



World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers



NEWS FROM WABCG

EDITO

Registration is now open for our next meeting! On 1 December 2025, the global beet and cane community will gather in London for our traditional WABCG–ISO consultation. This joint meeting with the International Sugar Organisation is an important opportunity for growers and ISO members to share insights and develop a shared vision for our sector.

As usual, ISO experts will provide a comprehensive overview of the sugar and ethanol markets and enlighten us about the growing role of beet- and cane-based materials in the bio-economy.



After our traditional (and much appreciated!) 'Around the World' session, we will focus on data exchange between factories and growers, exploring whether shared information could create new value for both parties.

In the afternoon, the spotlight will turn to 'Innovative Growers', showcasing everything from new geographical indications in Mauritius and contract reforms in Denmark to energy drinks in South Africa and legislative renewal in Kenya. Each example will highlight how growers worldwide are shaping the future of our industry.

London will once again be a place for dialogue and inspiration, where innovation and cooperation remain at the heart of the WABCG's mission. And I can't wait to meet you there!

**Owen Menkens, President
WABCG**

OCTOBER 2025



WABCG/ISO Consultation
1st December 2025
London, United-Kingdom

Around the World Session
Session 1: ISO Prospect
Session 2 : Innovative growers!

	
WABCG-ISO Consultation 2025	
Monday, December 1 st 2025	
Church House Westminster, Dean's Yard, London	
Work session will start at 9:00 and end at 16:00	
Please register before November 1 st , via the link: https://forms.office.com/rdwUB6u0dMEYv0u0	
8:00 09:00	Opening Session
9	Opening statement by WABCG, Owen Menkens, WABCG President
9	Opening statement by ISO, José Oribe, Executive Director, ISO
10	Data exchanges between factories and growers: a new value? Timothy Mason, Executive Secretary, WABCG
10	'Around the World Session' information from represented countries & discussion
11:00 12:00	Session 1 - ISO prospects
11:00	World sugar market overview, Peter De Vries, Senior Economist, ISO
11:00	World ethanol market overview, Pedro Jordão, Senior Economist, ISO
11:00	Applications of sugar beet & cane based materials in the global bioeconomy, Lindsay Hill, ISO consultant
12:00	Discussion
12:00 13:00	Session 2 - Innovative growers!
12:00	Designing new labels: example of the GI (Geographical Indication) recognition in Mauritius, Doreen Collins, CEO, Mauritius
12:00	Designing new products: example of the GI (Geographical Indication) recognition in Mauritius, Doreen Collins, CEO of the South African Sugarcane Growers Association
12:00	Designing new contracts: example of contractual diversity and pulp recognition, Thomas Fuchs, President of the Danish Beet Growers Association
12:00	Designing a new law: example of the Kenyan Sugar Act 2024, Beatrice Odhiambo, Sugar Directorate in Kenya
13:00	Discussion
13:00 14:00	Closing Remarks
13:00	Closing remarks by ISO, José Oribe, Executive Director, ISO
13:00	Closing remarks by WABCG, Owen Menkens, WABCG President
14:00 16:00	WABCG/ISO Consultation 2025 (members only)

Contact Secretariat if you want to join!

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 37 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.



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NEWS FROM SUDAN

Kenana Sugar Company is an Associated member of WABCG

Sudan is currently experiencing crippling and tumultuous political turmoil, now you are reading this article about sugar industry in Sudan, the war that has been raging since last April 2023 is still going on between the Sudanese Arms Forces (SAF) and the rebel militia while



geographically the war in Darfur and part of Kordofan west of the Sudan. The prolonged political instability since the overthrow of President Al-Bashir's government in April 2019 resulted in a conflict that has destabilized the country with devastating social and

economic ramification, including loss of over 15,000 lives, injury of over 33,000 people, and displacement of over 11 million people with regional spillover effects. Real GDP that contracted by 37.5 % in 2023 is the largest contraction in Sudan's history according to African Development Bank (AFDB), due to destruction of the country's production capacity and disruption of economic activities, with decline in services dragging down growth on the supply side. In its recent reports the IMF predicted the shrinking of the country's national economy by 0.4% in comparison with earlier growth forecast 8.3% in last September 2024 and recaptured growth with forecast 8.8% in 2026, but same political and economic challenges remain same as per the last two years of unstable political environment and high-risk geopolitical threats.

The agricultural sector in Sudan contributes 30% to the GDP of the national economy , the sugar industry of Sudan was started in 1962 first with the Guneid sugar factory followed by New Halfa sugar factory in 1964, Sennar sugar

factory in 1977, Assalaya factory and Kenana factory in 1980, and recently the White Nile factory with total designed capacity for all six factories of 1,216,000 Tons. With enhanced capacity the sugar industry plays an essential role in developing the economy of Sudan by contributing more than 25% for the gross domestic product and benefits from unique endowment by concentrating the cane fields located in what is known as the sugar belt and corporate farms business model economies of scale. These factors enable Sudan sugar production increases steadily over the decades and to contributes to the socio-economic development of the rural areas by providing health care services and education and clean drinking water to the villages and remote areas and job employee.

Post War Challenges and Concerns

The war has caused substantial decline in the country's sugar production due to disruption of the production cycle, shrinking production capacity of the industry. Two sugar factories the Guneid factory and Sennar factory were damaged and broken, both owned by the Sudanese Sugar Company governmental owned and reported a decline and destroy in the agricultural infrastructure and loss in the cane crops in the field. Sudan total production season 2024/2025 is 250,000 tonnes, while consumption 1,300,000 tonnes estimated.

Economic and Political instability remains a serious challenge to restore the stability and management of positive business environment for the industry, which means the confidence and creditability of the government to formulate a sound long term policies and plans to support the industry through special programs and public policies harmony in trade and industrial policies and financial and technical. The political instability in the country has disrupted the operations of sugar companies due workers



strike, also the war has affected the Sudanese Sugar Company Five years plans 2021-2026 of Rehabilitation and turn around plans of the four sugar factories with the help of Kenana.

Climatic changes represent a challenge for the industry as in the case of Kenana which remains the only operating company, our Research & Development rainfall readings reported that average rainfall for the current rainy season is low (307 mm) compared with last four seasons. Although, the rainfall of the previous rainy season is high 648 mm but it showed poor distribution in which it was concentrated in August (430mm which represents 66% of the total rain) compared with last four seasons.

Future Perspectives

Kenana has adopted a three-year strategy to improve the yield and productivity and approved by the board of directors commencing on the new season 2025/2026, and position the company as sustainable business applying the circle economy business model.

The company will launch and commence new three projects as part of its strategy and three years plan those are:

- Biogas project which will reduce the consumption of furnace by 80% and increase the efficiency of the energy consumption
- the launch of the compost project to produce bio-fertilizer – the company is investing on the by-products of the industrial complex (Sugar Factory and Ethanol Factory) mainly the vinasses and

molasses with objective of Zero-waste model,

- Also, will keep on the expansion of the poultry project as new production line will commence production through state of the art modern hatchery system. Kenana sugar company has maintained and adopted a long-term project of sugar-cane varieties improvement, the program is well going as schedule during the last month the fuzz (true seeds) of a new variety – 2025 series

– were planted in the green house and showed good germination. Beside that Agronomy research department is managing a program of testing and trial of new imported varieties and showed good performance at final test.

The program of varieties exchange with CIRAD of France is in progress, the cooperation between the two institutes is developing for the benefit of the two parties.

Hassan Hashim Erwa,
Corporate Director (Sales & Marketing)
Kenana Sugar Company Ltd, Sudan



NEWS FROM SWEDEN

Low prices of sugar, a toolbox against weeds, pests and diseases that never seems to stop shrinking, a lot of sugar in Europe, new pests affecting our crop and increased problems with resistant weeds. The challenges Swedish beet growers stand in front of are many. Nevertheless the interest of growing beets in Sweden are big, since all other crops faces similar of challenges. With its robust way of growth, sugar beets are a competitive crop in the south Swedish crop rotation that creates values at farm level.



The big interest of growing is unfortunately not reflected in the demand of sugar from the processor and 2026 the Swedish beet acreage will be the second lowest in 100 (!) years. The low demand for sugar beets is of course reflecting the market and sugar balance in Europe, but that is also an effect of a dedicated work with research and development over the time. The last 30 years Swedish agricultural sugar yields have in average increased from 8 to 12,5 tonnes per hectare. That is an improvement of about 180 kg of sugar every single year which of course have an impact on the acreage. New varieties and the fact that climate change favours Swedish sugar beets production is of course contributing to the im-

provements, but the dedicated work with research and trials is very important for the competitiveness of our sugar beets. The increase is a result of management and new strategies and without higher levels of input, that means more sugar out of the same number of resources and always with a long-term perspective in mind. Sustainable in all aspects.

Research and development in Swedish sugar beet production is carried out by the institute Nordic Beet research, NBR. NBR is working closely together with the industry and the growers. Growers take part in the work by highlighting challenges they face in the everyday farm work, but also as partners in grower-driven projects and workshops. These interactions are crucial to keep relevance in the projects and to keep growers engaged in the development if the crop. The dedicated work at our research institute gets valuable first when growers adopt and practice the new knowledge.



However, a dedicated work with trials and crop development projects and engaged growers only creates the basis for good growing conditions. The weather, which we can do nothing about sets the framework for what the final result can be. This year the weather gave us the opportunity to early drilling and good emerging of the beets, which is a prerequisite for good growth. Rainfall during summer has been unevenly spread in the region which has affected



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the beets in different ways. Some has been hardly affected by drought, while others have got enough water for keeping up the growth. As campaign started 10th of September the yields seem to be close to out five-year average for the time, and that is in line with the estimate for the entire campaign.

As growers continue to struggle and deal with constant challenges, the growers' association is planning for next year's annual WABCG meeting. We hope to see you all in Sweden the 15th-18th June 2026. A draft of the programme we are preparing will be presented to you when we meet in London in December. But I would like to tease out some sessions that we hope you will all find interesting. What about consumption patterns, the role of the value chain in capturing values created by growers, grower-driven crop development and the challenge of engaging the next generation in agriculture?

Finally, I would also take the opportunity to introduce **Lars Bäcksted**, new member of the WABCG executive board, and a board member of the Swedish growers' association since 2016. Lars is in charge of the faring business with about 1500 hectares of crop production and production of pasture-raised meat in the middle of the Swedish beet growing region. Some of you have for sure met Lars in London a couple of years ago, and you will all have the opportunity to meet him both in London in December and in Sweden in June.



Ida Lindell, General Secretary
Betodlarna, Sweden

NEWS FROM GERMANY (RHINELAND)

On September 15, the Rhineland beet processing campaign started at the sugar factories in Jülich and Appeldorn. The factory in Euskirchen followed on September 24. Although the campaign began slightly earlier than in the previous year, beets had a longer growing season in 2025. Thanks to favourable weather conditions, beet sowing took place very early and was largely completed by the end of March. Even the beets harvested first had grown in the field for at least half a year. The 2025 growing season differed quite significantly from the two previous years, when the growing period was characterized by continuous rainfall. Conditions for sugar beet were mostly favourable in 2025. After the early sowing and a rather dry but sunny spring, water reserves were replenished in July. After a dry and warm August, rainfall returned at the beginning of September. Overall, the beets of the 2025 growing year have a growing season that was one month longer than in the two previous years. Test harvests in recent weeks suggest that beet yield will be slightly above the long-term average. All sugar factories expect an end of the campaign in January. It is still too early to assess sugar content, as this will be significantly influenced by the weather over the coming weeks.



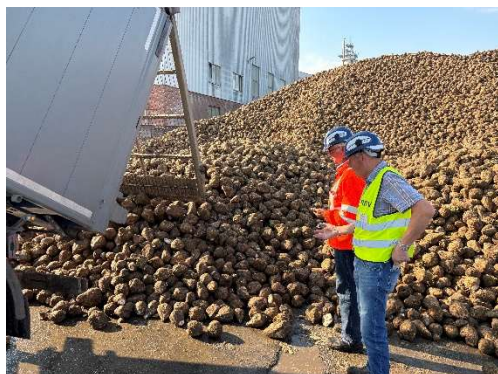
Last winter, together with the sugar company Pfeifer & Langen, we recommended to our association members to reduce their acreage and adjust it better to demand. The beet growers followed our recommendation. The acreage was lower in 2025 compared to the previous year. Quantities exceeding demand strain the market and thus our profitability. We will continue the way of adjusting acreage to demand



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for the next years and have to remain flexible. Last summer we negotiated a new beet contract. Beet quantity management is part of it.



Estimation of soil tare after beet delivery to the sugar factory by employees of the sugar company and the beet growers association

In many regions of Germany, the diseases SBR and Stolbur, transmitted by planthoppers, are now threatening beet cultivation. The infested area is continuously expanding. For this reason, comprehensive monitoring of the occurrence of planthoppers was carried out in the Rhineland beet-growing region in collaboration with partners in the Sugar Beet Growing Working Group, the Chamber of Agriculture and the sugar company Pfeifer & Langen. In contrast to many other regions in Germany, this year's planthoppers infestation in the Rhineland growing region was still very low. This was good news for our growers. However, we know from our colleagues in the affected regions how quickly the infestation is spreading. We are therefore keeping a close eye on the situation, participating in research projects to control the diseases and will continue our monitoring activities in the coming year.

In our region, the tiger nut (*Cyperus esculentus*) is becoming a serious weed problem in arable farming, including on fields where beet is grown. It spreads generatively (via seeds) and vegetatively (via plant parts). It is highly competitive and difficult to control with herbicides. Field hygiene is extremely important. Further spread should be avoided under all circumstances. Controlling the SBR/Stolbur disease complex and tiger nut grass will be two important crop production topics in meetings with beet growers after the end of the campaign.

Dr. Peter Kasten, Managing Director
Rhineland Beet Growers Association, Germany

Visit of sugar beet field trials by crop advisors at the end of the growing season

