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SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRONOMISTS' ASSOCIATION
SEEDCANE INSPECTION RESULTS

FOR 2002/03

Cat. No. : 2181

During the inspection period 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 there was a 34% decline in the area planted to seedcane from 581,9 ha in the 2001/02 season to 383,8 ha. Private growers, other than Chisumbanje Estate and Mpapa Plot 15, had insignificant areas. Hippo Valley settlers did not register any seedcane nurseries because of disruptions in that sector. Compared to the previous inspection year, there were significant decreases in areas under N14(214,64 ha vs 127,57 ha), ZN6(138,05 ha vs 58,48 ha) and CP72-1312(26,1 ha vs 9,53 ha). N14, however, continued to be the predominant variety in nurseries accounting for 33% of total area inspected while ZN1L was again not grown for seedcane at all (Table 1). The newly released varieties, ZN7 and ZN8, together accounted for 6,6% of area under seedcane.

Table 1: Number of nurseries and areas grown to seedcane, % area under each variety as a proportion of total area and mean % smut for the twelve commercially grown varieties inspected during 2002/03.

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Nurseries inspected</u>	<u>Total area inspected (ha)</u>	<u>% of total</u>	<u>Mean % smut</u>
NCo376	6	7,45	1,94	0,05
N14	32	127,57	33,24	0,03
CP72-1312	5	9,53	2,48	0,00
CP72-2086	22	75,24	19,60	0,00
ZN1L	0	0,0	0,00	-
ZN2E	4	9,32	2,43	0,00
ZN3L	13	28,62	7,46	0,00
ZN4	4	11,2	2,92	0,00
ZN5	12	31,4	8,18	0,00
ZN6	13	58,48	15,24	0,00
ZN7	6	18,65	4,86	0,00
ZN8	5	6,35	1,65	0,00
<u>Total</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>383,81</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0,00</u>

Smut in NCo376 and N14 could be managed better even though the levels were still within acceptable limits. Ratoon stunting disease (RSD) was also adequately managed with all samples taken from the nurseries free of the causal bacterium.

The survey results for each variety are given in Tables 2 - 12. Only three nurseries failed to meet certification standards this year compared to twelve nurseries last year indicating apparent good management of the nurseries. Two of the rejected fields had excessive volunteers while one of N14 had unacceptable levels of smut.

Forty four (44) hectares of seedcane were grown on private farms representing 11,4% of total seedcane production for 2002/03. Of this total, almost 70% was grown by Chisumbanje Estate. The bulk of the seedcane was produced on Hippo Valley, Triangle and Mkwesine Estates.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Seedcane Certification Scheme is achieving its intended goals of providing clean and true-to-variety planting material. Hot water treatment is adequately controlling RSD as treated seedcane is free of the bacteria. Private growers, however, need to use the Scheme more otherwise there is a real danger of some of them planting dirty seedcane to the detriment of themselves as well as other growers.

Seedcane producers are being encouraged to submit honest counts of smut whips rogued out from nurseries to complement inspection results by the ZSAES Disease Inspection Team. This will improve the Certification Scheme by eliminating false passes occasioned by the inspection team taking counts soon after roguing.

Table 2: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety NCo376 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	2	2	0	5.7	0.06
Hippo Valley	4	4	0	1.75	0.03
Mkwesine	0	0	0	0	-
TR Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
MK Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	6	6	0	7.45	0.05

Table 3: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety N14 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	10	9	1	45.3	0.01
Hippo Valley	9	9	0	18.7	0.00
Mkwesine	6	6	0	28.4	0.00
TR Settlers	4	3	1	5.1	0.08
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
MK Settlers	3	3	0	30.07	0.03
TOTAL	32	30	2	127.57	0.03

Table 4: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety CP72-1312 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	0	0	0	0	-
Hippo Valley	2	2	0	7.8	0.00
Mkwesine	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
TR Settlers	1	1	0	0.9	0.02
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
MK Settlers	1	1	0	0.33	0.00
TOTAL	5	5	0	9.53	0.00

Table 5: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN2E inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	0	0	0	0.0	-
Hippo Valley	2	2	0	8.2	0.00
Mkwesine	1	1	0	0.4	0.00
TR Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	1	1	0	0.72	0.00
TOTAL	4	4	0	9.32	0.00

Table 6: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN3L inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	5	5	0	10.6	0.00
Hippo Valley	5	5	0	15.7	0.00
Mkwesine	2	2	0	1.3	0.00
TR Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	1	1	0	1.02	0.00
TOTAL	13	13	0	28.62	0.00

Table 7: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN4 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	0	0	0	0.0	-
Hippo Valley	3	2	1	10.7	0.00
Mkwesine	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
TR Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
TOTAL	4	3	1	11.2	0.00

Table 8: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN5 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	7	7	0	22.8	0.00
Hippo Valley	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
Mkwesine	1	1	0	6.6	0.00
TR Settlers	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
MK Settlers	2	2	0	1	0.00
TOTAL	12	12	0	31.4	0.00

Table 9: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN6 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	4	4	0	35.2	0.00
Hippo Valley	6	6	0	14.9	0.00
Mkwesine	1	1	0	7.5	0.00
TR Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0	-
MK Settlers	2	2	0	0.88	0.00
TOTAL	13	13	0	58.48	0.00

Table 10: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety CP72-2086 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	7	7	0	39	0.00
Hippo Valley	6	6	0	21.2	0.00
Mkwasi	7	7	0	12.7	0.00
TR Settlers	1	1	0	2	0.00
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	1	1	0	0.38	0.00
TOTAL	22	22	0	75.28	0.00

Table 11: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN7 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	2	2	0	3.65	0.00
Hippo Valley	1	1	0	7.8	0.00
Mkwasi	2	2	0	6.7	0.00
TR Settlers	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
TOTAL	6	6	0	18.65	

Table 12: Number of nurseries, area (ha) and mean % smut infection of variety ZN8 inspected from June 2002 to May 2003.

Group/Grower	No. of fields			Area (ha) inspected	Mean % smut
	Inspected	Certified	Rejected		
Triangle Ltd	2	2	0	3.65	0.00
Hippo Valley	1	1	0	2	0.00
Mkwasi	1	1	0	0.2	0.00
TR Settlers	1	1	0	0.5	0.00
HV Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
MK Settlers	0	0	0	0.0	-
TOTAL	5	5	0	6.35	0.00