MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2026

Status: February 2026

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane area of the island in February 2026 was 104 mm, representing 31% of the long-term mean (LTM). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 71 mm in the North, 142 mm in the East, 91 mm in the South, 89 mm in the West and 135 mm in the Centre.

Cumulative rainfall over the period October 2025 to February 2026 amounted to 370 mm in the North, 788 mm in the East, 598 mm in the South, 304 mm in the West and 857 mm in the Centre. These cumulated values represented 62%, 68%, 54%, 55% and 70% of the respective long-term mean. The island average of 597 mm for this period represented 61% of the long-term mean (972 mm).

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

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	120 *(55)*	260 *(65)*	198 *(53)*	117 *(58)*	253 *(60)*	195 *(58)*
2026	**71** *(33)* *	**142** *(36)*	**91** *(24)*	**89** *(44)*	**135** *(32)*	**104** *(31)*
LTM	218	400	374	202	420	336

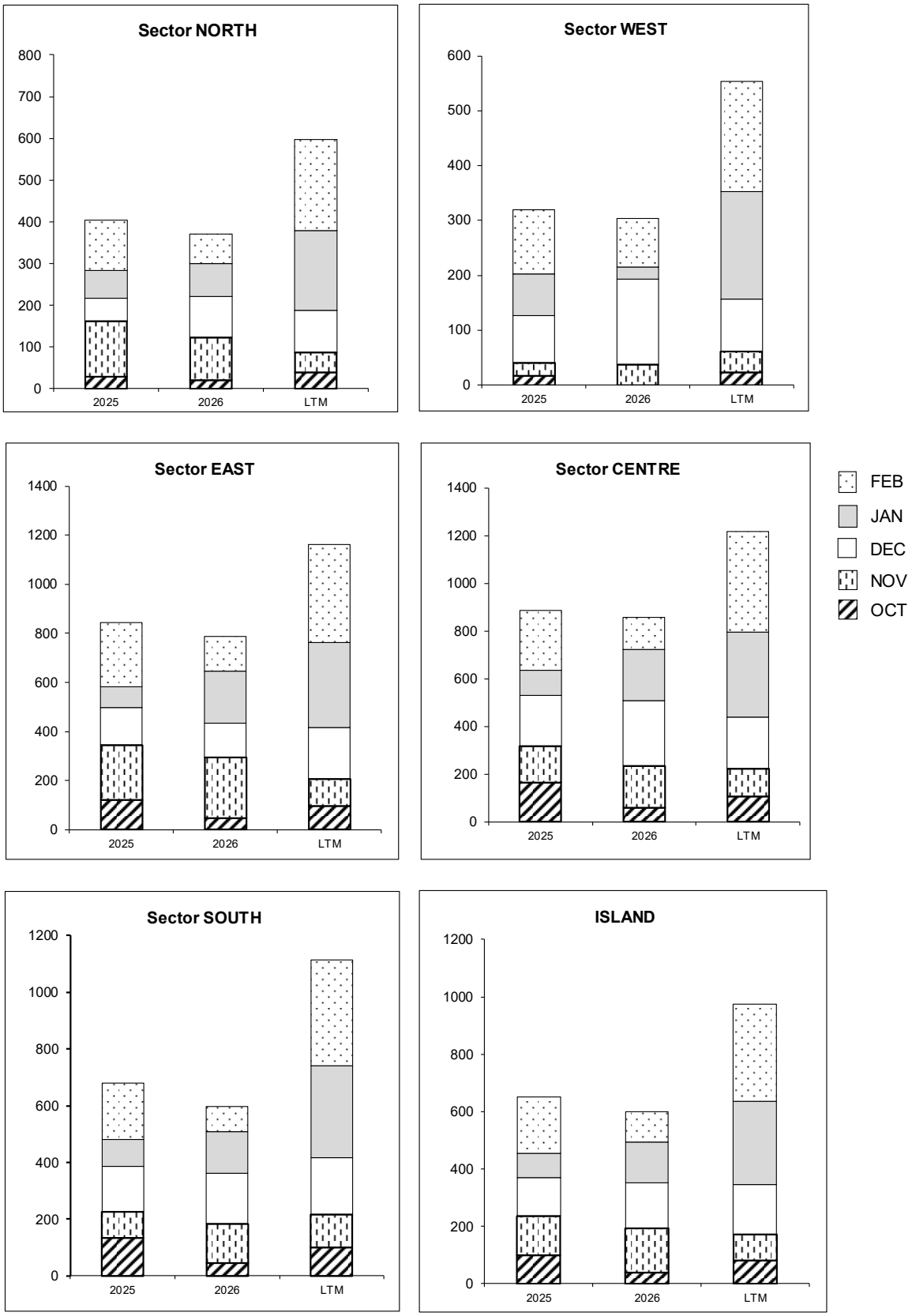
* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1991-2020)

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	404 *(68)*	843 *(73)*	679 *(61)*	319 *(58)*	888 *(73)*	651 *(67)*
2026	**370** *(62)*	**788** *(68)*	**598** *(54)*	**304** *(55)*	**857** *(70)*	**597** *(61)*
LTM	597	1161	1114	554	1217	972

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2025 to February 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 February 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 February 2026

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hour	
	Feb 2026	+ / -	Feb 2026	+ / -	Feb 2026	% Normal
Ferret	31.9	+0.8	22.6	-0.1	251	121
Réduit	29.4	+0.8	21.9	+0.1	246	121
Union Park	29.5	+1.5	21.9	+0.7	206	131

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

During February 2026, the mean maximum temperature was above normal at all stations. For the same period, the minimum temperature was above normal at Union Park and comparable to the normal at the other two stations. Moreover, the bright sunshine duration during February 2026 exceeded the normal at all three stations.

2. STALK HEIGHT

Stalk height was assessed at 57 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island during the last week of February 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 February 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 February 2026 was 26.5 cm in the North, 42.0 cm in the East, 39.1 cm in the South, 23.6 cm in the West and 29.8 cm in the Centre. These growth values were lagging behind those recorded at the same period in 2025 in all sectors except the East. Cane growth in February 2026 was inferior to the normal in all sectors. The island stalk elongation of 34.4 in February 2026 was lower than that of February 2025 by 15% and the normal by 23%.

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation during Feb			Feb 2026 as % of	
	2026	2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	26.5	43.2	45.8	61	58
East	42.0	38.7	48.5	109	87
South	39.1	43.5	45.5	90	86
West	23.6	36.5	46.4	65	51
Centre	29.8	35.1	36.2	85	83
Island	**34.4**	**40.6**	**44.5**	**85**	**77**

2.2 Total stalk height (Table 3b)

Total stalk height at end February 2026 reached 94.1 cm in the North, 123.6 cm in the East, 114.8 cm in the South, 92.8 cm in the West and 89.7 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 107.9 cm. Compared to end-February 2025, stalk height to-date was higher in all sectors except in the Centre. Stalk height at end-February 2026 was lagging behind the normal in all sectors. At island level, the total stalk height of 107.9 cm at the end of February 2026 exceeded the corresponding period in 2025 by 9% but was lower than the normal by 5%.

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

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-Feb			End-Feb 2026 as % of	
	2026	2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	94.1	84.5	105.4	111	89
East	123.6	110.1	134.7	112	92
South	114.8	105.7	116.0	109	99
West	92.8	85.7	114.2	108	81
Centre	89.7	94.6	104.9	95	86
Island	**107.9**	**98.6**	**113.6**	**109**	**95**

3.0 CROP 2026

The month of February 2026 was characterised by very dry condition with rainfall amounting to nearly 31% of the normal in all sectors. Moreover, the cumulative rainfall over the island from October 2025 to February 2026 was 61% of the normal. Although air temperature and solar radiation exceeded the normal in February 2026, the rainfall deficit impacted negatively on stalk elongation. This has slowed crop growth in fields harvested earlier during the season and mainly those under rainfed conditions. This is reflected in the stalk elongation in February 2026 which was 77% of the normal while total stalk height recorded at the end of February 2026 was 95% of the normal over the island.