

# Sustainable Sugarcane



## Fostering responsible growth

Supply chains of international agricultural commodities need to foster social and ecological sustainability.

All links in the value chain, from farm to fork, increasingly require companies to act responsibly and to demonstrate this. These companies can rely on the ProTerra Foundation.

The ProTerra Foundation supports companies to continuously improve their performance in social and environmental sustainability. Via the ProTerra Standard – a multi-crop certification scheme focusing on human rights and good labour practices, good agricultural practices and protecting areas with high biodiversity and conservation values – and the ProTerra Network – a corporate community to create sustainable food and feed supply chains.

The ProTerra Foundation's mission is to be a global network of businesses supporting more sustainable agricultural practices in the food and feed supply chains, where relevant, the conversion to non-GMOs and full respect of workers and communities' dignity.

ProTerra envisages a world where all businesses contribute to the protection of biodiversity by switching to sustainable production, conserve natural resources and ensure that local communities are treated with dignity and respect.



# Sugarcane a global crop

- Grown in over 100 (sub-)tropical countries
- Over 100 million people worldwide rely on sugarcane for their livelihood
- Employs some 25% of rural workforce in Brazil
- Supplies 86% of global demand for sugar
- 90% of certified sugarcane comes from South-America
- Global production 1,950 million metric tonnes (2019)
- 1.1% is the expected annual growth of sugarcane production between 2018 and 2027

3.2% of global production was certified in 2016



Brazil produces almost 40% of global volume



52% was the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of certified sugar from 2008 to 2016



Top 5-countries (Brazil, India, Thailand, China, Pakistan) represent over 75% of global volume

## Sugarcane A challenging crop



Soaring demand for sustainable sugarcane results from increased attention for responsibly produced and processed sugarcane. This responds to concerns regarding reported cases of illegal land acquisition, and labour rights issues like forced and child labour. Also, occupational health and safety issues at plantations and mills have been reported. Environmental challenges relate to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions due to sugarcane field burning before manual harvesting. Water stress following overconsumption, and pollution via agricultural runoff due to overapplication of fertilizers and pesticides, also concern stakeholders, not in the least the members of ProTerra.



Ensuring sustainable growth is a huge responsibility for all links in the value chain. ProTerra enables its network members to create positive long-term social and environmental impact. This is promoted by the ProTerra Standard and the ProTerra Network.

**“** Since Surin Sugar Co. Ltd. had received Proterra certificate, this has elevated us to another level. My business peer begin to ask what is this standard, and sugarcane growers have also realized the by practicing Proterra standard the need of reducing chemical is important for their health and environment.”

Sittitaph Nonthasakol, Surin Sugar Co. Ltd - System standard senior officer

## The ProTerra Standard

ProTerra is a multi-crop standard that can also be applied to sugarcane. It has established a strong track record of advancing the sustainability of food and feed supply chains through certification. The ProTerra Standard offers benefits such as:

- ❖ It covers all areas of sustainability, supporting companies to manage and mitigate supply chain related risks.
- ❖ It is a multi-crop, non-GMO standard that is globally present, therefore companies can use the Standard for multiple commodities.
- ❖ It has a benchmark process allowing for managing multiple standards under one scheme.
- ❖ It focuses on creating synergies, transparency, reducing complexity and costs, helping to realise company projects and goals much easier and in an efficient way.

Companies need to demonstrate adherence to relevant principles, criteria and indicators of the ProTerra Standard, according to the level on which they operate:



**Level I: Agricultural production**



**Level II: Transport, Storage, Traders and Dealers**



**Level III: Industrial Processing**

## ProTerra: a global sugarcane standard

In 13 countries worldwide, companies promote social and environmental sustainability by verifying their operations against the ProTerra Standard. In 3 countries – Belize, Dominican Republic and Thailand – companies use the ProTerra Standard for certification by a registered independent ProTerra auditor. This standard is regularly updated, taking into account continuous improvement of sustainable operations.



“CAEI was the first sugar mill to obtain the ProTerra certification in the Dominican Republic. Achieving this certification is a result of the work we do to produce high-quality, sustainable sugar, while respecting local and international regulations, preserving the environment and being socially responsible. We are focused on continuous improvement and finding efficient and better ways to carry out our processes, and the guiding principles of the ProTerra certification support us in this endeavour.”

Josefina Elsa Dieguez, manager sustainability, CAEI



## The ProTerra Network



### **A growing network**

In recent years the membership base of the ProTerra Network has been broadened from 17 companies in 2015 to 69 network members in the first quarter of 2021, and the numbers are rising. Simultaneously ProTerra developed into a multi-crop network, with increasing attention for sugarcane.



### **All regions, one mission**

Members of the ProTerra network are from all geographical regions, representing businesses and other stakeholders throughout the value chain. All adhering to ProTerra Foundation's mission to support more sustainable agricultural practices.

## Benefits of joining the ProTerra Network



Demonstrate proactive engagement and commitment regarding climate change, biodiversity and social issues to your stakeholders, customers and investors.



Gain access to a relevant community of stakeholders with opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.



Secure consumer approval by credible claims about supporting sustainability initiatives like preventing deforestation.

**“** We have used the ProTerra standard as a tool to assure sustainability in our raw sugar supply chain for many years. The standard is easy for our suppliers to understand while comprehensively covering the key sustainability criteria.”

*Julia Clark, Director Sugar Ethics, Tate & Lyle Sugars*







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