

# SWAZILAND

## Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation

# Booker Tate



### In the beginning.....

Simunye Sugar Estate was developed in north east Swaziland by the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation (RSSC) in the late 1970's. 10,000 hectares of light tree cover and bush were cleared to provide over 9,000 hectares of irrigated sugar cane together with roads, water storage, canal systems, offices, stores and maintenance workshops. A well equipped training centre was also established at the start of the project to provide apprentices with skills relevant to the estate. In this sparsely populated area it was also necessary to construct two towns to accommodate a large workforce and their families. This entailed the provision of housing, utilities, schools, clinics, community and sports facilities and a shopping centre.

In 1980 the Simunye Sugar mill was commissioned capable of producing 120,000 tonnes sugar per annum initially. It was subsequently expanded in 2000 to accommodate cane purchased from new independent cane farmer schemes.

### RSSC today

In 2001, the RSSC shareholders agreed to a merger with the neighbouring Mhlume Sugar Company and the new enlarged RSSC was launched in 2002.

Listed on the Swaziland Stock Exchange, RSSC is the largest company in Swaziland employing over 2,000 permanent staff and producing two thirds of the country's sugar. It owns and manages over 15,000 hectares of irrigated sugar cane on estate land leased from the Swazi Nation and manages a further 5,000 hectares on behalf of third parties, delivering some 2 million



### In Brief

1975	Feasibility study for new sugar project
1977	RSSC established
1977	Booker Tate awarded 10 year operational/project management contract for Simunye
1980	Commissioning of 120,000 ts/y factory
1984	Cyclone Demoina causes extensive damage
1987	Management agreement renewed
1990	Final settlement of all foreign loans
1995	Commissioning of 40,000 l/d distillery
2000	Factory expansion completed
2001	Agreement to merge RSSC with Mhlume Sugar Company.
2002	New RSSC launched
2005	Mananga Sugar Packers commences operations
2007	Distillery expansion to 32m l/y

tonnes of cane per season to RSSC's two sugar mills. A significant volume of cane is also sourced from a large number of small independent farmers and in total RSSC crushes over 3.3 million tonnes of cane per year and produces some 450,000 tonnes of sugar. RSSC also operates a sugar refinery at the Mhlume mill which produces approximately 120,000 tonnes of refined sugar per season.

**Sugar packaging** In 2005 Mananga Sugar Packers, a joint venture between RSSC and Tsb Sugar, was established at Mhlume mill to pack and sell sugar within the region.

**Ethanol** In 1995 RSSC completed construction of a distillery adjacent to Simunye mill to process and produce industrial grade ethanol and potable spirit from all the molasses produced by Simunye. In early 2007 a major expansion project was commissioned to utilize all the molasses from both Mhlume and Simunye. It now produces over 32 million litres per year; most is exported, primarily to the EU and the West African market.

**Social infrastructure** RSSC provides and manages housing and all related infrastructure for its employees and their dependants, in the estates' various towns and villages. RSSC also provides health care at two site-based clinics, centrally managed by a Medical Services Manager, and the emphasis is on primary health care and the prevention of diseases. RSSC provides first-class primary education at two private English medium primary schools and is a major stakeholder in Mananga College, a private high school.

**Health safety and environment** RSSC maintains a well-established Safety, Health and Environmental policy which aims to provide ideal working conditions, safeguarding all those affected by the operations of RSSC and ensuring the maintenance of a clean and healthy environment. RSSC has recognised HIV/AIDS as a strategic business issue and is managing it at the highest level in the organisation.

### Provision of services by Booker Tate

Booker Tate has provided services to RSSC from its inception to the present day. These have ranged from the initial Feasibility Study in the 1970's to project management for the Simunye estate and factory development to operational and corporate management. Since the merger with Mhlume, Booker Tate has provided management services and latterly, technical support services through its parent company, Tsb Sugar, which acquired a significant shareholding in RSSC in 2005.

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