



Final Statement

World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG)

London, 25 November 2019

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, which counts 36 cane and beet growers' associations in 34 countries, met on 25th November 2019 in London (United Kingdom). Especially in the current context of low world sugar prices, which can discourage growers and weaken cohesion within the industry, WABCG underlines **that innovation should always be the guiding principle of the sugar beet and sugarcane sectors around the world.**

Innovation in growing practices. WABCG has just finalized a study on certification and segmentation to bring extra value to sugar beet and sugarcane. Many examples around the world show that certification, when built by growers, can be a tool to spread good practices in the field. Growers' associations should be accompanied in such schemes: they are the ones who can demonstrate to growers that better practices can lead to increased prosperity at farm level.

Innovation to fight the effects of price volatility on growers should be promoted. Innovative contracts, facilitating cohesion between growers and factories, and mitigating risks for the production chain, should also be promoted. Growers' associations should be accompanied in building new tools, including for example the reasonable use of sugar futures to fix cane and beet prices.

Innovation in outlets: in addition to sugar, ethanol, electricity or biogas production, cane and beet have exceptional diversification potential that should be promoted. Ethanol is an excellent outlet to mitigate the effect of low sugar prices, and remains an easy way to reduce CO₂ emissions in the context of climate change. Ethanol production and use in carbureter fuel systems should be promoted throughout the world.

Innovation in organisation. WABCG underlines that these innovations can be built only by recognized, united, financially independent sugar beet/cane growers' associations, committed to supporting independent growers in the sugar supply chain, and allowing them to be heard and respected.