



## **Final Statement**

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

**27 June 2022**

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, which counts 36 cane and beet growers' associations from 34 countries, met by video conference on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

They expressed their unanimous concern about the **unprecedented rise in fertilizer and fuel costs** at farm level. Although growers welcomed the rise in sugar and ethanol prices, they underlined the fact that, if sugar beet and cane prices did not follow the same pattern, the risk in terms of acreage and yield could have huge implications at world level, in terms of food sufficiency.

During this meeting, members of WABCG unanimously elected a new Executive Board, of which **David Thompson, beet grower from USA, was elected President** to lead the World Association from 2022 to 2025.

The renewed Board is committed to pursuing the work carried out by WABCG in order to:

- Underline the **importance of recognized, united, financially independent sugar beet/cane growers' associations**, committed to support independent growers in the sugar supply chain, and allowing them to be considered as valuable partners by the industry in charge of processing the beet/cane that they supply.
- Maintain the importance of **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. This is the first robust risk management tool, amongst others to be developed within the industry and partners from government and insurance, to **mitigate the effect of price volatility on the necessary cohesion between growers and factories**.
- Promote the **diversification of outlets** from cane and beet processing. In addition to sugar, ethanol, electricity or biogas production, cane and beet have exceptional diversification potential. Every effort must be made to find new outlets for this production to enhance added



value throughout the production chain. Initiatives linked to green chemistry such as bioethanol, bioplastics and biogas should be encouraged and supported by the sector, industry and governments.

- Recall the **implication of growers towards civil society**, in favour of sustainability, and to fight climate change. This can be achieved through **sufficient technical support**, designed by their growers' associations, in dialogue with governments, technical institutes and civil society.

Regarding all these points, WABCG considers that sharing ideas and techniques is part of the solution. This emphasizes the importance of international meetings for farmers; dialogue is indispensable to take up challenges in a world where this virtue seems to be disappearing.

#### Executive Board for 2022-2025

<b>President</b>	David THOMPSON (USA)
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Eduardo ROMÃO (Brazil)
	Carlos BLACKALLER (Mexico)
	Guillaume GANDON (France)
<b>Cane representatives (&amp; substitute)</b>	Martha BETANCOURT (Colombia)
	Graeme STAINBANK (South Africa)
	Clovis Ernest BONY (Côte d'Ivoire)
	Paul SCHEMBRI (Australia)
	Frighton NJOLOMOLE (Malawi)
	José MAYORGA SIRERA (Nicaragua)
<b>Beet representatives (&amp; substitute)</b>	Ulf WEGENER (Germany)
	Dirk de LUGT (Netherlands)
	Markus SCHOEBERL (Austria)
	Hideo MURAKI (Japan)
	Ramazan ERKOYUNCU (Turkey)
	Jacob BENNET (Sweden)

#### Springs' meetings

2023: Colombia // 2024: USA // 2025: Australia