

# MAURITIUS CANE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

## MAURITIUS SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ref A 1/2020

14 March 2022

### SUGAR CANE CROP 2022

**Status: End February 2022**

#### 1. CLIMATE

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

The island's average rainfall for the month of February 2022 amounted to 366 mm over the sugar cane areas and represented 109% of the long-term mean (336 mm). Rainfall in February 2022 was above the normal with 222 mm in the North, 425 mm in the South, 318 mm in the West and 581 mm in the Centre. The Eastern sector recorded 358 mm of rainfall and represented 90% of the normal rainfall for the month. The rainfall in all sectors was attributed mainly to the passage of the two intense tropical cyclones Batsirai and Emnati during the month of February.

The cumulative rainfall for the period October 2021 to February 2022 was 606 mm in the North, 1126 mm in the East, 1166 mm in the South, 507 mm in the West and 1370 mm in the Centre. These cumulated rainfall figures accounted for 102%, 97%, 105%, 92% and 113% of the respective long-term mean. The island average of 992 mm for this period represented 102% of the long-term mean (972 mm).

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

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2021</b>	96 (44)	286 (72)	132 (35)	43 (21)	204 (49)	165 (49)
<b>2022</b>	<b>222</b> (102)*	<b>358</b> (90)	<b>425</b> (114)	<b>318</b> (157)	<b>581</b> (138)	<b>366</b> (109)
<b>LTM</b>	218	400	374	202	420	336

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

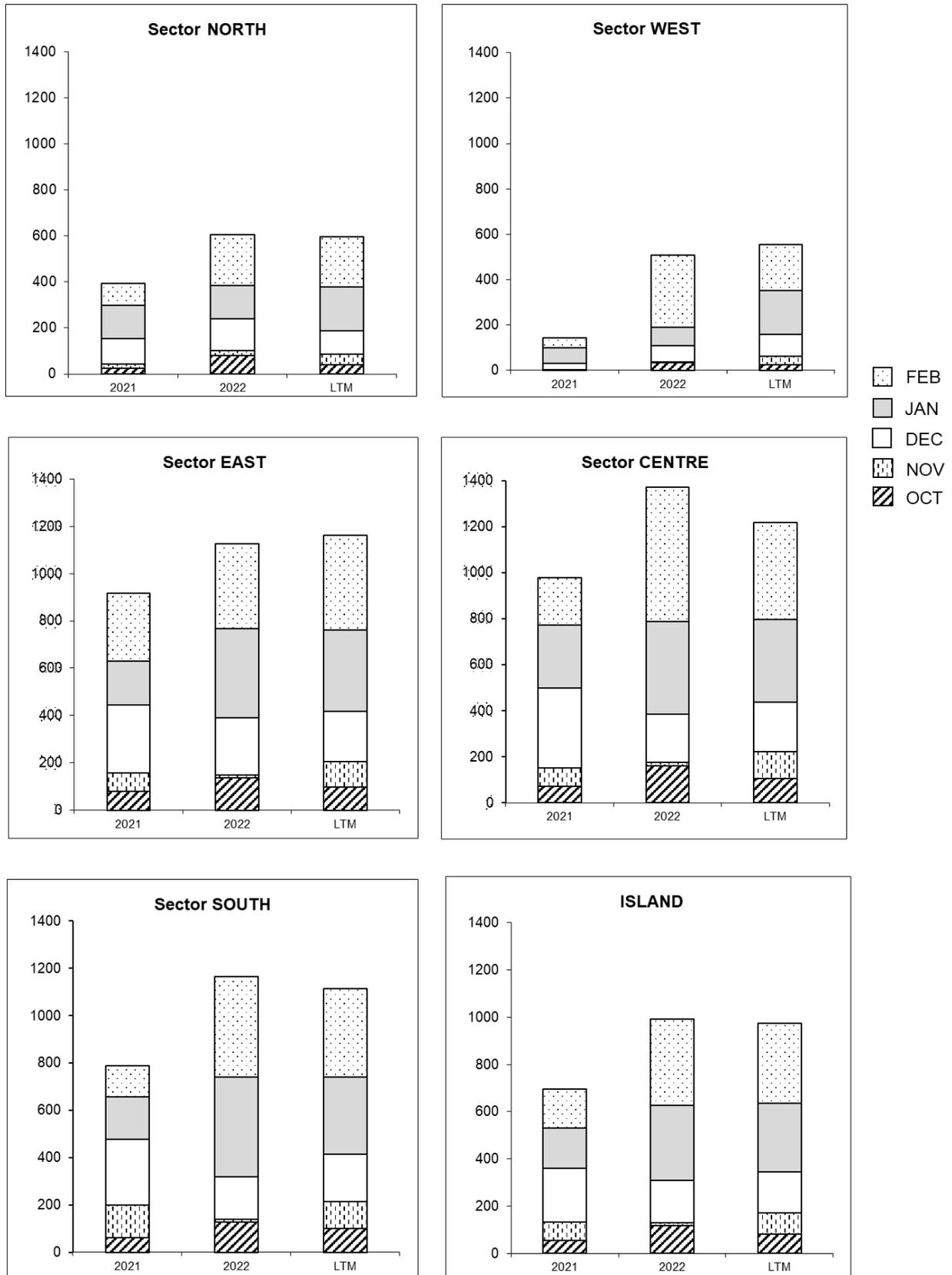
**Table 1b. Cumulative rainfall (mm) from October 2021 to February 2022 for crop 2022 compared to that of crop 2021 and the LTM**

	North	East	South	West	Centre	Island
<b>2021</b>	393 (66)	916 (79)	789 (71)	142 (26)	977 (80)	697 (72)
<b>2022</b>	<b>606</b> (102)*	<b>1126</b> (97)	<b>1166</b> (105)	<b>507</b> (92)	<b>1370</b> (113)	<b>992</b> (102)
<b>LTM</b>	597	1161	1114	554	1217	972

\* figures in brackets are % of LTM

[Source: Mauritius Meteorological Services]

**Figure 1. Monthly rainfall (mm) for the period October 2021 to February 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 that prevailed during the month of February 2022 at the four MSIRI agro-meteorological stations are given below.

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

Stations	Maximum (°C)		Minimum (°C)		Sunshine hours	
	Feb 2022	DevN*	Feb 2022	DevN*	Feb 2022	% Normal
<b>Ferret</b>	30.5	-0.4	23.3	+0.8	195	91
<b>Réduit</b>	27.5	-0.7	22.4	+0.5	176	85
<b>Union Park</b>	27.9	+0.5	22.4	+1.4	134	88
<b>Belle Rive</b>	26.2	-1.2	21.5	+1.5	118	72

\* Deviation from the Normal (1991-2020)

Mean maximum temperature was lagging behind the normal at all stations except at Union Park while the mean minimum temperature was higher than the normal at all stations. The sunshine duration recorded during month of February 2022 was well below the normal representing 91% of the normal at Ferret, 85% at Réduit, 88% at Union Park and 72% at Belle Rive.

## 2. CYCLONES DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022

Two intense tropical cyclones passed near Mauritius during the month of February 2022. The first one, Batsirai, was in the vicinity of Mauritius from 31<sup>st</sup> January till 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. It passed to its nearest point of Mauritius at a distance of 130 km to the North North West of Grand Baie on 2nd February 2022. The second one, Emnati, was in the vicinity of Mauritius from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and passed its closest distance at about 320 km to the north-north-west of Grand Baie on 20 February. Active clouds bands associated with these cyclones brought intermittent rain in many parts of the island and also gusts exceeding 120 km/h in some regions. Surveys carried out after the passage of these cyclones indicated that in general, rainfall received was beneficial for the sugarcane crop 2022. No major physical damage to the crop was observed, except for mild leaf damage and slight lodging in exposed fields of long season plantation and early harvested canes.

## 3. STALK HEIGHT (Tables 3a and 3b)

During the last week of February 2022, stalk height measurement was taken 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 February 2021 and to the normal, referred to as the mean of the five best cane yielding crops during the period 2012 to 2021.

### 3.1 Stalk elongation (Table 3a)

During the month of February 2022 stalk elongation was 35.7 cm in the North, 30.2 cm in the East, 36.7 cm in the South, 31.5 cm in the West and 22.0 cm in the Centre. These growth values were lower than those recorded at the same period in 2021 in all sectors. Compared to the normal for the corresponding period, growth was lagging behind by 12.8 cm in both the North and the East, 7.7 cm in the South, 14.7 cm in the West and 14.9 cm in the Centre.

The island stalk elongation of 32.8 cm in February 2022 was inferior to that of the corresponding period in 2021 (43.8 cm) by 11.0 cm and the normal (42.1 cm) by 9.3 cm.

**Table 3a. Stalk elongation during the month of February 2022**

Sectors	Stalk elongation (cm) during February 2022			February 2022 as % of	
	2022	2021	Normal	2021	Normal
North	35.7	40.8	48.5	87.5	73.6
East	30.2	52.3	43.0	57.7	70.3
South	36.7	40.9	44.4	89.7	82.6
West	31.5	36.5	46.2	86.3	68.1
Centre	22.0	41.7	36.9	52.8	59.6
<b>Island</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>77.8</b>

### 3.2 Cumulative Elongation (Table 3b)

Cumulative stalk growth from end-December 2021 to end-February 2022 reached 66.5 cm in the North, 78.6 cm in the East, 71.9 cm in the South, 66.2 cm in the West and 56.2 cm in the Centre. These figures compared to the same period last year were higher by 5.4 cm in the North and 11.3 cm in the West, whereas in the other sectors they were lower by 18.0 cm in the East, 7.3 cm in the South and 17.6 cm in the Centre. For the same period, cumulative growth lagged behind the normal in all sectors, the difference ranging from 9.5 cm in the East to 22.0 cm in the North. Island-wise the cumulative elongation of 70.9 cm in February 2022 was lower than that of the 2021 crop (77.2 cm) by 8.1% and the normal (81.0 cm) by 12.5%.

**Table 3b. Cumulative elongation at end-February 2022.**

Sectors	Cumulative elongation (cm) at end- February			End-February 2022 as % of	
	2022	2021	Normal	2021	Normal
North	66.5	61.1	88.5	108.8	75.2
East	78.6	96.6	88.1	81.4	89.2
South	71.9	79.2	82.2	90.8	87.4
West	66.2	54.9	84.9	120.6	78.0
Centre	56.2	73.8	71.3	76.2	78.8
Island	70.9	77.2	81.0	91.9	87.5

### 3.3 Total stalk height (Table 3c and Figure 2)

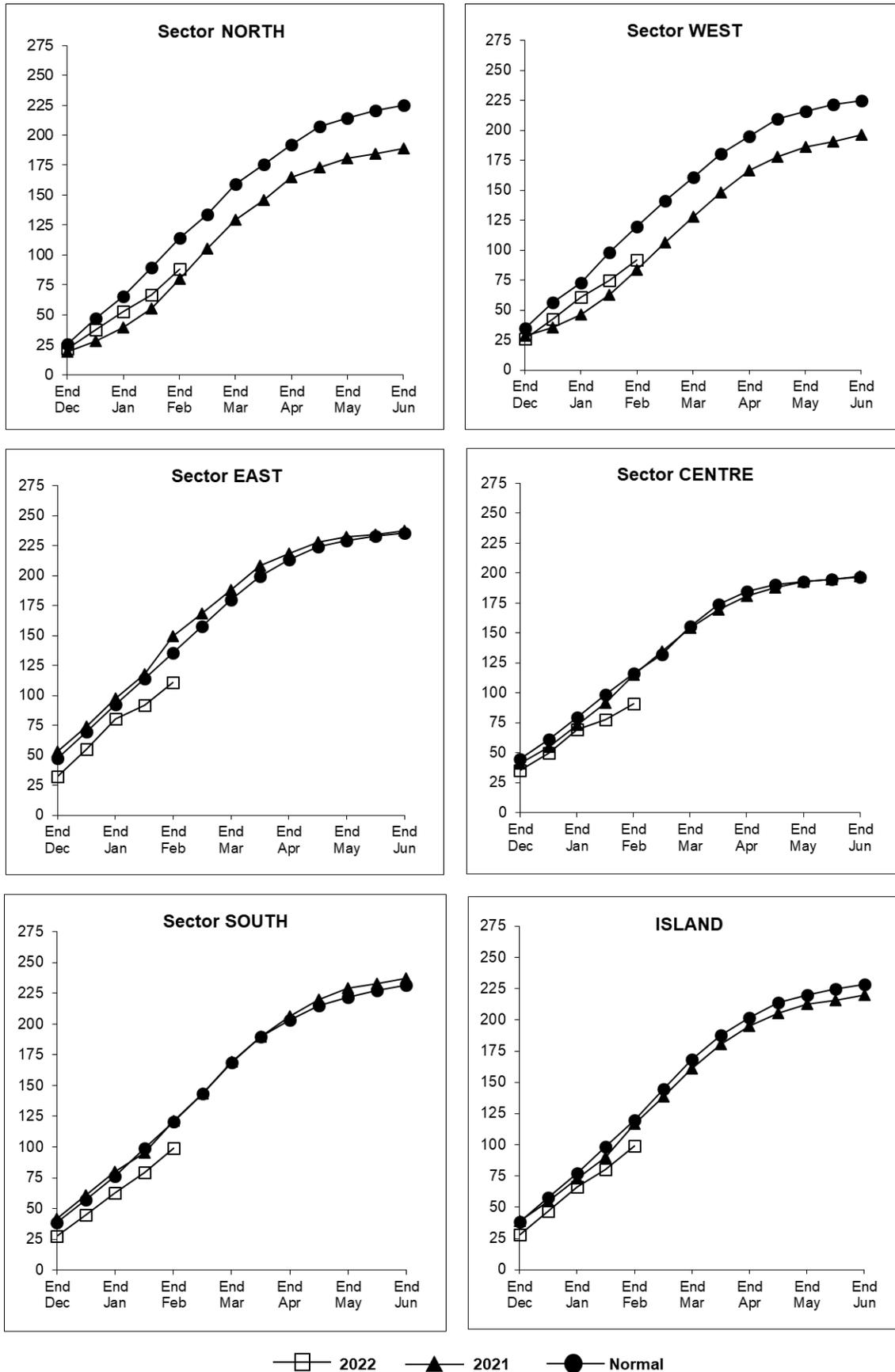
Total stalk height at end February 2022 was 88.4 cm in the North, 110.7 cm in the East, 99.2 cm in the South, 92.2 cm in the West and 91.3 cm in the Centre, giving an island average of 99.2 cm. Compared to end-February 2021, stalk height to-date was higher in the North and West by 8.3 cm and 8.8 cm, respectively. In the other sectors it lagged behind by 39.0 cm in the East, 21.9 cm in the South and 23.7 cm in the Centre. Total stalk height at end-February 2022 was inferior to the normal by 25.6 cm in the North, 24.9 cm in the East, 21.4 cm in the South, 27.3 cm in the West and 25.1 cm in the Centre.

At island level, the total stalk height of 99.2 cm at end of February 2022 was lagging behind that of last year by 17.6 cm and the normal by 20.3 cm.

**Table 3c. Total stalk height at end-February 2022**

Sectors	Total stalk height (cm) at end- February 2022			End-February 2022 as % of	
	2022	2021	Normal	2021	Normal
North	88.4	80.1	114.0	110.4	77.6
East	110.7	149.7	135.6	73.9	81.7
South	99.2	121.1	120.6	81.9	82.3
West	92.2	83.4	119.5	110.6	77.2
Centre	91.3	115.0	116.4	79.4	78.4
<b>Island</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>83.0</b>

**Figure 2. Stalk height at end-February 2022**



#### **4. CROP 2022**

The month of February 2022 was characterised by the passage of two intense tropical cyclones resulting in above normal rainfall, lower maximum temperature and below normal solar radiation. These conditions did not favour optimum crop growth and as such cane elongation rate during the month over the island was 78% of the normal, while total stalk height at the end of February amounted to only 83% of the normal.

Should favourable climatic conditions prevail until the end of the growing season, deficit in growth may be recovered, assuming that growers have completed all recommended cultural practices such as fertiliser application in the fields.