

# British Sugar

## A Case in Sustainability



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# British Sugar – A Case in Sustainability

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## 1. Who we are...

- Associated British Foods (ABF)
- AB Sugar
- British Sugar plc

## 2. Sustainability – what does it mean for us?

## 3. What are we doing about it?

## 4. What does the future hold?



## ABF – Associated British Foods

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Associated British Foods (ABF) is a diversified international food, ingredients and retail group with sales of £10.2 billion and 97,000 employees in 44 countries

# ABF – leading brands

Associated  
British Foods  
plc



TWININGS



PRIMARK®

Mazola®



ALLINSON  
PASSIONATE ABOUT BROWN BREAD



Honest Goodness  
RYVITA



AB | MAURI

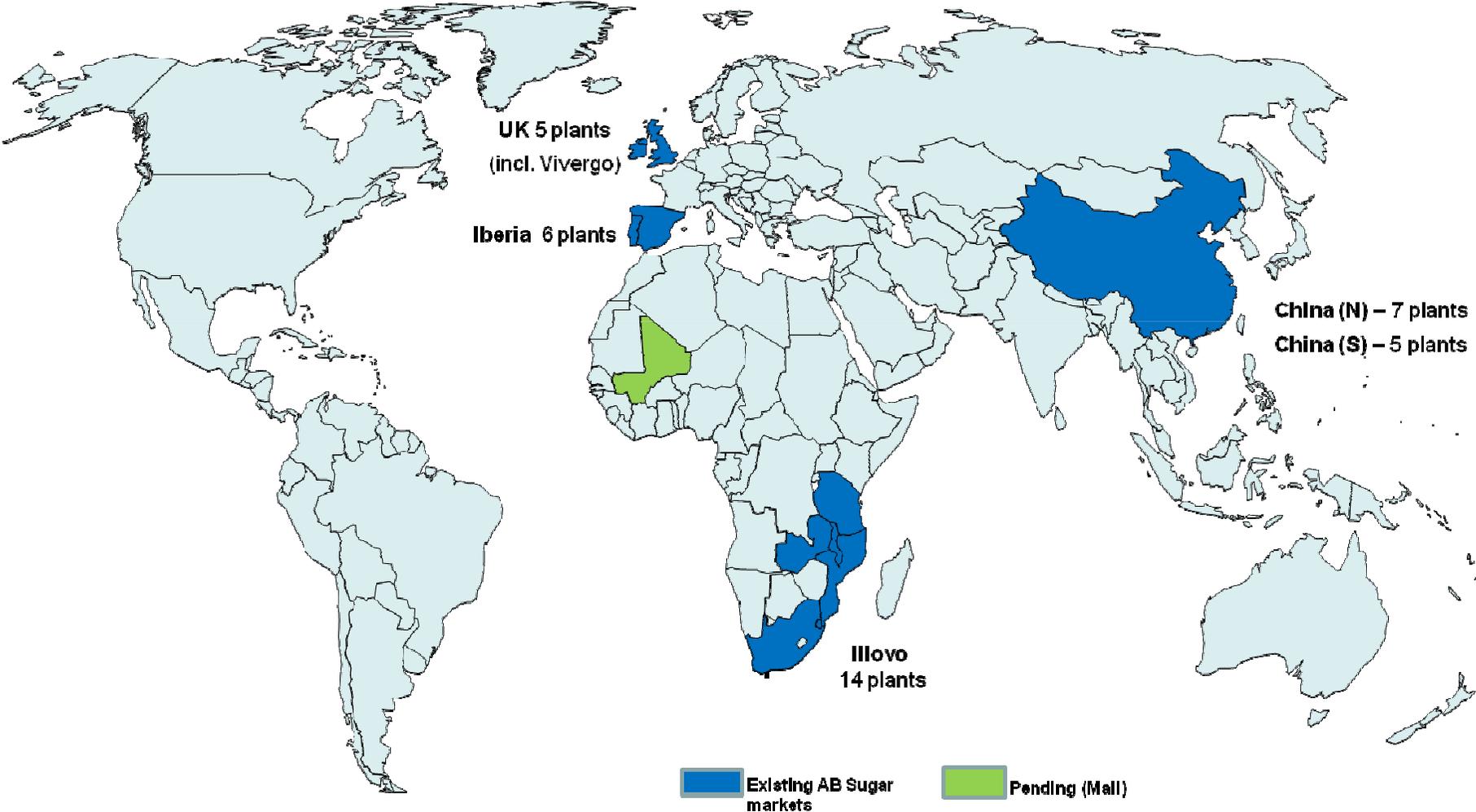


## AB Sugar – the facts today...



- AB Sugar is a substantial and core business within ABF
- Operations in UK, Iberia, Africa, and China with a capacity of ~ 5mtpa sugar
- Largest purchaser of agricultural products for processing (c. 34m tonnes)
- Co-products not by-products, increasingly value-added
- UK's first Bioethanol refinery operational at Wissington
- Leading retail brands; Silver Spoon, Billington's (ABF Grocery), Azucarera, Illovo

# AB Sugar – geographic footprint



## British Sugar – UK & Ireland

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### UK 2012 – 100 years of UK production

- A leading UK competitor supplying all the major blue-chip customers
- Comprehensive portfolio of products
- Lowest cost sugar processor in the EU
- Four factories processing beet
- c. 4,000 growers
- Sole processor of UK sugar beet crop
- Bioethanol refinery at Wissington sugar factory

### Ireland

- Market entry November 2006
- Now leading competitor



## Sustainability – What does it mean for us?

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- Reduce inputs
- Protect soil and water resources
- Improve agricultural efficiency
- Improve processing efficiency and asset utilisation
- Protect and maintain biodiversity
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce, reuse and/or recycle waste
- Support the rural economy



## Reduce inputs

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Since the 1980s...

- Pesticide application has reduced by 60%
  - 50% reduction of active ingredients used on UK beet
  - 90% reduction in sugar beet insecticide
- Nitrogen application reduced by 40%
- Phosphate application reduced by 73%
- Potash application reduced by 54%



## Protect soil and water resources

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- Assured Food Standards Protocol
- 'Plough to Plate' Quality Assurance – Red Tractor
- Defra's Code of Good Agricultural Practice
  - Designed to protect water, soil and air
- 95% of the crop is rain water fed
- Soil removed during beet harvest has fallen to 6%
  - Below the rate of natural creation of topsoil
- Only 0.3% crop re-sown due to wind erosion



## Improve agricultural efficiency

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- UK beet yields increased by 60% in thirty years
- Average 11 tonnes of sugar per hectare
  - Advanced seed technology, harvesting and seed drilling
  - XBEET – accelerated seed emergence of up to 7 days
  - Field harvesting losses reduced by 50%
  - Beet the Best – promoting best practice
- Net land use reduced by 90,000 hectares since 1981
  - 48% reduction
- UK beet travels on average 28 miles from field to factory



## Improve processing efficiency and asset utilisation

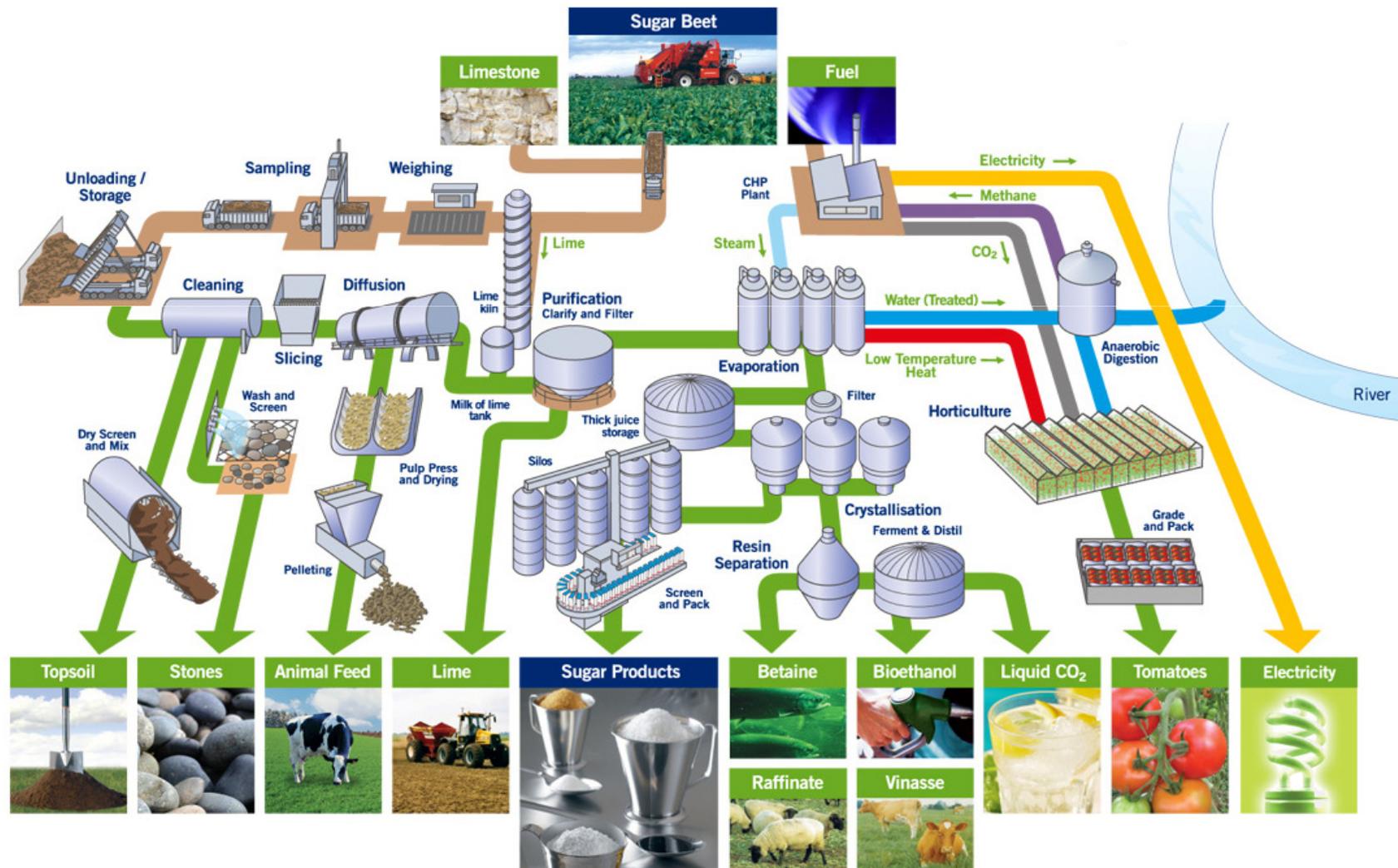
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- Four factories processing 7.5 million tonnes of beet per annum
- 2.3 million tonnes of products
- 25% reduction of energy to make 1 tonne of sugar (since 1990)
- Innovative manufacturing processes
- Co-products not by-products



# Sustainable processing

## Wissington – integrated sugar beet processing



## Other highlights

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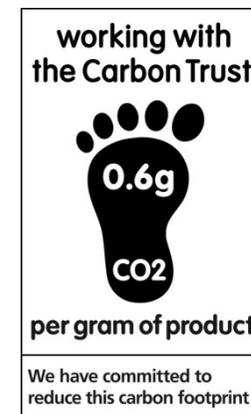
- **Biodiversity**

- Valuable ‘break crop’
- Important sites for stone curlews and pink-footed geese
- Soil recovered and used in productive applications



- **Greenhouse gas emissions**

- World’s first sugar industry to certify carbon footprint for sugar
- PAS 2050 in partnership with Carbon Trust



- **Waste minimisation**

- Since 2003 waste to landfill reduced by 50%
- 2kgs waste/tonne of product

- **Support the rural economy**

- Over 3000 beet growers in East Anglia/East Midlands
- Total economic contribution £800 million/year



## What does the future hold?

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- More of the same
- Responding to industry and global needs
- 10% reduction in carbon footprint by 2020
- New renewable energy sources – e.g. Biogas
- Replication of best practice globally
- Further investment in research and development and industry education
  - £1.8 million per year





**Thank you**