

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2014

Status: End January 2014

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island in January 2014 reached 172% of the long-term mean with 437 mm. Above normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 242 mm, 524 mm, 513 mm, 306 mm and 510 mm in the North, East, South, West and Centre respectively. These amounts represented 130%, 202%, 177%, 183% and 144% of the long-term mean of the respective sector.

Rainfall for the period of October 2013 to January 2014 cumulated to 920 mm for the island which was 51% above the long-term mean of the island for that period (609 mm). During that period, 501 mm were recorded in the North, 1081 mm in the East, 1096 mm in the South, 642 mm in the West and 1119 mm in the Centre. These cumulated amounts represented 123%, 172%, 147%, 195% and 136% of the long-term mean of the respective sector.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	157 (84)	337 (130)	329 (113)	88 (53)	357 (101)	275 (108)
2014	242 (130)*	524 (202)	513 (177)	306 (183)	510 (144)	437 (172)
LTM	186	260	290	167	354	254

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

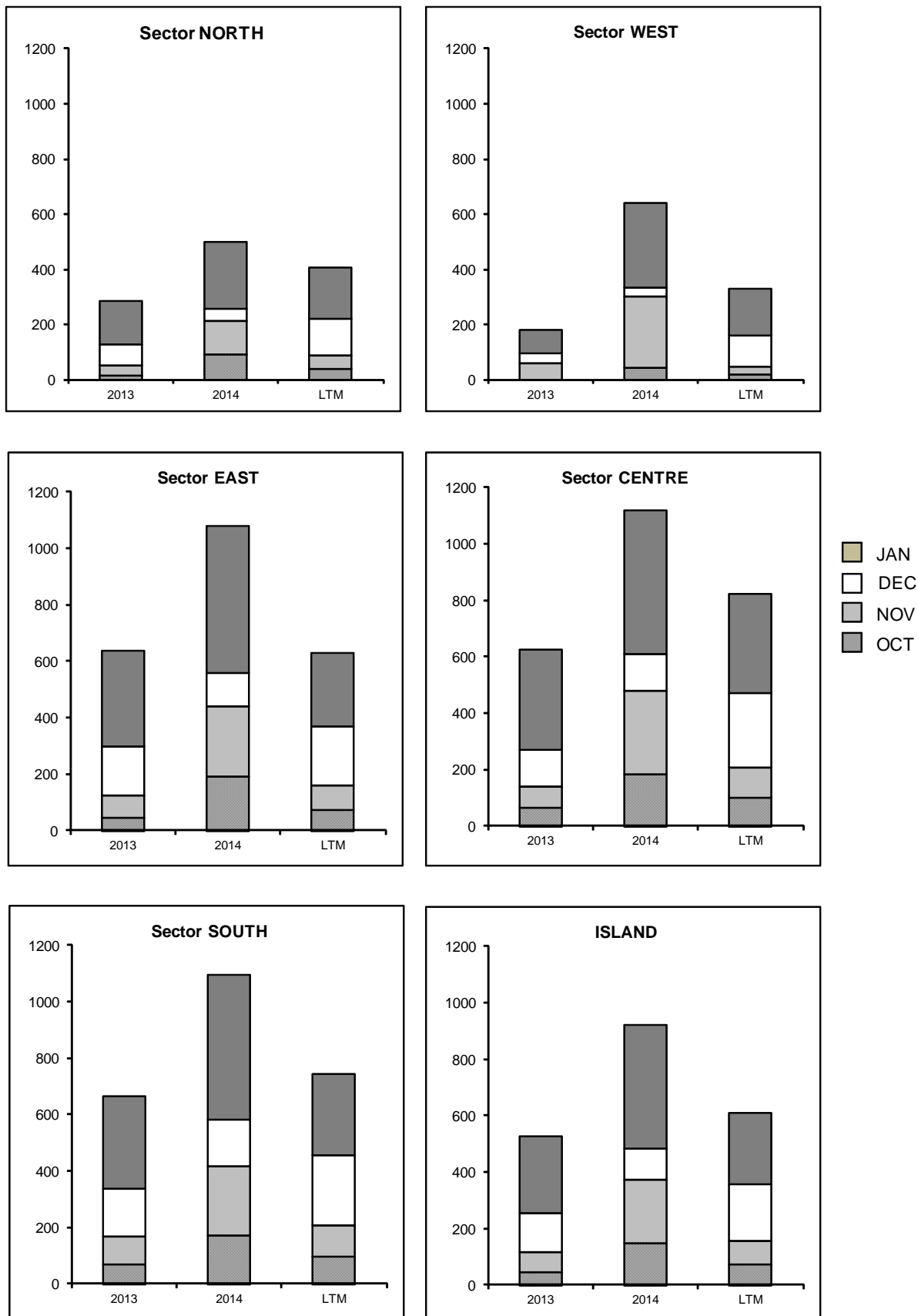
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2013 to January 2014 for crop 2014 compared to that of crop 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	287 (71)	637 (101)	665 (89)	183 (55)	627 (76)	528 (87)
2014	501 (123)*	1081 (172)	1096 (147)	642 (195)	1119 (136)	920 (151)
LTM	406	629	745	330	824	609

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct 2013 to Jan 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*)

Stalk height measurements were initially made during the last week of January 2014 at 63 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 were compared to those of the corresponding period in January 2013 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the period 2004 to 2013 in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 *Stalk elongation (Table 2a)*

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2014 was superior to that of the same period in 2013 in sectors South, West and Centre while in the north and east, it lagged behind that of last year. During January 2014, the highest stalk growth was observed in the East with 51.4 cm followed by the West (46.4 cm), South (39.7 cm), North (39.0 cm) and the Centre (38.1 cm). Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth exceeded the normal by 6.1 cm in the North, 12.2 cm in the East, 6.9 cm in the West and 4.6 cm in the Centre. In the South, it lagged behind by 5.4 cm. The island stalk elongation of 43.3 cm was slightly below that for the corresponding period in 2013 by 0.9 cm (2%) but higher than the normal by 4.4 cm (11.2%).

Table 2a. Stalk elongation during the month of January

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Jan			Jan 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	39.0	44.0	32.9	88.6	118.7
East	51.4	58.1	39.2	88.5	131.2
South	39.7	36.6	45.1	108.5	88.1
West	46.4	36.4	39.5	127.4	117.5
Centre	38.1	35.4	33.5	107.6	113.7
Island	43.3	44.2	38.9	98.0	111.2

2.2 *Total stalk height (Table 2b and Figure 2)*

Total stalk height at end January 2014 stood at 63.4 cm in the North, 107.6 cm in the East, 72.2 cm in the South, 80.2 cm in the West and 90.1 cm in the Centre which gave an island average of 82.4 cm. Compared to end-January 2013, stalk height was taller by 7.7 cm in the East, 15.6 cm in the West and 14.4 cm in the Centre. In the North, it was comparable to that of the corresponding period last year but in the South, it lagged behind by 1.5 cm. Total stalk height at end-January 2014 exceeded the normal by 3.7 cm (6.2 %) in the North, 21.2 cm (24.5%) in the East, 6.7 cm (9.0%) in the West and 9.3 cm (11.6%) in the Centre. In the South, it was below normal by 23.9 cm (24.8%).

At island level, the total stalk height of 82.4 cm at the end of January 2014 was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2013 by 4.4 cm (5.7%) and the normal by 1.5 cm (1.9 %).

Table 2b. Stalk height at end-January.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Jan			End-Jan 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	63.4	62.7	59.7	101.1	106.2
East	107.6	99.9	86.4	107.7	124.5
South	72.2	73.7	96.1	98.0	75.2
West	80.2	64.6	73.5	124.1	109.0
Centre	90.1	75.7	80.8	119.0	111.6
Island	82.4	78.0	80.9	105.7	101.9

3. CROP 2014

Weather in terms of above normal rainfall and temperature has been conducive to cane growth in all sectors. This is reflected in the total cane height exceeding that of 2013 and the normal in all sectors except for the South.. The passage of tropical storm *Edilson* in the proximity of Mauritius during period 5th to 6th February 2014 has not affected the crop except for some lodging observed in varieties harvested early in the season and long-season plant cane crops as well as fields located in exposed areas of the island. Nevertheless, a normal crop can be expected provided the forthcoming climatic conditions remain conducive to crop growth.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- January 2014.

