



World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers



NEWS FROM WABCG

JUNE 2025

EDITORIAL

Our meeting in Cairns is just a few days away, and I would like to thank CANEGROWERS Australia most sincerely for their kind invitation. In particular, I would like to thank its Chairman, Owen Menkens; its CEO, Dan Galligan; and his invaluable colleague, Nicki.

On 23 June, more than 70 growers from 16 sugarcane and sugarbeet-producing countries, including our Australian colleagues, will be discussing the major issues facing our profession.



I know you are packing your suitcases and files to share your knowledge and practices on a variety of subjects, such as innovation,

geopolitics, traceability, Sustainable Aviation Fuel, optimising beet pulp and producing electricity by sugar factories.

I also know that you will be very interested in the session dedicated to innovation in contractual arrangements between growers and sugar factories. Some of us have worked on real examples of optimisation in this area, and I'm sure that many of us will go back home with new ideas.

Finally, I would like to welcome our colleagues from Fiji, Thailand and the Philippines, who have honoured us with their presence.

Have a safe flight and see you soon!

**David Thompson, President
WABCG**

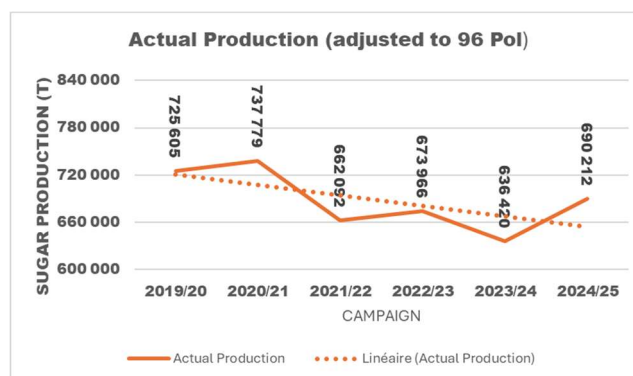
NEWS FROM ESWATINI

Our last article in June 2024, highlighted the Eswatini Sugarcane Industry Performance trends (sugar volumes) covering the period from outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, through lockouts, relaxation of restrictions and wars in strategic parts of the globe. The observed trend was unflattering. We concluded the article by articulating a need for innovative ways for the industry's sustainability.

This article seeks to continue the conversation by highlighting latest observations. In addition to physical volumes the article will balance the picture with financial performance trends, outcome of a diagnostic "indaba" (stakeholder dialogue) and recent developments that have a bearing on the situation.



The latest estimate for year ended March 2025 shows a significant recovery on crop volume (96 Pol) and total revenue.



Over the past year the industry held workshops to interrogate causes for the yield decline observed in previous years. The main factors identified were:

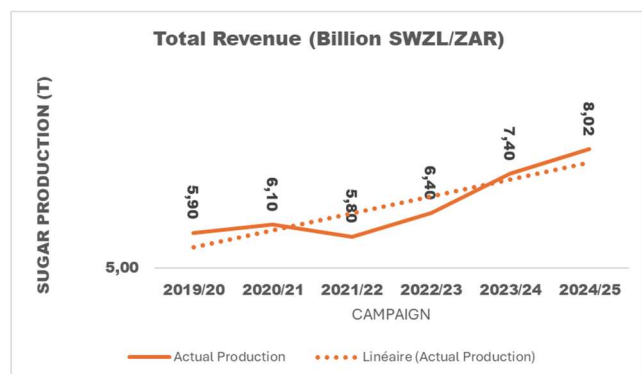
- Extreme weather conditions (droughts, floods) coupled with resultant fluctuating crop age
- Observed decline in nutrient content resulting from inadequate nutrient replacement,



probably exacerbated by interrupted fertilizer supplies resulting from Covid-19 pandemic and wars in strategic areas among other factors.

- Increase in pest infestations particularly yellow sugarcane aphids (*Melanaphis sacchari*)
- Declining standards of crop management

Action plans to redress the trend, where it is within human control, were put in place. Preliminary forecasts indicate that the yield recovery will continue in the campaign started in April 2025. The sugar price and exchange rate remain dark horses. The cane growers recognise that their sustainability hinges on continuous improvement of yield as most other factors are beyond their control.



At the beginning of the current campaign the price of electricity was increased by 8%. That will have a bearing on the profitability as irrigation will cost more. A positive development was the approval of small-scale embedded generator by-laws that enable ad hoc power feed into the grid and compensation through net-billing. The use of grid-tied solar energy in sugarcane irrigation is growing gradually. This is important in an industry where all sugarcane is irrigated.

Dr Sipho V Nkambule, Chief Executive Officer
Eswatini Cane Growers Association (ECGA), Eswatini

NEWS FROM NETHERLANDS

2024 campaign

Spring 2024 was cold and wet and caused very late sowing, which was not completed until the end of June. The root yield differences within and between the regions were significant varying between less than 30 tons to more than 100 tons of beets per hectare.

The average sugar yield was only 12.2 tons per hectare, which was the lowest in years and about 12% under the five-year average. The average root yield was 75 tons per hectare with a sugar content of 16.3%.



For standard quality delivered sugar beets (sugar content of 17% and extractability of 91),

the member bonus was €12.25 per ton resulting in a member price of €47.25 for 2024. A significant decrease compared to the member price in 2023 (€78.00). The member price per ton for average delivered quality in 2024 was €43.52 (2023: €67.09).

This significant decrease is due to the sharp deterioration in the European sugar market since mid-2024. Sugar prices have dropped sharply in the last year due to increased production in the EU, Duty-free sugar imports (e.g. Ukraine) and a decline in European consumption. As a result, the earnings from our sugar activities were under pressure in the second half of 2024, and this trend continued into 2025. We expected a limited contribution to profit from our sugar activities in the first three quarters of 2025. Since 2024 the member bonus was partly dependent on the sugar results in these quarters, this had a strong impact.

2025 campaign

The average sowing date for this year's beet season was March 26. One month earlier than the last 2 years. After sowing, it remained dry. Therefore, several fields were irrigated to help the plants emerge. Due to strong winds, wind erosion damage occurred on various fields, which unfortunately required re-sowing. At the end of April, damage caused by, among



other things, larvae was observed. As a result, some fields had to be re-sown. In total around 1.000 hectares. Given the good weather conditions in spring the expected sugar yield is well above 14 tons per hectare, but there it is still a long way to go.

Growers Platform

With the Growers Platform "*Groeikracht Cosun*", Cosun is combining the knowledge of our growers and seeking contact with research institutes, government agencies, and innovators.

Groeikracht Cosun focuses on three main themes: soil, plant health, and climate. These topics are important for farmers, both for sustainable farming practices and for improving the quality of soil, water, air, and biodiversity.

Soil

Healthy Soil promotes crop growth and makes the soil more resilient to diseases, pests, and drought. Efforts are made to maintain soil fertility and minimize groundwater pollution.

Project

- N-mineral Measurement project aimed at measuring and managing soil nutrients.

Plant Health

Keeping crops healthy is essential for both the environment and yield. There is a focus on reducing the use of crop protection products and finding sustainable alternatives to prevent or combat diseases and pests, guided by the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.

Climate

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a key goal. Efforts include minimizing the use of fertilizers and energy, and reducing nitrogen oxide emissions to achieve profitable cultivation with minimal CO₂ emissions.

Inspiration Farms

In the arable farming sector, new techniques and innovations are constantly being developed. At our Inspiration Farms, we demonstrate and evaluate these innovations, focusing on practical support for farmers. Here, you learn the intricacies of the trade and get the most out of your business. In cooperation with Cosun Beet Company, Aviko, and Sensus we research practical and sustainable solutions for arable farming. During events and inspiration days we promote

knowledge exchange and collaboration between farmers for future-proof cultivation. We believe in a practical-oriented hands-on approach and provide a platform for entrepreneurs to share their experiences with new techniques.

47th CIBE Congress in Rotterdam

The International Confederation of European Beet Growers (CIBE) will be holding its 47th Congress in the Netherlands, in Rotterdam from 11 to 13 June 2025. Over 150 delegates from the 14 countries within the CIBE organisation, along with guests from leading organisations, will attend this event, held every three years. The agenda will focus on key issues facing the agricultural sector in general and specifically those of the sugar beet sector. A technical visit to the Cosun sites is part of the Congress.

Maarten Boudesteijn, Director cooperative affairs
ROYAL COSUN, Netherlands



Next meetings

WABCG Council

23-26 June 2025
Cairns, Australia

WABCG/ISO Consultation

1st December 2025
London, United-Kingdom



NEWS FROM NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua, located in Central America, the harvest season starts in mid-November and ends in mid-May.



The 2024–2025 harvest area was similar to that of the 2023–2024 season.

The rainy season, which runs from May to November, was characterized by abundant rainfall. In November alone, nearly 500 mm (19.68 in) of rain

fell—more than double that of the previous two years. This delayed the start of the harvest and negatively affected both field yields and industrial (mill) yields.

Producers saw a 6% drop in production (105.82 in 2023–2024 vs. 99.47 in 2024–2025). The truth is that climate variability is affecting us, and it is increasingly difficult to predict yields.

HARVEST RESULTS TABLE 2024–2025

INGENIO	Propiedad	Area Has	TMC/HA	KGZ/TMC	TM/AZ/HA
SER-SAN ANTONIO	PROPIO	16,404.00	106.54	105.39	11.23
SER-SAN ANTONIO	PROVEEDORES	13,140.00	99.42	99.70	9.91
TOTAL SER-SAN ANTONIO		29,544.00	102.98	102.55	10.57
PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA	PROPIO	12,044.32	103.67	101.01	10.47
PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA	PROVEEDORES	14,333.57	94.85	103.30	9.80
TOTAL PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA		26,377.89	99.26	102.16	10.14
Total general		55,921.89	101.12	102.35	10.35

HARVEST RESULTS TABLE 2023-2024

INGENIO	Propiedad	Area Has	TMC/HA	KGZ/TMC	TM/AZ/HA
SER-SAN ANTONIO	PROPIO	16,633.44	123.63	99.81	12.34
SER-SAN ANTONIO	PROVEEDORES	12,744.12	105.82	97.71	10.34
TOTAL SER-SAN ANTONIO		29,377.56	115.90	98.98	11.47
PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA	PROPIO	13,795.45	107.78	101.15	10.90
PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA	PROVEEDORES	13,294.68	107.18	102.68	11.00
TOTAL PANTALEON-MONTE ROSA		27,090.13	107.48	101.90	10.95
Total general		56,467.69	111.86	100.32	11.22

Prices were quite good, similar to last year, but with lower production, revenues are reduced.

PRICE TABLE, LAST TWO HARVESTS BY INGENIO IN NICARAGUA

INGENIO	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
MONTE ROSA	\$29.64	\$31.75	\$30.66
SAN ANTONIO	\$29.98	\$31.02	\$31.00
Total general	\$29.81	\$31.38	\$30.83

As for production costs, herbicide prices remained similar to the previous year. Fertilizer prices increased, and harvest labor costs rose by 3%. Unfortunately, the price outlook for the upcoming harvest is not positive.

*Jose Antonio Mayorga, President
Prosecaña, Nicaragua*



Sugarcane producers, members of PROSECAÑA, at an informational meeting.



Check our website!

