

SMRI celebrates its 60th Anniversary

Dear SMRI Member/Affiliate member/important stakeholder

Today marks the **60th Anniversary of the Sugar Milling Research Institute (SMRI)**. Recognition of the need for centralised research as a means of promoting efficient and economic development of sugar processing techniques led to the creation of the Institute on the 4th of August 1949.

In servicing the technical Research and Development needs of its members, primarily the South African Sugar Millers, the SMRI has developed a proud reputation for maintaining itself at the “cutting edge” of new scientific developments and application of new technologies in the cane sugar industry. It continues to provide its members with the publication of regular, accurate and reliable data that has enabled factory performance benchmarking and continuous improvement; a service that is envied by many of the world’s sugarcane industries.

Looking forward, the SMRI is mindful of the challenges facing the South African sugar industry. The Institute’s research investment is aligned with the strategic objectives of our membership group and is focused on providing technological solutions capable of offering step-change opportunities. Allied with this, the Institute (along with the South African Sugarcane Research Institute and the University of KwaZulu-Natal) is championing the creation of a **Strategic Sugarcane Research Platform**. This will provide the necessary injection of research funding (coming from a partnership with the South African Department of Science and Technology) required to enable focused, sugarcane sector specific Research, Development and Innovation to develop the technology and skills essential for the creation of a vibrant and sustainable SA sugarcane industry.

A recent organisation restructuring of the SMRI will enable the SMRI to deliver a higher level of service to its members. As key clients of the SMRI you will reap the following benefits:

- Relevant research strategies focussed on sustaining, and even enhancing, industry viability;
- Enhanced focus on delivering quality research outcomes and innovation by the research teams;
- Effective transfer of research outcomes to the industry;
- A raised awareness and focus by the newly-created Industry Support group on supporting your short-to-medium term technical needs
- Enhanced and more effective flow of strategic and operational information to and from the SMRI and its members.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the SMRI, I would like to thank you, the SMRI’s members (Full and Affiliate) and important stakeholders for your contributions

and support in the last 60 years. I trust that with the strong technical partnership that exists between the SMRI and the industry, built up over six decades, the new strategic vision and the purpose-driven team, the SMRI will remain relevant and continue to provide its members with a highly valued service now and into the future.

With kind regards

Dr Janice Dewar
Chief Executive Officer
Sugar Milling Research Institute