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# Indian scientists supporting our sugar industry: Cooray

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The dedicated efforts of the sugarcane scientists in developing technologies are indeed commendable and wonderful, said Reginald Cooray, Minister for Minor Export Crops Promotion, Government of Sri Lanka, during his visit to the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research here on Monday.

A high-level five-member delegation from Sri Lanka was here on a three-day-long visit to IISR and sugar mills of UP to study the research and development activities of the Indian sugar industry.

The Sri Lankan delegation led by the minister comprised Herath, Additional Secretary, Minister for Minor Export Crops Promotion, SK Cyril, Chairman of the Sugarcane Research Institute and Dr NC

Kumarasinghe, Director/CEO of Sugarcane Research Institute, Sri Lanka, and Chandrika Cooray, Assistant Secretary, MMECP.

The high cost of production, low yield, low profit margin, poor technology adoption and preference for cash crops like tea, rubber etc are some of the major problems of the Sri Lankan sugar industry due to which its sugarcane yield of 45 tonnes per hectare and its sugar recovery of 7 per cent are very low.

These factors compelled it to import 75 per cent of its domestic requirement of sugar from other countries as stated by its minister, Reginald Cooray.

He said that the Sri Lankan Government was trying hard to achieve the target to meet 30 per cent of its domestic sugar requirement from its own production in the near future. In this the rich and vast

experience of the Indian sugarcane scientists and Indian sugar industry would not only be of immense help for Sri Lanka but it would also strengthen and improve the sugarcane and sugar scenario there, he said.

On the occasion Dr S Solomon, Director, IISR, gave a brief account of the present status of the Indian sugar industry and highlighted the technologies developed by it.

While addressing the scientists the Sri Lankan Minister, Reginald Cooray, said that in today's world of science and technology no country was independent and every country of the world was inter-dependent. Guided by this philosophy he urged the Indian scientists to extend all possible help for strengthening research and development in Sri Lanka in order to improve the cultivation of sugarcane there.