



World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers



NEWS FROM WABCG

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TO BE RETAINED FROM LONDON

The World Association of Sugar Beet and Sugarcane Growers, which brings together 37 sugar beet and sugar cane growers' associations from 34 countries, met on 1st December in London (United Kingdom) and concluded its work with the following final statement.

“The meeting focused on **the innovation efforts undertaken by sugarcane and sugar beet growers** in support of the global sugar sector. Growers worldwide emphasized that research and development, innovation, and the strategic use of data analysis are more essential than ever to address the challenges facing agriculture.

From an economic perspective, innovative contractual tools are needed **to help the sector navigate the current crisis**, marked by a nearly 25 percent decline in world sugar prices over the past year. In a market as volatile as sugar, further amplified by speculation, **it is crucial to safeguard fair value sharing across the supply chain and to promote contractual mechanisms that help mitigate volatility**. Growers, who must transform short-term price fluctuations into long-term decisions for their farms, underline the

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need to maintain strong cohesion between growers and factories, ensuring risk is managed across the entire production chain. **Innovation to address the effects of price volatility must be actively supported.**

Innovation must also continue in relation to the full range of outputs derived from sugar beet and sugarcane. This includes **further development of the bio-ethanol sector, as well as enhanced valorization of co-products such as pulp and bagasse**. Such diversification not only reduces exposure to volatile markets; it also lowers reliance on fossil fuels and aligns with broader environmental objectives. **The benefits of these innovations must be shared fairly throughout the production chain.**

Finally, **innovation in agricultural practices**—aimed at enhancing the economic, social, and environmental performance of farms—**must be a central pillar of national agricultural policies**. Technical support to growers, provided by technical institutes working in dialogue with governments and supported by growers' associations, should be a clear priority.”



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.



NEWS FROM CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The sugarcane season in Côte d'Ivoire, which began in November 2024, ended in April 2025 with a production of 19.57 Mt of sugarcane and 188,800 tonnes of sugar, across a total cultivated area of 28,800 hectares. This corresponds to an



average yield of 68.03 tonnes of cane per hectare. Compared with the previous season, which produced 202,300 tonnes of sugar from 21.19 Mt of sugarcane—an average yield of 74.00 tonnes per

hectare—there has been a sharp decline in national output.

Small growers belonging to the Fédération des Producteurs de Canne Villageoise de Côte d'Ivoire (FEPCANVICI) produced 146,300 tonnes of sugarcane on 4,291 hectares, with a yield of 34.91 tonnes per hectare, compared with 159,100 tonnes on 4,910 hectares (a yield of 32.41 tonnes per hectare) the previous year.

There are 3,000 smallholder farmers, cultivating around 4,500 hectares of cane—an average of 1 to 5 hectares per grower. **Smallholder production, which once accounted for 10% of national output, represented only 7.40% this season, with an average yield of 34.94 tonnes per hectare. This drop is attributed to the poor distribution of the 1,236 mm of rainfall recorded during the season. Added to this are soil depletion after three decades of cultivation, the growers' inability to afford soil amendments, and limited access to molasses and filter cake—by-products derived from their own sugarcane processing.**



To cover production costs and hope to make a profit, farmers need to achieve yields of 40 tonnes per hectare. A study also showed that profitability becomes significant only from three hectares upwards.

Since the 2024–2025 season, under pressure from FEPCANVICI, industrial processors have, at their discretion, increased the price paid per tonne of cane. At SUCAF CI (SOMDIA Group), the price rose from 18,500 CFA francs (28.24 euros) to 20,250 CFA francs (30.91 euros), an increase of 1,750 CFA francs (2.67 euros). At the same time, SUCAF CI increased farmer-incurred costs by 1,063 CFA francs (1.62 euros), resulting in a net gain of only 687 CFA francs (1.04 euros) per tonne.

Meanwhile, at SUCRIVOIRE (CONSNUM IVOIRO-MAURICIEN Group), the price increased from 17,500 CFA francs (26.71 euros) to 18,500 CFA francs (28.24 euros), a rise of 1,000 CFA francs (1.52 euros).

It should be noted that with yields below 40 tonnes per hectare, some farmers are operating at a loss.

Given these factors—declining yields, negative margins, uncompetitive cane prices, varieties poorly suited to exhausted soils, and low productivity—an increasing

number of farmers abandon sugarcane each year in favour of more profitable crops. If this trend continues, small-scale sugarcane growers could disappear within the next sixty years.

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