



World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers



NEWS FROM WABCG

EDITORIAL

We are now all packing our bags in preparation for the London meeting in a few days!

I am delighted to see that this year once again, over 90 delegates from all over the world will participate



and share their views and ideas on sugarcane and sugar beet production.

Our afternoon meeting will be dedicated to sustainability. We will compare our experiences and our challenges for the years to come, to enable us to forecast the future with optimism –

for the environment, for society and for prosperity!

I am also looking forward to hearing about the benchmark prepared by WABCG on ‘carbon farming’ applied to sugarcane and sugar beet. According to numerous consultants, ‘carbon farming’ is the new goldmine. But is this so? Or should I say: under what conditions can it be so? Does ‘carbon farming’ only represent opportunities for us farmers, or does it also present certain risks? Moreover, is ‘carbon farming’ an end in itself? And don’t we already practice ‘carbon farming’ as our everyday work is to help our crops do their job – fixing carbon thanks to the sun?!

I am sure this wide and passionate topic will give us food for thought, and I am looking forward to discussing it with you.

See you all in London very soon!

David Thompson, President
WABCG

NOVEMBER 2023

NEWS FROM INDIA

The Indian sugar industry is having opening stock of 10.13 million tonnes of sugar for the season 2022-23. The sugar production (white value) was 32.97 million tonnes in the season 2022-23 which was 8.31% less than the past season (35.96 million tonnes). It happens mainly because of decrease in sugar production of major states viz. Karnataka (9.68%), Maharashtra (23.18%), Madhya Pradesh (7.41%)



and Gujarat (18.22%). The country's sugar production is likely to 30.33 million tonnes in forthcoming season 2023-24, which is decline by 8% over previous season because of deficit in rainfall by 5.55% (820.00 mm) in comparison with normal rainfall (868.60 mm). The sugarcane production is also affected and

which is expected to be 448.57 million tonnes during current season 2023-24 as compared to previous season's production of 472.00 million tonnes.

Indian Sugar Balance

(In Million tonnes)

Sugar	2022-23*	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Number of mills in operation	531	524	505	464	531
Opening stocks	10.13	12.05	12.99	15.40	10.47
Production	32.97	35.96	31.10	27.39	33.16
Imports	0.31	0.32	1.15	1.44	1.07
Consumption	27.50	27.00	26.00	25.30	25.50
Exports	6.10	11.20	7.19	5.94	3.80
Closing stocks	9.81	10.13	12.05	12.99	15.40
Stock % Consumption	35.67	37.52	46.35	51.34	60.39

*2nd advance estimate by ISMA 2022-23

Source: Agrowon News Paper 23rd March 2023

Source: Imports- International Sugar & sweetener Report June 06, 2023

Under the Ethanol Blending Program (EBP) of India, sugar mills in the countries were supplied 5590.80 million liters of ethanol with OMC for 2022-23 (Dec.-Nov.) with 11.75% achieved blending percentage. Around 1437.80 million liters has been produced from sugarcane syrup, 2414.70 million liters from B heavy molasses, 64.90 million liters from C molasses, 238.00 million liters from damaged grains. During season 2023-24, around 4.30 million tonnes of equivalent sugar is likely to be diverted for production of ethanol.

Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General
Vasantdada Sugar Institute, India



NEWS FROM CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The 2022-2023 Ivorian sugar campaign began in November 2022 and ended in May 2023, with a national production of 2.2 Mt of cane harvested on an area of 30,000 ha ; i.e. an average yield of 72.61 TC/ha for a production of almost 0.2 Mt of sugar by the two sugar companies which are SUCAF-CI of the BGI group and SUCRIVOIRE of the CONSORSIUM IVOIRO MAURICIEN SIFCA and HAREL FRERE.

The share of FEPCANVICI's small growers amounts to 179,595 Tonnes Cannes for an area of 4,991 ha, with a yield of 35.38 TC/ha.

During the campaign 2022-23, small producers in SUCRIVOIRE benefited from pre-financing of fertilizer and herbicide at relatively high cost (effect of the war in Ukraine) ; in SUCAF-CI, fertilizer pre-financed was subsidized differently, depending on the tonne of cane produced.



Despite various meetings made by FEPCANVICI with the Ministry of Agriculture with the aim of helping growers, there was no favourable reaction from the government.

In view of the above, the small growers held a workshop based on cost reduction, to update a harmonized purchase price per tonne of cane.

For the 2023-24 campaign, while SUCAF-CI growers have again benefited from fertilizer subsidies from industrialists, SUCRIVOIRE growers have not received any fertilizer for this campaign.

As a result, we're wondering what our fate will be this season, with our soils becoming poorer with each passing year. Although, in Côte d'Ivoire, planters were installed with the help of government, today, they have the feeling to be left without any help...

Mr. Théodore N'Dri Koffi, CEO
Fédération des Producteurs de Canne villageoise de Côte d'Ivoire (FEPCANVICI), Côte d'Ivoire



Workshop with growers from Zuenoula



Next meetings

WABCG/ISO Consultation

20 November 2023
London, UK

Registration is open!

WABCG Council

18-21 June 2024
 Fargo, USA

Save the date!



NEWS FROM UNITED-KINGDOM

At the time of writing, we are embroiled in a dispute with our sole processor, British Sugar, regarding 2024/25 sugar beet contracts.



On 1st November, following months of negotiations which included enlisting the services of an independent facilitator, British Sugar bypassed the established process and released a unilateral 2024/25 sugar beet contract offer to growers. As

of 6th November, growers have been invited to contract directly with British Sugar at a price lower than last year, despite the incredibly buoyant sugar market, circumventing NFU Sugar's role as the grower representative body.

NFU Sugar does not believe that this contract represents a fair offer to growers. Furthermore, it is concerned about the implications of a unilateral contract being issued by British Sugar which has not been agreed with the NFU.

In response to British Sugar's announcement, NFU Sugar wrote to the Farming Minister, the Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP, requesting that government confirm the NFU's vital role, exercise their statutory powers to determine the terms for sugar beet supply in 2024/25 and make amendments to the regulations to avoid a repeat of this crisis.

A statement issued by government on 7th November was welcomed by NFU Sugar. It contained clear direction from government that negotiations to set a price for sugar beet this year should resume, and that the established process should be followed. That price-setting process cannot function effectively whilst British Sugar is, at the same time, making unilateral offers to beet growers outside of it.

With regards the beet in the ground, the 2023/24 campaign began early in the UK with 2,500ha of sugar beet delivered into Bury St. Edmunds sugar factory in early September on a one-off area-based payment contract. The 'Early Beet Contract', agreed between NFU Sugar and British Sugar in an attempt to offset a shortfall in 2022/23 production before the end of the marketing year, offered growers a flat rate of

£3,000/ha with any tonnage over 72.5t/ha paid at a rate of £40/t.

By early-October all sugar factories were up and running, including Cantley following a catastrophic limekiln failure last year which saw it close for the second half of the 2022/23 campaign. Sugar content in beet has been low as expected, following a late and protracted drilling window which stretched well into May and wet summer weather that has favoured root growth. However, sugar yields have been good, due to large root sizes, and were on the increase before the beet area was hit by Storm Babet, with some of the crop left waterlogged or underwater.

Lifting conditions have been poor ever since with stocks on the pads at the factories falling accordingly. There are concerns regarding the implications of flood affected beet in the short, medium, and long term. How will wet, dirty beet fare at intake? How well will flooded beet recover once water levels have receded? Will flooded beet be more vulnerable to later season pressures such as frost?



Water damage suffered as a result of extreme rainfall and the associated increased chance of flooding is one addition to a growing list of risks and pressures faced by sugar beet growers across the UK. NFU Sugar continues to work on behalf of growers to secure a sustainable price which adequately shares the value in the market and allows growers to manage the risks associated with the crop, from pests and disease, to Virus Yellows, weather extremes and soil health.

Sam Williamson, Sugar Adviser
NFU Sugar, United-Kingdom



NEWS FROM SUDAN

15TH APRIL 2023 will remain as an exceptional day in the memory of the Sudanese nation for generations. Since this date, with the breakout of war in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan, about three million of Khartoum state residents displaced to the neighbouring states in Sudan while around 300,000 flew to neighbouring countries crossing borders. The war has created a new changing ground and bold new challenges to the macro-economy level and the sugar industry, adding new pressures on the industry for long time beside other exponential threats those remains for long time and experienced by the industry in last decade including the climatic changes, changing international sugar trade environment, unstable geopolitical stage. The three sugar companies witnessed in last decade unstable cane and sugar production which has affected the expansion plans due to the government regulations that allows free inflow of sugar imports into the country without limits and dumped the local sugar markets and caused continues decline of sugar production.

2022-2023 has been a difficult crop for the Sudanese sugar industry. Sugar production seen drop to 255,000 tons less than the expected target 375,000 tons and the recent war has added more fuel to the fire, unfavourable economic environment and the long-time challenges of the soaring cost of necessary chemicals inputs and fertilizers as a result of the Ukraine war since February 2022, changing patents of climate conditions. All these forces of evil has created loads and high pressure on the cane agricultural and

production operations, including the maintenance programs as a result of the disturbed supply chain which has created bottlenecks.

Despite of all these challenges the industry has set plans to recover the sugar sector through innovative strategies by sharing the infrastructure resources with

other sugar factories under the lead of Kenana sugar company the largest company operating in the sector in the country. Since last April, when the war started, the sugar industry experienced acute shortage of energy supplies beside the rising costs of fertilizers due to the Ukraine war, beside the disturbance of the finance facilities necessary to finance the essential inputs and spare parts and maintenance programs. These unfavourable conditions didn't cease Kenana sugar company efforts to continue on its plans to improve the productivity and maintain its sustainable cycle economy business model which proved resilience in face of all these changes. So, all



Cane variety R 579 in the field from French Réunion as part of technical agreement between Kenana & CIRAD

projects implemented under this vision with objective of optimizing the operations in crop 2023-2024, the company continues to pursue those projects currently under implementation to serve the management vision to improve cane productivity and optimal reallocation of resources by utilization of the industry residuals and recycle of waste till it reaches a "zero waste" target.

To achieve the "optimal reallocation of resources" the company through the agronomy R&D in collaboration with the cane production department approved a new three years plan starting 2023/24 up to crop 2025/26 to increase the productivity of cane from 29.6 tons/Feddans (Note from Ed. 1 feddan = 0.42 ha)



out of 2 million tons cane cultivated starting this crop to reach an average TCF OF 35.3 Tons/Feddans (total-cane production of 2.6Mt, out of total cultivated area of 75,000 feddans). The main feature of this plan is to invest in the cane varieties those proved high potential of yield and resistant to striga (Buda) produce high juice and sugar recovery , good rationing and release improved ones commercially to contribute to this objectives. This implemented through well designed agricultural map in the field to redistribute the cane varieties after critical evaluation beside improving other agricultural operations and processes those would help improving the productivity and achieve the targets. Despite the shortage of energy, the program is going well through rational management of available resources till we pass these critical stage. The plan being designed around cane planting for winter and summer and the management of cane ratoon all these practices are according to a detailed production plan meant to make harvesting and crushing and logistics yield high recovery.

The company will launch, during this crop 2023/24, a new bio-compost projects commercially by producing 75,000 tons of bio-compost by using the mud filter and cow manure and chicken manure and trash and other bio elements received from other production business units like the dairy farm and poultry farm and the sugar factory mainly. This project targets the sugar industry sector and commercial farms and export in very near future beside Kenana cane farms as our agronomy trials proved a remarkable results. So we can economize the chemical fertilizers in the field. The other strategic projects is the ethanol expansion. It is comprised of two parts:

- the first is the expansion in production capacity to reach 130,000,000 /liters of anhydrous ethanol annually by adding a new unit of production to produce ethanol processed from sweet potato. The designed capacity is 200,000liters–day by crushing 60 tons /hours operating in three phases. For this reason the company has allocated 6,000 feddans to cultivate sweet potatoes (with yield reached an average of 26% starch content),
- the second part of the project is the biogas processed from the vinasse with total production capacity of 900 Cubic meters /day with the objective to meet the increasing demand

of energy by covering 80% of the company industrial complex fuel consumption mainly the boilers in the sugar factory, and supply the liquid to the bio-compost production.

The new crop 2023/2024 harvesting and crushing expected to commence on 18th November 2023, on the other hand other sugar factories are expected to commence the crushing operations on November and start of December 2023.

Hassan H. Erwa, Corporate director
Kenana, Sudan

