World Association of
Beet and Cane Growers

NEWS FROM WABCG

OCTOBER 2026

EDITO

Registration is now open for our next WABCG–ISO Consultation! On 30 November 2026, beet and cane growers from around the world will gather once again in London for our traditional annual meeting with the International Sugar Organisation. As every year, this consultation will provide a unique opportunity to exchange views, compare experiences and look together at the challenges facing our sector.



We will begin with our traditional 'Around the World' session, giving members the opportunity to share the latest developments from their countries. ISO experts will then take us through the outlook for the world sugar and ethanol markets, with a particular focus this year on the links between sugar and grain markets.

In the afternoon, we will turn to an issue that matters to every grower, whether producing beet or cane: how can we better understand and optimise our costs of production? Experts from Germany and Brazil will show how benchmarking and international comparison can help us identify where improvements can be made, while Australian Canegrowers will share their experience of helping growers optimise both costs and prices.

Finally, we are very pleased to welcome Ukraine as our special guest, with Yana Kavushevska from Ukrsugar joining us to share the perspective of the Ukrainian sugar sector and discuss it with our members.

And I am particularly pleased that, on the day before the meeting, thanks to the technical support of NFU Sugar, WABCG members will have the opportunity to visit Michael Sly's farm in Cambridgeshire – 1600 ha dedicated to wheat, peas, mustard… and sugarbeets!

London will once again be a valuable opportunity to learn from each other and strengthen the dialogue between beet and cane growers worldwide. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Owen Menkens, President
WABCG

NEWS FROM CHILE

In March 2026, Iansa, the company that owns Chile's last remaining sugar factory and processed sugar beet from around 8,000 hectares, **informed growers of its decision not to offer sugar beet contracts for the 2026–2027 season**. The company cited the unstable international situation caused by the war in Iran, high fertilizer and fuel prices, and low international sugar prices.



This decision brought to an end more than 70 years of sugar beet growing in Chile. At its peak, the country grew up to 55,000 hectares of sugar beet per season and achieved record yields of more than 117 tonnes per hectare. Sugar beet was a pioneering crop and a leader in the adoption of modern agricultural technologies, particularly in farm machinery, irrigation, and pest and weed management. Much of this technology was subsequently transferred to other agricultural crops, making the sector an important driver of agricultural modernization in Chile.

As sugar beet growers, we received this news with great sadness and disappointment. Sugar beet farming has been passed down through more than three generations of farmers, creating a strong connection between the crop, farming families, and their communities.

Although Iansa initially stated that the decision was temporary, we unfortunately believe that it is likely to be permanent. The company has since dismissed its entire agronomic team, and it appears that the factory will continue operating by refining imported raw sugar rather than processing locally grown sugar beet.

Jorge Guzmán, President
Fenare, Chile

WABCG/ISO Consultation
30 November 2026
London, United Kingdom
(with a field visit on 29th November for WABCG members)
Registration is open!

News from Sweden

Firstly, we would like to thank you all for your participation in the WABCG meeting in Helsingborg in June 2026. Together we created memorable days filled with valuable exchanges!

So, to the Swedish beet crop 2026. We knew when entering this cropping year that two dry autumns and winters (2024 and 2025) with a dry summer in between had caused very low levels in the water reservoirs, both above and below the ground. With one well timed rainfall in May and one in beginning of June the beet crop looked good when you were visiting Sweden in June. However, after the rainfall in the beginning of Jun e almost no rain fell until mid-August. Dry soils from the beginning and no rain in 2,5 months affected the beets and the first harvest estimations was well below five-year average. However, the rains in end of August and during September has been enough for creating good conditions for autumn growth, which we know can be significant. Taking this in consideration we expect a yield close to average for the 2026 beets.



The Swedish situation with limited water in reservoirs and lack of precipitation during the cropping year highlights the importance of one of the subjects from our WABCG meeting in Helsingborg – Water management, The possibility to handle too little and too much water as a buffer to the weather during the season. It also highlights the robustness and value of the sugar beets, being able to compensate for periods with unfavourable conditions. A couple of months with very dry conditions of course reduce the yield potential, but favourable growth conditions in the autumn can make the beets recover and produce a decent yield with a decent profit when other crops in the rotation can't.

Being a farmer in Sweden is, like in the rest of the world, not always easy when it comes to profitability and long-term operation conditions. Increased cost for fertilisers and diesel, volatile markets and agricultural policy all makes navigation hard. For Swedish beet growers the last four years with reduced beet acreage with about ¼ is another factor hardly hit the sector. Despite all these challenges the interest in growing sugar beets in Sweden remains high. Swedish beet growers are competitive and eager to adapt new knowledge in their cropping systems. In addition, the climate in South of Sweden is favourable for beet growing. As a grower's association we keep on struggling with improving the conditions making the Swedish beet crop even more competitive.

Ida Lindell, CEO,
Betodlarna, Sweden



The autumn is a good time to follow up trials with different varieties and strategies. Nordic beet research and Nordic Sugar arrange field meetings where growers and the growers association participate to learn and exchange experiences.

