Premier Sugar Industry Conference

Sugar industry researchers, millers and growers from Australia and overseas will soon gather in Bundaberg to discover the latest developments and innovations in sugar technology.

The Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) 37th Annual Conference is a prominent event on this year’s sugar industry calendar. The conference theme is ‘Promoting Australian Innovation and Technology’ and will be held in Bundaberg from April 28-30.

ASSCT President, Neil Sichter said the number of papers on the program demonstrates the strong support for this event from researchers and presenters. The 53 papers cover a wide range of interests from manufacturing to agricultural topics that will assist the Australian sugar industry to enhance its competitive position.

“We are pleased to have two internationally renowned keynote speakers, Professor Peter Rein and Chris Norris.

“Peter Rein is the author of the latest ‘Cane Sugar Engineering’ handbook. His presentation will review the current status of sugar processing technology across the world’s sugar industries and give us some insight into where he sees sugar technology development is headed.

“On the farming side Chris Norris has over 35 years’ experience in improving agricultural mechanisation systems. He also has an extensive understanding of agricultural processes established over decades of involvement in research and development projects. His presentation will cover emerging trends and the state-of-the-art cane growing, harvesting and agricultural engineering of sugar producers around the world.”

Mr Sichter said millers will benefit from the manufacturing papers which include technology for remote monitoring of factory operation using smart devices; model based systems for improving factory performance and the latest developments of the innovative two roll mill.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries senior agronomist, Neil Halpin said this conference will also interest cane growers and update them with the latest research and development in the Australian Sugar Industry.

“Growers will hear directly from researchers about the latest trial results covering all facets of sugar production. This includes the potential of post-harvest cleaning to boost productivity; strategies to minimise the impact of nematodes; new chemicals to control pineapple disease and potential new methods to identify ratoon stunting disease (RSD).

“The latest advances in plant breeding and environmental topics like nitrous oxide emissions will also be addressed,” Mr Halpin said.

Conference delegates are encouraged to take up the offer of early bird registration at a reduced cost available until March 20. Registrations will be taken after that date and full details can be found on www.assct.com.au

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For further information please contact: Maria McMahon, Publicity Officer on 0488908987