

# Fiji Sugarcane Climate Outlook from May 2021 Planting & Harvesting Season

Volume 17

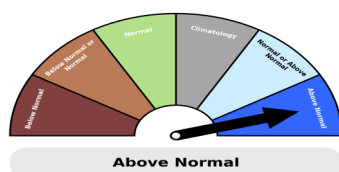
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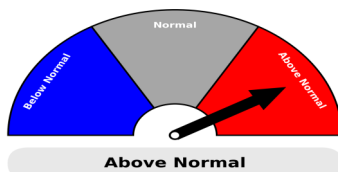
Next issue: July 26, 2021

## Key Messages

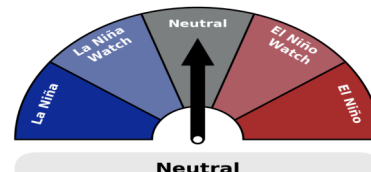
## May to July 2021 Outlook



Rainfall Outlook



Air Temperature Outlook



ENSO Outlook

### English

- The sugarcane growing areas have received above normal rainfall during the past 3 months.
- While the country is now heading into the Dry Season, the forecast for the next 3 months is for wetter than usual season.
- Farmers must ensure that fields and main drains in and around their farms are kept clean to allow easy drainage of excess water from the fields to avoid water logging conditions in case of heavy downpour.
- Land preparation for 2021 season planting should have commenced by now and planting of cane to have started from March till May. Soil tests should be carried out for optimum fertilizer recommendation and seed cane sources to be identified and verified by SRIF team. Growers need to closely follow daily and weekly weather updates from Fiji Meteorological Services and factor such information into their planning for land preparation and planting.
- The air temperatures predicted during the next 3 months is above normal. Warmer conditions will allow the weeds to germinate and grow rapidly. Stringent weed management by both manual weeding and weedicide application should be adopted by the farmers for weed control.
- For further advice, please contact SRIF on 8921839.

### Hindi

- Ganna ugane vaale kshetron mein pichhale teen maheenon ke dauraan saamaany se adhik baarish hui hai.
- Jabaki desh ab shuke ke mausam mein badh raha hai, agle teen maheenon ke mausam ke liye saamaany se zyada barish ki sambhawna kiyaja raha hai.
- Kisaanon ko yah sunishchit karna chaahiye ki unke khet aur aas paas ke mukhye naale saaf rahe taki bhari matra mein jal bharaav ki sthiti utpanth na ho jab ghambir barish ho.
- Khet ki taiyari 2021 gaane boneh ki mausam ke liye ab tak shuroo ho jani chayie thi. March se May tak ganne kee boae honi chayie. Mittee pareekshan purn roop se SRIF duwara kiya jana chaiye taki fertilizer ki si-phaarish ho sake. Ganne ke beej SRIF team dvaara pahachaana chahiye. Kisanon ko Nandi Mausami Vibhaag

se diya gaya dainik aur saaptaahik mausam ki jankari ko baareek se gaur karna chahiye meeti ke taiyaaree aur ganna bohne ke liye.

- Agale teen mahinon ke liye hava ka tapman samanye se upar rahene ka anumaan lagaya ja raha hai. Garm sthiti ke kaaran ghas teji se badh sakti hai. Sakht roop se ghas niyantran ke liye kisanon dvara ghaas ukhadne aur ghaas wale dawaiya ka upyog karna aavashyak hai.
- Aur salah ke liye 8921839 par SRIF ko sampark karen.

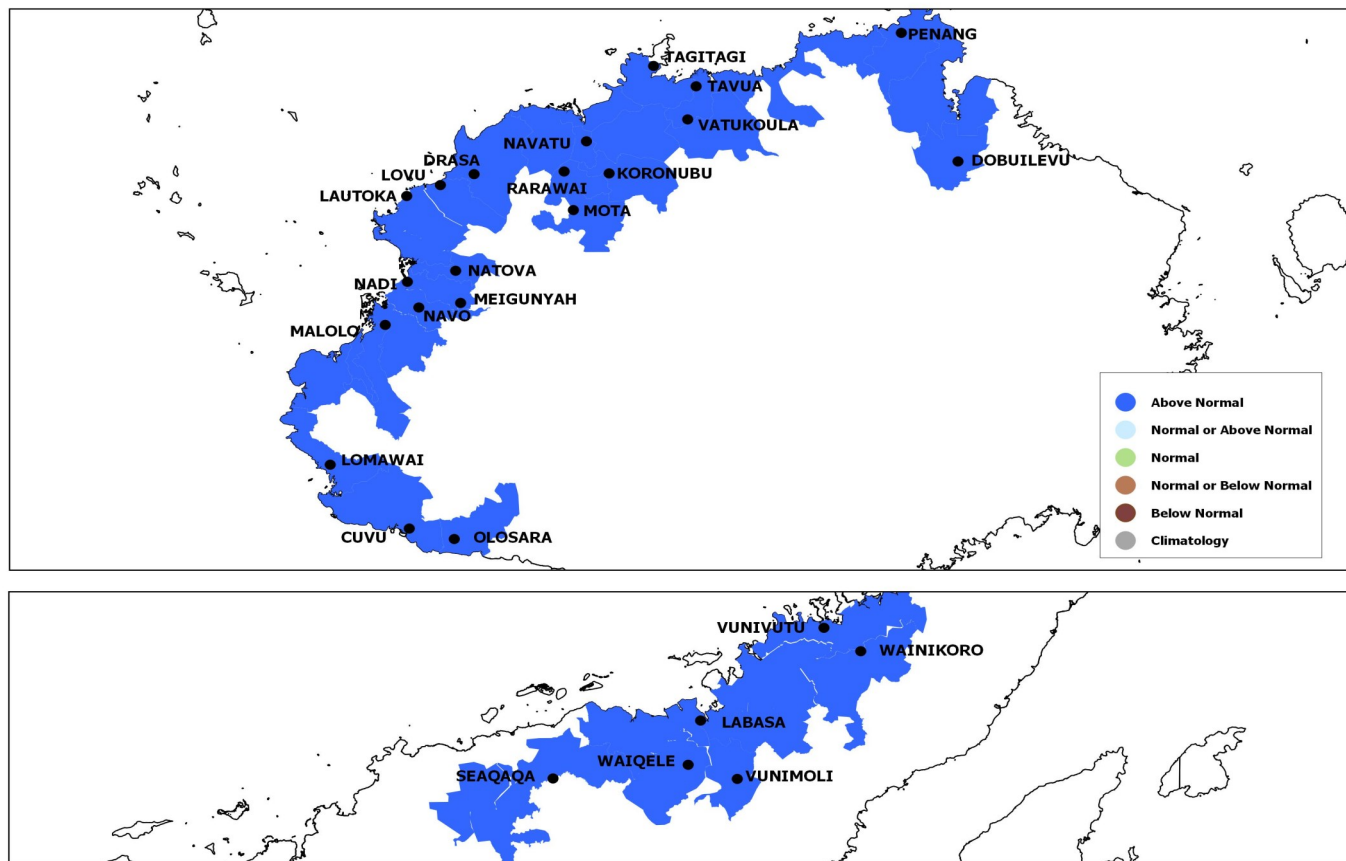
### I -Taukei

- E a levu sara na uca a tau e na noda vanua ni tei dovu e na tolu na vula sa oti.
- Ni da sa vakanamata tiko yani kina vula i mamaca, e namaki me na levu tiko ga na uca me na tau.
- Vei kemuni na dau teitei, e gadrevi/ dodonu me savasava tiko na vei sala ni wai se I keli, me na rawa ni dro-dro vinaka tiko na wai e na gauna ni tau bi ni uca ka tarova tale ga na kena curumi wai na loga ni dovu.
- Me vaka ni da sa donuya tiko oqo na gauna ni tei dovu, sa dodonu me sa tekivu vakarautaki oti tiko na qele ka sa teivaki tale ga na dovu. Na vakadidike kei na I vakasala ni vakabulabulataki ni qele kei na mata ni dovu e na veimataqali qele duidui e so, ratou na qarava tiko na tabana ni SRIF. Sa gadrevi tale ga vei kemuni na dau teitei moni vakamuria na I vakasala ni draki mai vei iratou na kena tabana e na veisiga, veimacawa ka ni na rawa ni veivuke sara vakalevu.
- Na I vakarau ni katakata e na loma ni tolu na vula mai oqo e namaki tiko me na sivia koto na katakata mai na kena e dau namaki. Draki katakata tale ga e na vakavuna na kena tubu totolo co ca. Me vaqacotaki na wereci ni teitei kei na kena vakayagataki na wai ni mate ni co ca.
- Ke so nomuni vakatataro, ni rawa ni qai veitaratara kei iratou na SRIF e na naba ni talevoni 8921839.

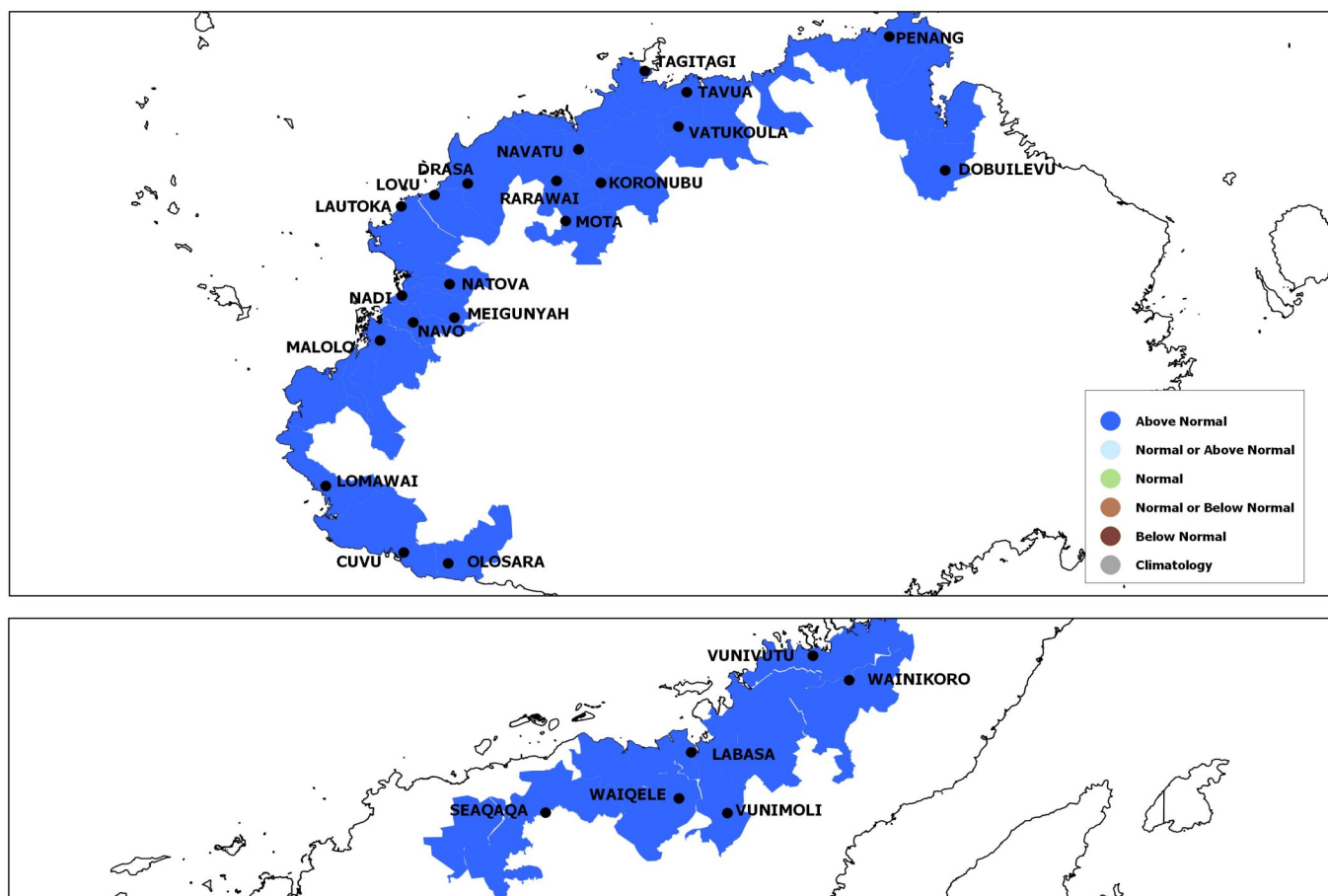
## Climate Outlook

- Most of the sugarcane growing areas have experienced wetter than usual condition since September 2020.
- While the La Niña event in the tropical Pacific has now decayed to a weak event with a return to ENSO-neutral condition expected in the coming months, the lag effect of the La Niña on the Fiji sugarcane growing areas is likely to continue during the coming dry season from May to October.
- Rainfall during both the May to July 2021 and August to October 2021 seasons is expected to be more than normal.
- Nonetheless, the Dry Season will onset from May to October, which will result in reduced rainfall activity in comparison to past couple of months. However, the coming Dry season is expected to be wetter than usual in the Fiji's sugarcane growing areas.
- Air temperatures are expected to be *above normal* across the sugarcane belts during both the May to July 2021 and August to October 2021 seasons.
- The 2020-21 tropical cyclone season ends on April 30<sup>th</sup>. However, out of season cyclone activity cannot be ruled out as tropical cyclones have formed in the past in our region, though rarely, outside the normal season.
- Hence, all communities should remain alert, updated with latest weather forecasts and take appropriate precautionary measures when alerts and warnings are issued. At the same time, farmers should also prepare for the upcoming Dry Season.

## Rainfall Outlook: May to July 2021

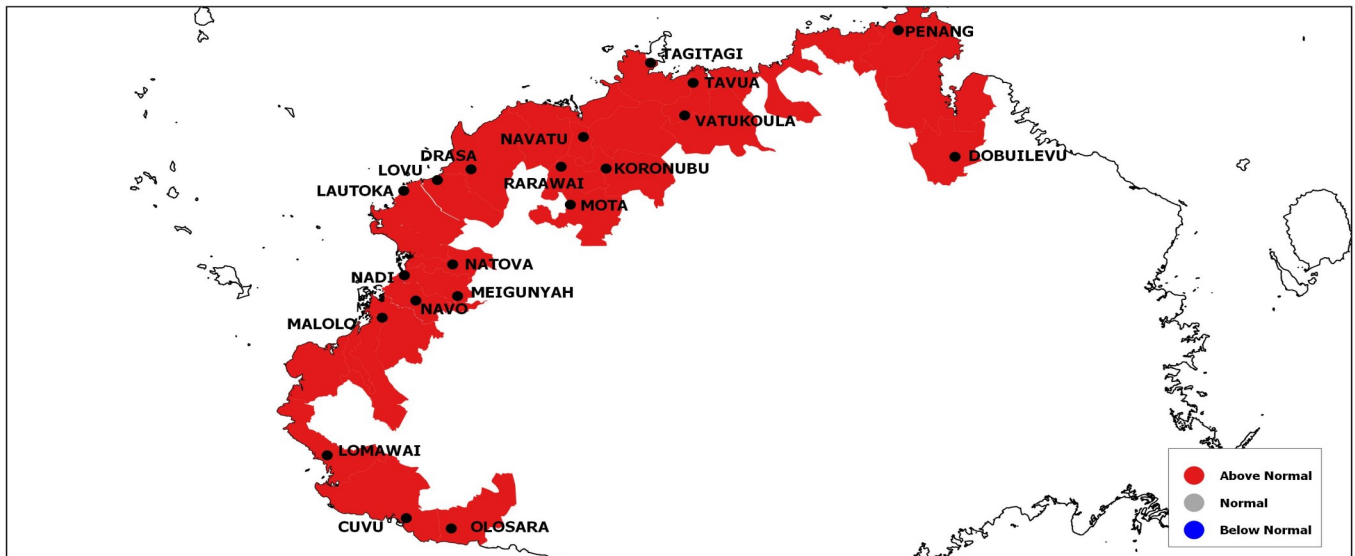


## Rainfall Outlook: August to October 2021

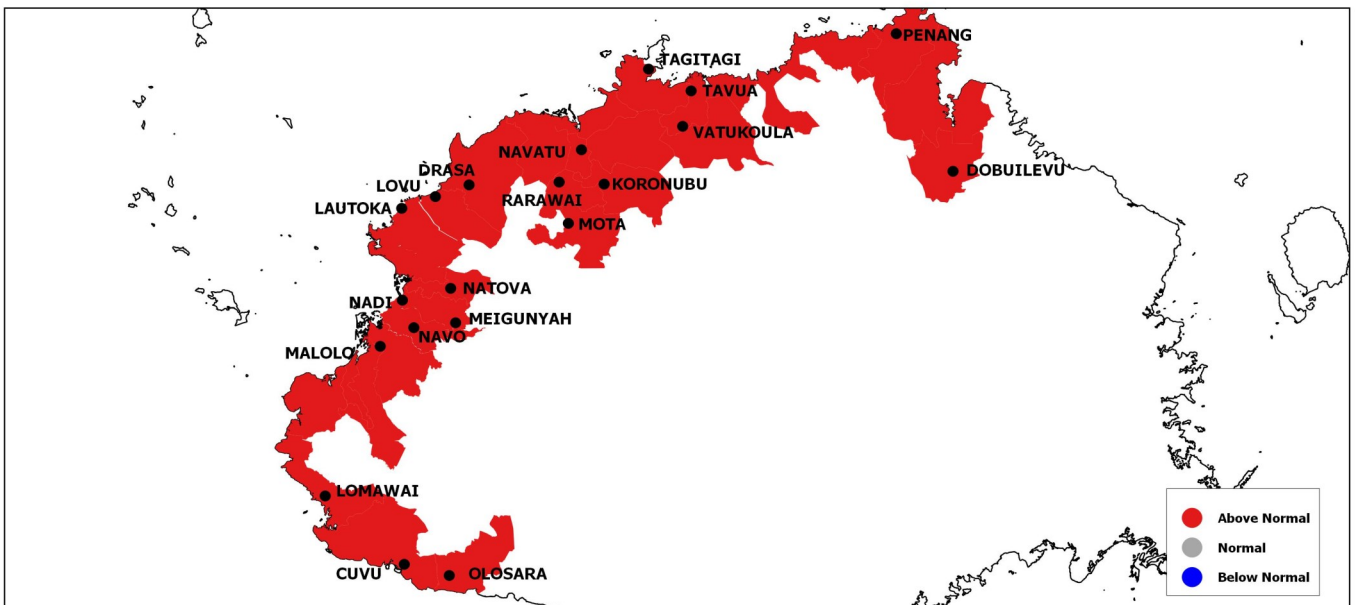




## Air Temperature Outlook: May to July 2021



## Air Temperature Outlook: August to October 2021



## Explanatory Notes

### Fiji Sugarcane Climate 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 four times a year inline with the cycles of the sugarcane farming in Fiji:

- End of January with Outlook from February for the Planting Season;
- End of April with Outlook from May for the Planting & Harvesting Season;
- End of July with Outlook from August for the Harvesting & Crushing Season; and
- End of October with Outlook from November for the Late Harvesting and Maintenance Season.

### 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 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.

A La Niña event typically has an opposite effect on Fiji's climate resulting in wetter than normal conditions, 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 influences are more likely to dominate.

### Climate (Rainfall/Air Temperature) Outlook

The climate outlook is in tercile format. The **below normal** range is one where rainfall/temperature is less than the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile. That is, rainfall for the period (in this case three months) which is in the lowest one third of occurrences. Here, three-month rainfall/temperature is arranged for a particular period from the highest on record to lowest on record. Rainfall/temperature below the one-third point would be considered **below normal**. Rainfall/temperature in the middle third would be considered **normal** and upper third **above normal**. For example, a rainfall prediction of 48:31:21, has the highest probability of rainfall in the below normal category (48%). This means that rainfall is most likely to be below normal for the on-coming three months. However, there is still a 31% chance of normal rainfall and 21% chance of above normal rainfall. Similarly, with a prediction of 20:40:40, means normal or above normal rainfall would be expected. In the case of 33:33:34 there are equal chances of receiving below normal, normal or above normal rainfall (climatology). A rainfall pre-

**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.