



# Information Sheet

## 13. VARIETIES

### 13.38 **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
Rust	Resistant
Leaf scald	Not been recorded
Eldana	Resistant
Gumming and Pokkah Boeng have been recorded at low levels in some trial plots.	

#### 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

## 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.

