



Information Sheet

13. VARIETIES

13.40 **Variety N55** (Released 2013)

Selected at Kearsney research station and tested in three trials in the Gingindlovu area and two trials in the Kearsney area. Results are from the plant, first and second ratoon crops. Recommended for both Hinterland and Coastal areas on a 15 to 18 month harvest cycle.

BEST FEATURES

Good general disease resistance. High RV yields at Kearsney (Hinterland) trials.

LIMITING FEATURES

High fibre.

YIELD AND QUALITY

Tons RV	124% of N39 Kearsney (Hinterland), 113% N39 (Gingindlovu)
Cane yield	116% of N39 Kearsney, 110% of N39 at Gingindlovu
RV content	105% of N39 at Kearsney, 107% of N39 at Gingindlovu
Fibre content	112% of NCo376
Purity	102% of N12, 105% of N16

Yield and quality data from Kearsney and Gingindlovu under rainfed, harvested on 15 – 18 month cycle.

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS

Smut	Intermediate-resistant
Mosaic	Intermediate-resistant
Brown rust	Resistant
Leaf scald	No incidence recorded
Eldana	Intermediate-resistant

Gumming and brown spot observed at low levels in a some trials.

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination	Average
Stalk Population	Average
Stalk Height	Average
Stalk Diameter	Above average
Canopy	Good
Flowering	Average
Lodging	High
Ratooning	Good

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS

Colour	Lower values than N12, N39 and NCo376
Processability	No percolation problems under standard preparation conditions, some reduction could occur when over-prepared.

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

N55 is an average population variety with medium to thin stalks, with an erect growing habit. The canopy is uniform and good, the leaves are of medium to narrow width and erect with a slight bend near the tip of the leaf.

Leaf

Blade: Green; medium to narrow width. Chlorotic blotches present around the midrib.

Sheath: Green sheath with red blotches sometimes present. Abundant, long and soft hairs (that rubs off easily) are present on the unexposed parts of the sheath.

Collar: Not prominent, Yellow-green collar.

Auricle: Under-lapping: medium-sized, deltoid
Overlapping: Absent.

Stalk

Internode

The internodes are long and cylindrical. They are yellow-green in colour and slightly greener where exposed with sooty black patches. The wax band is not restricted and there is abundant wax bloom over most of the internode. The stalks have a slight zigzag alignment.

Wax band: Narrow, not well defined.

Bud furrow: None.

Node

Growth ring: Medium width, slightly darker colour than internode; raised.

Root band: Quite narrow, same colour as stalk; 2 rows of (distinct) root primordia.

Sheath scar: Straight, untidy.

Bud: Round and small to medium size.

Flange: Quite broad, around the top half of the bud.



Compiled by Marvellous Zhou (Senior Plant Breeder) October 2013

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