



Information Sheet

3. VARIETIES

Variety N53 (Released 2010)

Parents are 89F1649 x 88F1903. N53 was selected in the irrigated region from trials at Pongola, Komati and Malelane. Two trials were planted early in the season (April/May) and four trials were planted later in the season (September/October). Results are from the plant and three ratoon crops harvested at 12 months crop age. The variety is recommended for irrigated conditions on an annual harvest cycle.

BEST FEATURES

Good general disease resistance. Good RV yields especially later in the season.

LIMITING FEATURES

Colour a concern.

YIELD AND QUALITY

Tons RV	High. 105% of N19, 99% of N25, 110% of N32, 107% of N40
Cane yield	Average. 103% of N19, 90% of N25, 103% of N32, 109% of N40
RV content	High. 102% of N19, 109% of N25, 108% of N32, 99% of N40
Fibre content	Average. 99% of N19, 105% of N25, 100% of N32, 94% of N40
Purity	Average. 100% of N19, 103% of N25, 101% of N32, 100% of N40
Yield and quality data from northern irrigated trials harvested on an annual harvest cycle.	

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS

Smut	Intermediate-resistant
Mosaic	Resistant
Brown Rust	Resistant
Tawny Rust	Intermediate-susceptible
Leaf scald	Not been recorded
Eldana	Resistant

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination	Average
Stalk Population	Average - high
Stalk Height	Average
Canopy	Good
Diameter	Average
Flowering	Rare
Lodging	Average
Ratooning	Similar to N25

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS

Colour (Low values are desirable)	Average – high. 145% of N19, 78% of N25, 120% of N40
Pith:Fibre ratio (Low ratio is desirable)	Average. 100% of N19, 86% of N25, 83% of N40

Gumming and Pokkah Boeng have been recorded at low levels in some trial plots.

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

N53 is a high population variety with medium stalks, with an erect growing habit. The canopy is uniform and good, with curved leaves of medium to average width.

Leaf

Blade: Medium to average width.

Sheath: Green sheath with purple blotches sometimes present. Hairs present.

Collar: Medium to wide, yellow-green collar.

Auricle: Under-lapping; very distinct, very long, lanceolate; broken off on older leaves.

Overlapping: Absent.

Stalk

Internode

The internodes are long and cylindrical. They are yellow-green in colour but darker-green on exposure. The internodes have abundant wax bloom on them. The stalk can have a slight zigzag alignment. Cracks are sometimes present.

Wax band: Medium width, not well defined.

Bud furrow: None.

Node

Growth ring: Well defined, green.

Root band: Same colour as stalk, 2 rows of root primordia.

Sheath scar: Straight.

Bud: Round and small to medium size. Generally within the root band.

Flange: Broad, all around the buds.

