



Final Statement

World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG)

London, 26 November 2018

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, which counts 35 cane and beet growers' associations in 32 countries, met on 26th November 2018 in London (United Kingdom).

WABCG underlines that cane and beet have in common that they cannot be stored, are difficult to transport and thus depend on a factory to be processed – this is why growers and factories have to agree on the way they work together. This is especially true currently as they go through difficult times together and with prices remaining at contract lows, despite the recent recovery.

Firstly, WABCG underlines that a **clear and fair sharing of the value of the products** derived from beet and cane (sugar, bagasse and pulp, molasses and even energy and electricity production) between growers and factories is the only way to ensure sustainable cohesion between growers and factories. Even with low sugar prices, growers will accept sharing losses...as long as they are convinced that they will also share gains.

Secondly, during difficult times, WABCG underlines that it is all the more necessary **to give guarantees to the grower that he is paid** for the beet or cane he delivers to the factory. Paradoxically, in the sugar industry, it is the buyer who judges the quality of the sold product. For this reason, WABCG has decided during this meeting to benchmark how the transparency of the assessment of the value of sugar beet and sugar cane delivered around the world is guaranteed. This study has given growers' associations the necessary tools to try to negotiate improvements on this mission, with two goals:

- to insure cohesion within the industry, by limiting fruitless disputes;
- and to use the data collected by factories as tools to improve growers' yields in the field, for the benefit of the entire industry.

Last, WABCG underlines that the **diversification of outlets** from cane and beet processing must be a priority for the sector worldwide. Cane and beet sugar have exceptional diversification potential, and ethanol remains the best risk management tool for our industry. Initiatives linked to the development of bioethanol should be encouraged and supported by the sector, industry and governments.