



ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY PRESIDENT PSST IN HONOR OF CHIEF GUEST

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME PRESENTED TO  
HONORABLE MR. GHOUS BUX KHAN MAHER  
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR PRIVATISATION  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
BY MUHAMMAD PERVEZ AKHTER  
PRESIDENT, PAKISTAN SOCIETY OF SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS**

**Honorable Chief Guest  
CEO's of the Sugar mills  
Distinguished guest  
Learned Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Assalam O Alekum,

On behalf of Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists and on my own behalf, I welcome Hon'ble Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Maher, Federal Minister for Privatization, Chief Guest who has very kindly accepted our invitation and spared time out of his busy schedule to inaugurate 46th Annual Convention of PSST. We are indeed thankful to you, Sir.

Gentlemen, Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Maher comes from a prominent Zamindar family of Sindh. Born at Shikarpur in Oct. 1945, he graduated in Science and joined politics. He is a seasoned politician. He has been elected as MPA Sindh Assembly four times in the years 1977, 1985, 1988 & 1993. He has served as Provincial Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock. He was also elected as Chairman District Council, Shikarpur in 1983 and 1987, also served as Speaker of Sindh Assembly from 1993 till February 1997 and held the charge of Acting Governor, Sindh several times during 1994-96.

He was thrice elected as MNA in 1997 & 2002 & 2008. He held the offices of the Federal Minister for Railways, Narcotics Control during 2002-07 and the Chairman of National Assembly Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat during 1997-99. He has visited several countries around the world.

We are indeed thankful to Chief Executive of Sugar Mills, distinguished guests, foreign delegates, Members of PSMA and fellow delegates of our society who have come all the way to attend this convention from all over Pakistan.

Sir, our society came into existence in 1955 and since then holding conventions, seminars & workshops on regular basis & provides opportunities to its members to share knowledge and experience related to sugar industry.

Sir, in 1947 at the time of independence Pakistan had only two small sugar mills and now 85 sugar mills are in operation. The credit of this growth goes to various governments, entrepreneur farmers of our country and professionals related to the industry, who all contributed to achieve this growth. The PSST comprises of professionals/technologists who represent agriculture, engineering processing and other related fields of sugar industry.

Sir, sugar industry enjoys the position of one of the major industries of our country. It not only contributes billion of rupees every year in national exchequer on account of sales tax, income tax and road cess etc., but it also directly help the development/growth of rural economy



through purchase of sugarcane and extending financial and technical assistance to the farmers for development of sugarcane.

Sir, the crop condition fluctuates a lot in our country due to various reasons. Sir, this variation in cane crop not only effects the sugar production but also its main by products. Alcohol manufacturing from Molasses, bagasse is a rich source of fuel, filter mud and crop wastes. It has a number of derivatives which is a unique characteristic of sugarcane only.

Sir, Pakistan is among the top seven countries in cane growing but recovery % and yield per hector are much below the world average.

Our country during crushing campaign 2011-12 crushed over 50 million tones of cane, produced 4.8 million tones of sugar highest ever production, highest recovery of 9.67 as against the previous highest statistics of season 2007-08, crushing 52.751 million tones of cane, production 4.737 million tones sugar with average recovery of 8.98% but during 2008-09 & 2009-10 production fell down to 3.19 million tones only.

The sugar industry is capable of producing over 6.00 million tones of sugar. We can export 1.5 million tones of sugar on regular basis if crop is accordingly produced from lesser area by increasing yield/hectare and recovery % cane.

In the light of data mentioned above, I would like to discuss some points worth considering:-

### **Sugar and Sugarcane Yield Ton Per Hectare**

A significant progress has been made by our agriculture scientists to produce high yielding and high recovery sugarcane varieties but yet a log more is required to be done, comparing with developed sugarcane producing countries in the world.

However at present certain high sugar yielding varieties are in pipe line with concerted efforts. These can be propagated in the field.

Sir, I would draw your kind attention towards a very important issue related to the sugar industry for variety evaluation. PSMA are government can formulate a strategy by adopting and agreed formula.

To avoid in any short fall in sugar production in future, we must take certain steps to maintain production at desired level:

1. Price of sugar/price of sugarcane.
2. Export of surplus sugar timely. (To maintain sugar price level)
3. Cultivation of high sugar % cane/high yielding varieties to reduce the cost of production.

Sir, minimum price of sugarcane is fixed by the government and sugar price is left to open market. Every ten rupee rise in sugarcane cost almost increases three rupees to sugar which must be recovered from market for the survival of the sugar industry.

### **Quality Based Cane Payment**

Pakistan is among very few countries which are paying on weight basis, whereas rest of the world are paying on sugar content basis. This topic is under discussion since past few years



between Government, Industry and farmers associations but no conclusion or practical form of implementation have been made. Quality based care payment should be introduced as soon as possible. It will motivate the farmers to grow high yielding sugar % varieties adopting the latest techniques.

### Bio Fertilizers

Press Mud can be converted into a balanced fertilizer to compensate the shortage of fertilizer in the country. Again situation demands that all the stake holders of sugar industry, Agriculture Scientists. Agriculture extension department should make extensive efforts to motivate growers to use press mud supplied by sugar mills to increase their productivity.

### Electricity Generation and Supply to National Grid

Pakistan is short of fuel except coal and likely to remain deficit for long time. We must focus energy sources from biomass, bagasse and fuel ethanol which are available with sugar industry. This has been practicing in other countries like India, Mauritius, Reunion and Hawaii etc.

The sugar industry of Pakistan, which has for long been generating power for captive use by burning bagasse during cane crushing season can generate more power than its requirement during season and off season by adopting more efficient steam power cycle with the help of high pressure boilers. The surplus power generated can be exported to national grid. It is established that Pakistan Sugar Industry has potential to produce more than 2000 MW of electricity through Co-generation in season and by coal in off season.

Pakistan Sugar Mills Association has already taken up the lead and is pursuing the Government of Pakistan for producing electric power generation by utilizing captive bagasse and coal as alternate fuel during crushing and off season and also biogas can generate 100 MW electric power using efficient technologies from ethanol industry.

We understand our goals are difficult but not impossible. We hope Government and PSMA can join hands and our scientists can make this goal easier with their hard work. Sir, during two days of this convention, over 30 research papers will be presented by our technologists, research scholars and agronomists from within the country and abroad on process, engineering, agriculture/management.

Sir PSST is also maintaining a tradition since so many years to award gold medals and shields to the learned speakers, whose papers are selected as best in the particular discipline by a committee of senior technologists. Sir, three of our papers have been accepted to be presented in ISSCT i.e. two by Dr. Shahid Afghan, Shakarganj Mills Limited and one by Mr. Sana Ullah, Mehran Sugar Mills. We congratulate them for this honour.

Sir, I would request the honourable Minister that government should honour such technologists by sending them abroad for further study/training and acknowledge their work by awarding medals, shields and certificates recommended by PSST forum.

Sir, I would like to conclude my submission and once again thank you for the time you have very kindly spent to inaugurate this convention. I am also thankful to the Chief Executive of Sugar Mills, all the worthy Guests, learned delegates and sponsors of the convention and organizing committee members of convention.

Thank you very Much, Sir.