

MEDIA RELEASE

21 August 2019

2019 Crushing Season Update #6

Total cane crushed to date now totals 611,339 tonnes, after 11 weeks crushing at the Lautoka and Labasa mills and 7 weeks crushing at the Rarawai mill.

LAUTOKA

For the season to date, Lautoka Mill has crushed 239,357 tonnes of cane, producing 22,058 tonnes of sugar. The mill has operated consistently and crush rates have exceeded 5,000 tonnes of cane per day, with 6,425 tonnes crushed on 17th August. This can be attributed to consistent cane supply and good mechanical efficiency. Sugar recoveries at Lautoka continue to be adversely affected by reduced cane purity compared to last year, and efforts are underway to reduce harvest to crush delays in order to crush fresh cane to mitigate this impact.

In addition to achieving its crushing targets, the Lautoka Mill has also successfully tested its refurbished 12 megawatt steam turbine, with steam trails completed over the last two weekends. This machine, once commissioned by month end will enable Lauoka to re-commence power exports to the national electricity grid.



Above: A FSC sugar train, seen here at Drasa, delivering cane to the Lautoka Mill

LABASA

Labasa continues to consolidate its milling operations, and has crushed 263,282 tonnes of cane to date. The mill has also surpassed its crush targets during the week and is looking to increase throughput as harvesting efforts accelerate in Vanua Levu.

Sugar recovery at Labasa has been encouraging and TCTS is now comfortably reducing to below 9.9 for the season to date. Further improvements are expected going forward as the second half of the crushing season approaches.

RARAWAI

Rarawai Mill continues to strengthen operations with an encouraging trend being set. To date the mill has crushed 108,700 tonnes of cane and produced 9,609 tonnes of sugar. Sugar recovery is improving and is expected to improve further as the season progresses. Cane supply has been very good at Rarawai and efforts to streamline the harvesting effort are starting to pay off.

FSC acknowledges the efforts of cane growers and Lorry operators in improving cane supply to all three mills as the season progresses, and the mills will continue to consolidate operations to crush all available cane by the end of the season, expected to be by the end of November at Lautoka and Labasa and early December at Rarawai.

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For more information, please contact:

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