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VSI BULLETIN



www.vsisugar.com

October-December 2025
Vol.-25, Issue-4

Foreword Foreword ...

I have the pleasure in sharing with you that the year 2025 marks a remarkable milestone for your Association, as we celebrate 50 years of unwavering commitment to the progress of the sugarcane growers, sugar and allied industries.

India's sugar sector has made steady progress so far in the 2025–26 season, supported by adequate sugarcane availability, improved field-level productivity, and smoother operations across major producing regions.

As of 15 January 2026, all-India sugar production has reached 159.09 lakh tonnes, showing an increase of nearly 22% compared to 130.44 during the same period last year. The number of operational sugar mills has also edged up slightly, with 518 mills currently crushing, compared to 500 mills at the corresponding stage of the previous season, according to the Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) data.

Maharashtra has reported higher crushing rate this season, with sugar production reaching 64.50 lakh tonnes, representing a substantial improvement of approximately 51% over the same period last season. The state currently has 204 mills in operation, compared to 196 mills at the same time last year.

The government has permitted sugar mills and distilleries to produce ethanol from multiple cane-based feedstocks without restrictions in ESY 2025-26, supporting India's E20 target while safeguarding sugar availability for households.

India continues to make steady progress in the ethanol sector, with year-on-year increases in

production and blending levels alongside expanding manufacturing capacity. This advancement is transforming the country's energy landscape while supporting economic growth and fostering sustainable development in rural regions.

During the current Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26, ethanol blending in petrol reached 20% in December 2025. In the same month, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) received 102.4 crore litres of ethanol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. Official data indicates that a total of 90.2 crore litres of ethanol was blended into petrol in December 2025. Overall, the season so far reflects stable operational progress and a cautiously optimistic outlook for the industry.

Apart from we also conducted seminars/Trainings at VSI on National Seed Day, *Dnyanyag* and *Dnyanlaxmi*, Modern Technology for Sugarcane Cultivation for sugarcane growers and ATMA, officers.

A look at the events, training, seminar and workshops reported in this issue will demonstrate the strength of VSI in this field. This is also reflected by the good placements of VSI students in sugar mill and distilleries in the country. It once again showcases the prominent role of VSI in to training and educate through training to the sugarcane growers on the domestic front. Visitors to VSI also do not fail to be impressed by its functions in research, extension and consultations.

We are happy to place this Bulletin in the hands of our readers and look forward to their suggestions for effecting further improvements in future.


(RM Devarumath)
Editor

EVENTS

National Seed Day

Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) organized National Seed Day on October 01, 2025 Under ICAR seed project. On this occasion a one day training programme was organized on 'Use of One Eye Bud Settling in Three Tier Sugarcane Seed Production System' for Cane Development officer, Agriculture Assistants of sugar mills and seed nursery farmers.

Dr. BD Biradar, Director of Research, University of Agriculture Science, Dharwad, was the chief guest of this event. The workshop was inaugurated by lighting of lamp by Dr. BD Biradar, Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, DG and Dr. AD Kadlag Principal Scientist along with agriculture staff and participants.

Mrs. MA Gaikwad, Scientific Officer, welcomed the guests and trainees. Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil felicitated the chief guest. Dr. AD Kadlag, briefed the importance of seed day and guided to the participants regarding importance of three tier system in sugarcane seed production and application of three tier seed multiplication programme is helpful for adoption of varietal and seasonal planting planning in the operational areas of sugar mills.

Dr. BD Biradar in his inaugural speech mentioned that the seed is most important and prime inputs in sugarcane farming. Good quality seed of improved varieties are necessary to sustain the productivity of

sugarcane. Those mills and farmers are using traditional seed material year after year hence, productivity is decline of plant and ratoon cane. He also highlighted the role played by VSI in breeder's seed production.

During technical session, Mr. RN Gaikwad, Scientist & Farm Manager, delivered the speech on 'Use of One Eye Bud Settling in Three Tier Sugarcane Seed Production System' its planning and identification, sugarcane seed multiplication and production technology and tissue culture technology beneficial for sugarcane farming. He stressed upon the role of sugar mills and their contribution in the seed replacement in the State is very low (6%). It is most important to replace sugarcane seed once in three years. In view of this, institute raising breeder's seed every year on a 45ha area for distribution to mills & farmer for further multiplication. Most of mills are not aware about the importance of seed.

In practical session Mrs. Rupali Ghadge of computer section delivered speech on VSI online facility available for booking of seed and settling to factory and farmers. Dr. KV Sushir Senior Scientist, Plant Breeding section delivered speech on 'Identification of Sugarcane Varieties there Characteristics and its Seasonal Planning'. Mr. Shubham Patil, Scientific officer, Tissue Culture section delivered speech on





'Production System of Tissue Culture Plantlets and its use in Seed Production. Mr. Shivkumar Sode, Scientific officer, delivered speech on 'Use and Importance of Tissue Culture Plantlets for Seed Production their Quality and Production.



For this National Seed Day Program, total 80 trainees of 26 sugar mills were participated. The program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. AG Mundhe, Scientific officer, Farm Management and Development section.

Celebration of Wildlife Week at VSI campus

The Department of Environmental Sciences organized presentations of invited speakers to celebrate 'Wildlife Week' on October 4, 2025. The Department celebrate this week by organizing programmes that aimed to spread awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and to promote a deeper understanding of wild biodiversity amongst students and society in general.

The celebration featured guest lectures and presentations by eminent experts in biodiversity and wildlife-Mr. Prashant Borawake and Mr. Rajkumar Pawar. Both speakers shared their valuable field experiences about wildlife of Saswad-Purandar region, habitat diversity, issues and challenges faced by these nature lovers and the role of community participation in conservation efforts. Their presentations showcased the local wildlife and the narration expressed the efforts taken by these researchers for the study. Their talks emphasized the delicate balance between human development and ecological sustainability, inspiring the

audience to take active steps toward protecting nature. Students, faculty members, and staff from different departments participated enthusiastically. The session

concluded with an interactive discussion where participants expressed their views and ideas for promoting local biodiversity initiatives. The programme served as a reminder that each individual can contribute to safeguard our rich and diverse wildlife.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. DS Nimbalkar, Senior Scientist and Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences, and was graced by the presence of the Principal and Vice Principal of the institute. Their encouragement and support ensured the success of the programme.

Overall, the Wildlife Week celebration was an enriching experience that fostered environmental awareness and inspired collective responsibility towards nature conservation.



The 49th Annual General Meeting of Vasantdada Sugar Institute

The 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) was held on December 29, 2025 at VSI campus, Manjari (Bk.) under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon. President of VSI in presence of members of Board of Trustees & the Governing Council of VSI viz., Mr. Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, Mr. Jaiprakash Dandegaonkar, Mr. Harshwardhan Patil, Mr. BB Thombare, Dr. Indrajit Mohite and Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, DG, VSI and other members like governing council, Sugar Commissioner, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman & Members Board of Directors of Sugar Mills and other dignitaries were present.

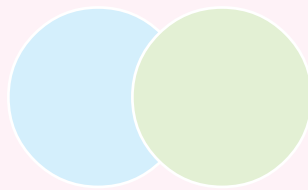
Dr. Indrajit Mohite, Governing Council member of VSI welcomed the Hon. President of VSI Mr. Sharad Pawar and all the dignitaries. This was followed by observation of two minutes silence as a mark of respect to those who passed away during the year.

Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, DG, VSI read the agenda points of the annual general meeting. On this occasion, Annual publications of VSI viz. *Technical Performance of Sugar Mills in Maharashtra - season 2022-23*, *Financial Performance of Sugar Mills in Maharashtra -financial year 2021-22* and *Technical Performance of VSI Member Distilleries in Maharashtra – Financial year 2022-23* and book on

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in sugarcane farming (ऊस शेतीमध्ये कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तेचा वापर) were released at the hands of Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon. President of VSI in presences of dignitaries on dais. The VSI awards on different categories were not distributed because of Election Code of Conduct at Pune region. (List of awardees is given in the following table).

Mr. Harshwardhan Patil said that it is necessary to improve productivity of sugarcane for adequate supply of sugarcane to sugar mills during crushing season. The sugarcane growers are to use quality seed of sugarcane for increasing sugarcane production. There is severe problem of labor shortage for harvesting and transportation of sugarcane in the state. Therefore, sugar mills needs to use mechanical harvester and to change traditional sugarcane cultivation methods suitable for mechanical harvesting. He also pointed out that financial crisis in sugar industry and central government policy in relation FRP and export policy needs to be revised. He appealed to all officials of sugar mills to focus on adapting to changing circumstances, embracing modern agricultural practices and exploring alternative revenue streams like co-products to mitigate financial challenges. Event was concluded with a vote of thanks.





List of Award Winners for the Season 2024-25

ZONE-WISE OOS BHUSHAN AWARDS

a. SOUTH ZONE

- First Prize (Pre-season) : Mr. Amol Kumar Khot,** Post:Karnoor, Tal.Kagal, Dist.Kolhapur
Shree Chhatrapati Shahu SSK Ltd., Dist. Kolhapur
- First Prize (Suru-season) : None**
- First Prize (Ratoon-season) : Mr. Vinayak Anandrao Salunkhe,**
Post Kherade Vita, Tal.Kadegaon, Dist. Sangli
Dr. Patangrao Kadam Sonhira SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli

b. CENTRAL ZONE:

- First Prize (Pre-season) : Mr. Shukracharya Khandu Gawali,**
Post Bhalwani, Tal. Pandharpur, Dist. Solapur
Karmayogi Sudhakar pant Paricharak Pandurang SSK Ltd., Dist. Solapur
- First Prize (Suru-season) : Mr. Bhushan Dattatray Patil,**
Post Lakhangaon, Tal. Ambegaon, Dist. Pune
Bhimashankar SSK Ltd., Dist. Pune
- First Prize (Ratoon-season) : Mr. Nitin Prabhakar Anbhule,**
Post Dhavlas, Tal. Madha, Dist. Solapur
Vitthalrao Shinde SSK Ltd., Dist. Solapur

c. NORTH-EAST ZONE:

- First Prize (Pre-season) : Mr. Hanumant Dhondiba Agale,**
Post Akola, Tal. Ambajogai, Dist. Beed
Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Dist. Dharashiv
- First Prize (Suru-season) : None**
- First Prize (Ratoon-season) : Mr. Aniruddha Manjaba Kale,**
Post Ghungarde Hadgoan, Tal. Ambad, Dist. Jalna
Karmayogi Ankushrao Tope Samarth SSK Ltd. (Unit-1), Dist. Jalna

STATE LEVEL OOS BHUSHAN AWARDS

- Late Yashwantrao Chavan Award (Pre-season):**
Mr. Nitin Bhaurao Kale, Post Upalwate, Tal. Madha, Dist. Solapur
Vitthalrao Shinde SSK Ltd., Dist. Solapur
- Late Vasantrao Naik Award (Suru-season):**
Mr. Anil Sadashiv Lad, Post Bambavade, Tal. Palus, Dist. Sangli
Dr. Patangrao Kadam Sonhira SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli
- Late Annasaheb Shinde Award (Ratoon-season):**
Mr. Pradip Babaso Nangare, Post Hubalwadi, Tal. Walwa, Dist. Sangli
Yashwantrao Mohite Krishna SSK Ltd., Dist. Satara

List of Award Winners for the Season 2024-25

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Best Chief Engineer | : | Mr. Ashok Keshav Mutkule , Sahakarmahrshi Bhausaheb Thorat SSK Ltd., Dist. Ahilyanagar |
| 2. Best Chief Chemist | : | Mr. Suresh Jaysing Dhayagude , Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Dist. Satara |
| 3. Best Finance Manager | : | Mr. Bhushan Ashok Nandre , Dwarkadhish Sakhar Karkhana SSK Ltd., Dist. Nashik |
| 4. Best Distillery Manager | : | Mr. Vikram Gopal Mhasawade Jaywant Sugars Ltd., Dist. Satara |
| 5. Best Cane Development Officer | : | Mr. Sujaykumar Tanaji Patil Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli |
| 2. Best Environmental officer | : | Mr. Manoj A. Naikwadi Shri Sant Tukaram SSK Ltd., Dist. Pune |
| 7. Best Managing Director | : | Mr. Bhaskar Sadashiv Ghule Shri Vighnagar SSK Ltd., Dist. Pune |
| 8. Best VSI employees | : | <p>Jointly with Mr. Shahaji Balasaheb Gaikwad Daund Sugar Pvt.Ltd., Dist. Pune</p> <p>1. Mr. Annasaheb B. Kotkar, Sr. Sugar Engineer, Sugar Engineering & Renewable Energy Division</p> <p>2. Dr. Kranti Ganesh Nigade, Scientist, Agricultural Microbiology Section</p> <p>3. Mr. Popatrao Narayan Katkar, Furniture Supervisor, Estate Department</p> |

TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY AWARDS

A. SOUTH ZONE

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1) First Prize | Jaywant Sugars Ltd., Dist. Satara |
| 2) Second Prize | Padmabhushan Krantivir Dr. Nagnathanna Nayakawadi Hutatma Kisan Ahir SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli |
| Jointly with | Dalmia Bharat Sugar and Industries Ltd, Dist. Sangli |
| 3) Third Prize | Shree Tatyasaheb Kore Warana SSK Ltd., Dist. Kolhapur |

B. CENTRAL ZONE

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1) First Prize | Karmaveer Shankarrao Kale SSK Ltd., Dist. Ahilyanagar |
| 2) Second Prize | Parag Agro Foods & Allied Products Pvt.Ltd., Dist.: Pune |
| 3) Third Prize | Shri Sant Tukaram SSK Ltd., Dist. Pune |
| Jointly with | Karmayogi Sudhakarpant Paricharak Pandurang SSK Ltd., Dist. Solapur |

List of Award Winners for the Season 2024-25

C. NORTH-EAST ZONE

- 1) First Prize : Karmayogi Ankushrao Tope Samarth SSK Ltd. (Unit-2 (Sagar), Dist. Jalna)
2) Second Prize : Kunturkar Sugar & Agro Pvt. Ltd., Dist. Nanded
3) Third Prize : Jai Bhawani SSK Ltd., Dist. Beed

BEST CANE DEVELOPMENT WORK AWARDS

- A. SOUTH ZONE : Vishwasrao Naik SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli
B. CENTRAL ZONE : Daund Sugar Pvt. Ltd., Dist. Pune
C. NORTH-EAST ZONE : None

BEST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AWARDS

- A. SOUTH ZONE : Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd. (Unit-2), Dist.: Sangli
B. CENTRAL ZONE : Shreenath Mhaskoba Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Dist. Pune
C. NORTH-EAST ZONE : Chhatrapati SSK Ltd., Dist. Beed

■ **LATE KISAN MAHADEV ALIAS ABASAEHB VEER BEST ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN MAHARASHTRA**

Shri Datta Shetkari SSK Ltd., Dist.: Kolhapur

■ **LATE RAOSAHEBDADA PAWAR AWARD FOR THE BEST DISTILLERY IN MAHARASHTRA**

Rajarambapu Patil SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli

■ **LATE KARMAYOGI SHANKARRAOJI PATIL AWARD FOR THE BEST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA**

Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Dist. Dharashiv

■ **LATE Dr. APPASAHEB ALIAS SR PATIL AWARD FOR THE BEST CANE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE IN MAHARASHTRA (Jointly)**

Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Dist.: Satara

■ **LATE RAJE VIKRAMSINH GHATAGE AWARD FOR THE BEST OVERALL TECHNICAL EFFICIENCY SUGAR FACTORY IN MAHARASHTRA**

Vilas SSK Ltd. (Unit-2), Dist. Latur
Jointly with - Venkateshkrupa Sugar Mills Ltd., Dist. Pune

■ **LATE VILASRAOJI DESHMUKH AWARD FOR THE MOST INNOVATIVE SUGAR FACTORY IN MAHARASHTRA**

Dr. Patangrao Kadam Sonhira SSK Ltd., Dist. Sangli
Jointly with - Yashwantrao Mohite Krishna SSK Ltd., Dist. Satara

■ **LATE VASANTDADA PATIL AWARD FOR BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE SUGAR FACTORY IN MAHARASHTRA**

Someshwar SSK Ltd., Dist. Pune

Foundation Day Celebrations of Vasantdada Sugar Institute

Vasantdada Sugar Institute celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee foundation day on November 19, 2025. Institute has organized a vibrant series of events, activities and sports for staff members of sections and departments on this occasion.

A series of competitive and recreational activities were thoughtfully organized between 10th and 18th November 2025, fostering teamwork and a spirit of healthy competition among the participants.

The Cricket Competition, conducted from 10th to 18th November, was successfully coordinated by Shri Varun Tupe, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from various teams. Further enriching the celebrations, a variety of indoor and outdoor activities such as Antakshari, Quiz, Dodgeball, and Rangoli competitions were organized during 15 to 18 November, 2025 under the coordination of Ms. Jyoti Kharade.

In addition to this, the Carrom and Chess competitions were smoothly coordinated by Mr. Vandan Ghule, while the Elocution Competition was effectively organized by Shri Prakash Patil, adding an intellectual dimension to the celebrations.

To honor the competitions winners, a Special Felicitation Programme was organized. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General and was graciously presided over by the Chief Guest, Dr. V V Mahajani, renowned Professor of Chemical Engineering and Process Consultant. Dr. V V Mahajani in his speech shared his experience in field of biofuels, energy conservation and green technology. He appreciated the R & D work and other activities being carried out in the Institute. The presence of the dignitaries added prestige and inspiration to the event. During the felicitation ceremony, the winners were felicitated with mementos, honorarium, and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Competition-wise Winners

- **Rangoli Competition:**

Out of 8 participants Ms. Nalini Arun Shinde and Ms. Shruti Vijay Tapre from the Plant Tissue Culture section secured the first position for their creative and artistic presentation.

- **Quiz Competition:**

Out of 24 participation, Mr. Atul Prabhavalkar of the Statistics and Information Department emerged as the winner.

- **Antakshari Competition:**

Out of 25 participation, Ms. Prerana Ganjare, Ms. Dhanashri Bachkar and Mr. Jitendra Yadav (Group Sajan) emerged as the winner

- **Dodgeball Competition:**

Among 12 participants, Ms. Rutuja Salunke became winner through her excellent performance.

- **Chess Competition:**

Out of seven competitors, Mr. Somnath Chauwanke of the Plant Tissue Culture section was the winner of this competition.

- **Elocution Competition:**

Among 05 participants, Mr. Amol Karale became winner through her excellent performance.

The collective efforts of the coordinators and enthusiastic participation of staff members made the event a memorable success.



Photographs of Foundation Day



Photographs of Foundation Day



TRAINING TRAINING

Advanced Technologies on Sugarcane Agriculture

The three days residential training programs were organized for farmers from Chh. Sambhajinagar, Latur, Beed, Parbhani and Bhandara under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). The objective of the training was to train the participants about advanced technologies in sugarcane agriculture. The three days training programs were conducted during on November 19 to December 11, 2025. The details of the participants are as given below;

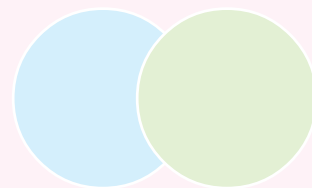
In the plenary session, the participants resolved their doubts from the subject experts. In the concluding function, the representative trainees expressed their satisfaction about the training, lodging and boarding facilities provided to them. Officials asked questions about organic sugarcane agriculture and appealed to scientists to focus on it. The certificates were distributed to the trainees. Hon. Director General, VSI discussed with participants during farewell

Sr.No.	Particulars	Period	No. of Participant
1	ATMA, Ch. Sambhajinagar,	November 19-21, 2025	35
2	ATMA, Latur	November 24-26, 2025	37
3	ATMA, Parbhani	November 27-29, 2025	46
4	ATMA, Beed and Bhandara	December 9-11, 2025	85
Total			203

Two hundred and three farmers were attended the said training program. The training was inaugurated by the Dr. AD Kadlag, Principal Scientist, Crop Production and Crop Protection.

Dr. GS Kotgire, Scientist, Plant Pathology section welcome all the participants and others. Modern and scientific sugarcane cultivation technology was taught during the training period which covered the lectures and practical's on various topics like sugarcane varieties and varietal planning, nursery management, tissue culture, modern planting techniques, soil fertility and fertilizer management, irrigation water management, use of bio-fertilizers, farm mechanization, ratoon management and integrated disease and pest management during three days training program. All the agriculture scientists conducted theory lectures with the help of power point presentation. More emphasis on practical's and field demonstrations was given during the program.

function about the difficulties faced by them in sugarcane agriculture in their area and appealed them to adopt modern technologies in sugarcane. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. GE Atre, Scientific Officer, Plant Pathology to Hon. Director General, Principal Scientist, Project Director, ATMA Latur, Beed, Chh. Sambhajinagar, Bhandara and Parbhani, Head of sections in Agril. Science and Technology Division, participants and other staff of VSI who directly and indirectly contributed for the success of said training programs.



Batch - I



Batch - II



Batch - III



Batch - IV



Oos Sheti Dnyanyag and Dnyanlaxmi

In the reminiscence of founder president of VSI late Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantdada Patil, '**Oos Sheti Dnyanyag and Oos Sheti Dnyanlaxmi**' four days residential training programs were organized for men and women sugarcane growers of Maharashtra at VSI, Pune during December 16, 2025 to January 09, 2026 in 4 batches. Detail of the batches as given below :

Maharashtra. Out of total sugarcane farmers, 12 sugarcane farmers were participated individually and rest of the farmers were deputed by 26 sugar mills from Maharashtra.

The training programs were conducted under valuable guidance of Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General and Dr. AD Kadlag, Principal Scientist, Crop Production and Crop Protection, VSI, Pune. Dr. GS Kotgire, Scientist,

Batch No.	Period	Area from which the farmers participated	No. of Participants	No. of sugar mills and individual participation
Oos Sheti Dnyanyag programme (Men farmers)				
I	16 th to 19 th December 2025	Kolhapur and Sangli Districts	121	Sugar mills : 07 Individual : 01
II	23 th to 26 th December 2025	Satara, Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik Districts	136	Sugar mills : 07
III	30 th December to 2 nd January 2026	Solapur District and Marathwada region	108	Sugar mills : 06 Individual : 10
Oos Sheti Dnyanlaxmi programme (Women farmers)				
VI	6 th to 09 th January 2026	All sugar mills in Maharashtra	168	Sugar mills : 10 Individual : 01
Total participants (Women +Men)			533	

In Oos Sheti Dnyanyag and Dnyanlaxmi training programs, 533 sugarcane farmers were participated from Jurisdiction of sugar mills in different parts of

Plant Pathology Section coordinated the program with the help of Scientist and supporting staff members of different disciplines of Agril Sciences & Technology

Division. Lectures on various topics related to sugarcane agriculture viz., varieties & varietal planning for planting & harvesting, seed nursery management, tissue culture use, modern planting techniques, weed management, soil fertility and fertilizer management, irrigation water management, use of bio-fertilizers & bio-control agents, farm mechanization, economics of cultivation, ratoon management and integrated disease & pest

management were conducted by Subject Matter Specialists. More emphasis was given on practical's and field demonstrations.

In the plenary session of every batch, the trainees cleared their doubts from the subject experts. The representative trainee farmers expressed their opinion about the training and hospitality. The certificates along with group photos were distributed to the trainees.

Batch - I



Batch - II



Batch - III



Batch - IV



Tailor-Made Training Course on Pan Boiling

The Sugar Technology Department of Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) successfully organized and conducted a Tailor-Made Training Course on Pan Boiling for officials from Kakira Sugar Ltd., Uganda, during the period December 2-30, 2025. This specialized course was conceptualized and designed after detailed discussions with Kakira Sugar Ltd., keeping in view their specific operational conditions, process



challenges, and performance improvement goals. The course aimed at strengthening technical capability, improving operational discipline, and enhancing efficiency in pan boiling operations through a structured and systematic approach. A total of three (03) participants from Kakira Sugar Ltd. actively participated in the course and completed the training successfully.

The primary objective of this tailor-made course was to provide in-depth understanding of pan boiling fundamentals as well as advanced operational practices, with special emphasis on practical applicability at the plant level. The course focused on improving massecuite handling, crystallization control, exhaustion efficiency, and sugar quality, while simultaneously highlighting the impact of process parameter control on sugar recovery and overall plant performance. An important objective of the training was to bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and day-to-day plant operations, enabling participants to clearly understand the cause-and-effect relationship between operating practices and final sugar losses or gains.

The training course was conducted by experienced faculty members and senior technologists of the Sugar Technology Department, VSI. The course comprised a balanced mix of structured classroom sessions, detailed process-oriented discussions, and interactive technical deliberations based on real plant operating scenarios. Special focus was given to critical areas such as pan boiling stability, massecuite circulation, control of super saturation, optimization of operating parameters, reduction of sugar losses in molasses, and improvement in final sugar quality. The sessions were highly interactive, allowing participants to discuss plant-specific issues, clarify operational doubts, and exchange practical experiences.

During the course of the training, particular attention was paid to real-time operational challenges commonly encountered in pan boiling operations. Participants were guided on best practices for maintaining process consistency, controlling fluctuations in key parameters, and adopting systematic operating procedures for sustainable improvement. Emphasis was also laid on the importance of trained manpower in maintaining operational discipline, reducing variability, and achieving consistent plant performance. The training

highlighted how small improvements in operating practices can result in significant gains in sugar recovery, quality, and overall productivity.

As an integral part of the course, industrial exposure visits were organized to provide participants with first-hand experience of pan boiling operations under different operating conditions in Indian sugar factories. The participants visited Shreenath Mhaskoba Sakhar Karkhana, Sahyadri Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, and Shri Vignahar Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana. During these visits, the participants interacted closely with factory technical teams and observed practical implementation of pan boiling techniques, equipment configuration, operational discipline, and effective process control practices. These visits enabled the participants to correlate classroom learning with actual plant operations and gain valuable insights into best practices followed in modern sugar factories.

Overall, the tailor-made training course served as an effective platform for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and skill enhancement, reinforcing VSI's commitment to supporting international sugar industries through focused technical training and consultancy. The course not only strengthened the technical understanding of the participants but also laid a strong foundation for implementation of improved pan boiling practices at Kakira Sugar Ltd., Uganda, with the objective of achieving sustainable improvements in productivity, sugar recovery, and product quality.



VSI COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Review meeting was held on October 05, 2025 under the chairmanship of Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon. President of VSI. In the meeting all the departments



were presented their ongoing activities and new proposed activities. Apart from various developmental activities on different farm sections were presented.



The Governing Council meeting was held on October 12, 2025 under the chairmanship of



Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon. President of VSI. In the meeting different issue were discussed.



After the GC meeting, discussions was organized in related to Artificial Intelligence and flood-prone & heavy rainfall regions in some part of Maharashtra State. On this occasion two booklets कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आणि ऊसशेती : विकासाची नवी दिशा authored by Dr. Samadhan Surwase, Dr. Abhinandan Patil and Dr. Ashok Kadalag and अतिवृष्टीभागातील ऊस पीक संरक्षणाच्या उपाय योजना were released. By the hands of the Hon. President of VSI, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and with presence of the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Ajitdada Pawar. The event was attended by several eminent dignitaries, including Mr. Jayant Patil, Mr. Jayprakash Dandegaonkar,

Mr. Balasaheb Thorat, Mr. Rajesh Tope, Mr. Vishwajit Kadam, Mr. Balasaheb Patil and Mr. Vishal Patil, dignitaries were present.

The booklet कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आणि ऊसशेती : विकासाची नवी दिशा highlights the growing significance of Artificial Intelligence in sugarcane farming for improving productivity, efficiency and sustainability. and information on the second booklet अतिवृष्टीभागातील ऊस पीक संरक्षणाच्या उपाय योजना outlines practical strategies farmers can adopt to safeguard sugarcane production flood-prone and heavy rainfall regions.



Investment Committee Meeting was held on October 21, 2025 and Annual General Meeting (AGM) with Governing Council held on December 29, 2025 under

the chairmanship of Mr. Sharad Pawar, Hon. President of VSI followed by Investment Committee Meeting.

The technical committee meeting of Agriculture section was held on December 15, 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. Indrajit Mohite. During this meeting, Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, DG, Mr. AD Kadalag,

Principle Scientist and all staff members of the agriculture division were present. In this meeting ongoing project, new projects in related to AI were presented and discussed.



VSI PARTICIPATION VSI PARTICIPATION

AICRP(S) Group Meeting

The team of four Scientists Dr. JM Repale, Senior Scientist (Pl. Br.), Mr. RG Yadav, Head & Scientist, Entomology; Dr. AS Patil, Scientific Officer & I/c Head, Agronomy and Mrs. Jyoti Kharade, Scientist (Soil Science) had attended the AICRP(S) Group Meeting held at Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, Assam on November 27-28, 2025.

The inauguration programme was chaired by Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat, Assam. Dr. DK Yadava, DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi graced the programme as the Chief Guest and joined the meeting in online mode. Dr. Prasanta Dash, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. K. Pradhan, ADG (Food and Fodder Crops) were present during the inaugural function. The other dignitaries present on this occasion are Dr. P. Govindraj, Director & Principal Investigator, Crop Improvement, SBI, Coimbatore; Dr. Dinesh Singh, Director and Project Co-ordinator, AICRP(S), ICAR-ISRI, Lucknow.

Dr. Prasanta Dash, ADG, (CC), ICAR, New Delhi pointed out that the molecular study is needful for the red-rot control in sugarcane. He also mentioned that the each fluff receiving centre must grow at least 5000 seedlings.

Dr. SK Pradhan, ADG, (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi pointed out that looking to the changing climatic situation there is need of development of smart sugarcane varieties. He also told that biofortification of sugar is needed in near future.

Dr. P Govindaraj, Director of SBI, Coimbatore, in his speech pointed out that the area under sugarcane cultivation is being diverted to other cash crops and as a result, sugar factories in Tamil Nadu are presently not receiving sufficient cane for crushing. It is need to develop the climate resilient varieties with high sucrose and cane yield.

Dr. DK Yadava, DDG (CS) in his speech highlighted that there is need to validate genes for drought, water logging

and further its use in sugarcane breeding programmes for development of new sugarcane varieties.

In Crop Improvement review of the targeted pre-breeding programme for development of climate smart genetic stocks utilizing untapped genetic resources in Saccharum complex was taken and necessary guidelines for screening and testing of clones for red-rot disease was finalized.

The technical programme for the year 2026-27 was discussed and finalized. The entries from Initial Varietal Trial (IVT) to be promoted to the Advanced Varietal Trial (AVT) were finalized.

The proposals for new entries were discussed and total 29 entries were accepted for testing in Peninsular zone. This year from institute we had proposed one entry i.e. VSI 21013 (VSI 15122 x Co 97015) and which was accepted for testing in IVT trial and allotted IVT number VSI 25121. The seed material of this entry will be sent to SBI, Coimbatore and CSRS, Padegaon by hand for initial multiplication in December, 2025.

The Crop Production and Crop Protection sections were attended by the respective scientists. The plenary session was chaired by Dr. SK Pradhan, ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi and Co-chaired by Dr. Prasanta Dash, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. P Govindaraj, Director & P.I., Crop Improvement; Dr. Dinesh Singh, Project Co-ordinator & Director, IISR, Lucknow; Dr. TK Sreevastava, PI, Crop Production and Dr. Arun Baitha, P.I., Entomology was present. The Principal Investigator of respective subject presented the discipline wise proceedings. The discussion on the proceedings of the Crop Improvement session was held and following decisions were finalized:

- The list of ten Zonal Crosses should be finalized and separate Breeders and Pathologist meeting should be arranged in the January, 2026.

- The monitoring of AICRP(S) trials should be done in September-October each year i.e. before the AICRP(S) meeting.
- The selection of Initial Varietal Trial (IVT) entries to Advanced Varietal Trial (AVT) should be done on the basis of statistical pooled analysis over all the locations.

- The screening of new clones for their red rot disease reaction will be done at the nearest centre.

Each participating centre should raise minimum 5000 seedlings under fluff supply programme.

Field Visit to a Watershed Management and Ecological Restoration Site

The visit was organized with the help of Gramgaurav Pratishthan popularly known as Pani Panchayat. Its centre is located at village Khalad near Saswad, Pune on October 11, 2025. This NGO is well known for conservation of water resources and its sustainable management, thereby achieving rural development.

The visit aimed to provide participating students with practical insights into community-based watershed development, soil and water conservation techniques as well as conservation of plant diversity as an experiment of eco-restoration. Local villagers have conserved large numbers of native trees as well as crop and vegetable species under the guidance of experts from Gram Gaurav Pratishthan (NGO). This biodiversity centre is developed around the centre of the NGO located in village Khalad, taluka Purandar of Pune. During the trail of restoration site, the expert explained that local trees, shrubs as well as herbs having significant medicinal value and native to this region were planted in the campus. Most of those are used in the traditional medicines of local villagers. Two varieties of vegetables

which are endemic to this region and popular amongst villagers were cultivated in the centre.

After this visit, students went to Udachi Wadi, where watershed development project was developed. During this visit participants observed various watershed interventions such as check dams, contour bunding, farm ponds, and afforestation activities that have significantly improved groundwater table/recharge and agricultural productivity in the region.

Representatives from Gramgaurav Pratishthan shared their long-term vision of self-reliant villages through participatory water management and highlighted the success stories of Udachivadi as a model for sustainable rural development. The visit concluded with an interactive session where participants discussed ecological restoration strategies and the importance of community involvement in conserving natural resources.

Overall, the visit was highly informative and inspiring, emphasizing the role of local initiatives in achieving environmental sustainability.



Training on Off-season Maintenance and Seasonal Operations of the Sugar Plant at Malegaon SSK Ltd.

A one-day training programme was organized by The Malegaon Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Malegaon (Bk), Shivnagar, Baramati, Maharashtra, in association with VSI in October 29, 2025. The training focused on off-season maintenance and seasonal operations of the sugar plant to enhance working knowledge, skills, and overall sugar mill performance. The program was conducted for engineers, chemists, operators, workers and administrative staff from all departments.

The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chairman of the Sugar Mill and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Ajitdada Pawar Saheb. Members of the Board of Directors and the Managing Director,

Shri Ashok Patil, were also present on the occasion.

The lectures were delivered by Mr. Rajendra Chandgude, Technical Advisor and Head of the Sugar Engineering and Renewable Energy Department, and Mr. Rahul Patil, Senior Sugar Technologist from the Sugar Technology Department. The sessions covered innovative technologies adopted in sugar mills and performance improvement, along with techno-economic and practical solutions.

The training was conducted in the Marathi language to ensure better understanding among participants. VSI representatives Mr. PG Patil, Mr. SP Nalawade, Mr. SM Taur, Mr. SG Kaduskar and Mr. RP Takale were present during the program.



Best Practices to Enhance Operational Efficiency and Sustainability in the Sugar Industry

A one-day conference on the theme 'Best Practices to Enhance Operational Efficiency and Sustainability in the Sugar Industry' was organized by The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd. (MSC Bank) on December 16, 2025, at the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Lane, Mumbai.

The primary objective of the conference was to share insights, experiences, and best practices aimed at improving operational efficiency and promoting

sustainability within the sugar industry. The event was attended by Chairmen and Managing Directors of co-operative and private sugar factories in Maharashtra, along with senior officers from The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank and District Co-operative Banks.

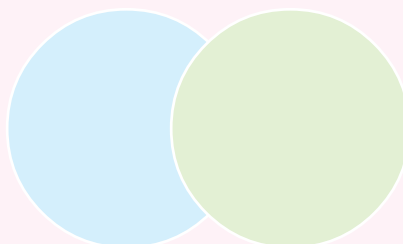
Nearly 200 delegates participated in the conference, representing various co-operative and private sugar factories across Maharashtra, as well as banking

professionals. Key discussions focused on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in sugar finance and operations, government policies and regulatory frameworks, innovation in sugar production through modern technologies, and financing opportunities under Climate-Smart Agriculture, with special emphasis on sugarcane cultivation.

From Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), Mr. RA Chandgude, Technical Advisor and Head of the Sugar Engineering and Renewable Energy Department, was invited as a speaker. He delivered an insightful

presentation on 'Innovation in Sugar Production and Modern Technologies'. In his address, he emphasized the urgent need for the sugar industry to adopt advanced technologies, reduce sugar production costs, strengthen financial planning in sugar mills, and minimize operational and technical losses.

The conference concluded with interactive group discussions, during which participants shared experiences and deliberated on the key challenges faced by sugar mills, along with possible solutions to ensure long-term efficiency and sustainability in the sugar sector.



VISITORS TO VSI

The delegates, Mr. YB Ramakrishna, Former Chairman - Working group on biofuels, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural gas, Government of India and Dr. Saju Varghese, Novel Yeast b.v., Belgium visited to Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), Pune October 07, 2025 to discuss about potential areas of mutual interest for collaboration. The delegate was welcomed by Mr. Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General, VSI. He gave brief activities of VSI.



Dr. KS Konde, Head, Professor & Technical Adviser, Department of Alcohol Technology & Biofuels briefed about the departmental ongoing activities.

Dr. Varghese gave presentation about NovelYeast activities and their R&D developments in the areas of low Glycemic Index sugars, 2G ethanol and biochemicals. During the visit, delegates visited Department of Alcohol Technology & Biofuels. They also visited pilot facilities of the department. Further, they visited Tissue Culture section.



The students from the Somaiya Institute, Sameerwadi, from Karnataka along with Scientist visited VSI on October 13, 2025. Dr. AD Kadalgi, Principal scientist, welcomed the team and briefed about the ongoing activities of VSI. Apart from this discussed about AI technology. During the discussion all agriculture staffs were present.



Mr. Nicolas Gumbo, Chairman (Engineer), Kenya Sugar Board, accompanied by Mr. Subhash Jamdade, Ex employee of VSI, Pune, visited VSI on October 15, 2025. During his visit he welcomed and briefed the activities of VSI. Later he visited different departments/sections to know more of ongoing activities of VSI.

The Delegates comprising of Dr. Ioannis E. Tzanetakis Asian Development Bank (ADB); Dr. Dipak Poudyal, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Dr. Susheel Sharma, ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR–IARI); Dr. Afsha Tabassum Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Mr. ParthJadhav, National Horticulture Board (NHB) November 25, 2025 visited VSI on November 25, 2025, under the Government of India’s ‘Clean Plant Program’ initiative. This high-level engagement aims to strengthen mutual understanding, explore potential collaboration, and showcase our institute’s capabilities within the framework of this national program. During their visit they visited Molecular Biology and Genetic



Engineering section, Agriculture Microbiology, Plant pathology section and tissue culture section. During the visit discussed about ATL laboratory functioning under NCS-TCP project.

The delegates from Kothari Sugar Mill, Katur, Tamil Nadu visited VSI on November 27, 2025. During their visit they visited different agriculture sections and farms of VSI to know more about activities of agriculture section in the sugarcane crop and sugarcane improvement program.



Following institutions Boards Director, Officers, farmers and students visited to Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, during last three months (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER: 2025).

Name of Institutions	Visitors	No. of Visitors	Total
OCTOBER - 2025			
Poona College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Pune	Students & Faculties	11+2	13
Adash Paramedical Institute, Hadapsar, Pune	Students & Faculties	2+1	3
Adash Mahavidyalay Arts, Commerce & Science, Khadakwadi, Tal: Parner, Dist: Ahilyanagar	Students & Faculties	20+1	21
Nowrosjee Wadia College, Department of Biotechnology, Pune	Students & Faculties	3+1	4
Vasandrao Naik College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Dist: Yavatmal	Students & Faculties	44+3	47
Individual Farmers from Maharashtra State	Farmers	152+118+ 178+110+130	688
NOVEMBER-2025			
College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Georai Tanda, Paithan road, Aurangabad	Students & Faculties	45+3	48
Krushik Vikas Va Gramin Prashikshan Sanstha (Krushik Vikas), Baramati, Dist: Pune	Farmers & Representative	145+2	147
Mann Deshi Foundation, Dist: Satara	Farmers & Representative	38+2	40
MIT College of Food Technology, Loni Kalbhori, Dist: Pune	Students & Faculties	25+4	29
MIT World Peace University, College of Biotechnology	Students & Faculties	74+4	78
Arya Public School, Pimpalner, Tal: Madha, Dist: Solapur	Students & Faculties	150+4	154
Dr. Sharadchandra Pawar College of Agriculture, Baramati, Pune	RAWE Students	8	8
K. K. Wagh College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Nashik	Students & Faculties	40+1	41
Individual Farmers from Maharashtra State	Farmers	128+121 +86+160	495
DECEMBER - 2025			
College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Loni Bk, Tal.: Rahata, Dist.: Ahilyanagar	Students	7	7
Siddharaj Sahakari Sheti Pani Puravatha Sanstha, Kavate Ekand, Ta.: Tasgaon, Dist.: Sangli	Chairman & Directors	1+11	12
Willingdon College, Sangli	Students & Faculties	35+3	38
Individual Farmers from Maharashtra State	Farmers	93+81+112 +109+36	431
Total :			2304

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VSI Bulletin is published by the Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune.

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2. **Deopujari U. P (2020)** Maharashtra Civil Services (PAY) Rules, 1981 (With Short Notes & Government Resolutions & Circulars) (2nd Ed); Nagpur; Nagpur Law House (p. 487)
3. **Muthuswamy Brinda; Sanjeev (2025)** Swamy's Manual for Procurement of Goods (4th Ed); Chennai; Swamy Publishers (P) Ltd; (p. 460)
4. **Muthuswamy Brinda; Sanjeev (2024)** Swamy's Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and Other Services (4th Ed); Chennai; Swamy Publishers (P) Ltd; (p. 224)
5. **Muthuswamy Brinda; Sanjeev (2024)** Swamy's Master Manual for Drawing & Disbursing Officers and Heads of Offices, Part- I (DDOs) Finance & Accounts (16th Ed); Chennai; Swamy Publishers (P) Ltd; (p. 352)
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7. **STAI- The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (2023)** Souvenir- Released on the Occasion of 81st STAI Annual Convention & International Sugar Expo- 2023, on 6th- 8th, September 2023; Kerala, (1st Ed); New Delhi: The Sugar Technologists' Association of India, (p. 140)
8. **SISSTA- The South Indian Sugarcane & The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (2023)** Joint Seminar on "Promotion of Ethanol Production in the Present Scenario of Indian Sugar Industry" on 1st April, 2023, Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Karnataka (1st Ed); Chennai: SISSTA- The South Indian Sugarcane & The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (p. 124)
9. **STAI- The Sugar Technologists' Association of India (2024)** Proceedings All India One Day Seminar on "Mechanization of Sugarcane Farming: Operational, Environmental and Policy Constrains" on 7th March 2024, IISR, Lucknow (1st Ed); New Delhi: The Sugar Technologists' Association of India, (p. 65)
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12. **Patil Udyanpandit Ganpatrao (2023)** Sendriya Karb Vaadh: Shetisathi Ramban Upay (1th Ed); Dattanagar, Shirol: Indradhanushya Prakashan (p. 85)
13. **M. M. Manjural Islam; Baptista Marcia L.; Tariq Faisal (2025)** Artificial Intelligence for Smart Manufacturing and Industry X.0 (1st Ed); Switzerland: Springer Nature (p. 226)
14. **Soldatos John (2024)** Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing- Enabling Intelligent, Flexible and Cost- Effective Production Through AI (1st Ed); Switzerland: Springer Nature (p. 505)
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