

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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7 June 2024

SUGAR CANE CROP 2024

Status: May 2024

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane growing areas of the island during May 2024 was 235 mm which represented 145% of the long-term mean (LTM, 163 mm) for the month. Above normal rainfall was recorded in sectors East, South and Centre while below normal rainfall occurred in the North and West sectors. Generally, these rainfall amounts were considered sufficient for the crop water requirement except in sectors North and West.

Cumulative rainfall from October 2023 to May 2024 amounted to 2270 mm for the island, i.e. 136% of the LTM. During that period, 1309 mm were recorded in the North, 2657 mm in the East, 2793 mm in the South, 1070 mm in the West and 2822 mm in the Centre. These figures were higher than their respective LTM in all sectors.

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

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2023	148 (164)	353 (171)	349 (179)	138 (329)	380 (186)	290 (178)
2024	64 (71)	308 (149)	308 (158)	11 (26)	390 (191)	235 (145)
LTM	90	207	195	42	204	163

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

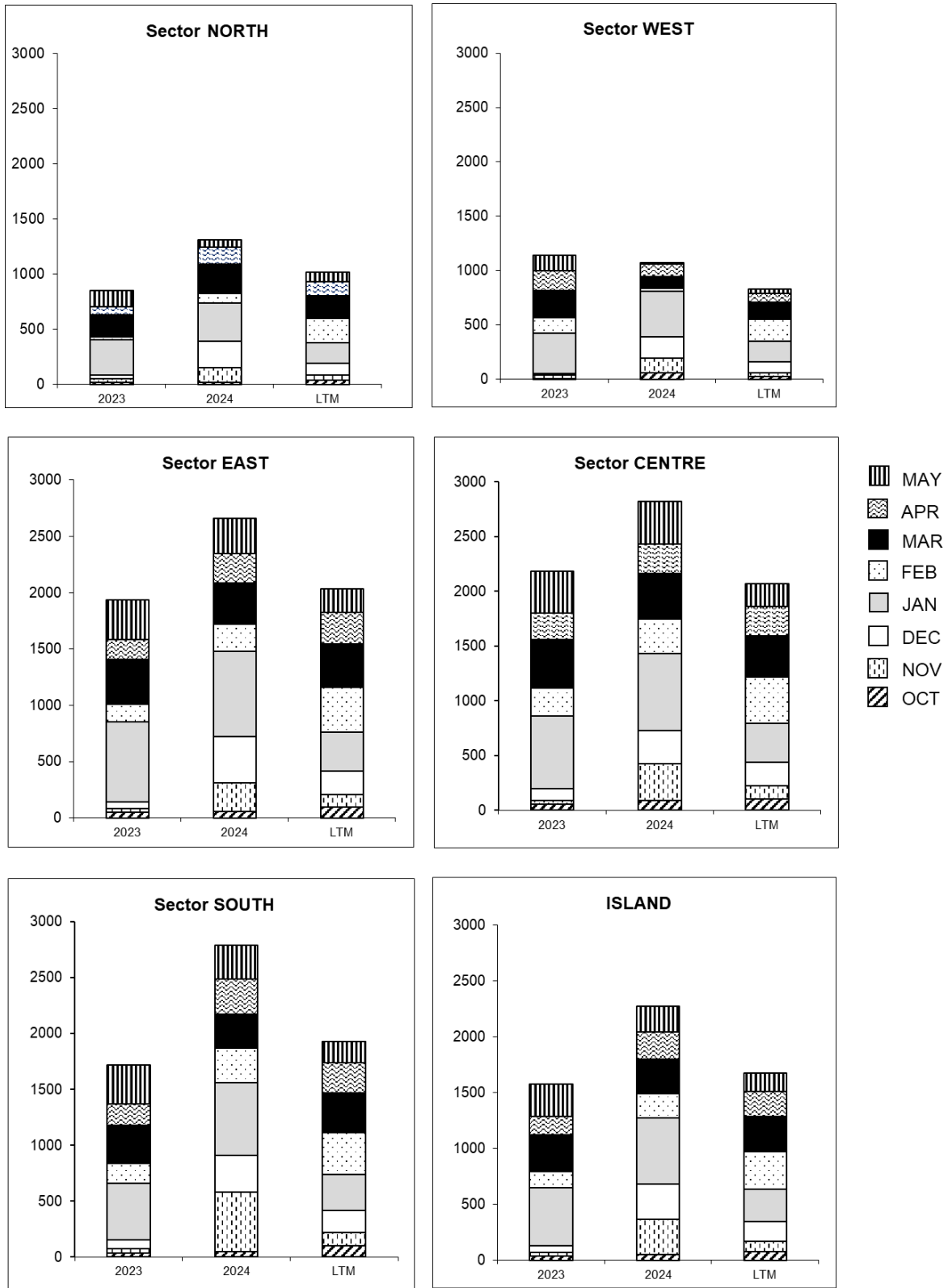
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2023 to May 2024 for crop 2024 compared to that of crop 2023 and the LTM

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2023	851 (83)	1935 (95)	1720 (89)	1138 (137)	2182 (106)	1575 (94)
2024	1309 (128)	2657 (131)	2793 (145)	1070 (129)	2822 (137)	2270 (136)
LTM	1020	2034	1930	830	2066	1672

figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2023 to May 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 May 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 May 2024

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	May 2024	+ / -	May 2024	+ / -	May 2024	% Normal
Ferret	28.0	0.0	20.5	+1.5	221	94
Réduit	25.3	-0.1	18.9	+1.0	183	83
Union Park	24.5	-0.2	18.6	+0.5	90	55

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

The mean maximum temperature during May 2024 was equal to the normal at Ferret but was slightly below the normal at the other two stations. However, the mean minimum temperature exceeded the 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 94% at Ferret, 83% at Réduit and 55% at Union Park.

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

Measurement of stalk height was carried out during the last week of May 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 the 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 May 2024 was 18.2 cm in the North, 16.5 cm in the East, 21.8 cm in the South, 24.6 cm in the West and 8.3 cm in the Centre. These growth values were lower than those recorded for the same period in 2023 in all sectors. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, cane growth in May 2024 was higher by 2.3 cm in the East, 1.4 cm in the West and 0.4 cm in the Centre but lagged behind the normal by 3.2 cm in the North and 0.9 cm in the South.

The island stalk elongation of 18.9 cm in May 2024 was lower than that of May 2023 but exceeded the normal by 5%.

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm)			May 2024 as % of	
	May 2024	May 2023	Normal	2023	Normal
North	18.2	29.3	21.4	62	85
East	16.5	22.6	14.2	73	116
South	21.8	27.1	22.7	81	96
West	24.6	28.5	23.2	86	106
Centre	8.3	16.4	7.9	51	105
Island	18.9	25.8	18.0	73	105

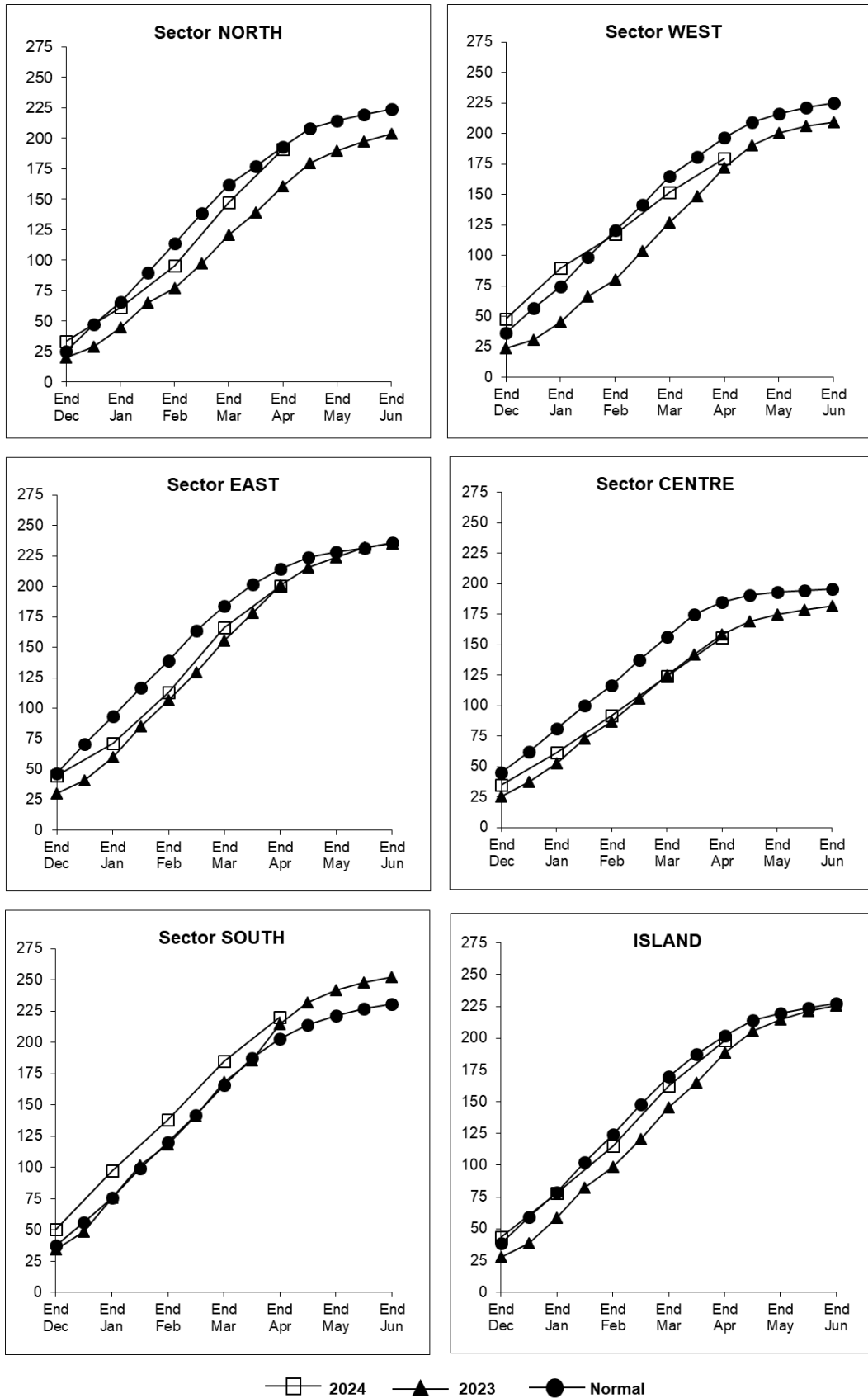
2.2 Total stalk height

Total stalk height at end-May 2024 reached 209.6 cm in the North, 217.1 cm in the East, 242.1 cm in the South, 204.2 cm in the West and 164.4 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 217.5 cm. These figures were higher than those recorded at the corresponding period in 2023 in all sectors except in the East and Centre. Stalk height at end-May 2024 exceeded the normal in the South only but lagged behind the normal in the other sectors. At island level, the total stalk height of 217.5 cm at end-May 2024 was slightly higher than the corresponding period in 2023 by 2.8 cm.

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

Sectors	Stalk height (cm)			May 2024 as % of	
	May 2024	May 2023	Normal	May 2023	Normal
North	209.6	189.9	214.7	110	98
East	217.1	223.5	228.4	97	95
South	242.1	241.6	225.9	100	107
West	204.2	200.5	219.7	102	93
Centre	164.4	174.9	193.0	94	85
Island	217.5	214.7	219.9	101	99

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-May 2024



3. CROP 2024

Rainfall recorded during the month of May 2024 was sufficient to meet the crop water requirement in all sectors except in the North and West. The prevailing maximum air temperature and solar radiation were both below the normal; these conditions were not conducive for optimal cane growth which is reflected on stalk elongation recorded for the month, being lower than that of last year. The cumulative total stalk height at the end of May 2024 over the island was still higher than that of May 2023 and was comparable to the normal. With winter conditions setting in, the crop now can trigger a more rapid sucrose accumulation in the coming weeks.