



Final Statement

World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG)

1 December 2025

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers, representing 37 cane and beet growers' associations across 34 countries, met on 1 December 2025 in London.

Discussions focused on **the innovation efforts undertaken by sugarcane and sugar beet growers** in support of the global sugar sector. Growers worldwide emphasized that research and development, innovation, and the strategic use of data analysis are more essential than ever to address the challenges facing agriculture.

From an economic perspective, innovative contractual tools are needed **to help the sector navigate the current crisis**, marked by a nearly 25 percent decline in world sugar prices over the past year. In a market as volatile as sugar, further amplified by speculation, **it is crucial to safeguard fair value sharing across the supply chain and to promote contractual mechanisms that help mitigate volatility**. Growers, who must transform short-term price fluctuations into long-term decisions for their farms, underline the need to maintain strong cohesion between growers and factories, ensuring risk is managed across the entire production chain. **Innovation to address the effects of price volatility must be actively supported.**

Innovation must also continue in relation to the full range of outputs derived from sugar beet and sugarcane. This includes **further development of the bioethanol sector, as well as enhanced valorization of co-products such as pulp and bagasse**. Such diversification not only reduces exposure to volatile markets; it also lowers reliance on fossil fuels and aligns with broader environmental objectives. **The benefits of these innovations must be shared fairly throughout the production chain.**

Finally, **innovation in agricultural practices**—aimed at enhancing the economic, social, and environmental performance of farms—**must be a central pillar of national agricultural policies**. Technical support to growers, provided by technical institutes working in dialogue with governments and supported by growers' associations, should be a clear priority.