MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2025 15 May 2025

SUGARCANE CROP 2025

Status: March and April 2025

1. CLIMATE

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

The mean rainfall recorded over the island during March 2025 was 160 mm which represented 51% of the long-term mean (LTM, 313 mm) for the month (Table 1a). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors of the island in March 2025.

The island's average rainfall for the month of April 2025 was 259 mm, representing 115% of the long-term mean (225 mm) (Table 1a). Rainfall for the month of April 2025 exceeded the long-term mean in all sectors with 194 mm in the North, 344 mm in the East, 243 mm in the South, 113 mm in the West and 352 mm in the Centre. Generally, these rainfall amounts were sufficient for the crop water requirement.

Cumulative rainfall from October 2024 to April 2025 amounted to an average of 1070 mm for the island, i.e. 71% of the LTM (Table 1b). During that period, 667 mm were recorded in the North, 1369 mm in the East, 1105 mm in the South, 551 mm in the West and 1518 mm in the Centre. These figures were lagging behind their respective LTM in all sectors.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the months of March and April for crop 2024, 2025 and the long term mean (LTM)

	Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
March	**2024**	267 *(130)*	368 *(96)*	306 *(87)*	104 *(68)*	421 *(112)*	308 *(99)*
	2025	69 *(33)*	182 *(48)*	183 *(52)*	119 *(77)*	278 *(74)*	160 *(51)*
April	**2024**	154 *(121)*	260 *(92)*	313 *(116)*	116 *(145)*	267 *(99)*	242 *(107)*
	2025	**194** *(153)*	**344** *(121)*	**243** *(90)*	**113** *(141)*	**352** *(131)*	**259** *(115)*

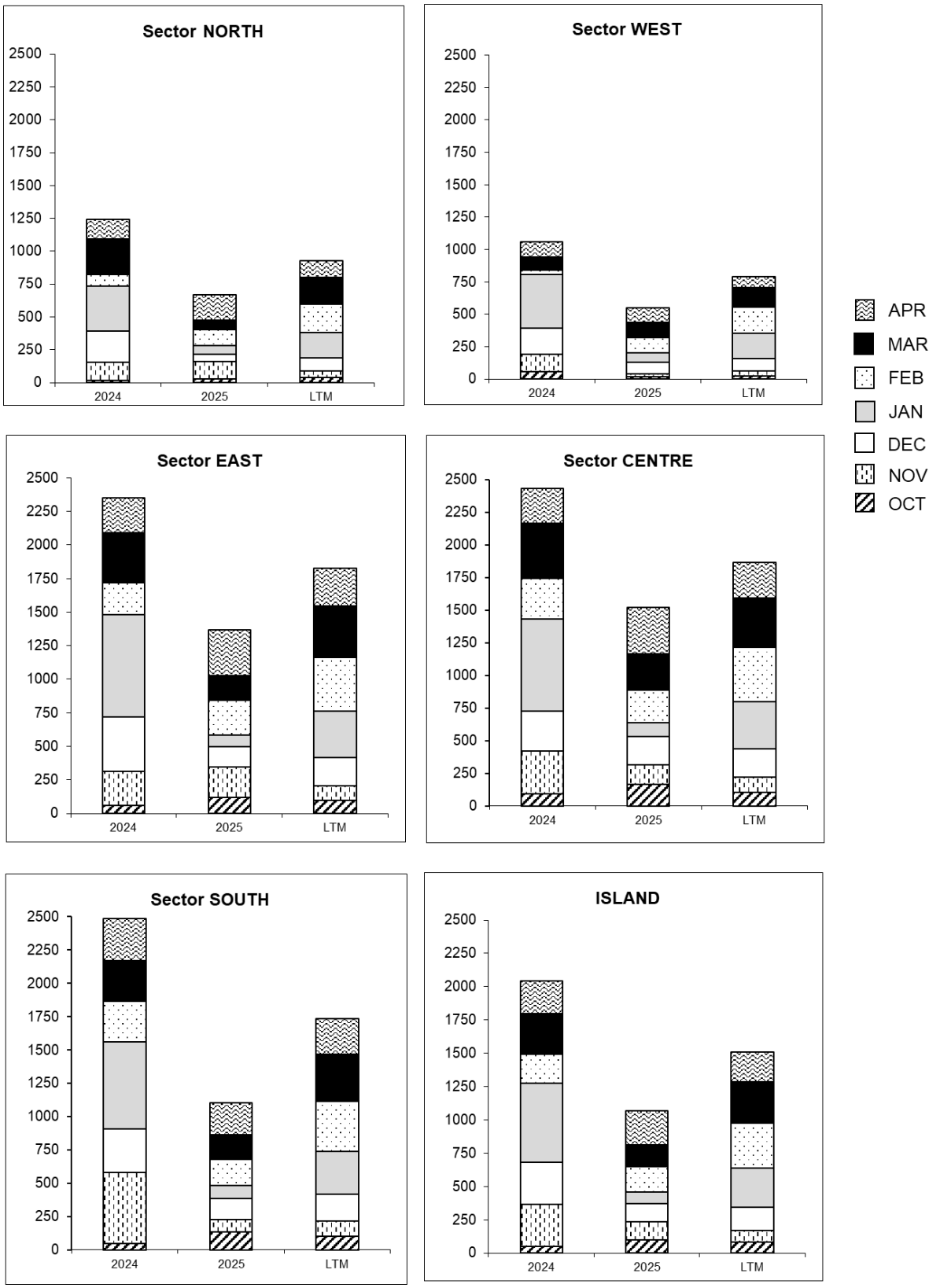
figures in brackets are % of LTM (1991-2020)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2024 to April 2025 for crop 2025 compared to that of crop 2024 and the LTM

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2024	1245 *(134)*	2349 *(129)*	2485 *(143)*	1059 *(134)*	2432 *(131)*	2042 *(135)*
2025	**667** *(72)*	**1369** *(75)*	**1105** *(64)*	**551** *(70)*	**1518** *(82)*	**1070** *(71)*
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 2024 to April 2025 for the 2025 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2024 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 months of March and April 2025 on the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Air temperature recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in March and April 2025

	Stations	Maximum	+ / -	Minimum	+ / -	Sunshine (h)	% Normal
March	Ferret	32.5	+1.9	23.4	+1.2	249	111
	Réduit	29.8	+1.6	22.4	+0.6	225	102
	Union Park	29.5	+2.1	22.3	+1.5	178	110
April	Ferret	31.3	+1.6	22.8	+1.7	238	101
	Réduit	28.7	+1.6	22.1	+1.9	190	89
	Union Park	27.9	+1.6	21.7	+1.8	142	91

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

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures during March and April 2025 were above normal at all stations. Bright sunshine duration during March 2025 exceeded the normal at all stations while in April 2025, it was comparable to the normal at Ferret but lagged behind the normal at the other two stations.

2. STALK HEIGHT

Stalk height was assessed at 52 sites in the five sugarcane sectors of the island during the last week of March and April 2025. The sites selected are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. The data were compared to those of the corresponding period in 2024 and to the normal referred to as the mean of the five best cane yielding crops during the period 2015 to 2024.

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of March 2025 was 54.9 cm in the North, 56.4 cm in the East, 54.6 cm in the South, 44.2 cm in the West and 49.2 cm in the Centre. These growth values were higher than those recorded at the same period in 2024, 2023 and the normal. The island stalk elongation of 53.6 cm in March 2025 exceeded that of the corresponding period in 2024 (47.4 cm), 2023 (47.0 cm) and the normal (45.0 cm).

In April 2025, stalk elongation reached 44.2 cm in the North, 33.5 cm in the East, 36.1 cm in the South, 34.8 cm in the West and 29.3 cm in the Centre. These values were higher than those recorded in April 2024 and the normal except in the South and Centre. The 36.7 cm as elongation recorded over the island was higher than that of 2024 (30.1 cm) and the normal (34.1 cm), but was lower than that of 2023 (43.4 cm).

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of March and April for crops 2025, 2024, 2023 and the normal

	March				April			
Sector	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**Normal**	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**Normal**
North	54.9	51.4	43.4	47.7	44.2	31.4	40.1	34.2
East	56.4	53.3	49.3	44.5	33.5	27.3	45.2	33.1
South	54.6	47.2	49.9	46.2	36.1	34.9	45.9	36.4
West	44.2	34.4	46.8	42.4	34.8	27.9	44.8	32.6
Centre	49.2	32.3	37.9	38.4	29.3	19.9	33.7	29.5
Island	53.6	47.4	47.0	45.0	36.7	30.1	43.4	34.1

2.2 Total stalk height (Table 3b, Figure 2)

Total stalk height at end-March 2025 in the different sectors ranged from 129.9 cm in the West to 166.4 cm in the East. Compared to the normal, total stalk height at end-March 2025 was lagging behind in all sectors. At island level, the total stalk height of 152.2 cm at end of March 2025 was inferior to that of 2024 (162.7 cm) and the normal (164 cm).

At end-April 2025, total stalk height reached 183.6 cm in the North, 199.9 cm in the East, 196.4 cm in the South, 164.7 cm in the West and 173.1 cm in the Centre. These values were higher than those in April 2024 in the North, East and Centre, but was lagging behind in the other two sectors. Compared to the normal, the stalk height at end-April 2025 was inferior to the normal in all sectors. Island-wise, the total stalk height of 188.9 cm at end-April 2025 was lagging behind that of April 2024 by 2% and that of the normal by 5%

Table 3b. Total stalk height (cm) at end-March and end-April for crops 2025, 2024, 2023, and the normal.

	March				April			
Sector	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**Normal**	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**Normal**
North	139.4	147.2	120.5	159.0	183.6	178.6	160.6	193.2
East	166.4	166.3	155.7	174.6	199.9	193.6	200.9	207.7
South	160.3	185.4	168.6	167.6	196.4	220.2	214.5	204.0
West	129.9	151.7	127.2	164.9	164.7	179.6	172.0	197.5
Centre	143.8	124.2	124.8	147.9	173.1	144.0	158.5	177.4
Island	152.2	162.7	145.5	164.0	188.9	192.8	188.9	198.1

3.0 CROP 2025

Although rainfall recorded in March 2025 was lower than the normal, the total amount received was considered sufficient to meet the crop water requirement in all sectors except in the North. The month of April 2025 was characterised by above normal rainfall in all sectors of the island. The cumulative rainfall over the island from period October 2024 to April 2025 reached 71 % of the normal. Air temperature in terms of maximum temperature was above normal in both months while solar radiation recorded was above normal in March 2025 but below normal in April 2025 at most stations. The crop has benefited from the prevailing climatic conditions in these two months with cane elongation over the island being superior to that of the normal. Moreover, total stalk height for the island which was lagging behind the normal in February 2025 by 17% has now been reduced to 5% as at the end of April 2025.

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-April 2025