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Canevolution Summit 2028 Guatemala



28 January to 6 February 2028
Guatemala

Come experience the evolution of sugarcane in Guatemala!



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ATAGUA

GUATECAÑA
Promoting sustainable development

Welcome to **Guatemala**

We are pleased to welcome you to the journey towards the **ISSCT XXXIII Congress – Canevolution Summit Guatemala 2028,** a must-attend event for the global technical and commercial community of the Sugarcane Agroindustry. You will find a ideal platform to share knowledge with colleagues from around the world, explore real-world solutions, and experience personally the evolution of a sector in which science, innovation, and sustainability deliver measurable results.

From 28 January to 6 February 2028, we invite you to save the date and prepare for an experience that goes beyond a technical congress. This will be a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and discover Guatemala's sugarcane agroindustry in a country renowned for its hospitality, rich cultural and natural heritage, and strong commitment to sustainable development.

Come experience it. We look forward to welcoming you to Guatemala in 2028!







Guatemala: The Setting for Evolution

Four Destinations, One Unforgettable Experience

Guatemala—the Heart of the Mayan World and the Land of Eternal Spring—is a destination where millennia-old history and extraordinary biodiversity coexist in harmony. With its privileged climate and landscapes that range from majestic volcanoes to lush rainforests, it offers the perfect setting to connect ancestral heritage with a forward-looking vision of sustainability.

By attending the **ISSCT XXXIII Congress – Canevolution Summit 2028,** you will not only participate in a high-level technical gathering, but also discover a unique natural and cultural treasure which distinguishes itself by the warmth of its people and the richness of a truly captivating country.

Guatemala at a Glance



18.7 million Estimated population.

25 languages Spoken nationwide (Spanish and 24 Indigenous languages).

108,889 km² Total land area.

7.66 Approximate exchange rate of the Guatemalan **quetzal (GTQ)** per **U.S. dollar (USD).**

La Antigua Guatemala
(Pre-Congress | 28–29 January)



A colonial gem designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Amid cobblestone streets, Baroque facades, and centuries-old ruins, La Antigua rests beneath the watchful presence of three majestic volcanoes. It is a place where the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, the vibrant colors of traditional textiles, and the mystique of its plazas create a magical atmosphere to begin our journey of evolution.

45 km · Distance from Guatemala City

1,530 meters above sea level · Elevation

18°C to 24°C · Average temperature mild and spring-like

Guatemala's Pacific Coast
(Pre-Congress | 28–29 January)

90 km · Average distance from Guatemala City to the heart of the sugarcane region

0 - 500 meters above sea level · Elevation of the fertile Pacific plains

25°C to 33°C · Tropical climate, warm and radiant

From La Antigua Guatemala, we will travel to the fertile Pacific Coast—the epicenter of our operations. Here, sugarcane is transformed into a driver of development that generates far more than sugar: renewable energy, alcohol, and molasses while creating well-being and prosperity for hundreds of thousands of families.

Across this thriving landscape, our sugar mills operate alongside cutting-edge research centers. The scientific core that drives innovation and efficiency distinguishing us on the global stage. Visitors will witness firsthand how technological advancement and sustainability converge in the field, transforming the land into development and energy for the world.



Guatemala City
(Congress | 30 January – 3 February)



Guatemala City stands out for its dynamic blend of modern infrastructure and cultural heritage, offering internationally recognized hotels, a diverse network of museums, vibrant cultural districts, and contemporary shopping centers featuring exceptional dining, entertainment, and premium services.
Surrounded by volcanic landscapes and located just a short distance from La Antigua Guatemala, the capital is also home to an international airport within the metropolitan area, ensuring efficient access and seamless mobility for visitors.
It provides the ideal setting for professional engagement and high-level exchange, within an environment that invites exploration of the cultural richness and hospitality that define Guatemala.

1,500 meters above sea level · Elevation of the capital

18°C to 26°C · Average temperature mild and spring-like

3.3 million · Estimated population in the metropolitan area

Quetzaltenango
(Post-Congress | 4–5 February)

200 km · Distance from Guatemala City

2,330 meters above sea level · Elevation of the country's highest metropolitan city

12°C to 22°C · Cool, mountainous climate

Guatemala's second-largest city is the ideal destination for those seeking a deeper immersion into the culture and mysticism of the western highlands. This highland jewel offers a distinctive gastronomy and an architectural heritage that captivates at every turn. Visitors may explore the exclusive Museo Casa Botrán, where the story of one of the world's most awarded rum brands comes to life among aging barrels, or rejuvenate in the thermal waters of Fuentes Georginas, a natural sanctuary nestled in the mountains. Its privileged location also provides access to the majesty of Lake Atitlán, one of the most breathtaking natural landscapes in Central America. It is the perfect complement to a stay that balances technical rigor with the country's spiritual depth and natural richness.







GUATECAÑA
Promoting sustainable development

Efficiency and Innovation

Guatemala's sugarcane agroindustry is recognized as a global benchmark, built upon a model defined by operational efficiency, continuous innovation, and an unwavering commitment to sustainability.

Guatecaña, the sector's collective brand, is led by the Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala (Asazgua) and represents the technical leadership and the agroindustry's robust social, environmental, and economic contributions on the international stage.

The Engine of Development

The sugarcane agroindustry stands as one of the pillars of Guatemala's economy:

55,000 · Direct jobs
275,000 · Indirect jobs
330,000 · Families whose livelihoods depend on the sugarcane industry

Global Leadership and Productivity

In Guatemala, evolution is measured through performance and measurable outcomes. The country consistently ranks among the world's leading sugar producers and exporters:

2nd worldwide · Sugarcane yield (tons of cane per hectare)
4th worldwide · Sugar yield (tons of sugar per cultivated hectare)
2nd largest exporter · Sugar in Latin America
5th worldwide · Sugar producer and exporter

Affiliated Sugar Mills

EL PILAR, S.A. · Ingenio "La Sonrisa" · Ingenio La Unión · Madre Tierra · Magdalena · Ingenio Palo Gordo · Pantaleon · Santa Ana · SanDiego

Organizations that Make Up Guatecaña

Asazgua
(Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala)

Founded in 1957, the Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala is the trade organization that brings together the country's sugarcane-producing mills.

Asazgua promotes sustainable environmental practices through research and technological development, while also advancing community development initiatives and safeguarding dignified employment conditions throughout the sugarcane sector and its value chain.

Cengicaña
(Guatemalan Center for Research and Training of Sugarcane)

Established in 1992, Cengicaña serves as the sector's research and technical training center. It is dedicated to the development and adaptation of new technologies that strengthen agricultural productivity, innovation, and long-term sustainability.

Fundazucar

Created in 1990, Fundazucar is the social development arm of the sugarcane agroindustry. Through its programs, it promotes community development, strengthens municipal capacity, and contributes to improving the quality of life of thousands of Guatemalans.

Expogranel

Founded in 1994, Expogranel operates as the sector's sugar export terminal, enhancing Guatemala's global competitiveness. It is recognized as one of the most efficient bulk sugar terminals worldwide.

ICC
(Private Institute for Climate Change Research)

Established in 2010 as a sector initiative, the ICC serves as the agroindustry's leading technical and scientific authority on environmental matters. Its work focuses on research and projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Innovahub

Created in 2022 within the sugarcane agroindustry ecosystem, Innovahub promotes the development of innovative business models, technologies, and enabling infrastructure, fostering a dynamic innovation ecosystem in Guatemala.



The Heart of Technical Talent

The Guatemalan Association of Sugar Technologists (ATAGUA) is an autonomous, non-profit organization that represents the technical leadership of Guatemala's sugarcane agroindustry. Its core mission is to foster the integration and professional advancement of sugar technologists through the exchange of scientific expertise and professional collaboration at both national and international levels.

Guided by a commitment to excellence, ATAGUA provides the framework and resources necessary for the comprehensive development of its members, while contributing to the sustained productivity and long-term competitiveness of the agroindustry.

To fulfill its mission, the Association advances three strategic pillars:

1. **Strengthen technical training and continuous professional development** for its members.
2. **Organize national and international congresses** that showcase advances in technology, innovation, and sustainability.
3. **Promote sports and social initiatives** that foster engagement, cohesion, and a strong professional community among members and their families.

Organizing Committee

Honorary President of the Congress
Fraterno Vila G.
Director, Ingenio San Diego Trinidad

President of the Congress
Alfredo Vila G.
President, Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala
Director, Ingenio San Diego Trinidad

Vice President of the Congress
Álvaro Ruiz
Vice President, Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala General Manager, Ingenio La Unión

Secretary & Treasurer
Luis Miguel Paiz
General Manager, Association of Sugar Producers of Guatemala

General Manager
Mario Sagastume
Director General, Guatemalan Center for Research and Training of Sugarcane

Technical Coordinator
Gerardo Espinoza
Guatemalan Center for Research and Training of Sugarcane

International Relations Coordinator
Alex Guerra
Director General, Private Institute for Climate Change Research

Field Coordinator
Erick Corado
Ingenio Pantaleón

Factory Coordinator
Elfego Bautista
Ingenio La Unión

Logistics Coordinator
Ana Isabel López
Planifika

Honorary Coordinator
Mauricio Cabarrús
Ingenio Pantaleón

ISSCT

Connecting the Global Elite of the Sugarcane Industry

ISSCT is a global association of scientists, technologists, industry leaders, institutions, and corporations dedicated to advancing the sugarcane industry and its co-products. For more than a century, it has served as the premier international forum where the innovations shaping our sector are presented, debated, and refined.

Please note that attendance and participation in the Congress, workshops, and official events are strictly reserved for Society members. Membership in ISSCT is not only a prerequisite for attending the XXXIII ISSCT - Canevolution Summit 2028 but also provides access to a global network and cutting-edge technical knowledge at the forefront of sugarcane science and technology.

Join ISSCT

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https://issct.org/membership/

Global collaboration is the catalyst for sustained progress. Become a member today and join the international scientific community that will convene in Guatemala in 2028.