

# National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.

## Monthly Activities Report – August, 2025

06/10/2025

### Event: 1/1

Criteria	Details
<b>Location</b>	Date: 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 2025 Venue: NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi
<b>Event/ Activity Name</b>	National Consultation on Sustainable Sugarcane Economy
<b>Brief Information on the Activity</b>	<p>A national consultation on sustainable sugarcane economy was organized in New Delhi by NFCSF, ICAR and Rural Voice. The event brought together farmers, policymakers, and experts to discuss challenges and solutions for the sector.</p> <p>Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture &amp; Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji was the chief guest of the event. Hon'ble Minister announced formation of a separate sugarcane research team in ICAR. He also stressed on Stressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alternatives to Co-0238 are urgently needed.</li> <li>○ Focus on mechanization, cost reduction, water efficiency, and sugar recovery.</li> <li>○ Farmers' profits could increase through value-added products and natural farming.</li> <li>○ Address delays in cane payments and labor shortages.</li> <li>○ Need to explore intercropping instead of mono-cropping.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Declared that the five-year sugarcane roadmap will be based on this consultation.</li> </ul> <p>Expert panelists included among others, Dr. M. L. Jat, DG, ICAR &amp; Secretary, DARE; Dr. Devendra Kumar Yadav (DDG, Crop Science), ICAR; Dr. Rajbir Singh (DDG, Agricultural Extension), ICAR; Dr. P. Govindaraj (Director, SBI, Coimbatore), Dr. Dinesh Singh (Director, IISR, Lucknow), Shri Ketan Kumar Patel, Vice President, NFCSF, Shri Prakash Naiknavare, MD, NFCSF; Harveer Singh, Editor-in-Chief, Rural Voice. etc. From private sector, panelists included Shri Deepak Ballani, DG, ISMA, Shri Roshan Lal Tamak, CEO, Sugar Business, DCM Shriram Ltd. and Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Executive Chairman, Renuka Sugars Ltd.</p>

The event included comprised of four technical sessions in addition to the inaugural session. The topics for the sessions were Varietal Development and Sustainable Intensification/Diversification, Mechanization & Micro-Irrigation, Natural Resource Management, AI & Future Technologies and Policy & Planning.

**Major Concerns Raised by Farmers:**

- Declining productivity and rising pest attacks.
- Lack of viable alternatives to the popular CO-0238 variety.
- High input costs (especially fertilizers) not matched by cane price increases.
- Need for mechanization suited to smallholders.
- Intercropping practices (e.g., peanuts with cane) shown to boost yield and reduce pests.

**Expert Recommendations:**

- Speed up variety development and release (cut from 10–12 years to 6–7 years).
- Promote disease-resistant, high-yielding varieties via tissue culture.
- Establish a National Sugarcane Development Board.
- Encourage mechanization (smaller harvesters, cooperative use of machines).
- Expand intercropping with pulses/oilseeds to improve soil health and reduce imports.
- Use AI and digital tools for irrigation, yield prediction, and cost reduction (already showing 30–40% yield gains in pilots).

**Policy & Pricing Issues:**

- Ethanol pricing hasn't increased in 3 years, hurting mills despite higher cane costs.
- Oil companies pay less for cane ethanol vs. grain ethanol, distorting incentives.
- Experts stressed aligning FRP/MSP, sugar prices, and ethanol prices to support both farmers and mills.

<b>Objective</b>	The objective of the National Consultation on Sugarcane Economy was to integrate farmers' concerns with expert insights to chart out practical solutions and to build the foundation for a robust, future-ready National Sugarcane Policy.
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<b>No. of Participants</b>	350
<b>Achievements &amp; Outcomes</b>	Sugarcane is no longer just a sugar crop – it fuels ethanol, green energy, and multiple by-products, making it central to India’s farm economy and energy transition. The consultation stressed farmer-centric policies, faster innovation, mechanization for small farms, and fair pricing to make the sector sustainable.
<b>Photographs &amp; AV Content</b>	Attached
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<b>Additional Remarks</b>	