

## LEAF SAMPLING

### WHY?

- Identify possible nutrient problems associated with 'poor cane'.
- Check that the applied fertilizer has been utilized by the plant.
- Determine correct amount of fertilizer required for the ratoon crop.

### WHEN?

- During the prescribed leaf sampling season (Nov- Apr).
- **Cane is 5-9 months at the time of sampling and vigorously growing.**
- At least 6 weeks after fertilizer application.
- Cane is also unaffected by any other factors such as disease, insect damage, etc.

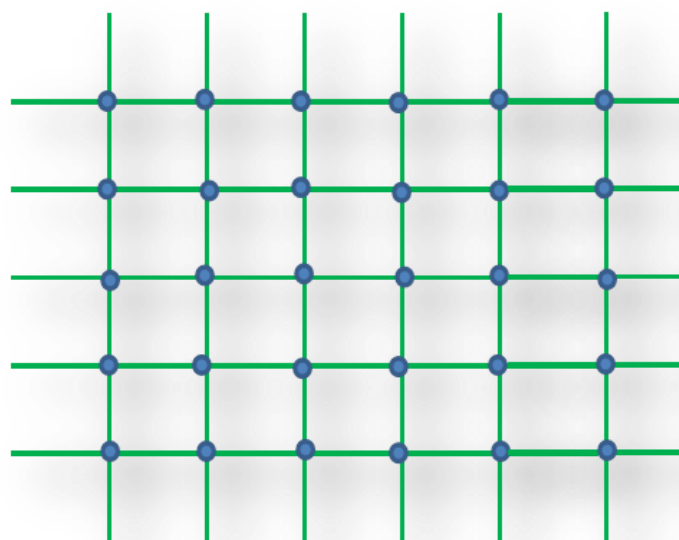
### HOW?

#### Note:

- **Do not sample during severe drought.**
- **Sample before 10 am.**

#### Step 1

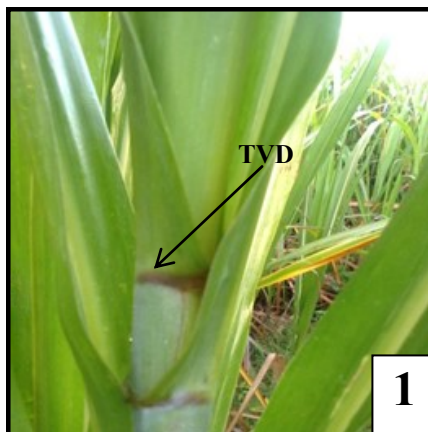
- Collect 30-40 leaves at random from across the entire block of sugarcane being sampled.



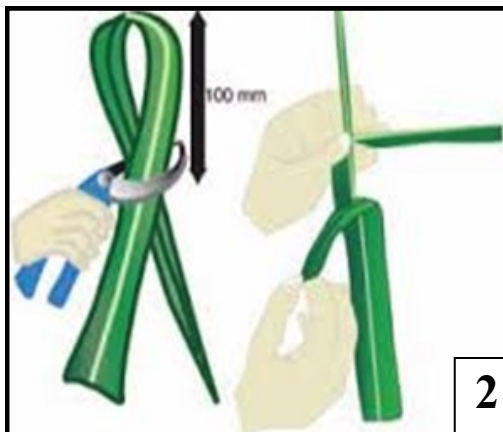
Select leaves from stalks of uniform height that represents stalks in the field

Random sampling (Grid)

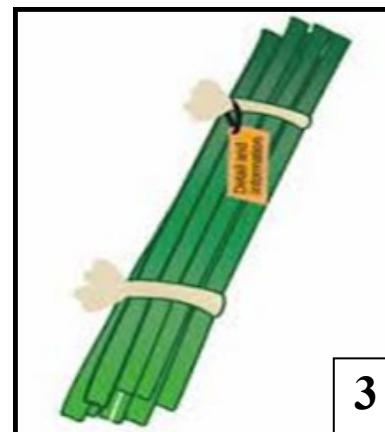
....leaf sampling will help your ratoon....



Sample the top visual dewlap (TVD) leaf



Fold the leaves in half (top to base) and cut a 100mm length from these folded leaves  
Strip out and discard the midrib from each 200mm (unfolded 100mm leaf).



Bundle the leaf strips together and attach a completed leaf analysis label.  
Pack in a brown paper or plastic bag.

## WHAT IS THE TURNAROUND TIME FOR LEAF TESTING?

- Dependent on the number of samples received.
- Generally takes 2-6 weeks to return leaf results to respective sector office.

## BENEFITS OF LEAF ANALYSIS

- Diagnose nutrient related problems before it's too late.
- Plant tissues measure the nutrient level in growing crops.
- Assess nutritional health of the plant
- To adjust fertilization programs so that nutritional problems and their costly consequences are prevented.
- Confirms nutritional deficiencies and imbalances.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of fertilizer programs.
- Determines the availability of elements not tested for by other methods.

## Following information to be sent with the sample to SRIF

1. Farm Number
2. Growers Name
3. Sector Name/Number
4. Date of sampling
5. Sampled by
6. Crop age: first/ second/ third ratoon
7. Variety