

# GUYANA

## Guyana Sugar Corporation

# Booker Tate



### In Brief

- 1976 Sugar industry is nationalised
- 1976 Booker Tate provides limited technical assistance
- 1990 Booker Tate signs full operational management agreement
- 1996 Sugar production reaches 280,000 ts
- 2002 Sugar production 331,067 ts – highest since 1976
- 2005 Contract signed to build the new Skeldon factory and co-generation plant
- 2008 Booker Tate continues to provide services under the operational management agreement and project management services for the new Skeldon factory

The Guyana cane sugar industry has been in existence for more than 300 years. The industry has developed a unique cultural system resulting directly from the natural environment. Because of its geographical location, the land mass is subject to two rainy seasons each year and with heavy clay soils and low lying topography (often below sea level), this presents a whole range of challenges concerning soil moisture levels, regional drainage and conserved water.

To conserve and drain rainwater, inland areas have been created with a comprehensive reticulation of canals and drains to direct the water to the arable areas of the coastal belt. As a result, the productive lands are laid out in rectangular strips extending from the sea defences to the limits of the forest. In the sugar estates, these canals provide both irrigation water and navigable routes for supplying inputs to the fields and transporting cane to the sugar factories. A protective wall has been built along the full length of the Atlantic coastline and along the principal river estuaries. Drainage water is discharged into the sea either through sluices at low tide or through low-lift pumps.

The Guyana Sugar Corporation comprises 8 factories and cultivates some 43 000 ha in cane. Farmers account for 10%



of the total cane supply. The Corporation accounts for around 18% of the country's GDP.

The current strategy is to increase production to 420 000 ts/y.

As part of its modernisation programme, a new factory is being constructed and will be commissioned in 2008.



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