



Final statement of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) Council Ribeirao Preto, 5 June 2019

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) met on 4-5th June 2019 in Ribeirao Preto (Brazil).

During this meeting, at which they welcomed India as a new associated member, the 36 members of WABCG unanimously elected a new Executive Board, at which Eduardo Vasconcellos Romão, a Brazilian cane grower, was elected President to lead the World Association from 2019 to 2021.

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 heard and respected, especially by the industry in charge of processing the beet/cane that they supply.
- Maintain that only 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 able to ensure sustainable cohesion between growers and factories. Even with low sugar prices, growers will accept to share losses...as long as they are convinced that they will also share gains.



- 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.
- Help its members to find ways **to fight the effect of price volatility on growers**. Growers and processors must have the necessary tools to prevent the economic risks. Amongst these tools, futures could be useful, if used correctly. Processors and growers should be encouraged to use them, to protect themselves against the impacts of volatility.
- Recall the **implication of growers towards civil society**, in favour of sustainability. Climate change is a reality for farmers. By increasing the uncertainty of yields, by calling for new practices which often need investment and know-how, by accentuating price volatility, agriculture is one of the sectors in the world most impacted by climate change. Farmers know that they are the most impacted but are also aware that they are the ones who can act to mitigate the effects of 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 2019-2022

President	Eduardo Romão (Brazil)
Vice-Presidents	Paul Schembri (Australia)
	David Thompson (USA)
	Jean-Pierre Dubray (France)
Cane representatives (& substitute)	Martha Betancourt (Colombia)
	Graeme Stainbank (South Africa)
	Clovis Bony (Ivory Coast)
	Carlos Blackaller (Mexico)
	George Mlingwa (Tanzania)
	Frighton Njolomole (Malawi)
Beet representatives (& substitute)	Abdelhamid Chafai El Alaoui (Morocco)
	Ulf Wegener (Germany)
	Dirk de Lugt (Netherlands)
	Markus Schoeberl (Austria)
	Recep Konuk (Turkey)

