

NEWS RELEASE

2020 Season - Sugar Milling Update (Cane crushed to date nears 1.6 million tonnes.)

10 November, 2020



OVERVIEW

As of Monday 09th November 2020, the volume of cane crushed by the three FSC mills had reached 1,584,254 tonnes, and has since passed 1.6 million tonnes. The cumulative crush to date remains 5% higher than for the equivalent period in 2019, and compares to a tonnage of 1,514,211 tonnes crushed in the same period in 2019. To date, Labasa has crushed 4% more than for the same period in 2019, Rarawai has crushed 11% more and Lautoka slightly less at 1% below last year.

Mill throughput and performance to date continues to be better than for the past two seasons, with average weekly mill stoppages 20% lower, driven by strong cane supply and mill breakdowns that are 19% lower than in 2019.

Sugar production of 140,834 tonnes to date compares to production for the same period in 2019 of 145,078 tonnes. Sugar recoveries measured by the cumulative tonnes cane to sugar ratio (TCTS) remains at 11.2, still impacted by ongoing low cane purity, which to date remains the lowest in three years. Cane purity has been adversely affected by weather, high extraneous matter in billet cane and continuing high levels of burnt cane deliveries compared to 2019.

Lautoka Mill

Lautoka mill crushed 18,057 tonnes of cane and produced 1,294 tonnes of sugar for the past week. Cane supply has started to thin out by early morning from the beginning of this week. As a result of the low cane supply, outside stops recorded a total of 17.0 hours for the week, despite having fine weather. Factory stops were 39.0 hours due to issues in the boilers. A 30.0 hour maintenance stop was taken in the weekend. Cane quality remains depleted as a result of 89% burnt cane.

Rarawai Mill

Rarawai mill crushed 25,440 tonnes of cane and produced 2,072 tonnes of sugar for the past week. Cane supply stops were 5.2 hours. Factory stops were 30.5 hours mainly due to problems encountered with the cane carrier and Boiler conveyors. These were rectified within the week. A 16.0 Hour maintenance stop was taken in the weekend to work on the problems encountered during the week. Cane quality remained low as a result of 98% burnt cane.

Labasa Mill

Labasa crushed 27,685 tonnes of cane and produced 2,325 tonnes of sugar for the week. Both were above target for the week, despite stopping 14.0 hours for rain and 11.0 hours due to cane supply stops. Factory stops remained low and a scheduled 20.0 hours maintenance stop was taken in the weekend. Cane quality reduced due to higher burnt cane crushed.

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