



# THE INDIAN ETHANOL PROGRAM

ABINASH VERMA DG, ISMA Feb, 2014, Bangkok



# Flow of presentation

- □ Government of India's decisions on fuel ethanol blending
- □ Ethanol availability in India
- □ Implementation of the programme
- □ Any impact on world market?
- Current status and way forward



# GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

# Government decisions: important milestones

- 2002: Programme first initiated though not made mandatory
  - : Rates through tenders, but with a cap fixed by OMCs
  - : Did not take off, as the programme was not mandatory
- Oct 2007: Mandatory 5% ethanol blending with petrol
  - :With a fixed procurement price
- Nov 2009: Procurement price revised upwards
- 2009: National Biofuel Policy: 20% ethanol blending by 2017
- Aug, 2010: Rs.27 per litre fixed as provisional price ex-factory
  - : Expert Committee formed for fuel ethanol pricing policy



#### **Recommendations of Expert Committee on Pricing**

- □ Report submitted in **April**, **2011**
- □ Direct linkage of ethanol price to petrol price
  - Ethanol price suggested at about 20% discount to petrol price
- □ Lower tax on ethanol
  - Benefits to be shared amongst consumers, producers and Oil companies
- □ Suggested price was close to provisional price



## **Ethanol Pricing Policy**

- □ Recommendations of Expert Committee for fixed pricing not accepted
- □ In Nov, 2012, Government of India decided to have a market determined price for ethanol, on the basis of tenders, between buyers and sellers of ethanol



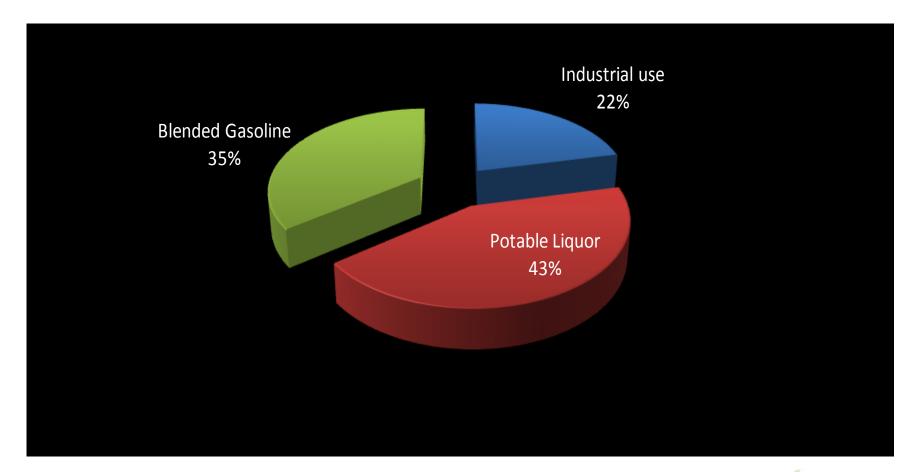
# ETHANOL AVAILABILITY

#### Distillation capacity in India

- 328 distilleries in the country including 160 sugar mills
- Installed capacity of 6 billion litres of <u>alcohol</u> production
  - 2.3 billion litres of distillation capacity with sugar industry
- Out of above, 2 billion litres capacity for production of fuel ethanol
  - 1.8 billion litres with sugar mills
  - 0.2 billion litres with stand alone distilleries

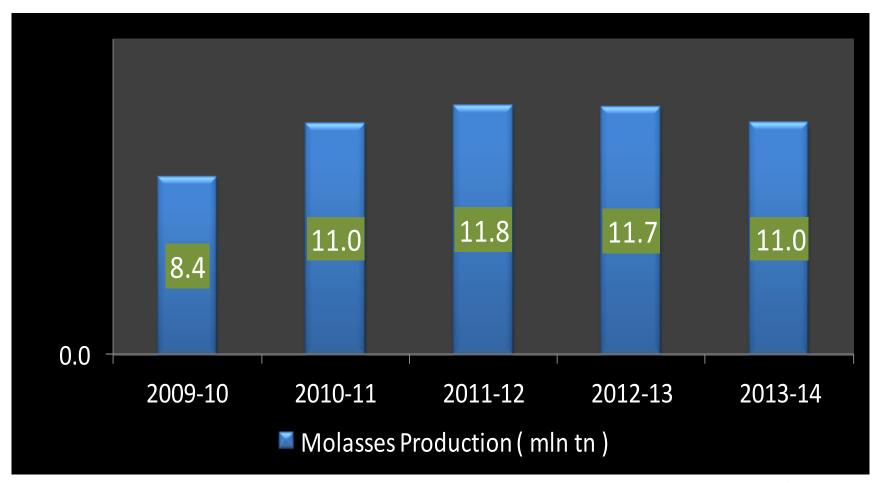


#### Sectoral demand of alcohol in India





### Production of Molasses by the Sugar Industry





# Adequate availability of Molasses/Ethanol

- □ Availability from around 11 million tons of molasses:
  - Alcohol from molasses : 2.6 billion litres
- □ Demand by the 3 sectors:
  - Potable liquor industry : 1 billion litres
  - Blending programme : 1 billion litres
  - □ Chemical Industry : 0.5 billion litres
- □ Additional availability from B-heavy molasses and cane juice
  - □ Diversion of 1 million tons of sugar into ethanol, gives additional 600 million litres of ethanol

# IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS

#### **Initial Problems faced**

- □ Some States had earlier imposed import/export duties on inter-State movement of ethanol
- □ Restrictions/controls on inter-State movement of ethanol
- □ Tedious procedures for sale and movement
- □ Annual permissions required by distilleries in some States for making ethanol



#### Reluctance of States to allow ethanol production

- □ Though molasses is a decontrolled commodity, but States control molasses, directly and indirectly
- □ Diversion of molasses from potable alcohol use
  - Meant loss of revenue to State exchequer and
  - Several States need molasses for own distilleries
  - Reservation of molasses for potable alcohol sector
- □ In few cases, ethanol supply permissions given only after supplies to potable alcohol fulfilled



# Tendering process of procurement: delays and conditions have not helped

- □ Two tenders floated in 2013
  - Delayed order finalisation; took almost 6 months
  - Offers rejected after 6 months
- □ Difficult conditions imposed in the tenders
  - Performance bank guarantee worth 10% of offers
  - Default penalty on the suppliers only
  - Proportionate monthly supplies
  - Payment delays
  - Suppliers need to get Government clearances



# **Problem of ethanol pricing**

- □ Uncertainty till Dec, 2012 on fixed pricing system
  - Provisional price from Oct, 2010 to Sept, 2012
- □ Decision for open market prices in Nov, 2012
  - Yet, Oil companies are following an internal ceiling price
- □ EOI floated in Jan, 2014 with a ceiling price of Rs.44 (\$ 0.70) per litre, delivered at various depots



# **Molasses exports from India**

Export of Molasses in last three years (mln tons)	
SS 2010-11	0.65
SS 2011-12	0.62
SS 2012-13	0.49



# Import of alcohol by chemical industry

Sugar Season	Imports mln litres
2009-10	250
2010-11	50
2011-12	100
2012-13	100



# Global tender by Indian Oil Cos. (Mar, 2013)

- □ Tender for ethanol imports in March, 2013
  - Total requirement of 820 million litres
  - Offers received for 620 million litres from 4 suppliers
  - □ Price of offers ranged between Rs.69.50 92 (\$ 1.12 to 1.47) per litre landed at depot of oil companies
  - Offers not accepted
- □ Rates received about 68% to 109% above domestic supply rates (of Rs.44 or \$ 0.70 per litre)



#### Current ex-mill price of molasses-based products

□ Rectified Spirit: Rs.34-36 (\$ 0.55) per litre

□ ENA: Rs.40-41 (\$ 0.65) per litre

□ SDS: Rs.33-34 (\$ 0.53) per litre

□ Fuel ethanol: Rs.37-38 (\$ 0.60) per litre



#### **Present status of EBP**

- □ National Bio-fuels Policy, 2009, targets for 20% ethanol blending by 2017
- □ Procurement of ethanol from indigenous molasses only
  - No cane juice, foodgrains or imported molasses to be used for ethanol
- □ Due to low prices, unviable to convert B-heavy molasses to ethanol
- □ Supply orders from OMCs for 660 million litres in current year
  - Another 55 million litres offered by suppliers; yet to be finalised
  - Total current blending would work out to almost 4% of petrol blending



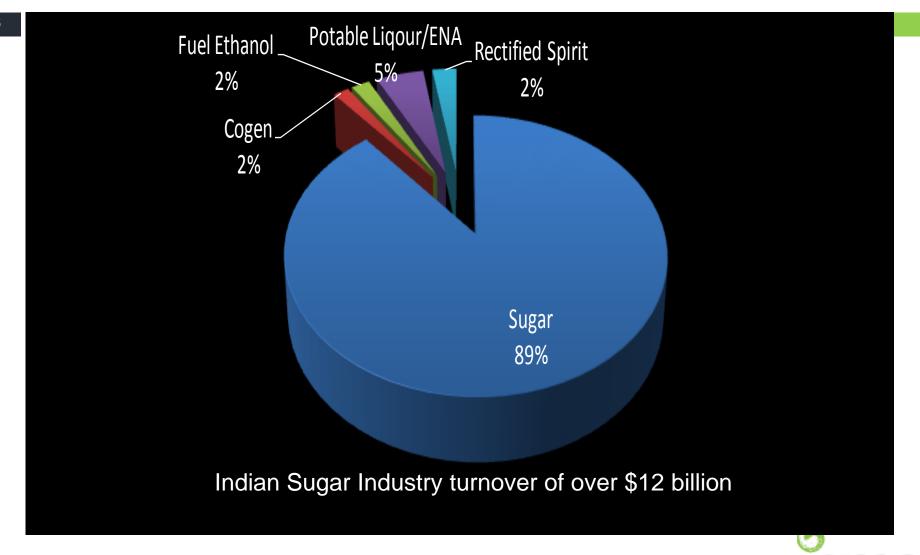
# Ethanol blending: Advantages in India

- □ Excellent oxygenate: burns balance fossil fuel better
- □ Reduces environmental pollution: 'green, renewable fuel'
- □ Saves foreign exchange, reduces imports
- □ Contributes to energy security of the nation
- □ Fuel mileage of 5% ethanol blended petrol better than pure petrol
- □ Boosts rural income & directly benefits 5 million cane farmers
- □ Conversion of surplus sugarcane into ethanol: can balance

production of sugar



#### Revenue generation of a typical integrated mill



## Demand and supply in future

- \* Domestic demand of fuel ethanol is increasing
  - Annual demand of Fuel Ethanol in the country is about 1 bln litres at
    5% blending
  - It will grow automatically with the growth in petrol demand
  - If mandatory blending is increased from 5% to 10%, the annual demand will double
- \* Domestic supplies can easily increase by diverting B-heavy molasses and cane juice into ethanol
  - But, for that the procurement price of ethanol needs to improve



# Thank You