



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 38

(December, 1986)

FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS IN PLANT AND RATOON CANE

1. PLANT CANE

Until recently straight fertilizers were recommended in plant cane, because Nitrogen (N) was believed to be more effective when applied 6 to 8 weeks after planting.

It has now been established that N applied at planting is just as effective as N applied some weeks later, hence complex fertilizers in the form of 17-8-25 or 17-2-27, supplemented with phosphate applied at planting, can therefore be considered as an alternative to the practice of using straight fertilizers only, with N applied some weeks after planting.

The following rates are thus recommended :-

<i>Short season</i>	<i>Complex fertilizer</i>		<i>Phosphate as P₂O₅</i>
	17-8-25 (675-750 kg/ha)	+	(160-210 kg/ha)
	OR		
	17-2-27 (675-750 kg/ha)	+	(210-250 kg/ha)
<i>Long season</i>	17-8-25 (750-850 kg/ha)	+	(160-210 kg/ha)
	OR		
	17-2-27 (750-850 kg/ha)	+	(210-250 kg/ha)

Notes :-

1. Phosphate is applied as rock phosphate (30% P_2O_5) or triple super phosphate (46% P_2O_5).
2. Rock phosphate should only be used in soils of pH lower than 6.0.
3. Supplementary doses of P and K_p must be applied if found deficient by soil analysis.
4. Amount of P fertilizers given above can be reduced if scums are applied (1 tonne scums = 5 kg P_2O_5).
5. Fertilizers should be applied to the bottom land sides, in the case of insoluble phosphate) of furrows.
6. The choice between complex and simple fertilizers is left to the planter after assessment of economic factors such as costs of products labour and transport.

2. RATOON CANE

On account of the reduction in fertilizer costs and with regard to the present prices of sugar, fertilizer rates in ratoons may be increased in high response soils. Recommendations for low response soils remain unchanged as given below.

SOIL TYPE	17-8-25 OR 17-2-27 kg/ha
High response soils (LRP, LHL, HL, DMC)	750 - 800
Low response soils (HFL, LBF, MSC)	525 - 600

Notes : -

1. Where foliar diagnosis shows P deficiency, 17-8-25 should be preferred.
2. Recommendations are given as a range, the higher limit being for soils of high potential and vice-versa.