

INTRODUCTION



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Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) is an autonomous body registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. The Institute established in 1975 by the sugarcane grower members of cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra performs under one umbrella all scientific, technical and educational functions relevant to sugar and sugar by product industries.

VSI membership is given to sugar mills and their ancillary units from Maharashtra and other states. At the end of the review year the Institute's membership stood at 136.

The main objective of the Institute is to achieve overall progress of sugar industry in country for which it functions through three main channels viz. Research & Development, Extension Service and Human Resource Development.

The R&D programmes aim at assessing and meeting the current and future needs of sugar industry in the context of prevailing socio-economic conditions of the country. In the ultimate analysis these provide meaningful qualitative and quantitative data for efficient use of costly man power, machinery and materials required for production.

The Institute's current interests include development of elite sugarcane varieties by employing conventional hybridization, tissue culture and molecular biology techniques, mechanization of sugarcane farming, eco-friendly methods of crop production and crop protection, reduction in mill sugar losses, co-generation of power, water conservation techniques, environmental protection, application of

computers in sugar industry. Institute offers excellent advisory, extension and consultancy services in areas of sugarcane agriculture and manufacturing sugar and its by products.

As a part of Human Resource Development VSI offers post graduate diploma and certificate courses in sugar technology, sugar engineering, industrial fermentation and alcohol technology, environmental sciences and instrumentation. Similarly several need based short term training programmes for enhancing competence of personnel working in sugar industry as well as of sugarcane growers are offered by the Institute. Special tailor made courses are also developed and conducted by the Institute as per the request of the clients.

Management of VSI vests in the Board of Trustees comprising of eleven members headed by the Chairman. A Governing Council comprising of 38 members monitors and gives directives for functioning of the Institute. Director General is the executive head of the organization and is responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Governing Council. Director General is assisted by the heads of various departments and their staff for carrying out the day-to-day work. The Institute carries out its multifarious activities through interdisciplinary groups within a discipline based divisional structure.

At the end of the review year there were 240 permanent employees in the Institute. In addition there were 42 temporary employees working under different projects. Out of a total 282 personnel employed by the Institute 79 were scientists, technologists and engineers. The remaining 203 employees were engaged in various supporting services.

