PLANTING

Layni van Staden
27 July 2007
When

• Usually between August and March
• Temperature
• Soil temperature
• Avoid the end and beginning of planting season
Seedcane

- Field inspected for diseases
- Cane age preferably 8 – 10 months
- Seedcane cut manually
- Knives are sterilised chemically
- Cut enough cane for one day planting
Transport

- Seedcane close to the field loaded onto trailers go straight to the field
- Seedcane at a distance from the field transported in trucks and at field unloaded and then loaded onto trailers
- Damage to seedcane if trailers or trucks are overloaded
Field preparation

- Well prepared seedbed for maximum germination
- Well defined furrows that are not too shallow or too deep
- Closed mechanically
- Attention to edges of the fields
• Traditional row spacing 1.4 m or 1.5 m

• Tramlines differ most common spacing is 1.4 m with a 700 mm between trams

• After considering mechanical harvesting changed to 1.85 m trams 500 mm apart

• This row spacing harvested in 2007 for the first time
In field operation

- Cane is pilled from trailers and placed horizontally in shallow furrows.

- Stalks are dropped as pairs to ensure a double line of stalks in the furrow.

- Cane is then cut into shorter segments to increase germination.

- As stalks have buds every 5 to 15 cm the stalks are cut to 30 cm lengths.

- The furrows are usually closed mechanically but can also be done manually.

- Not covered to deeply to ensure release of unnecessary “air bubbles”.

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International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists

ISSCT 2007
How often

• ACCORDING TO VARIETY AND TIME OF THE YEAR GERMINATION CAN RANGE BETWEEN 2 –5 WEEKS.
• SHORT RATOON 4
• AVERAGE RATOON 7-8 YEARS
• LONG RATOON BETWEEN 10-12 YEARS
• SUCESSIVE PLANTING IS PRACTICE BUT FALLOW PLANTING
How often

• According to variety and time of the year germination can range between 2 – 5 weeks.

• Replant on average 7 – 8 years

• Several farms & fields 10 – 12 years

• Immediate replanting is current practice – move is towards fallow period
• Plant on average 8 ha per day with 57 people, 6 tractors & trailers when doing tramlines.

• Plant on average 10 ha of cane per day with 57 people and 6 tractors & trailers. 1.5 m spacing.
THANK YOU