



25 Years of Glorious Journey of Sugar Tech (Springer Nature): Serving the Global Sugar and Integrated Industries

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The Silver Jubilee of any publication is a delightful moment to look back to the significant historical achievements and also plan towards a better future. The **Sugar Tech** journal (Springer Nature; www.springer.com/journal112355; ISSN-0972–1525) has successfully completed its 25 years of glorious journey. The idea to publish Sugar Tech journal was conceptualized in 1998 at Sugarcane Research Station campus, Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, India. In 1999, the *Society for Sugar Research & Promotion* was registered at New Delhi, India, with its major objective to publish an international research journal on sugar crops and related industries. Late Mr. Ashok Datta, a founder member of Society was very kind enough to provide a office space for the society activities at New Delhi and also took initiative and responsibility of printing the early issues of Sugar Tech journal. His unconditional support will always be remembered. The Editorial Board and Advisory Board were constituted and the first issue (Vol. 1 & 2) was published in 1999, with 10 articles. The Sugar Tech journal became an official publication of Society for Sugar Research and Promotion, New Delhi, since 1999 and International Conferences organized by IAPSIT viz. IS-2004, IS-2006, IS-2008, IS-2011, IS-2014, IS-2019 and IS-2022 held at Nanning (China), Guilin (China), Al-Arish (Egypt), New Delhi (India), Nanning (China), Udon Thani (Thailand) and Lucknow (India).

In 2008, the global publishing company, Springer, took over the publication of Sugar Tech as co-publisher with four issues a year which was subsequently increased to six issues in 2020 which became breakthrough and a milestone in the journey of Sugar Tech. Ever since we started publishing in association with Springer (Nature) India Pvt. Ltd., Germany, the quality and circulation of the published

articles has increased substantially. On time publication of high-quality papers during the last two and half decades (1999–2023), it was our main priority. Special theme-based special issues were also planned to increase the visibility and scope of the journal worldwide. The release of the 2011 journal citation report from Thomson Reuter added to our delight when Sugar Tech fetched its maiden impact factor (IF) of 0.431 and since then there is no looking back (Fig. 1). At present, Sugar Tech is published as a peer reviewed bi-monthly research journal, with high-quality research articles and reviews on the innovative and eco-friendly technologies related to the sustainability, improvement, production, processing and valorization of sugar crops (sugarcane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum, stevia, palm sugar, etc.) and their by-products and co-products, aligning with the spirit of SDGs. It is one of the leading journals in the world on sugar crops and ancillary industries with current ISI Impact Factor of 1.8 (2023), over 181,000 download per year, Scopus h-index of 31 and quartile (Q2) along with circulation in over 130 countries.

The journal is cited in more than 60 international citation services, with ISI Thomson Reuters, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, INSDOC, Elsevier Biobase, Dimensions, Indian Science Abstracts, SCImago, Science Citation Index, Expanded, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), Google Scholar, AGRICOLA, CAB Abstracts, CNKI, Current Contents/ Agriculture, Biology and Environmental Sciences, EBSCO Discovery Service, Elsevier Biobase, EMBiology, Expanded Academic, Japanese Science and Technology, OCLC WorldCat, Pro Quest, Meta, Naver, OCLC World Cat Discovery Service, Portico, Wanfang etc. The high IF has also led to a dramatic increase in the number of international submissions, from more than 75 countries worldwide. It is encouraging to see Sugar Tech articles being cited by the major internationally recognized high Impact journals and many other publications, reflecting its high standard and content of the research publications (www.springer.com/journal112355).

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Fig. 1. 25 years (1999–2023) colourful and glorious journey of Sugar Tech (Springer Nature)

The great success of *Sugar Tech* would not have been possible without the crucial and valuable support of the Society for Sugar Research and Promotion (SSRP), New Delhi and International Association of Professionals in Sugar and Integrated Technologies (IAPSIT), Nanning, China. The editors, advisory and executive board members, reviewers and authors are the real strength who constantly ensured the quality standard of the papers being published. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have helped in sustaining the quality and ensuring timely publication of all the issues and also look forward for this supporting spirit in the coming years too. We would also like to thank Springer Nature Pvt. Ltd. for co-publishing Sugar Tech; their association became a milestone for its global recognition and acceptance to sugar industry worldwide.

We are grateful to our editors, authors, society members, Springer team, advisory team and society staff for facilitating the journey of Sugar Tech from a hard copy format to an online platform of international standards, thereby

disseminating scientific contents to a global audience. The Sugar Tech with the support from Springer Nature has been making rapid and consistent progress since 1999. We are hopeful that Sugar Tech will reach the pinnacle of expectations of authors working in the area of sugar crops, sugar processing, technologies, bioenergy and by-products, etc. Currently, a large number of articles published in Sugar Tech journal address social, environmental, and economic issues related to the SDGs.

After 2010, two special issues were published with the theme *Innovation for Sustainability of the Sugar Agro-Industry* (March–April, 2022) and *Diversification of Sugar Crops for Value Addition* (Nov–Dec, 2021). These issues highlight the shared vision for a sustainable global sugar industry as well as mapping SDGs-related interdisciplinary research priorities to broader the global collaboration and partnership.

The sustainability strategy is an inherent part of business plan and consistent with the commitment to contribute to

the society. Articles where sugar mills have adopted suitable biorefinery model using agro-feedstock essentially sugarcane and its derivatives to produce ethanol- and bagasse-based biochemicals, bioplastic, specialty sugars/chemicals are priority areas of our publication. These bio-based chemicals have applications in a wide array of industries, and we are getting excellent feedback from many countries on various articles published on these aspects.

So far the Sugar Tech has published more than 2000 articles including research papers, reviews, short communication, scientific correspondence, opinions, editorials and news. Sugar Tech has published 12 special issues in last 25 years. The journal has currently JCI rank of 42/125 among top most Agronomy journals with quartile Q2, H Index 41, SJR 2023 0.45 and JCI percentile 66.80 in 2023. The total number of cites for Sugar Tech was 4749 and the 5 years' IF is 1.8 in 2023.

Sugar Tech promotes the shared vision of UN 2030 SDGs and encourages its contributors to publish articles on various socio-economic issues related to sustainability of sugar and integrated industries. A good number of reviews are published on CSR and SDGs as the sugar industry also fulfils its corporate social responsibilities, leading to the overall betterment of its stakeholders. This has enabled the sugar industry to align itself with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Sugar Tech journal is actively promoting these issues through its reviews and research papers. The CSR activities of sugar companies are focused on different sectors with main emphasis on promotion of education, health care, drinking water and sanitation, gender equity and empowering women. There is ample scope in our publication for these socio-economic issues.

In view of the growing importance of sugarcane varieties in sustaining global sugar industry, a special issue was published on the *History of Sugarcane Breeding, Germplasm Development and Related Molecular Research* (Jan-Feb, 2022). This is for the first time that a detailed and comparable information about sugarcane genetics and breeding updates from all the major sugarcane producing countries were brought together. This issue is a valuable repository for the breeders, scientists, industry investors, technologists and students involved in sugarcane improvement programme all over the world. Besides, we have published twelve several special issues on different emerging themes on sugar crops and industry. All the issues of Sugar Tech are being published well in time with a special focus on improving the quality of articles that are being published.

Besides publication of scientific articles related to sugar and integrated industries, Sugar Tech journal has also promoted various conferences especially those organized by IAPSIT and SSRP (Fig. 2). Our journey of excellence

with Sugar Tech started in 2004 with the International Symposium on Sustainable Sugarcane and Sugar Production Technology held at Nanning, from 29th November to 2nd December, 2004. This was a memorable event in the history of Chinese sugar industry, in which 270 delegates from 20 countries participated. Since, then the Sugar Tech journal became an official publication several International Conferences organized by IAPSIT viz. IS-2004, IS-2006, IS-2008, IS-2011, IS-2014, IS-2019 and IS-2022 held at Nanning (China), Guilin (China), Al-Arish (Egypt), New Delhi (India), Nanning (China), UdonThani (Thailand) and Lucknow (India). Here, we would to acknowledge especially the immense support of Prof Yang rui-Li, Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanning, P.R. China in promotion of Sugar tech journal and organization of IAPSIT Conferences. Sugar Tech association with the IAPSIT and SSRP conferences (listed below) was especially helpful in promoting inter-institutional and industry-academia collaboration at global level.

- 1st IAPSIT International Conference IS-2004, Nanning, P.R. China
- 2nd IAPSIT International Conference IS-2006, Guelin, P.R. China
- 3rd IAPSIT International Conference IS-2008, Al-Arish, Egypt
- 4th IAPSIT International Conference & Expo IS-2011, New Delhi, India
- 5th IAPSIT International Sugar Conference IS-2014, Nanning, PR.China
- 6th IAPSIT International Conference IS 2018, Udon Thani, Thailand
- Sugarcon- 2019 International Sugar Conference, Lucknow, India
- 7th IAPSIT International Sugar Conference IS-2022 & Sugarcon-2022,Lucknow, India

On this historic occasion, Editorial Board is glad to bring out Silver Jubilee Special Issue on the *Sustainability through Diversification in the Sugar Industry*, to be released at the time of 8th IAPSIT International Sugar Conference and Sugarcon-2024 in Quy Nhon, Vietnam. We hope that this special issue will be useful for the ASEAN sugar industry which is undergoing modernization and exploring new business models based on diversification.

As Editors-in-Chiefs of Sugar Tech till 2023 and Executive Chief Editors at present, it becomes our moral responsibility to ensure continuity of the activities of Sugar Tech and SSRP/IAPSIT with greater zeal and dedication. We would like to thank our eminent editorial board members round the world, who have been instrumental in supporting the editorial activities of Sugar Tech. On behalf of the SSRP, we welcome all the delegates to ISC-2024, Quy Nhon,



Glimpses of International Sugar Conferences

Fig. 2 Glimpses of 7th IAPSIT International Conference- 2022 held at Lucknow, India



Glimpses of International Sugar Conferences

Fig.2 (continued)

Vietnam, from September 16–19, 2024 and hope that you will continue to patronize **Sugar Tech** for publishing your valuable research and review articles. Our sincere greetings and thanks to the esteemed contributors, readers and the publisher.

G. P. Rao, Chief Executive Editor

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