6° in the South, 0.5° in the West and 0.3° in the Centre. Compared to the corresponding period in 2011, sucrose content at the end of July 2013 was similar in the Centre but higher in the other sectors.

Table 4b Comparison of Pol % Cane (richesse) at the end of June and July 2011, 2012 and 2013

Sectors	JUNE			JULY		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
North	11.3	10.6	13.3	12.3	12.9	15.2
East	11.5	12.3	13.5	12.4	13.6	14.0
South	12.2	12.4	13.7	12.6	13.3	14.9
West	11.5	11.6	12.8	13.4	13.2	13.7
Centre	13.2	12.5	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.9
Island	11.8	11.9	13.5	12.6	13.3	14.5

Improvement in *richesse* occurred in all sectors during the period of end-June 2013 up to end-July 2013. The highest increment of 1.9° was observed in the North followed by 1.2° in the South, 0.9° in the West, 0.5° in the East and 0.4° in the Centre. For the corresponding period last year, the increments recorded were 2.3° in the North, 1.3° in the East, 0.9° in the South, 1.6° in the West and 1.1° in the Centre. On average for the island, the increase in *richesse* was 1.0° in 2013 which was lower than the increment of 1.4° obtained in 2012 but higher than the 0.8° obtained in 2011 for the same period.

Island-wise, the *richesse* of 14.5% recorded at the end of July 2013 was superior to that of the corresponding period in 2012 (13.3%) by 1.2° and in 2011(12.6%) by 1.9°.

3. CROP PRODUCTIVITY 2013

Harvest and milling activities have started in all factory areas. As at 27 July 2013, 5920 ha, representing 17.1% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 5773 ha (16.4%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, the harvested area reached 9.1% in the North, 24.7% in the East, 17.9% in the South, 6.4% in the West and 20.2% 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 27 July 2013 amounted to 75.9 TCH and was lower than the 76.4 TCH recorded in 2012 by 0.5 TCH (0.7%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 89.0 TCH, followed by the South (79.2 TCH), the East (73.7 TCH), the North (73.3 TCH) and the Centre (71.1 TCH). Compared to the same period in 2012, cane productivity recorded to-date was comparable in the South but higher in the West by 13.3 TCH. In the other three sectors cane productivity at end-June 2013 lagged behind that of last year by 2.9 TCH in the North, 0.4 TCH in the East and 5.3 TCH in the Centre.

Table 5a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end July for the 2012 and 2013 crops

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2012	76.2	74.1	79.1	75.7	76.4	76.4
2013	73.3	73.7	79.2	89.0	71.1	75.9

3.2 Extraction (Table 5b, figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 9.90% was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2012 (9.39%) by 0.51°. Sector-wise, it was 9.55% in the North, 10.07% in the East-Centre, 9.83% in the South and 9.63% in the West. Compared to end-July of last year, extraction rate was higher in the North by 0.56°, in the East-Centre by 0.80° and in the South by 0.26°. In the West sector, extraction rate recorded to-date was lower than that of last year by 0.58°.

Table 5b. Extraction rate (%) as at end July for the 2012 and 2013 crops

	North	East -Centre	South	West	Island
2012	8.99	9.27	9.57	10.21	9.39
2013	9.55	10.07	9.83	9.63	9.90

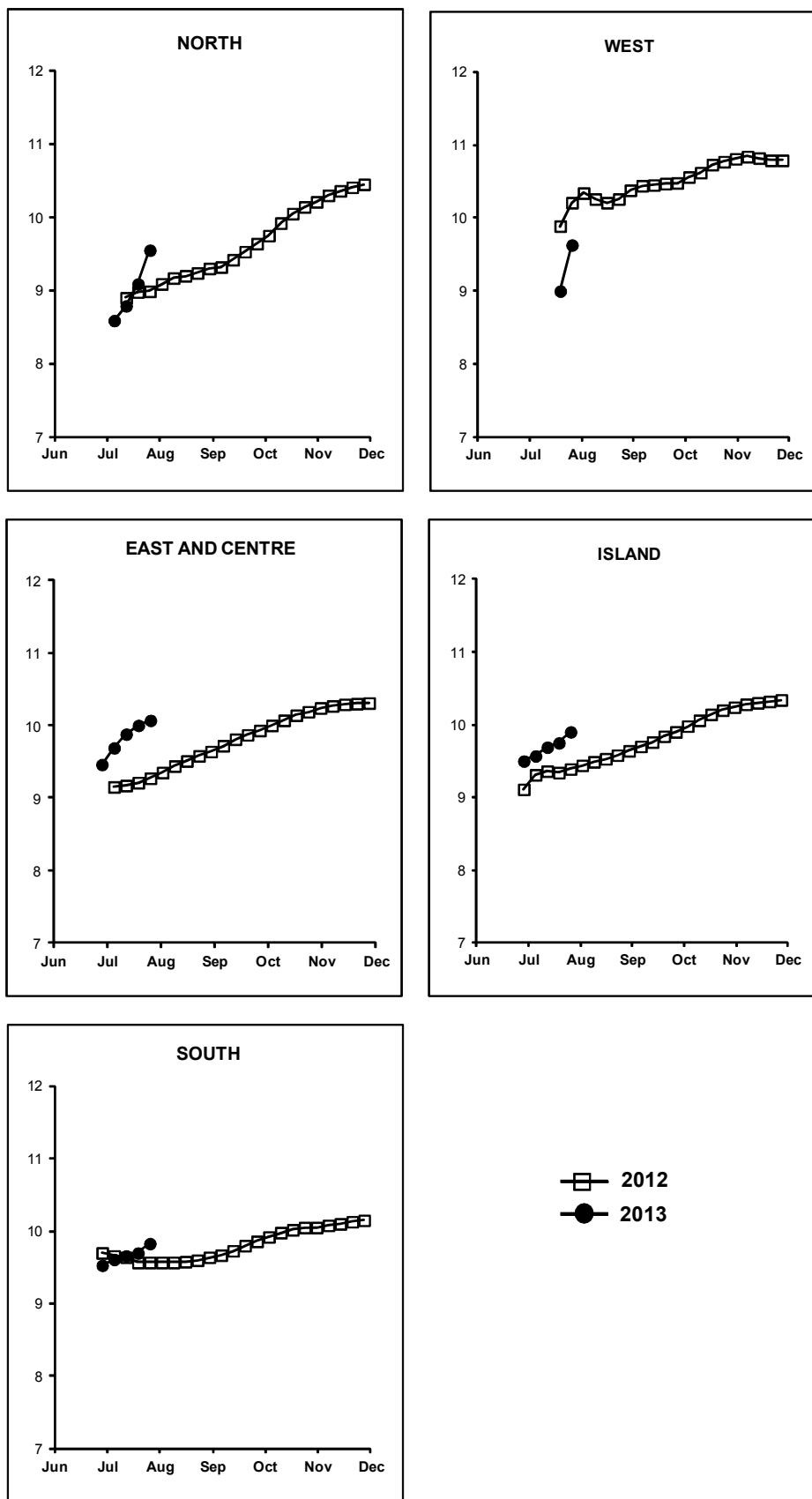
3.3 Sugar productivity (Table 5c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.51 TSH was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2012 (7.17 TSH) by 0.34 tonne (4.7%). Sector-wise sugar productivity was 7.00 TSH in the North, 7.38 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.79 TSH in the South and 8.57 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity to-date was higher than that at the corresponding period in 2012 in all sectors by 0.15 TSH in the North, 0.49 TSH in the East-Centre, 0.22 TSH in the South and 0.84 TSH in the West.

Table 5c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end July for the 2012 and 2013 crops

	North	East -Centre	South	West	Island
2012	6.85	6.89	7.57	7.73	7.17
2013	7.00	7.38	7.79	8.57	7.51

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2012 and 2013 crops



4. CROP 2013

Weather during the month of July 2013 was similar to that which prevailed in June 2013, that is, above normal solar radiation and temperature amplitude coupled with a deficit rainfall regime. The latter has affected cane productivity especially in the rainfed crops of the North, West and the lowland areas of the East and South sectors. Cane productivity in July 2013 compared to that of the corresponding period last year has regressed in sectors North, East and Centre resulting in a shortfall of 0.5 TCH at island level. However, weather during July 2013 was conducive to sucrose accumulation and this is reflected in a better extraction rate throughout the island, except in the West, compared to the same period last year. Thus, sugar productivity in July 2013 exceeded that of last year in all sectors and islandwise it was better than last year by 0.34 TSH. This is satisfactory but as only 9.1% of the area has been harvested in the North and 6.4% in the West, a clearer picture of the potential of this year's crop will only be obtained in the next two to three weeks when a more substantial area would have been harvested.