



**Launching of the Planters Harvest Support (PHS) Scheme I and II
for milling companies and harvest service providers by the ERCP and the Association of
Leasing Companies**



ERCP

The new Planters Harvest Scheme (PHS), a new Leasing instrument targeted at the Planters Community in the Sugar Sector was launched on Tuesday 23rd August 2011 at Le Labourdonnais Waterfront hotel, Caudan by the ERCP and the Association of Leasing Companies.

Present at the event were **Mr Ashraf Esmael**, President – Association of Leasing Companies, **Mr Raj Makoond**, Co-Chairperson –ERCP, **Mr Raj Ringadoo**, Co- Chairperson – ERCP and **Mr Iqbal Mallam-Hasham**, Managing Director of State Investment Corporation. The event was held at Le Labourdonnais Waterfront Hotel, Caudan.



The objective of the scheme is to provide assistance on soft terms to empower the Harvest Service Providers to acquire mechanical equipment and accessories in order to modernise production equipment for providing services to the small and medium sugarcane planter community.

The PHS will enhance the competitiveness of the sugar cane planters through the modernization of the harvesting process and will directly target Eligible enterprises incorporated in Mauritius and engaged in providing services for sugar cane harvesting.

The PHS has been designed to help reduce the shortage of mechanical harvester & accompanying haulage equipment for timely harvest & transport of canes from fields. (in-field post harvest + harvest/transport of canes to Mills)

The scheme will also allow for capacity building in the sector to improve field harvest operations and reduce overall harvest and transport costs. The timely harvesting of canes at peak maturity has a positive impact on sucrose content, sugar recovery with associated increased productivity & income (15-25%).

This new instrument will be available to two categories of operators in the industry; the smaller unorganized operators with turnover below MUR 50m and the large specialized providers of service with Turnover above MUR 50m. An initial fund of MUR 200m has been earmarked to start this new scheme, which is expected to run until end of 2010. Further funding may be made available by the ERCP/SIC should the scheme achieve its intended objectives and is well received by the sector.

PHS-I	PHS-II
<p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible enterprises engaged in Sugar Cane Harvesting based in the Republic of Mauritius. • Turnover exceeding MUR 50.0M • Operating for at least one year. 	<p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible enterprises engaged in Sugar Cane Harvesting based in the Republic of Mauritius. • Turnover p.a. not exceeding MUR 50.0M • Operating for at least one year.
<p><u>Scheme Rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum MUR 50m per company • Min. of 20% down-payment by applicant • VAT not included in financing • Implicit Interest rate: 5.5% • 1.25% Processing & Documentation Fee • Registration Duty as applicable • Maximum 84 months 	<p><u>Scheme Rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum MUR 15M per company • Min. of 15% down-payment by applicant • VAT not included in financing • Implicit Interest rate: 5.5% • 1.25% Processing & Documentation Fee • Registration Duty as applicable • Maximum 84 months
<p><u>Funding & Guarantee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% funds provided by Leasing Company • 50% guarantee provided by Milling Company • 50% guarantee provided by SIC 	<p><u>Funding & Guarantee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% funds provided by Leasing Company • 15% guarantee provided by Milling Company. • 60% guarantee provided by SIC

The launch event was also attended by the operators in the sector and representatives of the Farmers Services Centre and the Mauritius Sugar Authority.

It was also communicated in the press on the next day through The Independent and Le Matinal (copy of article included as per attached).