January 2023

International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists
Founded 1924

Bulletin

Welcome to the ISSCT Bulletin for January 2023, in which we collect latest ISSCT updates, along with news, research, and past and upcoming events related to sugar cane technology.

Contents

ISSCT News 3

Sugar Cane News 4

Agri monitoring system needed for disaster response 4

Speeding up sugar's conversion into fuel [Australia] 4

Brazil bank approves financing for biogas unit [Brazil] 5

Dominican Republic biomass project is given go-ahead [Dominican Republic] 5

Executive plan to apply drip irrigation system in sugarcane farms [Egypt] 5

SIAM Join Hands With Brazilian Sugarcane Association To Launch Centre of Excellence To Promote Ethanol As Alternative Fuel [India] 6

Converting waste to energy: a sugar mill finds a new way [India] 6

Digital technologies create miracles in agriculture with AI & ML enabled value chain, says MD, Insecticides [India] 6

Drone spray system comes as huge relief for farmers [Pakistan] 7

Sugar Self-sufficiency Plan will be Driven by Modern Technology, Data – Adedeji [Nigeria] 7

Sugar producers, millers ink pact to improve productivity, mill efficiency [Philippines] 8

Latest Research 8

Synergistic Integration of Sugarcane Proteomics with Genomics: Proteogenomics to Decipher the Mechanism of Disease Resistance in Sugarcane 8

Biotechnological Approaches to Improve Sugarcane Quality and Quantum Under Environmental Stresses 9

Potential Parents for Developing Climate-Resilient Sugarcane Varieties in India: A Breeding Perspective 9

Agro-technologies to Sustain Sugarcane Productivity Under Abiotic Stresses 10

Enhancing the co-production of sugars from sugarcane bagasse via CuCl2-catalyzed organosolv pretreatment and additives 10

Economic performance of biogas production and use from residues co-digestion in integrated 1G2G sugarcane biorefineries: Better electricity or biomethane? 11

Events 12

ISSCT XXXI Congress 12
The 10th International Conference on Sugar and Integrated Industries (ICSII-2023) 12
44th ASSCT Conference 12
SIT Annual Technical Meeting 13
16th ISO DATAGRO NY Sugar & Ethanol Conference 2023 13
95th SASTA Congress 13
XII Congreso ATALAC 2023 COSTA RICA 13

ISSCT News

Dear ISSCT Members

We are pleased to inform you that the preparations for the XXXI Congress are in the final stages and there has been great interest in the event judged by registration in the recent weeks.

The Congress Programme which has been finalised and may be accessed through the following link: https://issct.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/XXXI-ISSCT-Congress-program-with-logo.pdf

It includes 139 oral presentations and 58 posters in the ten disciplines encompassed in ISSCT's five Commissions, namely: Agriculture (Agronomy and Agricultural Engineering), Biology (Germplasm & Breeding, Entomology, Molecular Biology and Pathology), Factory (Processing and Engineering), Co-Products and Management.

Three Plenary Sessions will be held with world renowned experts as mentioned in the Programme, on the themes of:

- **Growing sugarcane differently**
- **Diversification done differently**
- **Sugar and health told differently**

In addition, two Panel Discussion sessions with six speakers each will cover aspects related to the following:

- **Present Challenges in the Global Sugar Industry**
- **Sustainability of the Sugar Industry**

Furthermore, delegates will also have the opportunity to meet and interact in person with over 100 renowned technology providers, consultants, service providers, and plant and equipment manufacturers for the sugar, ethanol, allied industries and cogeneration power plants participating in the International Trade Exhibition being held in conjunction with the Congress.

A Pre-Congress Tour will be held in Lucknow, and Post-Congress Tours in Delhi and Pune to enable congress delegates to appreciate salient aspects of the Indian sugarcane industry in the fields, in the factories and diversification plants, including cogeneration and 2G ethanol manufacturing pilot unit.
Attractive sightseeing tours designed for accompanying partners at Lucknow, Hyderabad, Pune and Delhi, including an excursion to the Taj Mahal at Agra, one

of the seven wonders of the world, are available. As well as sharing technical knowledge, delegates and accompanying partners will also have the opportunity to witness India's rich cultural heritage.

We hope that participants will find the programme relevant to their interests and informative.

On behalf of the ISSCT Council and Executive Committee and the Congress Organizing Committee, we extend a very warm welcome to delegates to the XXXI ISSCT Congress at Hyderabad, India.

Congress Registration Fee

In view of facilitating and encouraging attendance of members at Congress, the Congress Organising Committee in consultation with ISSCT, has decided to maintain the Early Bird Registration fee – USD 1100 which was going to increase on 16 January, at the same level until the Congress.

Sugar Cane News

Agri monitoring system needed for disaster response

DAWN TODAY'S PAPER | JANUARY 17, 2023	**Dawn**	**December 20, 2022**	**https://www.dawn.com/news/1727288/agri-monitoring-system-needed-for-disaster-response**

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recommended the development of a monitoring system for agricultural advancement and emergency response in case of natural calamities.

The FAO, which is the UN's agency for food security, has said a system integrating field and remote sensing should be piloted at the provincial level and later exp-anded nationwide.

The FAO made the recommendation in its report titled "A rapid geospatial flood impact assessment in Pakistan, 2022".

The recent advances in geospatial and information technologies and updated land cover maps, crop-specific information with tailored field campaigns are expected to better support response programmes, the FAO said.

Speeding up sugar's conversion into fuel [Australia]

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA	**University of Queensland**	**January 17, 2022**	**https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2023/01/speeding-sugars-conversion-fuel**

University of Queensland researchers have found a way to more efficiently convert sugarcane into a building block of aviation fuel and other products.

By zeroing in on a specific enzyme, a UQ team working in collaboration with the Technical

	University of Munich (TUM) has sped up the slowest step in processing sugar into a chemical called isobutanol. *Professor Gary Schenk from UQ's School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences said isobutanol from a renewable resource could be used to make fuels, plastics, rubbers and food additives.* *"Our research into this particular enzyme means we can accelerate the production rate and yield of isobutanol from sugarcane, ultimately enabling biomanufacturers to make diverse products at scale sustainably and efficiently," Professor Schenk said.*

Brazil bank approves financing for biogas unit [Brazil]

	Bioenergy Insight	**January 6, 2022**	**abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-11-18/first-traceable-sugar-shipment-townsville-to-south-korea/101662058**
	The National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) approved financing of R$ 80 million (€14.2m) for UISA Geo Biogás S/A to build an industrial unit for the production of biomethane and electricity from sugarcane residues in Nova Olympia (MT). *In the first phase, the plant will produce up to 11.4 million Nm³/year of biogas and up to 32,000 MWh/year of electricity.* *The project will allow the distribution of biomethane in a region not yet served by a natural gas network. Biogas will also be used to replace diesel in part of the truck fleet of UISA, one of the venture's partners, and the electricity will supply the unit's own demand, and may also be exported.*		

Dominican Republic biomass project is given go-ahead [Dominican Republic]

	Bioenergy Insight	**January 5, 2023**	**https://www.bioenergy-news.com/news/dominican-republic-biomass-project-is-given-go-ahead/**
	The Dominican Republic's National Energy Commission (CNE), has granted a definitive concession to Consorcio Azucarero Central, developer of the 7-MW Energia Renovable Ingenio Barahona biomass-fired energy project. *The definitive concession contract for the plant, which will be located in the municipality of Santa Cruz de Barahona, was signed by Edward Veras, executive director of the CNE, and by Virgilio Ernesto Pérez Bernal, president of the Consorcio Azucarero Central Company.* *The facility will utilise sugarcane bagasse as biomass.*		

Executive plan to apply drip irrigation system in sugarcane farms [Egypt]

	Egypt Independent	**January 13, 2023**	**https://egyptindependent.com/irrigation-min-executive-plan-to-apply-drip-irrigation-system-in-sugarcane-farms/**
	Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Hani Sweilam said that his ministry has outlined an executive plan and strategy to shift from flood irrigation system to modern irrigation system (drip irrigation) in the farms of sugarcane nationwide.		

In a statement on Friday, the minister said this falls within the framework of the State's plan to benefit from its limited water resources, raise the efficiency of the field irrigation system, maximize the water yield and increase crop yields and productivity and the financial returns of farmers.

The minister further noted that there was coordination between the bodies concerned of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, to enumerate all areas of sugarcane in the various governorates.

SIAM Join Hands With Brazilian Sugarcane Association To Launch Centre of Excellence To Promote Ethanol As Alternative Fuel [India]

	MENAFN	**January 16, 2023**	**https://menafn.com/1105435336/SIAM-Join-Hands-With-Brazilian-Sugarcane-Association-To-Launch-Coe-To-Promote-Ethanol-As-Alternative-Fuel**

The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri at Auto Expo 2023 launched the Virtual Center of Excellence (CoE) to highlight the role of ethanol as part of the solution in decarbonisation.

The centre has been jointly developed by the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA) and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) at the Auto Expo.

Addressing the occasion, the Union Minister pointed out that ethonal as a green fuel is the future of India.

The centre will aim to provide users with information on ethanol, biomass for bioenergy, and sustainability of biofuels, and provide stakeholders with relevant technological and policy initiatives that will smoothen India's transition to low-carbon mobility.

Converting waste to energy: a sugar mill finds a new way [India]

	The Indian Express	**December 25, 2023**	**https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/converting-waste-to-energy-a-sugar-mill-finds-a-new-way-8342816/**

LATUR-BASED Natural Sugar and Allied Industries' sugar mill in Osmanabad aims to add another dimension to the industry's constant foray into newer avenues for revenues. This mill, located in Kalamb taluka of Osmanabad, aims to utilise press mud to manufacture bio CNG.

Bhairavnath B Thombare, chairman and managing director of the mill, said this technology will help mills reutilise the agricultural waste which so far has only been used as manure.

Press mud refers to the agricultural waste obtained when cane juice is repeatedly filtered before being sent for extraction of sugar. The filters are cleaned periodically, and the waste is deposited into the yard of the mill. Nearly 3 to 4 per cent of press mud is obtained when per tonne of cane is crushed. At present, mills recycle this agriculture waste as manure by composting the same and supply it to the farmers in the area.

Digital technologies create miracles in agriculture with AI & ML enabled value chain, says MD, Insecticides [India]

	Agriculture Post	**December 27, 2022**	**https://agriculturepost.com/interviews/digital-technologies-create-miracles-in-agriculture-with-ai-ml-enabled-value-chain-says-md-insecticides-india/**
	"Sophisticated digital tools and technologies create miracles in agriculture by checking the quality, quick and better decision making based on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and ML (Machine Learning) predictions and forecasts, better trading platforms, better information, sustainable resource management, variability factors to increase yields and economics, says Rajesh Aggarwal, MD, Insecticides (India) Limited in an exclusive interview with Agriculture Post.		

Drone spray system comes as huge relief for farmers [Pakistan]

	The Nation	**December 16, 2022**	**https://www.nation.com.pk/18-Dec-2022/drone-spray-system-comes-as-huge-relief-for-farmers**
	The aerial drone spray system has come as a huge relief to farmers, as it allows them to effectively spray less quantities of insecticides in less time over a larger area to save crops and boost production, reported WealthPK. *Dr Shahzad Younis, Associate Professor and Director of Smart Agri tech Research Centre & Adaptive Signal Processing Group, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), told WealthPK that a stable economy depends on the production of agricultural goods. "Crop production can be increased by using agrochemicals to control weed infestation; however, their excessive use adversely affects the human operators and environment (destroying the ecology).* *Aerial drone spray systems are used to carry out the necessary spraying, and this approach is said to be safer and more accurate than the traditional ones," he said. Dr Shahzad said agricultural activities still required a lot of labour and time despite using innovative technologies for on-farm management. Using drone technology in agricultural operations, such as spraying, can simplify labour-intensive farming operations and make them more efficient, he added.*		

Sugar Self-sufficiency Plan will be Driven by Modern Technology, Data – Adedeji [Nigeria]

	Economic Confidential	**January 13, 2023**	**https://economicconfidential.com/2023/01/sugar-self-sufficiency-plan/**
	The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Mr Zacch Adedeji, has said the year 2023 will be dedicated to the data-driven, vigorous pursuit of Nigeria's self sufficiency in sugar production. *Speaking on the official takeoff of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI) in Illorin, Kwara state, on Wednesday, Adedeji said the year is epochal in the history of the Council because it marks the end of the implementation of the National Sugar Masterplan (NSMP) Phase I and the commencement of NSMP Phase II.* *The Nigeria Sugar Institute was primarily established to conduct research, develop modules for training professionals in the sector as well as serve as the main training hub for stakeholders in the sugar sub-sector of the Nigerian economy.*		

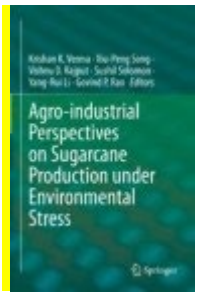
	"Without mincing words, research, data and technology are critical ingredients required to build a sugar sector that would place Nigeria among the comity of leading sugar producers within the continent.

Sugar producers, millers ink pact to improve productivity, mill efficiency [Philippines]

INQUIRER.NET	**Inquirer**	**January 12, 2023**	**https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1715818/sugar-producers-millers-ink-pact-to-improve-productivity-mill-efficiency**
	Majority of the sugar producers and millers signed a joint proposal Wednesday, January 11, on measures to improve farm productivity and mill efficiency in response to the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to boost productivity in the sugar industry. *The measures call for amendments to the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA) of 2015, particularly the increase in annual SIDA funding from P2 billion to P5 billion, the creation of a dedicated Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)-SIDA Program Management Structure focused on the implementation of SIDA-mandated programs, and the institutionalization of the Stakeholders' Consultative Assembly (SCA) and Sugar Industry Development Council (SIDC).*		

Latest Research

Synergistic Integration of Sugarcane Proteomics with Genomics: Proteogenomics to Decipher the Mechanism of Disease Resistance in Sugarcane

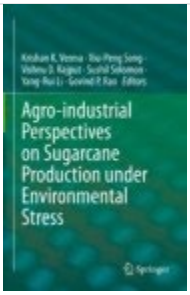


Deciphering disease resistance in sugarcane is a challenge by virtue of its genomic complexities like autopolyploidy, heterozygosity, etc. In the past few decades, most of the researchers employed a gamut of genomic tools to elucidate the mechanism of disease resistance in sugarcane. However, because of various hurdles in decoding the whole genome information, the progress thus far made to delineate the mechanism of disease resistance is not encouraging even with the deployment of robust genomic tools like high throughput next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies. In the meantime, the application of proteomics to understand sugarcane–pathogen interaction is progressing steadfast with robust gel-free platforms and advanced mass spectrometric approaches, but at a relatively slow pace compared to other monocots. With the evolving de novo protein sequencing approaches, precise identification and establishment of comparative quantitative proteome maps are becoming more expedient. Hence, there is a pertinent need for employing proteomics to add momentum, gain leverage, and bridge the gaps in sugarcane genomics wherever possible. Nevertheless, synergistic integration of proteomics with the ameliorating support from sugarcane genomics will provide an additional impetus to understand the mechanism of disease resistance in sugarcane.

Published: January 1, 2023

> Link

Biotechnological Approaches to Improve Sugarcane Quality and Quantum Under Environmental Stresses

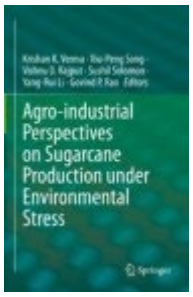


Sugarcane is considered as an important industrial crop to produce sugar, and nearly 80% of sugar production worldwide is produced from this plant. Sugarcane is a C4 plant that has a higher photosynthetic potential. Abiotic and biotic stresses have a diverse impact on the growth and productivity of sugarcane. Understanding the biochemical and physiological mechanism of these stresses is one of the most important aspects to improve the variety of plants that can meet better quality and quantum. Progress in the development of new sugarcane cultivars by conventional breeding has been hindered by its complex polyploid-aneuploid genome leading to a long breeding period. These types of constraints offer an opportunity to generate new sugarcane cultivars through biotechnological approaches. The new variety of sugarcane with desirable traits, such as drought tolerant and virus resistance, have been attempted to increase the yield of the plant. The inducing accumulation of compatible solutes such as sugar and betaine help sugarcane to adapt and survive in water limited environment. Biotic stress causes a significant loss in sugarcane growth and yield. Pathogen-derived resistance (PDR) and RNA interference (RNAi) technologies have been applied to engineered sugarcane cultivars having resistance to the sugarcane mosaic virus. In addition, genetic engineering of sucrose metabolism is also an important means to control carbon flux through the enzyme sucrose-phosphate synthase, which is responsible for the synthesis of sucrose. Here, we summarize recent developments in the biotechnological approaches to improve sugarcane yield by developing stress tolerance efficiency, increased yield, and virus resistance, including potential and challenges of genome editing technological applications.

Published: January 1, 2023

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Potential Parents for Developing Climate-Resilient Sugarcane Varieties in India: A Breeding Perspective



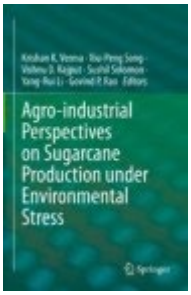
Under the changing climatic conditions due to aberrations of weather parameters, there is a change in the microclimate vis-a-vis change in the pest and disease scenario of crops that are widely cultivated. Sugarcane, being a long-duration crop grown on a larger scale across many states in India, often encounters the vagaries of weather conditions over the seasons. Several strategies and workable solutions are available to mitigate the climate-induced stresses in crops in general and sugarcane in particular. Evolving climate-resilient sugarcane genetic stock or parental clone is one of the focused breeding objectives with the ultimate purpose of evolving climate-resilient commercial sugarcane cultivars. Sugarcane breeders worldwide emphasize evolving sugarcane cultivars that can withstand different stresses posed by biotic and abiotic factors. Red rot, which was once considered an important disease in the subtropical region of India, is now a major disease in the tropical region of the country as well and phasing many high sugared and high-yielding varieties. Several sugarcane varieties especially those from sub-tropical India and basic species clones of Saccharum and related genera like Erianthus have been recognized as stable parents with respect to resistance to the predominant isolates/pathotypes of Colletotrichum falcatum prevailing in India. In India, sugarcane is also affected by another significant disease, i.e., smut caused by Sporisorium scitamineum, and the disease is much more pronounced in the ratoon crop than in the plant crop. Sources of resistance to smut were identified in S. officinarum clones and could be efficiently utilized in the commercial breeding

program. Very few diseases like pokkah boeng, rust, sugarcane grassy shoot and viral syndromes may assume greater importance if the macro and micro-climates are altered drastically. Besides the fungal diseases, yellow leaf disease (YLD) has inflicted more damage than other viral diseases. Incorporation of coat protein genes through transgenic or RNAi technology is being viewed as practical strategy to control YLD. Occurrence of drought, erratic rainfall necessitates developing drought tolerant varieties. Co, Co allied and other varieties and inter specific hybrids can be used as drought tolerant parents. Sugarcane grown under arid and semiarid region is subjected to salinity. Among the species clones, S. spontaneum, S. robustum and Narenga were flood tolerant while S. robustum is better at high temperature. Thermo-insensitive genotypes identified from varietal evaluation trials performed equally in both the extremes of temperature. To breed varieties with for higher winter ratooning ability, it is suggested to have one of the parents of subtropical origin. Among the different crossing methods, the bi-parental crossing is the most effective method in commercial sugarcane improvement. Development of pre-breeding materials or genetic stock with greater tolerance intensity by utilizing the wild species or intergeneric hybrids followed by bi-parental crossing between parents of diverse origin, where one parent with resistance to different biotic and abiotic stresses is the way forward to evolve climate-resilient sugarcane varieties.

Published: January 1, 2023

> **Link**

Agro-technologies to Sustain Sugarcane Productivity Under Abiotic Stresses



Sugarcane (Saccharum spp. hybrid) is a major crop that provides bioenergy, fibre, biofertilizer, and the myriad of by-products/co-products with ecological sustainability. Sugar industries are prominent in India, and they play an essential role in rural socioeconomic development by mobilizing rural resources and producing higher income and employment possibilities. The sugar industry is a seasonal business entirely reliant on the monsoon for optimal sugarcane production. Sugarcane farming has been confronted with multifarious demand, product diversification, and sustainability limitations in the recent past. To meet the escalating demands of sugar, holistic remedial measures in sugarcane farming need to be deployed to address production constraints and, particularly, sustained sugarcane productivity at the farm level. Droughts, shirking soil and water resources, salinity, alkalinity, waterlogging, high temperature, cold, frost, widespread iron and zinc deficiencies, etc., affect cane production significantly in many countries. These issues must be addressed through agronomic interventions and proper management to make sugarcane agriculture sustainable and profitable.

Published: January 1, 2023

> **Link**

Enhancing the co-production of sugars from sugarcane bagasse via CuCl2-catalyzed organosolv pretreatment and additives



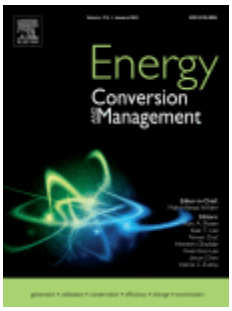
In this work, the effects of CuCl2-catalyzed organsolv on sugarcane bagasse pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis were investigated under different reaction conditions. The majority of hemicellulose and lignin were degraded when 0.025 mol/L CuCl2 were used in the pretreatment at 160 °C for 10 min, resulting in 89.25% of glucose yield after hydrolysis for 72 h, which was revealed by structure alteration, which was confirmed by different characterization analysis. Furthermore, the effect of additives

(Tween 80, BSA, tea saponin, and xylanse) on enzymatic hydrolysis was determined. Except for xylanse, the glucose and xylose yields were enormously enhanced by adding additives, and their increased yield rose initially and then declined with the extending of hydrolysis time. Combined with the pretreatment and enzymatic hydrolysis, the maximal total xylose and glucose yields reached 87.1% and 97.96%, respectively, by adding tea saponin (60 mg/g substrate) with reduction of 50% enzyme loading.

Article online now, journal to be published March 2023

> **Link**

Economic performance of biogas production and use from residues co-digestion in integrated 1G2G sugarcane biorefineries: Better electricity or biomethane?



Recovering bioenergy through anaerobic digestion (AD) has become the most attractive waste management approach in modern industrial plants, because both the environmental adequacy and the provision of clean biogas-derived energy can be successfully met. Recent investigations have particularly shown the energetic benefits of residue co-digestion in sugarcane biorefineries, which significantly enhances biogas production compared to mono-digestion schemes. This work carried out an economic analysis to assess the feasibility of producing biogas from residues co-digestion in an integrated 1G2G (first and second generation) ethanol biorefinery and its application in electricity and biomethane (BioCH4) production. Scenarios considered the mono-digestion of 1G vinasse in the season (MD1-base scenario), the mono-digestion of 1G vinasse in the season followed by the mono-digestion of 2G vinasse in the off-season (MD2), the co-digestion of 1G vinasse, filter cake and deacetylation liquor in the season followed by the co-digestion of filter cake and deacetylation liquor in the off-season (CD1), and finally the co-digestion of 1G vinasse, filter cake and deacetylation liquor in the season followed by the mono-digestion of 2G vinasse in the off-season (CD2). The scenarios comparison aimed to investigate the potential to implement year-round biogas production in sugarcane processing plants. The results showed that co-digestion-based scenarios (CD1 and CD2) had the best performance for producing both electricity and BioCH4 from biogas, with the higher profitability related to the latter. Scenario MD1 scenario presented a negative net present value (NPV) for both electricity and BioCH4 production, whilst only BioCH4 production would be profitable in scenario MD2. The NPV for electricity production in scenario CD2 reached USD 9 million (4-fold higher than mono-digestion of 1G vinasse reported in the literature), whilst a peak of USD 45 million was calculated for BioCH4 production. In addition, the current bioelectricity production from bagasse burning showed to be much more economically unfavorable compared to biogas production and use. Biogas recovery from residue co-digestion has been increasingly confirmed as an attractive alternative for energy generation within 1G2G ethanol biorefineries, maintaining year-round production and consisting of a robust BioCH4 source, with great potential to be used both as a biofuel to supply the plant's fleet and to replace natural gas via injection into the grid.

Article online now, journal to be published February 2023

> **Link**

Events

International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Founded 1924	**ISSCT XXXI Congress** *International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists / The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (STAI)* **February 2023** • ***Congress: 20-23 February*** • ***Pre-congress tour: 17-18 February*** • ***Post-congress tour 24-28 February*** **Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), India** > **Link**
10th International Conference on Sugar and Integrated Industries "February 11-14, 2023, Luxor , Egypt"	**The 10th International Conference on Sugar and Integrated Industries (ICSII-2023)** *Faculty of Sugar and Integrated Industries Technology, Assiut University, the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, India and the Egyptian Sugar Industry Companies* **February 11-14 2023** **Jolie Ville Resort & SPA kings Island Luxor, Luxor, Egypt** > **Link**
ASSCT Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists	**44th ASSCT Conference** *Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists* **April 18-21 2023** **Cairns Convention Centre (CCC), cnr Wharf & Sheridan Street, Cairns QLD 4870, Australia** > **Link**

	SIT Annual Technical Meeting *Sugar Industry Technologists* **7-11 May 2023** **Louisiana Sugar Refining, New Orleans, USA** > **Link**
	16th ISO DATAGRO NY Sugar & Ethanol Conference 2023 *ISO DATAGRO* **7-11 May 2023** **583 Park Avenue - New York - USA** > **Link**
	95th SASTA Congress *South African Sugar Technologists' Association* **15-17 August 2023** **ICC, Durban, South Africa** **Abstract submissions are due by 20 February 2023 and if accepted, the papers will be due for submission to SASTA in April 2023.** > **Link**
	XII Congreso ATALAC 2023 COSTA RICA *Asociación de Técnicos Azucareros de Latinoamérica y El Caribe ATALAC* **Congress: 18-20 September 2023** **Centro de Convenciones de Costa Rica, Heredia.** **Post-Congress: 21-22 September 2023** **Hotel Condovac La Costa, Guanacaste.** > **Link**