

Stakeholder Outreach Meeting
Tamil Nadu, India
15 June 2009
AGRONOMY

Stakeholder Outreach Meetings were held over three days in Tamil Nadu, India. BSI Executive, Natasha Schwarzbach, TWG Leader Peter Turner (Agronomy) and TWG leader Maryline Guiramand (Social); presented the BSI to a range of stakeholders from factory workers, breeders, soil specialists and researchers. General discussion followed each presentation.

The participants were divided into three groups - Processing/Milling, Social and Agronomy. Each group then gave feedback and below are the results of discussions, and information about India as a region.

Agronomy

S.No	Criteria	Comments
1.2	To demonstrate clear title to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents available with individual farmer / Government revenue department (land records) for verification. • Sugar factories do not own land for cane cultivation. • Cane is procured through signed bipartite agreement from the farmers. • Leasing of the lands between the farmers exists in small percentage.
2.1 - 2.6	To comply with ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farmers livelihood may depend on his family members working on the farm and it may be difficult to segregate age wise category. • Employment of farm hands in India is an often unorganized sector and not covered under the National labor laws. Monitoring and controlling farm labor employed by the farmer will be difficult. • In factory all the ILO indicators are in practice.
3.1	To monitor production and process efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though the inputs are arranged by the factory and the crop monitoring is done, the factory does not have control over the implementation of recommended practices and the consequent crop produced. • Biomass yield can be calculated based on the farm quantity supplied by the farmers.
3.2	To monitor climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can be calculated

4.1 & 4.2	Biodiversity and ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sugar factories are located mainly in agricultural cropping areas away from biodiversity parks/ reserved forest • The biodiversity is governed by the recently implemented National law monitored by the Government • Industry or the people access to the areas are restricted by the Government. Hence no private party monitoring is possible. • The present cultivation practices are multiple cropping for sustainability in agriculture areas • Separate measurements for sugarcane may not be possible
5.2	Improve the status of soil and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers are advised to follow the water conservation method like micro irrigation, mulching etc., • Appropriate soil analysis based fertilizer recommendation is given to the individual farmer. Implementation of the same is at the discretion of the farmer - the actual amount of fertilizer used may be difficult. • No control can be exercised on the quality of water used for irrigation by the farmers as it is drawn from diverse sources • Marginal lands (pH > 8) may also be cultivated by the farmer with or without appropriate soil amendment.
5.3	Improve the quality of sugarcane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is currently being practiced by research and development departments.
5.6	Effective and focused R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is currently in practice and can be calculated.
5.7	Environmental and Social impact assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is currently in practice and can be calculated.

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Department/Responsibility	Location
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