

India has been made Chairman of International Sugar Council consisting of 88 countries of the world dealing with sugar sector during their 40th meeting held in London today, the Council unanimously elected Dr. B.C. Gupta, Union Food Secretary as their next Chairman. His name was proposed by the European Union (EU) and seconded by Mauritius. Dr. Gupta had been elected Vice Chairman of the Council during their meeting held the previous year. The next International Sugar Conference shall be organised in Delhi during the last week of April, 2012.

India is a leading country in the sugar sector having production of 350 million tons of sugarcane and about 25 million tons of sugar. It is the second largest producer of sugar in the world after Brazil and the biggest consumer of sugar. Speaking from London Dr. Gupta stated that his top priority shall be further development and stabilisation of sugar sector, by adoption of activities like production of ethanol, developing appropriate technology for conversion of bagasse into ethanol and adopting modern agricultural practices for boosting cane production. Dr. Gupta is credited with making efforts for introducing production of sugar from sugar beet in India. As a pilot project, 2000 hectares of saline land was brought under cultivation of sugar beet in Belgaum District of Karnataka during previous year.

The International Sugar Council is a global organisation responsible for looking after development of sugar industry in the entire world. Its main activity is to organise Seminars/Workshops in different parts of the world with a view to developing new practices and products like bio-fuels with a view to giving economic boost to the sugar sector.