



MEDIA RELEASE

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TROPICAL CYCLONE SARAI

A detailed damage assessment has been completed in the aftermath of TC Sarai, which fortunately indicates no serious damage to the cane crop or FSC assets.

The Fiji cane belt was impacted by Cyclone Sarai on 28/29th December 2019. The cyclone was accompanied by heavy rain in all areas. No major wind damage has been observed and the cane crop suffered only minimal impact – assessed as a loss of no more than 1% of the area under cane. There was no major flooding and the rainfall was welcome as dry conditions persisted before the cyclone. Farm assets were not seriously affected, but in some areas erosion of cane access roads followed the heavy rain. Repairs will be undertaken before the 2020 harvest.

Damage in the mills was similarly not significant. All three mills and associated infrastructure has now been inspected and repair costs have been estimated. Damage to the factories is summarized as:

Lautoka - mainly to electric motors and some instrumentation.

Rarawai - mainly to the main factory water pipeline washed away.

Labasa - mainly to a power house transformer and controls.

Factory repair costs in total are estimated at \$680,000.

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