



EDITORIAL

We are now entering April. It means spring in my country, where we are finishing our sowing. In Brazil, the new campaign is about to begin. Our job, as growers, is indeed to follow the cycle of nature, whatever the adversities. And the market is one of them: with a market around 12.5 cts/lb, April is just in the continuity of the previous months, for almost a year and a half.



It is sometimes hard to keep faith when markets are so depressed, and for such a long time.

But our job is to make our land produce the best, our job is to provide food, feed and energy, and to accompany the population growth around the world. And we carry on doing this because we know we are providing a commodity, and that commodity means volatility. We have to keep in mind that the market will change. We have to remember that two and a half years ago the market was over 23 cts/lb, and that it will come back!

Every country should be encouraged to find its own way to get through difficult times without discouraging growers. This way must be built between growers and factories, based on public policies that ensure level playing fields. Depending on the country, it can be called risk management tools, ethanol production, acreage adaptation, or whatever. But with one goal: tightening the links between factories and growers to face adversity.

And I look forward to seeing you all in 2 months in Ribeirao Preto, to share your views on this!

Jean-Pierre Dubray, President WABCG



Be prepared!
Registration will be opened
within few days!

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 36 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 JAPAN

In Japan, sugar beet is only cultivated in Hokkaido. In 2018, about 7,000 sugar beet growers planted about 57,200 ha and 75 % of the area is planted by transplanting method.

Sugar beet is main crops of Hokkaido and we assume a large role in regional economy. Such as, there are 8 sugar factories in Hokkaido, and we contribute to secure employment for associated industry – not only agricultural industry.

This year in Hokkaido, from middle of June to beginning of July, we had low temperature and heavy rainfall. After that, we were blessed with great weather, and the sugar yield was 63.1 t/ha and sugar content was 17.2 %. This result is above the averages.

In Hokkaido, we start sowing in the beginning of April, but in that period we usually suffer damage from the wind and frost. Under these conditions, transplanting method can minimize damage compared to direct method.

In these days, sugar beet growers have been decreasing because of aging, and area per grower have been gradually increasing. The area per person is 8.2ha in 2018, an increase by 14 % compared with 2008.

Under these circumstances, labor saving technology is highly needed for growers. Using information and communication technology for agricultural is studied very hard in Japan. In the near future, we hope for that technology success in sugar beet field.



Nurseries



Sugar beet field

Masamitsu ITO, Vice President
HOKUREN Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, Japan



WABCG - NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Australia's summer sugarcane growing season has been characterised by some of the worst floods in decades in the northern regions while in the south, growers have been forced to pay spiralling electricity prices to irrigate drought-affected cane. Bushfires and tropical cyclones have also devastated localised areas. The overall impact of these conditions on crop production will be clearer close to the May/June 2019 start of harvest.



For growers, the weather has added to the concerns about low world sugar prices which have been exacerbated by India's plans to export subsidised sugar. Australia contends that for many years India has been supporting sugarcane production at a level which is not compliant with its obligations under World Trade Organisation rules and India's actions in a surplus market have reduced the world sugar price to unsustainable lows below the Australian cost of production.

CANEGROWERS and other industry groups have worked with the Australian Government but efforts to resolve the issue with India outside of the WTO's dispute system have been unsuccessful leading Australian and a number of other countries to launch a formal case against India. CANEGROWERS is confident that a solution can be achieved during further consultations with India, or failing that, a solution should be enforced by the WTO.

Locally, the state with the bulk of Australia's sugar production is proposing to expand existing regulations governing sugarcane and other farming practices in Great Barrier Reef catchment areas. Of great concern is that a bill currently before the Queensland Parliament would hand broad powers to the government and its departments to change minimum cane farming standards in any way at any time with no regard for the impacts on growers or their communities. It could also see agronomists, industry extension officers, sugar mills and fertiliser resellers forced to hand over to government information about the interactions with cane growers.



CANEGROWERS is concerned the provisions in the bill will damage the future growth of the \$2.5 billion sugar industry while doing little to further protect the Reef. Farm practices in use on 70% of Queensland's cane land has been benchmarked in the industry's best management practice program and accreditations, following an independent audit, are meeting the market's increasing demand for sustainable sugar.

Recently Coca-Cola Amatil announced that it will source all sugar for its non-alcoholic beverage range in Australia as sustainably accredited under the program, Smartcane BMP, or Bonsucro with which Smartcane BMP has alignment. This decision is very significant for the Australian sugar industry and it is a great recognition of the commitment of our growers and their contribution in caring for the environment.

Paul Schembri, Chairman
CANEGROWERS, Australia