

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

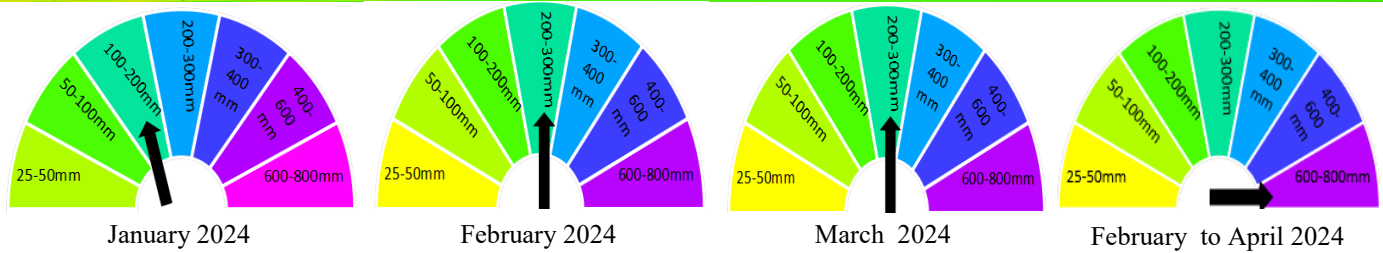
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## Key Messages



## English

- The sugarcane growing areas have received on average between 100mm to 200mm of rainfall in the past month.
- The Fiji Meteorological Services has predicted that there are high chances of receiving between 100mm to 200mm of rainfall this month within the sugarcane belt on Viti Levu and between 200mm to 300mm within the sugarcane belt on Vanua Levu.
- The Fiji Meteorological Services has also predicted that with the current El Nino in place, this situation can result in reduction in rainfall.
- Land preparation for 2024 season planting should commence now depending on field conditions and planting of cane to be planned for mid-March onwards.
- Minimum tillage should be adopted to prevent loss of any remaining moisture.
- Temperatures can go above as expected. If this becomes the case, warmer conditions will allow the weeds to germinate and grow rapidly. For this, weed management by weedicide application should be adopted by the farmers to control the weeds.
- Split fertilizer application to be considered for all plant and ratoon crops.
- Soil sampling activity to be carried out now and fertilizers/lime applied based on results received from SRIF.
- Consult your sector farm advisors regarding varieties to plant and availability of clean seedcane to be used during the planting window.
- Farms on rolling and steep slopes should practice soil conservation measures such as planting on contours and establishing vetiver hedges to minimize soil erosion.
- For further advice, please contact SRIF on 8921839.

## Hindi

- Pichhale maheene mein ganna bonne wale kshetron mein 100mm se 200mm ke beech baarish huee hai.

- Nadi mausami daftar ne anumaan lagaya hai ki iss maheene Viti Levu ke ganna bonne wale kshetron mein 100mm se 200mm baarish hone ki sambhaavana hai aur Vanua Levu ke ganna bonne wale kshetron mein 200mm se 300mm ke beech baarish hone ki uch sambhaavana hai.
- Nadi mausami daftar ne yah bhee kaha hai ki vartamaan mein El Niño ki sthiti ke parinaam svaroop baarish mein kamee aa saktee hai.
- 2024 mein ganna bonne ke liye bhoomi ki taiyaaree abhi se shuroo honee chaahiye, yah khet kee sthitiyon par nirbhar karta hai aur March ke madhy se ganne ki boayi ki yojana banaee jaanee chaahiye.
- Bachee huee namee ki haani ko rokane ke liye jotai apanaee jaanee chaahiye.
- Taapamaan ummeed se oopar ja sakta hai. Yadi yah maamala ban jaata hai, to garm paristhitiyaan ghasso ko tejee se badhane ki anumati degi. Iske liye kisaanon ko ghaas niyantran ke liye ganne ki davai ka prayog karna chaahiye.
- Sabhee ganne ke paudhon aur ratoon phasalon ke liye split application ka prayog karna chaahiye.
- Mittee ka namoona lene ki gatividhi ab kee jaani chaahiye aur SRIF se praapt parinaamon ke aadhaar par fertilizers/choona ka istamaal karna chaahiye.
- Ganna bonne ki avadhi ke dauraan upyog kiye jaane vaale paudhon ki varieties aur saaf beech ki upalabdhatta ke sambandh mein apne kshetr ke farm advisors se paraamarsh karen.
- Jo khet chadhai par hai, waha paudhe lagaana chaahiye taki mittee ko bhaene se roka ja sake.
- Aur salaah ke liye 8921839 par SRIF ko sampark kare.

## I-Taukei

- E rauta ni 100mm ki na 200mm na levu ni uca e taurivaki e na veisiteseni ni uca e na noda yalava ni tei dovu, e na vula sa oti.
- E ratou wasea tiko na Tabana Ni Draki, ni namaki me na rawa ni rauta e 100mm ki na 200mm na levu ni uca e tau, e na yalava ni tei dovu e Viti Levu, ka namaki me na rauta e 200mm ki na 300mm na levu me na tau e na yalava ni tei dovu e Vanua Levu.
- Me vaka ni se tiko tale ga e na gauna oqo na El Niño, e ratou sa veivakasalataki tiko na Tabana Ni Draki, ni na rawa ni namaki me na lailai sobu tiko na uca ka na rawa ni tau.
- Ko ni sa kerei mo ni sa tekivu vakarautaka tiko yani na nomuni vanua ni tei dovu, ka me sa na tekivu tale ga na kena tei na dovu e na veimama ni vula ko Maji, ka lako yani.
- Kerei me vakalailaitaki na kena cukiraki na qele, me rawa ni maroroya na suasua ka tiko rawa e na qele.
- Me vaka ni na rawa ni namaki me toso cake na katakata, e na rawa tale ga ni laki vakavuna na tubu totolo ni co ca. Ko ni sa kerei kina na dau teitei, me taurivaki na I walewale ni teitei, ka na rawa ni vakalailaitaka se vakaberaberataka na tubu ni co ca.
- Ko ni sa kerei tale ga mo ni wasea rua na kena vakayagataki nai vakabulabula ni qele, e na I tei ni dovu.
- Ko ni sa vakasalataki tale ga me na sabolotaki rawa na nomuni qele, ni bera na teitei, ka vakayagataki na I vakabulabula ni qele kei na lase, e na kena I vakarau, e ratou lavaka mai na dau ni vakasala e na SRIF.
- Ni sa kerei na dau teitei, mo ni veitaratara kei iratou na dau ni vakasala ni teitei, e na vuku ni mataqali I tei ni dovu me na tei.
- Ko ni sa vakasalataki na dau teitei e na vanua veibaba, mo ni taurivaka e so na I walewale ni teitei,

me vaka na kena tei na co na 'vativa', me na rawa ni vakalailaitaka na sisi ni qele.

- Ke tu e so na nomuni vakatataro, ni rawa ni veitaratara kei iratou na SRIF, ena naba ni talevoni 8921839.

## Climate Outlook

- For January 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- During February 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall from Sigatoka to Penang, Labasa, Vunivutu and Wainikoro, while there is a high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu, Seaqaqa, Waiqele, Vunimoli and Batinikama.
- For March 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall for Sigatka, Lautoka, parts of Ba and parts of Tavua, while there is high chance of receiving **200-300mm** rainfall for remaining parts in Vitilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- During February to April 2024 period, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **400-600mm** of rainfall for Sigatoka, Lautoka, parts of Ba and parts of Tavua, **600-800mm** for remaining parts in Viti levu (except Dobuilevu), and most parts of sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, and **800-1200** for Dobuilevu, Vunimoli and Wainikoro.
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a moderate El Niño state.
- The current El Niño event is 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, is likely to result in enhanced rainfall.

## Rainfall Outlook: January 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
January 2024

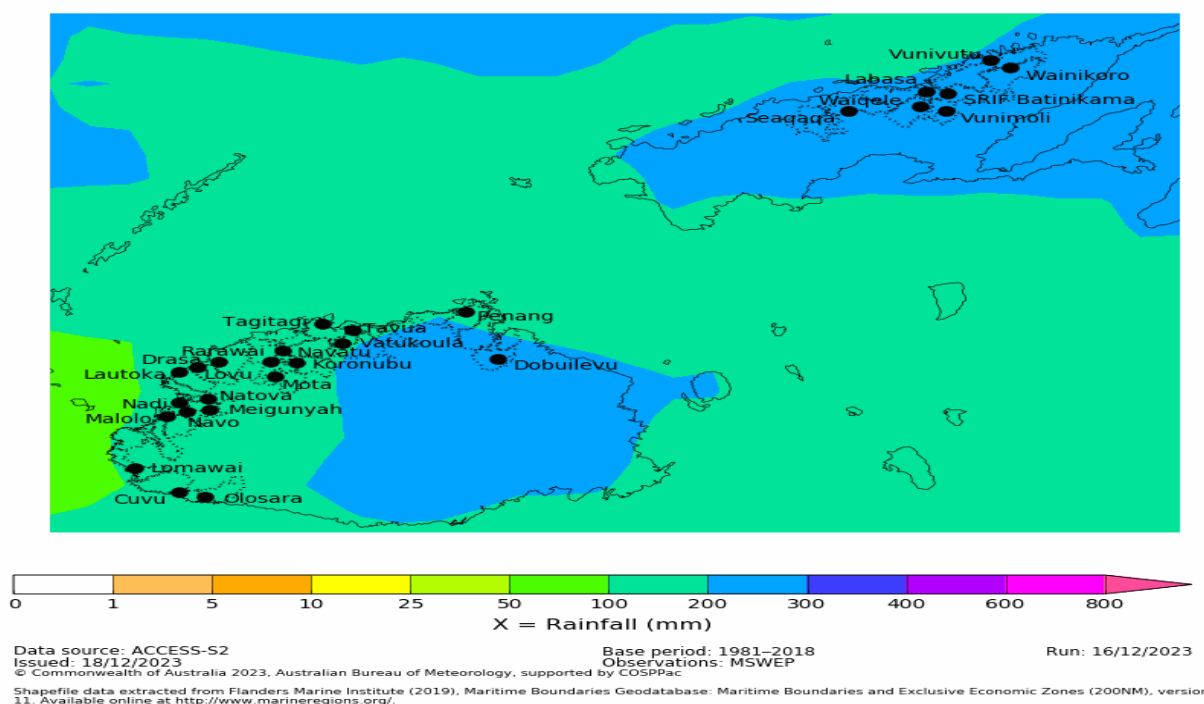


Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to good.

## Rainfall Outlook: February 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
February 2024

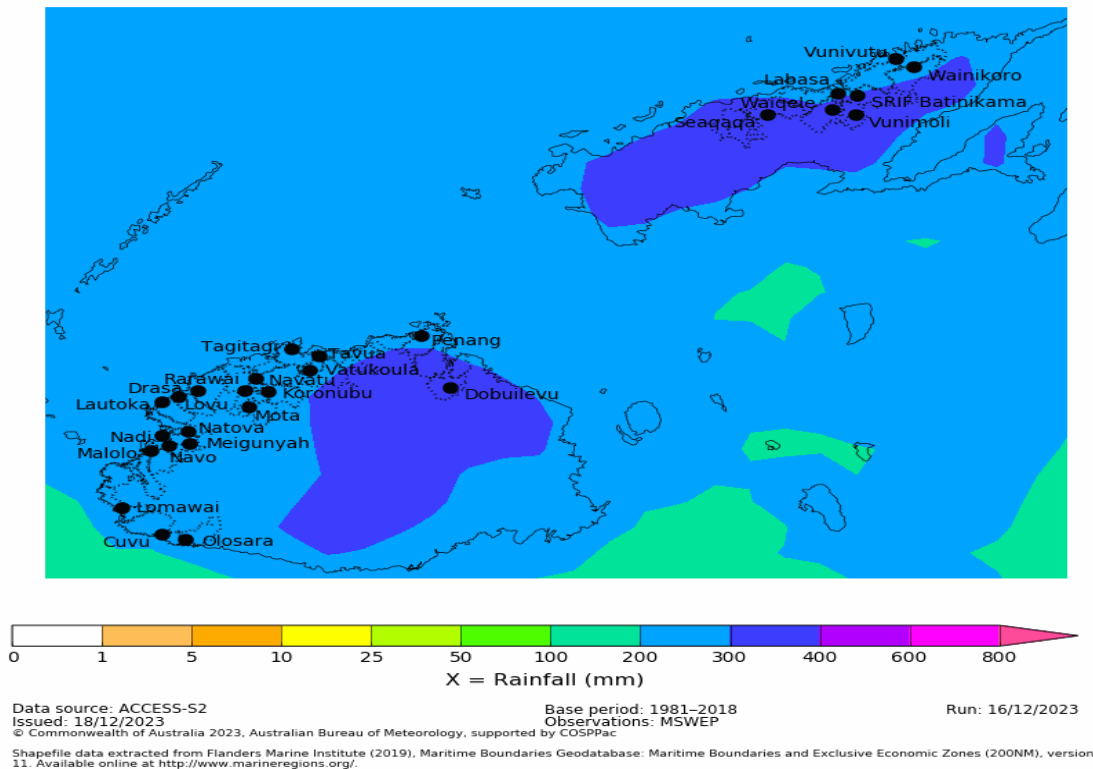


Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall from Sigatoka to Penang, Labasa, Vunivutu and Wainikoro, while there is a high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu, Seqaqa, Waiqele, Vunimoli and Batinikama. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to good.

## Rainfall Outlook: March 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
March 2024

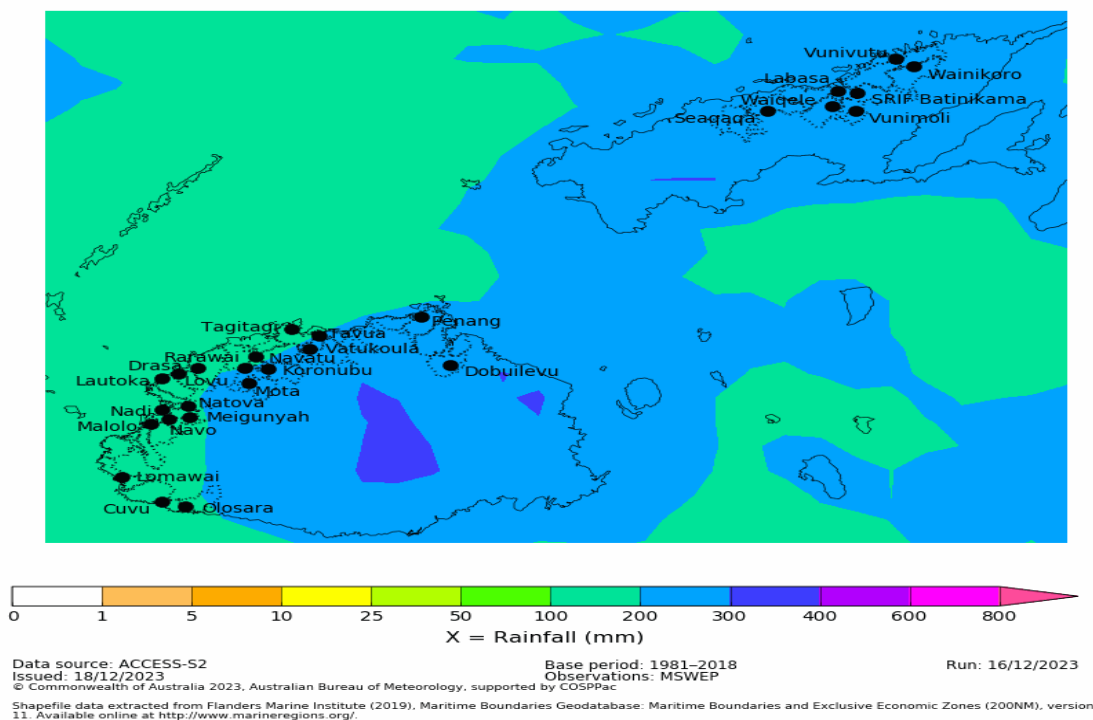
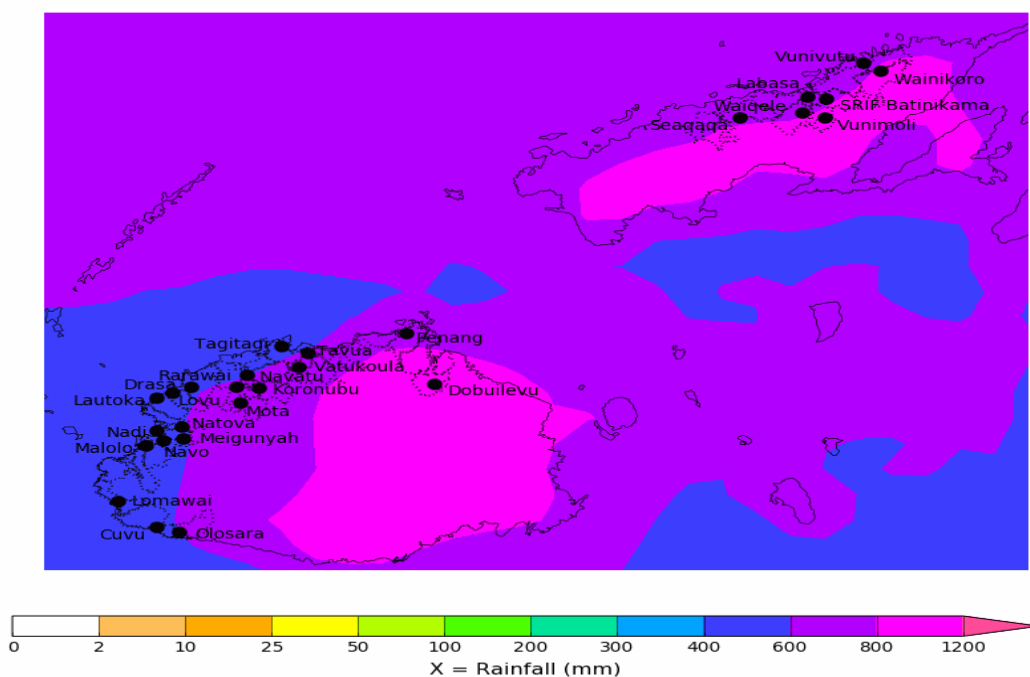


Figure 3: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall for Sigatka, Lautoka, parts of Ba and parts of Tavua, while there is high chance of receiving 200-300mm rainfall for remaining parts in Vitilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to good.

## Rainfall Outlook: February to April 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
February to April 2024



Data source: ACCESS-S2

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Base period: 1981–2018

Observations: MSWEP

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Run: 16/12/2023

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.maritimerregions.org/>

Figure 4: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 400-600mm of rainfall for Sigatoka, Lautoka, parts of Ba and parts of Tavua, 600-800mm for remaining parts in Viti levu ( except Doboilevu), and most parts of sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, and 800-1200 for Doboilevu, Vunimoli and Wainikoro. The confidence in the outlook is 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 phenomena, *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.



## Explanatory Notes

**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.*