

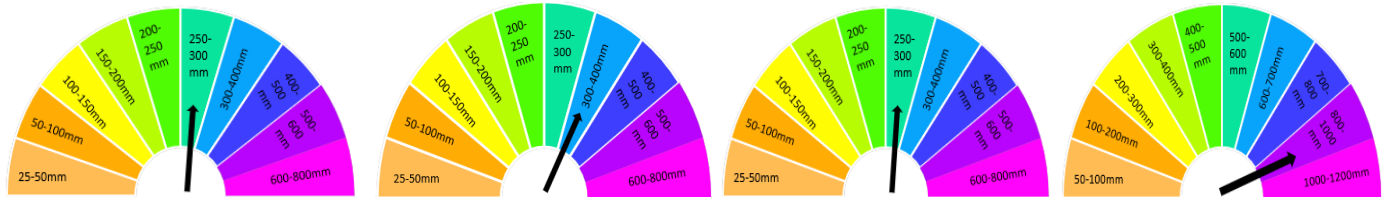
# Fiji Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook For January, February & March 2025 and February to April 2025 **Experimental**

Volume 2

Issue: 12

Issued: December 31, 2024  
Next issue: January 31, 2025

## Key Messages



January 2025

February 2025

March 2025

February to April 2025

## English

- The sugarcane growing areas have received less than 100mm of rainfall during the period of October to November 2024.
- With forecasts predicting significant rainfall between 250mm to 400mm from Sigatoka to Penang, farmers must ensure their drainage systems are clean to prevent waterlogging conditions.
- Growers must monitor their farms and adopt integrated weed management that includes manual weeding followed by weedicides application to eliminate the weeds.
- Look-out for gaps in the field. Carryout gap filling using “tum-tum”.
- Farmers should consult their Sector Farm Advisors about multiple aspects of farm management, including soil sampling, variety selection, seedcane availability, and accessing the SRIF-provided Ratoon Management grant.
- All plant and ratoon crops should utilize split fertilizer application methods.
- For farms located on rolling and steep slopes, soil conservation measures are essential. These should include planting on contours and establishing vetiver hedges to minimize soil erosion.
- Farmers are encouraged to begin cover crop planting now. SRIF Technology Transfer Officers are available for consultation regarding cover-cropping techniques and their benefits.
- Stay alert to any warnings and advisories from Fiji Met Services, and be prepared to adjust field programs and activities as needed.
- For further assistance and information, contact SRIF at 8921839.

## ***Hindi Version***

- October se November 2024 kee avadhi ke dauraan ganna kshetron mein 100mm se kam varsha huee hai.
- Sigaatoka se Penang tak 250mm se 400mm ke beech mahatvapoomn varsha kee bhavishyavaanee ke saath, kisaanon ko yah sunishchit karana chaahiye ki jalabharaav kee sthiti ko rokane ke liye unakee jal nikaasee vyavastha saaph ho.
- Kisaanon ko apane kheton kee nigaraanee karanee chaahiye aur ekeekrt kharapatavaar prabandhan ko apanaana chaahiye jisamen kharapatavaar ko khatm karane ke liye mainyual niraae ke baad kharapatavaaranaashakon ka prayog shaamil hai.
- Khet mein kamiyon par nazar rakhen. "Tum-tum" ka upayog karake antaraal ko bharana.
- Kisaanon ko khet prabandhan ke kaae pahaluon ke baare mein apane sektar phaarm salaahakaaron se paraamarsh lena chaahiye, jisamen mittee ka namoona lena, ganna kism ka chayan, beejaganna kee upalabdhata aur SRIF dvaara pradatt raitoon prabandhan anudaan tak pahunch shaamil hai.
- Sabhee paudhon aur pedee phasalon ko vibhaajit urvarak anuprayog vidhiyon ka upayog karana chaahiye.
- Uchaai par sthit kheton ke liye, mittee sanrakshan upaay aavashyak hain. Inmen mittee ke kataav ko kam karane ke liye samochchon par ropan aur gadra sthaapit karana shaamil hona chaahiye.
- Kisaanon ko ab kavari phasal ropan shuroo karane ke liye protsaahit kiya jaata hai. SRIF Technology Transfer Officers kavari-kroping takaneekon aur unake laabhon ke sambandh mein paraamarsh ke liye upalabdh hain.
- Nadi mausmi daftar kee kisee bhee chetaavane ke liye aur salaah ke prati satark rahen, aur aavashyakataanusaar khet ke kaaryakramon aur gatividhiyon ko samaayojit karane ke liye taiyaar rahen.
- Adhik sahaayata aur jaanakaaree ke liye, SRIF se 8921839 par sampark karen.

## ***I Taukei Version***

- E lailai mai na 100mm na levu ni uca ka tau e na veisiteseni e na noda veiyalava ni tei dovu, e na vula ko Okotova kei na Noveba.
- Ni sa kerei na dauteitei me samaki vinaka na I vakata ni wai se vanua dau drodro kina na wai e na veiteitei, me vaka na I vakasala me na rauta e 250mm kin a 400mm na levu ni uca e namaki e na noda veiyalava ni tei dovu.
- Ni sa vakasalataki me taurivaki na veimataqali walewale ni teitei matau, ka okati kina na werewere, ka salamuria na kena vakayagataki na I vakabulabula ni qele, me rawa ni vakaberaberataka se tarova na tubu ni co ca.
- Me laurai na veivanua e ra galala tiko se 'gap', e na I teitei, ka ko ni sa vakasalataki tale ga me vakatawani, ka rawa ni caka oqo, e na kena vakayagataki na I walewale ni teitei ka yacana na "tum-tum".

- I tukutuku me baleta na kena veiwalewale ni teitei matau, sabolotaki ni qele, veimataqali I tei ni dovu, mataqali I tei ni dovu ka tiko kei na kena rawa ni vakayagataki na veivuke ni matanitu, ni sa vakasalataki na dau teitei, mo ni veitaratara kei ira na nomuni dau ni vakasala se ‘Sector Farm Advisors’.
- Ni sa vakasalataki me vidai rua na kena vakayagataki na i vakabulabula ni qele, e na I tei ni dovu se qai tubu vou kei na I tei ni dovu lalai, ka ra biu tu mai e na gauna ni musu dovu, se ‘ratoon’.
- E bibi me taurivaki na I walewale ni teitei matau, e na gauna ni teitei e na vanua baba, me vaka na kena teivaki na ‘vertiva grass’, me na rawa ni vakalailaitaka na sisi ni qele.
- Ni sa kerei na dau teitei mo ni sa tekivu taurivaka na mataqali walewale ni teitei ka yacana na ‘cover cropping’ se ‘cover crop planting’. Oqo na kena teivaki e so na mataqali I tei ka rawa ni veivuke e na kena vakabulabulataki na qele. Ke ko ni gadreva e so tale na I tukutuku me baleta na I walewale ni teitei oqo, kerei mo ni veitaratara kei iratou na SRIF Technology Transfer Officers, ka ratou rawa ni vukei kemuni e na tikina oqo.
- E na gauna ni nomuni vakavakarautaki ni teitei, ni sa vakasalataki mo ni qai vakarogoca na nodratou I vakasala na Tabana ni Draki, me na rawa ni veivuke e na nomuni gauna ni navunavuci se tuvatuva ka.
- Ke tu tale e so nomuni vakatataro, ni qai veitaratara yani vei iratou na Tabana Ni SRIF, e na naba ni talevoni- 8921839.

## Climate Outlook

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral, with ENSO indicators showing signs of likely chances of development of a weak La Niña in the coming months, and a return to neutral state from January to March 2025 period.
- For January 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Nadi, Lautoka, Tagitagi, Penang, Seaqaqa, Waiqele, Labasa, Batinikama, Wainikoro and Vunivutu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Vunimoli and the rest of the sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu.
- During February 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Meigunyah, Natova, Lovu, Drasa, Rarawai, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Tagitagi, Vatukoula, Tavua, Penang and Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu.
- For March 2025, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **250-300mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **300-400mm** of rainfall in Mota and Dobuilevu.
- During February to April 2025 period, there is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least **800-1000mm** of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least **1000-1200mm** of rainfall across remaining sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu.
- Fiji is currently in its tropical cyclone season, therefore any development of low pressure systems, tropical disturbances and depression closer to our region can result in enhanced rainfall.
- All communities should remain alert and prepared throughout the tropical cyclone season and take heed of all advisories and warnings issued.

## Rainfall Outlook: January 2025

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
January 2025

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 14/12/2024  
Issued: 16/12/2024

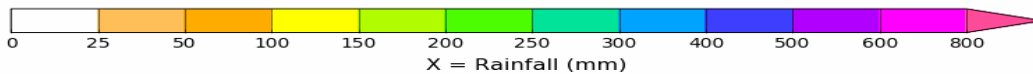
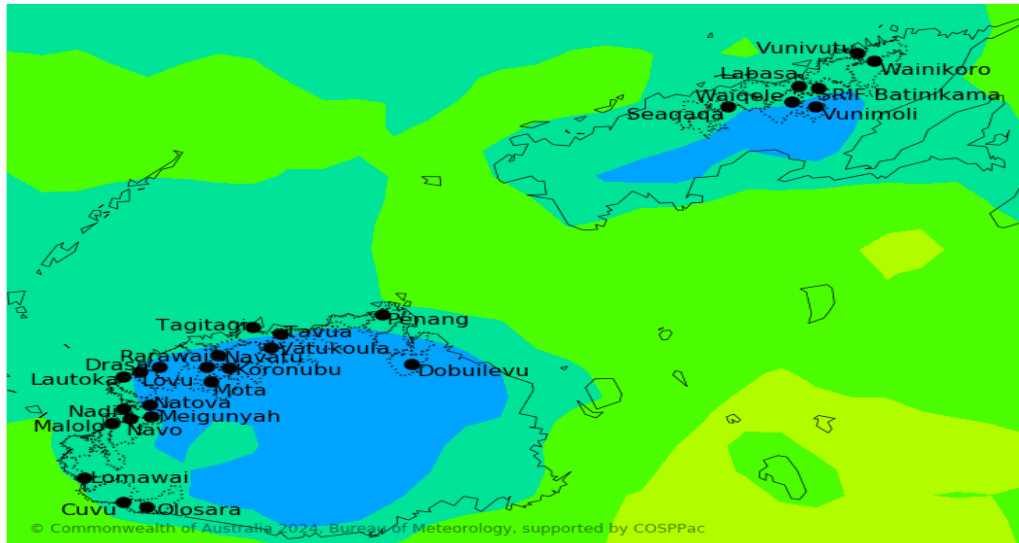


Figure 1: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall from Olosara to Nadi, Lautoka, Tagitagi, Penang, Seaqaqa, Waiqeke, Labasa, Batinikama, Wainikoro and Vunivutu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Vunimoli and the rest of the sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to high.

## Rainfall Outlook: February 2025

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
February 2025

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 14/12/2024  
Issued: 16/12/2024

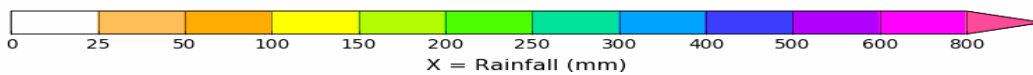
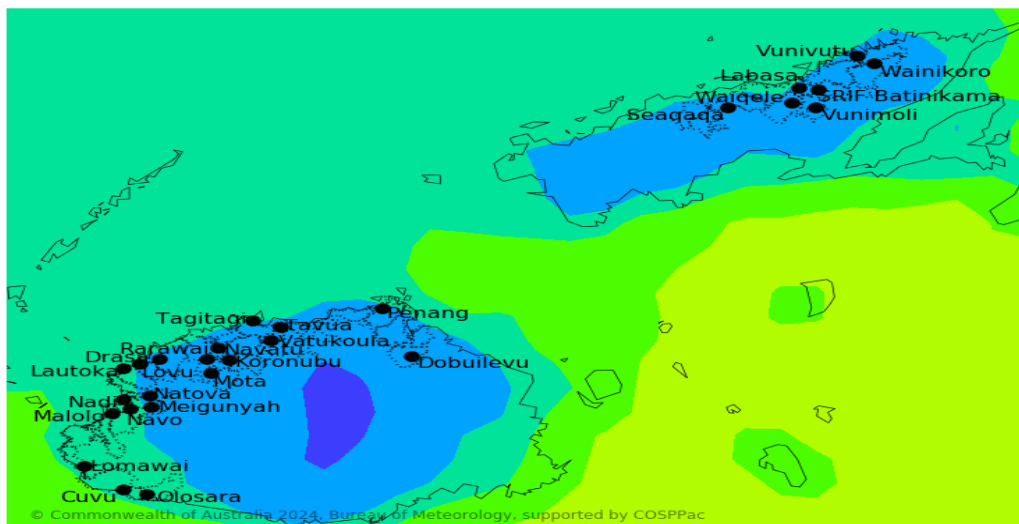


Figure 2: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall from Olosara to Lautoka, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Meigunyah, Natova, Lovu, Drasa, Rarawai, Mota, Koronubu, Navatu, Tagitagi, Vatukoula, Tavua, Penang and Dobuilevu and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to high.

## Rainfall Outlook: March 2025

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
March 2025

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 14/12/2024  
Issued: 16/12/2024

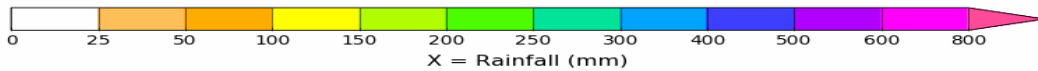
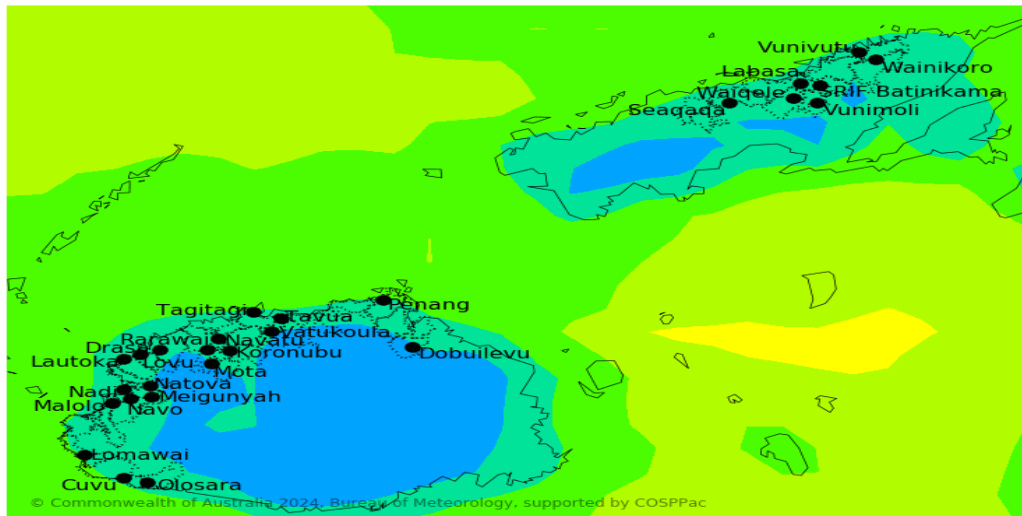


Figure 3: There is a high (75%) chance of receiving at least 250-300mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 300-400mm of rainfall in Mota and Doboilevu. The confidence in the outlook is moderate to high.

## Rainfall Outlook: February to April 2025

75% chance of rainfall exceeding X mm:  
February to April 2025

Data source: ACCESS-S2  
Observations: MSWEP

Base period: 1981–2018

Model Run: 14/12/2024  
Issued: 16/12/2024

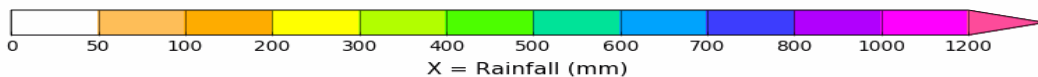
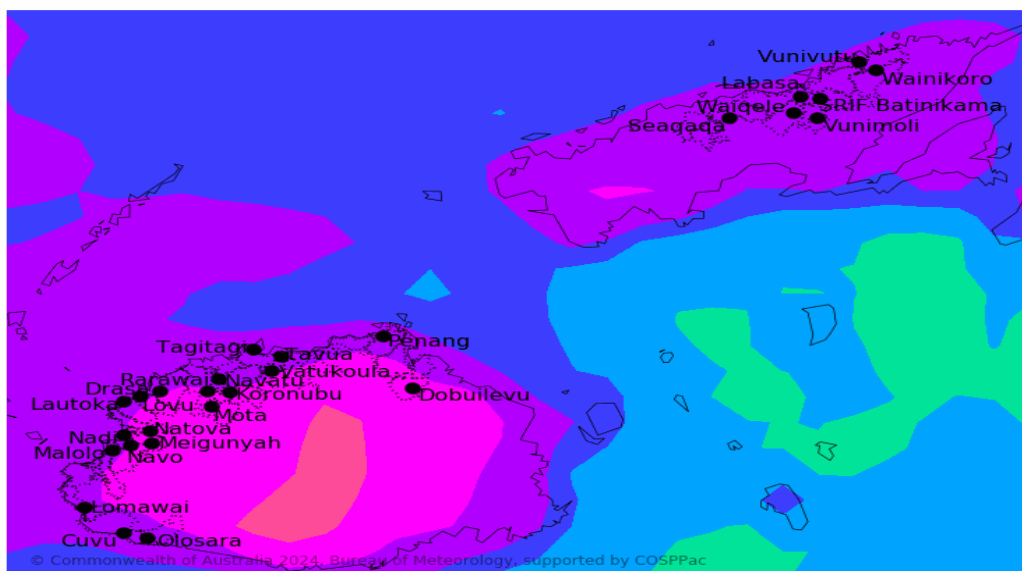


Figure 4: High (75%) chance of receiving at least 800-1000mm of rainfall from Olosara to Penang and across sugarcane belt areas in Vanua Levu, while there is high chance of receiving at least 1000-1200mm of rainfall across remaining sugarcane belt areas in Viti Levu. The confidence in the outlook is 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.

**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.