

## Stakeholder Outreach Meeting

Eston, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Monday 30 March 2009

Presentation on BSI by David Willers, General Manager

### *Discussion and Comment*

- Eston growers all proactive in terms of environmental and social practices - fully supportive of the need for environmental and social sustainability.
- Government conducts regular safety checks on farms.
- Some Certification systems are losing customers due to time and financial burden - too onerous and more costly than the value being achieved. Simple audit procedures are necessary.
- Eston growers intend to be SusFarms compliant by 2014.
- Comment: Food production appears to be under more pressure from a sustainability perspective than mining?
- There is scope for vastly increased ethanol production via breeding for biomass in sugarcane and if cellulose can be successfully converted.
- Small holder grower farms may be difficult to measure unless taken as part of a catchment, in particular in respect of land use plans and farm layouts to comply with SusFarms.
- In general, growers were supportive of the need for sustainability standards provided they were cost effective and not too onerous.

### *Present*

Conservancy and Local environment committee members  
SA Cane Growers Association - Grower support officer (Patrick Bhengu)  
Mill Cane Committee Chairman (Petros Shange)  
Chairman KZN Conservancies Association ( Malcolm Stainbank)  
Local Environment Committee members (Cane Growers- Campbell Blamey, Don Milne, Trevor O'Neill)  
Agricultural Consultant/Adviser ( Doug Hellmann)  
SASRI Extension Officer (Otto de Haas)  
BSI - David Willers (Project Manager)

*Report by Peter Turner, Leader TWG Agronomy*