

MEDIA RELEASE

28 August 2019

2019 Crushing Season Update #7

FSC's three mills have to date crushed a total of 678,667 tonnes of cane. This is at the end of Week 11 for Lautoka and Labasa Mills and Week 7 for Rarawai Mill. Sugar produced for the season to date totals 65,317 tonnes, at an average tonnes cane to tonnes sugar (TCTS) ratio of 10.39.

LAUTOKA MILL

For the season to date, Lautoka Mill has crushed 258,020 tonnes of cane.

For Week 11, the Lautoka Mill crushed 21,541 tonnes of cane. Lautoka's crushing efforts during the week, were affected by the commissioning of its 12-megawatt turbine.

In totality, the commissioning process was spread over three weeks and to minimise downtime, the testing was synchronized to be carried out over three successive Sundays, to coincide with the mill's scheduled maintenance programme.



Right: a mechanical harvester operating within the Tavua to Rakiraki stretch

On Sunday 25th August, two leaking boiler tubes were identified, which prolonged the turbine commissioning, as efforts were diverted to repair the leaks.

Invariably, the start-and-stop nature of operations during the week affected the sugar make, which for the week stood at 1,988 tonnes. Another contributing factor to the low sugar make, is the growing percentage of burnt cane, which to date stands at 6.2%. TCTS for the week had gone up a bit, registering 10.8, reflecting the stop-start nature of the week's crushing operations.

RARAWAI MILL

For the season to date, Rarawai Mill has crushed 134,741 tonnes of cane.

For Week 7, the Rarawai Mill crushed 26,563 tonnes of cane. Inside stops reduced to 25.3 hours while outside stops increased from the previous week. This was mainly attributed to poor harvesting efforts, as a result of rainfall recorded during the week.

The sugar make for the week was 2,718 tonnes, which was in line with the previous week's production and encouragingly, the mill will continue to improve its sugar make if backed up with consistent quality cane supply. Rarawai's TCTS is also improving and for the week stood at 9.8.

LABASA MILL

For the season to date, Labasa Mill has crushed 285,906 tonnes of cane.

For Week 11, the Labasa Mill crushed 24,933 tonnes of cane. Continuous rain played a major factor in the mill's harvesting efforts for the week. Rainfall recorded during the week was 302.8 mm which negatively affected harvesting efforts. The sugar make registered 2,651 tonnes, indicative of the deteriorating quality of cane, impacted by the heavy rains during the week.

Labasa's TCTS stood at 9.4, consistent with previous weeks.

It has also been noted that burnt cane, whilst at 2.2% for the season, is also on the rise for the mill.

FSC reiterates its advice on the dangers of cane fires or burning of cane trash. Not only is there a direct environmental impact but it also deteriorates the quality of sugar cane. Specifically, as a result of burnt cane, a bacterial substance called dextran develops. Dextran reduces the quality of sugar cane through bacterial activity and has a negative impact on sugar quality. Cane fires and the burning of cane must be discouraged at all costs.

ENDS

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