**Strategic Objective**
The main strategic objective of our ISO 22000 certified sugar factory is to continue being a reliable supplier of plantation white sugar to our refinery, of molasses to our bioethanol distillery and of bagasse to our cogeneration power plant.

We will achieve this by optimising operational efficiency while reducing production costs. Along the same line, in 2018 the sugar factory worked towards implementation of the ISO 50001 Energy Management System and successfully achieved certification in February 2019. With rising customer expectations for sustainable supply, the sugar factory is now aiming for Bonsucro certification by early September 2019.

**Year under Review**

Due to adverse weather conditions affecting cane supply, the factory’s crushing rate in 2018 averaged 7,380 tonnes/day compared to 7,791 tonnes/day in 2017. The sucrose percentage in the sugarcane was higher at 11.82, compared to 11.06 in 2017. Total mill losses in the year under review were slightly higher at 1.66% against 1.64% in 2017 and the extraction rate for 2018 ended at 10.21 (2017: 9.48). The Reduced Overall Recovery (ROR), which indicates the overall performance of the factory, was higher at 86.6 in 2018 compared to 86.4 in 2017. For comparison, the average ROR for the four sugar factories in Mauritius stood at 86.7 in 2018.
Cane Management Service

In 2018, the Planters’ Advisory Department helped some 87 small planters in the Southern region maintain a total of 129 hectares of land under sugarcane cultivation, resulting in a harvest volume of 6,549 tonnes. In addition, the department replanted some 15 hectares of land and completed the cultivation of 12 hectares of abandoned land at Deux Bras, under the Small Planters Regrouping Project. This project is financed by the Government through the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (MCIA). It benefitted 14 land owners in the region.

The Planters’ Advisory Department has regular meetings with the small planters, with a total of 6 meetings in 2018 concerning pre-crop for harvest, closure of weighbridge, clean cane campaign, cane management service and sustainability.

Furthermore, a training session on the importance of sustaining cane cultivation was organised during the year for the benefit of small planters in the Southern region. A small harvester demonstration was also held at Anse Jonchée with the collaboration of MCIA and CEAL. Widely used in Reunion Island, this equipment can benefit local small planters as well.

Outlook

For the 2019 crop, a total of 900,000 tonnes of sugarcane are estimated to be crushed to produce some 91,000 tonnes of plantation white sugar. We are also aiming for the implementation of the following standards: FSSC 22000, ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System and Bonsucro Production and Chain of Custody Standards. The Planters’ Advisory Department will initiate hiring of local contractors utilising foreign labourers so as to cater for the scarcity of labour.