

26th

International Sugar Conference

*"Shaping the future: Innovation and
sustainability in the sugar industry"*



9 – 12 February 2026

**Mohammed VI Museum for
the Civilization of Water
Marrakesh, Morocco**

Early Bird Registration: \$ 1,000

until October 15, 2025

Regular Rate: \$ 1,500



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26th International Sugar Conference

9 - 12 February 2026

Marrakesh, Morocco

➔ 9 FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Registration desk opens

9:00AM - 10:30AM

- **AI & Digital Twins for Sugar Mills**
 - Amitha Assokkumar, Solutions Architect, Siemens Industry Software GmbH
- Hands-on demo: Simulating factory processes with digital twins
 - Digital twin success stories: ROI from digital twin adoption
- Group exercise: Identifying AI use cases for attendees' operations

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

- **Coffee break**

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

- **AI-Driven Yield Optimization in crop production**
- (data analytics for cane/beet fields)
 - Optimizing irrigation and capital inputs in sugar beet/cane farming
 - Sensor-based monitoring

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

- **Lunch**

PROGRAM



PROGRAM

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

- **Building Your AI Roadmap**
 - Mark O. Burkhardt, Managing Director, Pfeifer & Langen IP GmbH
 - Step-by-step guide to piloting AI projects
 - Interactive session: Drafting action plans for attendees

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- **Cocktail Reception**

➞ **10 FEBRUARY**

8:00AM – 9:00AM

- Registration desk opens

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

- **Welcome Address**
 - Emmanuel Sarir, CEO & President, Carbo Solutions International

9:05 AM – 9:10 AM

- **Remarks from the session Chair**
 - Arvind Chudasama, Sugar Industry International

9:10 AM – 9:40 AM

- **Key note paper – Data analytics for sugar process optimization**
- for predictive maintenance and minimizing losses
- optimize energy consumption in sugar factories

9:40 AM – 11:00 AM

- **Panel discussion – CEOs' insights on digital transformation and sustainability.**



PROGRAM

- Martin Vesper, CDO, Pfeifer & Langen,
- Samir Somaiya, Chairman and MD, Godavari Biorefineries

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- **Coffee break**

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

- **Cybersecurity best practices for sugar manufacturing facilities**
 - Desiree Lee, Chief Technology Officer, Armis
- Risk management and mitigation strategies

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

- **Cybersecurity in smart agriculture**
 - Threat assessment for IoT devices

12:30 PM – 12:40 PM

- Presentation – Sponsor

12:40 PM – 12:50 PM

- Presentation – Sponsor

12:50 PM – 2:30 PM

- **Lunch**

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM

- Presentation – Sponsor

2:40 PM – 2:50 PM

- Presentation – Sponsor

2:50 PM – 3:20 PM

- **Automation and Robotics**
- Material handling, packaging, and laboratory analysis



PROGRAM

3:20 PM – 4:20 PM

- **Next-gen sugar refining technologies:**
- Advanced membrane filtration technologies for impurity removal.
- High-efficiency crystallization processes supported by AI.

4:20 PM – 4:50 PM

- **Hi-tech processing aids for sugar refining**
 - Carbo Solutions International

➞ **11 FEBRUARY**

8:40 AM – 8:45AM

- Opening remarks from session Chair

8:45 AM – 9:10AM

- **Reflections on global sugar market**
 - Soumia Lotfi, PhD, Senior Advisor, Monetary Fund

9:10 AM – 9:30 AM

- **African Sugar Sector**
 - Sucden

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

- **Recent new build projects in the global sugar industry**
 - Contributions from technology suppliers

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

- **Panel discussion – Why water conservation matters in sugar production**



PROGRAM

- Chaired by Narendra Mohan, Managing Director, Greentech Consultants
- Panellist: Astolfi Xavier, CEO, Cristal Union
- **High Water Usage:** Sugar processing requires significant amounts of water for washing, extraction, cooling, and cleaning.
- **Environmental Impact:** Excessive water consumption can strain local water resources, particularly in regions prone to drought.
- **Sustainability Goals:** Many sugar companies are under pressure to reduce their environmental footprint and improve water efficiency.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

- **Coffee break**

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

- **By-product valorization**
 - Samir Somaiya, Chairman and MD, Godavari Biorefineries

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

- **Exploiting new developments in the maturing bioeconomy**
 - Arvind Chudasama, Sugar Industry International

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

- **Lunch**

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM

- **Presentation – Sponsor**



PROGRAM

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

- **Panel discussion – Global priorities for sugar research**
 - Chaired by Darryn Rackemann, Phd, Principal Research Engineer, Queensland University of Technology
- **Process Optimization:** Developing and implementing smart monitoring systems and advanced analytics (including AI/machine learning) to provide real-time data on machinery performance, predict maintenance needs, and optimize various stages of sugar extraction, clarification, evaporation, and crystallization for reduced energy input.

3:40 PM – 4:40 PM

- **Progress in sugarcane and sugar beet research**

3:40 PM – 4:10 PM

- ***Key advances in plant breeding impacting the introduction of new cane cultivars***
 - Prakash Lakshmanan, PhD, Director, Sugarcane Research Institute, Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences

4:10 PM – 4:40 PM

- ***Key advances in beet agriculture supporting productivity and addressing challenges to emerging pest and disease complexes***
 - Melvin Bolton, PhD, Research Leader, USDA-ARS



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4:40 PM – 5:30 PM

- ***Panel Session – Sugar Associations reflecting on:***

- Current state of the global sugar
- Impacts of climate change, geopolitics and digital technology
- Policy drivers

5:30 PM – CLOSING REMARKS