

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2011

Status: End February 2011

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane areas of the island in February 2011 amounted to 355 mm and it represented 107% of the long-term mean. Above normal rainfall was recorded in sectors East, South and West with 396 mm, 438 mm and 223mm, respectively. In the other two sectors rainfall for the month was near to normal in the North (241 mm) and below the long-term mean in the Centre (346 mm).

Rainfall for the period October 2010 to February 2011 cumulated to 828 mm for the island. This is 13% lower than the island long-term mean of 947 mm for that period. During that same period, 533 mm were recorded in the North, 1100 mm in the East, 864 mm in the South, 530 mm in the West and 904 mm in the Centre. These amounts represented 82%, 114%, 78%, 97%, and 70% of the respective long-term mean.

Table 1a Rainfall (mm) of February for crops 2010, 2011 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2010	146 (60)	624 (186)	461 (126)	221 (101)	432 (93)	410 (124)
2011	241 (98)	396 (118)	438 (120)	223 (102)	346 (75)	355 (107)
LTM	245	336	366	219	464	331

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

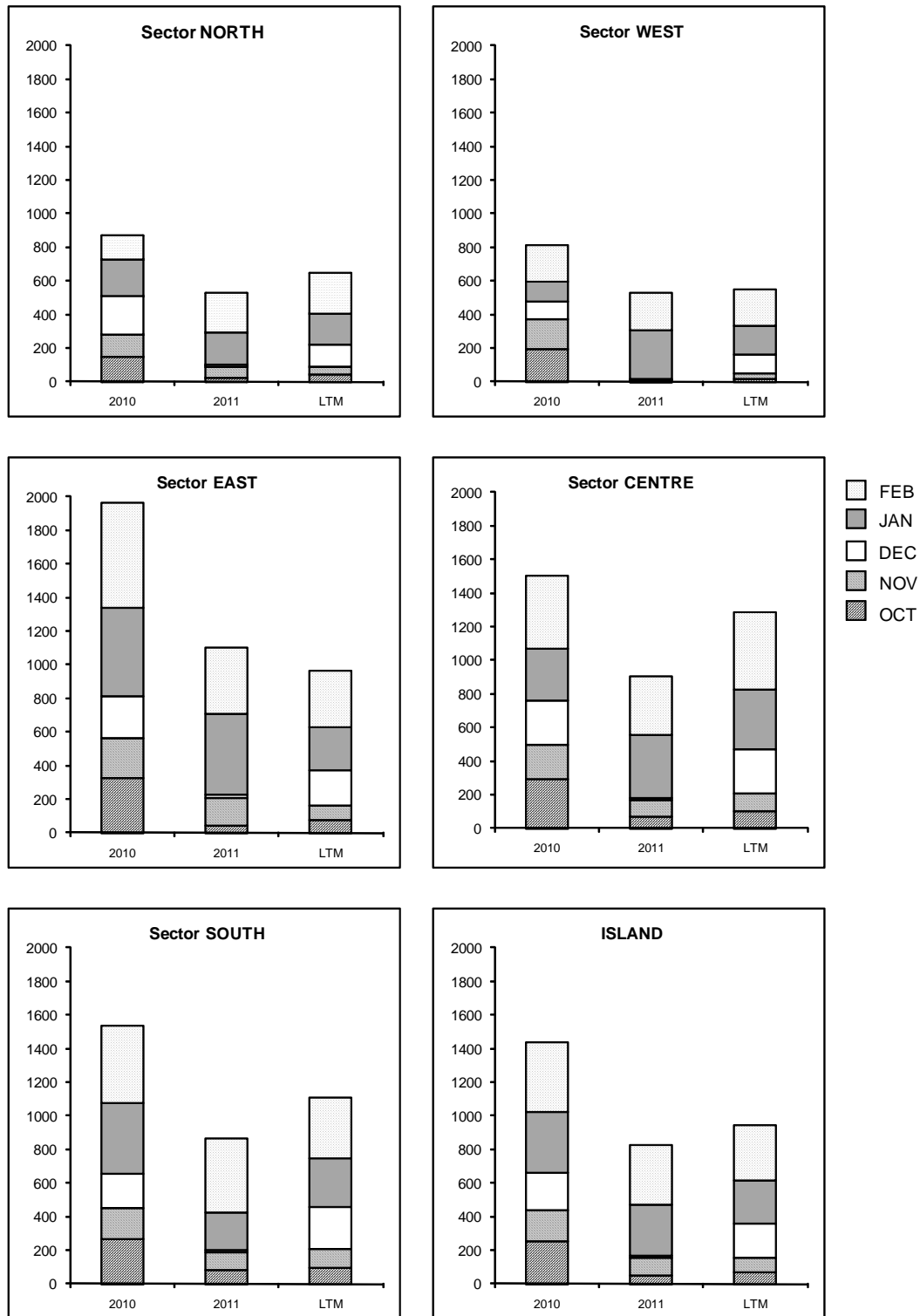
Table 1b Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2010 to February 2011 for crop 2011 compared to that of crop 2010 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2010	875 (134)	1961 (203)	1539 (139)	815 (149)	1484 (115)	1437 (152)
2011	533 (82)	1100 (114)	864 (78)	530 (97)	904 (70)	828 (87)
LTM	650	965	1111	549	1288	947

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source : raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1 Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period Oct 2010 to Feb 2011 for the 2011 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2010 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



2. STALK HEIGHT

Measurements of stalk height had been carried out during the last week of February 2011 at 60 sites in the five sugar cane growing sectors of the island. These sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties, and crop categories. Data collected were compared to those at the corresponding period in February 2010 and with the mean of the five best cane yielding crops of the last ten years in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 2a)

Stalk elongation during the month of February 2011 was higher than during the corresponding period in 2010 in all sectors. It amounted to 44.8 cm in the North, 48.3 cm in the East, 47.9 cm in the South, 50.6 cm in the West and 39.0 cm in the Centre. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth was higher by 2.4 cm in the East, 3.2 cm in the West and 1.6 cm in the Centre whereas in the North and South it lagged by 3.1 cm and 0.5 cm respectively. The 46.6 cm average elongation for the island represented 107.7% of that recorded in February 2010 (43.3 cm) but 97.6% of the normal (47.8 cm).

Table 2a. Stalk elongation during the month of February.

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during Feb			Feb 2011 as % of	
	2011	2010	Normal	2010	Normal
North	44.8	40.6	47.9	110.3	93.6
East	48.3	43.6	45.9	110.8	105.2
South	47.9	45.7	48.4	104.8	98.9
West	50.6	49.3	47.4	102.6	106.8
Centre	39.0	36.2	37.4	107.7	104.3
Island	46.6	43.3	47.8	107.7	97.6

2.2 Cumulative Elongation (Table 2b)

Cumulative growth from end-December 2010 to end-February 2011 amounted to 58.5 cm in the North, 68.2 cm in the East, 75.3 cm in the South, 73.0 cm in the West and 59.0 cm in the Centre. These cumulative growths lagged behind those of 2010 by 20.4 cm (25.9%) in the North, 16.1 cm (19.1%) in the East, 14.1 cm (15.8%) in the South, 22.3 cm (23.4%) in the West and 8.8 cm (13.0%) in the Centre.

Table 2b. Cumulative elongation at end-February.

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- Feb			Feb 2011 as % of	
	2011	2010	Normal	2010	Normal
North	58.5	78.9	84.9	74.1	68.9
East	68.2	84.3	89.6	80.9	76.1
South	75.3	89.4	99.9	84.2	75.3
West	73.0	95.3	87.6	76.6	83.4
Centre	59.0	67.8	80.3	87.0	73.5
Island	67.6	83.8	92.5	80.6	73.1

For the same period, cumulative growth was below normal in all sectors. The difference amounted to 26.4 cm in the North, 21.4 cm in the East, 24.6 cm in the South, 14.6 cm in the West and 21.3 cm in the Centre. Island-wise the cumulative elongation of 67.6 cm was below that of the 2010 crop (83.8 cm) by 19.4% and inferior to the normal (92.5 cm) by 26.9%.

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

Total cane height at end February 2011 stood at 79.5 cm in the North, 100.7 cm in the East, 115.2 cm in the South, 97.8 cm in the West and 89.1 cm in the Centre to give an island average of 98.8 cm. Compared to end-February 2010, cane height was inferior by 24.1 cm in the North, 23.2 cm in the East, 25.5 cm in the South, 40.7 cm in the West and 26.3 cm in the Centre. Total cane height at the end of February 2011 were also lower than the normal in all sectors, and lagged by 32.7 cm (29.2 %) in the North, 32.0 cm (24.1%) in the East, 36.7 cm (24.2%) in the South, 22.6 cm (18.8%) in the West and 40.3 cm (31.2%) in the Centre.

At island level, the total cane height of 98.8 cm at the end of February 2011 was below that of the corresponding period in 2010 by 26.0 cm (20.8%) and the normal by 37.1 cm (27.3%).

Table 2c. Stalk height at end-February.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Feb			End-Feb 2011 as % of	
	2011	2010	Normal	2010	Normal
North	79.5	103.6	112.2	76.7	70.8
East	100.7	123.9	132.7	81.3	75.9
South	115.2	140.7	151.9	81.9	75.8
West	97.8	138.5	120.4	70.6	81.2
Centre	89.1	115.4	129.4	77.2	68.8
Island	98.8	124.8	135.9	79.2	72.7

3 CROP 2011

Weather during the month of February 2011 has provided adequate rainfall to meet, island-wise, the crop water requirements. Generally growth has benefited from the ideal conditions that prevailed and this is seen with stalk elongation during February 2011 exceeding those of the same period in 2010 in all sectors. Despite this growth resurgence, total cane height remained significantly below that of the 2010 crop at the same period as well as below that of the normal. Making up for the substantial lag of 26 cm (20.8%) that has accumulated over last year's crop, even with normal weather conditions during the remainder of this crop season, remains a forlorn hope.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end- February 2011.

