

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2019

17 December 2019

SUGAR CANE CROP 2019

Status: End November 2019

1. CLIMATE

1.1 Rainfall (Table 1)

The island's average rainfall over the sugar cane areas for November 2019 was 95 mm representing 103% of the long term mean (LTM, 92 mm). November rainfall exceeded the long-term mean by 37 mm in the South, 38 mm in the West and 32 mm in the Centre, while in the other two sectors it was lagging behind the LTM by 29 mm in the North and 32 mm in the East.

Cumulative rainfall for the months of October and November 2019 amounted to 186 mm for the island, i.e. 104% of the long-term mean. During that period, 74 mm were recorded in the North, 172 mm in the East, 299 mm in the South, 94 mm in the West and 209 mm in the Centre. These figures represented 85%, 83%, 120%, 177% and 111% of the respective LTM.

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of November for crops 2019, 2020⁺ and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2019	129 (287)	225 (210)	236 (184)	81 (261)	281 (305)	218 (228)
2020	16 (36)*	75 (70)	165 (129)	69 (223)	124 (135)	95 (103)
LTM	45	107	128	31	92	92

⁺ Crop year is from October to September

* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-10)

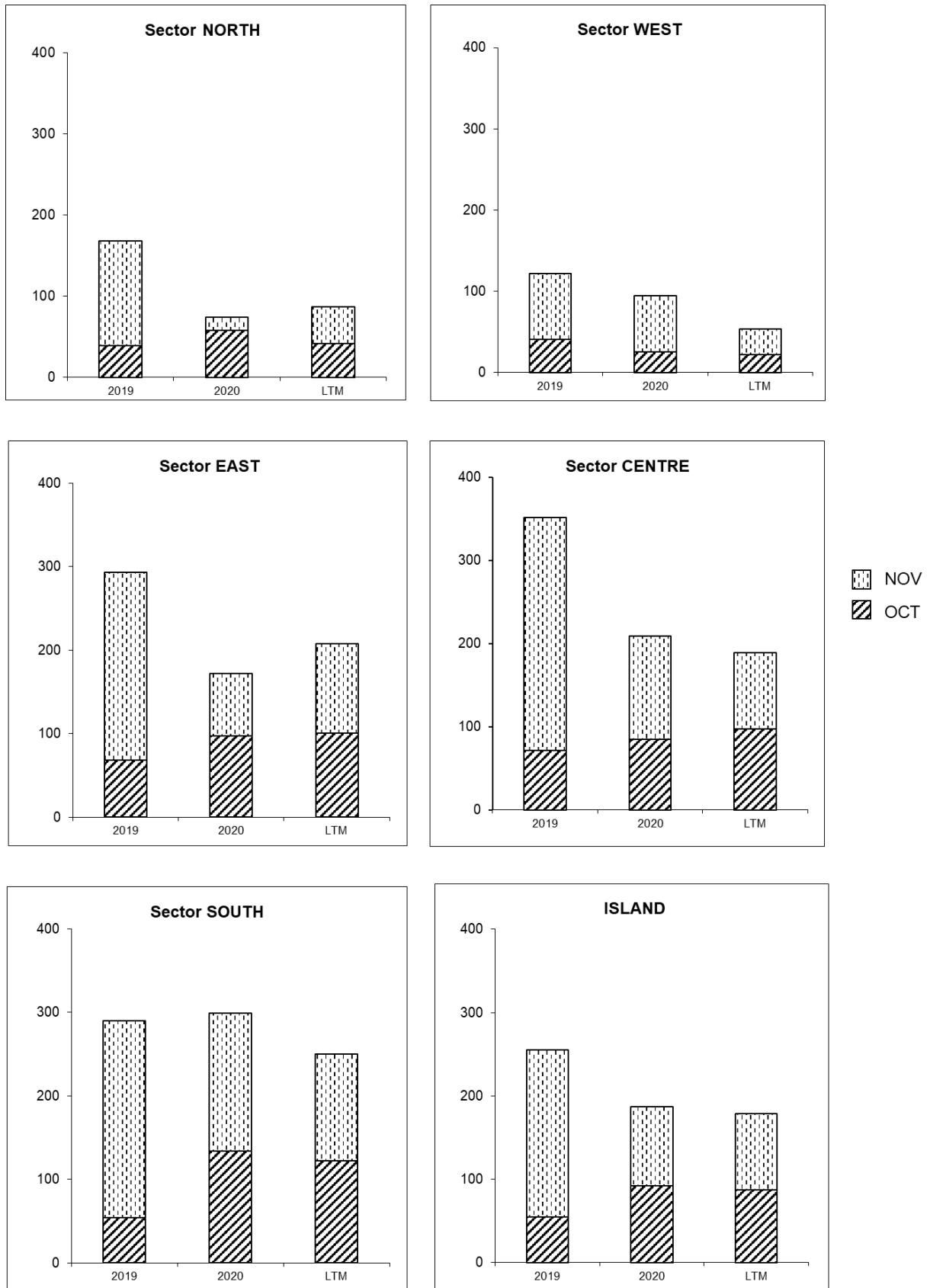
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October to November 2019 for crop 2020 compared to that of crop 2019 and the LTM

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2018	168 (193)	293 (141)	290 (116)	122 (230)	352 (186)	255 (142)
2019	74 (85)*	172 (83)	299 (120)	94 (177)	209 (111)	186 (104)
LTM	87	208	250	53	189	179

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: raw provisional data from Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October to November 2019 for the 2020 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2019 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Air Temperature and sunshine duration (Table 2)

Data on maximum and minimum temperatures together with sunshine duration recorded during the month of November 2019 on the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Air temperatures recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in November 2019

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Nov 2019	DevN*	Nov 2019	DevN	Nov 2019	% Normal
Ferret	30.3	+0.4	21.5	+2.3	230	88
Réduit	27.4	+0.8	19.8	+1.4	212	84
Belle Rive	26.6	+1.0	18.7	+2.0	195	90
Union Park	27.3	+1.9	19.8	+1.9	180	88

* Deviation from the Normal (1981-2010)

The maximum temperature recorded at all stations during November 2019 exceeded the normal, the difference ranging from 0.4°C at Ferret to 1.9°C at Union Park. Likewise, mean minimum temperature exceeded the normal by more than 1.4°C at all stations. Recorded bright sunshine during November 2019 was below normal at all stations and as a percentage of the normal it was 88% at both Ferret and Union Park, 84% at Réduit and 90% at Belle Rive.

2. CROP 2019

As at 30 November 2019, 25 469 ha representing 81% of miller-planters' land was harvested compared to 31 700 ha (96%) at the same period last year. Sector-wise and for miller-planters only, harvested area reached 83% in the North, 82% in the East, 81% in the South, 84% in the West and 68% in the Centre. On account of the fact that all harvested cane in the West sector are being processed in the three mills of the island, extraction rate for the West sector was computed as the weighted mean of the extraction rate based on the agreed ratio of consignments sent to the three mills. An analysis of cane productivity based on the harvest statistics for miller-planters follows.

2.1 Cane productivity (Table 3a)

Cane productivity for the island as at end-November 2019 was 80.9 TCH and exceeded that recorded in 2018 (70.5 TCH) by 10.4 TCH (14.8 %). Sector-wise, the West had the best cane productivity of 89.0 TCH followed by the South (82.4 TCH), the North (80.6 TCH), the East (79.5 TCH), and the Centre (66.7 TCH).

When compared to the same period last year, cane productivity recorded to-date was superior in all sectors with the difference ranging from 8.1 TCH in the North to 14.5 TCH in the Centre.

Table 3a. Cane productivity (TCH) as at end October and November for the 2018 and 2019 crops

Sector	End October		End November	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
North	73.3	80.9	72.5	80.6
East	68.9	80.9	67.8	79.5
South	71.3	83.3	72.5	82.4
West	80.2	90.1	80.2	89.0
Centre	53.9	69.4	52.2	66.7
Island	71.1	81.9	70.5	80.9

2.2 Extraction (Table 3b, Figure 2)

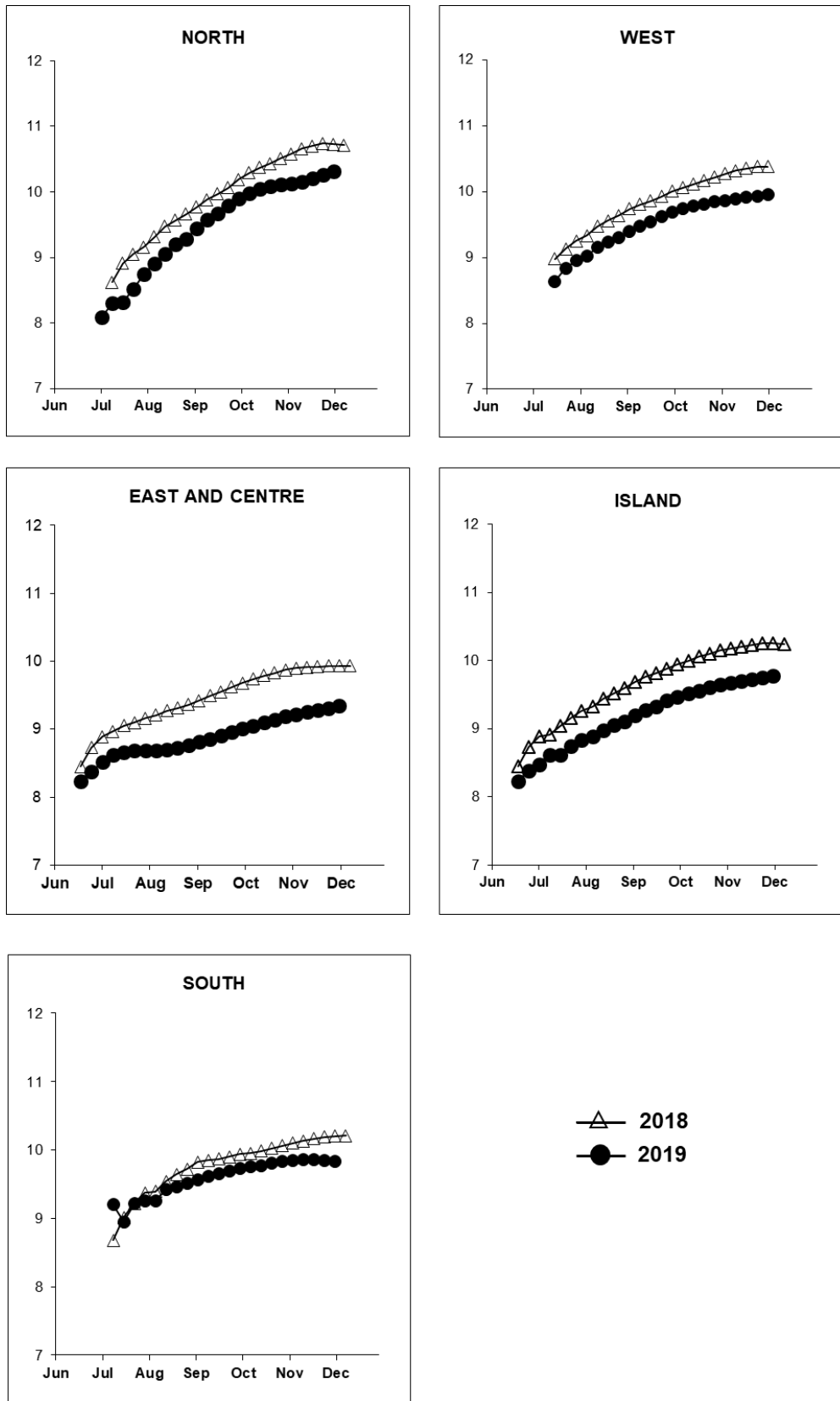
At end-November 2019, the recorded island extraction rate was 9.77% which was lower than that of the corresponding period in 2018 (10.25%) by 0.48°. Sector-wise, the extraction rate recorded was 10.31% in the North, 9.34% in the East-Centre, 9.83% in the South and 9.95% in the West. These figures were inferior to those of the corresponding period in 2018 by 0.42° in the North, 0.59° in the East-Centre, 0.37° in the South and 0.43° in the West.

A slight increase in extraction rate was noted from end-October 2019 to end-November 2019 in all sectors except in the South. On average for the island, the increase in extraction rate was 0.10° in 2019 and was comparable to the 0.08° obtained in 2018.

Table 2b. Extraction rate (%) as at end October and November for 2018 and 2019 crops

Sector	End October		End November	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
North	10.58	10.13	10.73	10.31
East-Centre	9.90	9.22	9.93	9.34
South	10.10	9.85	10.20	9.83
West	10.27	9.87	10.38	9.95
Island	10.17	9.67	10.25	9.77

Figure 2. Evolution of extraction rate (%) for the 2018 and 2019 crops



2.3 Sugar productivity (Table 2c)

The sugar productivity of 7.90 TSH recorded over the island at the end of November 2019 is still higher than that of the corresponding period in 2018 (7.23 TSH) by 0.67 tonne (9.3%). Sector-wise sugar productivity reached 8.31 TSH in the North, 7.24 TSH in the East-Centre, 8.10 TSH in the South and 8.86 TSH in the West. The increment in sugar productivity at end-November 2019 compared to that of end-November 2018 was 0.53 in the North, 0.77 in the East-Centre, 0.70 TSH in the South and 0.54 TSH in the West.

Table 2c. Sugar productivity (TSH) as at end October and November for 2018 and 2019 crops

Sector	End October		End November	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
North	7.76	8.20	7.78	8.31
East-Centre	6.57	7.29	6.47	7.24
South	7.20	8.21	7.40	8.10
West	8.24	8.89	8.32	8.86
Island	7.23	7.92	7.23	7.90

2.4 Concluding remarks

Rainfall recorded during November 2019 was below normal in the North and East and it was above the normal in the South and West. Moreover, all MSIRI stations recorded below normal solar radiation coupled with above normal maximum and minimum temperatures. Thus, these conditions were not conducive for optimum sucrose accumulation as indicated by the slight increment in extraction rate during the month of November.

With 81% of the area of miller planters' land already harvested, cane productivity at island level in 2019 is higher than that of 2018 by 14.8%. Although extraction rate at end-November 2019 is still lagging behind that of last year by 4.7%, the island sugar productivity is higher than that of November 2018 by 9.3%. Based on these harvest data, the cane and sugar productivity in 2019 are better than those of crop 2018.

3.0 CROP 2020

Weather conditions that prevailed during November 2019 in the South and West were favourable for regrowth of harvested fields and less favourable in the other sectors due to deficient rainfall. It is necessary that good cultural practices are adopted for the good development of the new crop.