



EU BEET SUGAR
SUSTAINABILITY
PARTNERSHIP



OVERVIEW

OUR CROP, OUR SECTOR, OUR SUSTAINABILITY



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INTRODUCTION

Sugar beet is an important crop in the European Union, grown in 19 member states. Every year, our farmers and sugar producers generate billions of Euros in value to rural communities across our regions. From common household white sugar, to high-tech products, the companies of the European sugar industry are active in the development of a wide range of products, all of which originate from sugar beet. These include food ingredients, animal feed, green chemistry products (replacing petroleum-based materials) and renewable ethanol for food and non-food uses. Other products such as sugar factory lime, soil and stones serve as value-added inputs to the agriculture, construction, chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. Our sector is therefore a key contributor to the transition to the bio-based economy in Europe.

We provide livelihoods and economic empowerment to rural families and communities, and we are responsible for stewardship of the landscape and our natural capital. Our products are essential ingredients in the world's supply chains.

We know how important sustainability is. We also know how difficult it is to balance choices in complex global markets and supply chains to achieve sustainability goals. We are proud of our efforts to measure and manage our sustainability impacts robustly and responsibly. We have worked hard to improve and maintain our sustainability credentials. We have listened and responded to our stakeholders – our results and performance speak for themselves.

The European beet sugar sector has the technical skills, commitment to social and environmental excellence and a strong agricultural tradition that will ensure our sustainable contribution into the future. We have a well-established framework of collaboration between beet growers and sugar manufacturers which has enabled us to deliver sustainability improvements over recent decades. The EU Beet Sugar Sustainability Partnership (BSSP) is our sector's commitment to creating further positive sustainability outcomes for years to come. One of our most important activities to this end is the establishment of the BSSP Good Practices.

THE EU BEET SUGAR SECTOR KEY FACTS



1.55m

hectares in the EU used to grow sugar beet



140,000

farms involved in sugar beet cultivation



109

factories processing sugar beet



180,000

jobs supported directly and indirectly by the beet sugar sector

Our products

- Food & beverages
- Livestock feed
- Agricultural improvement
- Horticultural products
- Sports amenities
- Construction
- Green chemistry
- Energy generation

ABOUT THE GOOD PRACTICES

We have developed the Good Practices to capture a wide variety of techniques, tools and practices used by the sector, all adapted to the different growing and processing conditions and agricultural and industrial customs across the EU, underpinned by a commitment to technical environmental excellence and social dialogue. The Good Practices represent an opportunity to share and develop our performance across the sector and the region. They provide a platform to make our practices and commitments clear for our stakeholders. And they serve as the basis for strong and transparent engagement with markets and policy makers going forward.

DIAGRAM: ISSUE/IMPACT AREAS AT A GLANCE



WHAT THE GOOD PRACTICES DELIVER

We developed the Good Practices to:

- Give our **industrial customers** an understanding of and confidence in our approach to sustainability – fully compatible with their own commitments and strategic goals
- Give leading **sustainability advocates** the tools to assess our performance in managing our impacts on the environment and on society – to track how our sector has changed for the better
- Provide our **sector members**, from beet growers to workers to sugar manufacturers, a coordinated platform and voice of the sector on sustainability – strengthening and enabling our commitment to sustainable performance
- Support our **regulators and policy makers** in bringing about a sustainable and reliable industry with the resilience to change in response to new social, environmental and economic imperatives
- Help **consumers and the public** make informed choices about the products and industries they support through their daily purchases.

A HANDS-ON RESOURCE

The Good Practices cover approaches to environmental and social stewardship in beet cultivation and in sugar production. They are illustrated with over 80 different examples from across the EU. The case studies represent only a small selection of the many sustainability practices through this highly diverse region. They are further underpinned by the relevant EU legislation and regulatory instruments.

CONTENTS: THE GOOD PRACTICES COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICAL AREAS		
Soil fertility	Material efficiency	Human rights
Plant health	Dust, noise and odours	Education and training
Water	Water use efficiency	Health and safety
Soil biodiversity	Effluents and waste	Employer-employee relations
Field biodiversity	Energy use	Fair pay
Harvest and post-harvest management		Working conditions
Products		Restructuring
CO ₂ emissions		Ethics, transparency and anti-corruption
Protecting carbon sinks		Local economy

FURTHER RESOURCES

As part of this initiative, we have produced a range of materials to inform and aid understanding of the Good Practices for different users:

- **European Beet Sugar: Sustainability Challenges and Achievements.** An overview of the material economic, social and environmental impacts – both positive and negative – associated with beet sugar in the EU
- **Issue Briefs:** A series of short reference documents covering specific sustainability topics pertinent to the sector in focus, which will be expanded and refreshed over time
- **Sustainability: The EU BSSP Good Practices.** The detailed technical handbook presenting the Good Practices and their supporting materials.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

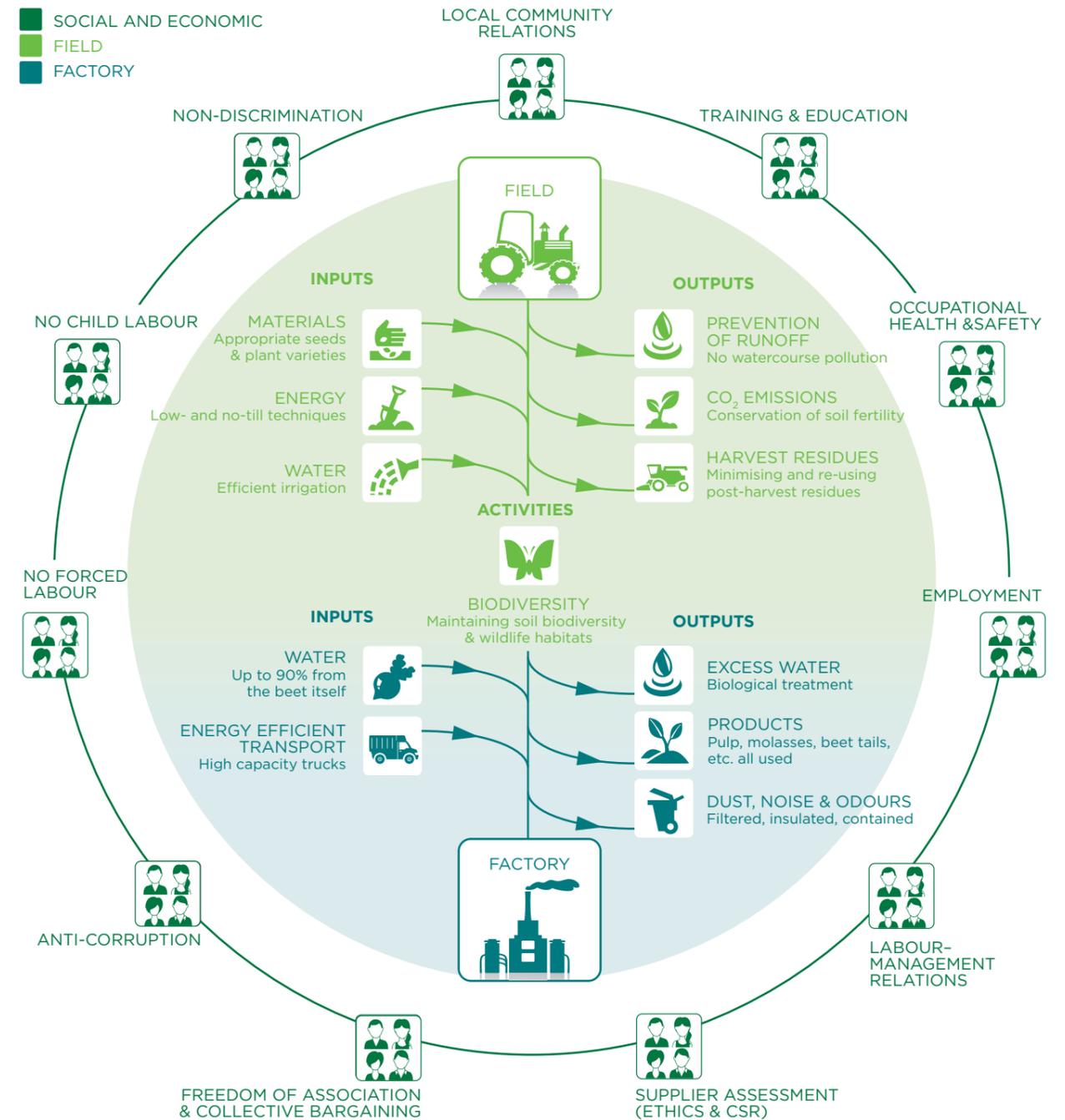
The EU Beet Sugar Sustainability Partnership is formed of the associations of the European beet farmers and sugar manufacturers, together with their labour partners. Established in June 2013, we aim to collaborate on the sustainability agenda for the beet sugar production industry in the EU.

Through our shared understanding of beet sugar sustainability in Europe, we aim to:

- Facilitate access to and dissemination of knowledge regarding sustainable practices in the sector
- Help to consolidate sustainable practices in EU beet growing and processing
- Provide a platform for dialogue on sustainability with our stakeholders

We are committed to positive collaboration, engaging in constructive dialogue and reaching out to our stakeholders, while delivering useful tools and outputs for the sector.

SUSTAINABILITY FROM FIELD TO FACTORY





EU BEET SUGAR SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

-  SUGAR BEET AREA
-  BEET SUGAR FACTORY
-  BEET ETHANOL FACTORY
-  COMBINED BEET FACTORY AND CANE SUGAR REFINERY



CIBE, founded in 1927, represents 300,000 sugar beet growers from 16 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the United Kingdom) plus Switzerland and Turkey.

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Founded in 1953, **CEFS** represents all European beet sugar manufacturers and cane sugar refiners, covering sugar production in 21 EU countries plus Switzerland.

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EFFAT results from the merger of two European federations IECF-IUF and EFAI in 2000. It represents 120 national trade unions from 35 countries, defending the interests of more than 2.6 million members in the food, agriculture and tourism sectors.

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