

Sugar industry of India



Sugar cane cutting

Sugar has been produced in the Indian subcontinent since ancient times and then it spread to other parts of the world.

Sugarcane is a native of tropical Indian

subcontinent and Southeast Asia.^[1] In India, sugarcane is planted thrice a year in October, March and July depending on part of the country.^[2] Most of the sugar production in India takes at local Cooperative Sugar mills.^{[3][4]} After gaining Independence, India made serious plans for overall industrial development of sugar industry.^[5]

Market



Sugarcane weighing at sugar mill

Sugar industry is a big business in India. Around 525 mills produced more than 30 million tonnes of sugar in the last crushing season^[6], which lasted from October to April. This makes it the world's largest producer, unseating Brazil. Some 50 million farmers and millions of more workers, are involved in sugarcane farming.^[7] India is the world's largest consumer of sugar^{[8][9]}. According to data from the Indian Sugar Mills Association, the country's sugar mills will produce 35.5 million tonnes of sugar in 2018–19.^[10]

Products and by-products

The processing of sugarcane generates bagasse, molasses and press mud. Indian sugar industry has been using these by-products to generate bioethanol, electricity and many other products over the years.
[11]

Organizations

- Indian Sugar Mills Association
(ISMA)^[12]
- All India Sugar Trade Association
(AISTA)^[13]
- National Sugar Institute (NSI)^[14]

- The Sugar Technologists Association of India (STAI)^[15]

See also

- Cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra
- Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research
- History of sugar

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