



**Sanjay Awasthi**  
*President*

**(Founded in 1925)**



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Dear Members,

Greetings!

The COVID-19 crisis has globally impacted our families, community and our every way of life. This pandemic will stand out in world history as a global-changing event as it brought governments around the world to collectively combat the spread of disease, putting economies on hold and changing everyday life and work for their communities.

My heart and thoughts go out to the people who have been affected by this unprecedented event and also appreciate the work of our healthcare workers, local communities, and state governments who are on the front line working to contain this insidious virus.

On behalf of the STAI Council, I also take this opportunity to laud the efforts of our field and factory personnel who are doing a fantastic job to maintain sugar and ethanol production running for the community and serving the nation in this hour of need.

As the world economy enters an unprecedented crisis (recession) owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global sugar industry can also not remain unaffected and will have to face some daunting challenges in the near future. In the wake of the nationwide lockdown in most parts of the world, the demand/off take for sugar has been sluggish and would remain so for the next couple of months. The unprecedented fall in the crude prices (particularly in WTI Index) which fell into negative territory for the first time may result in diversion of more cane from ethanol to sugar production from Brazil which may eventually lead to surplus sugar production globally and subdued sugar prices.

It is time for the technocrats/professionals to come together and ponder over the opportunities for a profitable/sustainable sugar industry. Production of hand sanitizers by the industry is the right step to get into another by-product.

At STAI we are awaiting the govt guidelines for holding of the seminars/conferences at various locations in the country and accordingly we shall communicate to you the fresh dates/venue for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and other activities through the next edition of our newsletter.

Please stay at home and follow the government guidelines and do look after the safety of yourselves and members of your families.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

**SANJAY AWASTHI**  
PRESIDENT