



World Association of  
Beet and Cane Growers



## NEWS FROM WABCG

### EDITO

Regarding geopolitics, the beginning of 2026 has been challenging — and let us hope it is not a sign of what the rest of the year will bring! Currencies are unstable, oil prices are hard to follow... And even if sugar seems a little less volatile, we may suspect that speculation is playing a role in this relative stability. A paradox, indeed!



In this context, let us hold on to what makes agriculture strong.

Working with nature and with living systems has taught us to stay calm in difficult times, to keep a clear and steady mindset, and to think long term. These are valuable strengths in today's world — and lessons that farmers can share with society.

Looking ahead also means looking forward to our next meeting. After meeting last year in my home country, Australia, we will gather this year in a sugar beet-producing country. The Swedish sugar beet growers' association, *Betodlarna*, will host us from 16 to 18 June. I would like to sincerely thank their team for their commitment to making this meeting useful and beneficial for everyone. In the coming days, the WABCG Secretariat will send you the programme and registration details.

So... check your emails!

**Owen Menkens, President  
WABCG**

## FEBRUARY 2026

### NEWS FROM TÜRKİYE

It is a great pleasure for me to express how delighted I was to be together with you at the 2025 WABCG/ISO Consultation Meeting.

Across the country, during the 2024/25 campaign period, sugar beet cultivation was carried out on an area of 328,000 hectares by 93,293 farmers. Total sugar beet production reached 22,413,958 tons, with an average yield of 68.31 tons per hectare.



The 2024/25 marketing year lasted between 83 and 191 days. During this period, 21,556,496 tons of sugar beet were processed, resulting in a total sugar production (A

Quota + C Sugar) of 2,749,706 tons. Cooperative sugar factories accounted for 35% of this production, achieved through the operation of six sugar factories within the cooperative sector.

In the 2025/26 campaign period, sugar beet cultivation was carried out on approximately 310,000 hectares by 76,813 farmers. Based on a total sugar beet production of around 21,500,000 tons, sugar production is expected to reach approximately 2,900,000 tons.



Within the scope of the Sugar Beet Seed Development Project, it is planned that one variety resistant to Fusarium disease and two varieties resistant to Rhizomania disease, developed under the project, will be made available to our farmers for use in the 2026/27 period.

**Ramazan Erkoyuncu, President  
PANKOBİRLİK, Türkiye**



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## NEWS FROM AUSTRIA

Just before the 2025 sugar beet sowing season, the Austrian sugar company AGRANA decided to close one of its two sugar factories in Austria. The reason for this was increasing competitive pressure due to market liberalization, particularly the Ukraine agreement, which led to Ukrainian sugar entering AGRANA's sales markets. This amount of sugar had previously been delivered from Austria to AGRANA's Eastern European markets. The loss of the Eastern European market had already drastically reduced the beet acreage in Austria for the 2025 season, even before the factory closure.



*The sugar factory Leopoldsdorf has been closed in 2025*

With the remaining sugar factory in Austria, the country can continue to ensure its self-sufficiency of domestic sugar from Austrian sugar beets.

In the 2025 growing season, 28,000 hectares were cultivated. Of this, approximately 5,000 hectares has been destroyed. About half of this area was affected by the beet weevil, while the other half was destroyed due to crusting after heavy rainfall.

Partial replanting of the lost areas resulted in a total harvest area of 25,500 hectares.

The weather throughout the entire growing season was quite favourable for sugar beet development. A dry and unusually warm June was followed by a wet and cool July, allowing the beet crops to develop well and resulting in slightly above-average beet yields of almost 80 tons.

Austrian sugar beet farmers are concerned about the turbulence in the European sugar market. Due to the sugar surpluses on the market, resulting partly from the Ukraine agreement and partly from slightly declining sugar consumption, sugar prices have

steadily fallen in recent months. This has also led to a correspondingly lower beet price. On the other hand, production costs for sugar beets are rising, which often makes cost-covering beet production impossible in regions with below-average beet yields. The sugar company AGRANA is also struggling with low sugar sales prices and is responding with a massive cost-cutting program that also affects raw material costs.

After months of negotiations, representatives of the beet growers and the sugar company have agreed on a new price derivation model. This model ensures beet growers a higher minimum price when sugar sales prices are low, in order to ensure enough beets to run the sugar factory. In the higher sugar sales price segment, however, a lower price will be paid for beets than before.

Currently, beet deliver contracts for the 2026 growing season are being finalized. Based on the contracts signed so far, a decrease in the cultivated area of more than 10% compared to the previous year is expected. This should largely ensure a reasonable level of capacity utilization for the last remaining sugar factory in Austria.

Austrian beet farmers are thus contributing to market stabilization, hoping for a return to rising sugar and beet prices.



**Markus Schöberl, Director**  
**Association of Austrian Beet Growers, Austria**



**WABCG meeting**

16-18 June 2026  
Helsingborg, Sweden

**Program & registration soon available!**