Industry Position Paper

Agreed at Regional Workshop on Sugar: The Caribbean Sugar Industry post-2017

To support the long-term viability and a prosperous future for the sugar industry, industry representatives from across the sector have met over two days to agree on the priorities for the sector.

They have identified and agreed the following areas for priority action by industry and policy makers:

Industry resolves to:

1) engage with industrial users of sugar in the Caribbean to understand their needs and define a strategy which is mutually satisfactory.

2) engage with labour to develop a new long-term pact for the industry

3) make full use of US quotas for sugar imports from CBI and US shortfall access

4) show leadership on training through promoting apprenticeship schemes and other upskilling; and industry approaches to benchmarking and best practice including on mechanisation of the industry, climate smart agriculture, and the efficiencies that can be achieved. This will include working with regional universities and technical institutes

5) develop a proactive communications and public affairs campaign to champion the industry across the region and to highlight the positive economic contribution sugar makes now and will make in the future
6) analyse the current regulatory systems and institutional structures in place for sugar and make recommendations to producer Governments on reform to boost economic performance of the industry

7) strengthen SAC to unify the industry’s policy positions, and provide the technical papers, expertise to enable government representatives to advocate effectively on the industry’s behalf

**Industry requests the following urgent action from Governments:**

1) Industry urges as the highest priority the consolidation of the regional sugar market under CSME to incentivise local refining capacity. The industry seeks the effective application of the CET, and for a review and application of CET rules of origin to ensure that all raw and refined sugars and sugar-containing produce originating from outside CARICOM are uniformly subject to the full 40% tariff. Industry also seeks that the CET also applies to high fructose products and sweeteners.

2) Industry urges CARICOM sugar producer governments to make electricity cogeneration and ethanol production an income generating activity which supports viable investment in the sugar industry

3) Industry strongly request that national governments and CARICOM intensify lobbying activities in the UK and other markets, pursuing an ambitious sugar policy which includes a basis for continuity of supply from Caribbean suppliers.

4) Industry also encourage CARICOM on behalf of its sugar producing states to expand its efforts in seeking opportunities for Caribbean sugar exports to other new markets around the world.

*Agreed 24th March 2017*