

AGRICULTURE



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Chief Operations Officer

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OPERATIONS REPORT (continued)

AGRICULTURE

Omnicane's agricultural operations consist mainly of sugarcane cultivation with around 1,084 hectares at Britannia and 1,640 hectares at Mon Trésor. Other agricultural activities include potato cultivation.

During the 2016 crop season, our agricultural operations at Britannia and Mon Trésor yielded a total harvest of 229,961 tonnes of sugarcane (Crop 2015: 232,870 tonnes) over 2,724 hectares (2015: 2,540 hectares), representing some 23,530 tonnes of sugar. This slight drop in harvest was due to a severe drought recorded during the last quarter of the year.

Nevertheless, with a better cane sucrose content, the sugar extraction rate was 10.2 % compared to only 9.1 % in 2015. Interestingly, the cane yields at Britannia and Mon Trésor were both above the island's average, at 100.25 tonnes/hectare and 82.48 tonnes/hectare respectively. The corresponding total sugar yield for our agricultural operations was 9.14 tonnes sugar per hectare.

	Cane Yield (tonnes/ha)			Sugar Yield (tonnes/ha)		
	2016	2015	2014	2016	2015	2014
Britannia	100.2	112.8	109.4	10.1	9.78	11.1
Mon Trésor	82.5	79.5	79.6	8.6	7.64	8.37
Island-wide average	73.8	76.5	79.8	7.5	6.99	7.89

It should also be noted that 71% of land under sugarcane was harvested mechanically in 2016 compared to 72% in 2015.

Concerning our potato production, some 2,158 tonnes (2015: 2,016 tonnes) were harvested from 80 hectares of land. Potato however remains a fragile crop, prone to diseases and insects; it requires much attention but is well controlled by our agricultural practices.

Good Agricultural Practices

Customer and stakeholder demands, as channeled through organisations like Bonsucro, are becoming an important part of the future sugarcane value chain. During the year under review, our agricultural operations were subjected to customer audits to ensure that sound agricultural practices are being used and environmental standards complied with. In line with the recommendations of the customer audits and guidelines for best practices in the sugarcane industry, we are committed to adopt an Environmental Management System for our agricultural operations. We continue to work in close collaboration with the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute to integrate the principles of Integrated Pest Management, sound sanitation and judicious use of agrochemicals in our operations.

229,961 tonnes

Sugarcane harvested

Prospects

In 2017, it is estimated that some 213,000 tonnes of sugarcane (equivalent to some 21,902 tonnes of sugar) will be harvested over an area of 2,382 hectares of land, subject to good climatic conditions. The potato harvest is also expected to reach some 2,400 tonnes from 75 hectares of land.