

NEWS RELEASE

2020 Season - Sugar Milling Update (Cane crushed to date remains above last season.)

27 October, 2020



OVERVIEW

As of Monday 26th October 2020, the volume of cane crushed by the three FSC mills had reached 1,435,013 tonnes. The cumulative crush to date is 5% higher than for the equivalent period in 2019, and compares to a tonnage of 1,362,604 tonnes crushed in the same period in 2019. Labasa mill has been affected by continuing rain but to date all three mills have crushed more than for the same period in 2019. Labasa has crushed 2% more than last year, Lautoka 3% more and Rarawai 12% more.

Mill throughput and performance to date continues to be better than for the past two seasons, with average weekly mill stoppages 18% lower, driven by strong cane supply and mill breakdowns that are 20% lower than in 2019.

Sugar production of 128,285 tonnes to date was affected to some extent by rain impacted operations in the last three weeks, and compares to production in the same period in 2019 of 132,442 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 is 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.

The final bulk sugar export for 2020 has commenced loading in Lautoka with 21,000 tonnes, after which the full cargo of 30,000 tonnes of bulk raw sugar destined for the UK will be completed in Labasa. The bulk vessel Jaingmen Trader will depart Fiji by month end.

Lautoka Mill

Lautoka mill operations improved as weather cleared last week. A total crush of 32,065 tonnes of cane was achieved, with sugar production of 2,707 tonnes. Both cane crushed and sugar make were above target for the week and better than the previous week. Mill stops were low with outside stops and inside stops 6.0 and 12.2 hours respectively. A Cleaning stop was taken to mechanically clean the Evaporator vessels. The TCTS ratio for the week was 11.8 units which was higher than the previous week due to depressed cane quality and with 90% burnt cane being processed. Cane quality for the week was lower than the previous week, directly impacting sugar recoveries.

Rarawai Mill

Rarawai cane throughput and sugar output also improved significantly during the week due to good weather, which increased cane supply and improved actual crushing time. Cane crushed for the week was 32,983 tonnes and the sugar make was 2,683 tonnes. The TCTS ratio for the week was 12.3 units. 96% of cane received at the factory was burnt. Rarawai mill recorded the highest burnt cane percent of crush this week out of the 3 FSC mills. Cane Purity declined when

compared to the previous week. Inside and outside stops were both reduced for the week which boosted sugar production.

Labasa Mill

Labasa mill operations also settled down as the weather improved this past week and the factory operated well with 147hrs of actual crushing time. The cane crushed and sugar make were 35,382 and 3,375 tonnes respectively. The TCTS ratio reduced to 10.5 units due to acceptable cane quality. Inside and outside stops were low and no other stops were taken in order to boost sugar production, due to the shortfall in the previous 4 weeks due to adverse weather conditions.

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For more information, please contact:

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