



## Final Statement

### World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG)

15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, which counts 36 cane and beet growers' associations from 34 countries, met in Cali, Colombia, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, at the kind invitation of Procaña.

Sugar beet and sugarcane growers celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Procaña, the Colombian sugarcane growers' association, and **underlined the importance of independent, recognised, and professional growers' associations for the sustainability** of sugar and ethanol industries around the world. These associations should be acknowledged as the necessary interface between governments, consumers, and civil society to constantly adapt and improve farming practices.

Sugar beet and sugarcane growers dedicated their work days to **exploring the innovations achieved around the world to promote sustainability**, in terms of fertilization practices, irrigation optimisation or pest management, amongst others. Innovations towards precision agriculture are a reality all around the world, and can provide farmers with opportunities to accelerate their impact on mitigation of climate change. Strategic guidance, based on new technologies and technical support, designed by growers' associations, in dialogue with governments, technical institutes and civil society should be encouraged around the world.

Sugar beet and sugarcane growers underline the fact that new practices often imply new risks for farmers, and that better conditions on sugar market should be the occasion to **encourage investment at farm level, but also throughout the production chain**. Sugarcane and sugar beet are amongst the crops which offer the best ratios in terms of diversification potential, and particularly when considering their coproducts (bagasse, pulp), which can have strong potential in terms of green chemistry such as biogas and cogeneration. **This should be encouraged in a sustainable way and can only be reached by associating farmers' share in the value with the entire industry and with the support of enabling government policies.**