



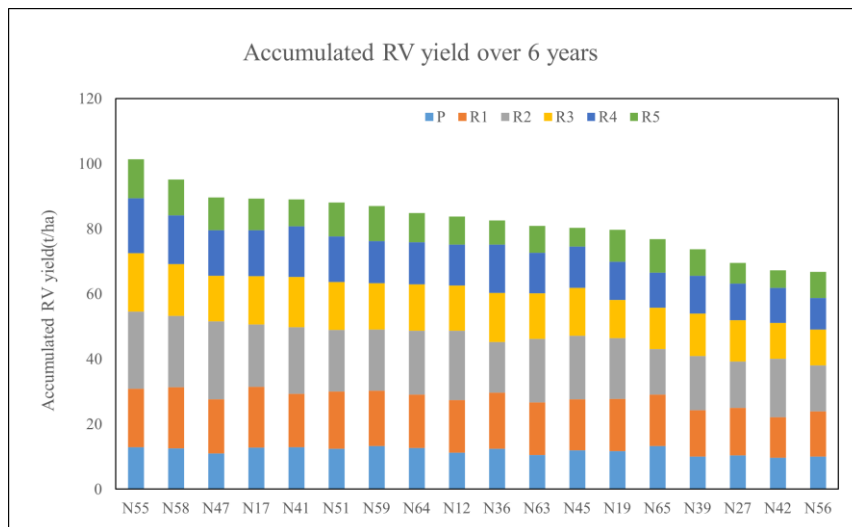
# ZULULAND NORTH EXTENSION NEWS



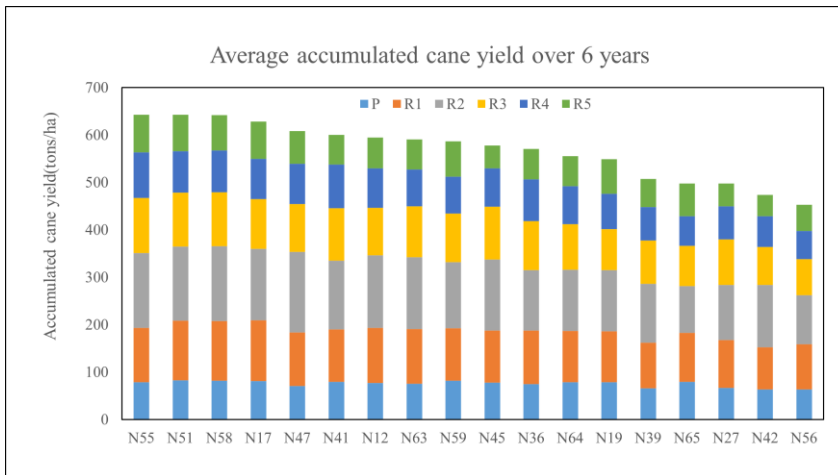
## Coastal rainfed variety trial results

The trial commenced on September 20th, 2016, at Mattinson Farm. Harvesting was conducted at different stages, resulting in yields accumulated per hectare. Additionally, the actual yields of the fifth ratoon (R5) crop are included:

- P (12 months)
- R1 (13 months)
- R2 (18 months)
- R3 (16 months)
- R4 (14 months)
- R5 (13 months)



**Figure 1:** Accumulated RV yield (tRV/ha) over six crops, harvested at different ages (P, R1, R2, R3, R4 and R5).



**Figure 2:** Accumulated cane yield (tcane/ha) over six crops, harvested at different ages (P, R1, R2, R3, R4 and R5).

### The best performing varieties over six crops:

**N55:** Consistent variety with excellent tons RV/ha and tons CANE/ha over six crops. This variety has performed well when harvested at 16 to 18 months. Please be aware that N55 does get smut although it is rated intermediate-resistant.

**N58:** Yield and quality of this variety are good. High population variety with medium size stalks. Notwithstanding its slightly lower RV yield compared to N55 in this trial, its cane yield is on par with the N55 and N51 over six crops harvested at different ages.

**N17:** N17 yield, and quality has been good although slightly lower than those of the N55 and N58. This variety must be harvested towards the end of the season.

**N51:** Promising variety with good cane yield and even better when harvested on a longer cycle. It has a relatively high population of medium size stalks. Performs well on average to low potential soils. It is resistant to smut and mosaic although lodging could be a problem.

**N47:** Good RV yields are achieved when this variety is aged and carried over. Although it has been outperformed in this trial by the N55 and N58, its resistance to pest & diseases makes it a reliable variety for longer cutting cycle. Suitable for carry

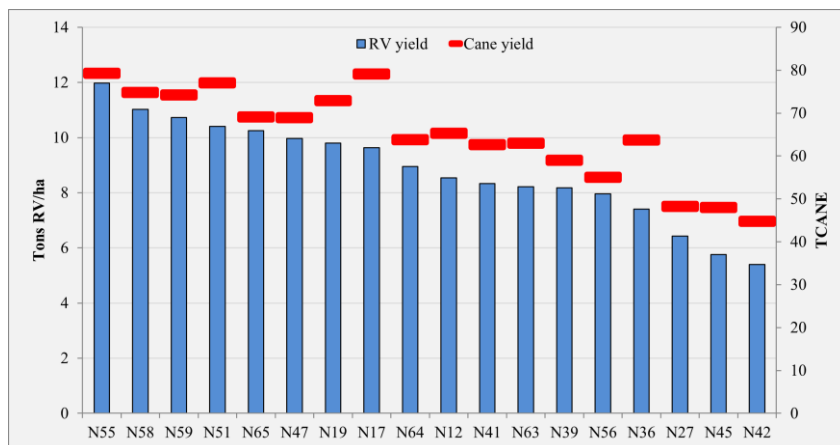
over.

### Actual yields of the fifth ratoon crop

The graph below shows the actual RV and cane yield of the 5th ratoon crop. Variety N55 outperformed all the other varieties in terms of RV yields.

Although N58 and N59 cane yields were slightly lower than those of N17 and N51, their RV yields showed no statistically significant differences. Please be aware that N59 is also highly susceptible to smut, although it is rated as intermediate-susceptible.

It should be noted that the performance of the 5th ratoon was not as good as the previous crops, and this can be attributed to hail damage that occurred in April last year.



**Figure 3:** Actual RV and Cane yield of the fifth ratoon crop harvested at 13 months of age.

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