



Sugar Cane Growers Council

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10 September 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

CANE BURNING COST YOU MONEY

Sugar Cane Growers Council (SCGC) is deeply concerned on the increasing trend of cane burning in this season. In some cases done by accident, mostly though, burning is deliberate for own reasons, perhaps for easier harvesting or jump up the harvesting queue.

Every year our sugar industry burns millions of dollars that should be going in the pockets of you, the growers and cutters.

As burning grows, more cane is burnt, more money is lost. In principal, we can say a real loss of at least on average of \$3-\$5 per tonne.

Whatever the reason, burning does not help anyone. It hurts our industry very badly. Stop cane burning now because it:

- Reduces growers' income through burnt cane penalties. Income loss is significant.
- Destroys some of the sugar in the cane and causes it to lose more sugar much faster than green cane.
- Contributes to the decline in the sweetness of cane. Because we do not produce enough good quality cane, we lose millions of additional dollars each year as the sugar content goes down. This is on top of the large losses from burnt cane. It is another blow to the growers in lost income.
- Makes poor sugar and creates serious problems at the mills, more milling challenges. This higher milling cost is another big loss to the industry - another loss to the growers.
- Extends the length of the crushing season due to slower crushing. This results in further losses to the industry and the growers, especially when cane has to be harvested when it is past its best.
- Hurts our reputation with the international standards, countries that buy Fijian sugar.
- Increases cost of harvesting operations.
- Puts dirt and smoke into the air we breathe.
- Damages the soil on your farm. Unless you spend money to repair the damage your future crops will suffer from the burning.

Cane growers are strongly encouraged to harvest green cane.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Serving The Cane Growers Of Fiji

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER