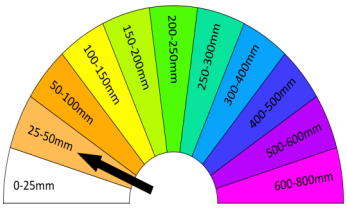
Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For November, December, January 2027 and December 2026 to February 2027

FIJI METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES
Ph: +679 6724888,
Email:
climate@met.gov.fj

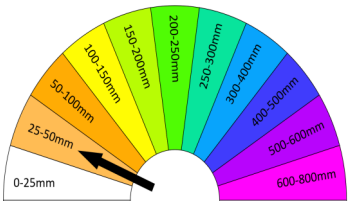
SUGAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF FIJI
Ph: +679 8921839,
Email:
info@srif.org.fj

Volume 4 **Issue: 10** **Issued: November 6, 2026**
Next issue: November 30, 2026

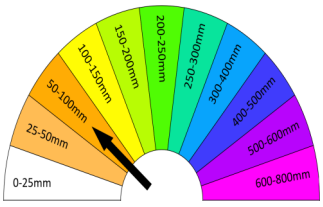
Key Messages



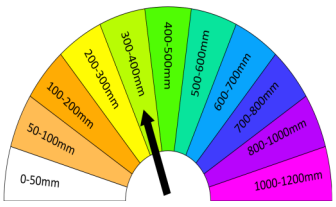
November 2026



December 2026



January 2027



December 2026 to February 2027

English

Hot and dry El Niño conditions are expected to continue. The following measures prioritise moisture conservation, fire risk reduction and early pest/disease control.

Harvesting and ratoon management:

1. Variety Selection
- Plant varieties proven to perform well under local soil and climatic conditions.
- Prioritise varieties with good ratooning ability and recovery after drought.
- Record variety performance during dry seasons to guide future recommendations.
- Diversify varieties as per recommendations in the Master Award.

2. Seed Cane Supply
- Maintain healthy seed cane nurseries of recommended varieties.
- Check and remove diseases early during the dry season so that healthy seed cane is ready for planting when weather becomes favourable.
- Give priority irrigation (if and when available) to support healthy seed cane production.

3. Planting
- Hold off on planting until the soil is moist to at least 15-20 cm.

4. Harvesting and Gap Filling
- Cut cane at ground level to encourage strong ratoon shoots.
- Fill gaps in ratoons only after rain, using healthy setts or pre-sprouted plants.
- Leave fields intended for ploughing out (old/poor ratoons) until rain arrives, then replant.

5. Fire Prevention
- Clear firebreaks around blocks, along headlands and near roads and houses.
- Don't burn rubbish or trash near cane fields during dry, windy weather.
- Keep water, knapsack sprayers and beaters ready.
- Cyclone season runs November to April. Keep drains clear, secure farm equipment and chemicals, and follow FMS warnings.

Soil, Water & Fertilizer:

1. Fertiliser
- Apply ratoon fertiliser only after at least 25 mm of rain, when the soil is moist. Fertiliser applied to dry soil is wasted and can be lost to the air.

2. Moisture Conservation
- Keep trash blankets on harvested fields. They reduce evaporation, hold soil moisture and suppress weeds.
- Keep inter-row cultivation to a minimum on dry soils, as it further dries the soil.
- Repair drains during the dry season.

3. Weed Control
- Control weeds early in young ratoons - weeds compete strongly for scarce water and will grow rapidly once rains begin, potentially overtaking the crop.
- Pre-emergence herbicides require moist soil to work effectively, so apply them after rain.
- Do not spray weeds that are wilting from drought stress, as the chemical will not work well.
- Where herbicides are ineffective, use hand weeding or hoeing.

Pest & Disease:

1. Pests and Diseases
- Check plots regularly for signs of pests and diseases so they can be controlled before they affect drought-stressed crops.
- Use Integrated Pest Management techniques in combination for efficient control.

2. Post-Harvest Hygiene
- After harvesting, thoroughly check farms and remove any pests, diseases, leftover harvested cane, and stubbles to prevent pathogen build-up.
- Keep headlands clean and clear to prevent pest transfer and to act as a fire barrier.

GENERAL ADVISORY
- Overall recommendation: SRIF promotes varieties based on verified field performance, including yield, sugar content, drought tolerance, ratooning ability and adaptability to local conditions.
- Report any unusual sightings or crop challenges to SRIF on 8921839 for timely advice and support.
- Remain vigilant and follow all official weather advisories and warnings from relevant authorities.
- Contact SRIF for specific guidance on crop and input management under the changing patterns.

Hindi Version

El Niño ke karan garm aur shukhe ki sthitiyan bani rahane ki sambhavna hai. Inn upaayon mein nami ke sanrshan, aag ke jokhim ko kam karne aur kiton ya bimariyon ko samay rahte niyantrit karne ko prathmikta di gai hai.

Katai aur ratoon (pedi) Prabandhan:

1. Ganne ki variety ka chunav
- Aisi variety ko lagayen jo sthaniya mitti aur climate ki paristhitiyon mein acha pradarshan karne ke liye pramanit hon.
- Aisi variety ko prathmikta den jinmein acchi ratuning kshamta ho aur jo sukhe ke baad phir se acchi tarah panap saken.
- Bhavishya ke sujhavon ke liye, sukhe ke mausam ke dauran variety ke pradarshan ka record rakhen.
- 'Master avaard' mein diye gaye sujhavon ke anusar variety mein vividhata laen.

2. Beej ganne ki supply
- Swasth beej ganna nursery taiyar rakhen.
- Sukhe mausam ke dauran bimariyon ki jaanch karen aur unhen samay rahte hata den, taki mausam anukul hone par ropan ke liye swasth beej ganna taiyar rahe.
- Swasth beej ganne ke utpadan ko badhava dene ke liye (uplabdh hone par) sinchai ko prathmikta den.

3. Paudhe lagaana
- Paudhe lagane ka kaam tab tak na karen, jab tak ki mitti kam se kam 15-20 cm ki gahrai tak nam na ho jaye.

4. Katai aur khali jagahon ko bharna
- Ganne ko zameen ki level se katen, taki mazboot 'ratoon' (punah ugne wale) ankur nikal saken.
- Ratoon wali fasal mein khali jagahon ko keval baarish ke baad hi bharen; iske liye swasth ganne ke tukdon (sets) ya pehle se ankurit paudhon ka istemaal karen.
- Jin kheton mein dobara jutaai karni hai (yani jahan purane ya kamzor ratoon hai), unhen baarish aane tak aise hi chhod den aur phir wahan dobara buaai karen.

5. Aag se bachav
- Blockon ke charon or, kheton ke kinaron par, aur sadkon va gharon ke paas 'firbrek' (aag rokne wali khali jagah) saaf rakhen.

- Sukhe aur tez hawa wale mausam mein ganne ke kheton ke paas kachra na jalaen.
- Pani, Knapsack sprayer aur aag bujhane wale beater (dande/upkaran) taiyar rakhen.
- Toofan ka mausam November se April tak rahata hai. Naaliyon ko saaf rakhen, kheti ke saman aur chemicals ko surakshit rakhen, aur FMS ki chetavniyon ka palan karen.

Mitti, pani aur khad:

1. khad
- ratoon (purani fasal) mein khad tabhi dalen jab kam se kam 25 mimi baarish ho chuki ho aur mitti mein nami ho. sukhi mitti mein dali gai khad barbad ho jaati hai aur hawa mein ud sakti hai.

2. Nami ka sanrshan
- fasal katai ke baad kheton mein fasal ke avashesh (jaise sukhi pattiyan ya danthal) bichakar rakhen. yeh nami ko udne se rokte han, mitti mein nami banae rakhte hain aur kharpatwar ko panpane nahin dete.
- sukhi mitti mein do kataron ke beech ki jutaai ya nirai-gudai kam se kam karen, kyonki isse mitti aur adhik sookh jaati hai.
- sukhe mausam ke dauran jal nikasi naaliyon ki marammat kar len.

3. Kharpatwar niyantran
- nai ratoon fasal mein kharpatwar ko shuruaat mein hi niyantrit karen - kharpatwar pani ke liye mukhya fasal se mukabla karte hain aur baarish shuru hote hi teji se failkar mukhya fasal ko daba sakte han.
- kharpatwar nashak (harbicyds) ko prabhavi dhang se kaam karne ke liye nami wali mitti ki jarurat hoti hai, isliye inka istemaal baarish ke baad karen.
- sukhe ke karan murjha rahe kharpatwaron par dawa ka chhidkav na karen, kyonki aisi sthiti mein rasayan theek se kaam nahin karega.
- jin jagahon par kharpatwar nashak asardaar na hon, vahan haath se kharpatwar nikalen ya kudal se nirai-gudai karen.

Keet aur Bimariyan:

1. Keet aur Bimariyan
- Kheton mein niyamit roop se keeton aur bimariyon ke lakshanon ki janch karen, taki sukhe se prab-havit fasalon par inka asar padne se pehle hi inhen niyantrit kiya ja sake.
- Niyantran ke liye Integrated Pest Management taknikon ka ek saath upyog karen.

2. Fasal katai ke baad Swachta
- Fasal katai ke bad, kheton ki acchi tarah janch karen aur kisi bhi tarah ke kit, bimari, kati hui fasal ke avashesh ya khuti ko hata den, taki rog (pathogens) panap na saken.
- Kheton ke kinaron (headlands) ko saf-suthara rakhen, taki keet ek jagah se dusri jagah na failein aur aag lagne ki sthiti mein yah ek rukavat (fire barrier) ka kaam kar saken.

SAMANYA SALAH

- Sujhav: SRIF aisi kismon ko badhava deta hai jinka field par pradarshan pramanit ho—jismen paidawar, chini ki matra, sukhe ko sahane ki kshamta, 'ratooning' (katai ke baad dobara ugne) ki kshamta aur sthaniya paristhitiyon ke anukul dhalne ki khoobi shamil hai.
- Yadi koi asamanya baat dikhe ya fasal se judi koi samasya aaye, to samay par salah aur sahayata paane ke liye SRIF ko 8921839 par sampark karen.
- Satark rahen aur sambandhit adhikariyon dwara jaari mausam sambandhi sabhi adhikarik salaahon aur chetavniyon ka palan karen.

Manumanu kei na Mate ka rawa ni Basika:

I- Taukei Version

Namaki me tomani tiko ga na draki katakata kei na draki mamaca, e na noda vanua. Oqo e so na I walewale ni kena qaravi na I teitei, me rawa ni vukea na kena maroroi na suasua ka sa tiko rawa e na qele, vakalailaitaka na kena rawa ni kama na I teitei kei na kena tarovi se vakalailaitaki na kena rawa ni basika na manumanu lalai ka rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate ni tei.

Tatamusuki kei na Qaravi ni I Tei ni Dovu:

1. Digitaki ni I tei ni Dovu
- Teivaki na I tei ni dovu ka rawa ni bula e na draki eda donumaka tiko oqo.
- Teivaki na I tei ni dovu ka rawa ni totolo na kena bula ni vakanadakui na gauna ni mamaca eda donumaka tiko oqo.
- Vakaivolataki na tubu na I tei ni dovu me rawa ni vukei iratou na kena dau e na kena dau soli na I vakasala me baleta na duidui I tei ni dovu, ki vei ira na dau tei dovu e na gauna mai muri.
- Vakayagataki se teivaki na veimataqali I tei ni dovu, me vaka na kena a veitalanoataki mai e na gauna ni Master Award.

2. Vakarautaki ni Tei ni Dovu

- Maroroi na I tei ni dovu bulabula ka vakasalataki vakalevu me vakayagataki.
- Laurai vakawasoma na I tei e na gauna ni draki mamaca oqo, e na vuku ni kena rawa ni basika na manumanu lalai ka rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate ni I tei ni dovu, me rawa ni qarauni tale ga na kena vakarautaki na I tei ni dovu bulabula ni bera ni tekivu tale na tau ni uca, ka tomani na teitei.
- Vakayagataki na misini ni suisui, kevaka e rawa me rawa ni vukea na tubu bulabula ni tei ni dovu.

3. Teivaki ni Dovu
- Tei tu vakawawa mada na teitei e na gauna oqo, me yacova ni tekivu vakilai tale na tau ni uca, ka rauta ni 15-20cm na suasua ni dela ni qele.

4. Musu ni dovu kei na kena teivaki na veivanua e lala e na maliwa ni dovu
- Kerei me musu vinaka na dovu, mai na vuna e ra me rawa ni vukea na kena tubu vinaka tale mai.
- E na gauna sa tekivu vakilai tale kina na tau ni uca, vakayagataki na I tei ni dovu ka sa tekivu kadre mai me teivaki e na veivanua e lala toka e na maliwa ni tei ni dovu.
- Rawa ni biu tu na veiloga ni dovu ka sa teivaki makawa tiko mai, me yacova ni tekivu vakilai tale na tau ni uca, me qai teivaki vou tale.

5. *Tarovi na Vakamakama*
- Samaki na veivanua e na I teitei, e na saula ni teitei, veivanua volekata na gaunisala ka vaka tale ga kina e yasa ni vale.
- Tarovi na vakamakama e na veivanua volekata na loga ni dovu e na gauna ni bula ni cagi kei na draki mamaca eda donumaka tiko oqo.
- Tu vakarau e so na I yaya ka rawa ni vukea na kena ravuti na kama ke yaco me dewava yani na I teitei.
- Sa tekivu na vula I cagilaba, mai na vula ko Noveba ki na vula ko Evereli Samaki vinaka na I vakadrodro ni wai lalai, maroroi vinaka na I yaya ni teitei kei na wai ni mate, ka me da vakatudaliga ki na nodratou I vakasala na Tabana ni Draki.

Na Qele, Wai kei na I Vakabulabula ni Qele:

1. *Vakabulabula ni Qele*
- E na gauna e sa vakilai kina e rauta ni 25mm na levu ni uca e tau, sa na rawa ni daumaka me vakayagataki na I vakabulabula ni qele, me vaka ni sa na rawa ni tiko na suasua e na qele. Sega so ni daumaka me vakayagataki e na gauna ni mamaca me vaka ni na rawa ni maumau ni na tu ga e dela ni qele, ka liwava tu na cagi.

2. *Kena Maroroi na Suasua Ka sa tiko Rawa e na Qele*

- Biu toka ga na benu ni dovu e na dela ni qele, ni musu oti na dovu, me vaka ni na rawa ni vukea na maroroi ni suasua ka se tiko rawa e na qele, ka rawa ni vakaberaberataka tale ga na tubu ni co ca.
- Vakalailaitaki na kena cukiraki na maliwa ni tei ni dovu, e na gauna ni mamaca oqo, me rawa ni va-

1. *Manumanu kei na Veimataqali Mate:*

- Check plots regularly for signs of pests and diseases so they can be controlled before they affect drought-stressed crops.
- Use Integrated Pest Management techniques in combination for efficient control.

2. *Na Qarauni ni Savasava e na Gauna e musu oti kina na Dovu*

- Qarauni se vakadikevi matua na I tei e na gauna e musu oti kina na dovu, me rawa ni tarova na kena rawa ni basika na manumanu ka na rawa ni vakacacana na tubu bulabula ni dovu ka na qai tubu vou mai. After harvesting, thoroughly check farms and remove any pests, diseases, leftover harvested cane, and stubbles to prevent pathogen build-up.
- Samaki vinaka na veivanua volekata na I teitei me rawa ni tarova se vakalailaitaka na kena rawa ni dewa na manumanu ka dau vakavu tauvimate ka vakalailaitaka tale ga na kena rawa ni dewa/ teteva na I teitei na kama.

I VAKASALA RARABA:

- I Vakasala: E ratou vakasalataka tiko na Tabana ni SRIF na kena teivaki na veimataqali I tei ni dovu ka rawa ni levu na suka e rawa kina, na kena ka rawa ni bula e na vanua mamaca, kei na veimataqali tale e so ka rawa ni bula e na gauna dredre e donumaki tiko oqo.
- Kerei me vakadewataki vei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF, e na 8921839, ke laurai e so na i vakatakilakila se dredre e na gauna ni teitei, mo ni rawa ni vakasalataki e na gaunaisala e so ka rawa ni wali kina na leqa.
- Sa kerei me da vakatudaliga tiko ki na veivakasala ni Tabana ni Draki, kei na veivakaro eso mai vei iratou na kena vakailesilesi.
- Ni sa kerei moni veitaratara vei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF me baleta na veidusimaki me baleta na kena maroroi se qaravi ni I teitei kei na veika e vakayagataki ena vuku ni veisau ni draki.

Climate Outlook

- During November 2026, continued dry conditions are favored, high (75%) chance of receiving at least **0-25mm** of rainfall in Lomawai, **25-50 m**m of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and **50-100mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane growing areas in Vanua Levu.

- Reduced rainfall likely in December 2026, with a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **25-50mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Tagitagi, and **50-100mm** of rainfall in sugarcane growing areas from parts of Ba to Rakiraki and across Vanua Levu.

- Dry conditions likely to continue in January 2027 with the outlook showing a (75%) chance of receiving at least **50-100mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, as well as Seaqaqa, Waiqele, Labasa, Batinikama, Wainikoro and Vunivutu. Dobuilevu and Vunimoli are likely to receive **100–150** mm of rainfall. There is low to moderate confidence in the outlook.

- For December 2026 to February 2027, the rainfall outlook shows a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall from Cuvu to Tagitagi, **300-400** mm in Olosara and parts of Nadi to Tavua, **400-500mm** in Penang and across sugarcane growing areas in Vanua Levu and **500-600mm** in Dobuilevu.

- Strong El Niño event continues to persist in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Global climate models indicate that the event is likely to reach the very strong category and favored to continue into early 2027.

- El Niño events in Fiji are commonly associated with reduced or suppressed rainfall, leading to an increased risk of dry spells.

- As El Niño conditions continue, communities are requested to remain prepared for potential prolonged dry spells, declining water availability, and increased stress on crops and livestock.

Rainfall Outlook: November 2026

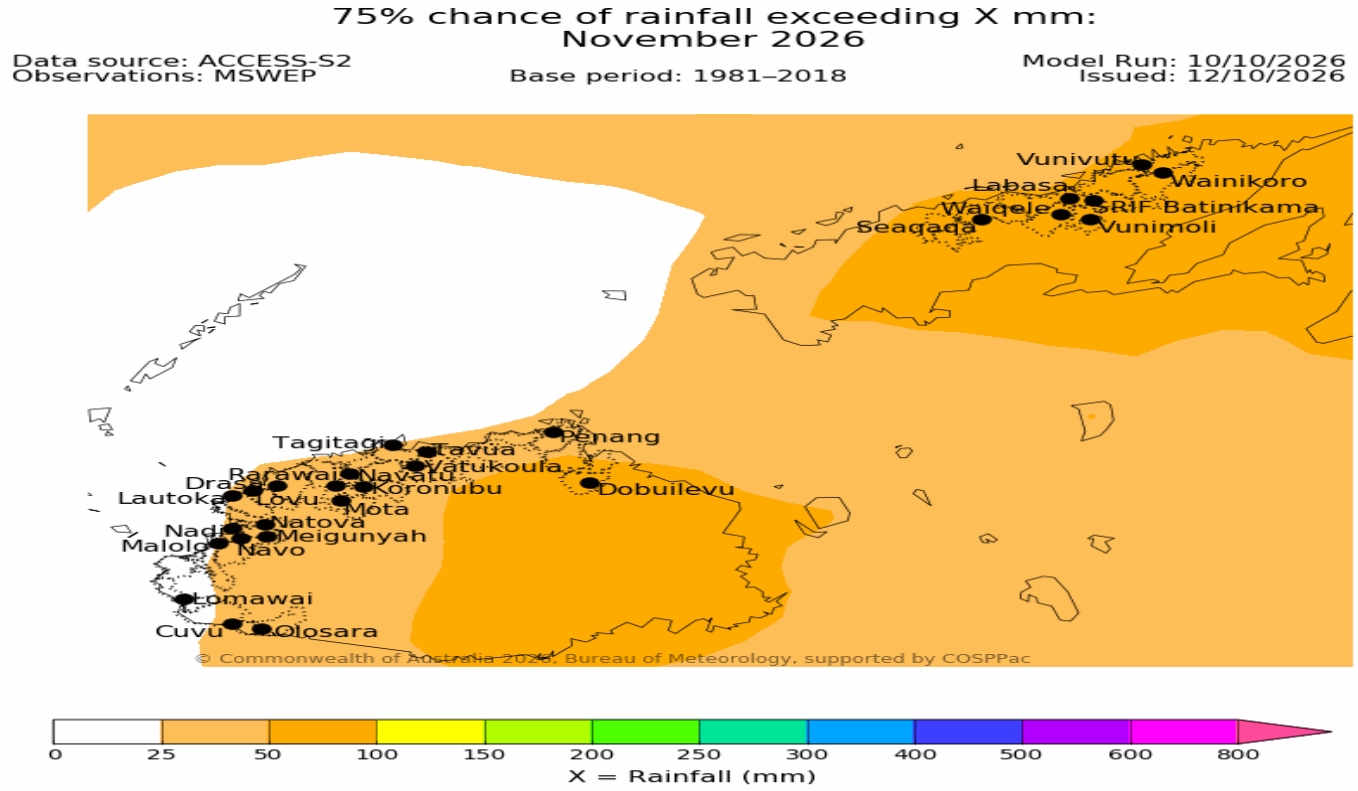


Figure 1: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 0-25mm of rainfall in Lomawai, 25-50 mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and 50-100mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane growing areas in Vanua Levu. There is low to Good-confidence in the outlook .

Rainfall Outlook: December 2026

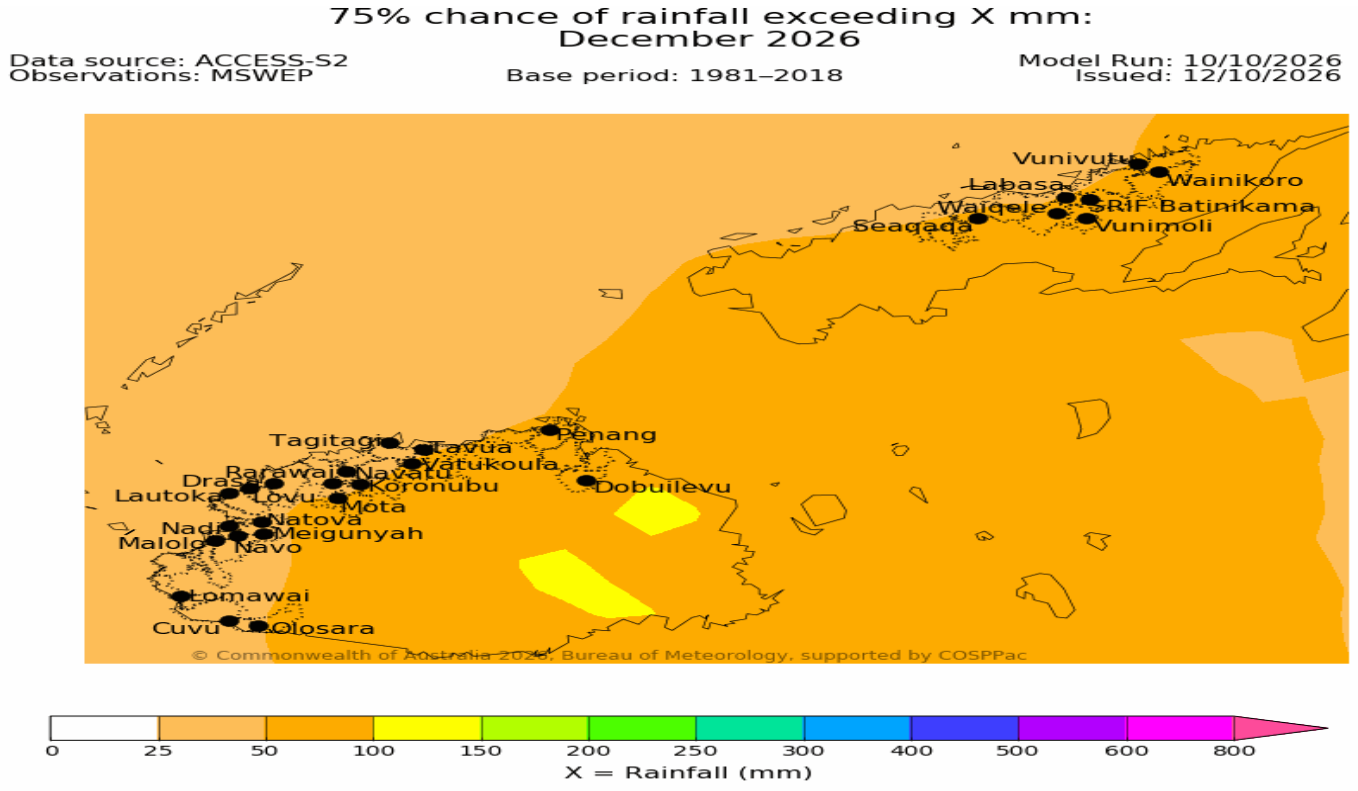


Figure 2: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 25-50mm of rainfall from Olosara to Tagitagi, and 50-100mm of rainfall in sugarcane growing areas from parts of Ba to Rakiraki and across Vanua Levu. Confidence in the outlook is low to Good.

Rainfall Outlook: January 2027

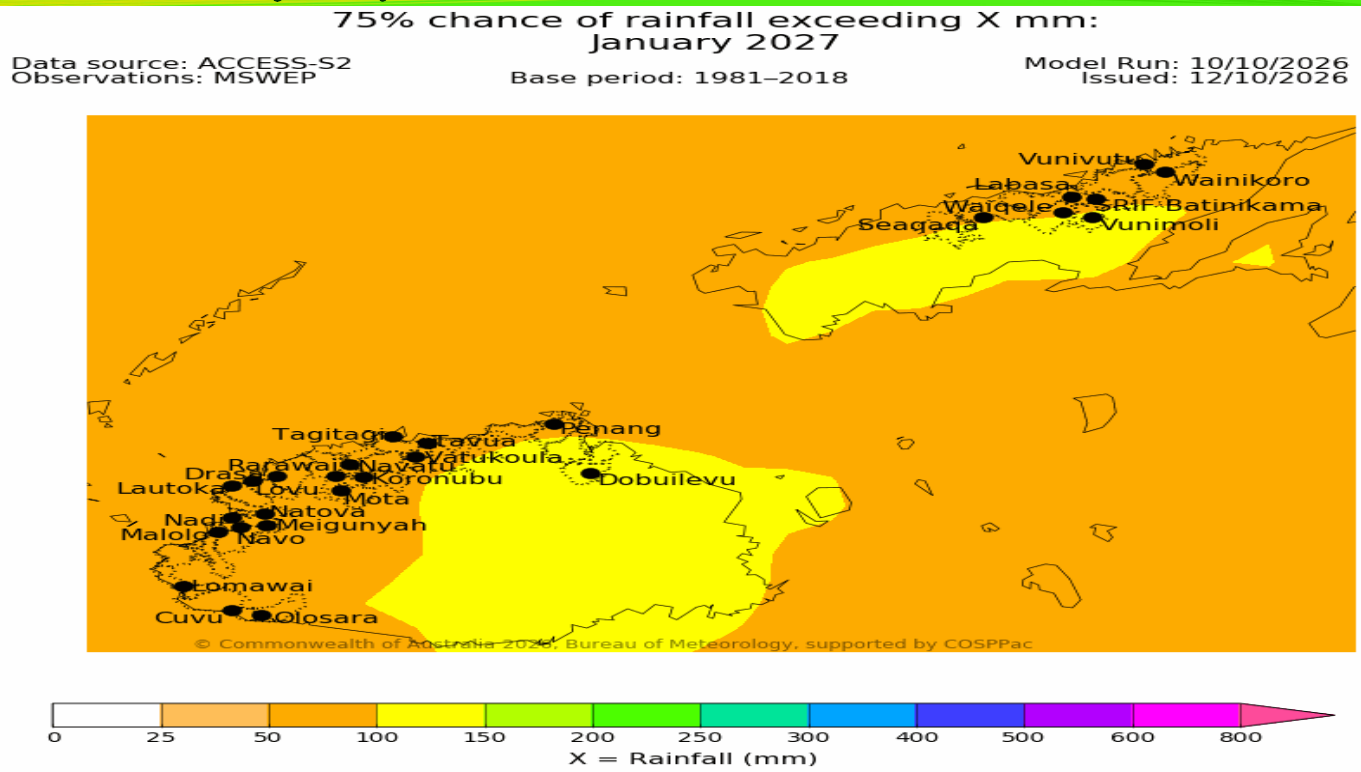


Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 50-100mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, as well as Seaqaqa, Waiqele, Labasa, Batinikama, Wainikoro and Vunivutu. Dobuilevu and Vunimoli are likely to receive 100–150 mm of rainfall. There is low to moderate confidence in the outlook.

Rainfall Outlook: December 2026 to February 2027

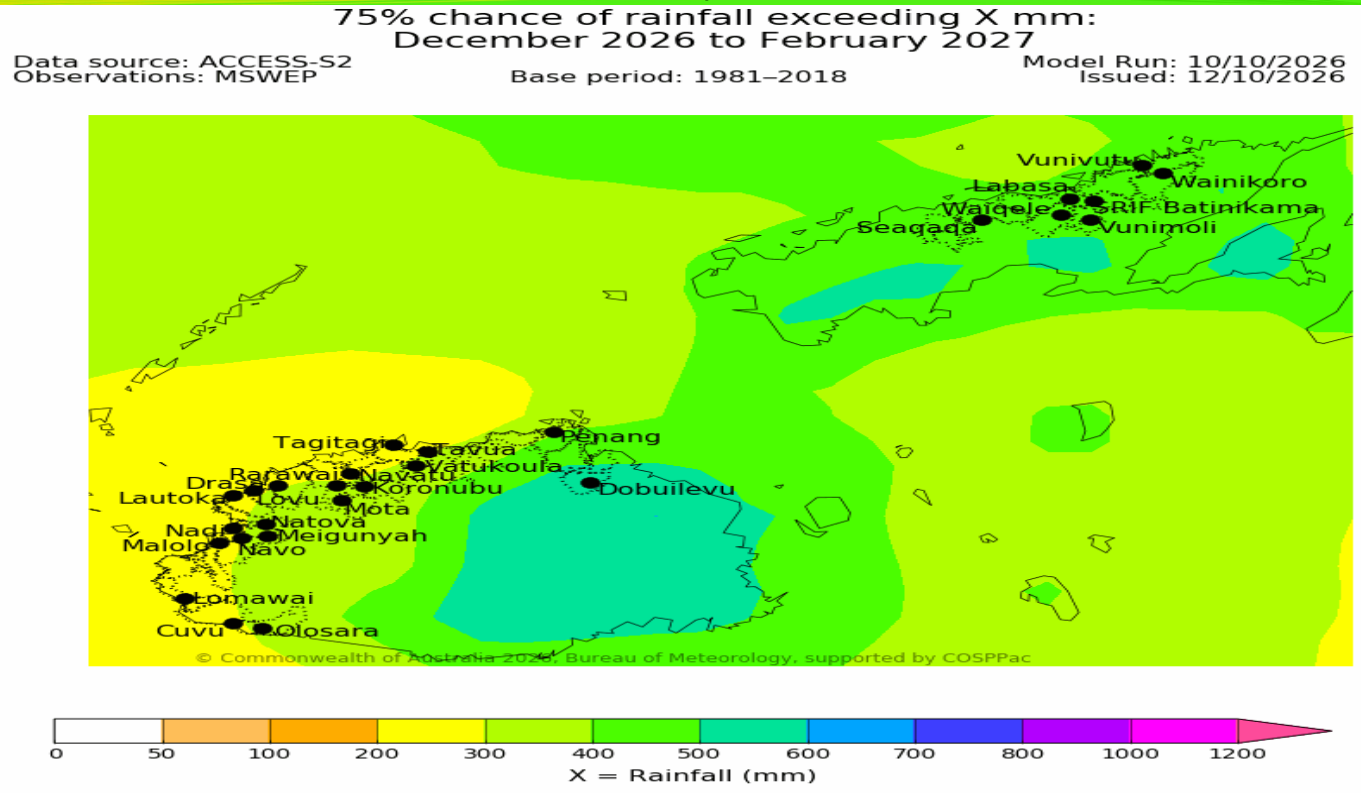


Figure 4: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall from Cuvu to Tagitagi, 300-400 mm in Olosara and parts of Nadi to Tavua, 400-500mm in Penang and across sugarcane growing areas in Vanua Levu and 500-600mm in Dobuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is good to high.

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.*