

ISSCT AGRONOMY WORKSHOP

KHON KAEN, THAILAND 23 - 26 May 2006

Hosted jointly by

THAILAND SOCIETY OF SUGAR CANE TECHNOLOGISTS

Thailand Department of Agriculture, and Thailand Department of Agricultural Extension

Theme "Integrated agronomic practices to improve/sustain cane productivity"

📄 Programme

📄 Abstracts

📄 Report

REPORT

The 2006 Agronomy Workshop was held from 22 to 26 May 2006 at the Sofitel Raya Orchid Hotel in Khon Kaen, Thailand. The workshop was very well organised by the local organising committee with five institutions collaborating closely, (namely the Thailand Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, the Thailand Department of Agriculture, the Thailand Department of Agricultural Extension, Mitrphol Research & Development Center and the University of Khon Kaen), to make the workshop very enjoyable, worthwhile and interesting to the high number of participants.

Indeed the response by technologists in the sugar cane world to the workshop has been very positive with 52 participants coming from 16 different countries (41 of them travelling from overseas). As the challenges facing the sugar industry throughout the world in the 21st century are wide ranging and cannot be resolved by any specific discipline in agronomy, the theme of the workshop "Integrated agronomic practices for sustainable sugar cane production" was chosen to cover as broad a spectrum of interests in agronomy as possible. Following the opening of workshop by the Thailand Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the scene for discussion and interaction among the technologists was set by 29 oral presentations (and 12 posters) spread under the five following specific themes.

- New refined technologies for sustainable sugar cane production
- Ratoon yield decline and its management
- Soil management and the utilization of plant residues
- Challenge of environmental pressure and strategy for the sugar cane grower
- Modelling sugar cane growth and production

The discussion after the presentations (abstracts and powerpoints are now posted on the ISSCT website) has been positive and lively, demonstrating the interest and willingness of the participants to exchange their know-how.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to gain an overview of the sugar industry in Thailand, the status of research and development in the country. In spite of an average yield of some 50 TCH, Thailand produces more than five million tonnes sugar annually and exports not less than four million tonnes of that sugar on the world market. The visits to Mitrphol Research and Development Center and to a model farm were enlightening showing that with proper management of the soil, yield can be raised to 100 TCH. The problems the Thai sugar industry has to overcome are not more difficult to solve than those experienced in other countries and with a more effective technology transfer to bridge the yield gap between the small growers and the model planters, a more efficient breeding programme to produce cane with improved ratooning ability and resistant to pests and diseases, the Thai sugar industry is capable of progressing by leaps and bounds.

It was also approved by the participants that the next ISSCT Agronomy Workshop will be held in 2009 in Brazil.

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