

International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists' Pre-Congress Tour

ISSCT Congress

ISSCT Congresses are held every three years at different locations around the world. The next International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa during July/August 2007. The congress is held over five days during which factory and agricultural scientific papers are presented. The latest information can be viewed on the ISSCT website:
<http://www.issct.org> or
<http://www.sasa.org.za>

Pre-Congress Tours

Pre-Congress technical tours are usually held prior to each congress. These tours give the delegates attending the congress an insight into the manufacturing, production systems and methods used in the host country, which this year is South Africa. It is also an excellent opportunity for our local industry to share information in many fields of sugar production and agricultural practices. The tours are as follows:

The Gold Tour is the main pre-congress tour for the congress in July. In addition, there are two more agriculture and one factory tour that has been arranged for delegates attending the 26th ISSCT Congress. The four tours are:

- Gold Tour (Mpumalanga, Swaziland and Empangeni)
- Factory Tour (Durban based sugar institutions, UCL Co. Ltd, Illovo Sugar – Noodsberg, Tongaat-Hulett – Felixton sugar mills and Mondi Packaging Plant at Felixton.
- Agricultural Tour #1 (Durban based sugar in institutions, KZN game parks and UVS Estate)
- Agricultural Tour #2 (SASA institutions, North Coast, Midlands and South Coast regions)

Organization

The Gold Tour, Agricultural Tour #2 and the Factory Tour will all converge at Empangeni on Saturday, July 28, 2007 to visit both Tongaat-Hulett Sugar's Felixton sugar mill, Mondi Paper Packaging plant and the UVS Estate. In order to coordinate these events Tongaat-Hulett Sugar, Mondi and UVS have formed tour organizing committees.

The Felixton sugar mill visit is being organized by Deon van den Berg, Paul Schorn and other Tongaat-Hulett Sugar staff. The Agricultural tour named the 'Felixton / UVS. ISSCT Pre-Congress Organizing Committee and growers participating in the demonstration is made up of the following members:
Tom Fortmann – Chairman,
Felixton/UVS Organizing Committee
Patrick Addison
Peter Young
Shaun Leslie
Bruce Nicholson
Rusty Tedder
Warren Ric-Hansen
Dave Stead
Quentin Beningfield
Eddie Meyer – Chairman, ISSCT Pre-Congress Tours

Gold Tour

Delegates on the Gold Tour after visiting Mpumalanga and Swaziland on Thursday and Friday respectively will travel down to Empangeni on the morning of July 28 by coach. Factory delegates after enjoying lunch at the Felixton mill will tour the factory in the afternoon. The agricultural delegates will meet up with the Agricultural Tour #1 delegates at the Cane-fields Restaurant for lunch.

The Gold Tour agricultural delegates will travel to UVS after lunch and be shown some of demonstration in the green cane harvesting and cane handling systems

that the Agricultural Tour #1 delegates were shown during the morning sessions.

The Gold Tour factory delegates will visit Tongaat-Hulett Sugar's Felixton sugar mill after lunch. The highlights of the mill visit include the following:

- The largest sugar mill in South Africa (600tc/h)
- Rail and road cane receiving facilities
- 12 m wide mud recycling diffusers
- Kestner (LTCF) as first and second effect evaporators
- First factory to employ continuous pans on A, B and C massecuites
- New direct white sugar plant

Factory Tour

Delegates on the Factory Tour will travel up from Durban by coach on Saturday, July 28 in morning to visit the Felixton sugar mill. The highlights of the mill visit are as shown under the Gold Tour factory visit.

After enjoying lunch at the Felixton mill, the Factory Tour delegates will visit the Mondi Packaging Plant in the afternoon. The plant which is located adjacent to the Felixton sugar mill and uses large quantities of baggase produced by the sugar mill.

Agricultural Tour #1

Agricultural tour delegates after spending a day in either the Hluhluwe and Umfolozi game parks will travel down by coach on the morning of July 28 to the UVS Estate. The demonstrations at UVS Estate will focus on both conservation and sustainable sugar cane production systems. The morning demonstrations will include the following:

- Conventional and improved manual green cane harvesting systems
- Mechanical whole stalk and green cane chopper harvester systems

- Manual and mechanical trash handling systems
- Manual green cane stacking and tractor drawn self-loading infield transport system
- Mechanical loading using grab and push-pile loaders loading from windrowed cane into tractor drawn rear-tipping and basket trailers
- Transloading of loose and bundled cane on a transloading zone using both grab and mobile crane respectively.

Afternoon Demonstrations

After enjoying lunch at the Cane-fields restaurant together with the Gold Tour agricultural delegates, the delegates will return to UVS Estate to view both crop re-establishment and ratoon crop management practices including the following:

- Manual planting and covering
- Minimum tillage soil preparation and manual planting
- Various types of manual and

mechanical herbicide application methods

- Several types of manual operated and mechanical fertilizer applicators that either band, broadcast and incorporate the fertilizer
- The application of CMS using manually operated as well as tractor mounted boom sprayers and trailed tanker applicators.

All the delegates of the Gold, Factory and Agricultural Tour #1 will depart Empangeni at mid afternoon by coach for Durban. They will then attend the ISSCT Congress starting on Sunday, July 29, 2007.

This year's ISSCT will surely be very informative for all cane producers and processors and is a must for industry personnel. The pre-tours are also very educational for delegates learning new and innovative procedures of the South African sugar industry.

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