

# Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For July, August & September 2024 and August to October 2024 **Experimental**

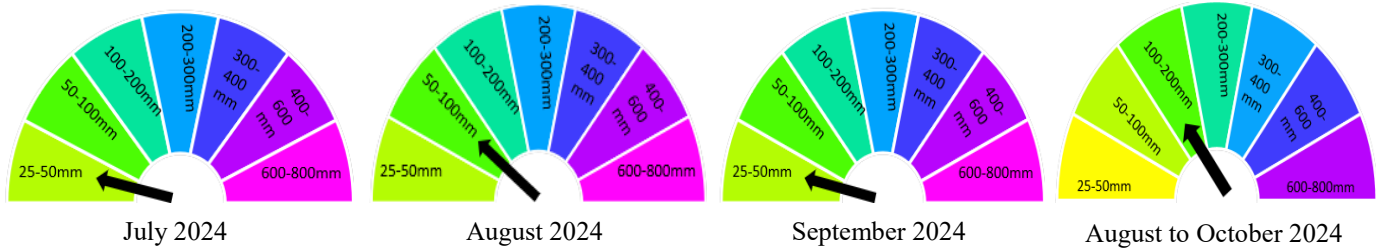
Volume 2

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Next issue: July 31, 2024

## Key Messages



## English

- The Fiji Meteorological Services has forecasted less rainfall activity for the areas under sugarcane for Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
- During planting, ensure supplemental irrigation. Moisture stress leads to germination delay and predisposes the setts to pineapple rot disease.
- Freshly ratooned Naidiri crops may become more susceptible to leaf scald disease due to the lack of rainfall. Remove the bleached sprouts, and ensure irrigation to mitigate the disease intensity.
- Lack of rainfall activity can make the rodent problem worse. Keep the fields clean and trash-free to avoid rat harborage, in rodent-prone locations.
- Split application is recommended at 6-10 weeks and 20-24 weeks after harvesting.
- Farmer's should retain trash to conserve moisture. Trash will also help to reduce growth of weeds. Minimum tillage should be adopted to prevent loss of any remaining moisture.
- **Please do not burn cane** for harvesting **and trash** after harvesting has completed.
- Consult your sector farm advisors regarding soil sampling in any plots, varieties to plant, availability of clean seedcane to be used during the replanting window.
- For farmers who will plant in the replanting window, place order for blend A, blend B and lime based on the soil results received from SRIF through sector farm advisors.
- Farms on rolling and steep slopes should practice soil conservation measures such as planting on contours and establishing vetiver hedges to minimize soil erosion.
- For further advice, please contact SRIF on 8921839.

## Hindi Version

- Fiji mausami daftar ne Viti Levu aur Vanua Levu ke ganne ke kshetron mein kam varsha ka anumaan lagaya hai.
- Ropan ke dauraan, sinchae sunishchit karen. Namee ke tanaav se ankuran mein deree hotee hai aur ganne mein rog hone kee sambhaavana badh jaatee hai.
- Varsha kee kamee ke kaaran taajee pakee huee Naidiri phasalen, pattee jhulasane kee beemaaree ke prati adhik sanvedanasheel ho sakatee hain. Safed ganne ke pattee ke ankuron ko hata den, aur rog kee teevrata ko kam karane ke liye sinchae sunishchit karen.
- Varsha kee kamee se choohon ki samasya aur bhee badi ho sakatee hai. Choohon se bachane ke liye kheton ko saaph aur kachara mukt rakhen.
- Ganna kataee ke 6-10 saptaah aur 20-24 saptaah par split application kee siphaarish dee jaatee hai.
- Namee sanrakshan ke liye kisaanon ko kachara apane paas rakhana chaahiye. Kachara ghas kee vrddhi ko kam karane mein bhee madad karega. Bachee huee namee kee haani ko rokane ke liye ganne kee jutaee karni chaahiye.
- Ganna kataee ke liye ganna na jalaen aur kataee pooree hone ke baad kachara na jalaen.
- Kisee bhee jameen mein mittee ke namoone, paudhe kee variety, punah ropan ke dauraan upayog kiye jaane vaale saaf beej kee upalabdha ke sambandh mein apane kshetr ke farm advisors se paraamarsh karen.
- Sector Farm Advisors ke maadhyam se SRIF se prapt mittee ke parinaamon ke aadhaar par Blend A, Blend B aur lime ke liye ordar den.
- Jo khet chadhai par hai, waha paudhe lagaana chaahie taki mittee ko bhaene se roka ja sake.
- Aur salaah ke liye 8921839 par SRIF ko sampark karen.

## I Taukei Version

- E ratou sa vakasalataka tiko na Tabana ni Draki, ni na rawa ni lailai na uca e tau e na noda yalava ni tei dovu.
- Me vakayagataki vakavuku se vakamatau na ivaka so ni wai, e na gauna ni teitei. Na lailai ni wai e na rawa ni vakavuna na kena kadre bera na dovu ka rawa saraga ni tauva na itei ni dovu na mate ka yacana na 'pineapple rot disease.'
- Na dovu matua, na 'Naidiri', ena rawa ni vakacacani se tauva vakarawarawa na mate na 'leaf scald', e na gauna e lailai kina na tau ni uca. Me vakalailaitaki na kena rawa ni tauva na mate, ko ni vakasalataka me biu laivi na kadre ni dovu ka vakasavasavataki mai na uca ka me biu na ivaka so ni wai me vukea na tarovi na kena tauva na veimate eso.
- Na lailai ni tau ni uca e na rawa ni vakatubura na leqa ni vakacacani ni teitei. Me dau samaki vakavinaka na iteitei ka biu vakamatau na kena benu, me kakua ni vakatara na vanua me ra mai vakavaletaki kina na manumanu dau vacaca I teitei, me vaka na kalavo lelevu.

- Ni sa kerei me vidai rua na kena vakayagataki na I vakabulabula ni qele; matai mai na I ka 6-10 na macawa kei na kena I karua na I ka 20-24 na macawa, ni kena musu oti na dovu.
- Ni sa vakasalataki na dau teitei me kakua ni vakamai na benu ni dovu, me na rawa ni maroroya na suasua e na dela ni qele, ka rawa tale ga ni vakaberaberataka na tubu ni co ca. Me vakalailaitaki tale ga na mataqali walewale ni kena vakarautaki na qele, me rawa ni vakaberaberataka na mamaca ni dela ni qele.
- Ko ni sa kerei me kakua ni vakamai na dovu ni vakarau ta, kei na benu ni dovu ka dau biu tu, ni sa ta oti na dovu.
- Ni dau veitaratara kei ira na nomuni daunivakasala me baleta na kena sabolotaki na nomuni qele, ka vakadikevi, me baleta na I tei ni dovu e na ganita na nomuni qele, e na gauna ni teitei ka tarava.
- Vei kemuni na dau teitei ena gauna ni teivaki ni dovu musu oti, mo ni otataka na nomuni I vakabulabula ni qele, mai na mataqali, na 'blend A,' 'blend B,' se 'lime based' me veiganiti kei na I vakasala me baleta na nomuni qele, e ratou solia na 'SRIF'.
- E na veiteitei ena veidelana se baba, mo ni dau vakamatautaka na iwalewale ni teitei ka maroro vinaka kina na qele me vaka na 'contour planting' se na kena teivaki na co na 'vativa' me vakalailaitaka na sisi ni qele.
- Ke tu tale e so na nomuni vakatataro, ni qai veitaratara vei iratou na SRIF ena naba ni talevoni na 8921839.

## Climate Outlook

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral.
- ENSO-neutral status is likely to continue until at least July 2024, with a transition to La Niña state likely during August to October 2024 period.
- For July 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **5-10mm** of rainfall in Nadi, Lautoka, Rarawai and Tagitagi, **10-25mm** of rainfall in Sigatoka, Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula and Tavua, **25-50mm** of rainfall in Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **50-100mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu.
- During August 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **10-25mm** of rainfall in Lomawai, Malolo, Nadi, Lautoka, Lovu, Drasa, Rarawai and Tagitagi, **25-50mm** of rainfall in Cuvu, Olosara, Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Vatukoula, Tavua and Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least **50-100mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- For September 2024, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **25-50mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least **50-100mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- During August to October 2024 period, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **100-200mm** of rainfall from Cuvu to Tavua, **200-300mm** of rainfall in Olosara, Vatukoula, Penang, Labasa, and Vunivutu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Dobuilevu, Seqqaq, Waiqeke, Vunimoli, Batinikama and Wainikoro.
- As we are now into the Dry Season, variable rainfall is expected across the sugarcane belt areas. Northern Viti Levu and parts of the Northern Division are likely to receive some rain, while the rest of the areas are likely to experience reduced rainfall.

## Rainfall Outlook: July 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
July 2024

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/06/2024  
Issued: 17/06/2024

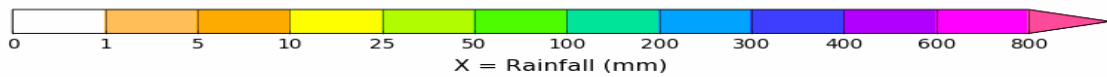
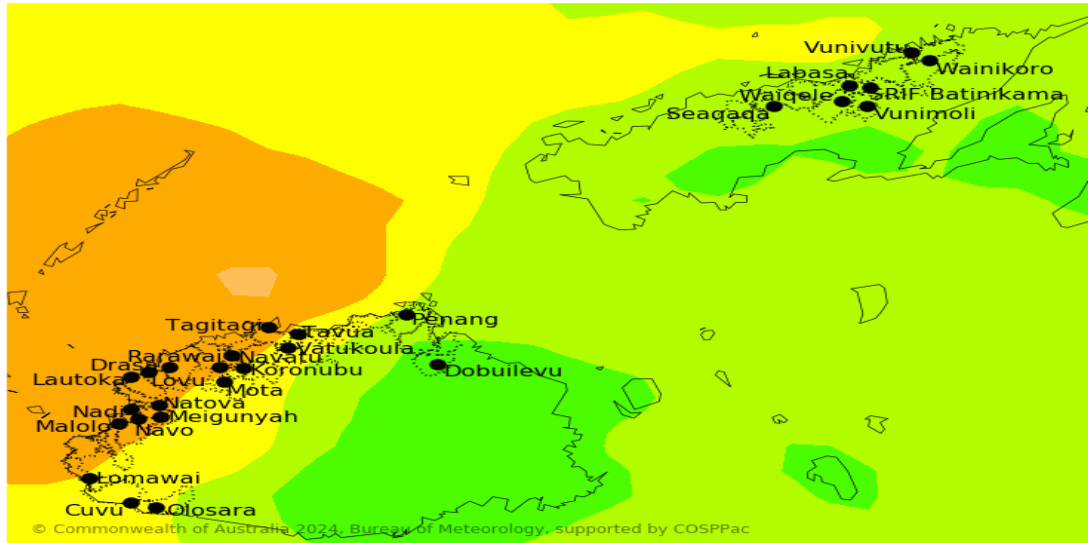


Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 5-10mm of rainfall in Nadi, Lautoka, Rarawai and Tagitagi, 10-25mm of rainfall in Sigatoka, Mota, Koronubu, Vatukoula and Tavua, 25-50mm of rainfall in Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 50-100mm of rainfall in Dobailevu. The confidence in the outlook is low to good.

## Rainfall Outlook: August 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
August 2024

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/06/2024  
Issued: 17/06/2024

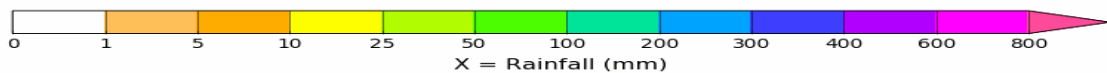
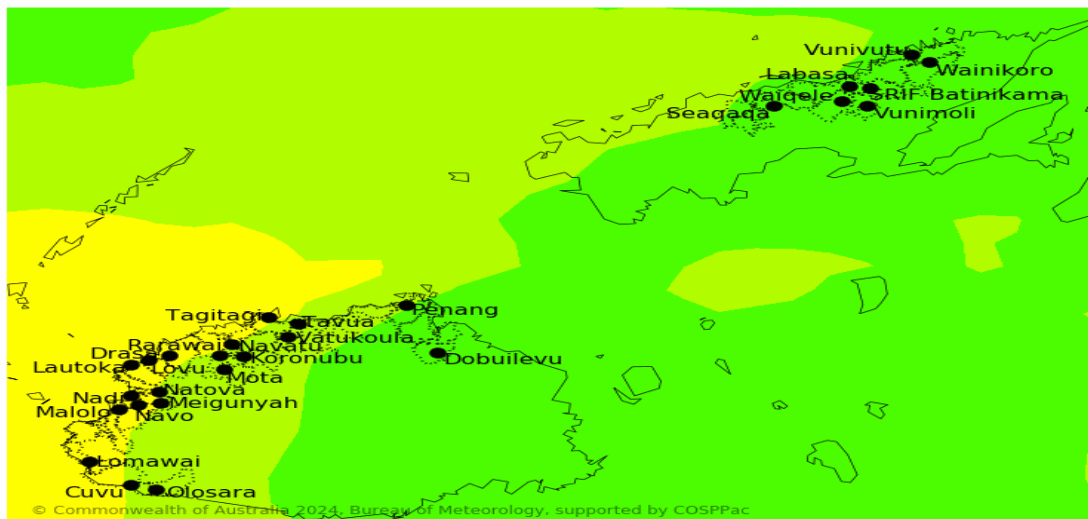


Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 10-25mm of rainfall in Lomawai, Malolo, Nadi, Lautoka, Lovu, Drasa, Rarawai and Tagitagi, 25-50mm of rainfall in Cuvu, Olosara, Meigunyah, Natova, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Vatukoula, Tavua and Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least 50-100mm of rainfall in Dobailevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate.

## Rainfall Outlook: September 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
September 2024

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/06/2024  
Issued: 17/06/2024

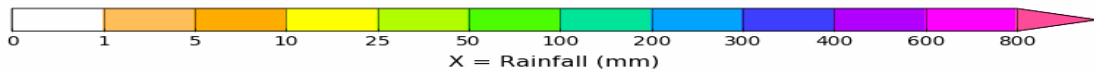
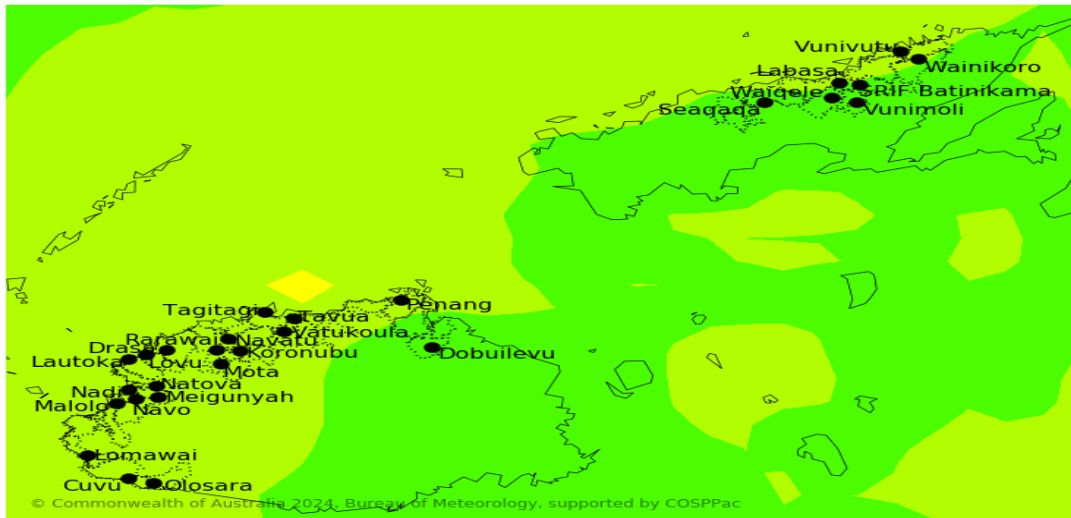


Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 25-50mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang, while there is high chance of receiving at least 50-100mm of rainfall in Doboilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is low to moderate.

## Rainfall Outlook: August to October 2024

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
August to October 2024

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 15/06/2024  
Issued: 17/06/2024

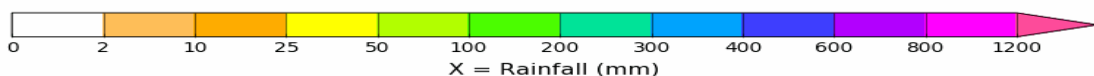
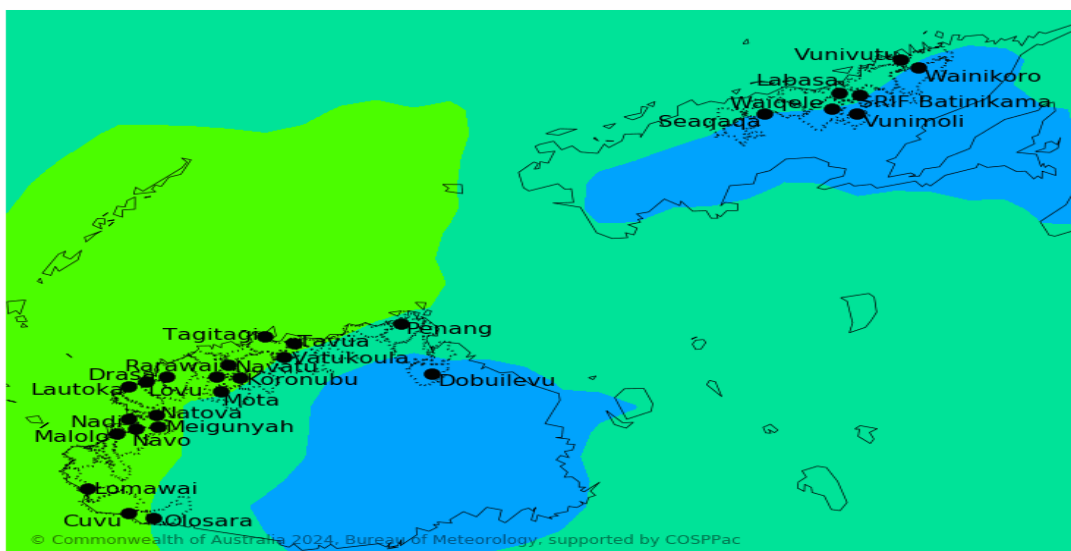


Figure 4: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 100-200mm of rainfall from Cuvu to Tavua, 200-300mm of rainfall in Olosara, Vatukoula, Penang, Labasa, and Vunivutu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Doboilevu, Seqaqa, Waiqele, Vunimoli, Batinikama and Wainikoro. The confidence in the outlook is low to moderate.

## 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 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 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.