

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2014

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### SUGAR CANE CROP 2014

Status: End February 2014

#### 1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of February 2014 was 199 mm representing a deficit of 39% over the normal (325 mm). In all sectors, the rainfall recorded was below the long-term mean with 127 mm in the North, 250 mm in the East, 237 mm in the South, 101 mm in the West and 203 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 52%, 74%, 65%, 46% and 44% of the respective long-term mean of the sectors.

Rainfall for the period of October 2013 to February 2014 cumulated to 1120 mm for the island which was 20% above the long-term mean of the island for that period (935 mm). During that period, 628 mm were recorded in the North, 1331 mm in the East, 1333 mm in the South, 743 mm in the West and 1322 mm in the Centre. These cumulated amounts represented 96%, 138%, 120%, 135% and 103% of the long-term mean of the respective sector.

**Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of February for crops 2013, 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2013</b>	463 (189)	680 (202)	489 (134)	245 (112)	546 (118)	522 (160)
<b>2014</b>	<b>127</b> (52)*	<b>250</b> (74)	<b>237</b> (65)	<b>101</b> (46)	<b>203</b> (44)	<b>199</b> (61)
<b>LTM</b>	245	336	366	219	464	325

\* Figures in brackets are % of LTM

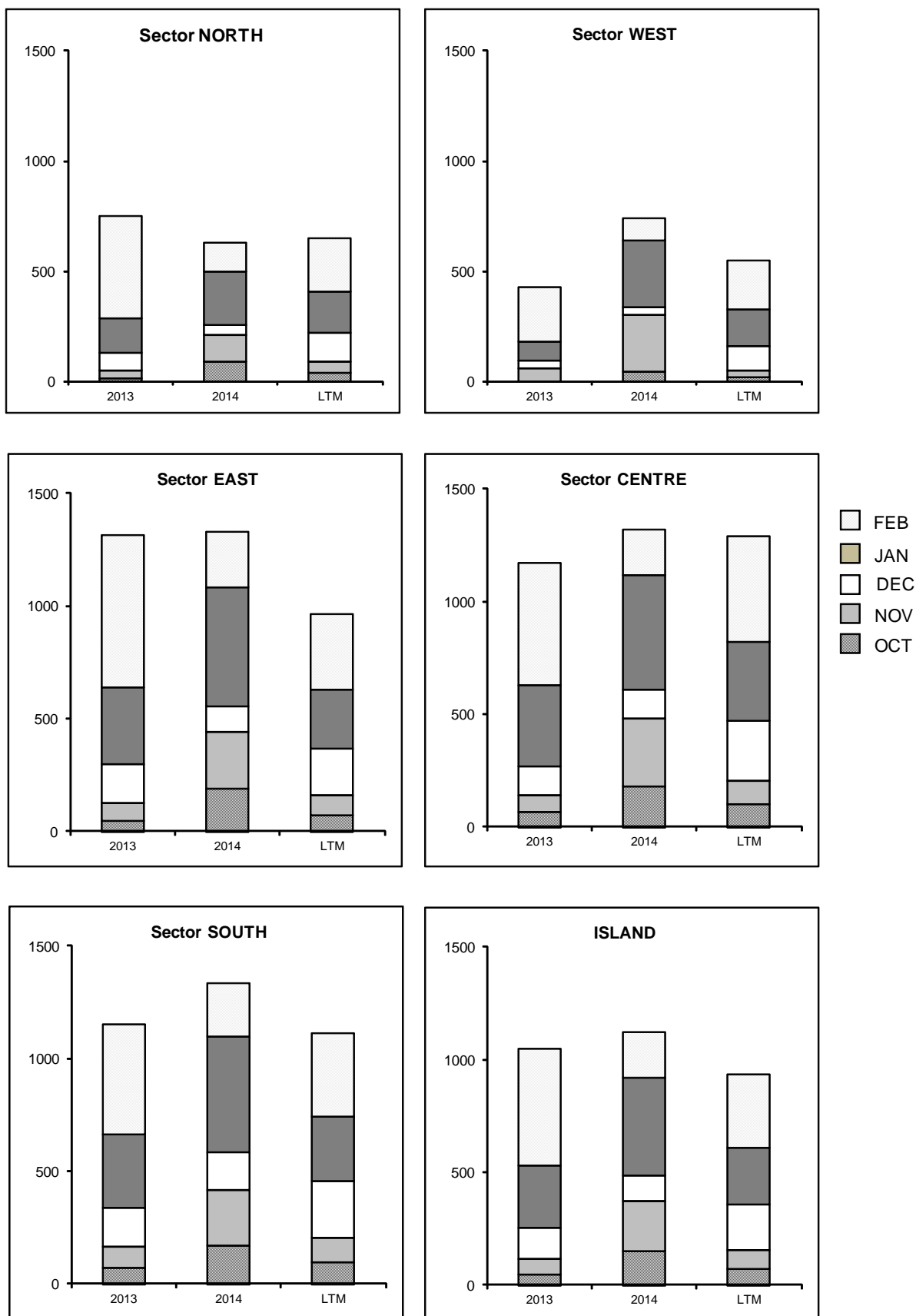
**Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2013 to February 2014 for crop 2014 compared to that of crop 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2013</b>	750 (115)	1317 (136)	1154 (104)	428 (78)	1173 (91)	1050 (112)
<b>2014</b>	<b>628</b> (96)*	<b>1331</b> (138)	<b>1333</b> (120)	<b>743</b> (135)	<b>1322</b> (103)	<b>1120</b> (120)
<b>LTM</b>	651	965	1111	549	1288	935

\*Figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : provisional data from Mauritius Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct 2013 to Feb 2014 for the 2014 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2013 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).**



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

Measurements of stalk height were carried out during the last week of February 2014 at 63 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 2013 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 2014 was lower than during the corresponding period in 2013 in all sectors except in the West where it was comparable. It amounted to 45.6 cm in the North, 44.0 cm in the East, 43.4 cm in the South, 51.0 cm in the West and 32.3 cm in the Centre. These growth increments were inferior to those of 2013 by 4.2 cm in the North, 10.8 cm in the East, 6.3 cm in the South and 12.4 cm in the Centre. Elongation in February 2014 was also below the normal, for the corresponding period, in sectors North, South and Centre where it lagged by 0.7 cm, 3.3 cm and 4.2 cm, respectively. In the other two sectors, it was above normal by 1.1 cm in the East and 4.4 cm in the West. The island stalk elongation of 43.8 cm represented 86.1 % of the elongation of 2013 and 93.8% of the normal.

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Feb			Feb 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	45.6	49.8	46.3	91.6	98.5
East	44.0	54.8	42.9	80.3	102.6
South	43.4	49.7	46.7	87.3	92.9
West	51.0	51.1	46.6	99.8	109.3
Centre	32.3	44.7	36.5	72.3	88.5
<b>Island</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>93.8</b>

### 2.2 *Cumulative Elongation (Table 2b)*

Cumulative elongation from end-December 2013 to end-February 2014 amounted to 84.6 cm in the North, 95.4 cm in the East, 83.1 cm in the South, 97.4 cm in the West and 70.4 cm in the Centre. These data were inferior to those of 2013 by 9.2 cm in the North, 17.5 cm in the East, 3.2 cm in the South and 9.7 cm in the Centre. In sector West, cumulative elongation exceeded that of the last year's crop by 9.9 cm.

For the same period, growth was above normal in sectors North, East and West by 5.4 cm, 11.2 cm and 11.3 cm, respectively. In the South and Centre, it lagged behind the normal by 8.7 cm in the South and 1.8 cm in the Centre.

Island-wise the cumulative elongation of 87.0 cm is inferior to that of the 2013 crop (95.0 cm) by 8.4% but slightly higher than the normal (85.6 cm) and 1.7%.

**Table 2b. Cumulative elongation at end-February**

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- Feb			Feb 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	84.6	93.8	79.2	90.2	106.9
East	95.4	112.9	84.2	84.5	113.2
South	83.1	86.3	91.8	96.3	90.5
West	97.4	87.5	86.1	111.3	113.1
Centre	70.4	80.1	72.2	87.9	97.6
<b>Island</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>85.6</b>	91.6	101.7

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

At end-February 2014, total cane height was 109.0 cm in the North, 151.6 cm in the East, 115.6 cm in the South, 131.2 cm in the West and 122.4 cm in the Centre, giving an island average of 126.2 cm. Compared to the corresponding period in February 2013, cane was taller in the West by 15.5cm and in the Centre by 2.0 cm but shorter in the North, East and South by 3.5 cm, 3.1 cm and 7.8 cm respectively. Total cane height at the end of February 2014 was lower than the normal by 27.2 cm in the South but superior in the other sectors by 3.0 cm in the North, 22.3 cm in the East, 11.0 cm in the West and 5.1 cm in the Centre.

At island level, the total cane height of 126.2 cm at the end of February 2014 was lower than the corresponding period in 2013 and the normal by 2.6 cm and 1.3 cm, respectively.

**Table 2c. Stalk height at end-February.**

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Feb			End-Feb 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	109.0	112.5	106.0	96.9	102.8
East	151.6	154.7	129.3	98.0	117.2
South	115.6	123.4	142.8	93.7	81.0
West	131.2	115.7	120.2	113.4	109.2
Centre	122.4	120.4	117.3	101.7	104.4
<b>Island</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>128.8</b>	<b>127.5</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>98.9</b>

## 3. CROP 2014

Below normal rainfall in February was not conducive to cane growth especially in the low lying rainfed areas of the North, East, South and West sectors. This is reflected in the elongation data with February growth lagging behind those of 2013 in all sectors. Although total cane height at the end of February over the island remained slightly below normal and that of 2013, a normal crop can still be expected provided that no severe prolonged drought periods are experienced until the end of the growth season.

**Figure 2. Stalk height at end-February 2014.**

