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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**2010 CRUSHING OPERATIONS**

With the commencement of the crush at Rarawai Mill on 29 June, all four mills have now entered into crushing operations. Lautoka, Labasa and Penang mills had earlier commenced crushing. This is a significant milestone for FSC as its upgraded mills are now fully operational.

It is pleasing to see that the mills have settled in well as the start-up problems have been minimal. The challenge is now to ensure continuous supply of quality cane which is necessary for the mills to achieve its desired levels of efficiencies.

In this regard, farmers are urged to take advantage of the good start of the crushing season and the prevailing good weather conditions to intensify the harvesting operations. Lautoka Mill in particular, has been experiencing significant mill stoppages due to lack of cane supply. Only 35% of the gangs began harvesting from the start of the crush. Average rail cane supply is 70% of the expected level while lorry cane supply is only 32%. This equates to a shortfall of 3,860 tonnes on a daily basis. FSC is closely working with the farmers to quickly improve cane supply.

FSC is confident that the 2010 season would see a marked improvement over the previous season in terms of mill reliability and sugar recovery. A total of 2 million tonnes of cane is forecasted for the 2010 season with an estimated sugar make of 190,000 tonnes.

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