MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2026 14 February 2026

SUGAR CANE CROP 2026

Status: January 2026

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane area of the island in January 2026 was 144 mm, representing 49% of the long-term mean (LTM). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 78 mm in the North, 212 mm in the East, 144 mm in the South, 22 mm in the West and 215 mm in the Centre.

Cumulative rainfall over the period October 2025 to January 2026 amounted to 299 mm in the North, 646 mm in the East, 507 mm in the South, 215 mm in the West and 722 mm in the Centre. These cumulated values represented 79%, 85%, 69%, 61% and 91% of the respective long-term mean. The island average of 493 mm for this period represented 78% of the long-term mean (637 mm).

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of January for crops 2025, 2026 and the long term mean (LTM)

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	68 *(36)*	84 *(24)*	94 *(29)*	75 *(38)*	104 *(29)*	85 *(29)*
2026	**78** *(41)**	**212** *(62)*	**144** *(44)*	**22** *(11)*	**215** *(60)*	**144** *(49)*
LTM	191	344	324	195	359	292

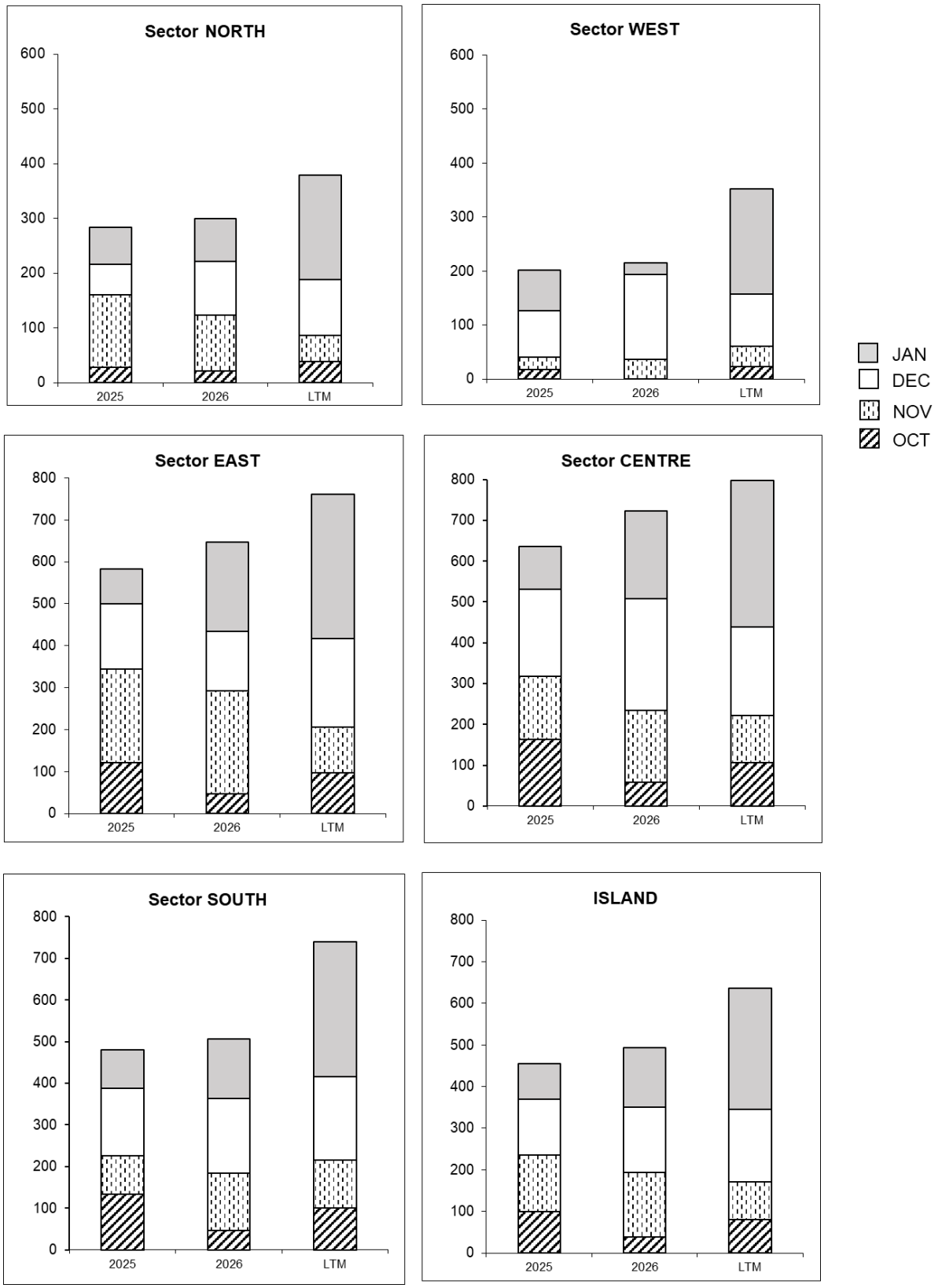
* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1991-2020)

Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2025 to January 2026 for crop 2026 compared to that of crop 2025 and the LTM

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	284 *(75)*	583 *(77)*	481 *(65)*	202 *(57)*	635 *(80)*	455 *(72)*
2026	**299** *(79)*	**646** *(85)*	**507** *(69)*	**215** *(61)*	**722** *(91)*	**493** *(78)*
LTM	379	761	740	352	797	637

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2025 to January 2026 for the 2026 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2025 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 January 2026 on the MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hour recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in January 2026

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Jan 2026	+ / -	Jan 2026	+ / -	Jan 2026	% Normal
Ferret	31.1	-0.2	22.0	-0.4	228	99
Réduit	28.1	-0.5	21.6	+0.1	242	106
Union Park	27.8	-0.2	21.5	+0.5	147	80

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

During January 2026 the mean maximum temperature was below normal at all stations. The mean minimum temperature was comparable to the normal at Réduit, above normal at Union Park but below normal at Ferret. Moreover, bright sunshine duration during January 2026 exceeded the normal at Réduit, was comparable to the normal at Ferret but lagged behind the normal at Union Park.

2. STALK HEIGHT

Stalk height was assessed at 57 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island during the last week of January 2026. The sites selected are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. The measurements were compared to those of the corresponding period in January 2025 and to the normal referred to as the mean of the five best cane yielding crops during the period 2016 to 2025.

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2026 was 31.7 cm in the North, 41.1 cm in the East, 38.3 cm in the South, 30.6 cm in the West and 27.3 cm in the Centre. These growth values were higher than those recorded at the same period in 2025 in all sectors. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, cane growth in January 2026 exceeded the normal in the South by 4.1cm and West by 2.5 cm, was comparable to the normal in the North while in the East and Centre it was lagging behind the normal by 2.3 cm and 4.4 cm, respectively.

The island stalk elongation of 35.8 in January 2026 was higher than that of January 2025 by 12.1 cm and the normal by 1.4 cm.

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of January 2026

Sectors	Stalk elongation during Jan			Jan 2026 as % of	
	2026	2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	31.7	14.2	31.6	223	100
East	41.1	31.8	43.4	129	95
South	38.3	26.2	34.2	146	112
West	30.6	17.2	28.1	177	109
Centre	27.3	24.1	31.7	113	86
Island	**35.8**	**23.7**	**34.4**	**151**	**104**

2.2 Total stalk height (Table 3b)

Total stalk height at end January 2026 reached 67.7 cm in the North, 81.5 cm in the East, 75.7 cm in the South, 69.1 cm in the West and 59.9 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 73.5 cm. Compared to end-January 2025, stalk height to-date was higher in all sectors by 26.4 cm in the North, 10.1 cm in the East,13.5 cm in the South, 19.9 cm in the West and 0.4 cm in the Centre. Stalk height at end-January 2026 was higher than the normal in the North, South and West but lagged behind the normal in the East and Centre.

At island level, the total stalk height of 73.5 cm at the end of January 2026 exceeded the normal by 6% and the corresponding period in 2025 by 27%.

Table 3b. Total stalk height (cm) at end-January 2026 compared to end-January 2025 and the normal.

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Jan			End-Jan 2026 as % of	
	2026	2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	67.7	41.3	59.5	164	114
East	81.5	71.4	86.2	114	95
South	75.7	62.2	70.4	122	107
West	69.1	49.2	67.8	141	102
Centre	59.9	59.5	68.7	101	87
Island	**73.5**	**58.0**	**69.1**	**127**	**106**

3.0 CROP 2026

The month of January 2026 was characterised by below normal rainfall over the island amounting to 49% of the normal. Moreover, the cumulative rainfall over the island from October 2025 to January 2026 was 78% of the normal. Air temperature and solar radiation were conducive to crop growth. This is reflected in the stalk elongation for the island in January 2026 which exceeded the normal by 4% and total stalk height recorded at the end of January 2026 was higher than the normal by 6%.