MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2024

Status: April 2024

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane growing areas of the island during April 2024 was 242 mm which represented 107% of the long-term mean (LTM, 225 mm) for the month. Above normal rainfall was recorded in sectors North with 154 mm, South with 313 mm and West with 116 mm. It was comparable to the normal in the Centre while in the East with 260 mm it was below normal. Generally, these rainfall amounts were considered sufficient for the crop water requirement.

Cumulative rainfall from October 2023 to April 2024 amounted to 2042 mm for the island, i.e. 135% of the LTM. During that period, 1245 mm were recorded in the North, 2349 mm in the East, 2485 mm in the South, 1059 mm in the West and 2432 mm in the Centre. These figures exceeded their respective LTM in all sectors.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of April for crop 2023, 2024 and the long term mean (LTM)

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2023	73 *(57)*	174 *(61)*	193 *(72)*	181 *(226)*	240 *(89)*	164 *(73)*
2024	**154** *(121)*	**260** *(92)*	**313** *(116)*	**116** *(145)*	**267** *(99)*	**242** *(107)*
LTM	127	284	269	80	269	225

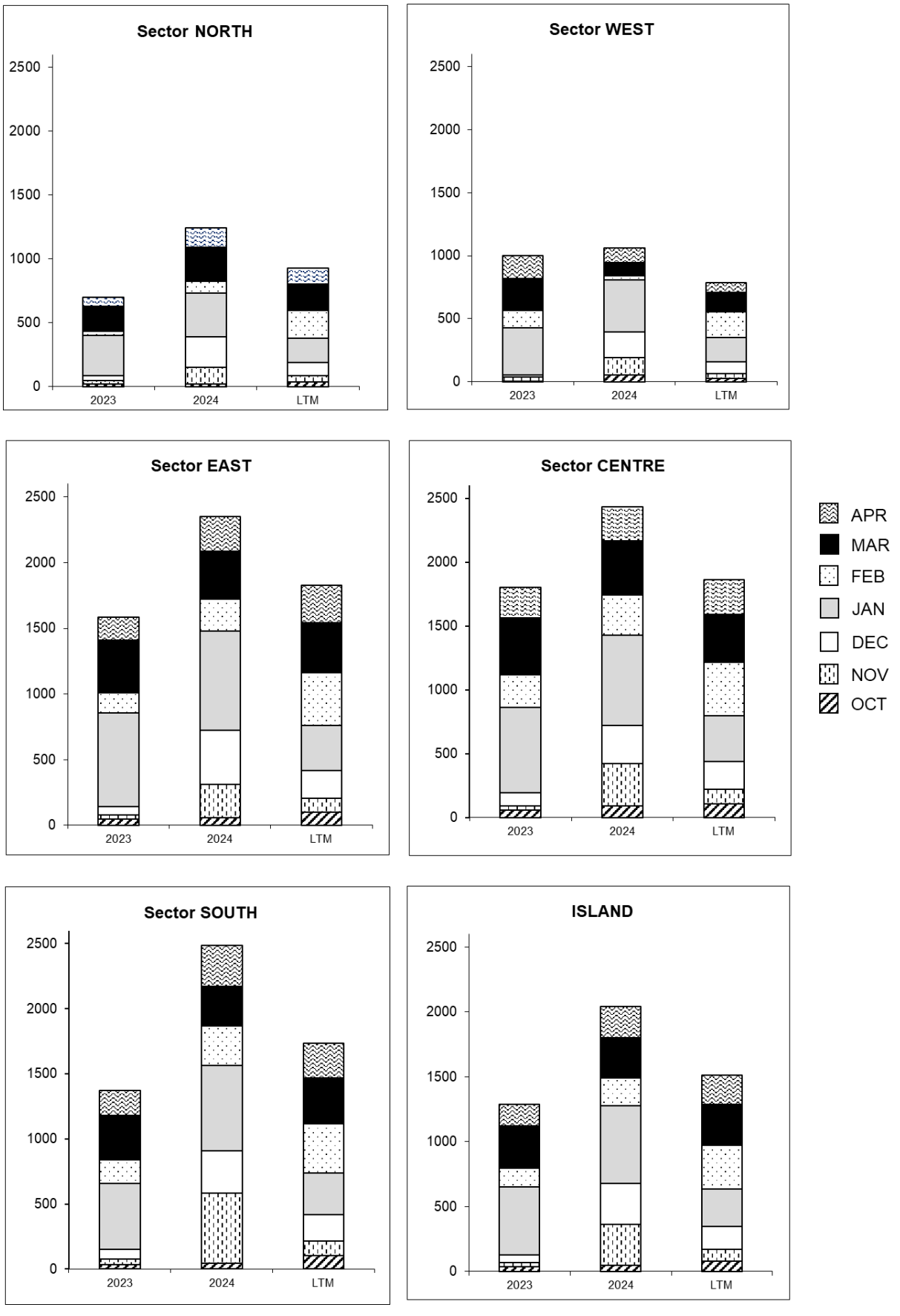
figures in brackets are % of LTM (1991-2020)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2023 to April 2024 for crop 2024 compared to that of crop 2023 and the LTM

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2023	703 *(76)*	1582 *(87)*	1371 *(79)*	1000 *(127)*	1802 *(97)*	1285 *(85)*
2024	**1245** *(134)*	**2349** *(129)*	**2485** *(143)*	**1059** *(134)*	**2432** *(131)*	**2042** *(135)*
LTM	930	1827	1735	788	1862	1510

figures in brackets are % of LTM ***[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]***

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2023 to April 2024 for the 2024 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2023 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Air Temperature and sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on air temperature and sunshine duration recorded during the month of April 2024 on the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hours recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in April 2024

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Apr 2024	+ / -	Apr 2024	+ / -	Apr 2024	% Normal
Ferret	30.2	+0.5	22.5	+1.4	214	91
Réduit	28.4	+1.3	21.4	+1.2	181	85
Union Park	27.4	+1.1	20.4	+0.5	125	80

+ / - Deviation from the Normal (1991-2020)

The mean maximum temperature during April 2024 was above normal at all stations. Similarly, the mean minimum temperature exceeded normal at all stations. Sunshine duration recorded during that period lagged behind the normal at all stations with the recorded bright sunshine as a percentage of the normal amounting to 91% at Ferret, 85% at Réduit and 80% at Union Park.

2. STALK HEIGHT *(Tables 3a, 3b and Figure 2)*

Measurement of stalk height was carried out during the last week of April 2024 at 61 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These selected sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, different varieties and crop categories. Data collected were compared with that of last two years and the mean of the five best cane yielding crops for the period 2014 to 2023 in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation

Stalk elongation recorded during the month of April 2024 was 44.2 cm in the North, 34.3 cm in the East, 34.9 cm in the South, 27.9 cm in the West and 31.9 cm in the Centre. These growth values were higher than those recorded at the same period in 2023 in sector North only while in the other sectors it was inferior. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, cane growth in April 2024 was higher by 12.6 cm in the North, 4.1 cm in the East and 3.4 cm in the Centre but lagged behind by 2.4 cm in the South and 3.5 cm in the West.

The island stalk elongation of 35.9 cm in April 2024 was lower than that of April 2023 but exceeded the normal by 13%.

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of April 2024

	Stalk elongation (cm)			April 2024 as % of	
Sectors	**Apr 2024**	**Apr 2023**	**Normal**	**2023**	**Normal**
North	44.2	40.1	31.6	110	140
East	34.3	45.2	30.2	76	113
South	34.9	45.9	37.3	76	93
West	27.9	44.8	31.4	62	89
Centre	31.9	33.7	28.5	95	112
Island	35.9	43.4	31.8	83	113

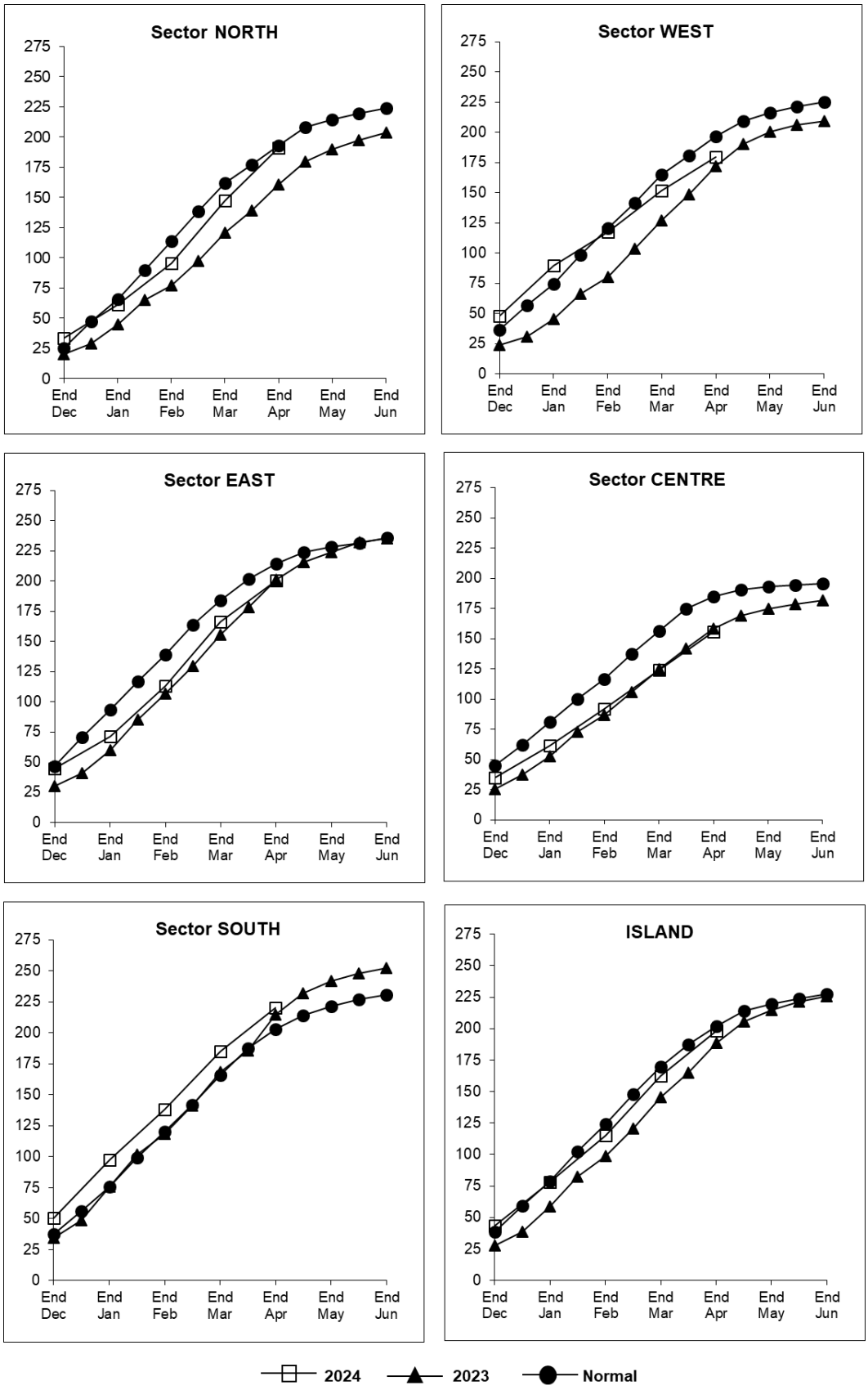
2.2 Total stalk height

At end-April 2024, total stalk height stood at 191.4 cm in the North, 200.5 cm in the East, 220.2 cm in the South, 179.6 cm in the West and 156.0 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 198.6 cm. These figures were higher than those recorded at the corresponding period in 2023 in all sectors except in the East where it was comparable and was slightly lower in the Centre. Stalk height at end-April 2024 was higher than the normal in the South, was comparable to the normal in the North but lagged behind the normal in the other three sectors. At island level, the total stalk height of 198.6 cm at end-April 2024 was higher than the corresponding period in 2023 by 9.7 cm (5%) but was slightly below the normal by 2%.

Table 3b. Total stalk height at end-April 2024

	Stalk height (cm)			2024 as % of	
Sectors	**2024**	**2023**	**Normal**	**2023**	**Normal**
North	191.4	160.6	193.3	119	99
East	200.5	200.9	214.2	100	94
South	220.2	214.5	203.2	103	108
West	179.6	172.0	196.6	104	91
Centre	156.0	158.5	185.0	98	84
Island	198.6	188.9	201.9	105	98

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-April 2024



3. CROP 2024

Rainfall recorded during the month of April 2024 was sufficient to meet the crop water requirement in all sectors. Although at all stations air temperature recorded was above normal, solar radiation was below normal. Overall, these conditions were conducive for crop growth; this is reflected on stalk elongation recorded for the month which was higher than the normal over the island. The deficit in total stalk height for the island which was 4% in March 2024 is now at 2% of the normal. Stalk elongation is expected to slow down with winter conditions setting in but, with an average stalk height of 198.6 cm at the end of April, the 2024 crop still looks promising.