



MEDIA RELEASE

19 September 2019

2019 Crushing Season Update #10

To date a total of 934,301 tonnes of cane has been crushed with a sugar make of 91,437 tonnes, at an average tonnes cane to tonnes sugar (TCTS) of 10.2. This is after fourteen weeks of crushing for Lautoka and Labasa mills and Rarawai after ten weeks.

LAUTOKA MILL

Lautoka Mill had a good week of crushing, the highest weekly crush over the last three years. At Week 14, the mill has crushed 346,235 tonnes of cane to date. Correspondingly, sugar produced stands at 32,537 tonnes to date.

Four days in the week, Lautoka Mill exceeded daily crushing of 5,000 tonnes and on 12th September, the mill crushed over 6,000 tonnes. Inside Stops registered only 6.6 hours. The week's sugar make was 3,419 tonnes and the week's TCTS was 9.9. The mill continues to receive burnt cane and this week, 70.5% burnt cane went through the factory. Efforts continue on the education of our growers and harvesting gangs on the dangers and harmful effects of burnt cane on the crop and sugar make.

RARAWAI MILL

Rarawai Mill's progress continues to strengthen. To date, Rarawai has crushed 212,051 tonnes of cane, after Week 10 of the season.

Rarawai Mill crushed 28,819 tonnes of cane and produced 3,099 tonnes of sugar, both above the weekly budget. The week's TCTS was 9.3. Cane crushed is consistent over the last three-year period however, significant increase was noted in the sugar make. Two days in the week, daily crush at Rarawai exceeded 5,000 tonnes.

In 2017 and 2018, Rarawai started to experience boiler related stops after Week 9 of crushing. However, this year, capital refurbishments to the mill's boiler are seemingly paying off. Outside and Inside Stops are both lower than budget for the week.

However, like Lautoka Mill, burnt cane and extraneous matter continues to affect the cane purity and sugar make.

LABASA MILL

Labasa Mill had a moderate week. At Week 14, Labasa has crushed 376,015 tonnes of cane, resulting in 38,798 tonnes of sugar being made.

Labasa crushed 30,609 tonnes of cane, produced 3,357 tonnes of sugar and recorded a TCTS of 9.1. Looking at the past three-year comparison, the sugar make has been lower than 2017 and 2018 due to relatively lower cane quality. The rate of operation on the other hand has significantly been better than 2017 and 2018. Inside and Outside Stops were in line with the budget for the week despite the rains. Similar to Lautoka and Rarawai, burnt cane and extraneous matter is on the rise, with increasing levels of dextran now evident in the cane.

Right: Sweeping landscape of a recently harvested cane farm, in Tagitagi, Sigatoka.



BURNT CANE UPDATE

Burnt cane is definitely on rise. Lautoka Mill registered 70.5%, Rarawai Mill 67% and Labasa 13% burnt cane for the week. FSC is concerned about the increasing levels of burnt cane being received. FSC continues to advise the harmful effects of burning on the environment and on the sugar make and quality.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Elenoa Korovulavula | Head of Strategic Communications | Fiji Sugar Corporation | Email: elenoa.korovulavula@fsc.com.fj | Mobile: 999 6009