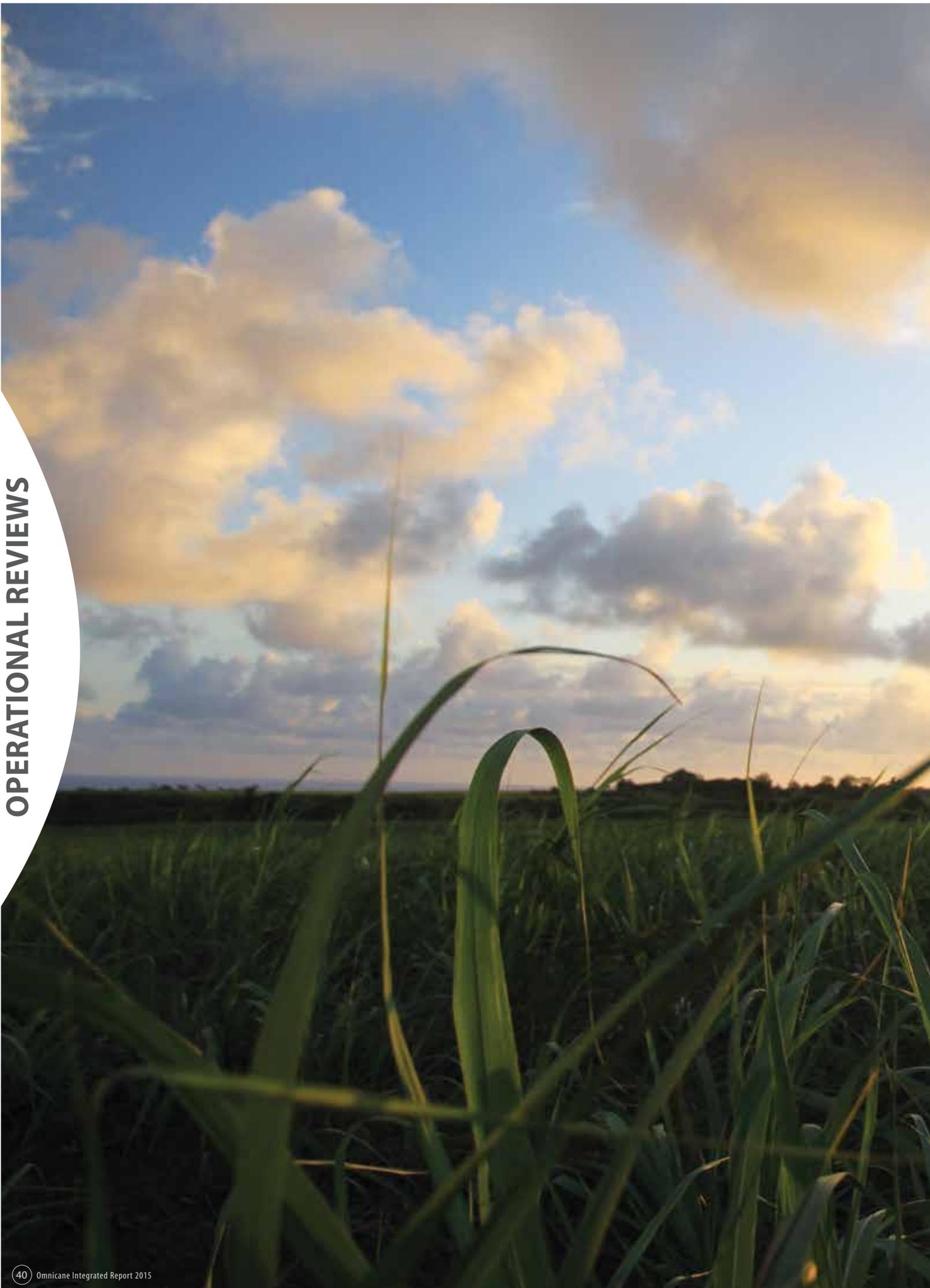


OPERATIONAL REVIEWS

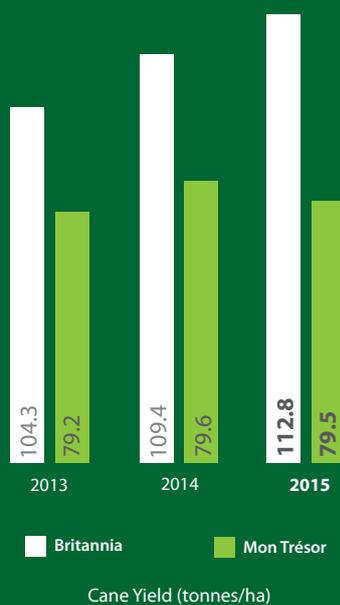


Agriculture



“...the performance of both Britannia and Mon Trésor were above the island average cane yield at 112.8 tonnes/hectare and 79.5 tonnes/hectare respectively.”

François Vitry Audibert
Chief Operations Officer



AGRICULTURE

Out of the entire factory area of the south, Omnicane's agricultural operations at Britannia and Mon Trésor account for some 2,800 hectares of land under sugarcane cultivation, with an annual harvested area of around 2,500 hectares.

Year 2015 has been an exceptional one as it witnessed two sugar harvest periods. Indeed, following the November 2014 strike, the 2014 sugar crop was partly shifted for harvesting in early 2015. A mini-crop was done in January and then the normal 2015 crop started in June and ended in December 2015.

The mini-crop was done over an area of 215 hectares and for both Britannia and Mon Trésor, a total of 23,679 tonnes of canes were harvested. For the normal 2015 crop season, land under cane cultivation over an area of 2,540 hectares produced 232,870 tonnes of canes.

Unfortunately, humid climatic conditions and the extended harvest period had an adverse effect on the cane sucrose content. As a result, the sugar extraction rate stood at 9.1% in 2015 (2014 – 9.9%), one of the lowest ever yield recorded for the last fourteen years.

Despite the above, the performance of both Britannia and Mon Trésor were above the island average cane yield at 112.8 tonnes/hectare and 79.5 tonnes/hectare respectively. It is worth noting that Britannia is the island's best performer since 2001.

The need for greater efficiency in field maintenance, reduced cane harvesting cost and environmental concerns regarding cane burning before harvesting, made it essential for the Group to make use of more mechanical harvesting. We are pleased to report that in 2015, we have mechanically harvested 72% (2014: 70%) of the sugarcane produced at Britannia and Mon Trésor. We have however reached a peak in our mechanisation programme and it will be difficult to increase this percentage much more in the near future.

As far as our potato production is concerned, some 2,016 tonnes (2014: 2,367 tonnes) were harvested from 68.7 hectares of land. This lower yield was due to the poor quality of seeds from its country of origin. We are looking for a new source of seeds to ensure that this issue is minimised in the future. Potato cultivation however remains a fragile crop, prone to diseases.

Good Agricultural Practices

During the year under review, we have continued to adopt sound agricultural practices from field planning to cane harvesting. Our experienced workforce ensures that we have a sustainable farming system to maintain our high production levels, decrease production costs, and harmonize our operations with the environment. We work in close collaboration with the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute to integrate the principles of Integrated Pest Management, sound sanitation and judicious use of agrochemicals in our operations. We are also working on reducing our herbicides use through sustainable weed management strategies, and have adopted adequate trash management practices to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion.

Year	Cane Yield (tonnes/ha)			Sugar Yield (tonnes/ha)		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
Britannia	112.8	109.4	104.3	9.78	11.1	10.6
Mon Trésor	79.5	79.6	79.2	7.64	8.37	8.62
Island average	76.5	79.8	77.5	6.99	7.89	8.27

PROSPECTS

Climatic conditions, which prevailed as from end of crop 2015, have been conducive to growth and development of sugarcane and a good crop is expected for 2016. Some 2,567 hectares will be harvested for a yield estimate of 232,000 tonnes of sugarcane and 23,650 tonnes of sugar. As for potatoes, 75 hectares will be planted this year and a yield of 2,400 tonnes is expected.

