

NEWS RELEASE

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

17 November, 2020



OVERVIEW

As of Monday 16th November 2020, the volume of cane crushed by the three FSC mills had reached 1,643,740 tonnes. Cane crushing for the past week was reduced as a result of a two day shut down at all mills for the Diwali weekend. Nonetheless, 59,486 tonnes of cane was crushed for the week. The cumulative crush to date remains 5% higher than for the equivalent period in 2019, and compares to a tonnage of 1,572,082 tonnes crushed in the same period in 2019. To date, Labasa has crushed 3% more than for the same period in 2019, Rarawai has crushed 10% more and Lautoka 1% more than last year.

Mill throughput and performance to date continues to be better than for the past two seasons, with average weekly mill stoppages 21% lower, driven by continuing strength of cane supply and mill breakdowns that are 19% lower than in 2019.

Sugar production of 145,875 tonnes to date compares to production for the same period in 2019 of 149,571 tonnes. Sugar recoveries continue to be adversely 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 19,585 tonnes of cane and produced 1,491 tonnes of sugar for the past week. Cane supply at Lautoka has thinned out with the factory only getting around 3,000 tonnes cane per day. This results in the factory shutting down during night shifts and starting up during the day. The cane supply stops for the week were 45.1 hours whereas factory stops were only 5.3 hours. Diwali shut down of 32 hours was taken during the weekend. Cane quality remains depressed as a result of 91% burnt cane and the clearing of left over cane.

Rarawai Mill

Rarawai mill crushed 20,056 tonnes of cane and produced 1,684 tonnes of sugar for the past week. Factory stops were 39.0 hours mainly due to problems encountered in the cane carrier, elevators, runners and Boiler conveyors. A 44 .0 hour stop was taken for the Diwali shut down over the weekend. The cane quality remains low as a result of 99% burnt cane and the general nature of cane brought in for processing.

Labasa Mill

Labasa crushed 19,845 tonnes of cane and produced 1,866 tonnes of sugar for the week. Total outside stops were 36.6 hours, associated with low cane supply due to poor harvesting as cane in the fields is now thinning out. A 32.0 hours stop was taken in the weekend for the Diwali shutdown. Cane quality remains depressed due to maximum burnt cane crushed, the effect of extraneous matter and the multiplying effect of billet cane.

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