

Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For February, March & April 2024 and March to May 2024 **Experimental**

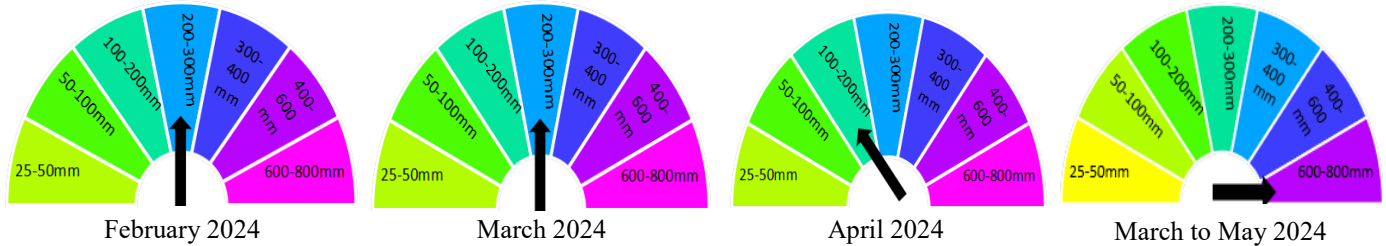
Volume 2

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Key Messages



English

- The Fiji Meteorological Services has predicted that there are high chances of receiving above 100mm rainfall in the forthcoming months (Feb-Apr) for the sugarcane belt areas, both in Viti Levu and in Vanua Levu.
- With a favourable spread of dry and wet period, farmers should plan for land preparation depending on field and weather conditions, weed management in fallow fields, not to allow flowering and seed dispersal from weeds. It has to be noted that weed infestation affects germination of the sugarcane crop and its development, thus affecting yield severely.
- Farmers should practice integrated weed management in fields to avoid yield loss.
- Soil sampling activity to be carried out in fields fallowed for planting.
- Farmers willing to plant should start looking for seed cane of approved and new varieties in advance. If seed cane is secured, avoid knife weeding as it can damage the eye-buds.
- Contact farm advisors of FSC or the nearest SRIF office for seed cane inspection for quality and variety purity.
- Administer Blend B application in the seed plots if planning to plant in March - early April.
- In preparation for planting season, seedbed drainage should be well-maintained. Drainage should be looked at where ever needed to prevent water logging. This will prevent cane from water stress which can lead to wilting and yield loss.
- Growers are advised to adhere to the weather forecast in making plans for farm activities like planting, fertilization and weed control since forecast for 2-3 tropical cyclones has been highlighted.
- For further advice, please contact SRIF on 8921839.

Hindi

- Nadi mausami daftar ne anumaan lagaya hai ki February se lekar April tak Viti Levu aur Vanua Levu ke ganne bonne wale kshetron mein 100mm se adhik baarish hone ki sambhaavana hai.
- Jhure aur baarish ki avadhi ke anusaar, kisaanon ko khet aur mausam ke sthiti ke aadhaar par bhoomi ke taiyaaree ki yojana banaane chaahiye, partee kheton mein ghaas par niyantran rakhna chaahiye, taaki ghaas ke phoolon aur beej ko phailane na diya ja sake. Yah dhyaan diya jaana chaahiye ki ghaas ka sankraman ganne ki phasal ke ankuran aur uske vikaas ko prabhaavit karata hai, jis se upaj gambheer roop se prabhaavit hotee hai.
- Upaj haani se bachane ke liye kisaanon ko kheton mein ekikrit ghaas prabandhan karna chaahiye.
- Ganna ropan ke liye khaalee pade kheton mein mittee ka namoona lene kee gatividhi kee jani chaahiye.
- Jo kisaan ganna bonna chaahate hai ko pahale se hee anumodit aur naee variety ke ganne ke beej kee talaash shuroo kar denee chaahiye. Yadi ganna ke beej surakshit hai, toh chaakoo se niraee karne se bachene kyonki yah ganne ke bud ko nuksaan pahuncha sakata hai.
- Ganne ke beej ke nirakshan ke liye FSC ya SRIF ke farm advisors ko sampark karen.
- Yadi March-April ke shuruuat mein ganna ropan ki yojana hai to beej mein Blend B ka prayog karen.
- Ganna ropan ke mausam ki taiyaaree mein, jal nikaasee ko aachee tarah se banaye rakhna chaahiye. Jal jamaav ko rokne ke liye jahaan bhee aavashyak ho, jal nikaasee par dhyaan diya jaana chaahiye. Is se ganne ko paani ki kamee se bachaaya ja sakega, jis se ganna murjha sakata hai aur upaj mein kamee ho sakatee hai.
- Kisaanon ko salaah dee jaatee hai ki ve ropan, urvarak aur ghaas niyantran jaisi gatividhiyon ki yojana banaate samaye mausam ke poorvaanumaan ka paalan karen kyonki doh se teen toofan ke poorvaanumaan par prakasha daala gaya hai.
- Aur salaah ke liye 8921839 par SRIF ko sampark karen.

I-Taukei

- E ratou wasea toka na Tabana ni Draki ni namaki me na rawa ni sivia na 100m na levu ni uca e tau e na noda yalava ni tei dovu, e navula ko Veverueri ki na vula ko Evereli, e Vanua Levu kei Viti Levu.
- E na vuku ni draki eda donumaka tiko oqo, ko ni sa vakasalataki na dau tei dovu mo ni tekivu vakarautaka na teivaki ni nomuni I tei, qarauni na tubu ni co ca, vakabibi na kena laki yaco me robotaka kece na I teitei. E rawa ni vakadredretaka na kadre ni I tei ni dovu kei na kena tubu, na tubu ni co ca e na loga ni dovu, me vaka ni na rawa ni laki vakalailaitaka tale ga na levu ni suka e na dovu.
- Ko ni sa kerei na dau tei dovu mo ni vakayagataka e so na I walewale ni teitei vinaka me na rawa ni vakalevutaka na suka e rawa e na dovu.
- Sa dodonu me ra sabolotaki rawa na qele ka ra sa cukiraki tu me tei.
- Ki vei kemuni na dau tei dovu ka ni navunavuci tiko mo ni teitei, sa kerei me tekivu vaqarai rawa na I tei ni dovu ka sa vakadonui oti tu mai vei iratou nakena dau. Ke sa laurai, ko ni sa vakasalataki tale ga me kua na werewere me vaka ni na rawa ni vakamavoataka na mata ni tei ni dovu.

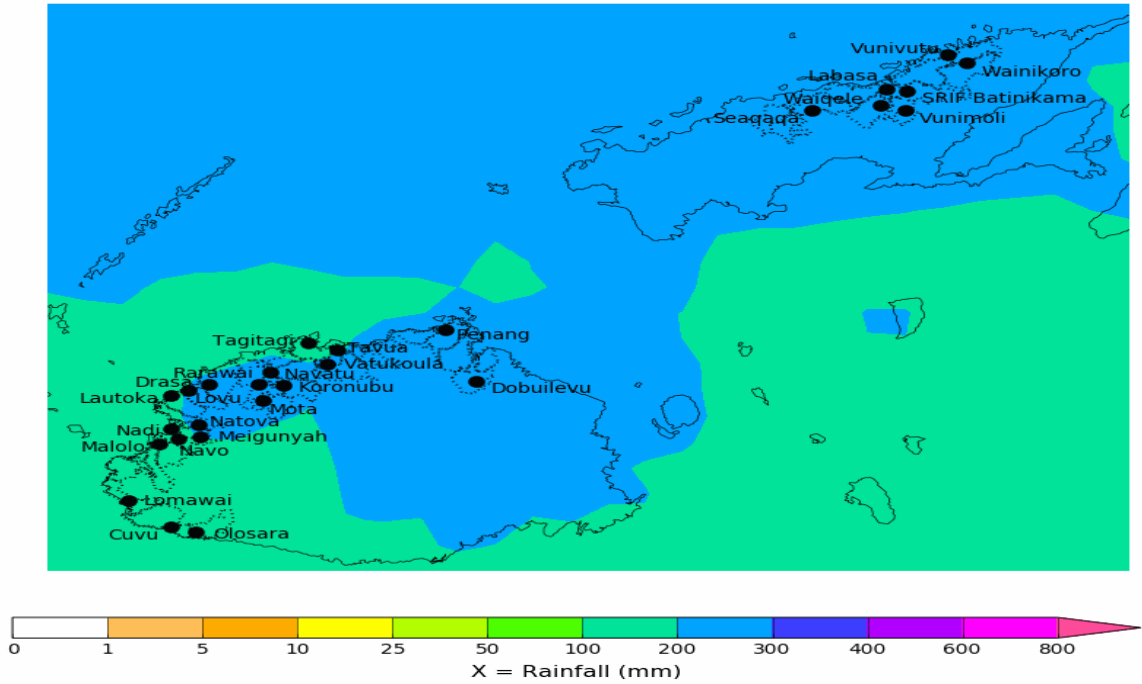
- Ko ni sa kerei mo ni veitaratara kei iratou na dau ni vakasala mai na FSC se vei iratou na SRIF, e na kena vakadikevi na veimataqali tei ni dovu kei na kena ka veiganiti kei nomuni teitei.
- Ko ni sa vakasalataki mo ni vakayagataka na vakabulabula ni qele na 'Blend B', kevaka ko ni navunavuci mo ni teitei mai na vula ko Maji ki na Evereli
- Me vaka ni da vakavakarau tiko ki na gauna ni teitei, sa dodonu me samaki ka qarauni vinaka na vanua ni teitei, na I vakata lalai e na yasa ni teitei, me rawa ni kakua ni waluvu na loga ni dovu, me vaka ni na rawa ni vakavuna na kena malai ka vakalailaitaka tale ga na levu ni suka e rawa e na dovu.
- E na nomuni navunavuci na dau teitei e na teitteivaki ni qele, vakayagataka ni vakabulabula ni qele kei qarauni ni tubu ni co ca, ko ni sa kerei mo ni vakarorogo ki na I tukutuku ni draki, me vaka ni ratou kacivaka toka ni namaki me na 2-3 na cagilaba me na tara na noda Pasivika.
- Ke tu e so na nomuni vakatataro, ko ni rawa ni veitaratara vei iratou na tabana ni 'SRIF', ena naba ni talevoni na 8921839.

Climate Outlook

- For February 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall from Sigatoka to Nadi, while there is high chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall from Lautoka to Rakiraki and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- During March 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall in Lomawai, Lautoka and Tagitagi, while there is high chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall across Vanua Levu and most parts of the sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu, and there is a high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu.
- For April 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **50-100mm** of rainfall from Sigatoka to Tavua, while there is high chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall for remaining parts in Viti Levu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- During March to May 2024 period, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **400-600mm** of rainfall from Sigatoka to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least **600-800mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and most parts of the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a moderate El Niño state.
- The current El Niño have likely passed its peak, with the event likely to continue through the March to May 2024 period.
- Fiji is currently in its tropical cyclone season and with the increase in number of weather activities during El Niño, although forecast is for suppressed rainfall, any developments closer to our region are likely to result in enhanced rainfall.

Rainfall Outlook: February 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
February 2024



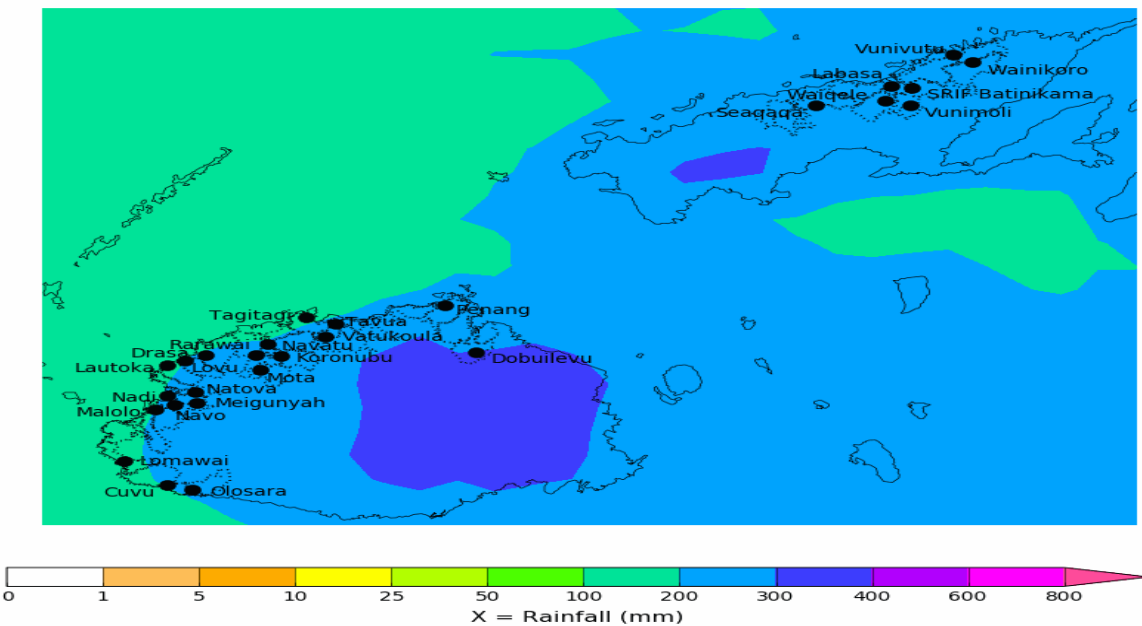
Data source: ACCESS-S2
 Issued: 22/01/2024
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 Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>

Base period: 1981-2018
 Observations: MSWEP
 Run: 20/01/2024

Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall from Sigatoka to Nadi, while there is high chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall from Lautoka to Rakiraki and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.

Rainfall Outlook: March 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
March 2024



Data source: ACCESS-S2
 Issued: 22/01/2024
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 Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>

Base period: 1981-2018
 Observations: MSWEP
 Run: 20/01/2024

Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall in Lomawai, Lautoka and Tagitagi, while there is high chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall across Vanua Levu and most parts of the sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu, and there is a high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Doboilevu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to good.

Rainfall Outlook: April 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
April 2024

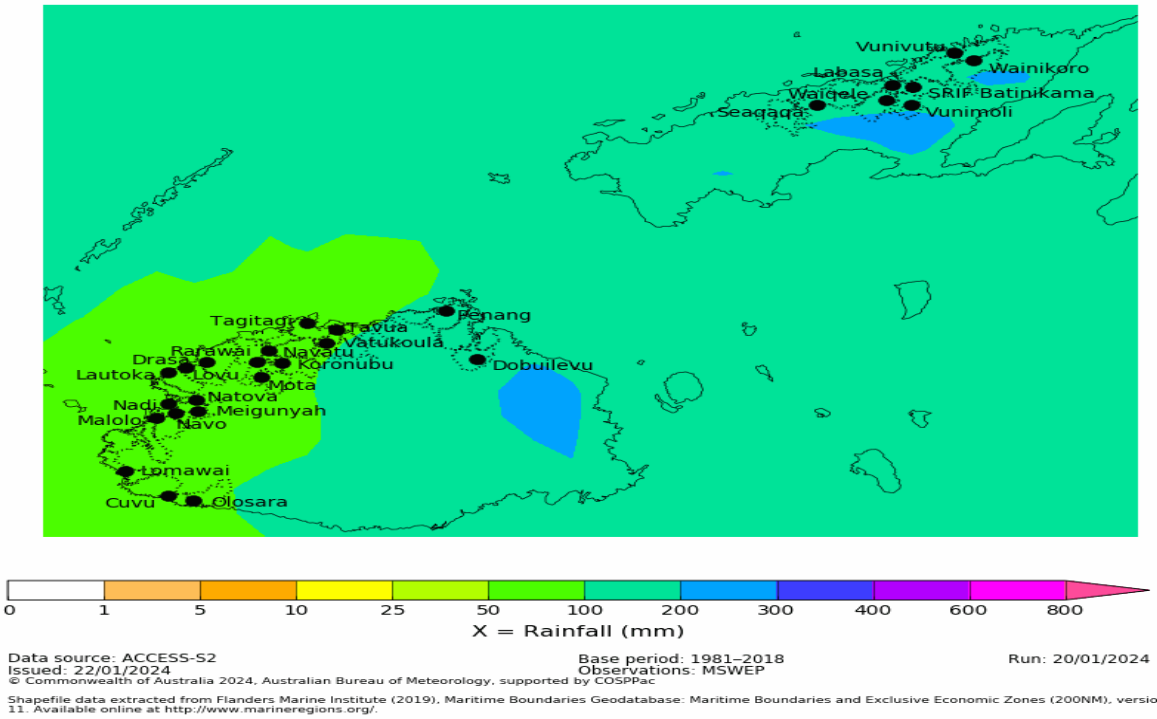


Figure 3: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 50-100mm of rainfall from Sigatoka to Tavua, while there is high chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall for remaining parts in Viti Levu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to good.

Rainfall Outlook: March to May 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
March to May 2024

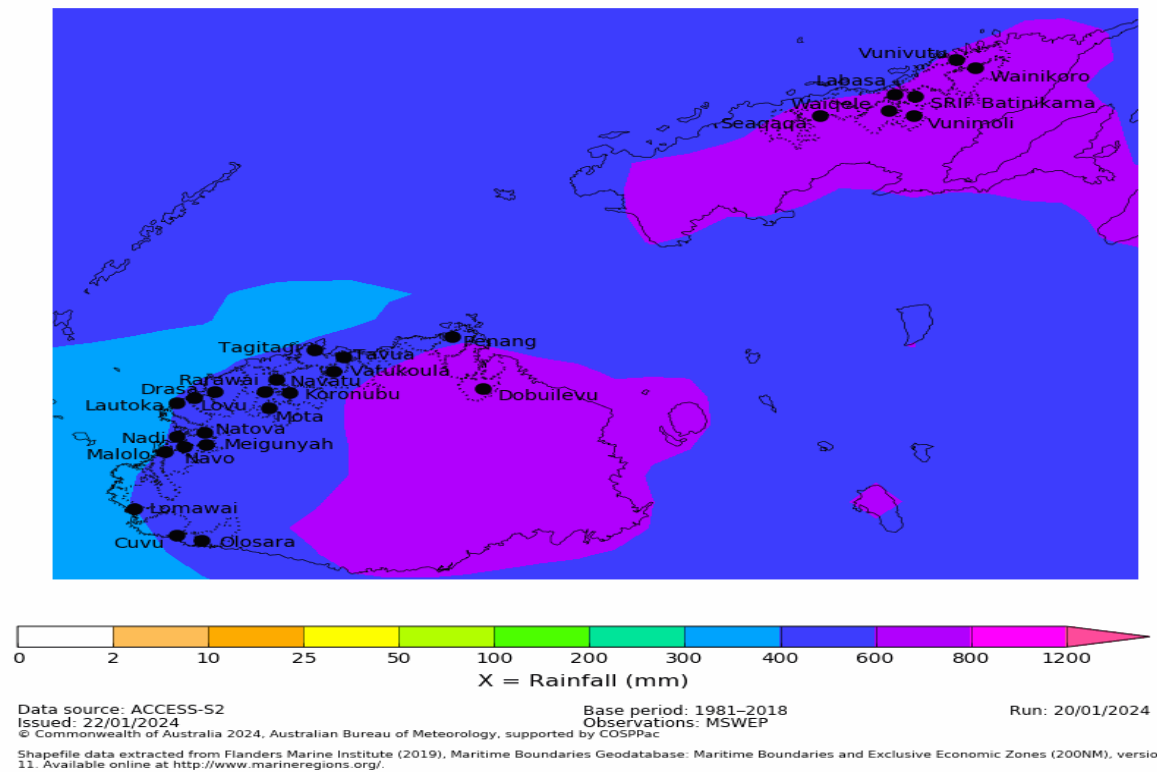


Figure 4: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 400-600mm of rainfall from Sigatoka to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least 600-800mm of rainfall in Doboilevu and most parts of the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is high to very high.

Explanatory Notes

Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook

The Fiji Sugarcane Climate Outlook is a collaborative product of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) and the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF). It is produced to provide advisories to the farmers and other key sugar industry stakeholders. It aims to provide advanced warning on climate abnormalities for informed decision making. The product is issued on a monthly basis.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is the principal driver of the year-to-year variability of Fiji's climate. There are two extreme phases of this phenomenon, *El Niño* and *La Niña*.

El Niño or La Niña events usually recur after every 2 to 7 years. It normally develops during the period April to June, attains peak intensity between December to February and decays between the period April to June the following year. While most events last for a year, some have persisted for up to 2 years. It should be also noted that no two El Niño or La Niña events are exactly the same. Different events have different impacts, but most exhibit some common climate characteristics.

Usually there is a lag effect on Fiji's climate with ENSO events, that is, once an El Niño or La Niña event is established in the tropical Pacific, it may take 2-6 months before its impact is seen on Fiji. Similarly, once an event finish, it can take 2-6 months for climate to normalise.

El Niño events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell. The relationship and level of rainfall suppression is greater in the Dry Zone (sugarcane growing areas) than in the Wet Zone. It is the suppression of rainfall during the Cool/Dry Season (May to October) that is normally of most concern. Dry Season mean monthly rainfall in the Dry Zone ranges between 40mm and 90mm. A reduction in Cool/Dry Season rainfall in the Dry Zone results in little or no rainfall until the next Wet Season. While usually the strength of an ENSO event is proportional to its impact on Fiji, at times weak event can also have a significant impact.

La Niña events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season (November to April).

When ENSO is neutral, that is, neither El Niño nor La Niña, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.

Lag effects – means that there is a delay in the impacts of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

Disclaimer: The seasonal climate outlook provided in this document is presented for the sugar sector and should be used as a guide only. While FMS and SRIF takes all measures to provide accurate information and data, it does not guarantee 100% accuracy of the forecast presented in this outlook. Please enquire with FMS and SRIF for expert advice, clarifications and additional information as and when necessary. The user assumes all risk resulting directly or indirectly from the use of the climate prediction information.