



STAI e-News Letter

Quarterly News Letter

Volume 7, Issue 22, 5th July 2021

From the Desk of President

Dear Members,

Greetings!

I am happy to connect with you once again and share my thoughts through the 22nd edition of STAI e-Newsletter. The Indian sugar industry is on the verge of successfully completing sugarcane crushing season 2020-21 with yet another record sugar production of around 31 MT (after diverting 2 MT equivalent Sugar production to ethanol manufacture) as against 27.4 MT (after diverting 0.8 MT Sugar to ethanol) produced in the sugar season 2019-20.

This has been a remarkable year for the Indian sugar industry with many firsts. For the first time the country would be meeting its export target of shipping 6 MT of sugar because of the favourable global sugar prices which moved up from the lows of 10.2 c/lb in April 2020 to 16.5 c/lb in May 2021 owing to lower sugar output in the European Union, Thailand and Brazil. Considering the favourable price in the overseas market, India may export an additional 1 MT of sugar under OGL (i.e without incentive)

On the World Environment day - the 5th of June 2021, the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi released the roadmap for ethanol blending in India. The notification regarding making E 20 fuel available by April,

2023 has been issued alongwith specifications. As a result of various measures taken by the Govt to address demand and supply side issues in the coming years, the ethanol distillation capacities in the country are likely to be doubled and we should be able to achieve 20% blending target by 2025. The current ethanol supply for the year 2020-21 is likely to be more than 3000 million liters making the industry achieve 8-8.5 % blending levels.

In the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic the industry also joined its hands. Today, a number of sugar mills are not only producing sanitizers but they have also ramped up its capacity from a meager 1 million liters/annum to 3 million liters/day. Today the country is not only meeting its captive requirements but also exporting the sanitizer. In the wake of the oxygen crisis, sugar mills and distilleries in parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and U.P., decided to come forward to produce and supply the medical oxygen to overcome the shortage being faced by hospitals in several parts of the country.

STAI successfully organized a Webinar on "Setting up Bio CNG Projects for the financial health of sugar factories" on 28th April 2021. The detailed update is given on the following pages. The preparations for the 79th Annual Convention have been initiated. The circular for call of papers has been sent to all the members. We invite quality research papers from the members for presentation during the 79th annual convention.



Mr Sanjay Awasthi , President, STAI

The dates and venue for the convention shall be communicated to the members in due course of time keeping in view the COVID situation, guidelines and protocol to be followed. In the meantime I would request the members to please wear mask, maintain social distancing and take other necessary precautions for the safety of your near and dear ones.

With regards,

SANJAY AWASTHI

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STAI Webinar on Setting up Bio CNG Projects for the Financial Health of Sugar Factories

The Sugar Technologists' Association of India successfully organized a “**Webinar on Setting up Bio CNG Projects for the Financial Health of Sugar Factories**” held virtually on 28th April 2021.

In the absence of Mr Sanjay Awasthi, Mr Anup Kesarwani, Vice President, STAI welcomed the members. Mr Kesarwani in his welcome address said that “With increasing sugar production and subdued sugar prices, the mills are not able to recover the production costs to sustain the business. The central government’s decision to incentivize sugar mills to set up Bio CNG plants under SATAT scheme is timely and would assist the mills to supplement their revenues.

Mr R V Vatnal, Group Technical Advisor, MRN Group of Companies in his address said that Energy is the life line of every society & nation. Sugar Industry through Cogeneration, Ethanol and Bio CNG production is actively contributing in the area of clean Energy.

Mr D K Goel, Hon. Editor, STAI and Moderator of the Webinar in his address said that it’s the prerogative of STAI to keep all stakeholders abreast regarding the latest technological developments in the sugar and allied industry.

Technical Presentations

Following technical presentations were made during the webinar :

- Press mud to Biogas/Bio CNG using CSTR based Dry Fermentation Technology by Joseph Vimal Arulappan , Director, J & F Biogas, Chennai
- Circular Bio-economy: Opportunity for Diversification for Sugar Mills in Bio-CNG (CBG) and Organic Fertilizer Production by Dr. Sanjay V. Patil, TA & HOD, Department of Alcohol Technology & Biofuels, VSI, Pune
- Praj’s Unique Value Proposition for Converting Sugar / Distillery Waste to CBG by Basavaraj C R ,

Jt. GM - Renewable Gas Business , Praj Industries Ltd., Pune

- Bio-CNG Plant from Filter Cake – Way Forward for the Sugar Industry by Sanjay Awasthi, Anurag Goyal, Sayan Sarkar, ISGEC Heavy Engineering, Noida

- 200 TPD Pressmud Processing Compressed Bio Gas Plant: A Case Study by Mr Chandrakant Rajput, General Manager, Leafiniti Bioenergy Pvt. Ltd., Karnataka

The webinar was conducted from different locations in Delhi NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu. Mr D K Goel, Hon. Editor moderated the session. 273 members of STAI family from their respective locations around the world actively participated in the webinar.

Mr D M Raskar, CEO, SMSKL, Pune proposed a Vote of Thanks.

The Proceedings of the Webinar have been uploaded on STAI Website.



Top- (Left-Right) Mr D K Goel, Dr Sanjay V Patil, Mr Anup Kesarwani

Bottom(Left-Right) Mr Joseph Arulappan, Mr Basavaraj C R , Mr D M Raskar

Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25

In a virtual address on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2021, Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi said the world looks at India as a leader of climate justice. Earlier "The world used to look at India as a challenge now looks at it as a leader of climate justice" he said.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister also released the 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025'. Speaking on the occasion the PM said that "India has taken another big step by releasing an elaborative roadmap for the development of the Ethanol Sector". The report also laid special emphasis on encouraging use of lower water consuming food grain crops like maize, and biomass as feedstock for production of ethanol.

The PM also launched the E-100 Pilot project for the production and distribution of ethanol as fuel at three locations in Pune. He said the target date for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol has been advanced by five years to 2025 to cut

pollution and reduce import dependence.

The important recommendations of the report are :

- **Notifying Ethanol Blending Roadmap:** MoP&NG should immediately notify the plan for pan-India availability of E10 fuel by April, 2022 and its continued availability thereafter until 2025 for older vehicles, and launch of E20 in the country in phases from April, 2023 onwards so as to make E20 available for all new vehicles by April, 2025.
- **Augmenting Infrastructure for Oil Marketing Companies:** OMCs will need to prepare for the projected requirement of ethanol storage, handling, blending and dispensing infrastructure.
- **Expediting Regulatory Clearances:** Currently, ethanol production plants/distilleries fall under the "Red category" and require

environmental clearance under the Air and Water Acts for new and expansion projects.

- **While several steps have been taken to expedite Environment Clearances (EC) under the Environment Protection Act** there are few areas of concern which if addressed, will facilitate early setting up of ethanol distillation capacities in the country.
- **Tax Incentives to Ethanol Blended Compliant Vehicles** so as to absorb the cost up to certain extent due to E20 compatible design upgradation.
- **Pricing of Ethanol Blended Gasoline:** For better acceptability of higher ethanol blends in the country, retail price of such fuels should be lower than normal petrol. The tax breaks on ethanol as a fuel may be considered by the government.



Top(Left-Right) Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi addressing the World Environment Day Event, and interacting virtually with **(Right) Mr Arvind Kumar**, a Progressive Sugarcane Farmer from Hardoi gathered at the premises of DSCL Hariawan Sugar Factory, Hardoi, U.P.

Bottom (Left-Right) **Mr Nitin Gadkari**, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, RT & H and MSME, GOI, **Mr Prakash Javaedkar**, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GOI, **Mr Dharmendra Pradhan**, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Petroleum & Natural Gas & Steel, GOI

32nd ICUMSA Session

32nd ICUMSA session was held first time online in the History of ICUMSA from 14th June to 16th June 2021. The Session was conducted by Mr Martijn Leijdekkers, ICUMSA President and Dr. Hanjo Puke, General Secretary. Fifty four participants across the globe attended the session virtually. The highlights of the ICUMSA Session are as follows:

14th June 2021 : Opening and Welcome session followed by five Technical Presentations by Referees of Raw Sugar, White Sugar, Speciality Sugar, Molasses and Sugar Cane processing.

15th June 2021: ICUMSA General Meeting and Executive Committee meeting was conducted in the Morning Session followed by ICUMSA award ceremony. **Mr Martijn Leijdekkers** felicitated four ICUMSA Referees for their contribution to ICUMSA. The session continued with Reports of Referees for Subjects- Beet sugar processing, Cane Processing, Beet Processing, Plantation White Sugar and Sampling.

16th June 2021: On the last day Report on Articles of Association and By Laws was presented by the ICUMSA President, Other reports included Method formats and collaborative studies, Colour, Turbidity and

Reflectance, Chemical methods of Analysis and Microbiology.

Highlights of General Subject 9- Plantation White Sugar .Referee Dr. Vasudha Keskar, India

During 31st ICUMSA Session there were two recommendations in this subject.

Recommendation 1:

Method GS 9/1/2/3-8 (2011). The determination of sugar solution colour at pH 7.0 by MOPS buffer method is to be redrafted with inclusion of changes making it applicable for all products. As per recommendation this method has to be redrafted making it applicable for colour analysis of all types of sugars.

Recommendation 2:

Method : Elemental analysis of Plantation White Sugar using ICP MS should be given tentative status on conditional basis until further work on the extension of Method GS 2-51 for inclusion of Plantation White Sugar is carried out. New Method GS 9-1 (2019) Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Mercury, Lead and Tin in Plantation White Sugar by Inductively Coupled

Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICPMS)- Tentative is published in Supplement 2019 of ICUMSA Methods Book.



Glimpse of ICUMSA Session (Picture Courtesy : Sugar Industry Journal)

The recommendations were postponed in this session. In the report of GS 9, Plantation White Sugar Dr Keskar presented a review regarding comparison of four methods of colour analysis and shortcomings of these methods. Though these methods are in use by industry for a long time but some technical corrections & improvements are to be made for which she suggested to form a committee of concerned referees and Dr Hanjo Puke, General Secretary, ICUMSA to work on these methods for uniformity and harmonization. Her recommendation was accepted during the meeting. The President and General Secretary appreciated the exemplary work done by Dr Keskar.

ISSCT Bulletin

The International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT), an association of scientists, technologists, managers, institutions and companies/corporations concerned with the technical advancement of the cane sugar industry and its co-products has initiated a monthly e bulletin giving updates on developments taking place in its member countries.

Please find given below the link for the month of June 2021 for your information :

https://issct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ISSCT-Bulletin-June-2021_small.pdf

The members desiring to contribute any information that they feel would be of interest to the members of the ISSCT may send the same to the STAI Secretariat latest by 20th of every month.

Please note that only relevant articles of interest will only be accepted & forwarded to ISSCT. The decision of President & Hon. Editor, STAI shall be final in this regard.

6th Council Meeting of STAI

The 6th Council Meeting of the Association was held on 23rd of April 2021 through video conference.

The meeting was presided over by Mr Sanjay Awasthi, President, STAI and was attended by 17 members of the Council & special invitees.

During the meeting, members reviewed the progress of the ongoing Research and Investigation projects and granted approval to two new R & I projects. The minutes of 2nd Advisory Committee on Publications were also deliberated upon.

The Council also discussed other agenda items and the modalities of

forthcoming 79th Annual Convention.



Top(Left-Right) Mr Sanjay Awasthi, Mr Anup Kesarwani , Mr Pradeep Tyagi

Bottom(Left-Right) Mr Kuldeep Kumar, Mr E Muthuvelappan, Mr R V Vatnal

79th Annual Convention of STAI

Call for Research Papers for 79th Annual Convention of STAI

The most awaited event of the Sugar Industry, the **79th Annual Convention & International Sugar Expo-2021** of The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (STAI) is scheduled to be held in the last week of September 2021. The exact dates and venue shall be communicated in due

course of time & considering COVID situation, govt. guidelines & protocols to be followed for the safety of members.

STAI invites quality research papers from the members for presentation during the convention. In this context we have already mailed you the circular no.: STAI/PUB/21/2021 dt. 14.05.2021 .

The link of the same is once again reproduced below for your information and reference.

Link:

<http://staionline.org/pdf/Final%20Call%20for%20Research%20Papers%20-%202021.pdf>

The last date for receipt of soft copy of the papers via email is 2nd August, 2021 .

Members Corner

Membership Dues

Members whose membership dues are not paid send the membership subscription through cheque/DD in favour of **"The Sugar Technologists Association of India"**

Account Details :The Sugar Technologists' Association of India, HDFC Bank SB A/C No. 13851450000023, RTGS/NEFT IFSC CODE : HDFC 0001385, Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi- 20

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