

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2020

16 February 2021

### SUGAR CANE CROP 2021

**Status: End January 2021**

#### 1. CLIMATE

##### 1.1 Rainfall (Table 1a, 1b, Figure 1)

Rainfall recorded over the sugar cane area of the island in January 2021 was 172 mm and represented 64% of the long-term mean (LTM). Below normal rainfall was recorded in all sectors with 143 mm in the North, 184 mm in the East, 180 mm in the South, 67 mm in the West and 274 mm in the Centre.

Rainfall for the period October 2020 to January 2021 cumulated to 297 mm in the North, 630 mm in the East, 657 mm in the South, 99 mm in the West and 773 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall represented 78%, 85%, 87%, 29% and 108% of the respective long-term mean. The island average of 553 mm for this period represented 85% of the long-term mean (628 mm).

**Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of January for crops 2020, 2021 and the long term mean (LTM)**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2020</b>	334 (188)	423 (136)	350 (114)	249 (132)	414 (128)	364 (135)
<b>2021</b>	<b>143</b> (80)*	<b>184</b> (59)	<b>180</b> (59)	<b>67</b> (36)	<b>274</b> (85)	<b>172</b> (64)
<b>LTM</b>	178	310	306	188	324	270

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM (1981-2010)

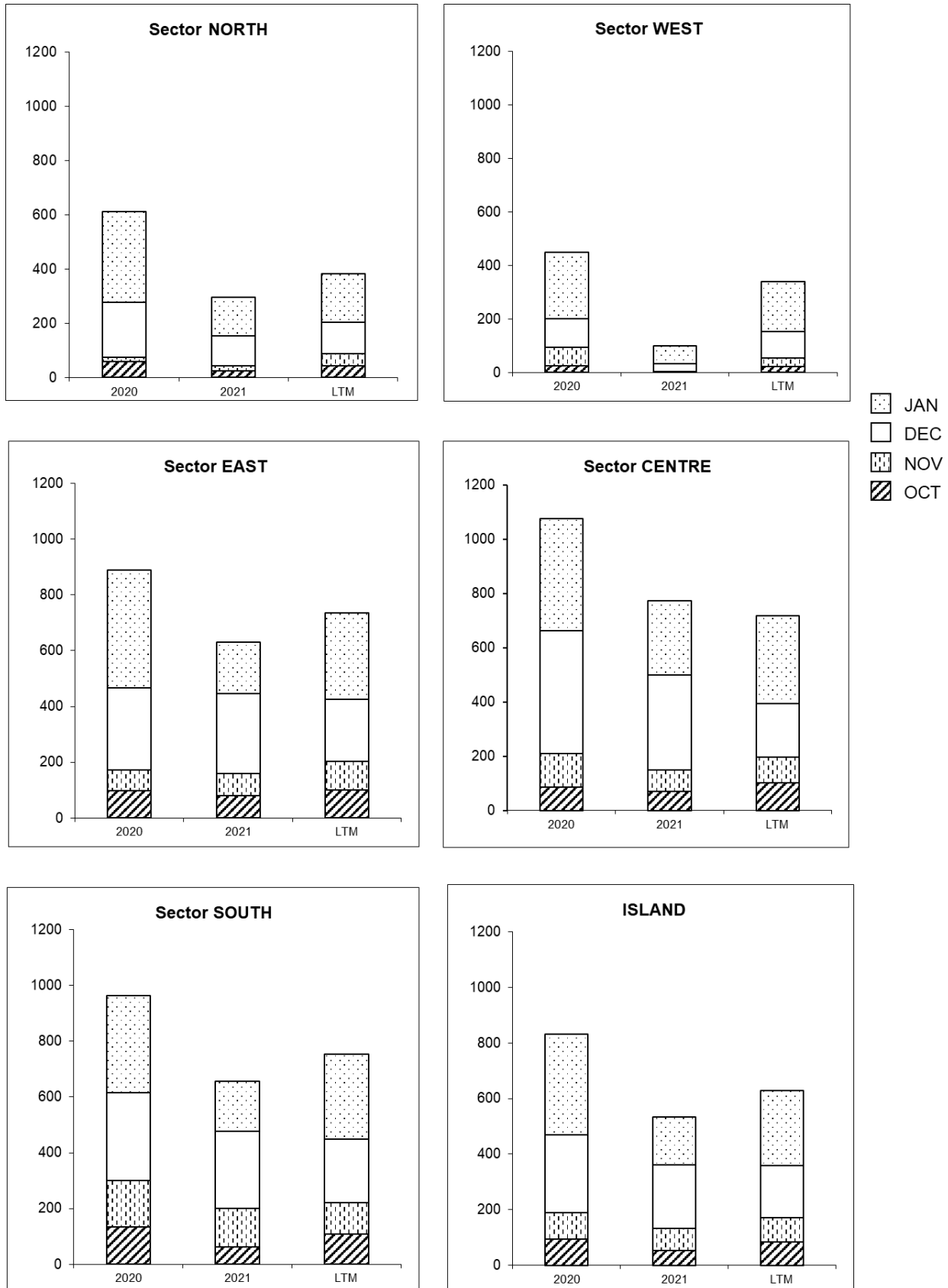
**Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2020 to January 2021 for crop 2021 compared to that of crop 2020 and the LTM**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2020</b>	612 (160)	889 (120)	965 (128)	450 (132)	1076 (150)	832 (132)
<b>2021</b>	<b>297</b> (78)*	<b>630</b> (85)	<b>657</b> (87)	<b>99</b> (29)	<b>773</b> (108)	<b>533</b> (85)
<b>LTM</b>	383	742	754	340	718	628

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2020 to January 2021 for the 2021 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2020 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 2021 at the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

**Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hours recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in January 2021**

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Jan 2021	DevN*	Jan 2021	DevN	Jan 2021	% Normal
Ferret	30.5	-0.7	23.1	+0.9	274	112
Réduit	28.2	-0.2	21.4	-0.2	253	109
Union Park	28.5	+1.0	21.3	+0.6	200	108
Belle Rive	25.9	-1.6	20.2	+0.6	197	101

Mean maximum temperature was below normal at Ferret, Réduit and Belle Rive but above normal at Union Park. The mean minimum temperature exceeded the normal at all stations except at Réduit, where it was slightly below normal. Sunshine duration during January 2021 was above normal at all stations with 112% at Ferret, 109% at Réduit, 108% at Union Park and 101% at Belle Rive.

## 2.0 STALK HEIGHT (Table 3a, 3b)

Stalk height was measured during the last week of January 2021 at 48 sites in the five sugar cane sectors of the island. These selected sites are representative of the various agro-climatic zones, varieties and crop categories. The measurements were compared to those of the corresponding period in January 2020 and to the normal referred as the mean of the five best cane yielding crops during the period 2011 to 2020.

### 2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2021 was 20.3 cm in the North, 44.3 cm in the East, 38.3 cm in the South, 17.6 cm in the West and 32.1 cm in the Centre. These growth values were lower than those recorded at the same period in 2020 in all sectors. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth was slightly higher than the normal in the South and Centre, but lagged behind the normal in the other sectors by 14.6 cm in the North, 0.9 cm in the East and 21.1 cm in the West, representing respectively 58.1%, 98.1% and 45.5% of the normal.

The island stalk elongation of 31.3 cm in January 2021 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2020 (46.8 cm) by 15.5 cm and the normal (37.3 cm) by 6.0 cm.

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

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during January			January 2021 as % of	
	2021	2020	Normal	2020	Normal
North	20.3	48.9	34.9	41.5	58.1
East	44.3	49.2	45.2	90.0	98.1
South	38.3	44.9	36.9	85.3	103.7
West	17.6	45.4	38.7	38.8	45.5
Centre	32.1	40.0	31.3	80.3	102.5
<b>Island</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>83.9</b>

## 2.2 Total stalk height (Table 3b and Figure 2)

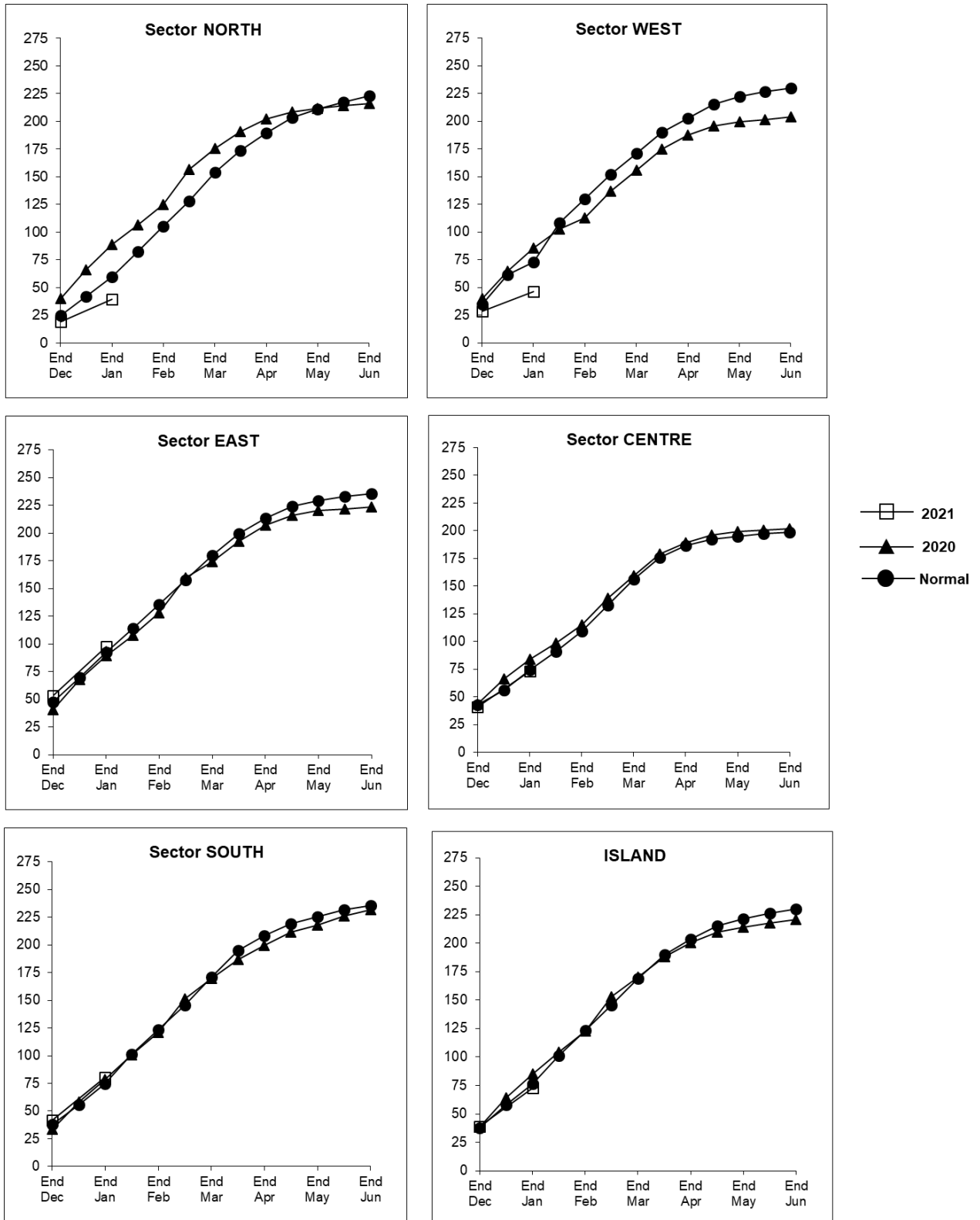
Total stalk height at end January 2021 amounted to 39.3 cm in the North, 97.4 cm in the East, 80.2 cm in the South, 46.1 cm in the West and 73.3 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 72.7 cm. Compared to end-January 2020, stalk height to-date was higher by 7.8 cm in the East and 2.0 cm in the South. In sectors North, West and Centre, it lagged behind by 49.4 cm, 39.2 cm and 10.5 cm, respectively. Total stalk height at end-January 2021 was above normal by 4.8 cm in the East and 5.6 cm in the South but was below normal by 20.4 cm in the North, 27.1 cm in the West and 1.1 cm in the Centre.

At island level, the total stalk height of 72.7 cm at end of January 2021 was below the 85.2 cm recorded in January 2020 and the 76.5 cm for the normal.

**Table 3b. Stalk height at end-January.**

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-January			End-January 2021 as % of	
	2021	2020	Normal	2020	Normal
North	39.3	88.7	59.7	44.3	65.8
East	97.4	89.6	92.6	108.7	105.2
South	80.2	78.2	74.6	102.6	107.5
West	46.1	85.3	73.2	54.0	62.9
Centre	73.3	83.8	74.4	87.5	98.6
<b>Island</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>95.0</b>

**Figure 2. Stalk height at end- January 2021**



### **3. CROP 2021**

The month of January 2021 has been relatively dry in the North, West and lowland areas of the other sectors which resulted into slow cane growth and development. This is reflected in the stalk elongation data measured in these sectors, which lagged behind those of 2020 at the same period and 2021 figures for the month of January are considered among the lowest recorded since 2001. At this stage of growth and based on total stalk height observed, crop 2021 is below normal especially in sectors North and West, representing only 66% and 63% of the normal, respectively.