



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet

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Dual Row Planting (Dual Rows)

↳ a new cultural practice to improve sugar cane productivity

Dual Rows, a new technique of planting sugar cane at *higher densities*, has been tested and compared to the standard row spacing of 1.6 m since 1999.



Sugar cane field planted in Dual Rows

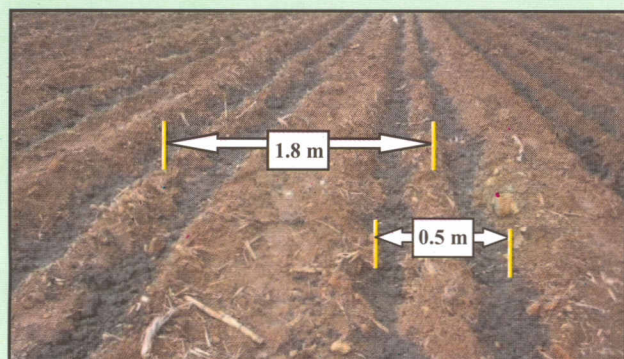


Fig. 1: Dual Row spacings

This technique consists of planting pairs of rows 0.5 m apart with 1.8 m between their centres and 1.3 m in between the two inner rows (Fig. 1).

Trials have shown that **Dual Rows** :

- may require the same amount of planting material as the standard spacing. Cane setts are placed in single rows with a slight overlapping (Fig. 2)
- does not require any additional fertilizers
- is advantageous with respect to weed management as cane canopy closes four to eight weeks earlier
- improves efficiency of chopper-harvesters since the two rows are harvested simultaneously
- can improve cane yields, depending on cane variety and agroclimatic conditions.



Fig. 2: Cane setts placed in single rows

➤ Recommendation

Dual Rows is now recommended as it incurs no additional expenses and offers several agronomic advantages, including increase in cane yield and sugar output.

Note: Sugar cane varieties prone to severe lodging are not suitable for Dual Rows

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