MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2017

Status: End November 2017

1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November was 112 mm and represented 137% of the long term mean (81 mm). November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean (LTM) by 47 mm (98%) in the North, 62 mm (72%) in the East and by 28 mm (27%) in the Centre. In the other two sectors, rainfall for the month was similar to the LTM in the South and close to the LTM in the West.

Rainfall for the months of October and November 2017 cumulated to 183 mm for the island, i.e. 116% of the long-term mean. During that period, 136 mm were recorded in the North, 239 mm in the East, 185 mm in the South, 41 mm in the West and 253 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 149%, 143%, 91%, 68% and 118% of the respective LTM.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2017, 2018[+] and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2017	38 *(79)*	88 *(102)*	80 *(75)*	5 *(16)*	101 *(96)*	68 *(84)*
2018	**95** *(198)**	**148** *(172)*	**106** *(100)*	**35** *(109)*	**133** *(127)*	**112** *(137)*
LTM	48	86	106	32	105	81

[+] Crop year is from October to September

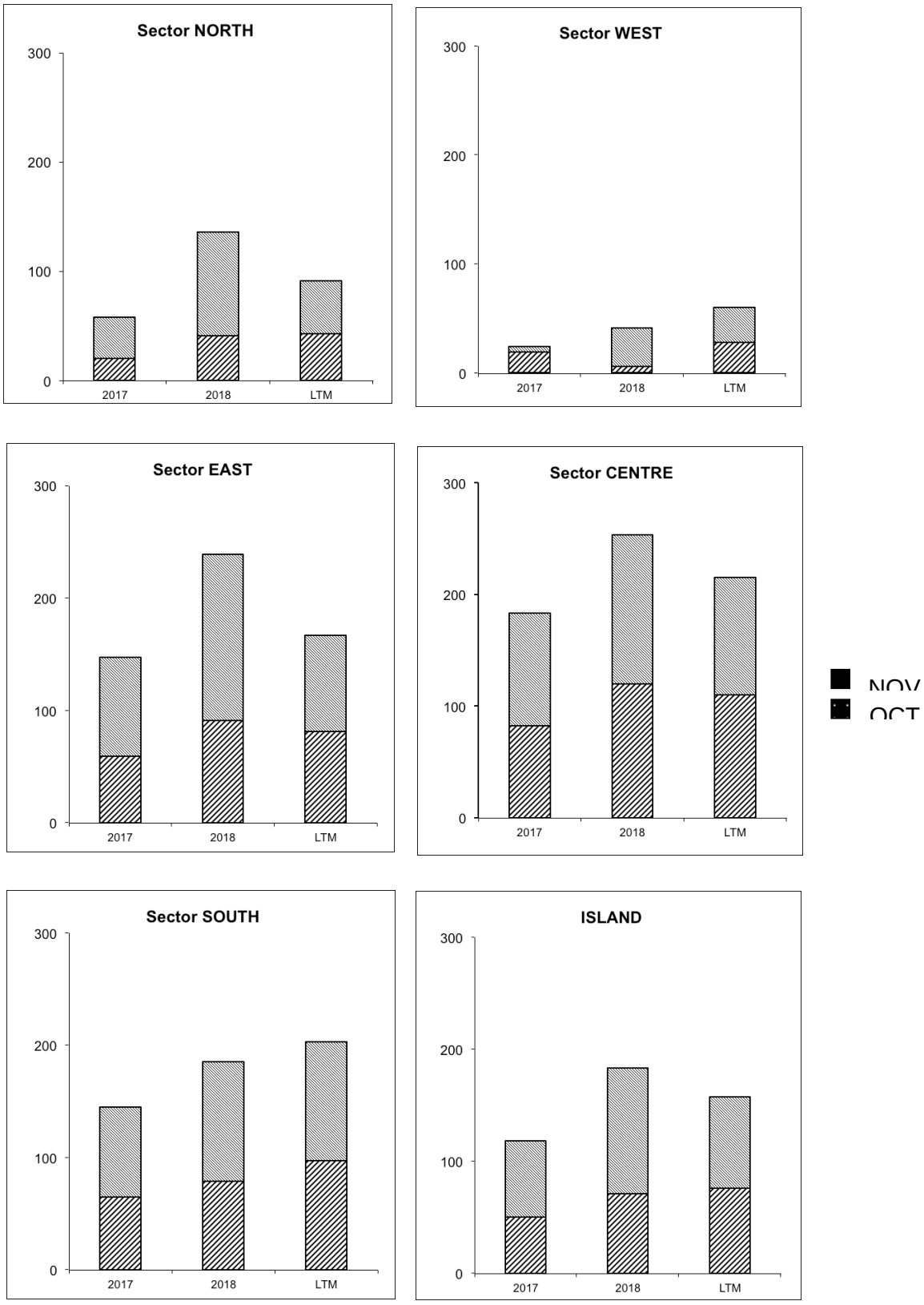
* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-10)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2017 for crop 2018 compared to that of crop 2017 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2017	58 *(64)*	147 *(88)*	145 *(71)*	24 *(40)*	183 *(85)*	119 *(75)*
2018	**136** *(149)**	**239** *(143)*	**185** *(91)*	**41** *(68)*	**253** *(118)*	**183** *(116)*
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 2017 for the 2018 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2017 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 2017 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 2017

Stations	Maximum Temp (°C)		Minimum Temp (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Nov 2017	DevN*	Nov 2017	DevN	Nov 2017	% Normal
Ferret	28.9	-1.0	20.7	+1.5	225	86
Réduit	26.9	+0.3	19.4	+1.0	210	84
Belle Rive	25.8	+0.2	18.2	+1.5	188	86
Union Park	26.2	+0.8	18.9	+1.0	168	82

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The mean monthly maximum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations except at Ferret. As for the mean monthly minimum temperature, it was above the normal at all stations by at least 1°C. However, sunshine hours during November 2017 were below normal at all stations. Recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal was 86 at Ferret, 84 at Réduit, 86 at Belle Rive and 82 at Union Park. Above normal temperature and solar radiation are conducive to crop growth.

2. CROP 2017

As at 2 December 2017, 30 124 ha representing about 88% of miller-planters' land had been harvested compared to 32 733 ha (94%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 82% in the North, 88% in the East, 91% in the South and 85% in the Centre, whereas harvest has been completed in the West. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters in all sectors follows. Since all the canes from the Centre are crushed at Alteo 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 2 December 2017 amounted to 79.2 TCH and was above that recorded in 2016 (78.4 TCH). The best cane productivity was recorded in the West sector with 85.8 TCH, followed by the North (82.6 TCH), the East (81.3 TCH), the South (75.7 TCH) and the Centre (64.6 TCH). Sector-wise, compared to last year, cane productivity to-date was comparable in the West but lagged behind by 3.4 TCH in the South and 4.8 TCH in the Centre. In the other two sectors, it was higher by 4.7 TCH in the North and 4.1 TCH in the East.

Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end- October and end-November for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sector	End October			End November		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	79.3	79.3	80.7	78.4	77.9	82.6
East	85.7	77.1	82.1	85.0	77.2	81.3
South	83.8	79.9	74.7	81.2	79.1	75.7
West	90.6	90.6	85.5	93.8	85.7	85.8
Centre	72.2	69.2	68.3	68.7	69.4	64.6
Island	**83.1**	**79.2**	**79.1**	**81.8**	**78.4**	**79.2**

2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

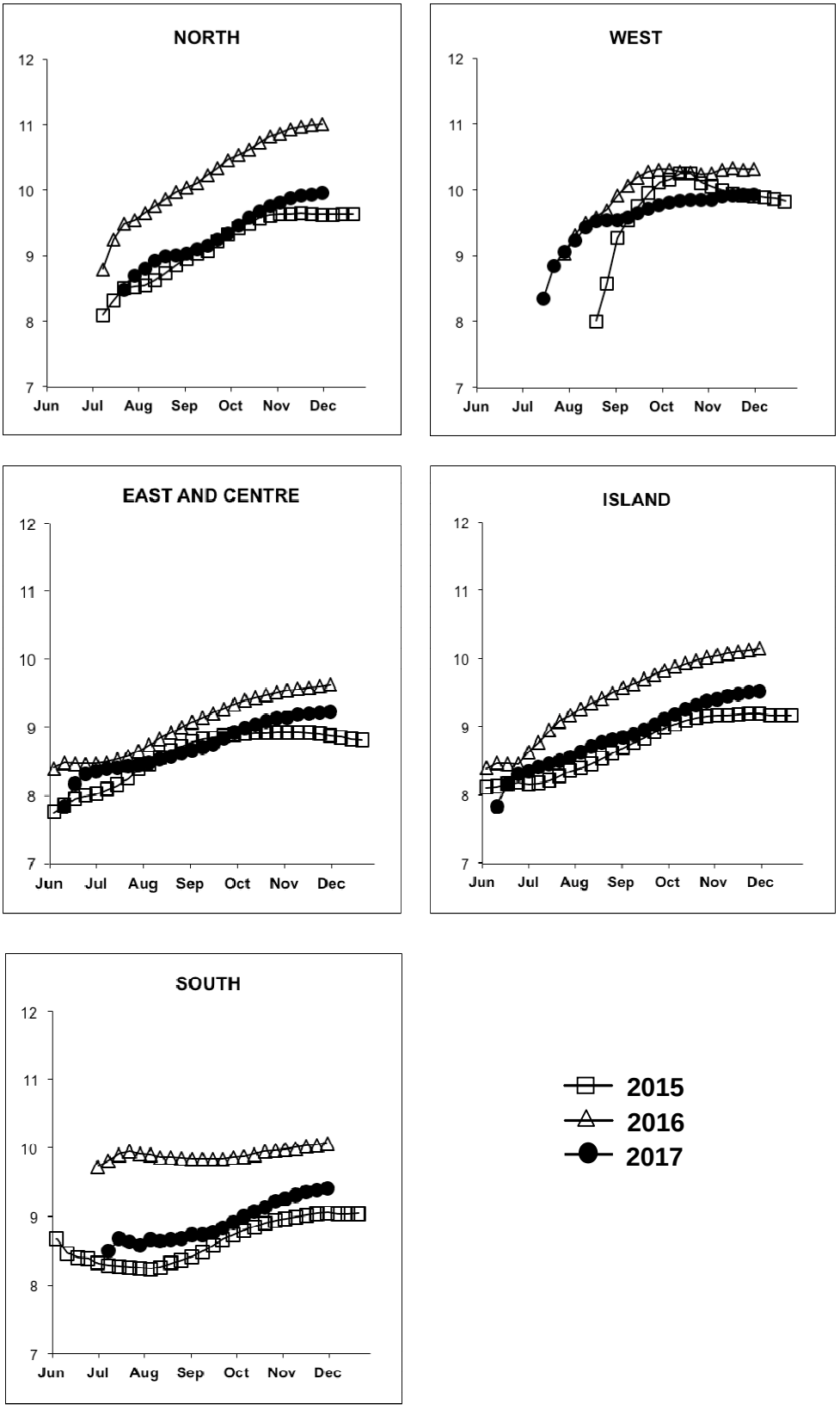
The island extraction rate recorded at end November 2017 was 9.51% and was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2016 (10.14%) by 0.63° but higher than that of 2015 by 0.32°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 9.95% in the North, 9.22% in the East/Centre, 9.42% in the South and 9.92% in the West. These figures were inferior to those of the corresponding period in 2016 in all sectors but were higher than those of the same period in 2015.

From end October 2017 to end November 2017, extraction rate over the island has increased by 0.14% which was comparable to increment of 0.13% in 2016 but higher than the negligible increase of 0.04% in 2015.

Table 3b. Extraction rate (%) as at end-October and end-November for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
North	9.61	10.81	9.76	9.62	11.00	9.95
East/Centre	8.92	9.51	9.12	8.87	9.62	9.22
South	8.94	9.97	9.22	9.06	10.07	9.42
West	10.10	10.23	9.85	9.90	10.31	9.92
Island	**9.15**	**10.01**	**9.37**	**9.19**	**10.14**	**9.51**

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops



2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 3c)

Island-wise, the sugar productivity of 7.53 TSH at end-November 2017 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2016 (7.95 TSH) by 0.42 tonne (5.3%) and was close to that of 2015 (7.52 TSH). Sector-wise sugar productivity stood at 8.22 TSH in the North, 7.23 TSH in the East-Centre, 7.13 TSH in the South and 8.51 TSH in the West. Sugar productivity at end-November 2017 was still lagging behind that of the corresponding period in 2016 by 0.35 TSH in the North, 0.84 TSH in the South and 0.33 TSH in the West but was comparable in the East-Centre.

From end October to end November, sugar productivity for the island has increased by 0.12 TSH in 2017 compared to a negligible increment of 0.02 TSH in 2016 and a decrease of 0.08 TSH in 2015.

Table 3c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end-October and end-November for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 crops

Sectors	End October			End November		
	2015	**2016**	**2017**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
North	7.62	8.57	7.88	7.54	8.57	8.22
East/Centre	7.47	7.20	7.29	7.33	7.29	7.23
South	7.49	7.97	6.89	7.36	7.97	7.13
West	9.15	9.27	8.42	9.29	8.84	8.51
Island	**7.60**	**7.93**	**7.41**	**7.52**	**7.95**	**7.53**

3.0 2017 *CROP PRODUCTIVITY*

The generally rainy weather experienced during the month of November coupled with below normal solar radiation has prevented cane desiccation. This is reflected in cane productivity over the island, which did not regress during November 2017 compared to figures recorded during the same period in 2016 and 2015. However, extraction rate in November 2017 increased in all sectors to give an island average increment of 0.14°. Overall, the resulting sugar productivity in November 2017 rose by 0.12 TSH compared to negligible change in 2016 and 2015. With nearly 90% of area harvested, the trend is expected to maintain itself until the end of the crop season with sugar productivity for crop 2017 lagging behind that of 2016 but exceeding that of 2015.

4.0 CROP 2018

Weather since the start of the crop season has been generally favourable for good regrowth of harvested fields. The rainfall recorded, particularly during October and November coupled with overall higher temperatures has been beneficial to the crop. Taking into consideration that cumulative rainfall recorded to-date is above the long-term mean in most sectors, the initial conditions for the 2018 crop are considered promising.