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Welcome Message from the General Secretary - Treasurer on the eve of the
XXIII ISSCT Congress New Delhi - India
22-26 February 1999

Dear Friends,

I welcome you from all over the world to this august gathering. It is an honour for our country to host this conference, and I hope our mutual benefit will be immense.

Normally, we learn about new developments through journals, but at this conference, which is held once every three years, we all have the opportunity of direct contact that carries the potential of catalysing our development not only through acquisition of new ideas, but also through imbibing of personal dynamism.

No one should believe that electronic communication can be a substitute for direct human contact. In this gathering, you will test propositions, argue and debate, challenge, and even discover common solutions to varied problems. Knowledge builds on knowledge, and so has it been over the 75 years of the ISSCT's existence. The more we learn the faster the learning curve. It keeps building on itself in ever-tightening spirals like a technological whirlwind. The application of knowledge is what creates greater productivity, and makes possible more innovative products and services.

This year's congress promises to be exceptionally wide-ranging and stimulating. Plenary Sessions will focus on opportunities and challenges facing the Sugar Industry, environmental concerns, productivity improvements and the impact of globalisation: issues which all sugar manufacturers need increasingly to consider.

The Congress will be preceded by the customary Pre-Congress tours - taking delegates to centres of excellence across the country: to Daurala and Sakthi Sugars - India's most modern sugar factories, to TNPL - a path-breaker in the use of bagasse for newsprint, to SBI - repository of a vast sugarcane gene pool and others. The ISSCT trade fair offers a platform to explore the global industrial and economic potential. The post Congress tour offers a stimulating experience of Faisalabad University. The spouses programme includes visits to magnificent ancient and modern sites and unveils the artistic treasures of India and Pakistan.

Translation into French and Spanish in all the sessions will add value to the experience of those who do not speak English. For the first time attractive discounts are being given to authors presenting papers in the Congress.

"Each leaf is the tree," Lao Tzu said 2,000 years ago. To understand the importance of one humble leaf and how it functions in balance with the tree is to perceive the entire tree and how it is a small, yet integral, part of the unity in a grander order.

With this in mind, I welcome you to attend this confluence of men and materials, confident that your contribution will add to the flavour and substance of the event.

Vinay Kumar
PREFACE

As the Editor of the XXIII ISSCT Congress, it has been my privilege and pleasure to oversee the publication of ISSCT Newsletters, Pre-prints and Proceedings, albeit in an accelerated time-frame. While there was sufficient time available for the eight Newsletters, the postponement of the deadline for submission of papers resulted in considerable constraints on timely publication of the Pre-prints. Nevertheless our team rose to the challenge successfully.

The original call for papers did not yield the expected response, in spite of significant discounts up to 20% on package costs offered to authors presenting papers. The last date for submissions was thereupon extended by a month for both papers and posters. By the time papers were received from the commissioners after screening and technical editing, barely two months were left for final type-setting, proof-reading and printing. Eventually 110 papers were received out of a total of 120 allowed, and of these 95 were accepted, along with 46 posters.

The proceedings capture advances in 10 major sections: Agronomy, Agricultural Engineering, Pathology, Breeding, Entomology, Molecular Biology, Factory Processing, Engineering and Energy and Co-products.

Technical sessions included all aspects of the sugar industry and its related matters. Starting with sugar cane development and ending with co-product manufacture, several scientific and technological developments were highlighted. Deliberations took place on new varieties of sugar cane with high yield in respect of both yield and sugar content, improved agricultural practices, improved plant protection measures and field mechanisation.

Similarly, papers covering improvement in productivity, energy conservation, cogeneration, steam and fuel economy, co-product manufacture, pollution control etc were presented.

Authors were asked to edit the Pre-prints on their arrival for the Congress. The corrections received were incorporated in the drafts of the Proceedings and e-mailed to authors for final checking. This system was welcomed by all authors, most of whom responded promptly with corrections and additions. The widespread availability of e-mail services has greatly facilitated communication among the various agencies involved.

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Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the authors for their precious contribution. I am extremely grateful to all the officials of the XXIII ISSCT Congress for their guidance from time to time. I express my appreciation and thankfulness to all the Deputy Commissioners and Vice-Chairmen from India for their contribution. The Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI - Coimbatore), Vasantdada Sugar Institute (Pune) and National Sugar Institute (Kanpur) also contributed significantly in enabling me to complete my duties as Editor successfully. I am grateful to them. My special thanks go to Dr. B.K. Tripathi, Director, SBI and his team.

My grateful thanks are due to Mr. Shivajirao G. Patil, (Chairman, Congress Organising Committee), and Mr. Vinay Kumar (General Secretary-Treasurer) for their guidance and support. Mr Vinay Kumar has given his unstinting support to oversee the onerous task of preparing the Proceedings for final publication during my absence on an overseas trip. Last but not least, a special word of thanks to Ms. Neena Roy, (Conference Co-ordinator) and other staff of the Sugar Technologists’ Association of India.

V. Singh
Editor
New Delhi