

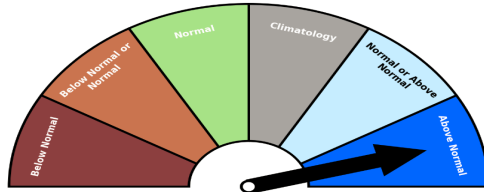
# Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For May, June & July and June to August 2023

Volume 1

Issue: 2

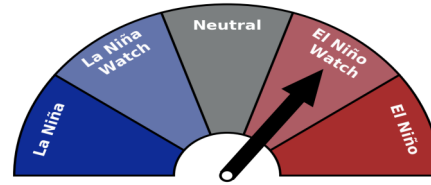
Issued: April 28, 2023  
Next issue: May 31, 2023

## Key Messages



**Above Normal**

Rainfall Outlook



**El Niño Watch**

ENSO Outlook

### English

- Sugarcane growing areas have received above normal amounts of rainfall in recent months.
- With the current forecast for above normal amounts of rainfall across the sugarcane belts, farmers are advised to keep drains around the field clean to avoid waterlogging conditions.
- Consult your Sector Farm Advisors regarding soil sampling, varieties to plant, availability of seedcane and availability of government funds for Cane Planting grant as per 2022/2023 budget allocation.
- Place order for blend A and lime based on the soil results received from SRIF through Sector Farm Advisors.
- Pre-fertilize available seed cane using Blend B fertilizer or discuss with Farm Advisors seed cane availability.
- Prioritize land preparation.
- Drainage around the plot's earmarked for planting should be cleaned so that it is accessible for machinery as soon as weather is favorable.
- Plant sugarcane as soon as land is prepared.
- Apply pre-emergence weedicide within 7 days of planting.
- Farms on rolling and steep slopes should practice soil conservation measures such as planting on contours and establishing vetiver hedges to minimize soil erosion.
- Cane planting season (March to May) is also the right time to plant intercrop. Consult SRIF technology transfer officers for further advice on intercropping and its benefits.
- For further advice, please contact SRIF on 8921839.

### Hindi

- Ganna uganne wale kshetron mein pichle kuch maheeno meh saamaanye se adhik baarish huee hai.
- Ganna ke kshetron mein saamaanye se adhik varsha ke vartamaan poorvaanumaan ke saath, kisaano ko jalabharaav kee sthiti se bachane ke liye khet ke aasapaas ke naaliyon ko saaph rakhne kee salaah dee jaatee hai.
- 2022/2023 ke budget ke anusaar, mittee pareekshan kiya jaana chaahie, paudhon ka pareekshan kiya jaana

chaahie, beej kee upalabdhata aur ganna bonne ke liye sarakaaree dhan kee upalabdhata ke baare mein apane kshetr ke Farm Advisors se salah leh.

- Sector Farm Advisors ke maadhyam se SRIF se prapt mittee ke parinaamon ke aadhaar par Blend A aur lime ke liye ordar den.
- Blend B fertilizer ka upayog karke upalabdh ganne ke beej ko poorv-nishechit kare ya Farm Advisors ke saath ganne ke beej kee upalabdhata par charcha karen.
- Bhoomi kee taiyaaree ko mahattv den.
- Beej bonne ke liye nirdhaarit jameen ke chaaron or naale ko saaph kiya jaana chaahie taaki bhoomi kee taiyaaree aur ganna bowai ho sake.
- Jameen taiyaar hote hee ganna bonna shuru kar den.
- Bowai ke 7 dinon ke bheetar ugane se pahale ganne kee davai ka prayog karen.
- Jo khet chadhai par hai, waha paudhe lagaana chaahie taki mittee ko bhaene se roka ja sake.
- Ganne bonne ke sath aur kai prakar ke fasle lagaane ka sahee समय March se May tak hai. Kai prakar ke fasle aur iske fayede ke baare mein adhik salaah ke liye SRIF Technical Transfer officer's se sampark kare.
- Aur salaah ke liye 8921839 par SRIF ko sampark kare.

## I -Taukei

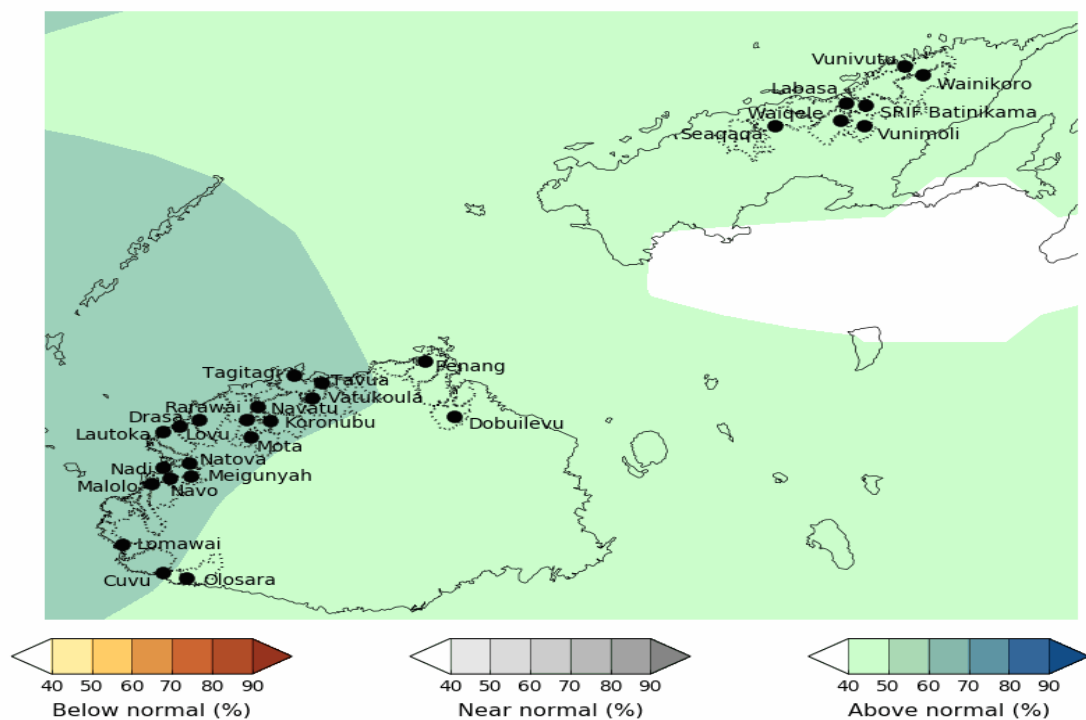
- E laurai ni levu sara na uca e tau e na noda yalava ni tei dovu, e na vula sa oti.
  - Ko ni sa vakasalataki na dau teitei, mo ni samaka vinaka na vei saula se na I vakata lalai, wavokita na vanua ni teitei, me tarova na kena tubu na dovu e na vanua suasua se lolobo, ni dau tau na uca.
  - Ni sa vakasalataki mo ni veitaratara kei ira na dau ni vakasala e na vuku ni sabolotaki ni qele, mataqali I tei ni dovu me tei, ka vaka tale ga kina na veivuke ni matanitu ka tiko me baleta na tei dovu, e na yabaki vakailavo eda donumaka tiko oqo.
  - Ko ni vakasalataki mo ni sa tekivu otataka tale ga na nomuni vakabulabula ni qele, na 'Blend A kei na 'Lime based', yavutaki e na nodratou I vakasala na kena dau (Sector Farm Advisors).
  - Gadrevi mo ni vakabibitaka na kena vakarautaki na vanua ni teitei.
  - Ko ni sa vakasalataki mo ni vakarautaka na vanua me veitosoyaki kina na misini, e na kena samaki na I vakata lalai ni vanua ni teitei, e na gauna sa daumaka kina na draki me vakayacori na teitei.
  - Teivaki sara na dovu, ni sa vakarautaki oti na vanua ni teitei, ka ko ni sa vakaroti mo ni vakayagataka na wainimate ni coca, e na loma ni vitu (7) na siga ni nomuni teitei.
  - Ko ni sa vakasalataki na teitei tiko e na vanua baba se sega ni tautauvata, mo ni vakayagataka e so na I vakarau ni teitei ka na rawa ni maroroya se tarova na sisi ni qele, me vaka na kena teivaki na co ka yacana na 'vetiver grass'.
  - Na vula ko Maji ki na vula ko Me, e gauna vinaka tale ga ni kena caka na teitei e na maliwa ni loga ni dovu. Ke so nomuni vakatataro, ni qai qiriti iratou na tabana ni 'Technology Transfer', e na vale ni volavola ni SRIF.
  - Ke tu tale so nomuni vakatataro, ni qai qiri ga e na nodratou naba ni talevoni na SRIF, e na 8921839.
- For May 2023, *above normal* rainfall is likely across the sugarcane belts on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

## Climate Outlook

- During June 2023, *above normal* rainfall is likely across the sugarcane belts on Viti Levu, while there is little guidance for sugarcane growing areas on Vanua Levu with *below normal*, *near normal* and *above normal* rainfall equally likely.
- For July 2023, there is little guidance on the rainfall outlook for the sugarcane growing areas on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu with *below normal*, *near normal* and *above normal* rainfall equally likely.
- During June to August 2023 period, *above normal* rainfall is likely across the sugarcane growing areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
- The Pacific Ocean is currently in ENSO-neutral state, that is neither La Niña nor El Niño. However, there are some signs of El Niño developing later in the year. Therefore, the ENSO outlook is currently at El Niño watch.
- While the 2022-23 tropical cyclone season close to an end, necessary precautions should be taken at all times. Out of season tropical cyclones cannot be ruled out based on past experiences.

## Rainfall Outlook: May 2023

Tercile rainfall probabilities for May 2023



Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Issued: 19/04/2023

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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.marinerregions.org/>.

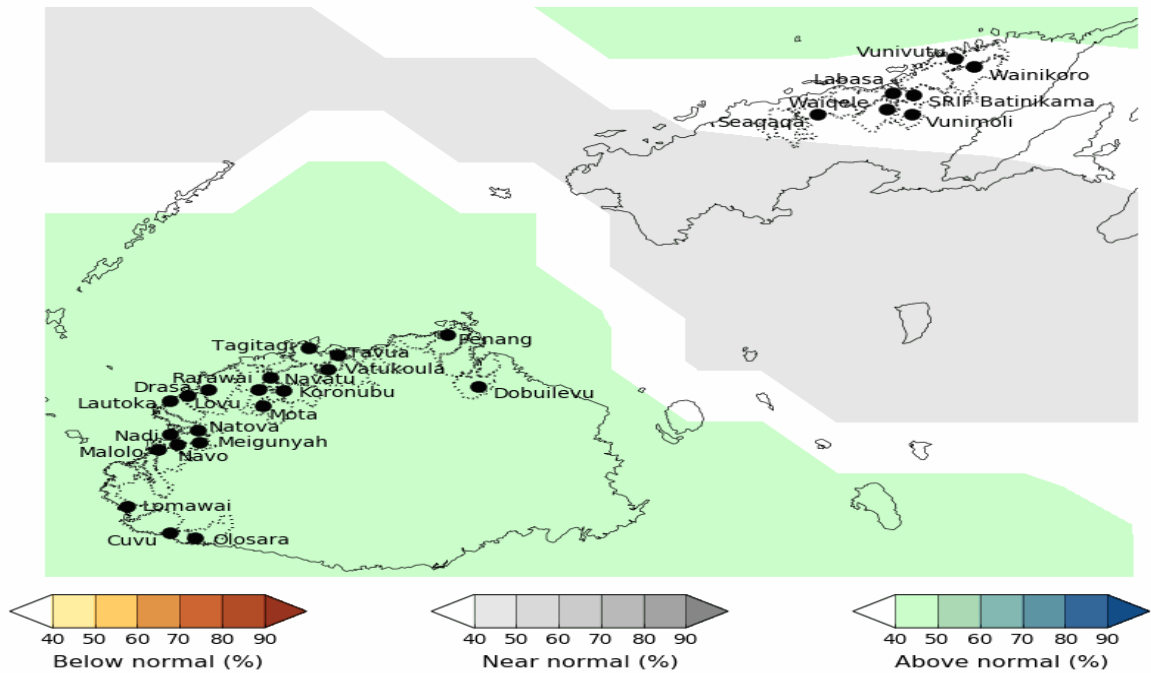
Base period: 1981-2018

Run: 17/04/2023

Figure 1: Above normal rainfall is likely across the sugarcane growing areas on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is good.

## Rainfall Outlook: June 2023

Tercile rainfall probabilities for June 2023



Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Issued: 19/04/2023

Base period: 1981-2018

Run: 17/04/2023

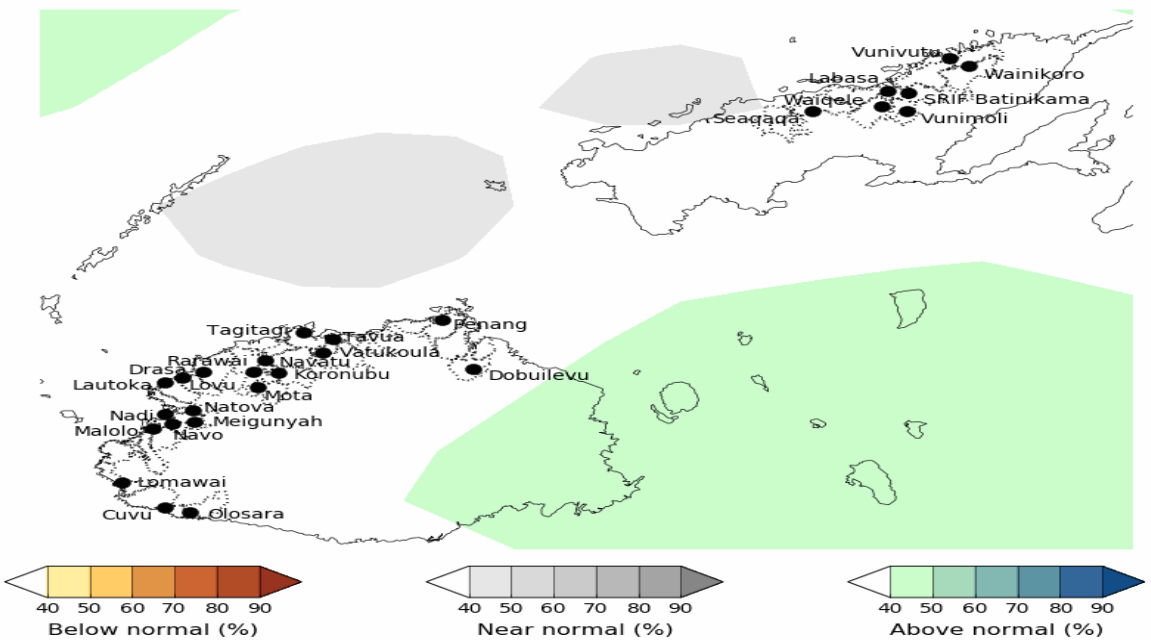
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Shapefile data extracted from Flanders Marine Institute (2019), Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <http://www.marinerregions.org/>.

Figure 2: Above normal rainfall is likely across the sugarcane belts on Viti Levu, while there is little guidance for sugarcane growing areas on Vanua Levu with below normal, near normal and above normal rainfall equally likely. The confidence in the outlook is moderate.

## Rainfall Outlook: July 2023

Tercile rainfall probabilities for July 2023



Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Issued: 19/04/2023

Base period: 1981-2018

Run: 17/04/2023

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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.marinerregions.org/>.

Figure 3: There is little guidance on the rainfall outlook for the sugarcane growing areas on both Viti Levu and Vanua Levu with below normal, near normal and above normal rainfall equally likely. The confidence in the outlook is low or moderate.

## Rainfall Outlook: June to August 2023

Tercile rainfall probabilities for June to August 2023

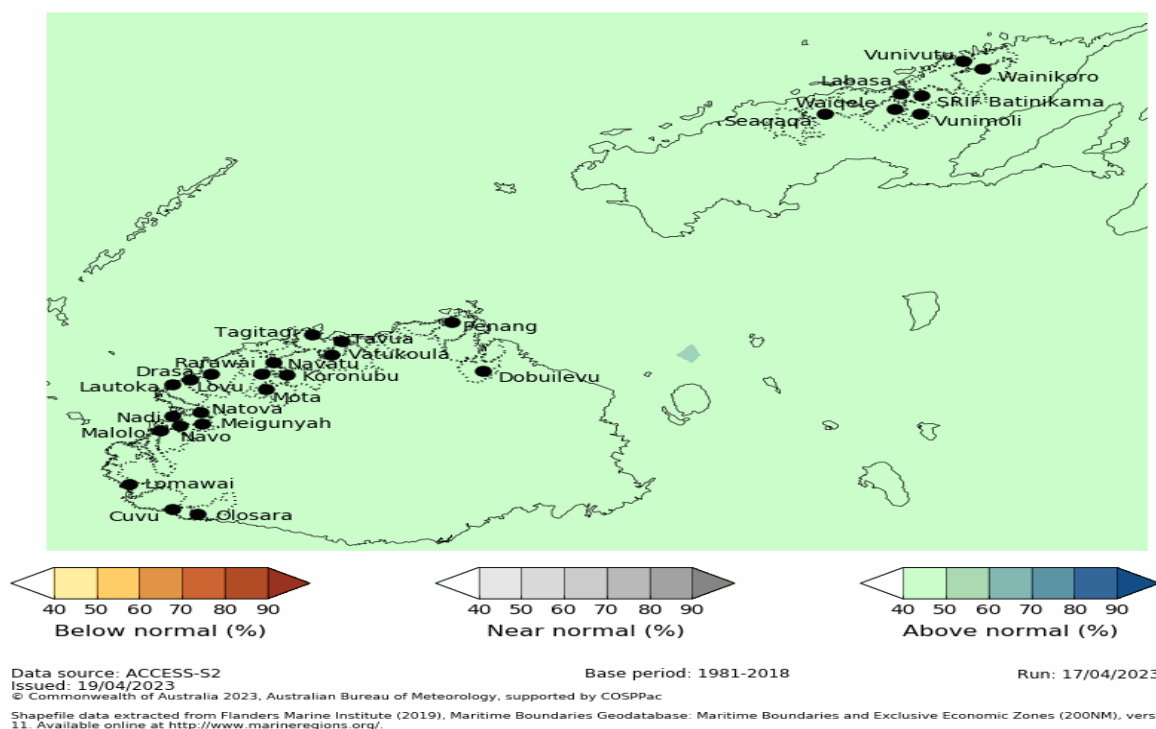


Figure 4: Above normal rainfall is likely across the sugarcane growing areas on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is high.

## 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 a change of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

### Climate (Rainfall) Outlook

The rainfall outlook is in probabilistic format.

Probability of more than 60% in the upper tercile (area on the map with green shading) means that rainfall is **very likely** to be **above normal** (that is, there is more than 60% chance of receiving above normal rainfall). Probability of less than 60% in the upper tercile means that rainfall is **likely** to be above normal (that is, there is 40-60% chance of receiving above normal rainfall).

Probability of more than 60% in the lower tercile (area on the map with brown shading) means that rainfall is **very likely** to be **below normal** (that is, there is more than 60% chance of receiving below normal rainfall). Probability of less than 60% in the lower tercile means that rainfall is **likely** to be below normal (that is, there is 40-60% chance of receiving below normal rainfall).

Probability of more than 60% in the middle tercile (area on the map with grey shading) means that rainfall is **very likely** to be **near normal** (that is, there is more than 60% chance of receiving near normal rainfall). Probability of less than 60% in the middle tercile means that rainfall is **likely** to be near normal (that is, there is 40-60% chance of receiving near normal rainfall).

**Climatology** - all tercile percentages are less than 40% (area on the map with white shading), indicates that the outlook period offers little guidance as the chances of below normal, normal and above normal rainfall are similar.

**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.