Co-Products Workshop 2015

CONSIDERATIONS

Co-products by definition are products which involve similar revenues to the main product, in the case under reference sugar itself. Nevertheless the word “co-product” has been interpreted in many cases as by product, which results in smaller revenues. Co-products happen to be considered only products resulting from waste material from the industry such as fermentation CO2, bagasse, vinasse, boiler ashes, and so on, again with minor revenues or just a waste disposal alternative.

Nevertheless, this is not the way we at ISSCT want to conduct the Co-Products Commission and therefore the Co-products Workshop. We want to deal with products with an importance comparable to sugar. And for that, products based on sugar cane juice and opportunities offered by chemistry and biochemistry and the sugar cane biomass itself should be considered.

Mauritius, the host country for the Workshop has played a pioneering role in cogeneration of electricity from bagasse

The sugar cane sector in Brazil is an example where the sugar co-products have been a major reason for the success and survival of this industry. First Ethanol from the juice/molasses and then Electricity from bagasse happen to be co-products that kept this industry profitable and sustainable.

WORKSHOP STRATEGY

During the 2015 Co-Products Workshop we would like to bring into discussion and to the presentations Development/Research of Co-Products and special attention to the Commercial and Pre-Commercial Technologies. Several sugar cane industries have been finding their way to get additional profit by exploring already commercial co-products or setting pre-commercial plants under final development. Examples are:

- First Generation Ethanol from sugar cane juice – (many options)
- Electricity Export to the grid using Bagasse, Trash and Wood (Okeelanta)
- Electricity Export to the grid with co-firing bagasse and coal - Mauritius
- Pulp and paper from bagasse – LEDESMA – Argentina
- Butanol from sugar cane juice – Brazil – RJ
- Pellets from torrefied bagasse - NFR BioEnergy – Louisiana - USA
- Yeast from Ethanol fermentation – ZILOR – SP – Brazil
- Green plastics – USINA DA PEDRA and – SP – Brazil
- Cellulosic Ethanol – ABENGOA – Spain, COSTA PINTO – SP – Brazil

We will contact these companies and invite them and others to participate in the Workshop. In addition to the presentations we will have the opportunity to discuss with them the strategies, difficulties and lessons learned in the process of establishing a new product.