

ISSCT PROCESSING WORKSHOP

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA 29 May to 1 June, 2006

"Cane Juice Purification Processes"

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REPORT

The ISSCT Processing Workshop was held in Baton-Rouge, Louisiana, from 29 May to 1 June 2006. The Audubon Sugar Institute, of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, hosted it on the beautiful campus of the LSU.

No less than 84 delegates, representing 19 countries, attended the workshop, which addressed the topic: **"Cane juice purification processes"**.

The detailed program can be consulted on this website, as well as the abstracts of the 44 communications presented in six sessions: juice handling (screening, enzymes) - heating and liming (with a special concern on saccharate liming) - clarification (color removal, clarifiers) - mud handling - alternatives techniques. A discussion was held at the end of each topic, with a strong participation of the audience.

Visits were organized on Wednesday 31 May in two sugar factories, Raceland and Cora Texas, which were unfortunately not in operation at this time of the year. Delegates were warmly welcomed by the mills technical staff, and allowed to see every technical device and to get every figure regarding the equipment and plant operation. The subsequent visit to Audubon Sugar Institute was quite impressive with all the staff receiving small groups of delegates alternatively in each specialized lab, presenting their equipment and describing their main research topics and results.

Just at the end of the workshop, a survey questionnaire was distributed to remaining delegates and obtained 46 answers. Technical content of the workshop was highly rated (average above 4 on 5 for all 10 questions), the majority of the delegates judging that it "met (their) objectives" (average rate 4.2 /5), "the workshop covered everything (they) wanted to know" (4 /5) and "the discussions were valuable" (4.2 /5). The organization by Audubon Sugar Institute was highly appreciated, as well as the non-technical content (swamp tour, meals), the accommodation getting the highest average rate (4.7 /5). Peter Rein, well seconded by Melati Tessier, and the whole staff of ASI were warmly congratulated in the comments.

At the end of last session, the possible topic for the next Processing Workshop was discussed and several interesting themes were proposed, such as crystallization, continuous process, or process automation.