

EDITORIAL NOTE

A widely varied and stimulating discussion took place during the 4 days of the seminar. This is too long to publish in this report. The following were among major points made:-

- (1) The results of cane sugar research should be more widely disseminated among ACP countries and industries.
- (2) Further study should be made of the optimum size of cane farms and estates.
- (3) The importance of cane sugar production as an agro-economic industry, for the development of a large range of skills, should not be forgotten.
- (4) The problem of getting young people onto the land to take part in the sugar industry, including the provision of substantial amenities, requires intensive work and study. One of the difficulties stems from the seasonal nature of much of the work.
- (5) Government levies impose considerable disadvantages on the cane industry in contrast with the beet industry.
- (6) ACP sugar industries need to give further careful study to the reduction of production costs.
- (7) ACP countries are at a serious disadvantage in the terms on which they have to import expensive fertilisers and machinery from the developed countries.
- (8) The Lomé Convention should be further studied to see if additional assistance for the ACP sugar industries could be obtained from it, outside the Sugar Protocol.
- (9) The importance of physical access to the British and EEC markets in addition to access guaranteed under the Protocol needs to be stressed.
- (10) It has to be remembered that beet producers live closer to their governments in the EEC than do ACP cane producers.
- (11) The role and influence of EEC institutions such as the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee, and other Community Committees, are of considerable importance to ACP sugar.

- (12) In addition to the EEC, the importance of the USA, Canada and Japan in the negotiation and operation of a new ISA should not be forgotten.
- (13) In British beet production, further expansion of acreages could lead to difficulties such as higher transport costs, but there is still considerable room for improvement in yields on existing acreages.
- (14) The sugar trade, and ACP sugar in particular, needs to be made more comprehensible to 'the man in the street'.
- (15) In encouraging trade union interest in, and activity on behalf of, ACP sugar attention should be paid to the Commonwealth Trade Union Council and the International Federation of Plantation and Allied Workers.
- (16) Diversification in the ACP cane sugar countries is far more difficult to achieve than in European countries.
- (17) 'A sugar desk' might be established at ACP Embassies and High Commissions.
- (18) There are links of self-interest between North and South, particularly in relation to employment in both developed and developing countries. These need to be stressed and exploited.