



# SDI INSTALLATION & PLANTING CHECKLIST

## SUGARCANE

## NETAFIM KNOWLEDGE

PHASE	BEST PRACTICE	CHECK
LAND PREPARATION	Do necessary soil preparation before installation	
	Tilth must be even to ensure constant dripline installation depth	
	Break up soil clods so it cannot affect implement height or water movement	
	Ensure no excessive plant residue on the soil surface that can get caught on ridgers	
INSTALLATION MACHINE	Two-line installation machines preferred (use three-line machines only on VERY level fields)	
	Tractor wheel spacing must be the same on front and back axle	
	Dripline must be fed straight down into the roller box and the feeder tube from the roll	
	Dripline feeder should not damage pipe from roll to soil (Check for sharp edges)	
	Note that bottom end of feeder has a long radius bend, and exit angle is parallel to the ground	
	The machine must have depth control wheels which are all the same size and condition	
	Ridgers must be stepped (not level with each other) to ensure a ridge is formed between furrows	
	Ridgers must be spaced 100 mm wider than the final desired cane row spacing	
DRIPLINE INSTALLATION	The dripline roll must be placed correctly on the wheel (check arrows)	
	The drippers must be at the top of the pipe during installation (check orange lines)	
	Table of installation machine must be level or sloping backwards for installation (never forward)	
	Installation machine to rest on the depth control wheels for installation, not tractor's hydraulic lift	
	The ideal tractor speed during installation is 6 to 8 km/h (should install 5 ha/day)	
	Do a 10 m test to check depth and consistent spacing between adjacent work rows	
	The dripline must be about 10 cm below the original ground level after installation	
	The dripline must be at least 10 cm above any changes in soil texture	
	Check installation depth every hour during installation	
	Check installation machine daily for damage to metal parts that can damage driplines	
	Cane must be 8-12 cm below top of the bed	
	Dripline must be 4-6cm below the cane	
PRE-IRRIGATION	Irrigate until dripper wetting patterns show on the soil surface of the middle ridge	
	Check driplines for pinching if moisture is not seen on the surface	
	Irrigate until the plant furrows are wet before planting to improve germination	
PLANTING AND COVERING	Ideal covering speed using a tractor is 8-10 km/h	
	Cover every 2nd row in one direction and return for other rows to avoid tractor wheels running uneven	
	Dual cane rows - cane must be 40-60 cm apart (AFTER covering)	

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