

Biocom surpasses target and reaches one fifth of sugar production

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The Bio-energy Company of Angola (Biocom), with the efforts and dedication of its two thousand and 200 workers, joined the Government's strategy of increasing domestic production to reduce imports, reaching the mark of 51 thousand and 514 Tons of sugar in the 2016/2017 harvest, surpassing the established goal for this year of 47 thousand tons of this product of the basic basket.



Although this amount represents only one fifth of the maximum capacity of production in this first phase of implementation of the industrial unit located in the municipality of Cacuso, province of Malanje, in a concession area of 80 thousand hectares, of which 15 thousand and 500 already in operation, for the administration of the project, whose production director is Brazilian citizen Marco Brandão, it was a very productive year, for overcoming this goal in an environment of difficulties, resulting from the crisis that the country lives.

With a maximum daily production capacity varying between 30 and 40 thousand bags, the company has a daily production between eight and ten thousand bags, depending on the raw material available for this harvest, which ends in March.

"This success of the company, which resides in the work of a team with continuous, disciplined and dedicated training, increases the levels of trust and optimism of management and workers who, in the 2020/2021 harvest, want to reach the factory's total installed capacity, to process annually 256 thousand tons of white crystalline sugar under the brand name "Kapanda"; which will help reduce imports by more than 50 percent, since the country's annual consumption is around 400 thousand tons," said Marco Brandão.

In the 2015/2016 campaign, the Bioenergy Company of Angola obtained a production of 24 thousand and 770 tons of sugar, 10 thousand and 243 cubic meters of ethanol and generated 42 thousand megawatts of electric energy.

Marco Brandão, responsible for the entire production process of Biocom, told the team of Angolan journalists that he went to the project to witness the closure of the 2016/2017 sugarcane harvest, which, for the plant, reached a production of 256 thousand Tons of sugar / year from 2020, will require 40 thousand hectares of planted area, work that is being done daily.

For the 2016/2017 harvest, the production of ethanol, under the sugar product, reached 13 thousand and 885 cubic meters and the generation of electric energy at 38 thousand and 589 Megawatts / hour. By 2020, when the industrial plant can reach the peak of sugar production, the plant will produce 235,000 megawatts of energy and 33,000 cubic meters of ethanol, which could contribute to the country's energy security and increase Supply of ethyl alcohol in the Angolan market.

The sugarcane planting varieties from Brazil, South Africa and Angola in this agro-industrial unit, part of the Capanda Agro-Industrial Development Pole, on the banks of the Kwanza River, began in 2012, by Angolans and Brazilians involved in the project.

The experimental sugar production in the industrial unit, which also produces ethanol and electricity, started in 2014.

In this agricultural year, the total area planted with sugarcane reached 15 thousand and 500 hectares, but by March 31, the end of the 2016/2017 season, the arable field will be extended to 19 thousand hectares, a work developed daily by men and machines that transform this territory, formerly dominated by enormous trees, into a vacant space, in order to give place to a large cane which, seen in the distance, foliage crosses the horizon line.

The extension of the cultivation area to 19 thousand hectares will increase the processing of sugarcane from 512 thousand tons this year (2016) to 800 thousand in 2017, a target to be reached with the commitment of two thousand and 300 workers, 70 percent of whom work in the agricultural field.

In Biocom, a project that besides sugar produces ethanol and electricity, the definition of the diversification of the national economy finds the true meaning, since it began with being designed more than five years ago and is now giving the first results, with a An annual increase in production that guarantees long-term return on invested capital, as well as reducing imports and foreseeing surplus production in the future, allowing the country to export and raise more foreign exchange.

The goals set by Biocom are achievable because the company offers a human and physical structure necessary to reach the objectives and counts with the most modern agricultural laboratory in Angola, with capacity to analyze soils, leaves, correctives and fertilizers, which provide relevant information for making technical decisions that result in better productivity of the sugar cane crop.

Marco Brandão says that the industrial and soil laboratories allow Biocom to produce "Kapanda" sugar with a high international quality standard, which will allow the company, when internal needs are met, to start exporting in the future.

"Our agricultural laboratory participates in an international certification project in Brazil, which has laboratories scattered throughout South America. We are very well ranked, and, quarterly, it sends us soil samples," he explained.

"In the part of the industrial laboratories, every year we have specific training. Here comes an accredited company in the area, to do an effective validation of our results, which is the basis for an international certification," he added.

Source: Angop