Final Statement
World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG)
17 June 2026

The World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG), representing 37 beet and cane growers' associations across 34 countries, met in Helsingborg, Sweden, on 17 June at the kind invitation of the Swedish sugar beet growers' association, Betodlarna.

WABCG member associations unanimously expressed their **concern about the current market situation** across the world. Global sugar prices, which have been declining since January 2024, have reached an alarming level, and their impact on domestic markets is now affecting producers in all sugar-producing countries. This situation is particularly challenging as **production costs continue to rise**, with no sign of reversal. Energy costs have reached levels that are increasingly difficult to bear, while fertilizer prices remain high and supplies are not always guaranteed. Member associations warn of the **short-term consequences for farm profitability**, as well as the **medium-term risks to overall productivity**, as lower fertilizer use may negatively affect yields.

Against this backdrop, growers' associations exchanged views and shared experiences on three main topics.

First, they discussed the **public policies needed around the world to preserve the economic sustainability of production systems** in the face of extreme volatility in sugar markets. Only ambitious public policies that foster **strong cohesion between growers and processors** can create the conditions for the development of **contractual mechanisms capable of mitigating market volatility**. Such policies should also encourage **innovation in agricultural practices aimed at improving the economic, social, and environmental performance of farms**.

Second, they exchanged views on the importance of **ensuring access to key production inputs, particularly water resources and energy**. In this regard, they highlighted the strategic role of **sugar cane and sugar beet as sources of low-carbon energy aiming towards decarbonization of the sector**. They called for the further development of the bioethanol sector, as well as enhanced valorization of co-products such as beet pulp and bagasse. Such diversification not only reduces **dependence on fossil fuels and contributes to broader environmental objectives**, but also helps limit exposure to volatile commodity markets, to be shared fairly throughout the value chain.

Third, they underline that **young farmers should be supported by targeted public policy as they are vital for the future of sugarcane and sugar beet productions**. Young farmers bring energy, long-term commitment to the industry and innovation. Regarding innovation, **artificial intelligence tools, to be developed to assist farmers to make decisions, could be seen as an opportunity for the entire industry**.