

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2014

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### SUGAR CANE CROP 2014 Status: End November 2014

#### 1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November was 96 mm and represented 117% of the long term mean (82 mm). November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 21 mm in the East, 24 mm in the South and 17 mm in the Centre. In the North it was comparable to the long-term mean (LTM) but lagged behind in the West by 19 mm.

Cumulative rainfall for the months of October and November 2014 amounted to 170 mm for the island, i.e. 110% of the long-term mean of 154 mm. During that period, 99 mm were recorded in the North, 199 mm in the East, 224 mm in the South, 23 mm in the West and 196 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 113%, 124%, 109%, 47% and 95% of the respective LTM.

**Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2014, 2015<sup>+</sup> and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2014</b>	123 (262)	248 (288)	246 (224)	256 (826)	299 (285)	224 (273)
<b>2015</b>	<b>49</b> (104)*	<b>107</b> (124)	<b>134</b> (122)	<b>12</b> (39)	<b>122</b> (116)	<b>96</b> (117)
<b>LTM</b>	47	86	110	31	105	82

<sup>+</sup> Crop year is from October to September

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

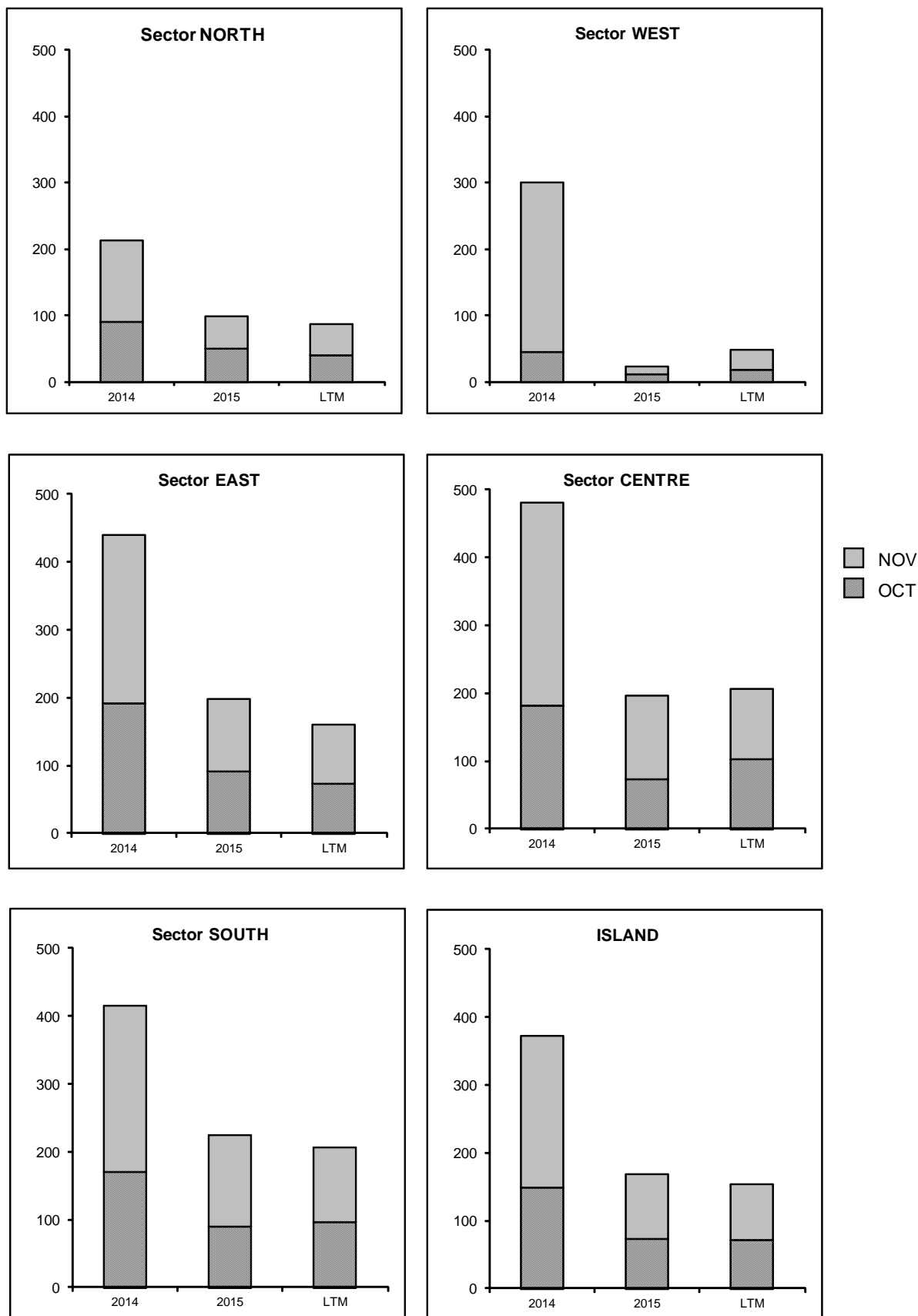
**Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2014 for crop 2015 compared to that of crop 2014 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2014</b>	214 (243)	440 (275)	416 (202)	301 (614)	481 (232)	373 (242)
<b>2015</b>	<b>99</b> (113)*	<b>199</b> (124)	<b>224</b> (109)	<b>23</b> (47)	<b>196</b> (95)	<b>170</b> (110)
<b>LTM</b>	88	160	206	49	207	154

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to November 2014 for the 2015 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2014 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).**



## 1.2 Air Temperature and Sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures together with sunshine duration recorded during the month of November 2014 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

**Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine duration recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in November 2014**

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Nov 2014	DevN*	Nov 2014	DevN	Nov 2014	% Normal
<b>Pamplemousses</b>	31.1	+1.2	21.2	+2.0	298	114
<b>Réduit</b>	28.4	+1.8	19.5	+1.1	229	91
<b>Belle Rive</b>	26.1	+0.5	18.8	+2.1	210	96
<b>Union Park</b>	26.8	+1.6	19.8	+1.9	193	94

\* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean monthly maximum temperature was above normal at all stations, the difference ranging from 0.5°C at Belle Rive to 1.8°C at Réduit. Similarly, the mean monthly minimum temperature exceeded the normal by more than 1°C at all four stations. Sunshine hours during November 2014 were below normal at all stations except at Pamplemousses. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal was 114 at Pamplemousses, 91 at Réduit, 96 at Belle Rive and 94 at Union Park. Above normal temperature and solar radiation are conducive to growth of the crop.

## 2. CROP 2014

As at 29 November 2014, 26 267 ha representing about 76% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 31 622 ha (92%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 75% in the North, 69% in the East, 75% in the South and 82% in the Centre. Harvest has been completed in sector West. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. On account of the centralization of milling activities and since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at factories in the East, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for these two sectors.

### 2.1 Cane productivity (Table 3a)

Cane productivity for the island as at end November 2014 was 83.5 TCH and exceeded the 76.0 TCH recorded in 2013 by 7.5 TCH (10%). Sector-wise, the best cane productivity of 91.1 TCH to-date was recorded in the West followed by the South (85.4 TCH), the East (84.4 TCH), the Centre (77.3 TCH) and the North (76.5 TCH). These figures were superior to those obtained during the same period in 2013 by 7.0 TCH in the North, 8.7 TCH in the East, 5.6 TCH in the South, 5.5 TCH in the West and 10.3 TCH in the Centre.

**Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2013 and 2014 crops**

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	70.7	76.9	69.5	76.5
East	75.6	83.6	75.7	84.4
South	78.8	85.6	79.8	85.4
West	84.7	89.7	85.6	91.1
Centre	67.4	76.3	67.0	77.3
<b>Island</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>83.5</b>

## 2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

As at end November 2014, the recorded island extraction rate of 10.20% was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2013 (10.73%) by 0.53°. Sector-wise, extraction rates recorded to-date amounted to 10.67% in the North, 9.84% in the East-Centre, 10.10% in the South and 10.57% in the West. Compared to the corresponding period last year, cumulative extraction rate was again lagging behind in all the sectors by 0.32° in the North, 0.60° in the East-Centre, 0.54° in the South and 0.48° in the West.

**Table 3b. Cumulative extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2013 and 2014 crops**

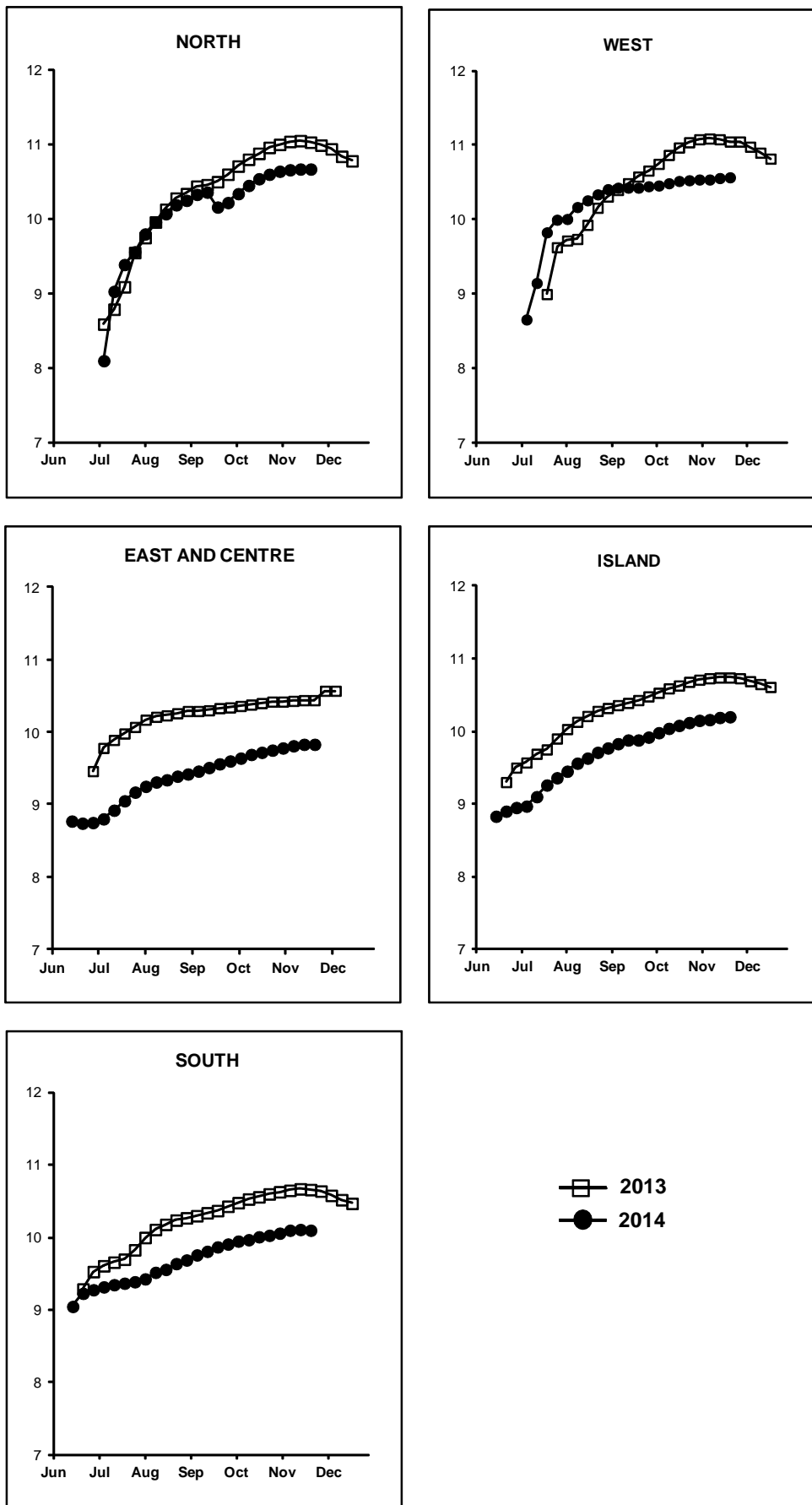
Sectors	End October		End November	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	10.96	10.60	10.99	10.67
East/Centre	10.42	9.75	10.44	9.84
South	10.60	10.03	10.64	10.10
West	11.04	10.53	11.05	10.57
<b>Island</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>10.12</b>	<b>10.73</b>	<b>10.20</b>

From end October 2014 to end November 2014, extraction has increased slightly by 0.07° in the North, 0.09° in the East-Centre, 0.07° in the South and 0.04° in the West. The average island increase for the same period reached 0.08° compared to 0.05° for 2013.

## 2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 3c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 8.52 TSH was higher than at the corresponding period in 2013 (8.15 TSH) by 0.37 tonne (4.5%). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 8.16 TSH in both the North and the East-Centre, 8.63 TSH in the South and 9.63 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity to-date was higher than at the corresponding period in 2013 in all sectors by 0.52 TSH in the North, 0.42 TSH in the East-Centre, 0.14 TSH in the South and 0.17 TSH in the West.

**Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2013 and 2014 crops**



**Table 3c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2013 and 2014 crops**

Sectors	End October		End November	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
North	7.75	8.15	7.64	8.16
East/Centre	7.71	8.01	7.74	8.16
South	8.35	8.59	8.49	8.63
West	9.35	9.45	9.46	9.63
<b>Island</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>8.41</b>	<b>8.15</b>	<b>8.52</b>

### 3. 2014 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

The weather encountered during the month of November has led to a slight increase in cane productivity of 0.4 TCH and also extraction rate has improved from 10.12% to 10.20%. Thus, sugar productivity has increased by 0.11 TSH during the month of November and it is encouraging to note that sugar productivity is still better than that of last year with nearly 76% of the area harvested. However, delay in harvest will have a negative impact on the crop productivity, depending on the prevailing climatic conditions. In the rainfed sugar cane fields in the North, West and the lowland of the East and South sectors, the prevailing dry conditions could cause desiccation of the stalks and also remobilization of sucrose stored in the stalk for maintenance of the crop, thus further decreasing the cane productivity and extraction rate.

### 4. CROP 2015

Crop 2015 has benefited up to now from more or less normal conditions. The delay in the harvest of the present crop, which is expected to last beyond December 2014 in certain sectors, will definitely upset the tillering and growth phase of those late harvested fields in 2015.