



NEWS FROM WABCG

EDITORIAL

Just a few days left before we all meet in Cali, Colombia!

Next week, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Colombian member, Procaña, during our annual



Council in the paradise of sugarcane, the Valle del Cauca.

During three days, 200 participants, amongst them 45 participants from 14 countries, will take part in the work sessions and field visits, focusing on innovations to promote sustainability.

Whether it concern fertilization practices, irrigation optimisation or pest management in sugarcane and sugar beet growing, these meetings are a great opportunity to compare our tools and goals in order to accelerate our impact on mitigation of climate change.

I am very pleased that, as representatives of growers' associations, we have organised these workshops: it illustrates that our structures are the necessary interface between governments, consumers, and civil society to constantly improve farming practices!

Have a good flight, and see you very soon!

David Thompson, President
WABCG

JUNE 2023

NEWS FROM ESWATINI

As we write this article, the country is hosting the 62nd Council of International Sugar Organization (ISO) under the theme "Resilient sugar industries amidst climate change and emerging geopolitics" (5 to 8 June 2023). A very fitting subject and, with an appropriate backdrop, for a country like Eswatini. The country welcomed the ISO delegation with a sense of pride and responsibility to have not only been elected to chair ISO, but to also host them in our home, Eswatini.



Climate change has been a global dominant paradigm word for a while now.

Everyone talks about it, but it is not so certain if the impact is real. For small growers in Eswatini and farmers of all kinds of crops around the world, it is more than just a word one can use to seem up to date. It is a harsh reality that is unfortunately not easy to quantify. It affects households, businesses, and corporations alike.



The delegates come at a time following unprecedented campaign wherein all 3-mills were forced to close in January or later, as opposed to the office April-to-November campaign window. This situation was brought about by abnormal rainfall (averaging above 40% above 10-year mean) during the campaign. The abnormal season meant lower than expected yields, hence not meeting market commitments made at the beginning of the previous season. As a consequence of the extended season, the delegates will observe harvesting and milling of relatively young and physiologically immature cane, a likely recipe for poorer quality in the ongoing campaign that is still to be seen. They will also likely observe large ruts resulting from tractors having been stuck while hauling cane in past year.



The selected route will take them through a collapsed highway bridge that is still under construction following unexpected autumn storms that washed it away. There will be large areas of lodged cane due to wind-storm that accompanied the autumn rainstorm. A local researcher and academic will present on the “Impacts of climate change and adaptation measures: A Case of Eswatini”. Cases from Dominican Republic and Tanzania are part of the programme. The hosts and delegates will also wrap their heads around the subjects of “Emerging geopolitics affecting sugarcane industries and trade in sugar”. Last but by no means least, there will be a presentation on “The Resilience of Sugar Industries in the midst of climate change and geopolitics”. The above sessions are well-timed considering the devastating impact brought about by a combination of the recent Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing Russia/Ukraine conflict.

It will be interesting to hear how much of a role the unholy alliance of climate change and geopolitics have played in the recently experienced fertilizer price escalations (close to 100% up year on year), and petroleum products (20% year on year with peak at about 40% during past Eswatini Sugar Industry campaign). One must end here and join the ongoing ISO discussions.

Ms. Nokuphila Mabuza, Graduate in Training
Dr Siphon V. Nkambule, CEO
Eswatini Cane Growers Association, Eswatini



Figure 2: The washed away bridge.



Figure 3: A flooded pump house on one of our members' farms.



Figure 4: Heavy rains and stuck machinery, infield.



Figure 1: A storm that left sugarcane lodged.

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) is the international organisation which groups together the national and regional associations of sugar beet and sugar cane growers at international level. WABCG has 36 member associations and unites over 5 million sugar beet and sugar cane growers from the five continents. WABCG is present in over 30 countries, producing 60% of world sugar production.



NEWS FROM NETHERLANDS

Last season 2022/23 spring was warm and followed by a dry and hot summer. This has caused large differences in the various regions subject to rainfall or the ability to irrigate. In some areas sugar yields of 20 ton per hectare were achieved. The sugar tonnage per hectare was high, but declined at the end of year due to heavy frost exchanged by high temperatures. Our beet price was record high at € 68,75 per ton at standard 17% sugar content. The high price is the result of good market prices and the modification to link the beet price prospective to the sales season (instead of retrospectively as before).

This season 2023/24 spring was cold and wet and caused a late start with average sowing date April 26. This is reflected in projected yield numbers for 2023/24 (81 ton per hectare).



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Dirk, who has always led our cooperative so well and

successfully. We know Dirk as someone who likes to connect with other people and cultures and he has faithfully done so at the WABCG. We applaud him for that.

I look forward to a good chairmanship of our cooperative Cosun. Our international contacts within WABCG are very important to us. I hope to meet you often within the WABCG in the near future and learn a lot from you about our industry. I also look forward to sharing our own experiences with you. We all produce a beautiful plant-based product and I hope we can do this successfully for a long time to come.

Arwin Bos, President
COSUN, Netherlands

A message from Dirk de Lugt, ex-President of Cosun:

After nine years as chairman of the Board of Royal Cosun, our cooperative of sugar beet growers in The



Netherlands, I have transferred the responsibilities as chairman to my successor Arwin Bos. For me this means the end of a pleasing and dynamic period in which I have been allowed to meet a lot of interesting people. This also applies for my friends at WABCG. A

close association of like-minded people each with its own challenges. We have been able to share our challenges with each other and learn from it during our conferences. It allowed me to travel home with lots of inspiration. Thank you all for our pleasant meetings and especially a big applause and thank you to Timothe who made this all possible. Hopefully we will be able say goodbye in person during our visit in Colombia. There you will also meet with Arwin, who will undoubtedly will continue the warm relation with WABCG. I wish you all the best!



NEWS FROM NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua, the sugar harvest is from November to May. The 2022-2023 harvest recently ended. The results for the member producers of our association were lower than the 2021-2022 harvest, as a result of the heavy rains that began at the end of April in 2023, which delayed many agricultural tasks.

TABLE OF RESULTS HARVESTS 2022-2023

| INGENIO | PROPIA-PROVEEDORES | AREA HA | TM DE CAÑA/HA | KG AZ/TMC |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| SER-SAN ANTONIO | INGENIO | 16,313.12 | 100.69 | 107.28 |
| SER-SAN ANTONIO | PROVEEDORES | 12,353.26 | 100.36 | 104.56 |
| Total SER-SAN ANTONIO | | 28,666.38 | 100.55 | 106.11 |
| PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | INGENIO | 13,157.32 | 100.53 | 102.77 |
| PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | PROVEEDORES | 13,052.16 | 99.16 | 102.01 |
| Total PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | | 26,209.48 | 99.85 | 102.39 |
| Total general | | 54,875.86 | 100.22 | 104.34 |

TABLE OF 2021-2022 HARVEST RESULTS

| INGENIO ZAFRA 2020-2021 | PROPIA-PROVEEDORES | HA | TM/HA | KG AZU/TM |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| SER SAN ANTONIO | INGENIO | 16,754.00 | 113.20 | 108.24 |
| SER SAN ANTONIO | PROVEEDORES | 12,774.00 | 106.00 | 106.26 |
| TOTAL SER SAN ANTONIO | | 29,528.00 | 110.05 | 107.42 |
| PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | INGENIO | 15,122.00 | 104.10 | 100.01 |
| PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | PROVEEDORES | 11,603.00 | 101.94 | 103.02 |
| TOTAL PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | | 26,725.00 | 103.16 | 101.30 |
| TOTAL GENERAL | | 56,253.00 | 106.78 | 104.61 |

PRICE TABLE, LAST TWO HARVESTS PER MILL IN NICARAGUA

| INGENIO | TABLA DE PRECIOS DOS ULTIMAS ZAFRA POR INGENIO | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | PRECIO \$ 2020-2021 | PRECIO \$ 2021-2022 | PRECIO \$ 2022-2023 | \$ DE INCREMENTO | % DE INCREMENTO |
| SER SAN ANTONIO | \$ 24.92 | \$ 27.34 | \$ 29.98 | \$ 2.64 | 9.66% |
| PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA | \$ 25.25 | \$ 27.91 | \$ 29.64 | \$ 1.73 | 6.20% |

Thank God with this price increase the producers have obtained a little more income, despite having obtained a little less in production compared to the past harvest 2021-2022, in the harvest due to the affectation of the rains.

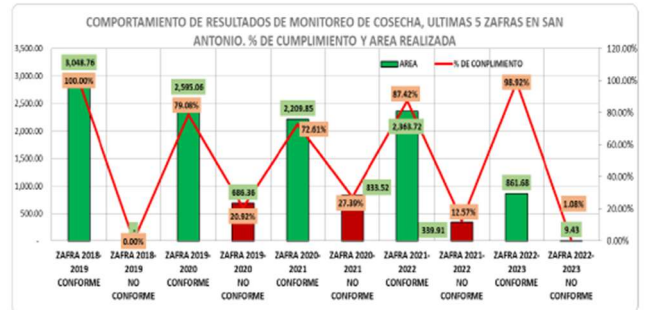
Fertilizers are falling, which will have positive effects because producers will fertilize at a lower cost, but we have to admit that despite the fact that the last 2 years we have had high fertilizer prices, we have had good results.

The cane producers affiliated with APRICO deliver cane to the San Antonio and Monte Rosa sugar mills where the mechanized harvest is a little over 97%.

APRICO has worked in coordination with the mills on visits to the harvest fronts at the time of cutting, monitoring the harvest, where the amount of cane that should remain in the field is measured, where year after year it has improved. the type of cut and the claim by producers for a bad cut has been reduced.

In the graphs by mills we can see the results by harvest, and the area that complied with the indicator and the area that

did not comply (bars) in the line we express the Percentage of compliance for each compliance by harvest.



A large part of the producers are working with satellite images with the NAX SOLUTIONS platform, where it allows identifying problem points and taking the necessary action at the right time. In this platform we can identify population, biomass, water input, among others. In Nicaragua, the use of drones in agriculture is not allowed, which forces us to make use of this type of technology.

Ing. José Antonio Mayorga, President APRICO, Nicaragua



APRICO Board of Directors and staff.

