

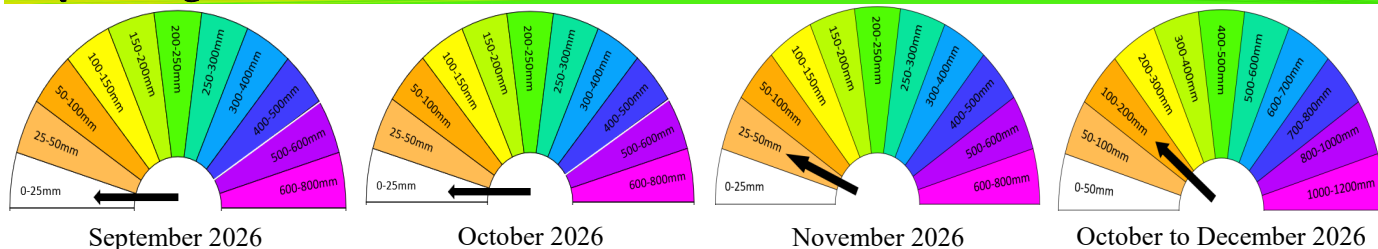
Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For September, October, November 2026 and October to December 2026

Volume 4

Issue: 8

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Next issue: September 30, 2026

Key Messages



English

Harvesting:

- Field Operations
 - It is advisable that NO new planting to be carried out in driest sectors (Olosara-Tavua corridor) until some rain is received; if planting must proceed, recommend mulching and moisture-conserving techniques or if access to irrigation system is available.
 - Farmers are encouraged to practice trash blanketing/mulching post-harvest to conserve residual soil moisture and reduce evaporation losses.

2. Fire Risk

- Dry trash under prolonged dry spells raises cane fire risk thus farmers are encouraged to have firebreaks and no open burning near standing cane.

3. Fertilizer Application

- Fertilizer application must be monitored well and where applicable with presence of moisture or if light showers are received then split fertilizer application is recommended.

Soil, Water & Fertilizer:

- Conduct soil tests in fallow fields (where accessible) to assess nutrient levels and guide fertilizer applications.
- Apply lime according to soil test results to maintain optimal soil pH and improve soil structure.
- On farms with rolling or steep slopes, implement soil conservation measures such as contour planting and vetiver hedges to reduce erosion risks.

Pest & Disease:

- Dry weather and prolonged moisture stress favour the build-up of scale insects and mealybugs on sugarcane stalks and leaves. Growers are encouraged to walk through their sugarcane field every week and check for white or brown patches on stalks and leaves as early action saves yield.
- The forecasted dry conditions may encourage termites to attack young cane setts, ratoons, and stressed crops. Termites become more active when the soil is dry. Growers should check for weak or yellowing stools and deal with infestations before they spread to other areas.
- Although many fungal diseases reduce during dry weather, drought-stressed cane becomes weaker and more vulnerable to disease outbreaks when rain returns. Growers should survey their fields, rogue and destroy diseased plants showing any signs or severe disease symptoms like Fiji Leaf Gall disease and only use certified seed cane for plantings.

- With El Niño expected to continue and rainfall remaining below normal, conserving soil moisture is essential. Growers are advised to retain cane trash and mulch between rows to reduce water loss and suppress weeds early because they compete with cane for limited moisture.

GENERAL ADVISORY

- Report any unusual pest sightings or crop challenges to SRIF at 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

Katai:

1. Khet ke Kaam
 - Salah di jaati hai ki jab tak thodi baarish na ho jaye, tab tak sabse sukhe ilakon (Olosara-Tavua) mein koi nai buvai na ki jaye; agar buvai karni hi ho, to mulching aur nami banae rakhne wale tareekon ka istemaal karne ya sinchai ki suvidha hone par hi aisa karne ki salah di jaati hai.
 - Kisanon ko salah di jaati hai ki katai ke baad mitti mein bachi nami ko banae rakhne aur nuksan ko kam karne ke liye 'trash blanketing' ya mulching karen.
2. Aag ka Khatra
 - Lambe samay tak sukhe mausam ke karan khet mein pade sukhe kachre mein aag lagne ka khatra badh jata hai, isliye kisanon ko salah di jaati hai ki ve 'firebreak' (aag ko failne se rokne wali jagah) banaen aur khadi ganne ki fasal ke paas khuli jagah par aag na jalaen.
3. Khad ka Istemaal
 - Khad ke istemaal par acchi tarah nazar rakhi jaani chahiye aur jahan nami ho ya halki baarish hui ho, wahan khad ko alag-alag baar mein (split application) dalne ki salah di jaati hai.

Mitti, Pani aur Khad:

- Khali kheton (jahan pahunch ho) mein mitti ki janch karvaen taki poshak tatvon ke star ka pata chal sake aur khad dalne ke baare mein sahi faisla liya ja sake.
- Mitti ka sahi pH banae rakhne aur mitti ki banavat ko behtar banane ke liye, mitti ki janch ke natijon ke aadhar par chuna (lime) dalen.
- Ubad-khabad wale kheton mein mitti ke katav ke jokhim ko kam karne ke liye mitti sanrakshan ke upay apnaen, jaise ki contour planting aur vetiver hedge lagaana.

Keet aur Bimari:

- Sukhe mausam aur lambe samay tak nami ki kami ke karan ganne ke tanon aur pattiyon par scale keet aur mealybug panap sakte hai. Kisanon ko salah di jaati hai ki ve har hafte apne ganne ke khet ka दौरा karen aur tanon va pattiyon par safed ya bhure dhabbon ki janch karen, kyonki samay par karvai karne se fasal ki paidavar bach sakti hai.
- Anumanit sukhe halat ke karan deemak ganne ke tukdon (sets), ratoon (purani fasal) aur kamzor fasalon par hamla kar sakti han. Mitti ke sukhe hone par deemak zyada sakriya ho jaati hai. Kisanon ko kamzor ya peele pad rahe paudhon (stools) ki janch karni chahiye aur dusre ilakon mein failne se pehle hi uska ilaaj karna chahiye.
- Halanki sukhe mausam mein kai fungal bimariyan kam ho jaati hai, lekin sukhe se prabhavit ganna kamzor ho jata hai aur baarish lautne par usme bimari failne ka khatra badh jata hai. Kisanon ko apne kheton ka survey karna chahiye, Fiji Leaf Gall jaisi gambhir bimari ke lakshan dikhane wale paudhon ko hatakar nasht kar dena chahiye aur buaai ke liye keval pramanit beej wale ganne ka hi istemaal karna chahiye.
- El Niño ke jaari rahane aur baarish ke samanya se kam rahane ki sambhavna ko dekhte hue, mitti ki nami ko bachana zaruri hai. Kisanon ko salah di jaati hai ki ve pani ki barbadi ko kam karne aur ghash ko shuru mein hi rokne ke liye ganne ke kachre aur mulch ko kataron ke beech banae rakhen, kyonki ghash seemit nami ke liye ganne se muqabla karte hai.

SAMANYA SALAH

- Samay par salah aur sahayata ke liye, kisi bhi asamanya keet ke dikhne ya fasal se judi samasyaon ki suchana SRIF ko 8921839 par den.
- Satark rahen aur sambandhit adhikariyon dwara jaari mausam sambandhi sabhi salaahon aur chetavniyon ka palan karen.
- Badalte halat mein fasal aur input prabandhan ke baare mein vishesh margdarshan ke liye SRIF se sampark karen.

I- Taukei Version

Tatamusuki:

1. Veiqaravi e na I Teitei
 - Ni sa vakasalataki me tei wawa tale mada vakalailai na teitei e na veivanua ka lailai tiko kina na tau ni uca (maliwa ni Olosara kei Tavua), me yacova ni sa bau vakilai na uca. Ia, kevaka sa tekivu na teitei, ni sa kerei me taurivaki e so na I walewale ni teitei matau me rawa ni maroroya na suasua ka sa tiko rawa e na qele, ka vakayagataki tale ga na 'irrigation system' ke rawa.
 - Ni sa kerei me vakayagataki na benu ni dovu me ubi kina na dela ni qele, me rawa ni maroroya na suasua ka sa tiko rawa e na qele, ka vakalailaitaka tale ga na mamaca ni qele e na vuku ni katakata ni siga.
2. Ririko ni Yaco ni Kama
 - E na vuku ni mamaca balavu ka namaki tiko oqo, ni sa kerei me tiko e so na vanua galala e na maliwa ni teitei se 'fire breaks', me na rawa ni tarova na tete ni kama ka ko ni sa kerei tale ga me kua na vakamakama e na veivanua volekata na loga ni dovu.
3. Vakayagataki ni Vakabulabula ni Qele
 - Dodonu me vidai rua na vakayagataki ni vakabulabula ni qele; ka kerei me yadravi vinaka tale ga na gauna e vakayagataki kina, me rawa ni bau donuya na gauna e suasua kina vakalailai na qele.

Qele, Wai kei na Vakabulabula ni Qele:

- Gadrevi me vakadikevi na qele ka sa lala dede tu, me rawa ni laurai na bulabula ni qele, ka rawa tale ga ni vukei kemuni e na levu ni vakabulabula ni qele ka rawa ni ko ni vakayagataka.
- Ni sa vakadikevi oti na qele, ni rawa ni vakayagataka na lase se 'lime' me rawa ni vukea na na tuvaki vinaka ni qele.
- Ni sa vakasalataki mo ni vakayagataka na I walewale ni teitei matau e na gauna ni teitei e na veivanua baba se sega ni tautauvata, me vaka na kena teivaki na 'vetiver grass', me rawa ni vakalailaitaka na sisi ni qele.

Manumanu ka rawa ni vakavu tauvimate kei na Mate Ca:

- E na vuku ni mamaca ni vanua ka namaki me na tarai keda, e na rawa ni basika e vuqa na mataqali manumanu lalai ka rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate e na dovu. Ni sa kerei na dau teitei, me na dau talevi ka vakadikevi vakamatua na I teitei e na veimacawa, ka qarauni na kena rawa ni basika e so na vulavula se roka dravudravu e na draunikau, ka I vakatakilakila ni mate, ka me na dau wali se valuti e na gauna totolo duadua.
- Rawa tale ga ni basika na manumanu na 'termites' ka rawa ni vakaleqa na I tei ni dovu, e na gauna ni draki mamaca ka namaki me na tarai keda. E dau levu sara na manumanu oqo e na gauna ni draki mamaca, ka ko ni sa vakananumi na dau teitei, me na vakadikevi ke basika e so na kena I vakatakilakila lalai, ka me wali totolo ni bera ni qai teteva na I teitei.
- E dina ni so na mate e sega ni dau basika e na gauna ni draki mamaca, ia, na I tei ni dovu ka ra dau tubu gogo e na gauna ni mamaca, e na rawa tale ga ni tarai ira e vuqa na veimataqali mate, e na gauna e tekivu vakilai kina na tau ni uca. E na vuku ni leqa oqo, ni sa vakasalataki me na dau talevi vakawasoma na I teitei, yadravi na kena rawa ni basika na veimataqali mate, ka kerei me na dau vakayagataki tale ga na I tei ni dovu ka sa dikevi ka vakaivolataki mai vei iratou na kena dau.

- E da sa vakasalataki tiko na gauna oqo, ni na rawa ni namaki me na lailai sobu na levu ni uca e tau e na noda vanua, e na vuku ni dua na mataqali draki, ka vakatokai na 'El Niño' e da donumaka tiko e na gauna oqo. Sa vakasalataki na dau teitei me na vakayagataki na I walewale ni teitei ka na rawa ni maroroya na suasua ka sa tiko rawa e na qele, me vaka na kena vakayagataki na benu ni dovu me ra ubia na qele, me rawa ni vakalailaitaka na kena mamaca sivia na qele, e vuku ni katakata ni siga, ka vukea tale ga na tubu berabera ni co ca, ka na rawa ni vakayagataka na kakana e na qele, ka dodonu me vakatabakidua ki na I tei ni dovu.

I VAKASALA RARABA

- Kerei me vakadewataki vei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF, e na naba ni talevoni 8921839, ke laurai e so na i vakatakilakila ni manumanu lalai ka rawa ni vakavu mate se e so na dredre ka basika 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 vakaillesilesi.
- Ni sa kerei moni veitaratara vei iratou na Tabana ni SRIF me baleta na veidusimaki me baleta na ke-na maroroi se qaravi ni I teitei kei na veika e vakayagataki ena vuku ni veiveisau ni draki.

Climate Outlook

- During September 2026, drier conditions are likely, with a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **0-25mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and **25-50mm** of rainfall in Dobrelevu and across the sugarcane growing areas of Vanua Levu.
- Rainfall is likely to be suppressed in October 2026, with a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **0-25mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua and **25-50mm** of rainfall in Penang, Dobrelevu and across the sugarcane growing areas of Vanua Levu.
- The November 2026 outlook continues to favor dry conditions, showing a (75%) chance of receiving at least **25-50mm** of rainfall across the sugarcane growing areas of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
- For October to December 2026, the rainfall outlook shows a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua, with a high chance of receiving at least **200-300mm** of rainfall in Penang and across the sugarcane belt areas of Vanua Levu, and **300-400mm** of rainfall in Dobrelevu.
- An active El Niño event persists in the tropical Pacific Ocean with most global climate models indicating that it is likely to become a very strong event. El Niño conditions are favored to continue until early 2027.
- El Niño events in Fiji are commonly associated with reduced rainfall, leading to an increased risk of dry spells.
- As El Niño conditions continue, communities should remain prepared for potential prolonged dry spells, declining water availability, and increased stress on crops and livestock.

Rainfall Outlook: September 2026

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
September 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/08/2026
Issued: 17/08/2026

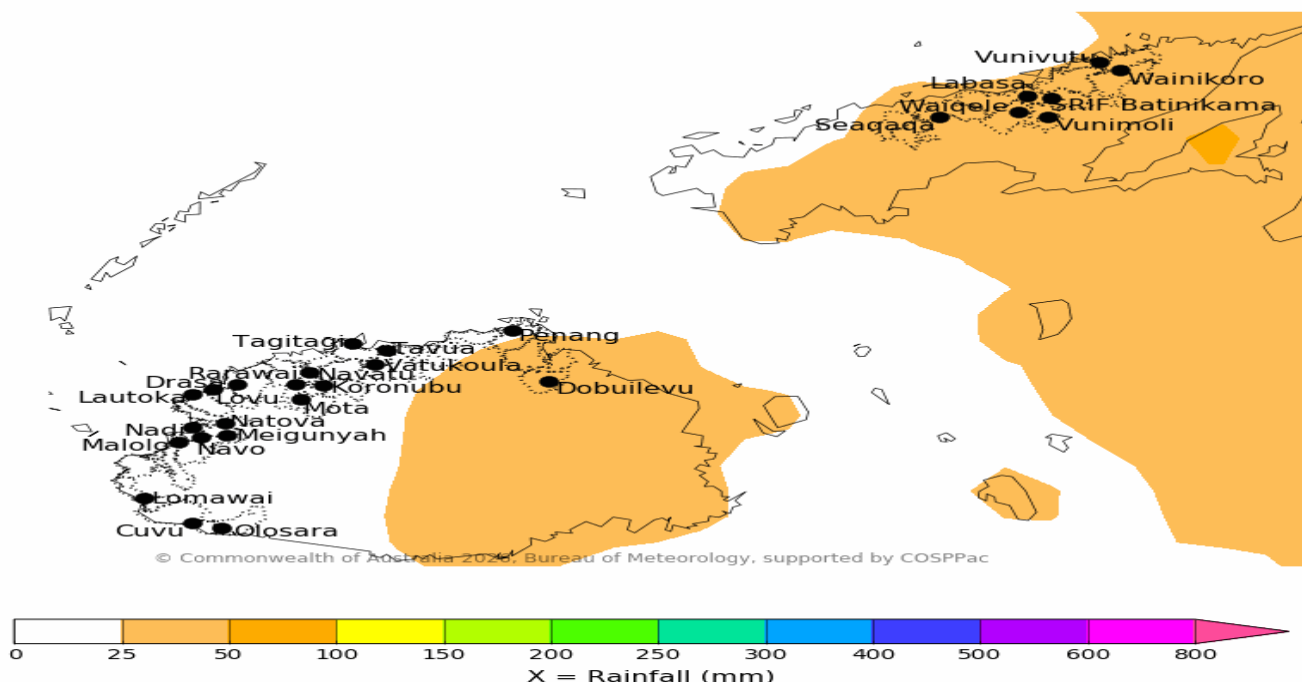


Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 0-25mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and 25-50mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane growing areas of Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is low.

Rainfall Outlook: October 2026

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
October 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/08/2026
Issued: 17/08/2026

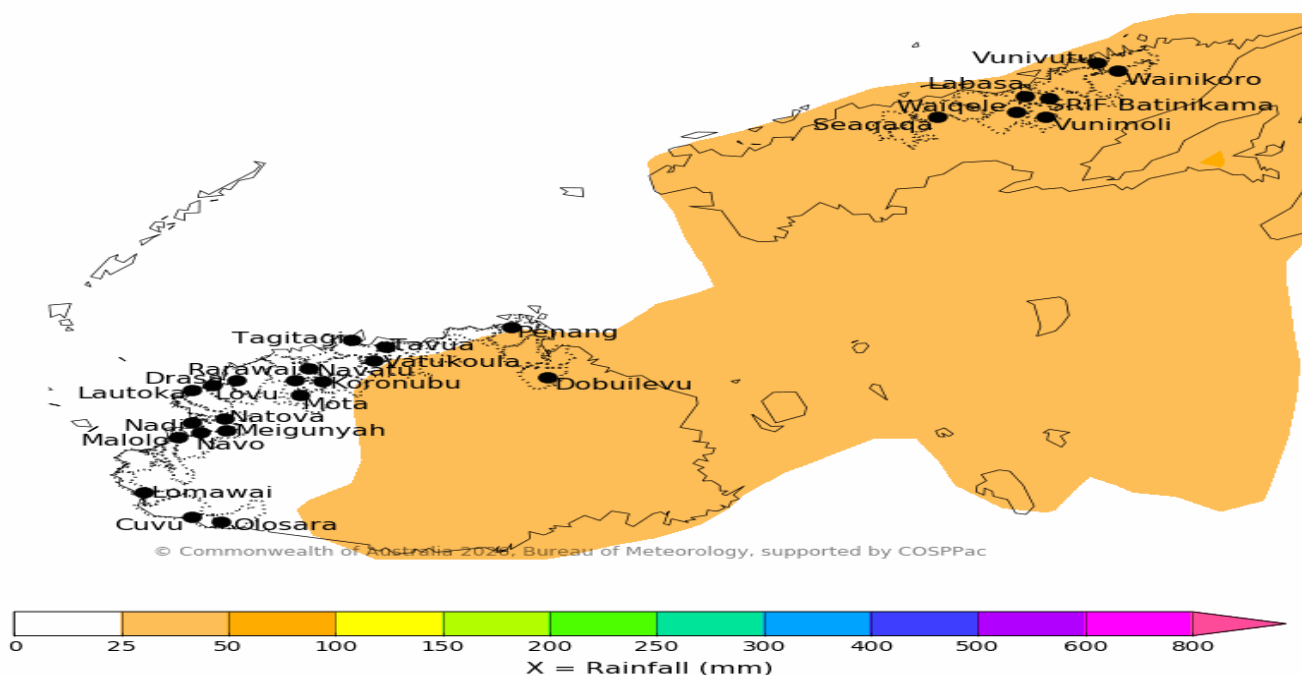


Figure 2: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 0-25mm of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua and 25-50mm of rainfall in Penang, Dobuilevu and across the sugarcane growing areas of Vanua Levu. There is low confidence in the outlook.

Rainfall Outlook: November 2026

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
November 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/08/2026
Issued: 17/08/2026

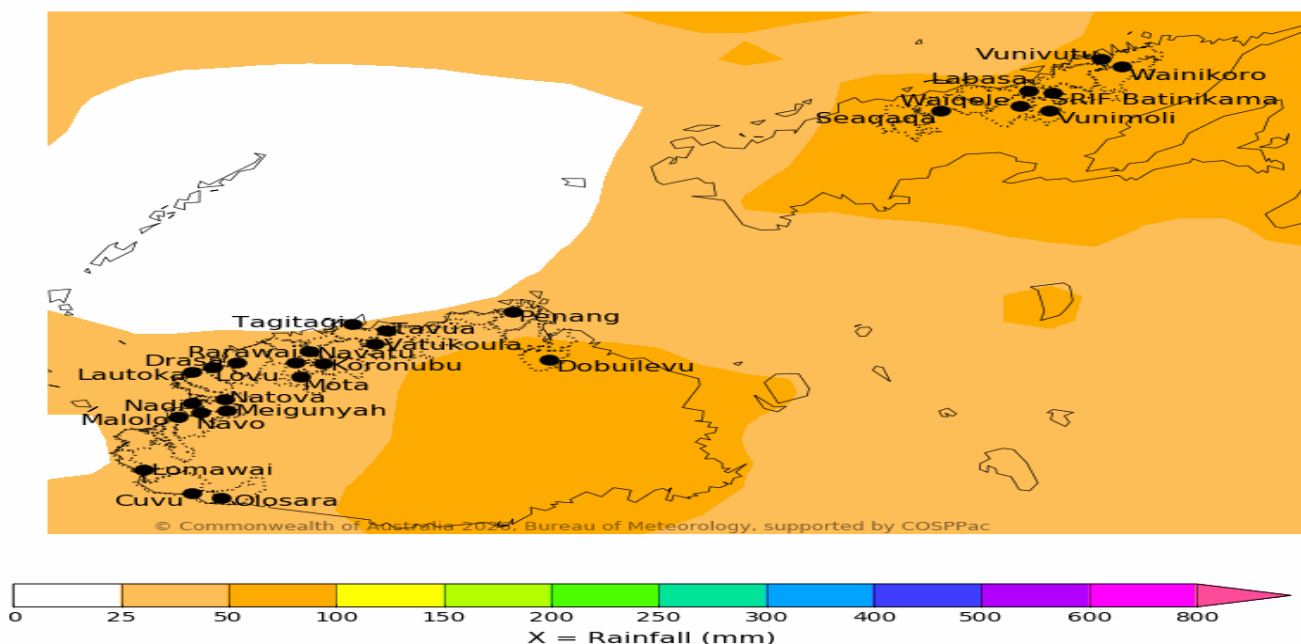


Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 25-50mm of rainfall across the sugarcane growing areas of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is low.

Rainfall Outlook: October to December 2026

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:
October to December 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/08/2026
Issued: 17/08/2026

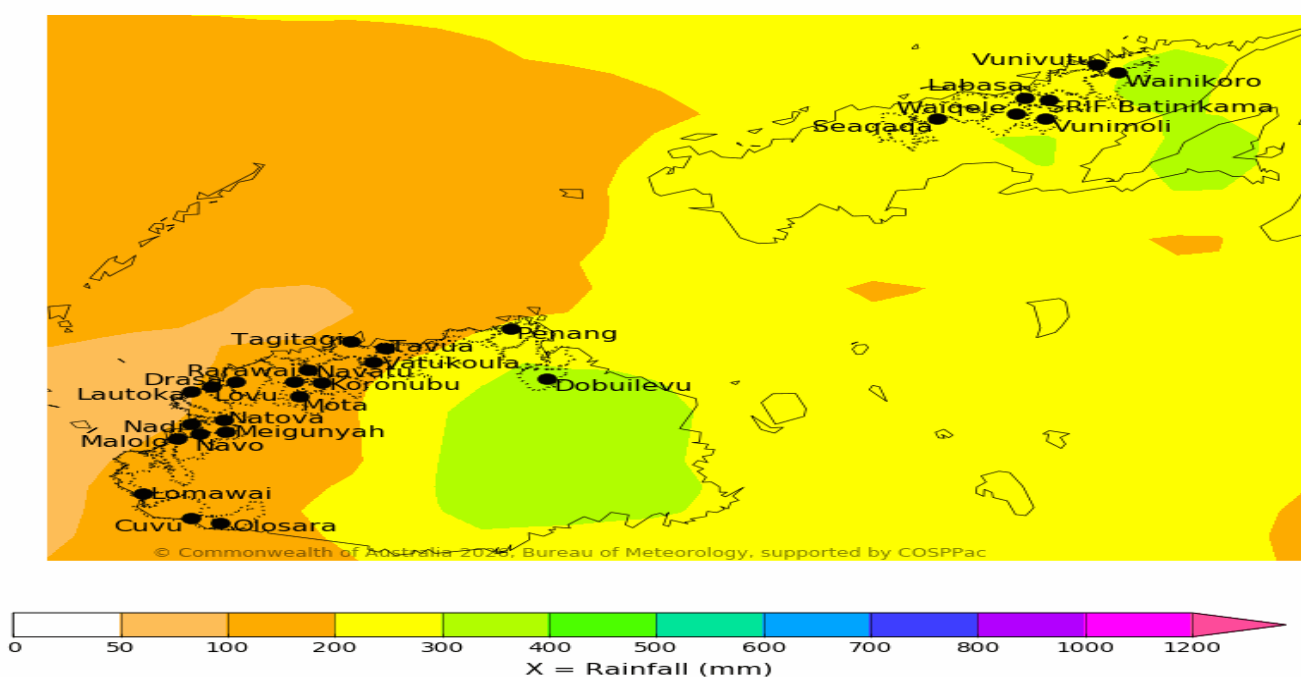


Figure 4: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall from Olosara to Tavua, with a high chance of receiving at least 200-300mm of rainfall in Penang and across the sugarcane belt areas of Vanua Levu, and 300-400mm of rainfall in Dobuilevu. The confidence in the outlook is low.

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.

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.