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# Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For March 2026, April 2026, May 2026 and April to June 2026

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**Volume 4** **Issue: 2** **Issued: March 6, 2026**
**Next issue: March 31, 2026**

## Key Messages

March 2026

April 2026

May 2026

April to June 2026

## *English*

### WEATHER FORECAST

The Fiji Meteorological Services predicts between 250 - 400mm of rainfall in the sugarcane growing areas, due to the ongoing La Niña event (wet conditions).

| Sugarcane Area | Expected Rainfall (mm) |
|---|---|
| Olosara to Penang | 250-300 |
| Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Dobuilevu | 300 - 400 |
| Vanua Levu | |

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR FARMERS

1. Land Preparation

- Proceed with land preparation in areas expecting moderate rainfall (250-300mm) to take advantage of improved soil moisture.
- In high-rainfall zones (above 300mm rain), delay planting until conditions stabilize to avoid the risk of seed cane rotting and poor germination.

2. Crop Protection

- Ensure fields have effective, well-maintained drainage systems to remove excess water quickly and prevent waterlogging or flooding during periods of heavy rain.
- Intensify scouting for pests (e.g., plant hoppers, borers) and diseases (e.g., rusts, galls, root rots) during prolonged wet conditions, as high moisture increases vulnerability.
- Sanitize all tools (knives, forks, spades, hoes, etc.) between blocks to avoid spreading diseases.
- Maintain clean fields by controlling weeds to limit pest habitats and nutrient competition under wetter conditions.

3. Soil and Nutrient Management

- Conduct soil tests in accessible fallowed fields to determine nutrient status and guide accurate fertilizer decisions.
- Blend A and B fertilizers to be purchased and stored for timely application.
- Apply lime where soil tests indicate a need to correct pH and improve soil structure.

- On rolling or steep land, strengthen soil conservation practices (contour planting, vetiver hedges) to minimize erosion risk from anticipated heavy rainfall.
- Due to recent rainfall increasing weed infestation, implement integrated weed management, including manual and chemical controls at this cane growth stage.

4. Seed Cane Selection and Planting
- Seed cane to be selected in advance and approved before start of planting.
- Use certified, disease-free seed cane for planting to ensure healthy crop establishment.
- Check fields for gaps and perform gap filling to maintain uniform crop stands.
- Delay planting in high-rainfall areas until conditions improve.

**GENERAL ADVISORY**
- Report unusual pest sightings or challenges to SRIF at 8921839 for advice and support.
- Remain vigilant - follow advisories, warnings and guidance issued by authorities.
- Contact SRIF for guidance on managing crops and inputs under rainfall conditions.

## *Hindi Version*

**MAUSAM POORVAANUMAAN**
Fiji Mausami Daftar ne La Niña ghatana (baarish ka mausam) ke kaaran ganne kee khetee vaale kshetron mein 250-400 mm baarish hone ka anumaan lagaaya hai.

| Ganna kshetr | Apekshit Varsha(mm) |
|---|---|
| Olosara to Penang | 250-300 |
| Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Dobuilevu | 300 - 400 |
| Vanua Levu | |

**KISAANON KE LIYE ANUSHANSIT KAARYAVAAHIYAAN**

1. Bhoomi kee Taiyaaree
- Madhyam varsha (250-300 mm) kee sambhaavana vaale kshetron mein behatar mittee kee namee ka laabh uthaane ke liye bhoomi taiyaar karane ka kaary shuroo karen.
- Adhik varsha vaale kshetron (300 mm se adhik varsha) mein, beej ke sadane aur ankuran mein kamee ke jokhim se bachane ke liye, mausam sthir hone tak buvaee ko roke.

2. Phasal Sanrakshan
- Sunishchit karen ki kheton mein prabhaavee aur vyavasthit jal nikaasee pranaalee ho taaki atirikt paanee jaldee nikal jae aur bhaaree baarish ke dauraan jalabharaav ya baadh ko roka ja sake.
- Lambe samay tak baarish ke mausam ke dauraan keeton (jaise, plant hoppers, borers) aur rogon (jaise, rusts, galls, root rots) kee nigaraanee tej karen, kyonki adhik namee se keeton ka khatara badh jaata hai.
- Rogon ke prasaar se bachane ke liye pratyek khet ke upayog ke baad sabhee aujaaron (chaakoo, forks, spades, kudari aadi) ko keetaanurahit karen.
- Baarish ke mausam mein keeton ke aavaas aur poshak tatvon kee pratispardha ko seemit karane ke liye ghass ko niyantrit karake kheton ko saaph rakhen.

3. Mittee evan Poshak tatv Prabandhan
- Paratee kheton mein mittee kee jaanch karake poshak tatvon kee sthiti ka pata lagaen aur urvarakon ke sahee chunaav mein maargadarshan praapt karen.
- Blend A aur B urvarakon ko khareeden aur samay par prayog ke liye ache se rakhe.
- Jahaan mittee kee jaanch se pH ko santulit karane aur mittee kee sanrachana mein sudhaar karane kee aavashyakata ho, vahaan choona daalen.
- Dhalaanadaar ya khadee bhoomi par, sambhaavit bhaaree varsha se hone vaale kataav ke jokhim ko kam karane ke liye mittee sanrakshan upaayon (kantoor plaanting, vetivar hej) ko majaboot karen.

- Haal hee mein huee varsha se ghass kee sankhya mein vrddhi ke kaaran, ganne kee vrddhi ke is charan mein mainyual aur chemical niyantran sahit ekeekrt ghass prabandhan laagoo karen.

4. Beej Ganna chayan aur Ropan
- Buvaee shuroo karane se pahale ganne ka chayan ache se kar len.
- Svasth phasal ke liye pramaanit, rogamukt ganne ka hee prayog karen.
- Kheton mein khaalee jagahen dekhen aur ek samaan phasal ke liye unhen bharen.
- Adhik varsha vaale kshetron mein mausam sudharane tak buvaee roke.

**SAAMAANY SALAAH**
- Keeton ke asaamaany roop se dikhane ya kisee bhee samasya kee soochana 8921839 par SRIF ko den taaki salaah aur sahaayata praapt kee ja sake.
- Satark rahen - adhikaariyon dvaara jaaree salaah, chetaavaniyon aur dishaa nirdeshon ka paalan karen.
- Baarish kee sthiti mein phasalon aur any sansaadhanon ke prabandhan ke liye SRIF se sampark karen.

## *I- Taukei Version*

**I TUKUTUKU NI DRAKI**

E ratou vakasalataka tiko na Tabana ni Draki ni rawa ni namaki e rauta e 250 - 400mm na levu ni uca e tau e na noda veiyalava ni tei dovu, ka rawa ni vu mai e na mataqali draki ka vakatokai na La Niña ka tiko oqo e na noda wasa Pasivika (draki suasua).

| Yalava ni tei dovu | Levu ni uca ka rawa ni namaki (mm) |
|---|---|
| Veivanua e na maliwa kei Olosara kei Penang | 250-300 |
| Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Dobuilevu | 300 - 400 |
| Vanua Levu | |

**VAKASALA KI VEI KEMUNI NA DAUTEITEI**

1. Vakarautaki ni Qele

- Rawa ni tomani tiko na vakarautaki ni qele me tei e na veivanua ka namaki me na tau kina na uca, me vakayagataki na tuvaki vinaka ni qele.
- Ia, e na veivanua ka sa vakilai vakalevu kina na tau ni uca (me vakataki Dobuilevu), sa kerei me vakaberaberataki tale vakalailai na teivaki ni qele, me rawa ni tarovi na kena rawa ni vuca na I tei ka rawa tale ga ni vuna na tubu gogo ni I tei.

2. Taqomaki/ Qarauni ni I Teitei

- Kerei me na qarauni na veivakata lalai se veivanua me drodro kina na wai e na gauna ni tau ni uca eda donumaka tiko oqo, me na rawa ni tarova na kena rawa ni luvu na I teitei e na gauna ni tau ni uca.
- Qarauni me yadravi matua na I tei ni dovu e na gauna ni draki suasua e na kena rawa ni basika e so na I vakatakilakila ni mate me vaka na 'rusts', 'galls' kei na 'streaks' se manumanu ka rawa ni vakadewa na mate me vakataka na 'plant hoppers' kei na 'borers', me vaka ni rawarawa na kena basika na tauvimate e na gauna ni draki suasua.
- SMe qarauni me savasava ni yaya ni teitei, me vaka na I sele, mataiva, I sivi, kei na so tale, e na gau-

na ni veitosoyaki me na tarova na kena rawa ni dewa na mate.

- Qarauni na I teitei me savasava, ka qarauni na tubu ni co ca me vukea na kena vakalailaitaki na kena rawa ni basika na manumanu ka rawa ni vakavu tauvimate se vakadewa na mate ka vakalailaitaka tale ga na kena rawa ni rau veisugusugutaka na I vakabulabula ni qele, na I tei ni dovu kei na co ca.

3. Valavala ni Vakayagataki ni Qele kei na Vakabulabula ni Qele

- Ni bera ni teivaki na qele ka lala dede tu, ni sa vakasalataki mo ni kauta na nomuni qele me sabolotaki/ vakadikevi mai vei iratou na kena dau, me na rawa ni laurai na I vakarau ni vakabulabula ni qele me vakayagataki.
- Sa kerei me na tekivu voli tiko vakamalua na I vakabulabula ni qele ka tiko e na 'Blend A' kei na 'B' me rawa ni vakayagataki e na kena gauna donu.
- Me vakavinakataki na tuvaki ni nomuni qele (soil pH), rawa ni ko ni vakayagataka na 'lime', ka na vakatautaki na kena I vakarau, e na I nodratou macala na kena dau, me baleta na nomuni qele.
- Ki vei kemuni na teitei tiko e na vanua veibaba, ni sa vakasalataki mo ni vakayagataka na I walewale ni teitei matau, me vaka na kena tei na co na 'vetiver grass', me na rawa ni vakalailaitaka na kena rawa ni sisi na qele e na gauna ni tau ni uca eda donumaka tiko oqo.
- E na vuku ni draki e da donumaka tiko oqo, ni sa kerei mo ni vakayagataka na I walewale ni teitei matau, ka oka kina na kena vakayagataki na misini kei na wai ni mate, me tarova na tubu totolo ni co ca, e na gauna ni tubu ni tei ni dovu.

4. Digitaki ni I tei ni Dovu kei na kena Tei

- Ni sa kerei me dikevi/ digitaki ka vakaivolataki rawa na I tei ni dovu mo ni vakayagataka ni bera ni tekivu na teitei.
- Ni vakayagataka na I tei ni dovu ka sa dikevi ka vakaivolataki oti, ka sega tale ga ni tauvimate, me na rawa ni vukea na tubu bulabula ni nomuni I tei.
- Vakadikevi na I teitei, laurai na veivanua ka se lala koto, ka teivaki mai, me rawa ni taucoko tiko na vanua sa teivaki mai
- Ni sa kerei me vakaberaberataki tale vakalailai na teitei e na veivanua ka sa vakilai vakalevu tiko kina na uca, me yacova na gauna e sa na daumaka kina na teitei.

**I VAKASALA RARABA**

- Ke laurai e so na I vakatakilakila ni manumanu ka rawa ni vakadewa se vakavuna na tauvimate ni dovu, ni sa kerei mo ni veitaratara kei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF e na 8921839, me rawa ni ratou vakasalataki kemuni.
- E sa kerei mo ni vakatudaliga tiko ki na nodratou vakasala na Tabana ni Draki, ka muria na veivakasala e so ka dau lavaki mai.
- E na vuku ni veiveisau ni draki e da na vakila tiko, ni sa kerei mo ni veitaratara kei iratou na Tabana Ni SRIF, me ratou rawa ni vakasalataki kemuni e na duidui ni tei me teivaki.

## Climate Outlook

- During March 2026, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, **300-400mm** for Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.

- For April 2026, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-150mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua, **150-200mm** in Penang, while there is a high chance of receiving **200-250mm** in Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.

- The outlook for May 2026 shows a 75% chance of receiving at least **0-25mm** of rainfall in Lomawai, Malolo, Nadi, Lautoka, Lovu and Drasa, **25-50mm** in Olosara, Cuvu, Navo, Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Rarawai, Koronubu, Navatu, Tagitagi, Vatukoula and Tavua, **50-100mm** in Penang and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is a high chance of receiving at least **100-150mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu.

- Rainfall outlook for the April to June 2026 period shows a 75% chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Tagitagi, **300-400mm** in Rarawai, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Vatukoula, Tavua, Penang and Vunivutu, while there is a high chance of receiving at least **400-500mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across most of the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.

- A weak La Niña event is currently underway, however, it is expected to shift towards ENSO-neutral conditions from March onwards.

- Despite the likely easing of La Niña event, its impact on Fiji is likely to continue over the next couple of months due to lag in atmospheric response to the changes in the ocean.

- Fiji is still in its wet/ tropical cyclone season and may experience one to two tropical cyclones, with at least one system having the potential to intensify into a severe tropical cyclone (Category 3–5).

- There is an equal likelihood of tropical cyclones affecting any area within the Fiji Group.

- Tropical disturbances or depressions that fail to reach cyclone strength can still produce strong winds or gusts, widespread heavy rainfall, landslides, and flooding, as observed in past events.

- All communities are advised to remain vigilant and prepared throughout the tropical cyclone season, and to closely follow all advisories and warnings that are issued.

## Rainfall Outlook: March 2026

*Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, 300-400mm for Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.*

## Rainfall Outlook: April 2026

*Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-150mm of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua, 150-200mm in Penang, while there is a high chance of receiving 200-250mm in Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is low to moderate.*

## Rainfall Outlook: May 2026

*Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 0-25mm of rainfall in Lomawai, Malolo, Nadi, Lautoka, Lovu and Drasa, 25-50mm in Olosara, Cuvu, Navo, Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Rarawai, Koronubu, Navatu, Tagitagi, Vatukoula and Tavua, 50-100mm in Penang and across the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is a high chance of receiving at least 100-150mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is low to moderate.*

## Rainfall Outlook: April to June 2026

*Figure 4: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall from Olosara to Tagitagi, 300-400mm in Rarawai, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Vatukoula, Tavua, Penang and Vunivutu, while there is a high chance of receiving at least 400-500mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across most of the sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to 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) then 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.*