

### **Lowveld Sugar production & processing**

The project aims to process sugar-cane grown in the Lowveld area of Zimbabwe into sugar, ethanol and other value added products. The physical and climatic conditions in the lowveld favour the production of sugar cane. The land is generally flat, characteristic of the lowveld and this allows for the efficient use of equipment. The soils are characteristically deep, well drained, relatively unleached and of high base saturation. The warm to hot temperatures in summer and relatively warm frost-free winters favour the sugarcane plant as it converts the sun's energy through photosynthesis more efficiently in the abundant sun of the lowveld.

The demand for sugar in Zimbabwe and abroad continues to grow. Zimbabwean producers have been concentrating on the local market while the export market quotas remain unfulfilled thus presenting an opportunity for additional players on the market. The project will be developed in partnership with other players on the farm production while IDCZ's interest will be on the processing side.

Local producers cannot meet the ethanol blending requirement for the country while the export market for ethanol is also very lucrative. A detailed feasibility study will have to be conducted to confirm viability and other parameters. IDCZ is seeking for potential partners to co-develop the project together.

