

## **THE NORTH INDIAN SUGARCANE AND SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (NISSTA), LUCKNOW**

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the North Indian Sugarcane and Sugar Technologists Association (NISSTA) remained dormant for a considerable period. However, after the election of the new Board of Governors and the assumption of office for the tenure 2025–2030, the Association has resumed its activities with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.

The present Board of Governors is as follows:

1. Prof. D. Swain – President
2. Dr. Ram Murti Singh – Vice President
3. Mr. Vivek Singh – General Secretary
4. Mrs. Mamta Khan – Treasurer
5. Sri Rama Shankar Singh – Member, Governing Board
6. Sri Bhagwati Prasad Srivastava – Member, Governing Board
7. Mrs. Monika Yadav – Member, Governing Board

### **Background and Objectives**

NISSTA was founded in 2015 at a time when the sugar industry in North India was facing a severe financial crisis. The market price of sugar had fallen below its cost of production, creating significant challenges for sugar mills, sugarcane growers, and other stakeholders associated with the industry.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, the Association was established to create awareness and promote knowledge-sharing among sugarcane growers, industrialists, scientists, technologists, ethanol producers, distillery operators, and other stakeholders. The primary objective of NISSTA has been to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge, promote technical excellence, and encourage the adoption of modern technologies and best practices in the sugar and allied industries.

### **Activities During the First Term (2015–2020)**

During its first term, the Association organized several seminars and technical events for the benefit of the sugar industry and related sectors:

1. A seminar was organized on 18 April 2015 at Lucknow University in collaboration with the Lucknow Management Association, Lucknow.
2. A seminar was organized in collaboration with the ICAR–Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow, on 22 August 2015.
3. A seminar was organized in collaboration with the Cogeneration Association of India, Pune, on 8 October 2015.
4. A seminar was organized in association with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on 10 October 2015.

5. The First Annual Convention of NISSTA was held on 29–30 April 2016 at the ICAR–Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.
6. A technical seminar was organized by NISSTA on 7 December 2017.
7. A National Seminar on “Biofuel Production in India: Potential, Prospects and Technology” was held in collaboration with the CSIR–Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, on 21 February 2020.

## **Activities During the Second Term (2020–2025)**

The second term of the Association, extending from May 2020 to May 2025, was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed during that period. These circumstances limited the scope for conducting regular activities and events.

Despite these challenges, the Association successfully organized a seminar at Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Ganna Kisan Sansthan, 17 Newberry Road, Dali Bagh, Lucknow, on 24 June 2022. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mr. Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy, IAS, then Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The seminar featured distinguished speakers, including Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Principal Scientist (Retd.), ICAR–Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, and Dr. Birendra Singh, Director, Directorate of Sugarcane Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. They delivered informative lectures on global sugarcane and sugar production trends and India's position among the leading sugar-producing nations.

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR–Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, also delivered valuable presentations on contemporary issues relevant to the sugarcane and sugar industry.

## **Recent Developments**

As NISSTA continued to make progress in fulfilling its objectives, certain disputes led to litigation that temporarily affected the smooth functioning of the Association, including its banking operations. These issues were subsequently resolved through appropriate legal and administrative processes.

The Association is now functioning smoothly and actively under the leadership of Prof. D. Swain, former Director of the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur. With the support of its members and stakeholders, NISSTA is committed to strengthening its role as a platform for technical exchange, professional development, and industry advancement.

The President has conveyed his message to sugarcane growers, scientists, technologists, industrialists, and all professionals associated with the sugar and allied industries, reaffirming the Association's commitment to promoting innovation, sustainability, and technological progress for the benefit of the sector.