

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2015

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2016 Status: End November 2016

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November was 68 mm and represented 84% of the long term mean (81 mm). November rainfall was close to the long-term mean (LTM) in the East and Centre sectors but lagged behind in the other sectors by 10 mm in the North, 26 mm in the South and 27 mm in the West.

Rainfall for the months of October and November 2016 cumulated to 119 mm for the island, i.e. 76% of the long-term mean. During that period, 58 mm were recorded in the North, 147 mm in the East, 145 mm in the South, 24 mm in the West and 183 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 64%, 88%, 71%, 40% and 85% of the respective LTM.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2016, 2017⁺ and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	62 (129)	85 (99)	132 (125)	60 (188)	133 (127)	97 (120)
2017	38 (79)*	88 (102)	80 (75)	5 (16)	101 (96)	68 (84)
LTM	48	86	106	32	105	81

⁺ Crop year is from October to September

* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-10)

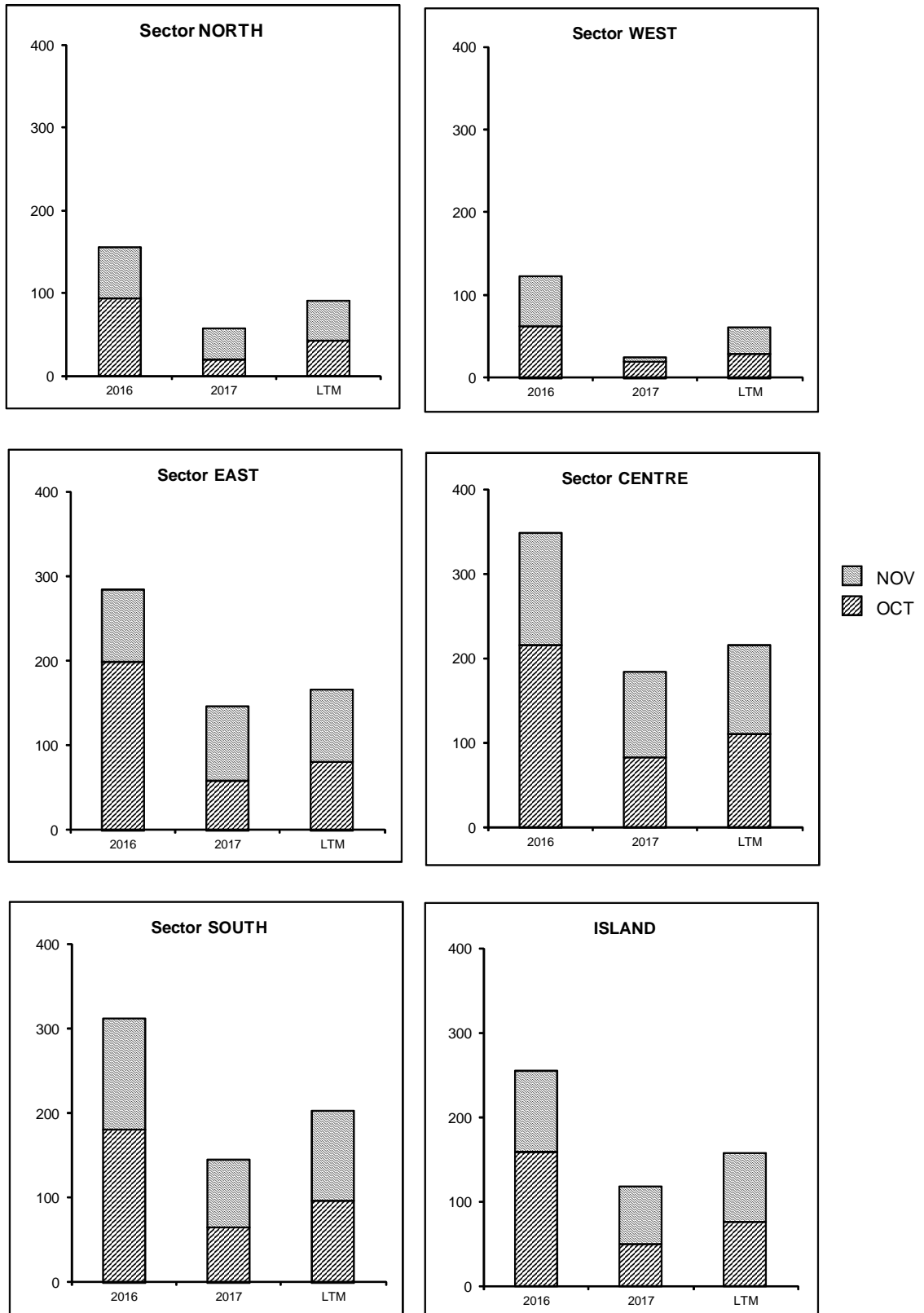
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2016 for crop 2017 compared to that of crop 2016 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2016	156 (171)	285 (171)	313 (154)	122 (203)	348 (162)	257 (164)
2017	58 (64)*	147 (88)	145 (71)	24 (40)	183 (85)	119 (76)
LTM	91	167	203	60	215	157

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to November 2016 for the 2017 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2016 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 2016 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 2016

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Nov 2016	DevN*	Nov 2016	DevN	Nov 2016	% Normal
Pamplemousses	30.9	+1.0	19.7	+0.5	261	100
Réduit	27.6	+1.0	19.2	+0.8	227	90
Belle Rive	25.3	-0.3	17.5	+0.8	190	87
Union Park	26.7	+1.3	18.7	+0.8	186	91

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean monthly maximum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations except at Belle Rive. As for the mean monthly minimum temperature, it was above the normal at all stations. Sunshine hours during November 2016 were below normal at all stations except at Pamplemousses where it was similar to the normal. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal was 100 at Pamplemousses, 90 at Réduit, 87 at Belle Rive and 91 at Union Park. To note that above normal temperature and solar radiation are conducive to growth of the crop.

2. CROP 2016

As at 3 December 2016, 32 731 ha representing 94% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 30 601 ha (88%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 91% in the North, 95% in the East and 93% in both the South and the Centre, whereas harvest has been completed in the West. On account of the centralization of milling activities, harvest statistics relative to extraction rate and sugar productivity have been combined for the East and Centre sectors since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at factories in the East. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 3a)

The cane productivity of 78.4 TCH for the island as at 3 December 2016 was lower than that recorded for the corresponding period in 2015. Sector-wise, the best cane productivity to-date was recorded in the West with 85.7 TCH, followed by the South (79.1 TCH), the North (77.9 TCH), the East (77.2 TCH) and the Centre (69.4 TCH). Sector-wise, compared to last year, cane productivity of November 2016 was lagging behind in the North by 0.5 TCH, in the East by 7.8 TCH, in the South by 2.1 TCH and the West by 8.1 TCH but was slightly higher in the Centre by 0.7 TCH.

During the month of November 2016, cane productivity has decreased in all sectors except in the East and Centre. Compared to the same period in 2014, cane productivity recorded to-date was lagging behind in all sectors except in the North.

Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sector	End October			End November		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	76.6	79.3	79.3	76.5	78.4	77.9
East	83.7	85.7	77.1	84.4	85.0	77.2
South	85.2	83.8	79.9	85.4	81.2	79.1
West	90.2	90.6	90.6	91.1	93.8	85.7
Centre	76.6	72.2	69.2	77.3	68.7	69.4
Island	83.1	83.1	79.3	83.5	81.8	78.4

2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

The recorded island extraction rate of 10.14% was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2015 (9.19 %) by 0.95°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 11.0% in the North, 9.62% in the East-Centre, 10.07% in the South and 10.30% in the West. Compared to that of 2014, the extraction rate to-date was higher in the North by 0.33°, comparable in the South but lagged behind by 0.22° in the East-Centre and 0.27° in the West.

Table 3b. Extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	10.64	9.61	10.81	10.67	9.62	11.00
East/Centre	9.78	8.92	9.51	9.84	8.87	9.62
South	10.06	8.94	9.97	10.10	9.06	10.07
West	10.54	10.10	10.23	10.57	9.90	10.30
Island	10.15	9.15	10.01	10.20	9.19	10.14

2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 3c)

Island-wise, the recorded sugar productivity of 7.95 TSH was higher than that of the corresponding period in 2015 (7.52 TSH) by 0.43 tonne (5.7%) but lower than that of the same period in 2014 (8.52 TSH) by 0.57 tonne (6.7%). The sugar productivity by sectors was 8.57 TSH in the North, 7.29 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.97 TSH in the South and 8.83 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at end November 2016 was higher than those at the corresponding period in 2015 in all sectors except in the West. Compared to the corresponding period in 2014, sugar productivity to-date was higher in the North only but was inferior in the other sectors.

Table 3c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
North	8.15	7.62	8.57	8.16	7.54	8.57
East/Centre	8.04	7.43	7.20	8.16	7.22	7.29
South	8.57	7.49	7.97	8.63	7.36	7.97
West	9.51	9.15	9.27	9.63	9.29	8.83
Island	8.43	7.60	7.94	8.52	7.52	7.95

3. 2016 CROP PRODUCTIVITY

The dry weather encountered during the month of November especially in the rainfed sugar cane fields in the North, West and the lowland of the East and South sectors has caused desiccation of the stalks. This led to a drop in cane productivity of 0.9 TCH but extraction rate improved from 10.01% to 10.14%. Overall, the resulting sugar productivity of 7.95 TSH in November has remained the same compared to that in October. This trend is expected to maintain itself until the end of the crop season with sugar productivity lagging behind that of 2014 by almost 0.6 TSH.

4. CROP 2017

To-date weather conditions have generally been conducive to crop development, except in the rainfed areas of the lowlands where a lack of rainfall has caused a slight setback. However, the rainfall event occurring during the first week of December has allowed the crop to recover fully.

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 crops

