



## About Colombian Sugarcane Industry

Colombia's sugarcane agro-industrial sector is located between two mountain ranges in a flat valley in the southwestern region of [Colombia](#). Thanks to the privileged climate of the region, sugarcane can be sown and harvested during all months of the year. This agro-climatic condition, added to the technological advance promoted by the Sugarcane Research Center ([Cenicaña](#)), has led the region to specialize in cultivation and hold the leadership in productivity worldwide: more than 14 tons of sugar per hectare per year.

In 50 municipalities of six departments (Valle, Cauca, Risaralda, Caldas, Quindío and Meta) the most important agro-industrial cluster in the country is housed, made up of 15 agro-industrial plants, 15 energy co-generators, 7 bioethanol distilleries, a sugarcane research center, more than 50 specialized suppliers and 2,750 sugarcane growers who own 242 thousand hectares of sugarcane.

This agro-industrial sector, through innovation and research processes, has advanced important developments in the circular economy focused on the use of waste and recirculation of water in its production processes, which has allowed a 22% reduction in water consumption in the processes of manufacture of sugar and ethanol. Likewise, in the last 20 years, it has achieved a 50% reduction in the water used to irrigate sugarcane crops.

In terms of development and diversification, it has been focusing on environmentally sustainable technologies for the sugar production processes, energy and ethanol

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cogeneration, likewise, it has focused on the agricultural residues of the harvest (RAC for its acronym in Spanish) in order to obtain other products with added value. In the field, the development and adaptation of technologies and varieties have made an important contribution to the agronomic management of the crop and its harvest.

Not only has it worked on productive aspects, but also on sustainability, that is why this sector has been working on environmental and social processes with which it seeks to weave a work of shared value in the regions where it is present. It should also be mentioned that since sugar is a 100% natural food and committed to people's health, this sector undertook a food and nutritional education strategy that seeks to promote healthy habits and lifestyles in families, where the balance and information is the key to eating properly, and where moderate sugar consumption is possible.

All these developments in innovation, diversification and [sustainability of the Colombian Sugarcane Agro-industrial Sector](#), as well as the current behavior and prospects of the international sugar, ethanol and energy markets, will be presented between June 14 and 18 in the framework of the [International Sugar Organization Workshop \(ISO\)](#), which will be held through virtual platforms, and for which we invite all sugarcane and beet producing and processing countries to this important event that will bring together nationally and internationally renowned experts who will deal with the previously mentioned topics.