

NEWS RELEASE



More locomotives in service to help keep the sugarcane crushing season on track

16 June, 2020

Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) today announced that more locomotives were being readied to help transport freshly cut sugarcane into the Lautoka mill in a faster, more efficient manner throughout the 2020 crushing season.

FSC CEO Graham Clark said that major focus was put on providing more locomotives (locos) to farmers to help get the sugarcane to their respective mills, as part of FSC's preparations for the season.

"Our aim is to have nine locomotives, with seven operational at any one time, and two as back-up locomotives," FSC Lautoka Mill Manager, Leela Ramesh said. "Currently, FSC has six locomotives ready to roll."

The locomotives, also known as locos or sugarcane trains, are an important part of the supply chain for the mill according to Mr Ramesh.

"They help transport large loads of sugarcane to the mill and complement the work of the lorry drivers who also help deliver the cane directly to the mill for sugar production," Mr Ramesh explained.

"Ensuring that fresh green sugarcane is delivered to the mill in an efficient manner becomes even more important this year, as with the crop reduced by T.C Harold, the focus is on the quality cane production," Mr Clark added.

"Fresh cane, with little extraneous matter, helps ensure that more sugar can be produced from each load of cane."

Mr Clark explained that a specialist locomotive engineer from Labasa has been working full-time on the locomotives to help ensure they are in good working order for the season.

Mr Ramesh said he was proud that three locomotives have passed the trials and are working perfectly, with another three expected to be ready before the Lautoka and Rarawai Mills open later this month.

The Lautoka Mill is due to open on 24 June and the Rarawai Mill the day before on 23 June.

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