

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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17 April 2026

SUGAR CANE CROP 2026

Status: March 2026

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane growing areas of the island during March 2026 was 169 mm which represented 54% of the long-term mean (LTM, 313 mm) for the month. Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 172 mm in the North, 214 mm in the East, 148 mm in the South, 33 mm in the West and 221 mm in the Centre.

Cumulative rainfall from October 2025 to March 2026 amounted to 766 mm for the island, i.e. 60% of the LTM. During that period, 542 mm were recorded in the North, 1002 mm in the East, 746 mm in the South, 337 mm in the West and 1078 mm in the Centre. These figures were lower than their respective LTM in all sectors.

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

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	69 (33)	182 (48)	183 (52)	119 (77)	278 (74)	160 (51)
2026	172 (83)	214 (56)	148 (42)	33 (21)	221 (59)	169 (54)
LTM	206	382	352	154	376	313

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

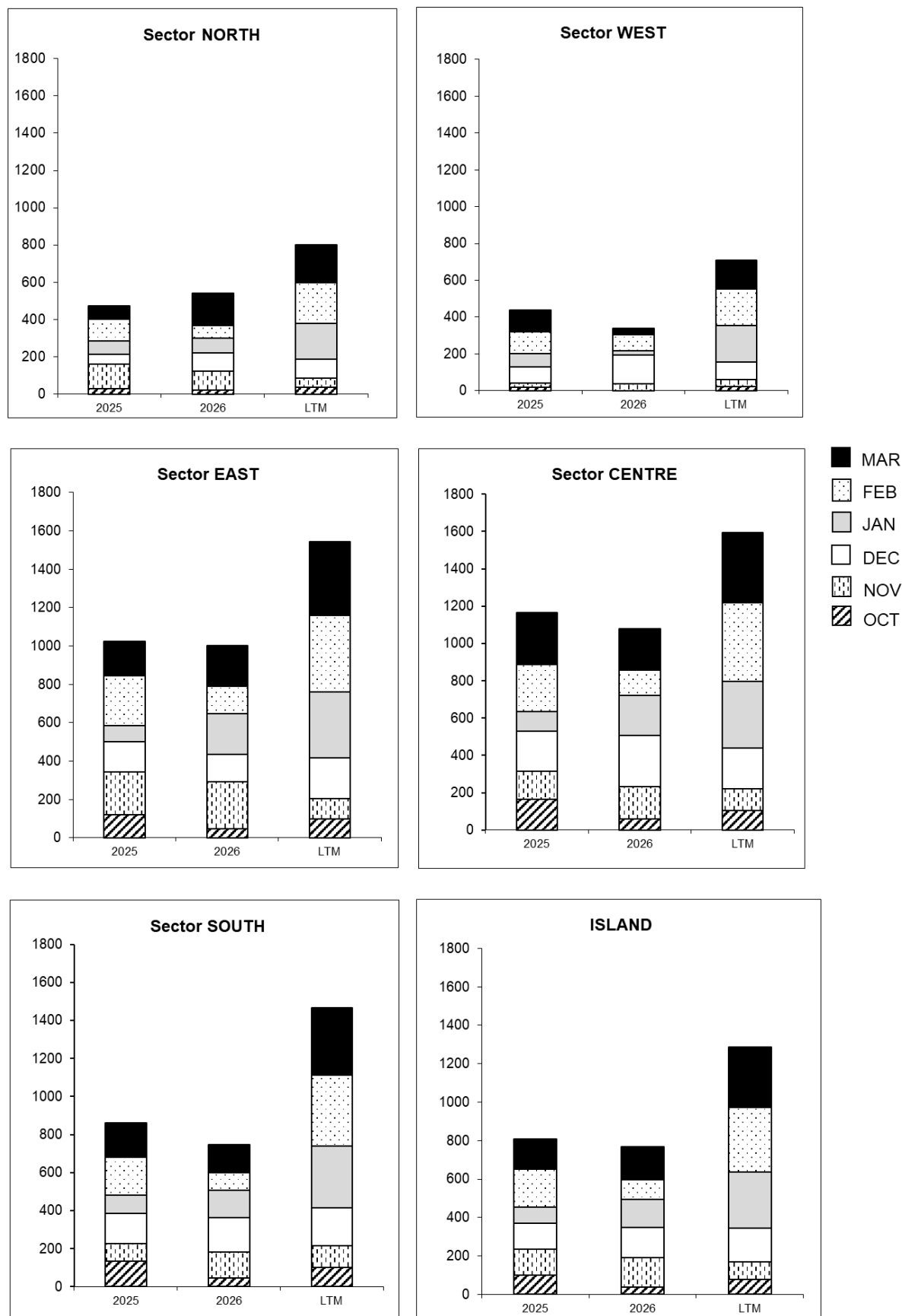
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2025 to March 2026 for crop 2026 compared to that of crop 2025 and the LTM

Crop	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2025	473 (59)	1025 (66)	862 (59)	438 (62)	1166 (73)	811 (63)
2026	542 (67)	1002 (65)	746 (51)	337 (48)	1078 (68)	766 (60)
LTM	803	1543	1466	708	1593	1285

figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

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

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Mar 2026	+ / -	Mar 2026	+ / -	Mar 2026	% Normal
Ferret	31.6	+1.0	22.4	+0.2	261	116
Réduit	29.3	+1.1	21.6	+0.3	262	119
Union Park	28.5	+1.1	21.6	+0.8	206	127

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

The mean maximum temperature during March 2026 was above normal at all stations. For the same period, the mean minimum temperature was above normal at all stations. Sunshine duration recorded during that period exceeded the normal at all three stations.

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

Measurement of stalk height was carried out during the last week of March 2026 at 57 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 2015 to 2026 in each sector (referred to as normal).

2.1 Stalk elongation

Stalk elongation recorded during the month of March 2026 was 45.1 cm in the North, 58.7 cm in the East, 54.0 cm in the South, 39.2 cm in the West and 53.4 cm in the Centre. These growth values were higher than those recorded at the same period in 2025 in sectors East and Centre but was inferior in the other sectors. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, cane growth in March 2026 was higher by 13.6 cm in the East, 4.6 cm in the South and 11.7 cm in the Centre but lagged behind by 4.9 cm in the North and 3.8 cm in the West.

The island stalk elongation of 51.3 cm in March 2026 was lower than that of March 2025 but exceeded the normal by 7%.

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm)			March 2026 as % of	
	Mar 2026	Mar 2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	45.1	54.9	50.0	82	90
East	58.7	56.4	45.1	104	130
South	54.0	54.6	49.4	99	109
West	39.2	44.2	43.0	89	91
Centre	53.4	49.2	41.7	109	128
Island	51.3	53.6	48.0	96	107

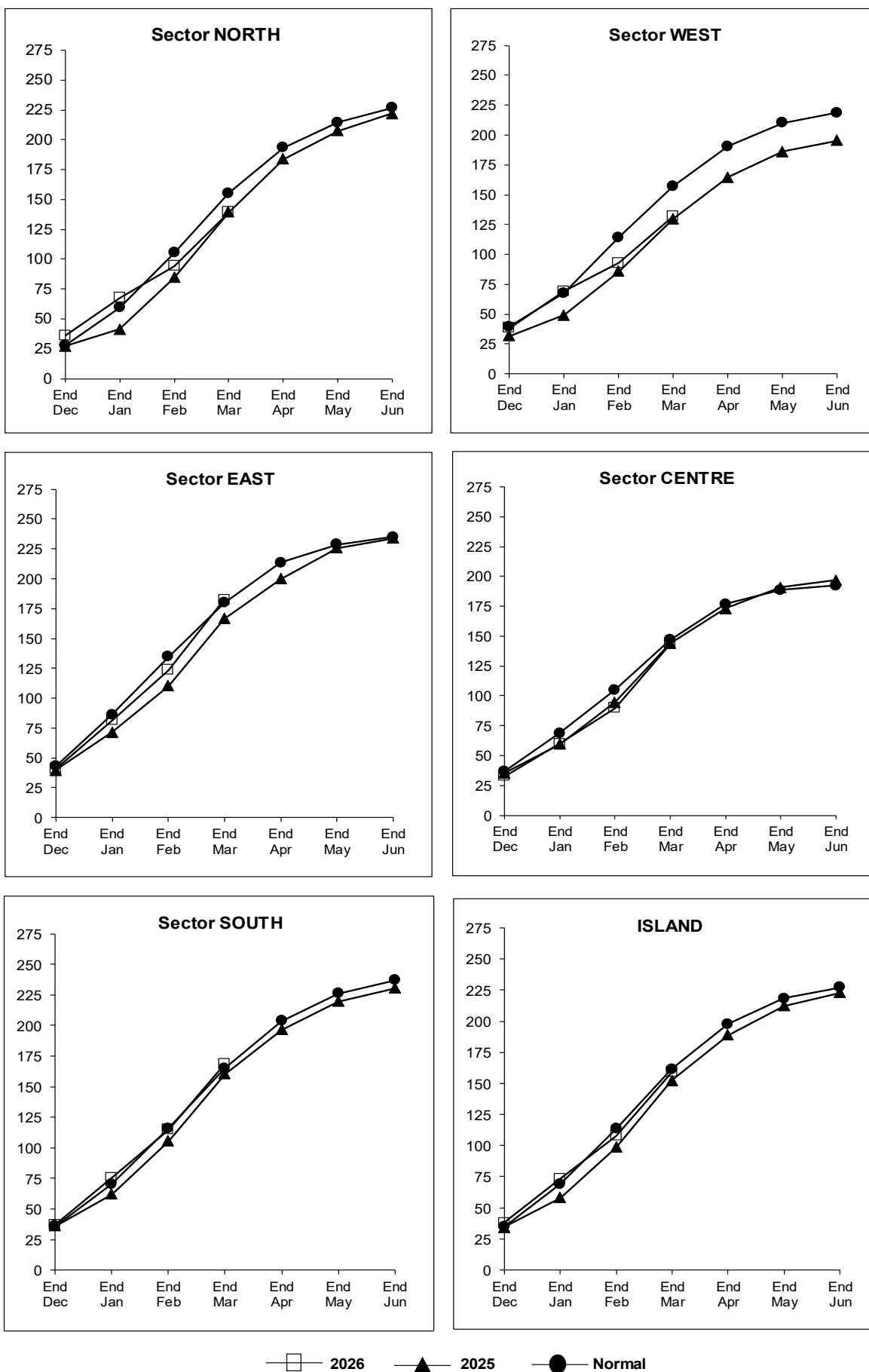
2.2 Total stalk height

At end-March 2026, total stalk height amounted to 139.2 cm in the North, 182.3 cm in the East, 168.8 cm in the South, 131.9 cm in the West and 143.1 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 159.2 cm. These figures were higher than those recorded at the corresponding period in 2025 in all sectors except in the North and Centre where it was comparable. Stalk height at end-March 2026 lagged behind the normal in all sectors except for sectors East and South. At island level, the total stalk height of 159.2 cm at end-March 2026 exceeded the corresponding period in 2025 by 5% but was slightly below the normal.

Table 3b. Total stalk height at end-March 2026

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-March			End-March 2026 as % of	
	2026	2025	Normal	2025	Normal
North	139.2	139.4	155.4	100	90
East	182.3	166.4	179.8	110	101
South	168.8	160.3	165.3	105	102
West	131.9	129.9	157.2	102	84
Centre	143.1	143.8	146.6	100	98
Island	159.2	152.2	161.6	105	99

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-March



3.0 CROP 2026

Although rainfall recorded in March 2026 was below normal, the amount received was considered sufficient to meet the crop water requirement in all sectors except in the West. Air temperature and solar radiation recorded were generally above normal in March 2026. The crop has benefited from the prevailing climatic conditions with cane elongation over the island being superior to that of the normal. Moreover, total stalk height for the island which was 95% of the normal in February 2026 is now at 99% of the normal.