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Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For February, March & April 2025 and March to May 2025

Experimental

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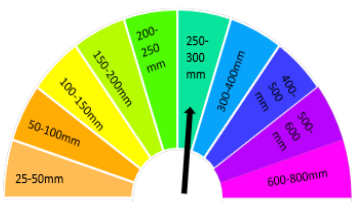
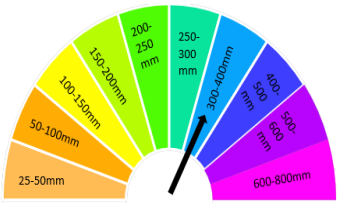
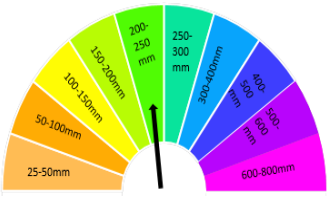
Key Messages



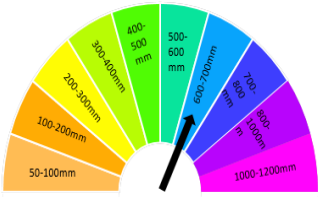
February 2025



March 2025



April 2025



March to May 2025

English

Weather Outlook

The Fiji Meteorological Services forecasts high rainfall (200mm-400mm) across sugarcane regions in both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu for the upcoming month. January saw temperatures consistently exceeding 30° C, and similar conditions may persist.

Recommended Actions for Farmers

a) Land Preparation and Planting

- Begin land preparation activities when field and weather conditions are suitable, taking advantage of the wet period.
- Conduct soil sampling in fields designated for planting.
- Secure approved and new varieties of seed cane early.
- Avoid knife weeding on secured seed cane to protect eye-buds.
- Maintain proper seedbed drainage to prevent water logging conditions and subsequent crop stress.

b) Weed Management

The current combination of warm temperatures and high moisture levels will likely accelerate weed growth and seed dispersal. This requires immediate attention as weed infestation can significantly impact sugarcane germination, crop development and overall yield. Practice integrated weed management approach as below;

i. Chemical control (Herbicides)

- Apply appropriate herbicides according to weed types present
- Follow recommended application rates and timing

ii. Manual control (trashing)

- Implement manual removal of weeds.
- Focus particularly on weeds that have escaped herbicide treatment.
- Remove weeds before they produce seeds to prevent further spread.

iii. Cultural practices

- Maintain appropriate row spacing to promote canopy closure.
- Keep field edges and drainage areas clear of weeds.
- Time cultivation operations to disrupt weed growth cycles.

Remember - address weed issues promptly before they become severe and consider weather conditions when planning control measures

c) Quality Assurance

Contact FSC farm advisors or your nearest SRIF office for:

- Seed cane inspection
- Variety purity verification
- Additional farming guidance

General Advsiory

Monitor weather forecasts regularly to optimize timing of farm activities including planting, fertilization and weed control. Implement integrated weed management practices together with maintaining proper drainage systems throughout the fields.

For further assistance, please contact SRIF: 8921839

Hindi Version

Mausam ka Poorvaanumaan

Nadi mausami daftar ne agle maheene mein Viti Levu aur Vanua Levu ke ganna kshetron mein bhaaree varsha (200mm-400mm) ka anumaan lagaaya hai. January mein taapamaan lagaataar 30°C se adhik raha hai, aur aisee hee sthiti banee rah sakatee hai.

Kisaanon ke liye anushansit kaary

a) Bhoomi kee Taiyaaree aur Ropan

- Jab khet aur mausam kee sthiti upayukt ho, toh bhoomi taiyaar karane kee gatividhiyaan shuroo karen, varsha avadhi ka laabh uthaen.
- Ropan ke liye nirdisht kheton mein mittee ka namoona len.
- Beej ganne aur naee kismon ko jaldee se surakshit karen.
- Ganne kee kaliyon kee suraksha ke liye surakshit beej ganne par chaakoo se niraee-gudaee na karen.
- Jalabharaav kee sthiti aur usake parinaamasvaroop phasal par padane vaale tanaav ko rokane ke liye uchit beej jal nikaasee banaye rakhen.

b) Ghass Prabandhan

Garm taapamaan aur uchch namee ke star ka vartamaan sanyojan sambhavatah ghaas kee vrddhi aur beej phailaav ko tej karega. Iss par tatkaal dhyaan dene kee aavashyakata hai kyonki ghaas sankraman ganne ke ankuran, phasal vikaas aur sabhi upaj ko mahatvapoorn roop se prabhaavit kar sakata hai. Neeche diye gae anusaar ekeekrt ghaas prabandhan drshtikon ka abhyaas karen;

i. Raasaayanik niyantran (Ganne kee davai)

- Maujood ghaas ke prakaar ke anusaar upayukt ganne kee davai ka prayog karen.
- Anushansit aavedan aur samay ka paalan karen.

ii. Mainual niyantran (kachara daalana)

- Ghaas ko haath se hataana laagoo karen.
- Vishesh roop se un ghaas par dhyaan den jo ganne kee davai ke upachaar se bach gae hain.
- Ghaas ke beej banne se pahale hee hata den taaki aage phailane se roka ja sake.

iii. Saanskrtik prathaen

- Ganne ko badhaava dene ke liye uchit pankti jagha banaye rakhen.
- Khet ke kinaaron aur jal nikaasee vaale kshetron ko ghaas se mukt rakhen.
- Ghaas vrddhi ko baadhit karane ke liye samay par khete ka sanchaalan karen.

Yaad rakhen - ghaas kee samasya ka samaadhaan gambheer hone se pahale hee kar len aur niyantran upaayon kee yojana banaate samay mausam kee sthiti par bhee vichaar karen.

c) Gunavatta Aashvaasan

FSC phaarm salaahakaaron ya apane nikat ke SRIF daftar se sampark karen:

- Beej ganna nireekshan
- Ganne ke kism kee shuddhata ka satyaapan
- Atirikt kheti ke maargadarshan

Saamaany Salaah

Ropan, nishechan aur ghaas niyantran sahit kheti kee gatividhiyon ke samay ko anukoolit karane ke liye niyamit roop se mausam aanumaan kee nigaraanee karen. Kheton mein uchit jal nikaasee vyavastha banae rakhane ke saath-saath ekeekrt ghaas prabandhan prathaon ko laagoo karen.

Adhik sahaayata ke liye SRIF se sampark karen: 8921839

I Taukei Version

Draki e Namaki

E ratou kacivaka tiko na Tabana Ni Draki, ni namaki me na levu na uca (rauta ni 200mm - 400mm) e tau e na veisiteseni, e na noda yalava ni tei dovu, e Viti Levu kei Vanua Levu, e na vula ko Veverueri. E laurai tale ga ni I vakarau ni katakata e na vula ko Janueri, e ra sivia kece tiko na 30°C, ka namaki me na sotavi tiko ga na I vakarau ni katakata oqo e na vula ka tu mai.

I vakasala ki vei kemuni na Dau Teitei

a) Vakarautaki ni qele e na teitei

- Ni daumaka na draki, me sa na tekivu vakarautaki na I teitei, me vakayagataki vinaka na draki suasua e da donumaka tiko oqo.
- Rawa ni kerea me ratou sabolotaka na kena dau, na nomuni qele ka vakarau teivaki.
- Kau rawa mai na I tei ni qele ka sa vakadonui me na teivaki.
- Kerei me vakalailaitaki na werewere e na I teitei, me tarova na kena vakamavotaki na I tei ni dovu.
- Caka vinaka na I vakata lalai ni vanua e ra teivaki kina na I tei ni dovu, me kakua ni waluvu na I tei, ka rawa ni vakavuna na kena tubu gogo.

b) Qarauni na tubu ni co ca.

E na rawa ni vakatotolotaka na tubu ni co ca kei na tete ni tei ni dovu, na draki katakata kei na levu ni uca eda vakila tiko e na gauna oqo. Ia, ena gadrevi me na laurai tiko na tikina oqo, me vaka ni na rawa ni vakilai na kena revurevu e na I tei ni dei ka vaka tale ga kina e na levu ni suka e rawa e na dovu. E toka oqo e ra, e so na I walewale ni laurai ni tubu ni co ca;

i. Vakayagataki ni wainimate ni co ca

- E na vakayagataki na wainimate ni co ca ka veidonui kei na mataqali co ka tubu tiko
- Vakamuri na kena I vakasala, e na kena vakawasoma kei na gauna me vakayagataki kina

ii. Samaki ni teitei (Trashing)

- Vakayagataki na I walewale makawa ni kena samaki na co ca.
- Laurai na co ca ka se tubu tiko, ni oti na kena vakayagataki na wainimate ni co ca, me samaki laivi.
- Samaki laivi na co ca ni bera ni qai teteva yani na I teitei.

iii. I walewale ni teitei e na gauna e liu

- Veiyawaki vakarauta na I tei, me vukea na kena vakarurugi na maliwa ni loga dovu. .
- Samaki vinaka na co ca ka tubu tiko e na vakata lalai wavokita na I teitei.

- Tuvalaka vinaka na gauna ni nomuni teitei ni na rawa tale ga ni vakacacana na kena tubu na co ca.

Tukutuku Me Nanumi: E na vuku ni draki e da donumaka tiko oqo, ko ni sa vakasalataki mo ni yadrava vinaka na tubu ni co ca e na nomuni teitei, ni bera ni qai tete, ka laki dredre na kena wali. Sa kerei tale ga, mo ni vakayagataka na I tukutuku ni draki ka soli tiko yani, e na gauna ni nomuni tuvatuva ka.

c) I vakatagedegede ni dovu vinaka

Ni sa kerei mo ni veitaratara ki vei iratou na Tabana Ni SRIF e na vica na ka oqo;
- Vakadikevi na I tei ni dovu
- Laurai/ vakadikevi na duidui ni I tei ni dovu me vakayagataki/ teivaki
- E so tale na I walewale ni teitei ka rawa ni vakayagataki

I Vakasala Raraba
Ni sa vakasalataki mo ni vakatudaliga tiko ki na I tukutuku ni draki, me rawa ni ko ni kila, na gauna vinaka ni teitei, ka vakakina na gauna ni kena vakayagataki na I vakabulabula ni qele, kei na wai ni mate ni co ca. Kerei mo ni taurivaka tale ga e so na I walewale ni teitei ka na rawa ni vukei kemuni e na kena vakaberaberataki na tubu ni co ca kei na kena samaki na I vakata ni wai lalai.

Ke tu tale e so nomuni vakatataro, ni rawa ni qai veitaratara kei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF, e na naba ni talevoni: 8921839.

Climate Outlook

- ENSO is currently neutral, with ENSO indicators showing signs of weak La Niña conditions which are expected to diminish in the coming months. ENSO neutral is likely to continue until April.

- During February 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **200-250mm** of rainfall in Sigatoka, **200-300mm** in Nadi, Lautoka, Rarawai, Tagitagi, Tavua, Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula and Dabuilevu.

- During March 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall in Sigatoka, Lautoka, Tavua, Tagitagi, Penang, Vunivutu and from Seaqaqa to Labasa, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in the remaining sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

- For April 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **150-200mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, Rarawai, Tagitagi and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu.

- During March to May 2025 period, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving around **600-700mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, Rarawai, Navatu Tagitagi and Penang, **700-800mm** in Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula, Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **800-1000mm** of rainfall in sugarcane belt areas in Dobuilevu

- Fiji is currently in its tropical cyclone season, therefore any development of low pressure systems, tropical disturbances and depression closer to our region is likely to result in enhanced rainfall.

- All communities should remain alert and prepared throughout the tropical cyclone season and take heed of all advisories and warnings issued.

Rainfall Outlook: February 2025

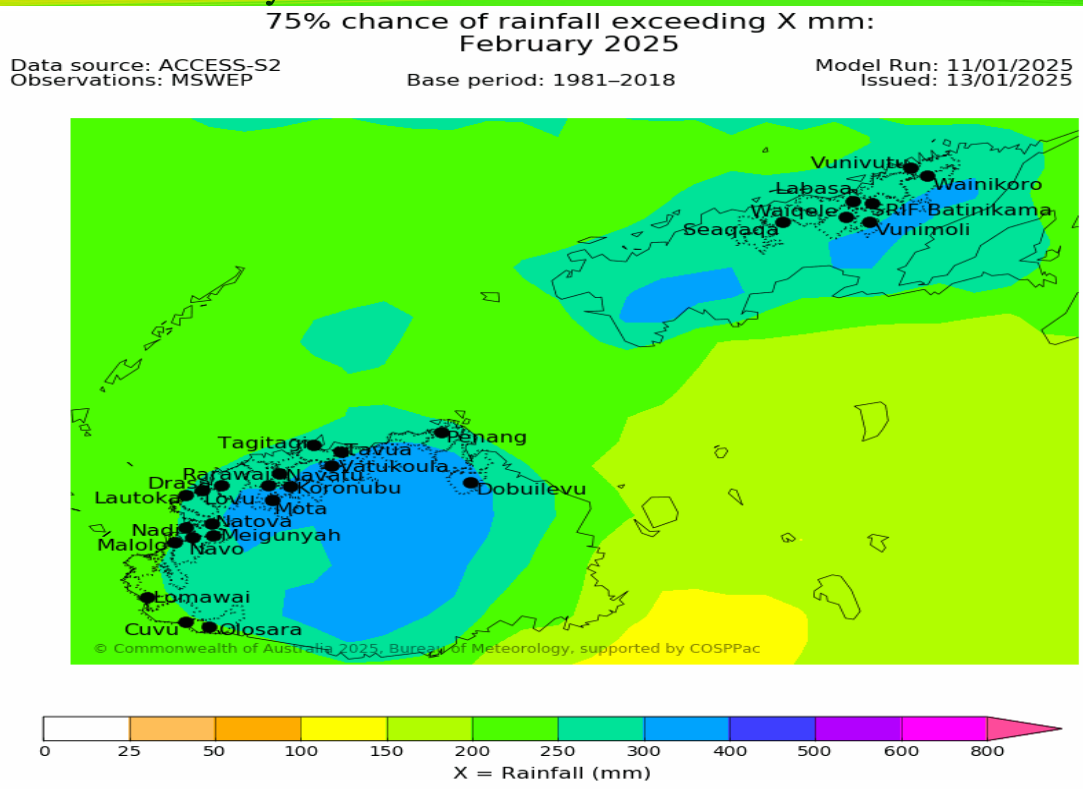


Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 200-250mm of rainfall in Sigatoka, 200-300mm in Nadi, Lautoka, Rarawai, Tagitagi, Tavua, Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula and Dabuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.

Rainfall Outlook: March 2025

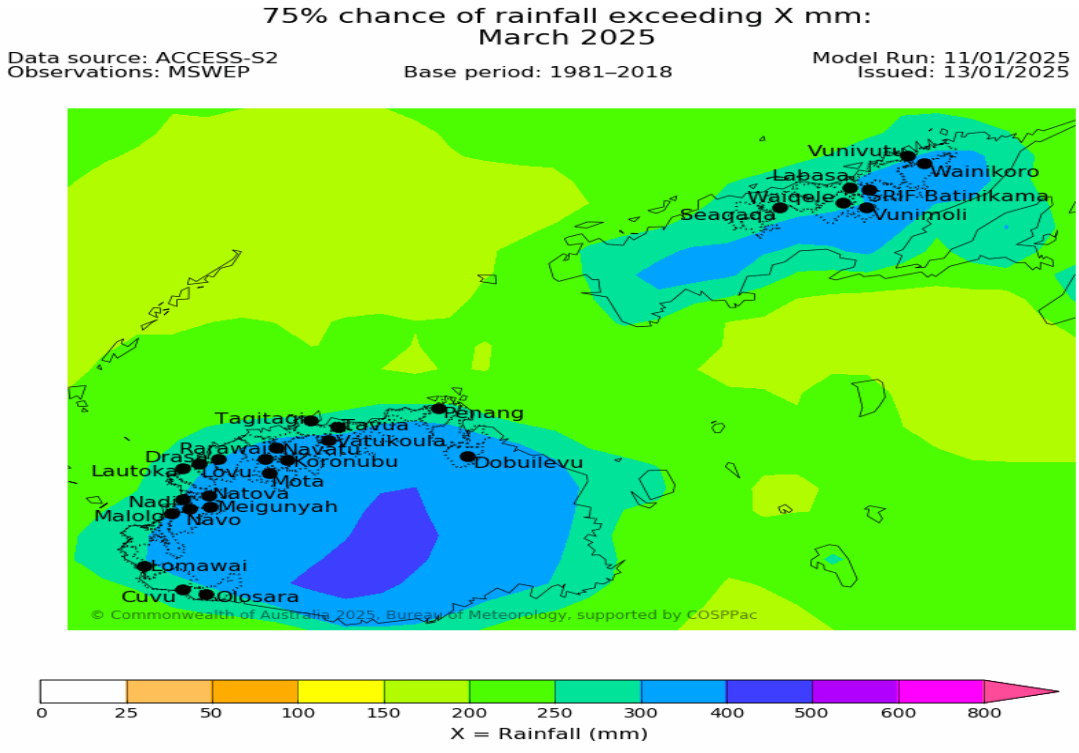


Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall in Sigatoka, Lautoka, Tavua, Tagitagi, Penang, Vunivutu and from Seaqaqa to Labasa, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in the remaining sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.

Rainfall Outlook: April 2025

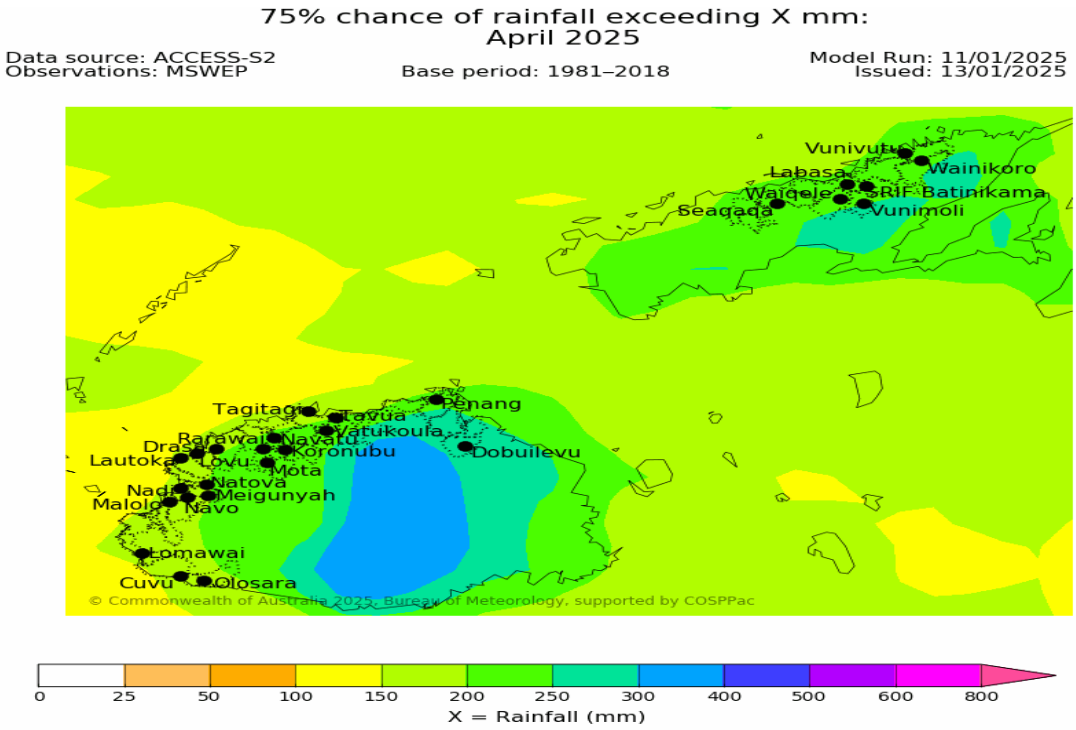


Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 150-200mm of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, Rarawai, Tagitagi and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.

Rainfall Outlook: March to May 2025

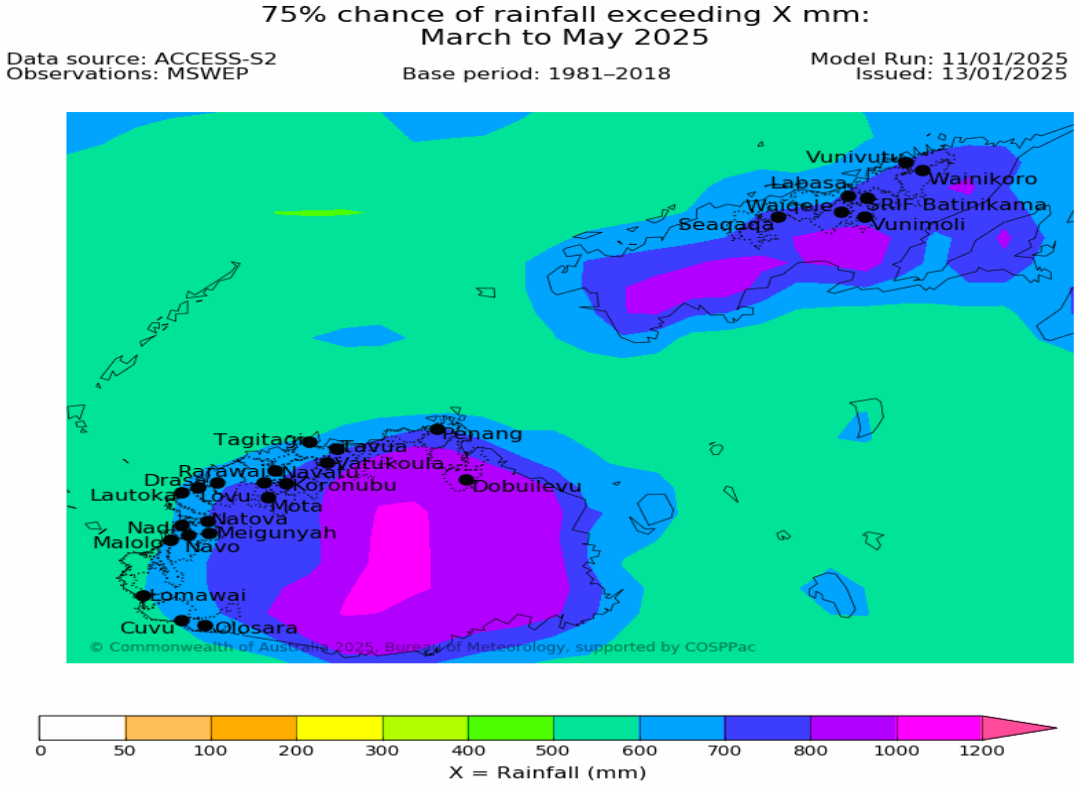


Figure 4: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 600-700mm of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, Rarawai, Navatu Tagitagi and Penang, 700-800mm in Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula, Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 800-1000mm of rainfall in sugarcane belt areas in Dobuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is high to very high.

Explanatory Notes

Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook

The Fiji Sugarcane Climate Outlook is a collaborative product of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) and the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF). It is produced to provide advisories to the farmers and other key sugar industry stakeholders. It aims to provide advanced warning on climate abnormalities for informed decision making. The product is issued on a monthly basis.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is the principal driver of the year-to-year variability of Fiji's climate. There are two extreme phases of this phenomena, ***El Niño*** and ***La Niña***.

El Niño or La Niña events usually recur after every 2 to 7 years. It normally develops during the period April to June, attains peak intensity between December to February and decays between the period April to June the following year. While most events last for a year, some have persisted for up to 2 years. It should be also noted that no two El Niño or La Niña events are exactly the same. Different events have different impacts, but most exhibit some common climate characteristics.

Usually there is a lag effect on Fiji's climate with ENSO events, that is, once an El Niño or La Niña event is established in the tropical Pacific, it may take 2-6 months before its impact is seen on Fiji. Similarly, once an event finish, it can take 2-6 months for climate to normalise.

El Niño events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell. The relationship and level of rainfall suppression is greater in the Dry Zone (sugarcane growing areas) then in the Wet Zone. It is the suppression of rainfall during the Cool/Dry Season (May to October) that is normally of most concern. Dry Season mean monthly rainfall in the Dry Zone ranges between 40mm and 90mm. A reduction in Cool/Dry Season rainfall in the Dry Zone results in little or no rainfall until the next Wet Season. While usually the strength of an ENSO event is proportional to its impact on Fiji, at times weak event can also have a significant impact.
La Niña events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season (November to April).

When ENSO is neutral, that is, neither El Niño nor La Niña, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.

Lag effects – means that there is a delay in the impacts of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

Disclaimer: *The seasonal climate outlook provided in this document is presented for the sugar sector and should be used as a guide only. While FMS and SRIF takes all measures to provide accurate information and data, it does not guarantee 100% accuracy of the forecast presented in this outlook. Please enquire with FMS and SRIF for expert advice, clarifications and additional information as and when necessary. The user assumes all risk resulting directly or indirectly from the use of the climate prediction information.*