

MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SUGAR CANE CROP 2022

Status: End January 2022

1. CLIMATE

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

Rainfall recorded during January 2022 over the island amounted to 317 mm representing 109% of the long-term mean (LTM - 292 mm) for the sugar cane areas. Above normal rainfall was recorded in sectors East with 378 mm, South with 423 mm and Centre with 405 mm. The North and West sectors recorded 145 mm and 79 mm of rainfall, which were below their long-term monthly mean rainfall.

The cumulative rainfall for the period October 2021 to January 2022 amounted to 384 mm in the North, 768 mm in the East, 741 mm in the South, 189 mm in the West and 789 mm in the Centre, and represented 101%, 101%, 100%, 54% and 99% of the respective LTM. The island average of 626 mm for this period represented 98% of the LTM (637 mm).

Table 1a. Rainfall (mm) for the month of January for crops 2021, 2022 and the long term mean (LTM)

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2021	143 (75)	184 (53)	180 (56)	67 (34)	274 (76)	172 (59)
2022	145 (76)*	378 (110)	423 (131)	79 (41)	405 (113)	317 (109)
LTM	191	344	324	195	359	292

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

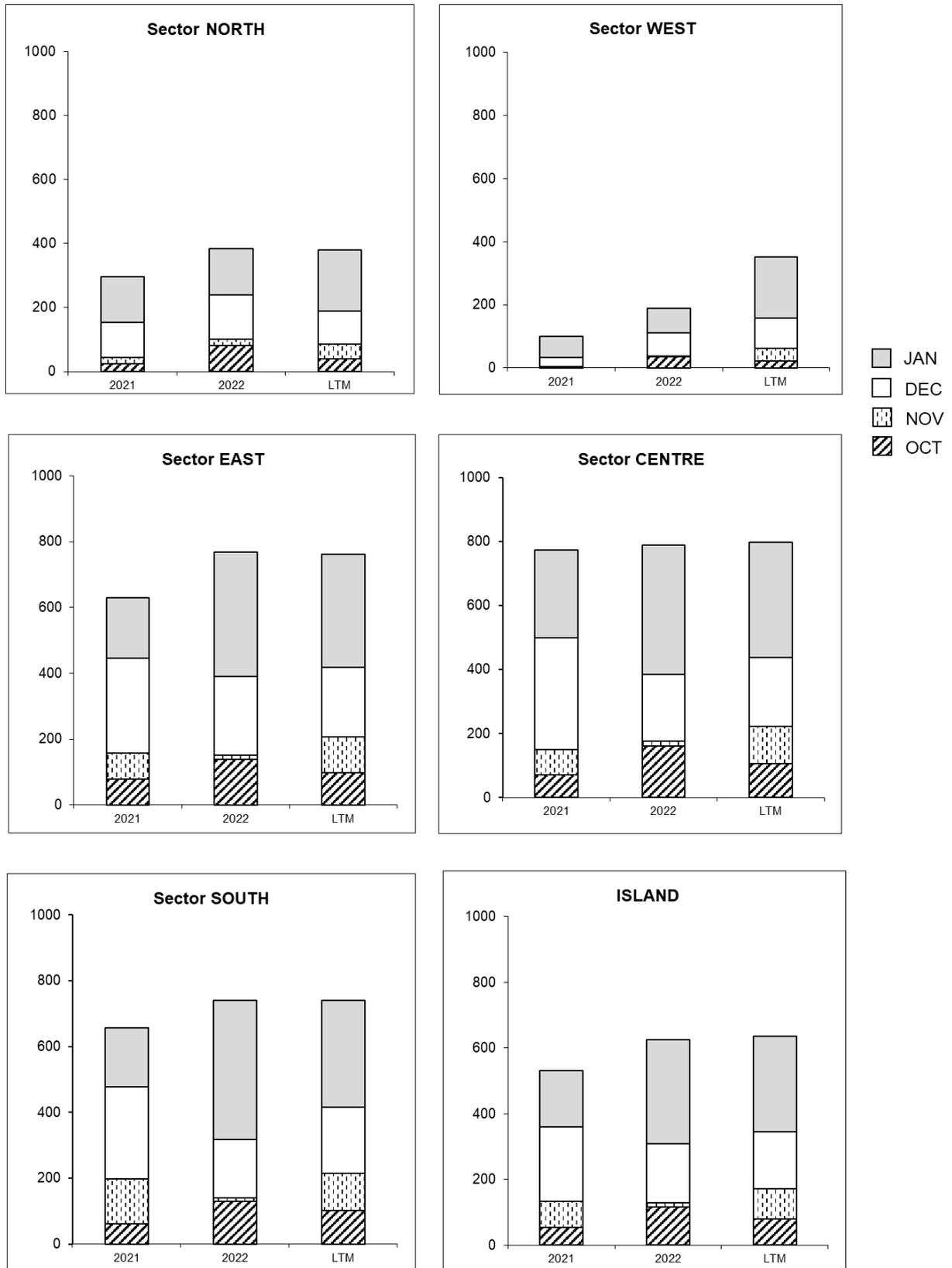
Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2021 to January 2022 for crop 2022 compared to that of crop 2021 and the LTM

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
2021	297 (78)	630 (83)	657 (89)	99 (28)	773 (97)	533 (84)
2022	384 (101)*	768 (101)	741 (100)	189 (54)	789 (99)	626 (98)
LTM	379	761	740	352	797	637

* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2021 to January 2022 for the 2022 crop compared to the corresponding period of the 2021 crop and to the long term mean (LTM).



1.2 Air Temperature and sunshine hours (Table 2)

The air temperature and sunshine duration data recorded during the month of January 2022 on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

Table 2. Air temperature and sunshine hours recorded on MSIRI agro-meteorological stations in January 2022

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Jan 2022	DevN*	Jan 2022	DevN*	Jan 2022	% Normal
Ferret	30.9	-0.4	22.8	+0.4	254	104
Réduit	28.5	-0.1	21.7	+0.2	239	103
Belle Rive	26.5	-1.2	20.0	-0.2	175	89
Union Park	28.6	+0.6	21.6	+0.6	177	96

* Deviation from the Normal (1991-2020)

Mean maximum temperature was below the normal at Ferret and Belle Rive, was comparable to the normal at Réduit, but exceeded the normal at Union Park. The mean minimum temperature was slightly below the normal at Belle Rive and was above normal at Ferret, Réduit and Union Park. Recorded bright sunshine, expressed as a percentage of the normal, was 104% at Ferret, 103% at Réduit, 89% at Belle Rive and 96% at Union Park.

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

Stalk height was measured during the last week of January 2022 at 54 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 2021 and to the normal, referred to as the mean of the five best cane yielding crops during the period 2012 to 2021.

2.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

Stalk elongation during the month of January 2022 was 30.8 cm in the North, 48.4 cm in the East, 35.2 cm in the South, 34.7 cm in the West and 34.2 cm in the Centre. These growth values were higher than those recorded at the same period in 2021 in all sectors except in the South. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth was higher in the East by 3.2 cm, comparable in the Centre, but lagged behind the normal by 9.2 cm in the North, 2.6 cm in the South and 4.0 cm in the West.

The island stalk elongation of 38.1 cm in January 2022 exceeded that of the corresponding period in 2021 (33.3 cm) by 4.8 cm, but was slightly below the normal (38.9 cm) by 0.8 cm.

Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of January 2022

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during January 2022			January 2022 as % of	
	2022	2021	Normal	2021	Normal
North	30.8	20.3	40.0	151.7	77.0
East	48.4	44.3	45.2	109.3	107.2
South	35.2	38.3	37.8	91.9	93.1
West	34.7	17.6	38.7	197.2	89.7
Centre	34.2	32.1	34.4	106.5	99.4
Island	38.1	33.3	38.9	114.4	97.9

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

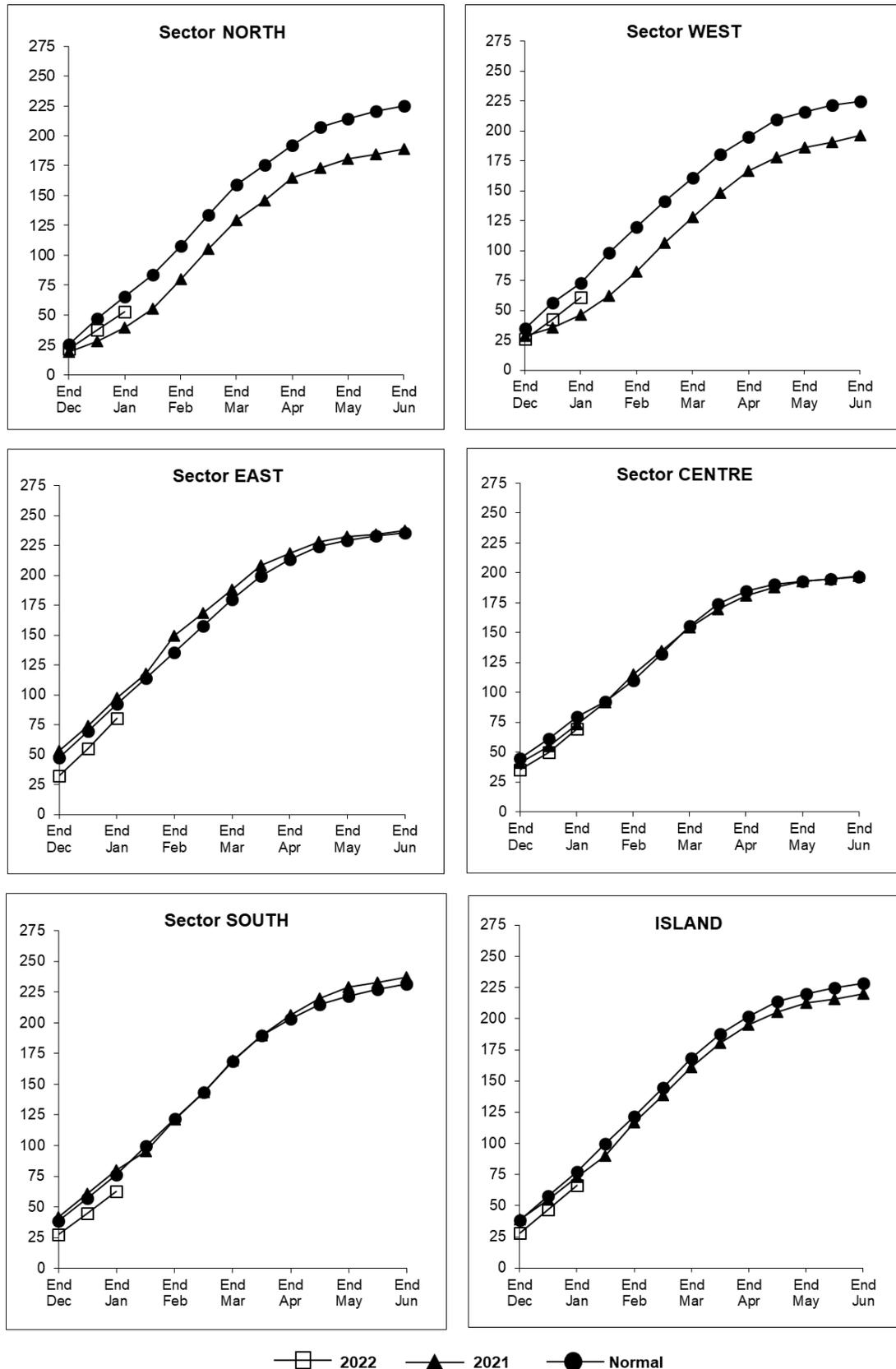
Total stalk height at end January 2022 reached 52.7 cm in the North, 80.5 cm in the East, 62.5 cm in the South, 60.7 cm in the West and 69.3 cm in the Centre giving an island average of 66.4 cm. Compared to end-January 2021, stalk height to-date was higher by 13.4 cm in the North and by 14.6 cm in the West. In sectors East, South and Centre, it lagged behind by 16.9 cm, 17.7 cm and 4.0 cm, respectively. Total stalk height at end-January 2022 was inferior to the normal by 12.8 cm in the North, 12.1 cm in the East, 13.7 cm in the South, 12.5 cm in the West and 10.2 cm in the Centre.

At island level, the total stalk height of 66.4 cm at end of January 2022 was lagging behind that of last year by 6.3 cm and the normal by 10.9 cm.

Table 3b. Total stalk height at end-January 2022

Sectors	Stalk height (cm) at end-January 2022			End-January 2022 as % of	
	2022	2021	Normal	2021	Normal
North	52.7	39.3	65.5	134.1	80.5
East	80.5	97.4	92.6	82.6	87.0
South	62.5	80.2	76.2	77.9	82.1
West	60.7	46.1	73.2	131.7	82.9
Centre	69.3	73.3	79.5	94.5	87.2
Island	66.4	72.7	77.3	91.3	85.8

Figure 2. Stalk height at end-January 2022



3. CROP 2022

The month of January 2022 was characterised by above normal rainfall in most sectors except in the North and West, below normal maximum temperature and solar radiation ranging from normal in the low altitude areas to below normal in the high altitude areas. These conditions favoured growth, but not to the optimal rate. The elongation rate during January 2022 was close to the normal in the Centre and above normal in the East but lagged behind the normal in the other three sectors. As such total stalk height lagged behind the normal in all sectors ranging from 81% in the North to 87% in the Centre and the East.