

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2014

Status: End March 2014

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island in March 2014 was 289 mm and it represented 117% of the long-term mean (LTM). Rainfall in March exceeded the LTM by 14 mm (9%) in the North, 133 mm (55%) in the East, 7 mm (2%) in the South and 18 mm (5%) in the Centre. In the West it was inferior to the LTM by 16 mm (14%).

Cumulative rainfall for the period of October 2013 to March 2014 amounted to 1408 mm for the island, which was 19% above the LTM (1181 mm). During that period, 803 mm were recorded in the North, 1707 mm in the East, 1665 mm in the South, 839 mm in the West and 1677 mm in the Centre. These cumulated amounts represented 99%, 141%, 116%, 127% and 103% of the LTM of the respective sector.

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	151 (94)	367 (151)	519 (160)	192 (171)	515 (153)	359 (146)
2014	175 (109)*	376 (155)	332 (102)	96 (86)	355 (105)	289 (117)
LTM	161	243	325	112	337	246

* Figures in brackets are % of LTM

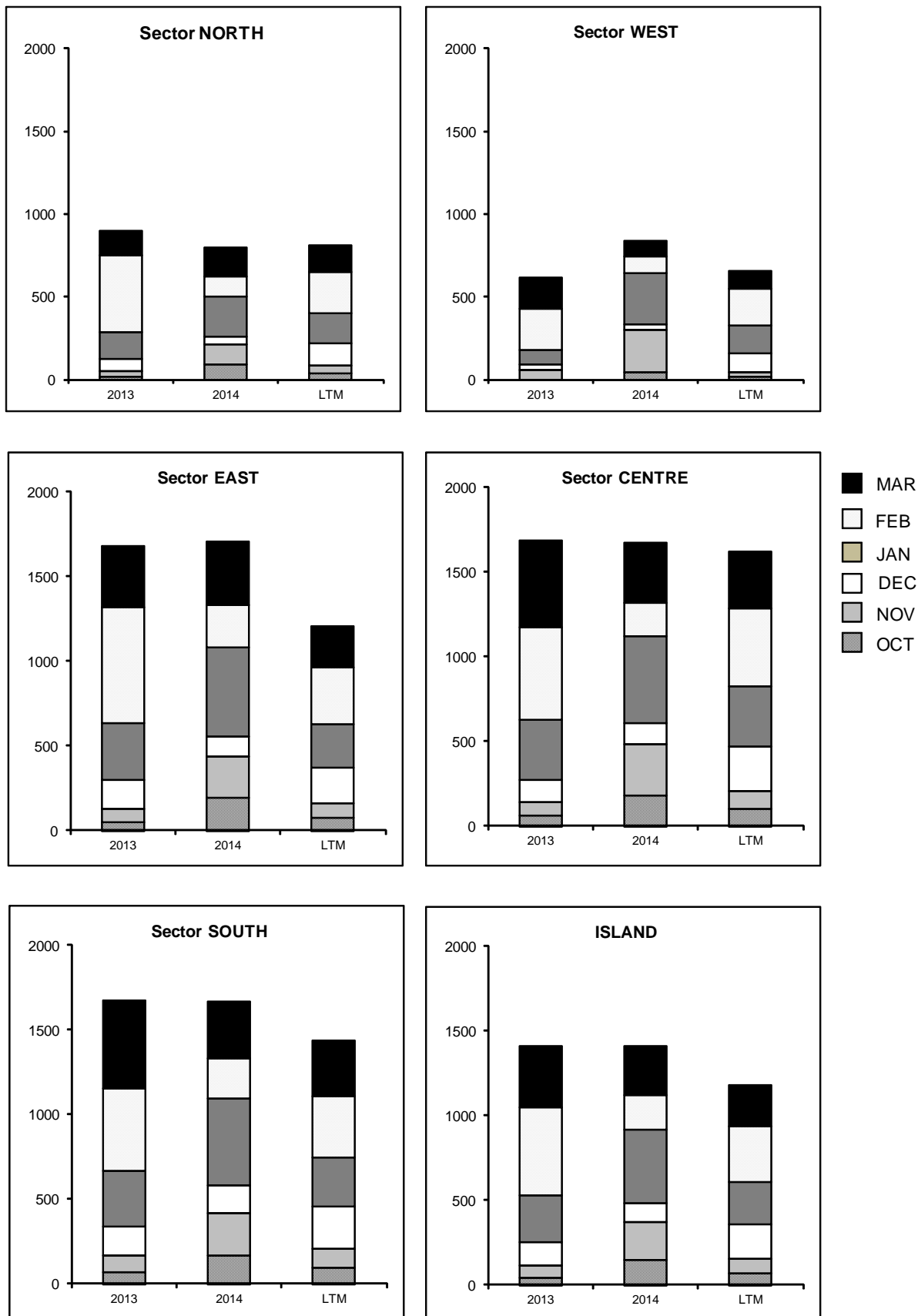
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2013 to March 2014 for crop 2014 compared to that of crop 2013 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2013	901 (111)	1684 (139)	1673 (117)	620 (94)	1688 (104)	1409 (119)
2014	803 (99)*	1707 (141)	1665 (116)	839 (127)	1677 (103)	1408 (119)
LTM	812	1208	1436	661	1625	1181

*Figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : provisional data from Mauritius Meteorological Services]

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

Assessment of stalk height was carried out during the last week of March 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 March 2013 and to the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the last ten years in each sector (referred to as the normal).

2.1 *Stalk elongation (Table 2a)*

Stalk elongation during the month of March 2014 was higher than during the corresponding period in 2013 in all sectors except in the West where it was comparable. It stood at 51.7 cm in the North, 50.9 cm in the East, 49.7 cm in the South, 42.7 cm in the West and 45.5 cm in the Centre. Stalk elongation in March 2014 was above normal in sector East by 3.1 cm but close to the normal in the Centre and South sectors. In the North and West, it lagged behind the normal by 3.2 cm and 4.9 cm, respectively. The island stalk elongation of 49.5 cm was higher than that for the corresponding period in 2013 by 6.3 cm (14.6%) but was close to the normal.

Table 2a. Stalk elongation during the month of March

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during March			March 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	51.7	40.7	54.9	127.0	94.2
East	50.9	43.1	47.8	118.1	106.5
South	49.7	45.7	50.7	108.8	98.0
West	42.7	43.4	47.6	98.4	89.7
Centre	45.5	40.4	46.3	112.6	98.4
Island	49.5	43.2	49.4	114.6	100.1

2.2 *Cumulative elongation (Table 2b)*

Cumulative elongation from end-December 2013 to end-March 2014 reached 136.3 cm in the North, 146.3 cm in the East, 132.8 cm in the South, 140.1 cm in the West and 115.9 cm in the Centre. These data were inferior to those of 2013 by 9.7 cm in the East and 4.6 cm in the Centre but comparable in the South. In sectors North and West, cumulative elongation exceeded that of the last year's crop by 1.8 cm and 9.2 cm, respectively.

Table 2b. Cumulative elongation at end-March

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- March			March 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	136.3	134.5	134.0	101.3	101.7
East	146.3	156.0	132.0	93.8	110.8
South	132.8	132.0	142.5	100.6	93.2
West	140.1	130.9	133.7	107.0	104.7
Centre	115.9	120.5	118.4	96.2	97.9
Island	136.6	138.2	135.1	98.8	101.1

For the same period, growth was above normal in sectors North, East and West by 2.3 cm, 14.3 cm and 6.4 cm, respectively. In the South and Centre, it lagged behind the normal by 9.7 cm in the South and 2.5 cm in the Centre.

Island-wise the cumulative elongation of 136.6 cm is slightly lower than that of the 2013 crop (138.2 cm) by 1.2% but slightly higher than the normal (135.1 cm) by 1.1%.

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

Total stalk height at end-March 2014 was 160.7 cm in the North, 202.5 cm in the East, 165.3 cm in the South, 173.9 cm in the West and 167.9 cm in the Centre. Compared to the same period in 2013, cane was taller by 7.5 cm in the North, 4.7 cm in the East, 14.8 cm in the West and 7.1 cm in the Centre but was 3.8 cm shorter in the South. Total cane height at the end of March 2014 exceeded the normal by 25.4 cm in the East, 6.1 cm in the West and 4.4 cm in the Centre. In the North it was close to the normal but in the South it lagged behind the normal by 28.2 cm.

Island-wise the total cane height of 175.7 cm at end-March 2014 was higher than at end-March 2013 by 3.7 cm (2.1%) but slightly lower than the normal by 1.3 cm (0.7%).

Table 2c. Stalk height at end-March.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-March			End-March 2014 as % of	
	2014	2013	Normal	2013	Normal
North	160.7	153.2	160.8	104.9	99.9
East	202.5	197.8	177.1	102.4	114.4
South	165.3	169.1	193.5	97.8	85.4
West	173.9	159.1	167.8	109.3	103.6
Centre	167.9	160.8	163.5	104.4	102.7
Island	175.7	172.0	177.0	102.1	99.3

3. CROP 2014

Weather during March has favoured good elongation in most sectors especially after the substantial amount of rainfall received in the second half of the month. Islandwise this has resulted in the total cane height exceeding that of the 2013 crop as well as being close to that of the normal. The overall stand of the 2014 crop is good and is indicative of a normal crop.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-March 2014.

